

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT ORE PLACE FARM, THE RIDGE
HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX, TN34 2RA**

NGR TQ 8202 1223

DRAFT

Site Code: OPH 11

Project no: 4983

ASE Report No: 2011214

OASIS ID: archaeol6-108781

By Gary Webster

September 2011

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Westall Walker Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks which included a sewerage pumping station and approximately 45m of associated pipe trenching.

No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered. The site was largely truncated by construction work relating to the road and existing services.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) of the Institute of Archaeology (IoA) at University College London (UCL), was commissioned by *Westall Walker Associates* to undertake a watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a sewerage pumping station and the excavation of approximately 45m of pipe trenching on land at Ore Place Farm, The Ridge, Hastings, TN34 2RA, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (centred on NGR TQ 8202 1223; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the south of the B2093 or 'The Ridge,' and St Helens Parish church, and the North of old St Helens church. The site is occupied by Ore Place Farm and associated gardens and access roads.

1.2.2 The British Geographical Survey Map for the area indicates the underlying geology to comprise of the Wadhurst Clay Formation, comprising of mudstone and fine grained sandstone (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The proposed work comprised of excavations to facilitate the installation of a sewage pumping station and associated pipe work to connect the existing sewage infrastructure with the refurbished farm buildings.

1.3.2 On application of planning (Planning Reference HS/FA/11/00240) East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeological Officers determined that due to the archaeological potential of the site a 'Watching Brief' would be necessary in order to mitigate any archaeology encountered during these excavations. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (ASE 2011) for the watching brief and approved by ESCC.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work (*ibid*) was to monitor the ground works specified below in order to ensure that any deposits and features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest, were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 Specific aims were listed as:

- Are there any features associated with the Roman road such as burials?
- Does the medieval settlement of Ore Place, centred around the manor house and church extend this far north?

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Gary Webster on the 1st, 3rd and the 4th of August 2011. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager, Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Project Manager, Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A search of the East Sussex HER identified 2 listed buildings and 5 monuments within a 1km radius (Figure 1).
- 2.2 Some 150m to the south of the site is the location of a former medieval manor house (MES840) and the standing remains of a ruined medieval church, mentioned earlier as old St Helens (MES846; listed building DES741). To the north-west is Great Ore farmhouse, a 17th century building (MES969; listed building DES910) and the findspot of a Roman coin (MES839). To the north-east approximately 300m is the presumed route of the Rochester to Hastings Roman road (MES2461).
- 2.3 Four archaeological investigations in the area have also been undertaken (EES9467; EES14648; EES14052 and EES14610) and all failed to encounter any archaeological deposits or features.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Monitored excavations were observed by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond a reasonable doubt that the remaining areas to be excavated would be archaeologically negative. Accordingly, after c. 45m of trenching had been monitored Greg Chuter of ESCC was contacted and the monitoring of the remaining trenching was deemed unnecessary, due to the existence of extensive truncation from existing services and the construction of the road surface.
- 3.2 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Hastings Museum in due course. Hastings Museum has been contacted but they have not as yet replied. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	None
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	42
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 The monitored works were the excavation of a large pit to house the sewerage pumping station and the excavation of approximately 45m of associated pipe trenching. After monitoring these archaeologically negative works and through consultation with Greg Chuter, ESCC Archaeological Officer, it was deemed unnecessary to monitor any further works.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Top Soil	2.5m	2.5m	0.6m
002	Layer	Made Ground	As ex	As ex	0.7m
003	Layer	Sub Soil	2m	2m	0.4m
004	Layer	Natural	As ex	As ex	-
005	Layer	Redeposited Sub Soil	As ex	As ex	0.35m

Table 2 List of recorded contexts

4.2 The first area that was excavated was a pipe trench that was 3m in length, 0.8m in width and 1.5m depth. This revealed the following sequence: c. 0.7m of made ground [002] over c. 0.3m of subsoil [003]. The remaining c. 0.5m comprised of natural geology.

4.3 The sewerage pumping station pit was 2.5m x 2.5m and 3m in depth. This revealed c. 0.6m of topsoil [001] over c. 0.7m made ground [002]. Beneath this was c. 0.4m of subsoil [003]. The remaining c. 1.3m comprised of natural geology.

4.4 Of the two further pipe trenches that were dug through the road surface one was 23m in length and adjoined the 3m long section next to the pumping station, this was 0.6m in width and was dug to a depth of 0.75m and revealed the following stratigraphy: c. 0.45m of made ground [002] including the road surface over c. 0.35m of redeposited subsoil [005] over natural geology [004].

4.5 The other pipe trench was 20m trench and was situated on the other side of the road to a width of 0.6m and depth of 0.5m. This revealed an existing service and the only deposit encountered was made ground [002].

4.6 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified anywhere on the site.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological remains, deposits or features were encountered during the excavations at Ore Place Farm.

- 5.2 The deposits that were encountered during excavation indicate that the area has been disturbed over the majority of the site down to natural geological horizon. This disturbance is associated with the construction of the road and with existing services.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

*ASE 2011 Ore Place Farm, The Ridge, Hasting, TH34 2RA, East Sussex
Archaeological watching brief: Written Scheme of Investigation Unpublished*

*BGS 2011 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed
30.08.2011*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Will Rogers of 4D for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his guidance throughout the project, and Peter Boiling for his assistance during the fieldwork.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	OPH 11					
Identification Name and Address	ORE PLACE FARM, THE RIDGE, HASTINGS, TN34 2RA EAST SUSSEX					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 8202 1223					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4983					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork 01-08-2011 to 04-08-2011	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 1/8/11 – 4/8/11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Westall Walker Associates					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Westall Walker Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks which included a sewerage pumping station and approximately 45m of associated pipe trenching.</p> <p>No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered. The site was largely truncated by construction work relating to the road and existing services.</p>						

OASIS Form

Project name	Ore Park Farm
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Westall Walker Associates to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks which included a sewerage pumping station and approximately 45m of associated pipe trenching. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered. The site was largely truncated by construction work relating to the road and existing services.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2011 End: 04-08-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OPH 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	None None
Significant Finds	None None
Site location	EAST SUSSEX HASTINGS HASTINGS Ore Place Farm, Hastings
Postcode	TN32 2
Study area	34.45 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 8202 1223 LL - 50.8782164145 0.585958634191 (decimal) LL - 50 52 41 N 000 35 09 E (degrees) Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor (other)	Gary Webster
Type of	private client

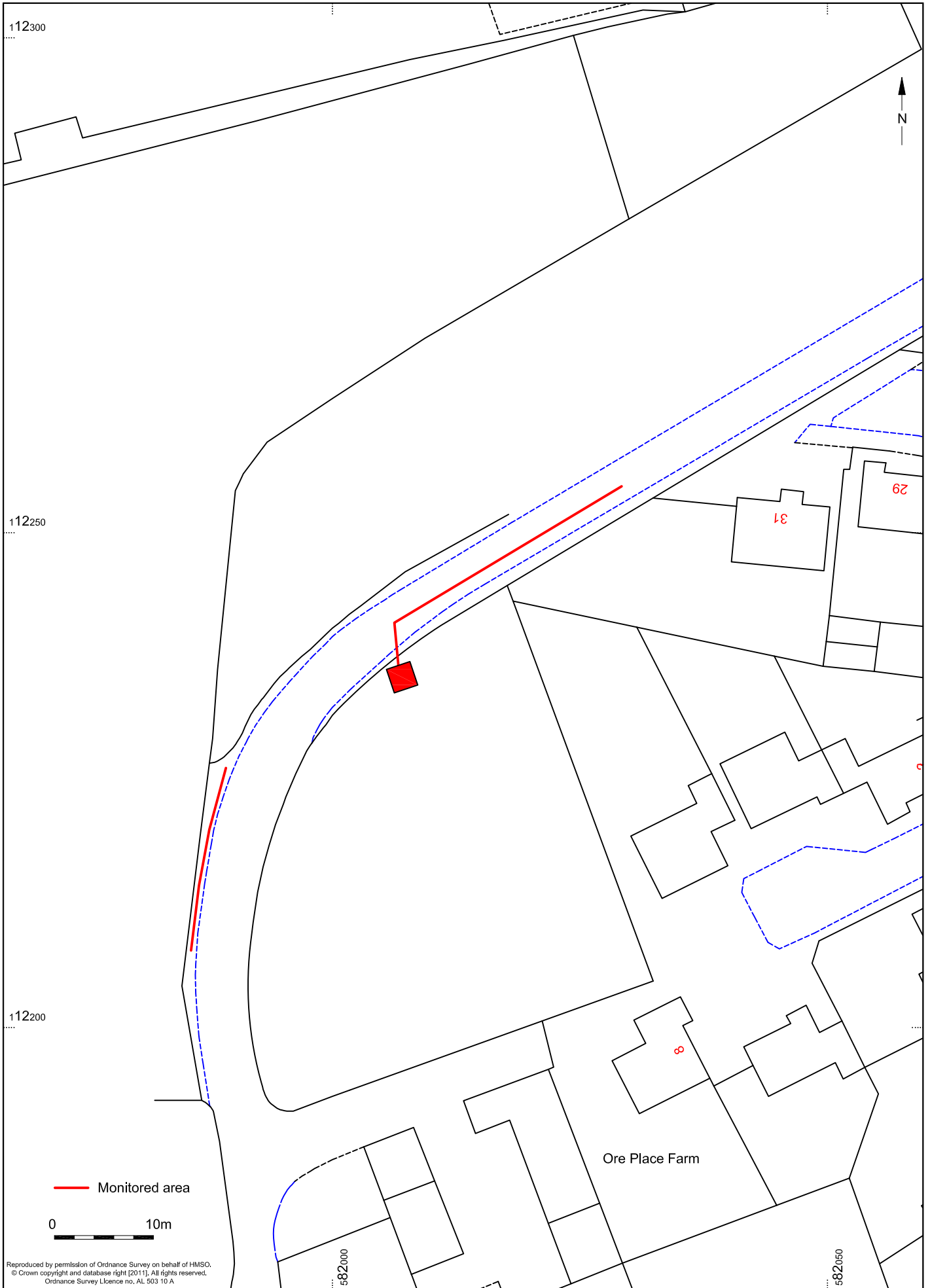
sponsor/funding body	
Name of sponsor/funding body	Westall Walker Associates
Physical Archive Exists?	'No physical archive'
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Hastings Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive Exists?	'No paper archive'
Paper Archive recipient	Hastings Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Drawing', 'Plan'
Title	Ore Place Farm, The Ridge, Hasting, TH34 2RA, East Sussex Archaeological watching brief: Written Scheme of Investigation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	G Dawkes
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Description	WSI



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© Archaeology South-East		Ore Place Farm, Hastings	
Project Ref: 4983	Aug 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011214	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



© Archaeology South-East		Ore Place Farm, Hastings	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4983	Aug 2011	Plan of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2011214	Drawn by: JLR		



Pit for sewage pumping station



Pipe trench



Pipe trench



Pipe trench

© Archaeology South-East		Ore Place Farm, Hastings	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4983	Aug 2011	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2011214	Drawn by: JLR		

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