

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
The Old Bakery, High Street
Nutley, East Sussex**

**NGR: 544230 127632
(TQ 44230 27632)**

**Planning Ref: WD/2015/1767/F
ASE Project No: 7999
Site Code: OBN 15
ASE Report No: 2016305
OASIS id: archaeol6-257666**



By Simon Stevens (BA (Hons) MCIfA)

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by commissioned RPS Planning and Development to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with redevelopment at The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex.

The only deposits of any antiquity encountered during the monitoring were the remains of the footings of the two closely dated buildings which formerly occupied the site. The oldest building was either late 18th century or early 19th century in date, the second late 19th century.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with redevelopment at The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex (NGR 544230 127632; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the western side of Nutley High Street. It is bounded to the north and south by properties fronting onto the High Street, and to the west by gardens.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consists of the Ashdown Formation of sandstones and siltstones (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within the East Sussex County Council designated *Nutley Village Archaeological Notification Area*, the historic core of the Wealden village.
- 1.3.2 Planning permission was granted by Wealden District Council for the demolition of a fire-damaged property at the site and the erection of a two storey replacement dwelling (planning ref. WD/2015/1767/F). Following consultation between Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council (Wealden District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (No. 2) was attached to the permission requiring that:

'No development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works has been secured in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. AR01

REASON: To enable the recording of any items of historical or archaeological interest, in accordance with the requirements of SPO2, SPO13 and WCS14 to the Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and paragraphs 129, 131 and 132 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.'

- 1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared (ASE 2015) and approved by East Sussex County Council before the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site (including a survey of the fire-damaged building), and during the reporting and archiving stages of work.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring and recording given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were to:

'create a comprehensive (Historic England Level 3) record of the structure as existing, prior to its demolition. The record will allow the formulation of a more detailed understanding of the origins and development of the structure before any surviving features are removed. It is understood that the intact wood burning stove and bread ovens are intended to be reinstated within the new development.

The general aim of the archaeological watching brief is to ensure that any historic fabric revealed during the course of alterations to the building and any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the proposed groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate 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 any deposits and their relation to the early settlement of Nutley.

The general objectives are to ensure compliance with the archaeological planning condition and to make available the results of the archaeological watching brief by publication of the results in accordance with the requirements of a written scheme of investigation. Consideration will also be given to publication of the results in a local journal and/or presentation/s to local historical/archaeological societies should the results be of sufficient interest.'

- 1.4.2 A separate report on the historic fabric of the building was duly produced (ASE 2016).

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This document reports on the results of the archaeological monitoring carried out at the site during July 2016. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Heritage Statement was prepared for the site (Wilford 2015) which was abridged in the WSI (ASE 2015). This is summarised below:

Prehistoric

- 2.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity across the High Weald is sparse. The majority of finds recovered from the Weald are of Mesolithic date and suggest temporary seasonal occupation, possibly associated with hunter-gatherer activity (Gardiner 1990). This is supported by the number of rock shelters across the High Weald region (Harris 2003). The origins of agriculture are also represented in the High Weald with evidence of woodland clearance from the discovery of Neolithic polished stone axes, as well as pollen evidence. However, the fact that Neolithic flint has been discovered at the same sites as earlier Mesolithic material suggests possible continuation of similar hunter gatherer activities side by side with agricultural exploitation (Gardiner 1990). Evidence of agriculture continues into the Bronze Age as well as the emergence of ritual evidence in the Weald, seen by the presence of Bronze Age barrows (burial mounds) across this area, including that of Ashdown Forest. Iron Age activity is mainly restricted to hillforts until the Later Iron Age where evidence of enclosures, field systems and iron working has been uncovered in Ashdown Forest around Saxonbury and Crowhurst (Harris 2003).

Romano-British

- 2.3 Evidence for the Romano-British period in the High Weald is confined to iron working sites and the route systems that may have been used to link them with trading routes. Two main stretches of Roman roads cross Ashdown Forest; the London - Lewes road and the London-Hassocks/Brighton road (Margary 1965). These roads may have been used in connection with the widespread Roman iron working industry in the Weald from the invasion up until the mid-3rd century. The Weald was probably used for iron working in the prehistoric period as well due to the abundance of raw materials such as iron ore from the Weald clay and wood for the industrial process itself. However the Roman period saw the first mass exploitation of this industry. Iron working also appears to have been both a private and imperial enterprise with sites in the east of the Weald being associated with the Classis Britannica, the Roman fleet. This was not the case for the remainder of iron working sites in the Weald (Harris 2003).

Early Medieval

- 2.4 During the Anglo-Saxon period, the Weald was largely covered by the great forest of Andredeswald. There is limited archaeological evidence for settlement in this period and iron-working appears to have shrunk in scale since the Roman period. It has been suggested that the lack of Anglo-Saxon sites in the Weald may be due to an inability to detect them due to the nature of the settlement (Gardiner 1990). The majority of known Anglo-Saxon sites in this area are cemetery sites (Gardiner 1990). The origin of the name Nutley is derived from the Anglo-Saxon 'knut', a nut, and 'leag', indicating a part of the forest of Ashdown comparatively open, but abounding with hazel.

Medieval

- 2.5 The site is situated within an *Archaeological Notification Area* defining the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval village of Nutley.
- 2.6 Neither Ashdown Forest or the village of Nutley were mentioned in Domesday (Williams & Martin 2003), however, there is evidence that this woodland was used for providing pannage for pigs (Page 1907). The Forest was vested to the crown in the mid-13th century but was later granted by King Edward III to his third son John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, in 1372, and was therefore known as Lancaster Great Park for the next three hundred years.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.7 The Historic Building Report (ASE 2016) includes the following summary:

'The site, which lies within the Nutley Village Archaeological Notification Area, consists of a single storey structure with an attached two-storey late 19th-century cottage. The single-storey structure originally housed the bakery (and sweet shop), before being used as a store, and converted to 'integral living accommodation' use in 1973. The building was heavily damaged during a fire in August 2013, resulting in the destruction of much of the upper floor of the residence to its rear.

The Old Bakery is a surprisingly charming little dwelling with a history tied to the local area and community. The structure has formed a part of the evolving local landscape since the early 19th century (possibly the late 18th), with its own role evolving too – possibly beginning as a store for the adjacent cottages, before evolving into a bakehouse with attached accommodation, which was in turn expanded toward the end of the 19th century.

The surviving elements of the bread oven are a well preserved example of Edwardian oven design. The bakery, known by 1930 as the 'Star Bakery' continued to operate until at least the mid-20th century, apparently operating as a sweet shop also. The eventual closure of the bakery in the late 20th century is fairly typical of small rural industries, which often struggle to compete with larger chain stores.'

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The mechanical and manual excavation of strip footings at the site were monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015) and with the relevant standards and guidelines (ClfA 2014a; 2014b, and ESCC, WSSC 2015) using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A digital photographic record of the on-site works was kept.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	16
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	25 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
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)	0
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	0

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 carried out in July 2016, which consisted of the mechanical and manual excavation of strip footings of a maximum of 600mm wide x 1m deep.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Concrete	0.11
002	Layer	Made Ground	0.07
003	Layer	'Natural'	-
004	Layer	Concrete	0.21
005	Layer	Plastic Membrane	<0.05
006	Layer	Made Ground	0.21
007	Layer	Concrete	<0.10
008	Layer	Garden Soil	0.46
009	Masonry	Footing	0.32
010	Masonry	Footing	0.37
011	Cut	Construction Cut	-
012	Cut	Construction Cut	-
013	Layer	Made Ground	0.31
014	Layer	Concrete	0.21
015	Layer	Plastic membrane	<0.05
016	Layer	Made Ground	0.21

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

4.2.1 A variety of deposits were encountered during monitoring of the excavations, but none appeared to pre-date the construction of the former buildings at the site.

4.2.2 Initial excavations in the strip footing to the rear of the demolished property revealed the concrete base of a former patio, context [001], which overlay a deposit of mixed brick rubble and silty clay garden soil, context [002], which varied in colour between mid-greyish brown and mid-brown. This directly overlay the greyish yellow silty clay 'natural', context [003]. Towards the southern end of the footing the overburden consisted of a humic dark brown garden soil, context [008], from which a small quantity of late post-medieval material was inspected but not recovered due to its late date. This lay directly over the 'natural', context [003].

4.2.3 Within the footprint of the former house, the partially-demolished footings of the original structures were encountered on the alignment seen in historic mapping (ASE 2016). The southern single storey 18th/19th century building's surviving footing was 230mm wide, and consisted of three courses of soft red brick bonded with a strong grey mortar (surviving to a thickness of 320mm), overlying a 140mm thick deposit of local yellow sandstone, context [010]. The masonry was located in undetected construction cut [012]. Although no

complete bricks had survived, it was possible to reconstruct the dimensions of the bricks from surviving fragments (230mm by 110mm by 65mm).

- 4.2.4 The footing of the later building was butted against an earlier footing to the north. This masonry, context [009] consisted of four courses of soft red brick, again bonded with a strong grey mortar. The masonry was located in construction cut [011]. Again, no whole bricks survived, but surviving fragments suggested the bricks were of similar dimensions to those of the earlier footing.
- 4.2.5 The nature of the deposits varied on either side masonry [009]. To the south (in the earlier single storey building), the surface deposit was a poured concrete floor, context [004], laid on plastic sheeting, context [005]. This was laid onto a highly mixed deposit of brick rubble and garden soil, context [006], which contained plastic, timber, food wrappers and cigarette ends. This deposit overlay another layer of poured concrete, context [007], which sat directly on the 'natural', context [003]. These deposits include the remains of the renovation of the property undertaken in the 1970s (*ibid.*), although the date of the earlier concrete, context [007], presumably a lowering of the original floor level in this building, remains unknown.
- 4.2.6 To the north of masonry [009], there was again evidence of the 1970s renovations, consisting of a similar concrete floor, context [014], laid on plastic sheeting, context [015], in turn laid on modern made ground, context [016]. This deposit lay directly over the 'natural, context [003]. There were no surviving earlier floor levels.
- 4.2.7 The deposits encountered in the northern footing had been highly disturbed by the laying of services. The garden soil, context [008] was encountered close to the north-eastern corner of the new footing, but merged to a mixture of mid-greyish brown, silty clay garden soil and brick rubble, context [013] closer to the street frontage.
- 4.2.8 The north-western corner of the footing trench was not monitored owing to the presence of services and the position of the partially demolished wall of the former structure.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The only deposits of any antiquity encountered during the monitoring were the remains of the footings of the two closely dated buildings which formerly occupied the site (ASE 2016). The oldest building was either late 18th century or early 19th century in date (*ibid.*).
- 5.2 It is possible that the construction and renovation of these buildings removed any older archaeological deposits at the site, or that none had ever been present; whatever the case, no deposits predating the construction of the buildings were encountered.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site Code	OBN 15					
Identification Name and Address	The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	544230 127632					
Geology	Ashdown Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7999					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork			13.07.2016 – 14.07.2016			
Sponsor/Client	RPS Planning and Development					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
			PM			
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by commissioned RPS Planning and Development to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with redevelopment at The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>The only deposits of any antiquity encountered during the monitoring were the remains of the footings of the two closely dated buildings which formerly occupied the site. The oldest building was either late 18th century or early 19th century in date, the second late 19th century.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-257666

Project details

Project name Archaeological Watching Brief Report - The Old Bakery, Nutley, East Sussex

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with redevelopment at The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex. The only deposits of any antiquity encountered during the monitoring were the remains of the footings of the two closely dated buildings which formerly occupied the site. The oldest building was either late 18th century or early 19th century in date, the second late 19th century.

Project dates Start: 13-07-2016 End: 14-07-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 7999 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes OBN 15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes WD/2015/1767/F - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None

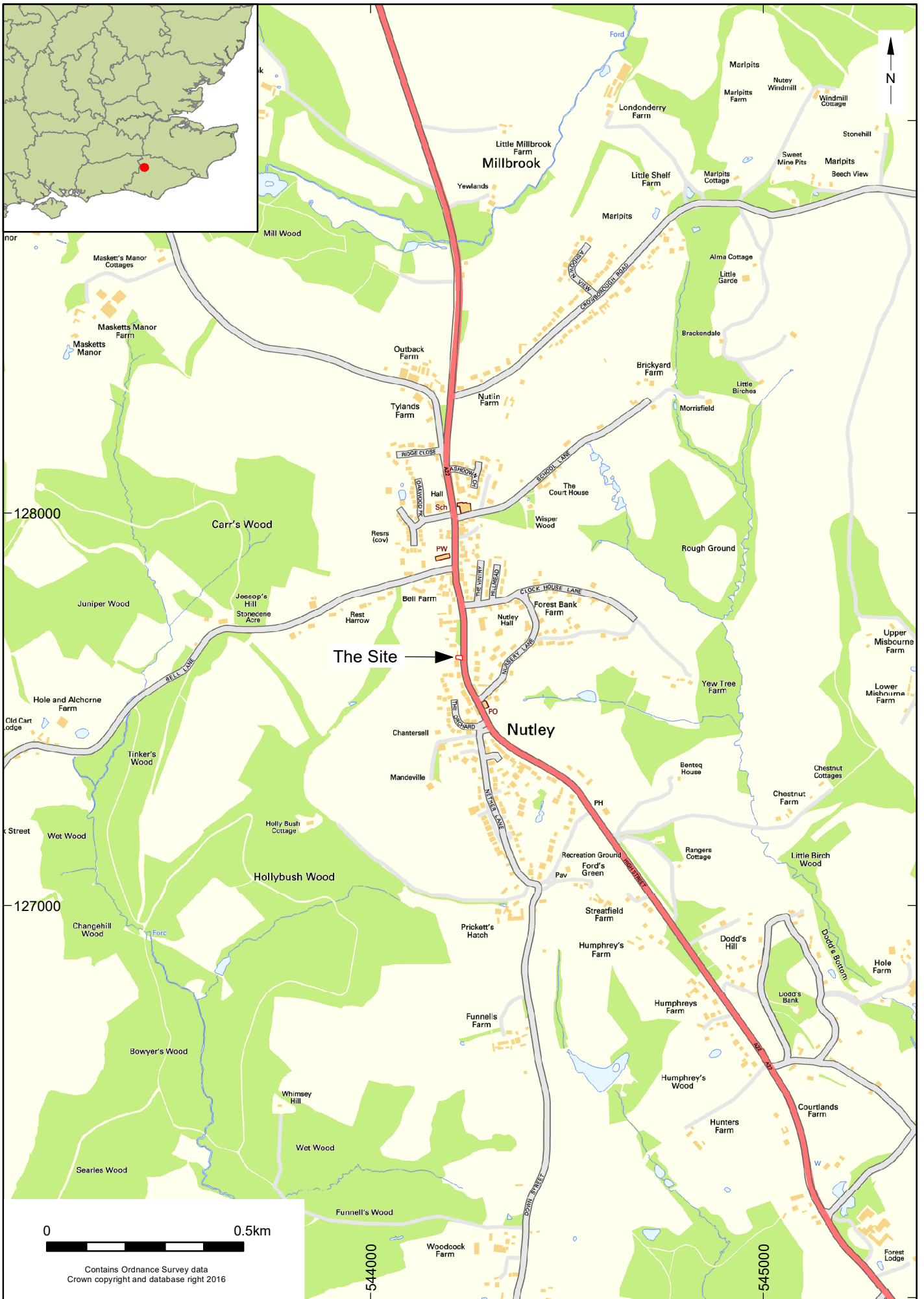
Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type ""Watching Brief""

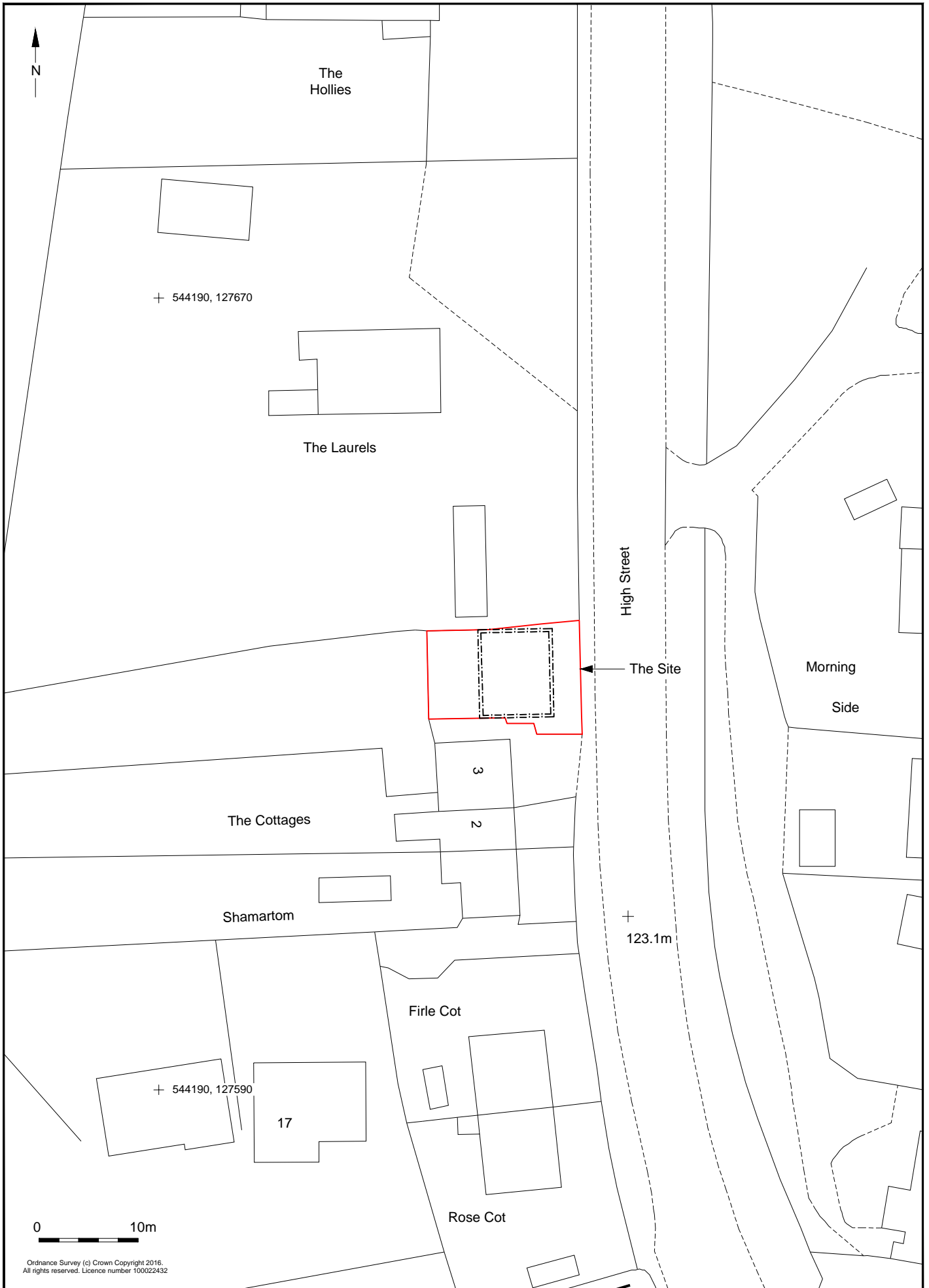
Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN MARESFIELD The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley
Postcode	TN22 3NE
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 44230 27632 51.029374551188 0.057038349105 51 01 45 N 000 03 25 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
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", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
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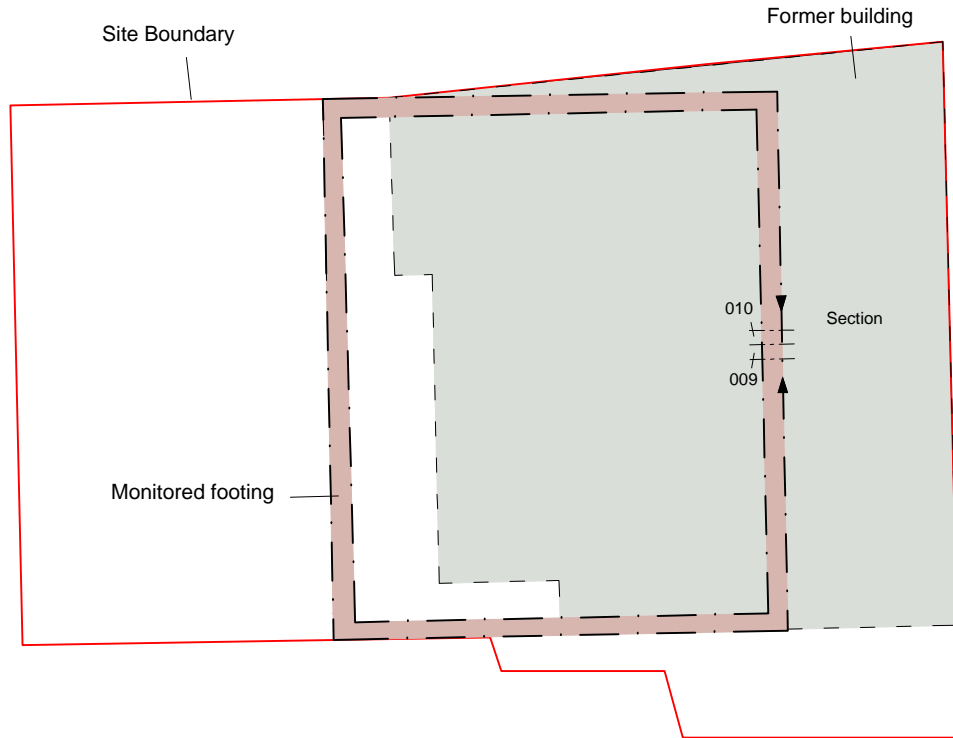
© Archaeology South-East		The Old Bakery, Nutley		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7999	July 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016305	Drawn by: AR			



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© Archaeology South-East		The Old Bakery, High Street, Nutley		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7999	August 2016	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2016305	Drawn by: AR			

+ 544217, 127639



+ 544217, 127624



Former east elevation



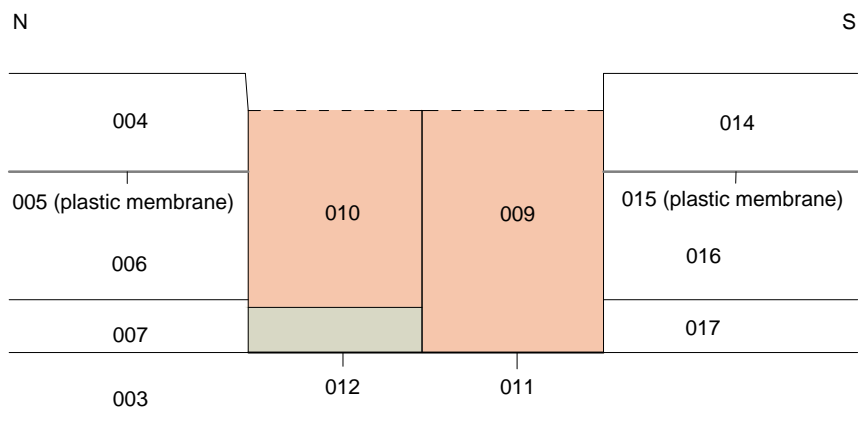
Monitored footing



Former east elevation



Monitored footing



Brick
 Sandstone

0 200mm



Wall footings 009 and 010



© Archaeology South-East		The Old Bakery, Nutley	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 7999	July 2016	Site plan and 1899 OS map	
Report Ref: 2016305	Drawn by: AR		

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