

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
328 Coast Road, Pevensey
East Sussex, BN24 6NU**

NGR: 567085 104818

Planning Ref: WD/2014/2518/F (Wealden District Council)

**ASE Project No: 170441
Site Code: PEV 15
ASE Report No: 2017250
OASIS id: archaeol6-289436**



By Chris Russel

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NU, East Sussex .

Only free flowing beach gravels were encountered in the monitored area and, although three wooden piles were noted within this deposit, this appeared otherwise undisturbed. The wooden piles almost certainly represent remains of the recently demolished 20th century house that formerly stood on the site. No evidence of substantial foundations or other features belonging to earlier structures were observed. There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd. on behalf of their client, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NU, East Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (567085 104818; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located approximately 1.6km from the centre of Pevensey Bay on the southern side of Coast Road on the shingle beach. The settlement of Pevensey Bay forms part of the parish of Pevensey, which is located c.8km north-east of Eastbourne in the Wealden District of East Sussex. The site was formerly occupied by a single-storey detached bungalow which backed onto the beach at Pevensey Bay. The bungalow was set in a long linear plot and has neighbouring residential properties to each side. The bungalow was of timber construction, sitting on brick/timber piers set into the shingle with asbestos sheeting for the external walls and asbestos slate tiles for the roof finish.
- 1.3 Planning permission was granted for the demolition of the existing bungalow and garage to make way for the erection of a single modern detached chalet dwelling and semi-detached garage roughly in the same footprints as the extant buildings (Wealden District Council planning ref. WD/2014/2518/F; Figures 3-5). In 2014, a *Design and Access Statement* was prepared by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd. (2014a), which outlined the proposed redevelopment of the site as well as the proposed methodologies. External landscaping alterations were proposed, mainly for the front (north) of the site as follows:
- hard standing area increased to remove the need for cars to park on Coast Road
 - existing site access re-levelled to allow level access to Garage and new hard standing area
 - new 5ft open vertical boarded fence
 - single swing gate added for security and set back enough to prevent any vehicles accessing the site blocking Coast Road
 - raised planting areas added to the parking area
 - new external staircase installed to the north east elevation
 - small timber decked area to be installed to the south east elevation
- 1.4 In 2014, a *Heritage Statement* was prepared by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd. (2014b) in support of the planning application. This was required in relation to Section 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012). Due to the archaeological potential of the site and its location within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA), the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeologist, Greg Chuter, recommended that a programme of archaeological works be included as a condition of planning consent. Condition 2 of the decision notice therefore states that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance

with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. 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, having regard to Spatial Planning Objective SPO2 of the adopted Wealden Core Strategy Local Plan 2013 and paragraphs 129, 131, 135 and 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012

- 1.6 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared for the required archaeological works, and was submitted to the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeology Section for approval in their capacity as advisors to the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters. A copy was also submitted by the applicant to Wealden District Council. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the *Standards for Archaeological Work* (ESCC, WSCC 2015), and the Institute for Archaeologist *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (ClfA 2014a) and their *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014b).
- 1.7 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2017) the underlying geology of the site comprises beach and tidal flat deposits (undifferentiated) - clay, silt, sand and gravel overlying Weald Clay.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.0.1 Pevensey has a rich history. It was here that William the Conqueror first landed on and invaded England in 1066 after crossing the English Channel from Normandy. The nearest Scheduled Monument is Pevensey Castle c.2.5km to the west of the site, which was built between 300–340 AD and was named *Anderitum*. It is now known as a Saxon shore fort with Norman defences, a medieval enclosure castle and later associated remains
- 2.0.2 There are no designated heritage assets (scheduled monuments or listed buildings) within 1km radius of the site, although nineteen non-designated heritage assets are recorded. With the exception of the medieval linear earthwork feature 'Mark Dyke' which runs roughly north-west to south-east to the east of the site, the remaining heritage assets are all of post-medieval date and mostly relate to recent war-time features. With the threat of invasion during the Second World War the coastal defences were enhanced by the construction of emergency coastal batteries at Eastbourne, Pevensey, Normans' Bay and Cooden, whilst the beaches were defended by pillboxes, barbed wire and minefields, together with concrete anti-tank cubes and beach scaffolding.
- 2.0.3 A series of circular towers, known as Martello towers, are located along the seafront in this area. These were erected in 1806 as gun towers in order to defend the vulnerable south-eastern coastline of England against the threat of ship-borne invasion by Napoleonic forces. The towers of the south coast were numbered 1-74 from east to west. Of the original 74 towers along the south coast, 26 now survive. These are shown on the 1806-7 draft Ordnance Survey (OS) map for Hastings (British Library Online) and on the Greenwood map from 1825 (ASE 2015; Fig. 7). They do not appear on subsequent OS mapping. A detailed view of this area is also shown on the 1839 Tithe map for the Parish of Pevensey (Ref. TD E/83), but only two Martello towers (No.'s 55 and 58?) are illustrated. The extant designated Grade II listed Martello Tower No. 55 (HER ref. DES8225) is located 1.1km to the north-east of the site on the boundary between the Rother and Wealden Districts. Martello tower No. 55 survives well and retains many of its original components. The nearest other surviving example of another Martello tower (No. 60) is located c.3km to the south-west.
- 2.0.4 It has been postulated that the site is the location of a missing Martello tower (55 or 56, there appears to be some confusion). It is not clear exactly when Martello tower 56 disappeared, but it was described as being in a precarious position close to the sea in 1873 and was not marked on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map (1875) though its neighbouring towers were. It was probably lost as a result of coastal erosion. Other examples along the south coast (e.g. at Seaford and Folkestone) have wide moat foundations which can be up to 40m in diameter. Whilst the nearest extant example (No. 55) measures approximately 15m in diameter, it is not clear whether this is representative of other towers in the area or if its below-ground foundations are in fact more substantial.
- 2.0.5 A coastguard station (now demolished) was also known to have stood close to the site.

2.1 Aims and Objectives

- 2.1.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to monitor all of the agreed groundwork areas and to record any exposed archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts.
- 2.1.2 Where possible, the archaeological watching brief sought to ascertain the character, date and quality of ancient remains and deposits, determine how they might be affected by the development of the site and consider what options should be considered for mitigation.
- 2.1.3 In particular, the watching brief sought to establish whether Martello Tower 56 or 55 (see above) lies within the site so that the appropriate HER entry may be updated.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The ESCC archaeologist stipulated that all intrusive ground works associated with the construction of the new chalet bungalow and garage were to be monitored by an archaeologist unless otherwise agreed in writing. The monitored works involved the removal of approximately 1.5m of material to allow the construction of a basement at the property. This was done using a tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Due care was taken in regard to the potential to encounter archaeological remains.
- 3.2 Where new excavations revealed archaeological remains, an opportunity was made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time was made to record the observed archaeological features.
- 3.3 The above approach enabled any archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF and in accordance with the appropriate condition/s of the planning consent. The ESCC Archaeologist was kept informed of progress at the site.
- 3.4 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets and a photographic record of work on site was compiled.

3.5 The Site Archive

- 3.5.1 ASE have informed Eastbourne Museum that a site archive has been generated and Archive Accession no: ELHAMS 2017.25 has been issued by them. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Eastbourne Museum in due course.

Context sheets	4
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	30
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
Trench Record forms	0
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 environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Cellar excavations monitored on the 24th and 25th May 2017

4.1.1 The monitored works consisted of the mechanical removal of between 0.30 and 1.5m of free flowing beach gravel [100]. No topsoil was present within the excavation area and sheet piles had already been inserted into the beach gravel prior to the groundworks.

4.1.2 A line of three large squared timbers ([101], [102] and [103]) were exposed. All three were 0.25m square and survived to between 1.10 and 2.05m long. All three had been worked to a blunt point. No dateable finds were seen in association with the timbers but it is almost certain that they are supporting piles used in the construction of the 20th century dwelling that stood on the site until recently. No other foundations were revealed.

4.1.3 There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
100	Layer	Free flowing beach gravel	Trench	Trench	0.30-1.5+
101	Timber	Eastern timber	1.4	0.25	0.25
102	Timber	Middle timber	1.1	0.25	0.25
103	Timber	Western timber	2.05	0.25	0.25

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Only free flowing beach gravels were encountered in the monitored area and, although three wooden piles were noted within this deposit, this appeared otherwise undisturbed. The wooden piles almost certainly represent remains of the recently demolished 20th century house that formerly stood on the site. No evidence of substantial foundations or other features belonging to earlier structures were observed. There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey, East Sussex. BN24 6NU*. Unpublished ASE Document

ClfA, 2014a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*. University of Reading

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Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd, 2014b *Heritage Statement*

Online Resource

BGS, 2015 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, Accessed 31/05/2017
<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html?src=topNav>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter County Archaeologist East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The work was monitored by Chris Russel. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin managed the excavations, Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	079/15				
Site code	PEV 15				
Project code	170441				
Planning reference	WD/2014/2518/F				
Site address	328 Coast Road, Pevensey, East Sussex, BN24 6NU				
District/Borough	Wealden Borough				
NGR (12 figures)	567085 104818				
Geology	Beach and Tidal Flat Deposits (undifferentiated) - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel overlying Weald Clay Formation.				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	24-25 th May 2017				
Sponsor/client	Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	Chris Russel				
Period summary					
				Post-Medieval	
Project summary	<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NU, East Sussex .</i></p> <p><i>Only free flowing beach gravels were encountered in the monitored area and, although three wooden piles were noted within this deposit, this appeared otherwise undisturbed. The wooden piles almost certainly represent remains of the recently demolished 20th century house that formerly stood on the site. No evidence of substantial foundations or other features belonging to earlier structures were observed. There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.</i></p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
None	None	-	0

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-289436

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey, East Sussex.
Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay, BN24 6NU, East Sussex .

Short description of the project Only free flowing beach gravels were encountered in the monitored area and, although three wooden piles were noted within this deposit, this appeared otherwise undisturbed. The wooden piles almost certainly represent remains of the recently demolished 20th century house that formerly stood on the site. No evidence of substantial foundations or other features belonging to earlier structures were observed. There were no archaeological deposits, features or finds.

Project dates Start: 24-05-2017 End: 25-05-2017

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 170441 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes PEV 15 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN PEVENSEY 328 Coast Road, Pevensey

Postcode BN24 6NU

Study area 100m²

Site coordinates TQ 567085 104818 50.871978923834 0.227488235971 50 52 19 N 000 13 38 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

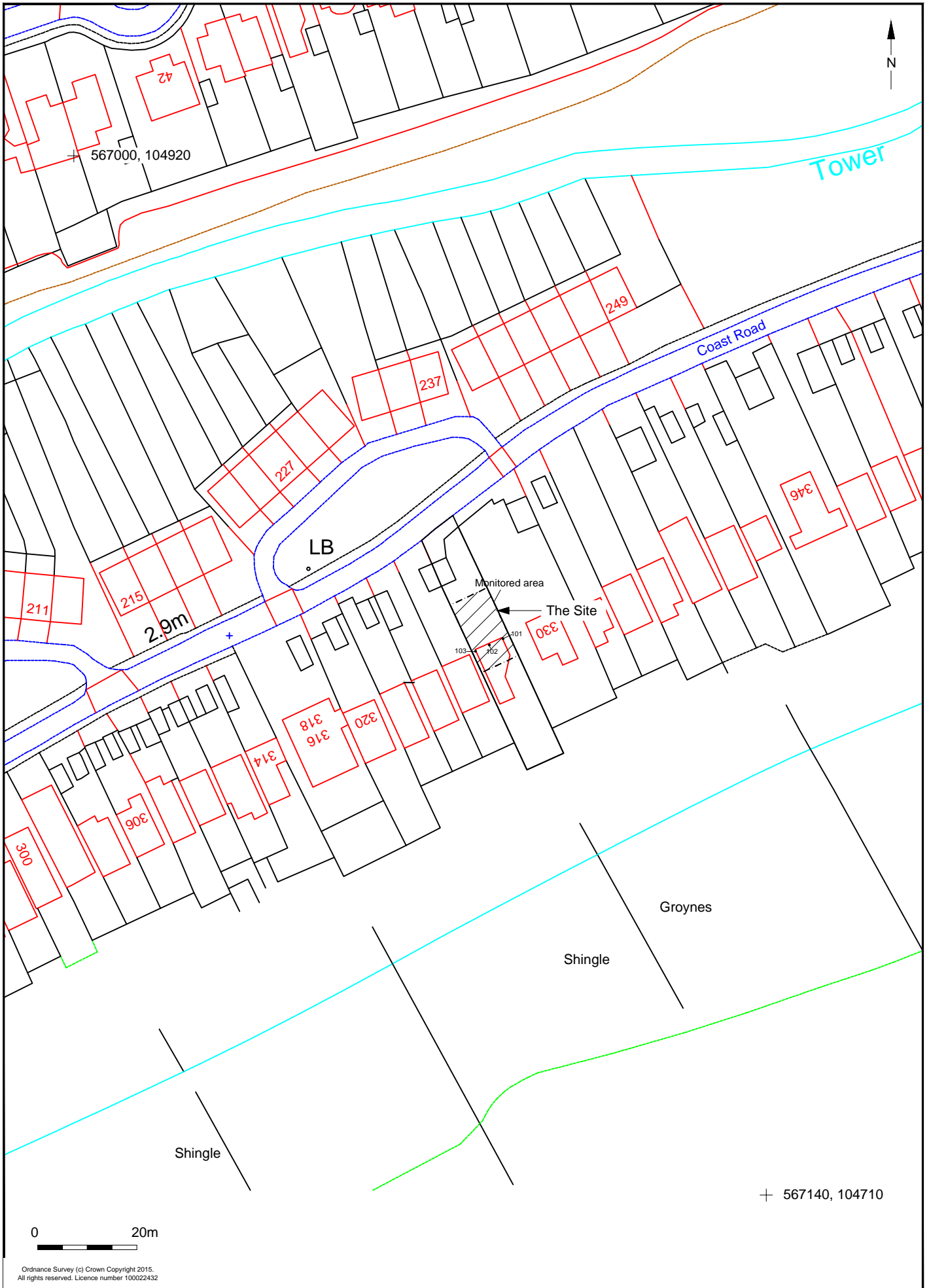
Project brief originator Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd

Project design originator	Madgwick and Dottridge Ltd
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at 328 Coast Road, Pevensey, East Sussex. BN24 6NU
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C
Other bibliographic details	Report Number. 2017250
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Entered on	6 July 2017

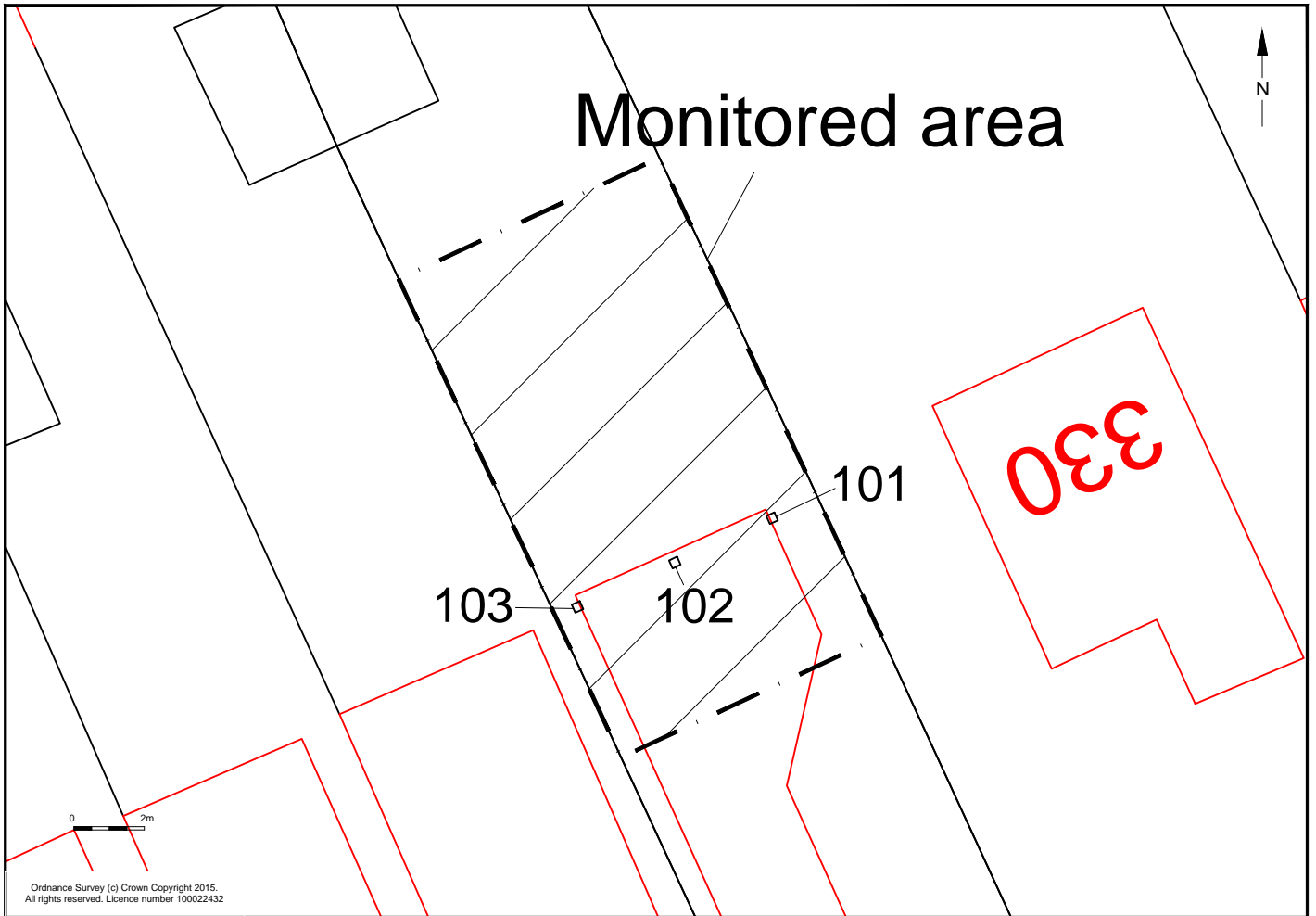


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Crown copyright and database right 2014

© Archaeology South-East		328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170441	March 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015250	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170441	July 2017	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2017250	Drawn by: JC			



Monitored area looking south



Feature [101] looking north-east



Feature [102] after removal

© Archaeology South-East		328 Coast Road, Pevensey Bay	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170441	July 2017	Site plan - monitored area and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017250	Drawn by: JC		

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