

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at No. 5 Denton Rise,
Denton, Newhaven, East Sussex**

NGR 545216 102604

Lewes District Council Planning Reference LW/10/1131

**Project No. 5067
Site Code: DRN11**

**ASE Report No. 2011246
OASIS ID: archaeol6-112159**

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

October 2011

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of extensions to a house and garage, and for the construction of a detached garden store/room. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Mr. Nick Durnford to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at No. 5 Denton Rise, Denton, Newhaven, East Sussex (NGR 545216 102604) (Figs. 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Denton Rise in a built-up area of Denton/Newhaven at a height of c.20m. The property is bounded to the north by garden of *The Old Rectory*, and to the east and west by properties fronting onto Denton Rise. There is a marked slope in the rear garden from north to south, which blocks any view to the north; however there are relatively far-reaching views to the south.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock is Seaford Chalk Formation. There is no record of any superficial geology (BGS 2011).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Lewes District Council for the erection of a two storey rear extension to the house and a single storey extension to the garage, and for the construction of a garden store/room at the northern end of the garden (planning ref. LW/10/1131). Following advice from East Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issue), a condition (No. 2) was attached to the permission, which stated that:

'No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has/have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and carried out in accordance with that approval.'

Reason: The development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest, having regard to National Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.'

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* was duly produced by ASE. This document outlined the methodologies to be used during monitoring at the site, and in the subsequent reporting and archiving of the results (ASE 2011). It was approved by East Sussex County Council before the commencement of work at the site.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The objectives and aims given in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2011, 3) were to

'record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

The watching brief will also assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.'

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out on visits to the site in August and October 2011. The fieldwork was undertaken by Alice Thorne and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted prior to the commencement of work. A large number of sites and findspots have been located within a 1km radius of the site. The results of the HER search are listed in Appendix 1 with locations plotted on Figure 1.
- 2.2 The settlement of Denton is situated on the eastern side of the Ouse on chalk downland rich in archaeological sites of a variety of periods and types. There is a Scheduled Monument consisting of a multiple ring ditch recorded at Mount Pleasant to the east. Prehistoric field systems have been recorded from aerial photographs within downland landscapes nearby and Bronze Age round barrows and other prehistoric sites have also been recorded. A Roman period trackway has also recorded 450m to the east.
- 2.3 Early Anglo-Saxon burials have been found at South Heighton (Welch 1983, 395), although there is no evidence for the location of any associated settlement. In addition, the current site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area associated with the *Shrunken Medieval Settlement* of Denton.
- 2.4 Cartographic sources indicate that the rear (northern) boundary of the site aligns with a linear earthwork, visible on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1874 (ASE 2011, 2). It is not clear if this feature represents 19th century landscaping, or an agricultural feature such as a lynchet.
- 2.5 No significant archaeological deposits were encountered during an archaeological evaluation undertaken immediately to the north of the current site at *The Old Rectory* in 2010 (HER No. EES14799).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical and manual groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist from ASE. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and has been accepted for deposition in Lewes Museum in due course. The museum does not currently issue accession numbers. The archive consists of the following:

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Photograph	25 digital images
Bulk finds	
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figs. 2 and 3)

4.1 Garage Extension

4.1.1 Mechanical excavations by a 3 tonne 360° excavator for the extension to the garage were monitored during a site visit on 1st August 2011. An area measuring c.8m by c.3m was stripped. The overburden consisted of two distinct layers. The uppermost was context [001] a mid-brown clayey silt topsoil, which was a maximum of 500mm in thickness. It overlay a greyish brown deposit of subsoil, context [002], which was a maximum of 100mm in thickness, which directly overlay 'natural' weathered chalk (context [003]).

4.1.2 The only anomalies encountered were either modern garden features or trenches for services or foundations for the garage. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

4.2 Drainage Trench

4.2.1 A trench measuring 13m long by 500mm wide was excavated by the same machine on 3rd August 2011, leading from the area of the new garden structure towards the existing buildings. Initial excavation was taken down to the surface of the 'natural' chalk to allow the identification and recording of archaeological features. The two layers of overburden were found to be similar in character to those observed during monitoring of the garage extension.

4.2.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench context [001] was 400mm in thickness and context [002] was a maximum of 200mm in thickness. At the opposite end context [001] was also 400mm thick, but context [003] had thickened to a maximum of 300mm. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

4.3 Test-Pit

4.3.1 During the same visit, and following liaison between ASE and the groundworkers it was decided to excavate a test-pit in order to confirm whether it was necessary to observe all groundworks for the new structure at the north end of the garden.

4.3.2 A test-pit measuring 2.4m by 2.6m was mechanically excavated. The overburden consisted entirely of a dump of rubble and general garden detritus resulting from the recent demolition of a shed which formally occupied the area. The partially truncated surface of the chalk was encountered at a depth of only 200mm confirming that the area had been levelled/truncated previously. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered, and it was agreed that further archaeological monitoring in the area was unnecessary.

4.4 House Extension

- 4.4.1 A third visit was made to the site on 18th October 2011 to monitor the groundworks for the rear extension to the house. The mechanical excavation was undertaken by the same machine. An area measuring c.5m by c.6m was reduced to a maximum of 1.1m below the current surface. The overburden consisted of three distinct layers.
- 4.4.2 The most recently deposited was context [005] a 300mm thick layer of brick rubble resulting from the latest demolition work at the site. Towards the house, this layer lay directly over the 'natural' chalk, recorded as context [008], but further to the north the two layers of overburden were similar to those encountered during previous visits. The topsoil, context [006] was a maximum of 510mm in thickness, and the sub-soil, context [007], which was more orangey brown in colour than elsewhere, was a maximum of 100mm in thickness. It directly overlay the chalk, context [008].
- 4.4.3 The surface of the chalk has been heavily truncated close to the house and in the eastern part of the stripped area during the laying of services. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological monitoring at the site. Much of the examined area had been truncated in the recent past, but the total absence of archaeological artefacts in the examined accumulations of topsoil suggests that no archaeological features had been disturbed.
- 5.2 Therefore based on currently available evidence, it can be stated with confidence that no significant archaeological deposits were disturbed during the monitored groundworks at the site.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Summary of ESCC HER records within 1km radius of the site

MonUID	Record Type	Name	MonType	Period
MES1953	MON	MBA cremation	CIST	Bronze Age
MES16384	MON	?barrow	BARROW, SITE	Bronze Age
MES1961	FS	BA hoard	FINDSPOT	Bronze Age
MES1952	MON	?PM barrow	ROUND BARROW	Bronze Age
MES1844	MON	EBA macehead & med finds	FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT	Bronze Age and Medieval
MES1797	MON	ring ditch	RINGWORK, RING DITCH, RING DITCH	Neolithic to Bronze Age
MES16707	MON	Flintwork		Neolithic
MES16018	FS	Metal Detector find. Coin	FINDSPOT	Iron Age
MES1792	FS	Rom coin hoard	FINDSPOT	Roman
MES1960	FS	Rom coins	FINDSPOT	Roman
MES4816	MON	roman road	TRACKWAY, ROAD	Roman
MES1975	FS	LAS pottery	SITE, FINDSPOT	Anglo Saxon
MES1809	MON	SMV	SITE, FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT, CHURCH, PRIESTS HOUSE, RUBBISH PIT	Anglo Saxon
MES1965	MON	AS inhumation	BURIAL	Anglo Saxon
MES16391	Mon	Field System	Large field system recorded on aerial data	Early Bronze Age to Roman
MES1954	MON	DMV	CHURCH, DESERTED SETTLEMENT, SITE	Medieval
MES1810	MON	med settlement	SITE, SETTLEMENT	Medieval
MES1812	MON	C11 church and priest house	SITE, CHURCH, PRIESTS HOUSE	Medieval
MES1813	MON	C11-13 pottery	SITE, FINDSPOT, FINDSPOT	Medieval
MES1814	MON	med pit	SITE, RUBBISH PIT	Medieval
MES15550	MON	Medieval Quarrys and Ditches	DITCH, QUARRY, QUARRY	Medieval

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MES16019	FS	Metal Detector find. Coin	FINDSPOT	Medieval
MES1806	MON	medieval church	CHURCH, PRIESTS HOUSE	Medieval
MES14750	FS	Metal Detector find. Buckle	FINDSPOT	Medieval – Post-Medieval
MES1811	MON	?med chalk pit	CHALK PIT	Medieval?
MES14515	FS	button	FINDSPOT	Post Medieval
MES9306	FS	Coin	FINDSPOT	Post Medieval
MES1951	MON	C18 building	BARN, FARMHOUSE	Post Medieval
MES8358	MON	Brickworks	BRICKWORKS	Post Medieval
MES8373	MON	Brickworks	BRICKWORKS	Post Medieval
MES8377	MON	River cut	RIVER NAVIGATION	Post Medieval
MES8380	MON	Ironworks	IRON WORKS	Post Medieval
MES8392	MON	Brickfield	BRICKFIELD	Post Medieval
MES8409	MON	River cut	RIVER NAVIGATION	Post Medieval
MES8413	MON	Brickyard	BRICKYARD	Post Medieval
MES7556	MON	Pillbox	PILLBOX	Modern
MES7555	MON	Pillbox	PILLBOX	Modern
MES7557	MON	Pillbox	PILLBOX	Modern
MES7651	MON	Command post	MILITARY HEADQUARTERS	Modern
MES7767	MON	Air crash	AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE	Modern

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MES7772	MON	Air crash	AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE	Modern
MES8359	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8362	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8364	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8365	MON	Business Pk	BUSINESS PARK	Modern
MES8366	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8367	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8368	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8369	MON	Ind Est	INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Modern
MES8372	MON	Bowling club	BOWLING CLUB	Modern
MES8379	MON	Boat yard	BOAT YARD	Modern
MES8387	MON	Weigh bridge	WEIGHBRIDGE	Modern
MES8568	MON	pillboxes	PILLBOX	Modern
MES8568	MON	pillboxes	PILLBOX	Modern
MES8568	MON	pillboxes	PILLBOX	Modern
MES8568	MON	pillboxes	PILLBOX	Modern
MES1791	MON	?harbour	HARBOUR	Undated
MES14515	FS	Coin	FINDSPOT	Undated
MES9307	FS	Coin	FINDSPOT	Undated
MES16147	FS	Building Foundations		Undated
MES16148	FS	Flint artefacts	ARTEFACT SCATTER	Undated
MES16149	FS	Wattle?	FINDSPOT	Undated

HER Summary Form

Site Code	DRN11					
Identification Name and Address	No. 5 Denton Rise, Denton, Newhaven					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	545216 102604					
Geology	Chalk					
ASE Project No.	5067					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 1.08.2011 – 18.10.2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr Nick Durnford					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of extensions to a house and garage, and for the construction of a detached garden store/room. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-112159

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at No. 5 Denton Rise, Denton, Newhaven, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the erection of extensions to a house and garage, and for the construction of a detached garden/storeroom. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 01-08-2011 End: 18-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	5067 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DRN11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/10/1131 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWHAVEN No. 5 Denton Rise, Denton
Postcode	BN9 0QL
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 45216 02604 50.8041857136 0.06112626564920 50 48 15 N 000 03 40 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 20.00m Max: 25.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne/Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr. Nick Durnford

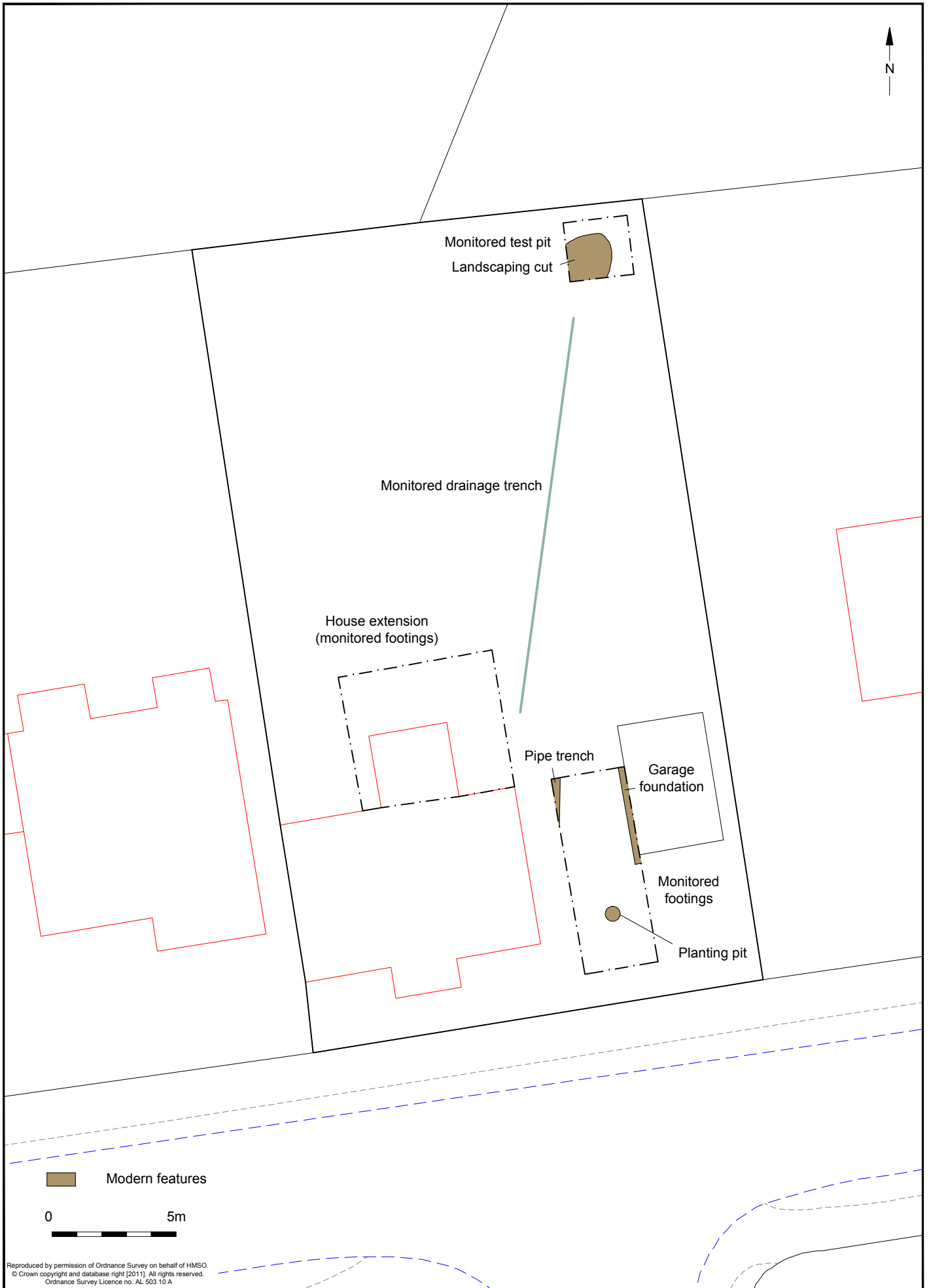
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Drawing','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

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© Archaeology South-East		5 Denton Rise, Newhaven	Fig. 3
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House extension



Garage extension



Drainage trench



Drainage trench

© Archaeology South-East		5 Denton Rise, Newhaven	Fig. 4
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