

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Pound Common Farm
Woolbeding, West Sussex**

**NGR 486700 124100
(SU 86700 24100)**

**Planning Reference: SDNP/15/02945/FUL
Project No: 7917
Site Code: WOB 15
ASE Report No. 2016013
OASIS ID: archaeol6-237423**



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

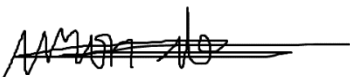

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding, West Sussex.

No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical ground reduction at the site. A limited assemblage of artefacts, including prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding, West Sussex (NGR 486700 124100; Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies in a rural location within the South Downs National Park to the north of the settlement of Woolbeding, on the western side of Linch Road. The development site, which measures c.90m x c.60m lies immediately to the south of a complex of agricultural buildings. These buildings include a Grade II listed threshing barn (EH Ref 1221684) and a Grade II listed farmhouse (EH Ref 1221683). The site slopes from c.90m AOD to the north to c.85.5m AOD in the south. There is agricultural land to the south and west, and heathland on the opposite side of Linch Road.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying geological strata at the site consist of the Hythe Formation of sandstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by the South Downs National Park Authority for the restoration of barns to provide offices, workshop, storage and ancillary facilities for National Trust Countryside Team, change of use of the threshing barn to provide mixed use for education and storage associated with agricultural use and the erection of new livestock building in October 2015 (planning ref. SDNP/15/02945/FUL) (Figure 2).
- 1.3.2 Owing to the archaeological potential of the site based on the findings of a desk-based assessment (DBA) carried out earlier in 2015 (National Trust 2015), and following consultation between the National Trust and the South Downs National Park Authority, archaeological works were required as a condition of planning consent. Condition 10 stated that:

'The developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development and shall make suitable provision for publication of the results.'

Reason: The site is potentially of archaeological interest'

- 1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE (ASE 2015) and duly approved by the National Trust before the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of groundworks for the new livestock building (*ibid.*).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work given in the WSI (*ibid.*) was to:

'record archaeological deposits exposed by the development. Exposed deposits or recovered artefacts should be interpreted within the context of the site as a whole'

1.4.2 A site specific research aim was to add to knowledge of the

'chronology and typology of farm buildings and lesser noticed post-medieval agricultural features'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks undertaken in January 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is taken from the DBA (National Trust 2015) with all due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 It is likely that the heathland of Woolbeding and Pound Common, adjacent to the site, developed during the Neolithic with the clearance of woodland and development of agriculture. While there are no recorded findspots in the immediate vicinity of the development area, Neolithic pottery is reported to have been found on the Estate to the southeast of Woolbeding house on the river terrace above the River Rother. This pottery may well indicate the presence of a Neolithic settlement at this location (Mayes 1999, 26).
- 2.3 The Bronze Age is represented on the estate by a number of possible burial mounds located to the north of the development site. This includes a possible barrow cemetery in relatively close proximity (approximately 500m to the north) on Pound Common. Elsewhere on the estate a fragment of Bronze Age pottery has been recovered from the hilltop east of Woolbeding.
- 2.4 Recent analysis of lidar data has revealed the fragmentary remains of several coaxial field systems which could potentially relate to the Bronze Age period or earlier, preserved as earthworks on Pound Common. One of these extends south from the possible barrow cemetery to within 250m of Pound Common Farm. The projected continuation of this field system beyond the limits of the Common would place it in close proximity to the site.
- 2.5 Roman remains are not recorded in the vicinity of the site.
- 2.6 Generally speaking the estate was probably more extensively cultivated in the medieval period than it is at present. It is likely that many of the boundaries around the estate in the form of banks some with stone facing were established during the medieval period (Mayes 1999, 44). During this period the site lay within an area known as Westshaw, probably indicating an area of woodland or shaws (deep wooded enclosures). The name of the fields to the south of the postulated shaw are called Breach Lands on the earliest estate maps - this name (derived from the Old English *breche*) indicates that they were created from a breaking up of a heath or woodland that probably occurred before the 13th century (*op cit.*, 43).
- 2.7 It is possible that a circular enclosure identified on Pound Common approximately 80m to the north-east of the site may represent a stock enclosure or pound of medieval date, though it could also relate to the post-medieval period. A series of north-south aligned braided trackways presumably relate to the movement of stock associated with this enclosure.
- 2.8 The greatest impact upon the estate during the post-medieval period, other than field boundary removal, was the extraction of iron ore, sand, gravel and stone (evidenced by the numerous pits particularly prevalent in the area southwest of Linch Old Rectory) and the production of pig iron at the northern edge of the estate (*op cit.*, 45). A lime kiln located north of the Pound Common Yard complex provides further evidence for industrial activity in the area.

- 2.9 The Grade II listed threshing barn at Pound Common Farm is believed to have been built in the early-mid 18th century – a map of 1724 shows a building at the site and the building includes a date stone of 1769 above a doorway (*op cit.*, 177). The complex was then further developed during the 19th and early 20th century with the addition of the Wash House and Cart Shed, Cow House, shelters, cottages.
- 2.10 The Ordnance Survey map of 1874 shows a rectangular building measuring c.12m by c.7m, with an apparent associated yard within the area of the development, to the south of the existing buildings. Both features had disappeared by the time of the 1897 edition.
- 2.11 A recent walkover survey identified frequent scatters of probable 20th century finds, including glass, tile and bricks. The entire site could not be fully assessed due to obstructions, but there were no new landscape features identified. Two test pits were excavated in conjunction with the walkover survey (National Trust 2015). They both showed natural geology directly underlying between 0.16m – 0.25m of topsoil.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical excavation was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to The National Trust in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	56 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	3
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 small bag (flint)
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks at the site in early January 2016, which consisted of the mechanical reduction of ground level across the site. A small area at the extreme south of the site will be reduced at a future date.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Overburden	0.32
002	Layer	'Natural'	-

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

- 4.2.1 No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks, although a limited assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the overburden.
- 4.2.2 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward across the monitored area and consisted of a mixture of mid-brown sandy clay topsoil, brick and concrete rubble, and fragments of tarmac, timber and other modern detritus, context [001], which directly overlay the brownish orange sandstone and sand 'natural', context [002]. A spine of harder sandstone ran from north-west to south-east across the site close to the northern end of the monitored area.
- 4.2.3 The nature of the overburden and the absence of any subsoil layer suggest that the whole area affected by the groundworks had been heavily disturbed/mixed over time. There was no evidence of the presence of the building known to have been located at the site from cartographic sources, either in the form of buried features or any noticeable concentration of artefacts in the overburden.
- 4.2.4 Given the results of the monitoring and following consultation with Tom Dommert it was not considered necessary to monitor the small part of the site at the southern end which is to be machined at a later date (Figure 2).

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary by Susan Chandler

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following CfA guidelines (2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	FCF	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
001	12	45	20	667	11	147	1	27	2	18

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 The archaeological work produced eight pieces of struck flint weighing 47g and a single fragment of burnt unworked flint weighing 28g. All the flintwork was recovered from topsoil deposit [001]. The small assemblage comprises seven flakes and a blade-like flake. They are all made on a mid-grey flint. One is partially burnt. The blade-like flake and a broken flake display blade scar removals on the dorsal face suggesting that they may be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date. The remaining pieces are not chronologically diagnostic, and only a broad prehistoric date can be proposed.

5.3 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site – all deriving from context [001]. The assemblage is summarised in Table 5.

Context	Period	Fabric/Ware	No/weight	Comments
001	EPM	Staffordshire-type white salt-glazed stoneware	1/2g	Teabowl x1
001	LPM	Creamware	2/6g	Teabowl x1
001	LPM	Unglazed red earthenware	1/14g	Uncertain form x1
001	LPM	Glazed red earthenware	2/26g	Uncertain form x2
001	LPM	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	4/6g	Plates x3 (x2 floral, x1 willow pattern)
001	LPM	Refined whiteware	6g	Uncertain form x1

Table 5: Summary of pottery assemblage (EPM – Early Post-medieval c. 1550-1750; LPM – Late Post-medieval c. 1750-1900+)

5.3.2 The white salt-glazed stoneware and creamware sherds are small but fairly fresh. They strongly suggest refuse disposal in the early to late 18th century and, considering all relate to tea drinking, a fairly well-to-do household may be the source.

5.3.3 The rest of the assemblage spans the late 18th to 19th centuries. Although not out of place with a domestic assemblage too little is present to comment upon reliably. Most of these pieces are quite fragmented and worn and have clearly

been subjected to significant reworking.

5.3.4 The assemblage has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti Whitton and Luke Barber

5.4.1 Twenty pieces of tile weighing a total of 632g were recovered from context [001]. Four fabrics were identified across the assemblage, three of which were used to make machine-made tiles, which would date context [001] c.20th century (see Table 6). The three fragments made from T1 have abraded sand-moulded bases that indicate that they were hand-moulded and suggest a slightly earlier date, but these fragments are most likely residual. All the tile is most likely waste material and has been discarded.

Fabric code	Description
T1	Clean, dense orange fabric with sparse-moderate medium-coarse grey quartz.
T2	Dense, pale orange fabric with occasional paler streaking and moderate-common coarse and very coarse sub-rounded mixed quartz. (Machine-made tile)
T3	Hard, over-fired fabric with moderate-common Fe-rich deposits and sparse-common quartz. (Machine-made tile)
T4	Similar to T3 but with creamy-yellow marbling and less apparent quartz. (Machine-made tile)

Table 6: Ceramic Building Material quantification

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.5.1 Context [001] produced two pieces of glass. The oldest consists of an 8g fragment from a green beer/wine bottle with moderate wear apparent on its faces suggesting reworking. A 19th- century date is suspected. The other piece (also 8g) is much fresher and apparently from a green beer bottle with milling around its base. A 20th- century date is probable for this vessel.

5.5.2 The assemblage has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation at the site showed that no archaeological deposits were disturbed during the observed groundworks. Given the negative evidence in the monitored area, it is not unreasonable to presume that similar results would have been achieved in the small part of the site which will not be monitored.
- 6.2 No subsoil horizon was detected during the watching brief and it appears that the entire site has been subjected to considerable disturbance/mixing of material in the past. This is consistent with the deposits observed in the two test pits recorded by the National Trust in 2015 (*ibid.*).
- 6.3 There was no physical evidence for the location of the building shown in the cartographic sources, suggesting that this temporary structure was ephemeral in character.
- 6.4 Given the paucity of any archaeological deposits, it has proved impossible to address the site specific research questions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site Code	WOB 15					
Identification Name and Address	Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding					
County, District &/or Borough	Chichester District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	486700 124100					
Geology	Hythe Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7917					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork			04.01.2015 - 06.01.2015			
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Managers	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary			Meso/Neo			
			PM			
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical ground reduction at the site. A limited assemblage of artefacts, including prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-237423

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Pound Common Farm, Woolbeding, West Sussex (NGR 486700 124100). No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical ground reduction at the site. A limited assemblage of artefacts, including prehistoric flintwork was recovered from the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 04-01-2016 End: 06-01-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	7917 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WOB 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SDNP/15/02945/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER WOOLBEDING Pound Common Farm
Postcode	GU29 0QB
Study area	700 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 86700 24100 51.009198079386 -0.764039207088 51 00 33 N
000 45 50 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 85.5m Max: 90m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator National Trust

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient National Trust

Physical Contents "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient National Trust

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient National Trust

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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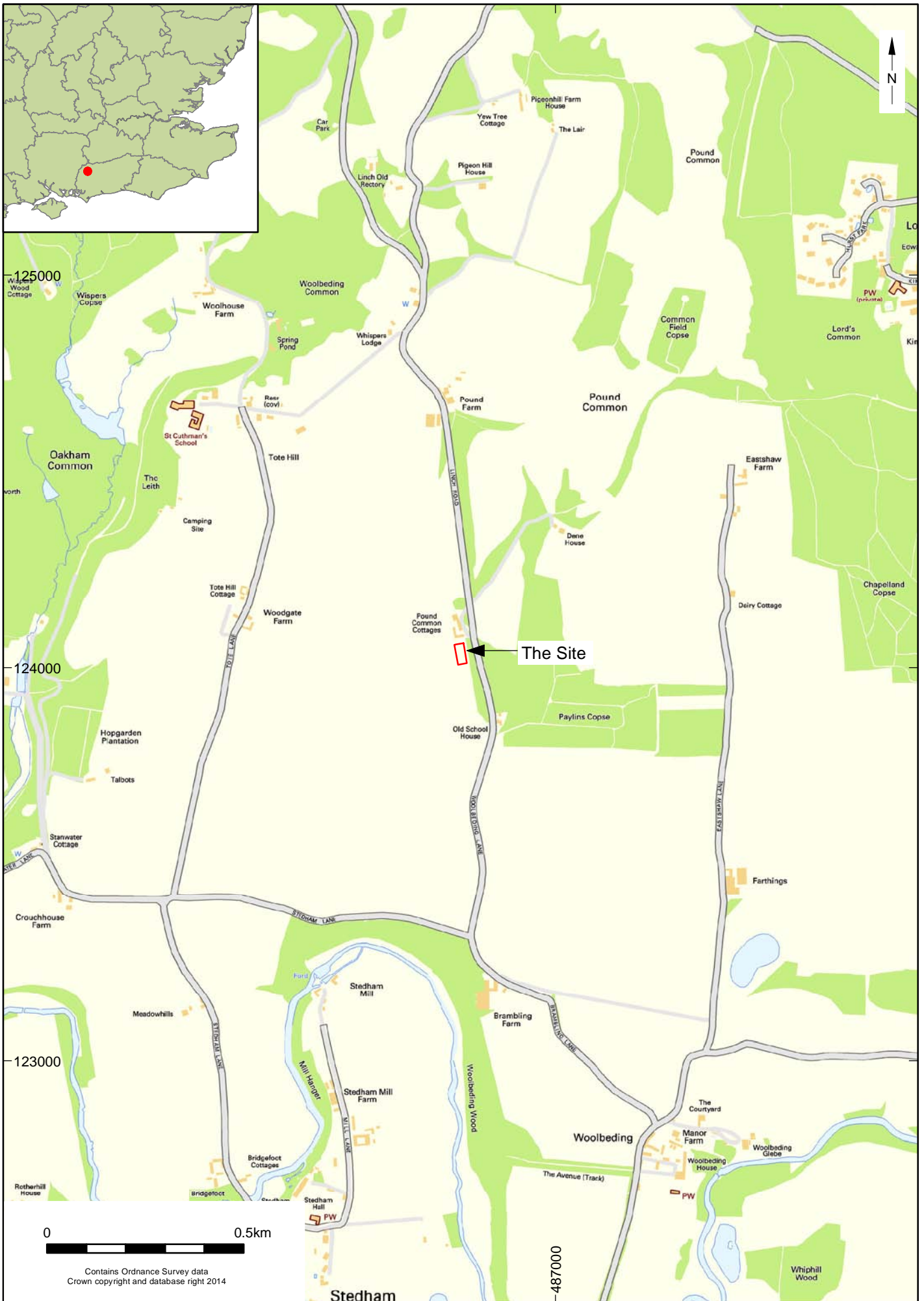
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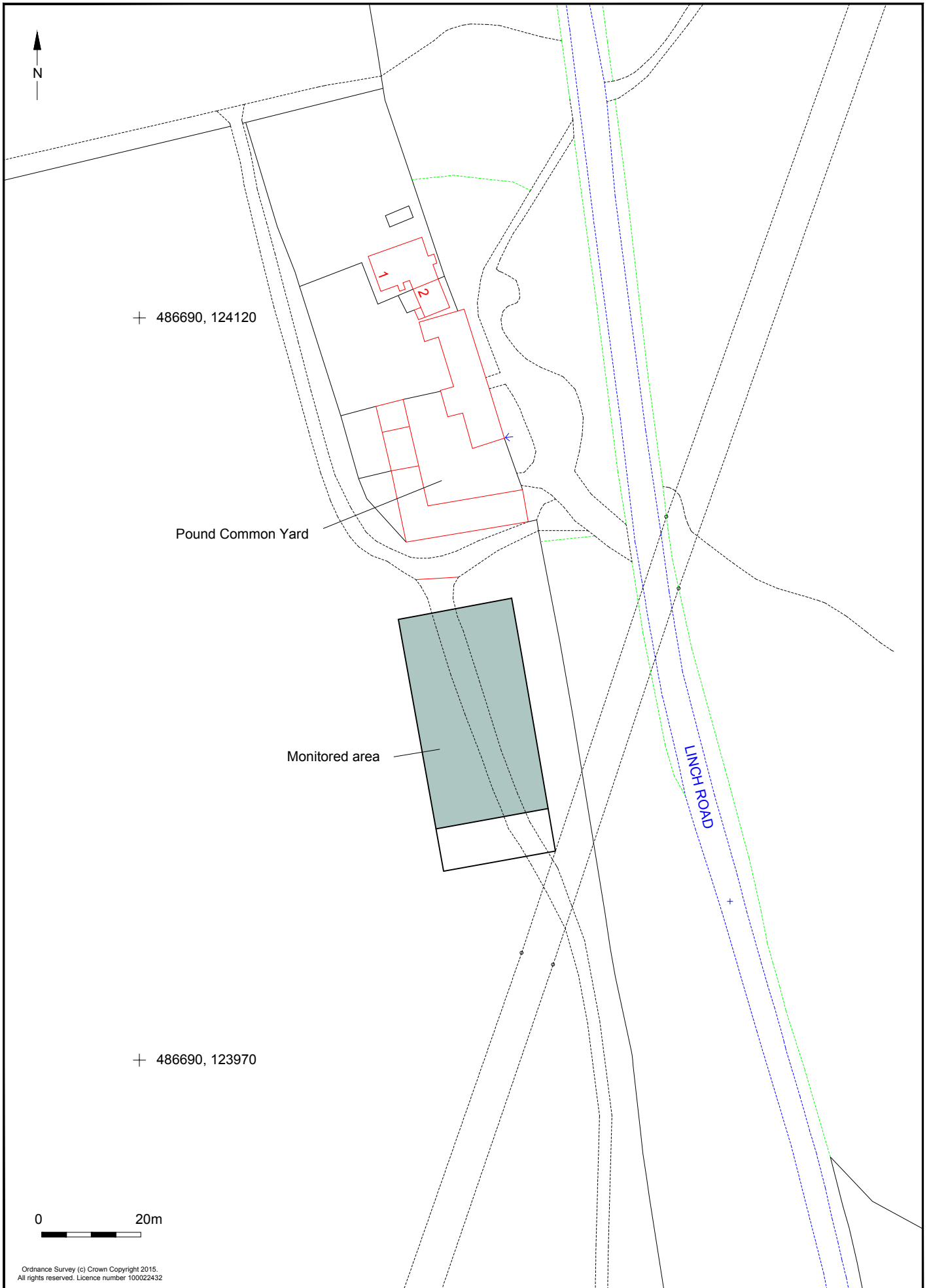
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© Archaeology South-East		Woolbeding NT Gardens	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7917	Jan 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016013	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Woolbeding NT Gardens	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7917	Jan 2016	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2016013	Drawn by: JLR		

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