

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton,
West Sussex**

**NGR 504028 103554 to 504765 103076
(TQ 04028 03554 to 04765 03076)**

**Project No: 160026
Site Code: WRL 16**

**ASE Report No. 2016428
OASIS ID: archaeol6-267218**

By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA


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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a water main at Norway Lane/Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex (NGR 504028 103554 to 504765 103076).

No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during monitoring of groundworks immediately to the south and north of the A259.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

Table 3: Recorded Contexts to the south of the A259

Table 4: Recorded Context to the north of the A259

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Location of pipeline, showing monitored areas

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 Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a water main at Norway Lane/Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex (NGR 504028 103554 to 504765 103076) (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The new water main replaces an existing main which lies on a similar (but not identical) alignment. The majority of the new route lies within existing carriageways of Worthing Road and the A259. The general topography is that of the relatively level Coastal Plain.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consists of the New Pit Chalk formation, with superficial overlying deposits of the sand, silts and clays of the local River Terrace deposits (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 As Permitted Development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, the scheme falls outside of the usual Local Planning Authority framework(s).

1.3.2 However following consultation between Southern Water and West Sussex County Council, it was agreed that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the scheme would be prudent.

1.3.3 Subsequently a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by Southern Water and duly approved by West Sussex County Council prior to 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 replacement water main (Southern Water 2015).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aims and objectives of the archaeological monitoring given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

- *To determine the presence or absence of evidence of human use of the area impacted by the scheme;*
- *To determine the character and significance of any archaeological remains impacted by the scheme;*
- *To mitigate the impact of the development on archaeological remains through preservation by record;*
- *To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource;*
- *To identify and record the character of natural deposits at the area of the scheme;*
- *To place the results of these investigations into their local, regional and national context;*
- *To integrate the results of previous archaeological work with the results of the watching brief;*
- *To disseminate results of the watching brief through reporting to an appropriate level;*
- *To prepare and deposit the project archive.*

1.4.2 The aims and objectives were to be updated as appropriate to respond to archaeological evidence as uncovered on site. The Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Hey and Hind 2014) were to be used as guidance.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks during visits to the site during September and October 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is taken directly from the WSI (Southern Water 2015) with all due acknowledgement, and summarises information held by the West Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER). It is supplemented with information from other readily available sources.

2.2 Palaeolithic

2.2.1 No Palaeolithic artefacts are recorded on the HER within 1km of the Scheme.

2.3 Mesolithic

2.3.1 Dispersed evidence of Mesolithic hunter-fisher-gatherers has been found in the wider area. For example, worked flint, including three tranchet axes, was found c.1km to the south east at Rustington and worked flints have also been recovered at land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries c.700m to the west.

2.4 Neolithic

2.4.1 The majority of Neolithic evidence comprises scattered stone tool assemblages. Two worked flint axes were recovered c.750m to the west in Toddington; another assemblage of worked flint, including a scraper, was recovered c.1km to the south east at Rustington; a polished flint axe head found c.400m to the east; an assemblage of worked flint including a fragment of polished flint axe head was discovered c.700m east-north east during construction of the A259 Rustington Bypass; and a possible Neolithic ditch suggesting settlement activity was discovered c.700m west at land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries.

2.5 Bronze Age

2.5.1 The Bronze Age is well represented in the environs of the Scheme and the level of activity suggests the presence of a significant Bronze Age landscape. In the wider area a bronze palstave axe was discovered c800m to the east and a worked flint scraper was found c.400m to the west. A hoard of bronze palstaves axes was discovered in a shallow pit situated c.230m to the east; a ditch and post holes were identified at land formerly occupied by Toddington Nurseries c.700m to the west and a bucket urn was discovered c.900m east-north east. A number of Bronze Age sites were recorded during construction of the A259 Rustington Bypass including a possible burnt mound noted c.600m to the north and an urned cremation discovered c.700 to the east-north east.

2.5.2 Three concentrations of Bronze Age features have been discovered in close proximity to the scheme. Pits and post holes suggesting occupation activity are recorded c.60m to the north of the east end of the scheme. At the western end of the scheme two areas of Bronze Age activity straddle Norway Lane at the area of the former Horticultural Research Institute site; these comprise an urned cremation, scattered pot sherds and worked flints to the west, and a

ditch, gullies and two pits to the east.

2.6 Iron Age

2.6.1 Iron Age ditches and pits suggesting settlement activity have been discovered c.760m to the north-west near Toddington Lane and a saddle quern and pottery sherds have been discovered c.1km to the south at Rustington. During construction of the Rustington Bypass a late Iron Age ditch was discovered in close proximity to the western end of the scheme and a dark charcoal rich deposit containing late Iron Age pot sherds c.400m to the north. Ditches and pottery of the period have also been discovered during archaeological work located c.250m north.

2.7 Romano-British

2.7.1 There is widespread evidence of Roman activity in the vicinity of the scheme. A Roman villa and burials have been discovered c.600m to the south, evidence of rural settlement is recorded c.760m to the northwest, c.700m to the west and c.250m to the north. An early Roman enclosed pottery production site, settlement and possible field system has been excavated c.400m to the north of the scheme at the former Horticultural Research Institute site.

2.8 Anglo-Saxon

2.8.1 There is relatively little Anglo Saxon evidence within 1km of the replacement water main. However, three linear features containing early Anglo-Saxon pottery were discovered at the former Horticultural Research Institute site. The evidence suggests that an early settlement of this period was located in close proximity to the western end of the scheme.

2.9 Medieval

2.9.1 The area of the scheme appears to have been agricultural land during the medieval period and the majority of evidence comprises isolated finds and features. The village of Toddington is listed in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and excavations at land located c.750m to the west revealed ditches and a cobbled surface which may locate the eastern limit of the village.

2.10 Post-Medieval

2.10.1 The area continued in agricultural use during the post medieval period. Dispersed farmsteads and occasional evidence of small scale rural industrial activity is recorded within 1km of the scheme and Norway Lane and Worthing Road are shown on early Ordnance Survey maps. The mapping shows the surrounding area as enclosed agricultural fields.

2.11 Modern

2.11.1 The area remained agricultural land until the latter part of the 20th century when industrial and housing development began to encroach.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical excavations for the scheme were 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 Littlehampton in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Context sheets	5
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	394 images (to be edited)
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	6
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 (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained immediately to the south and north of the A259 in areas of the route which were not in modern road carriageways, offering a greater possibility for the survival of archaeological deposits.
- 4.1.2 At both locations a pipe trench was mechanically excavated to a width of 600mm and a maximum depth of 1.6m

4.2 South of the A259

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Tarmac	0.17
002	Layer	Levelling	0.09
003	Layer	Made Ground	0.31
004	Layer	'Natural'	-

Table 3: Recorded Contexts to the south of the A259

- 4.2.1 The trench was excavated along the edge of the current alignment of Norway Lane, now used as an access lane for the adjacent hotel and fast food restaurant, and a footpath
- 4.2.2 The recorded stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. The uppermost layer was the tarmac of the access lane, context [001], with an associated layer of crushed concrete and stone sub-base/levelling, context [002]. This was laid on a highly mixed and intermittent layer of made ground, a mixture of topsoil and brick and concrete rubble, Context [003], which directly overlay the brownish orange silty clay 'natural', context [004]. There was heavy disturbance to the deposits from recent laying of services close to the junction with *The Poplars*.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

4.3 North of the A259

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
005	Layer	Made Ground	1.2

Table 4: Recorded Contexts to the south of the A259

- 4.3.1 All of the pipe trench to the north of the A259 was excavated in a highly mixed deposit of made ground, containing material such as chalk and fragments of concrete, context [005], which formed the backfill of a group of services located in this area and extending into the field to the north. The natural horizon was not reached.

4.3.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The monitoring of the groundworks in the parts of the new alignment of the water main which were presumed to have suffered relatively little recent truncation actually showed that the areas immediately to the south and north of the A259 had suffered substantial modern disturbance.

- 5.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered on either side of the A259. Given these negative results it has proven impossible to address the site specific research aims identified before the commencement of the monitoring (Southern Water 2015).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Southern Water, 2015. *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief at Norway Lane and Worthing Road, West Sussex*. Unpub. document

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site Code	WRL 16					
Identification Name and Address	Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton					
County, District &/or Borough	Arun District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	504028 103554 to 504765 103076					
Geology	River Terrace Gravels over Chalk					
ASE Project No.	160026					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork			23.09.16 - 21.10.16			
Sponsor/Client	Southern Water					
Project Managers	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
				None		
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a water main at Norway Lane/Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex (NGR 504028 103554 to 504765 103076).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during monitoring of groundworks immediately to the south and north of the A259.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-267218

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a water main at Norway Lane/Worthing Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex (NGR 504028 103554 to 504765 103076). No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during monitoring of groundworks undertaken immediately to the south and north of the A259.
Project dates	Start: 23-09-2016 End: 21-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	160026 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WRL 16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 12 - Verge
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN LITTLEHAMPTON Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton
Study area	100 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 04028 04765 50.832492405077 -
0.52261521702 50 49 56 N 000 31 21 W Line

Site coordinates TQ 03554 03076 50.817392440442 -
0.529821576061 50 49 02 N 000 31 47 W
Line

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Southern Water

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Jon Sygrave

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body client

Name of sponsor/funding body Southern Water

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Littlehampton Museum

Physical Contents "other"

Digital Archive recipient Littlehampton Museum

Digital Contents "other"

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

Paper Archive recipient Littlehampton Museum

Paper Contents "other"

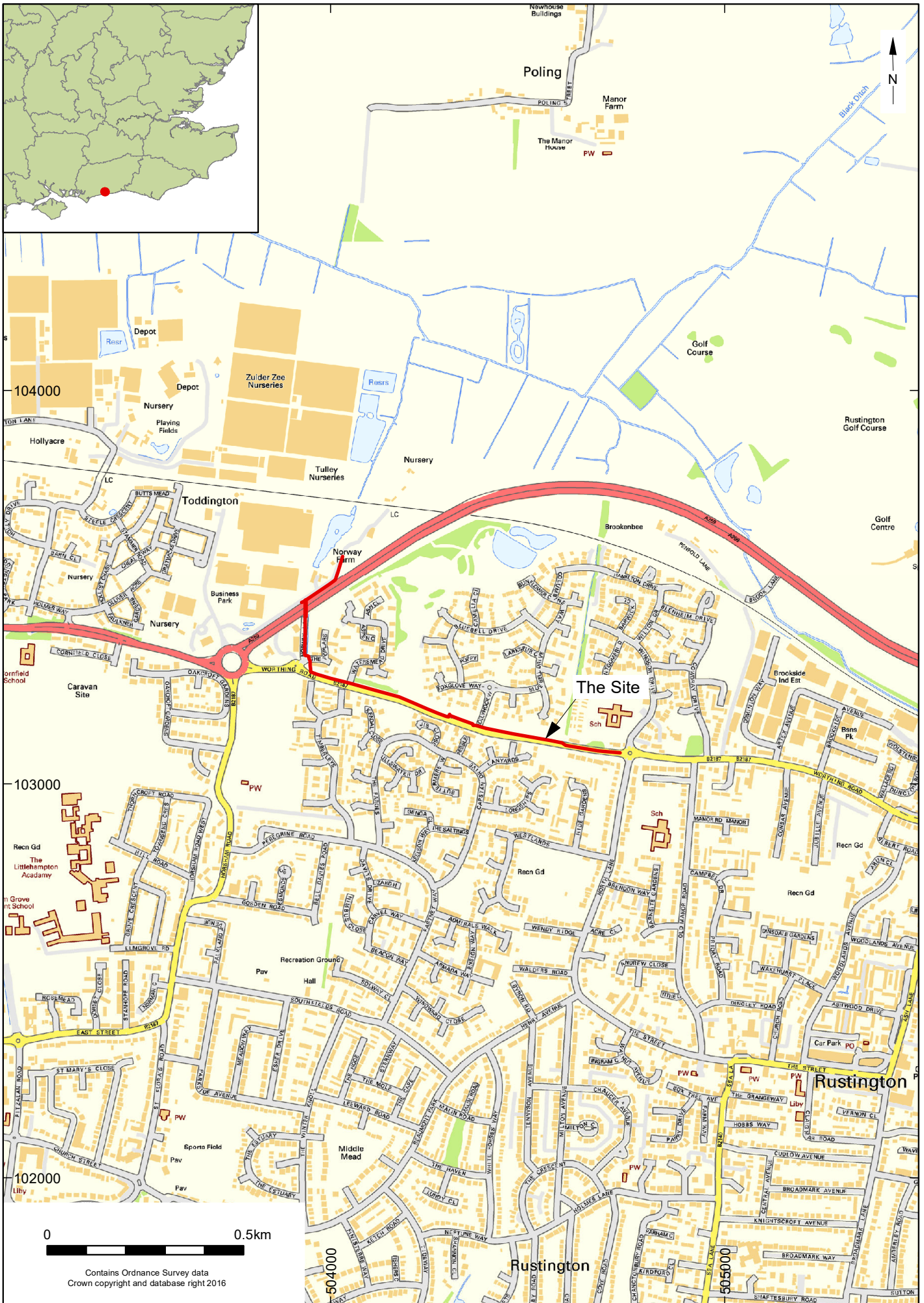
Paper Media available "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

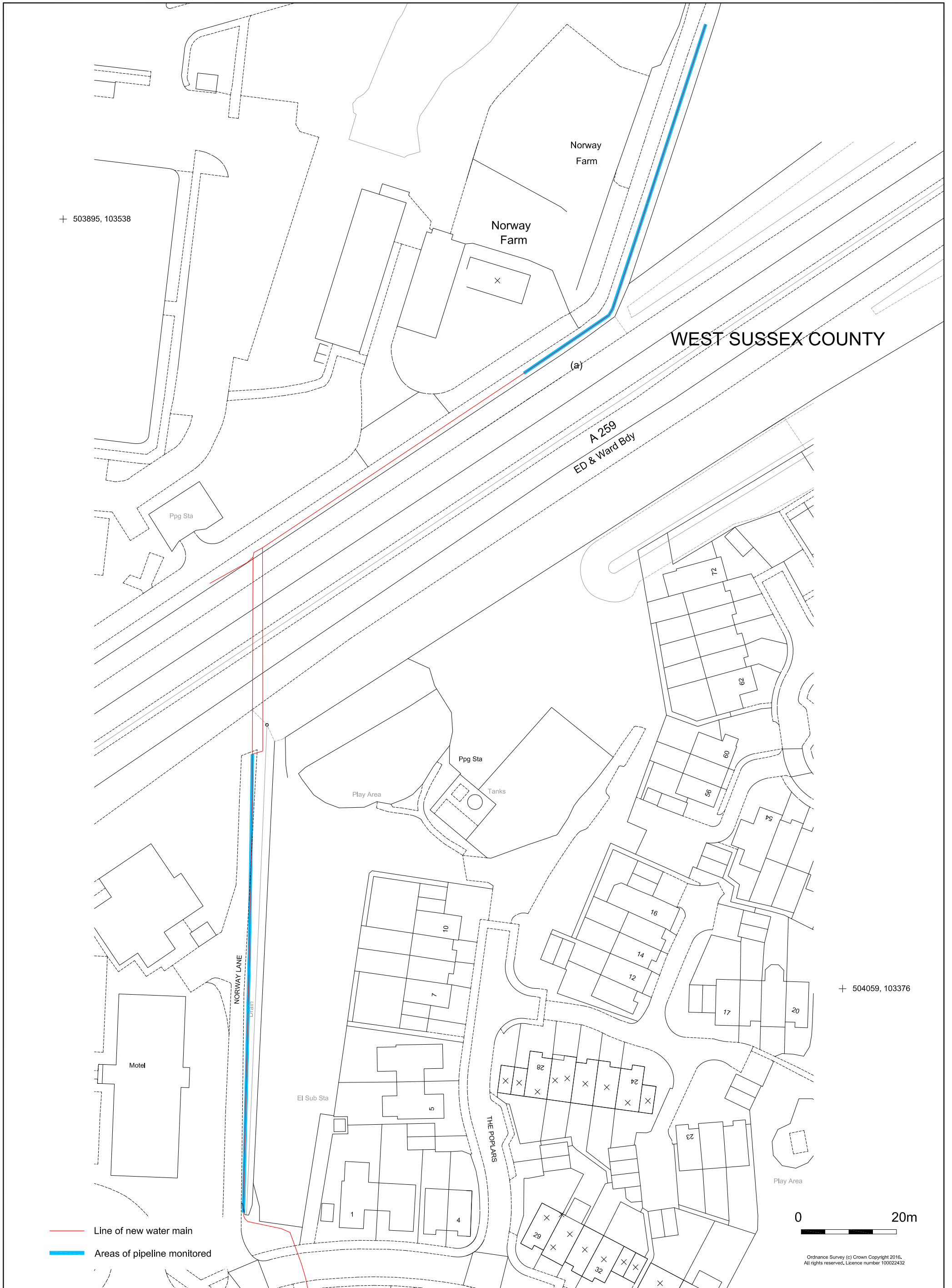
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© Archaeology South-East		Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160026	November 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016428	Drawn by: LG			



© Archaeology South-East		Norway Lane and Worthing Road, Littlehampton	Fig.2
Project Ref: 160026	November 2016	Location of pipeline, showing monitored areas	
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