

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Old Marsham Farm, Pett  
East Sussex**

**NGR: TQ 88462 13317**

**ASE Project No: 160965**

**Site Code: OMF16**

**ASE Report No: 2016468**

**OASIS id: archaeol6-269462**



**By Jake Wilson**

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**Abstract**

*An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Old Marsham Farm Pett, East Sussex, between the 26th October and the 21st November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust to monitor the groundworks associated with the restoration and development of the farmhouse.*

*No archaeological finds, deposits or features were encountered during the watching brief.*

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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 for a timber support trench and drain at Old Marsham Farmhouse, Pett, East Sussex (NGR: TQ 88462 13317; Figure 1).

1.1.2 Old Marsham Farm is a National Trust owned farmstead in the parish of Pett, 5km north-east of Hastings, East Sussex. The farmstead consists of the farmhouse, a Grade II listed building, and a range of farm buildings including a barn, shelter shed and cow house. Drainage and support trenches were monitored.

### **1.2 Geology**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological survey the underlying geology of the site is a Wadhurst Clay Formation.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The watching brief was requested by the National Trust ahead of the work.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks and ensure that any features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief carried out between the dates of 26/10/16 and the 21/11/16. The archaeological work was undertaken by Jake Wilson (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Darryl Palmer and Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

- 2.1.1 The site lies in an area of East Sussex rich in archaeological remains. The East Sussex County Council Sites Historic Environment Records contains information on several sites all located within the wider area of Old Marsham Farm.

### **2.2 Period Summaries**

#### **2.3 Prehistoric**

- 2.3.1 There have been several areas containing worked flint within the wider proximity of the site including a flint scraper located within Icklesham Manor garden.

#### **2.4. Roman**

- 2.4.1 There is evidence of Roman metal work and industrial activity, slag, pottery and furnace material have all been found within the larger area.

#### **2.5 Medieval**

- 2.5.1 Three medieval sites are also present within the larger area including a Scheduled Monument and Archaeologically Sensitive Area associated with a medieval moated site (Scheduled Monument ES45). The Deserted medieval village of Iham and Wickham Manor, a late-medieval early-post medieval house that is Grade II listed.

#### **2.6 Post Medieval**

- 2.6.1 A single post medieval Scheduled Monument (ES488C) is in the local area; A Royal Military Canal which is Napoleonic in date.

#### **2.7 Modern**

- 2.7.1 Two WW2 defenses are still standing within the larger area; a concrete emplacement - possible a former observation post and a concrete pillbox.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 The trenches were excavated in their proposed location with no alterations to the size or shape made (Figure 2).

3.1.2 The trenches were excavated by machine under archaeological supervision with all spoil being placed at a minimum of 0.5m from the edge of the excavation.

3.1.3 All deposits both geological and archaeological were recorded using a standard ASE watching brief/context sheets. A digital photographic record was also made.

3.1.4 The spoil heap and opened trenches were scanned by eye for any unstratified finds.

3.1.6 No environmental samples were taken and no archaeological finds were uncovered.

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

3.2.1 None.

#### **3.3 The Site Archive**

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

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	3
Plan and sections sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	20
Permatrace sheets	0
Trench Record Forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Timber support trenches monitored on 26/10/16 and 29/10/16

- 4.1.1 These visits consisted of monitoring groundworks for timber support taking place on the south-eastern side of Old Marsham Farmhouse.
- 4.1.2 The excavations consisted of a 4.6x0.6m trench cut parallel to the eastern wall of the farmhouse. It was excavated to a depth of between 0.70-0.74m. An additional 1.6m of length was added to this trench on the 29/10/16 at a width of 0.6m and a maximum depth of 0.73m
- 4.1.3 At the base of the trench the natural geology [03] was exposed. This consisted of a light, yellow sand and was overlain by a large layer of subsoil [02] of mixed red/brown sand. The final layer was mixed made ground and topsoil [01] which was a dark brown silt sand with moderate amounts of modern CBM throughout. No archaeology was observed.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made Ground and topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.15m
02	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.38-0.42m
03	Layer	Natural Geology	Trench	Trench	0.19m+

Table 2: List of recorded contexts for timber support trench.

### 4.2 Service trench monitored on 21/11/16

- 4.2.1 This visit consisted of monitoring groundworks for a service trench for a French drain.
- 4.2.2 The excavations consisted of an 11m x 0.4m trench cut along the south-western side of the farmhouse, cutting through the backfill of a previously excavated trench and continuing northwards until it connected to a drainpipe on the corner of the building.
- 4.2.3 At the base of the service trench, the natural geology [03] consisted of a light, yellow sand overlain by a thin layer of made ground [01] which comprised of a mixed dark brown shingle/silt layer.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length M	Max. Width M	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.10m
03	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	0.3m+

Table 3: List of recorded contexts (for service trench)



## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview**

- 5.1.1 The revealed stratigraphy was consistent throughout all the trenches and comprised of a natural sand deposit overlain by a large layer of silt sand subsoil and/or a thin layer of made ground, which varied in depth depending on the level of truncation.

### **5.2 Conclusion**

- 5.2.1 The watching brief revealed no archaeological finds, deposits or features.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The watching brief was directed by Jake Wilson. Antonio Reis produced the figures for this report; Darryl Palmer and Neil Griffin project managed the excavations and Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson the post-excavation process.

## HER Summary

Site Code	OMF16				
Identification Name and Address	Old Marsham Farmhouse, Pett, East Sussex				
County, District &/or Borough	Rother				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ884133				
Geology	Wadhurst Clay				
Arch. South-East Project Number	160965				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site				Farmhouse.	
Dates of Fieldwork	26/10/2016-21/11/2016				
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust				
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer				
Project Supervisor	Jake Wilson				
Period Summary					
				Other Modern	
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Old Marsham Farm Pett, East Sussex, between the 26th October and the 21th November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust to monitor the groundworks associated with the restoration and development of the farmhouse.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds, deposits or features were encountered during the watching brief.</i></p>					

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-269462**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Old Marsham Farm, Pett East Sussex.
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Old Marsham Farm Pett, East Sussex, between the 26th October and the 21th November 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Thomas Ford and Partners to monitor the groundworks associated with the restoration and development of the farmhouse. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were encountered during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 26-10-2016 End: 21-11-2016
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	0 None
Significant Finds	0 None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Conservation/ restoration

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER PETT Old Marsham Farm Pett,, East Sussex.
Postcode	TN35 4EH
Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 8834 1335 50.8883333333333 0.6780555555556 50 53 18 N 000 40 41 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	National Trust
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

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**Project archives**

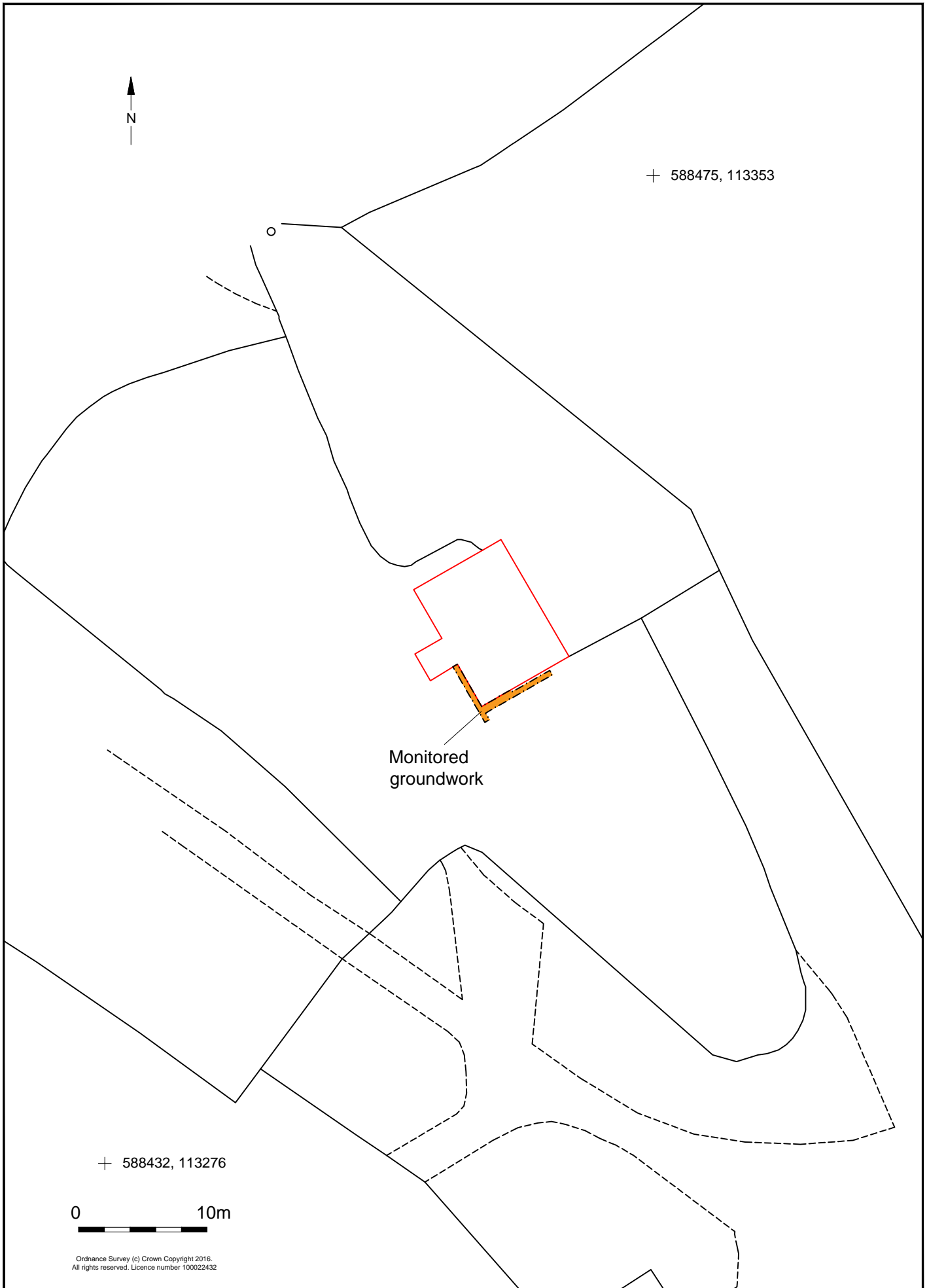
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet"

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Entered by	Jake Wilson (tcrnjrw@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	22 November 2016



© Archaeology South-East		Old Marham farm, Pett, East Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160965	Dec 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016468	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Old Marsham Farm, Pett, East Sussex	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160965	Dec 2016	Detail of monitored groundwork	
Report Ref: 2016468	Drawn by: AR		



North-east facing section of Timber support (N end)



North-east facing section of Timber support (N end)



North-east facing section of Timber support (S end)



South facing section of Service trench



Service trench, north-east facing



East facing trench of Service Trench



Service Trench, north-east facing



Timber support trench, looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Old Marsham farm, Pett, East Sussex	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160965	Dec 2015	Photographs of the monitored work	
Report Ref: 2016468	Drawn by: AR		



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