

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
The Martlets , Sea Road, East Preston  
West Sussex**

**NGR: 507098 102242**

**Planning Ref: APP/C3810/A/13/2199149**

**ASE Project No: 6765  
Site Code: BN16 1JP**

**ASE Report No: 2014183  
OASIS id: archaeol6-180409**



**By Catherine Douglas**

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**By Catherine Douglas**

**June 2014**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by JA Consulting, to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1JP. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 507098 102242.*

*Three evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered and the redevelopment of the site is considered highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological remains.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches, list of recorded contexts**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

## **FIGURES**

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Evaluation trench location
- Figure 3: Trench 2 plan and photographs
- Figure 4: Trench 1 and 3 photographs

Photograph showing Lorne Villa, East Preston in c. 1909

## **TABLES**

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by JA Consulting, to undertake Level II historic building recording and trial trench evaluation at the site of The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1JP. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 507098 102242 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The proposed development site comprises a house, an ancillary 'coach house' structure and gardens lying in the eastern part of East Preston at the corner of Sea Road and Fairlands. A car park for The Martlets lies to the west and residential properties lie to the south. The wider area is primarily residential in character (Figure 2).

1.2.2 The geology of the area is recorded as New Pit Chalk Formation overlain by River Terrace Deposits (BGS 2014).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The development proposals are for the redevelopment of the site and the construction of 5 dwellings. Outline planning consent, subject to conditions, was granted following appeal (APP/C3810/A/13/2199149). Condition 6 stated:

*6) No development shall take place within the site until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.*

1.3.2 West Sussex County Council's Senior Archaeologist, John Mills, subsequently confirmed that a programme of historic building recording and trial trench evaluation was required.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE and submitted to Arun District Council's Archaeological Advisor for approval prior to commencement of the work. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSCC Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control; WSCC 2008), as well as with the appropriate Standards and Guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and the English Heritage Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE; English Heritage 2006a).

1.3.4 A separate report has been prepared by ASE detailing the results of the historic building work (ASE report number: 2014177).

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken between the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2014 at The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex. The fieldwork was directed by Catherine Douglas and Managed by Paul Mason, and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the WSI (ASE 2014).

### **2.2 Roman**

2.2.1 A possible Roman cremation burial with other complete pots, sherds of others and a bronze key were found a short distance to the south-east of the development area at Vermont Drive in 1956 (MWS5563).

2.2.2 In 1950 a 2nd century cremation with associated pottery consisting of a cinerary urn, two cooking pots, samian ware and fragments of a cream paste flagon were found c. 200m south of the site at 57 Sea Road (MWS3163).

### **2.3 Post Medieval**

2.3.1 In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the land comprising the development site was part of a croft belonging to Baytree Cottage, which lies to the immediate south. The cottage was probably built in the mid-16th century (RW Standing, pers comm)

2.3.2 East Preston Union Workhouse was built to the immediate north of the site between 1872 and 1873. The architect was G.B Nichols who designed the building to a T-shaped layout, facing north. It replaced an earlier union workhouse on the same site, dating to 1792. In 1906 an infirmary and nurses' home were added to the south-east of the site. The architect was H.M Potter. In 1930 the site was transferred to Sussex County Council and later became the North View Home. In 1969 the building was demolished and shortly after replaced by Fairlands housing estate.

2.3.3 Lorne Villa was built as a private residence to the immediate west of the site in 1871. The Union Workhouse took ownership from 1920. The workhouse nurses home, today a home for the elderly, was built in the grounds in 1931-2.

2.3.4 A WWII air raid shelter built for the nurses of the former East Preston Union Workhouse Infirmary was recorded to the west of the site during an archaeological watching brief in 2007 (MWS8220). A post-medieval boundary ditch was also recorded.

### **2.4 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.4.1 The general aims of the archaeological evaluation in summary were:

- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any archaeological remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological remains

- To enable the archaeology advisor to the Arun District Council to make an informed decision as to whether any further archaeological work is required to fulfil the condition.

2.4.2 Specific research aims of the investigation should take into account the forthcoming South East Research Framework:

- Reconstruction of Roman funerary practice
- The chronology and typology of farm buildings
- The development of the village in the post-medieval period
- The study of buildings of social control, including workhouses



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 3 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern within the footprint of the proposed buildings, as set out in the WSI (ASE 2014). Two trenches measured 5m by 1.50m and one measured 7.5m by 1.50m. The trench locations were surveyed after excavation using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) in order to accurately determine their location. (Figure 2)
- 3.1.2 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner.
- 3.1.3 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.4 Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological deposits or the surface of geological drift deposits, whichever was uppermost. Where required, the exposed sub-soil or archaeological horizon was cleaned by hand immediately after machine stripping and any archaeological deposits or negative features were planned.
- 3.1.5 All areas were left open to allow for potential weathering-out of features, and inspected regularly.
- 3.1.6 All excavated deposits and features were recorded according to current professional standards using standard ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made both by digital means and by hand planning at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All features were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.1.7 All finds were collected and retained.
- 3.1.8 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work and reinstated to existing condition.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	17
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1 plan
Photographs	24

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 2 (Figure 3)

4.1.1 Trench 2 measured 5m by 1.50m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m below the topsoil surface level, or 7.14m AOD. All contexts encountered in Trench 2 have been summarised in Table 2 below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
[2/01]	Layer	Topsoil	>5	>1.50	0.25	7.92
[2/02]	Layer	Made Ground	>5	>1.50	0.26	7.67
[2/03]	Layer	Made Ground	>3	>1.50	0.30	-
[2/04]	Layer	Natural	>5	>1.50	0.09	7.14
[2/05]	Cut	Cut for wall foundation	>1.30	0.45-0.65	-	-
[2/06]	Masonry	Red brick wall	1.26	0.35-0.58	0.23	7.68
[2/07]	Fill	Redeposited clay	>1.20	0.20	-	-
[2/08]	Layer	Made Ground	>0.90	>1.30	-	7.58
[2/09]	Layer	Made ground	1.00	.50	0.23	-
[2/10]	Masonry	Concrete foundation	>3	>1.60	0.26	7.41

Table 2: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

#### 4.1.1 Summary of results

4.1.2 The geology [2/04] comprised red brown sandy clay containing occasional rounded stone inclusions measuring 2-6cm. No archaeological features truncated the natural geology.

4.1.3 In the east end of Trench 2 the geology was immediately overlain by a concrete foundation [2/10] measuring a thickness of 0.26m and extending beyond the northern and southern limits of the Trench. It was also identified in the north facing section of Trench 2, extending across 3m of the trench. Although a cut number [2/05] was assigned to this feature, excavation in section revealed the concrete to be immediately overlying the clay, rather than truncating it.

4.1.4 The concrete foundation [2/10] was immediately overlain by a wall [2/06] oriented northeast-southwest and north-south, with a 45° angle in the middle. Both ends of the wall extended beyond the limit of the excavation. The northeast-southwest part of the wall measured a length of >1.30 by a width of 0.45m. The north-south part of the wall measured a length of >0.58m by a width of 0.65m. The wall comprised 3 courses of shallow frogged red bricks bonded by yellowish white sandy mortar. The wall probably relates to the foundations for the large bay window embrasure visible on the left hand side of the front door in the photo of 'Lorne Villa' (c. 1909) at the back of this report. 'Lorne Villa' is shown in the location of Trench 2 on the 1870 OS map of East Preston (not illustrated in this report). The 1930s OS map also shows Lorne Villa but it is missing from the 1960s map, suggesting that it was demolished at some point between 1930 and 1960.

- 4.1.5 Overlying the concrete foundation east of wall [2/10] was a layer of white-grey sandy silt made ground [2/08] of unknown thickness, as excavation ceased at 7.58m in the east end of the trench. This was overlain by a layer of redeposited natural clay [2/07] immediately next to the wall.
- 4.1.6 Overlying the concrete foundation west of the wall was a thick layer of made ground [2/09] measuring a thickness of 0.23m. This layer comprised dark grey brown silty clay containing frequent chalk and charcoal flecks and small stones.
- 4.1.6 Immediately overlying the natural [2/04] in the west end of Trench 2 was a layer of modern made ground [2/03] measuring a thickness of 0.30m. This comprised sandy silt containing frequent pebbles measuring 2-6cm, charcoal flecks, and occasional CBM inclusions.
- 4.1.7 Immediately overlying [2/03] was another layer of made ground [2/02] which comprised orange-brown sandy clay containing frequent chalk flecks and small sub-rounded stones.
- 4.1.8 All of the layers of made ground were sealed by a layer of friable clayey silt topsoil [2/01] which measured a thickness of 0.25m throughout Trench 2.

#### **4.2 Trenches 1 and 3** (Figure 4)

- 4.2.1 The geology was encountered at 6.84m AOD in Trench 1 and 7.69m AOD in Trench 3. No archaeological finds or features were encountered within these trenches.
- 4.2.3 In Trench 1 the natural was immediately overlain by a layer of chalky silt [1/03] measuring a thickness of 0.26m. This was overlain by another layer of made ground [1/02] comprised of sandy clay.
- 4.2.4 In Trench 3 the natural was overlain by a single layer of made ground [3/02] which measured a thickness of 0.31m and comprised silty clay containing frequent CBM, concrete and brick inclusions.
- 4.2.5 Both trenches were sealed by a layer of topsoil measuring a thickness of 0.17m.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 The site was situated on a gentle slope with the highest ground in the west, where the geology was encountered at 7.69m AOD, gradually sloping down to the east where the geology was encountered at 6.84m AOD.

5.1.2 The natural geology was overlain by several layers of made ground where the ground was lower (Trench 1), and it was overlain by only one layer of made ground in Trench 3 where the ground was higher. This was presumably to create a flat surface prior the construction of the existing buildings. This has resulted in the removal of the subsoil horizon in the evaluated areas.

5.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were encountered in Trenches 1 or 3. A post-medieval red brick wall, concrete floor and modern made ground were recorded in Trench 2.

5.1.4 The north-western half of Trench 1 was truncated by a drain and a soakaway.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

5.2.1 Given the lack of subsoil across the site and the presence of made ground immediately overlying the geology, it can be confirmed that the geology across the evaluated areas has been truncated prior to the construction of the buildings in the 1960s probably during the construction of Lorne Villa in 1871. This may explain why there was no surviving trace at all of the foundations of the outbuildings that are known to have existed throughout the site in the early 19th century: they had been removed in Victorian times. The Victorian ground reduction here may also have removed any shallow ancient archaeological features, if these once existed.

### **5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains**

5.3.1 A single wall [2/06] was identified in Trench 2, oriented northeast-southwest and north-south, with a 45° angle in the middle. The wall comprised 3 courses of shallow frogged red bricks bonded by yellowish white sandy mortar. The wall probably relates to the left-hand side bay window of 'Lorne Villa,' (see photograph at the rear of this report) demolished sometime before the 1960s.

### **5.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains**

5.4.1 The development of the site is considered highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological remains.

### **5.5 Consideration of research aims**

5.5.1 The post-medieval wall offers some insight into the development of the village in the post-medieval period, but no archaeology was found relating to the workhouse shown on the 1870 and 1890 OS maps of the area, and there was no opportunity to address any further South East Research Framework aims due to the lack of evidence.

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## **Websites**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank JA Consulting for commissioning the work and John Mills, West Sussex County Senior Archaeologist for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Catherine Douglas. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson managed the post-excavation process.

**Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches, list of recorded contexts**

<b>Trench Number</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
1	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.17	8.14
1	02	Layer	Made ground	0.38	-
1	03	Layer	Made ground	0.65	-
1	04	Layer	Natural	0.02	6.84
3	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.18	8.16
3	02	Layer	Made Ground	0.31	-
3	03	Layer	Natural	0.11	7.72

**HER Summary**

Site Code	EPM14				
Identification Name and Address	The Martlets, Se Road, East Preston, West Sussex				
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex				
OS Grid Refs.	507098 102242				
Geology	New Pit Chalk Formation overlain by River Terrace Deposits				
Arch. South-East Project Number	6765				
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.				
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	<b>Shallow Urban</b>			
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.		21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2014		
Sponsor/Client	JA Consulting				
Project Manager	Paul Mason				
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas				
Period Summary					
			<b>PM</b>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by JA Consulting, to undertake Level II historic building recording and trial trench evaluation at the site of The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1JP. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 507098 102242.</p> <p>Three evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered and the redevelopment of the site is considered highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological remains.</p>					

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeo16-180409**

### Project details

Project name	The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by JA Consulting, to undertake Level II historic building recording and trial trench evaluation at the site of The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1JP. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 507098 102242. Three evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were uncovered and the redevelopment of the site is considered highly unlikely to impact upon any archaeological remains.
Project dates	Start: 21-05-2014 End: 22-05-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Significant Finds	CREMATIONS Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN EAST PRESTON The Martlets, Sea Road, East Preston
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 507098 102242 50.8712635581 0.142180139159 50 52 16 N 000 08 31 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 6.84m Max: 7.69m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	West Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason



Project supervisor Catherine Douglas

Type of sponsor/funding body JA Consulting

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

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**Project archives**

Digital Archive recipient local museum

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

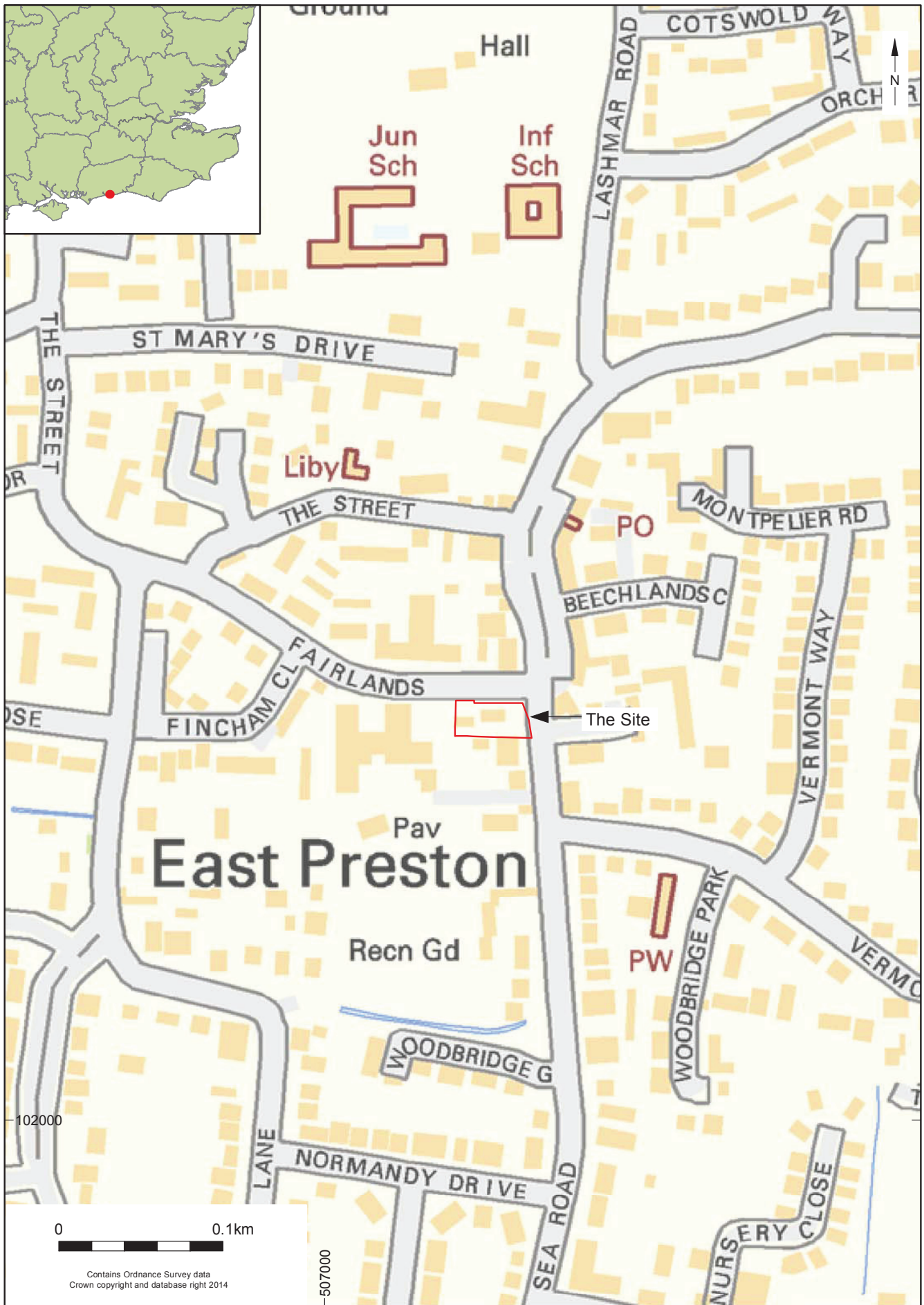
Paper Archive recipient local museum

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report"

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Entered by Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 2 June 2014



© Archaeology South-East		The Martlets, East Preston		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6765	June 2014	Site location		
Report Ref: 2014183	Drawn by: RHC			



© Archaeology South-East		The Martlets, East Preston	
Project Ref: 6765	June 2014	Evaluation trench location	
Report Ref: 2014183	Drawn by: RHC		

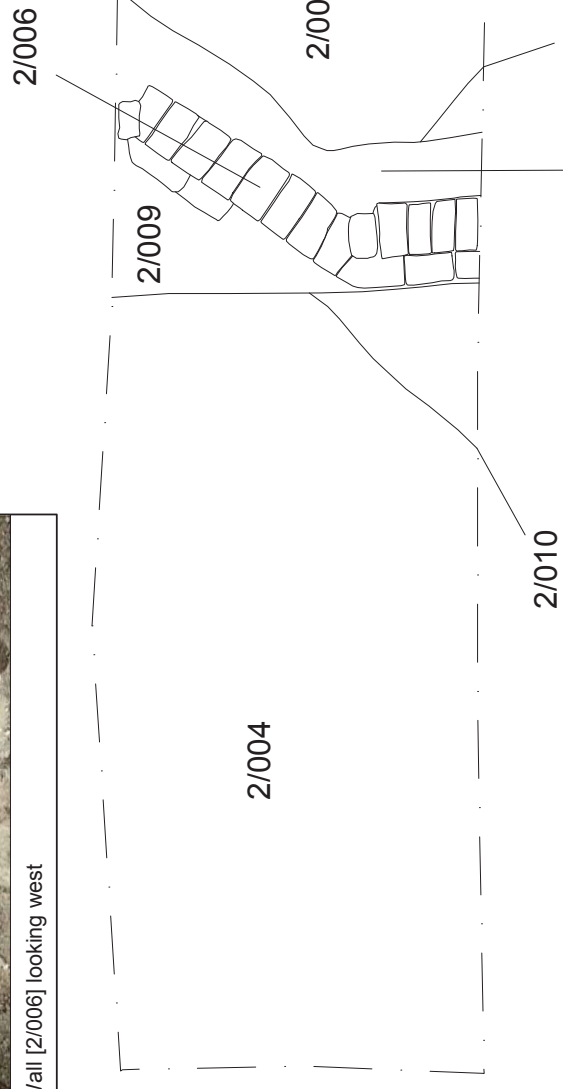
Fig. 2



Wall [2/006] looking west



Trench 2 looking east



0 1m

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The Martlets, East Preston

Trench 2 plan and photographs

Fig. 3





Trench 1 looking north-west



Trench 3 looking north-west

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The Marlets, East Preston

Trench 1 and 3 photographs

Fig. 4



Photograph showing Lorne Villa, East Preston. View from the south east in c1909. Datemark 1911 Angmering Station. (with acknowledgement to RW Standing)

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