

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex**

NGR: TQ 19394 04941

Planning number: AWDM/0961/17

ASE Project No: 180306

Site Code: LNM18

ASE Report No: 2018154

OASIS id: archaeol6-316500



By Jake Wilson

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex**

NGR: TQ 19394 04941

Planning number: AWDM/0961/17

ASE Project No: 180306

Site Code: LNM18

ASE Report No: 2018154

OASIS id: archaeol6-316500

Prepared by:	Jake Wilson	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project manager	
Date of Issue:	May 2018		
Version:	2		

**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

Tel: 01273 426830

Fax: 01273 420866

Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was conducted at New Monks Farm, West Sussex, on the 4th May 2018. Three test pits measuring up to 3m in length were excavated.

The area in which the watching brief took place has been significantly impacted by past groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, and truncation of the natural geology. All three test pits exhibited a stratigraphic sequence of natural alluvium overlain by modern made ground. Silty natural alluvium was encountered at between 1.08m AOD and 1.95m AOD. No evidence of saltern mounds was uncovered.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: Test Pit 1: List of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Test Pit 2: List of recorded contexts
- Table 5: Test Pit 3: List of recorded contexts

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Test pit location
- Figure 3: Test pits 1, 2 and 3

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by PCA Heritage, to undertake an archaeological watching brief of land at New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex (Figure 1 – NGR: TQ 19394 04941).

1.1.2 The site lies on reclaimed marshland on the west bank of the River Adur. The site is bounded to the north by the A27 and to the west by Mash Barn Lane and the built-up area of North Lancing beyond. Shoreham Airport lies to the east, and the southern boundary consists of farmland and the railway line. The site comprises a number of irregularly shaped fields divided by deep drainage channels, and has been used for arable cultivation in the recent past. The watching brief work concentrated on a single field at the south of the site.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2018), the site lies on bedrock geology of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by alluvium consisting of silty peaty sandy clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The parcel of land is one part of a larger development called New Monks Farm. New Monks Farm Development Ltd have made a hybrid planning application, accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, to Adur and Worthing District Council (henceforth 'the LPA', ref. AWDM/0961/17) for:

- Full planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and erection of 249 dwellings with temporary access via Grinstead Lane, a Country Park, relocation and extension of the Withy Patch Gypsy and Traveller site, permanent access via a new roundabout on the A27, landscaping, and other associated infrastructure (including pumping facility at the River Adur);
- Outline planning permission (with only landscaping reserved) for a non-food retail store (Use Class A1); and
- Outline planning permission (with all matters reserved other than access) for the erection of a further 351 dwellings, community hub, primary school, and landscaping.

1.3.2 West Sussex County Council, acting as archaeological advisors to the LPA, have no objection to the proposal, subject to suitable heritage asset mitigation measures being in place. They have recommended that these are secured by the use of three planning conditions. The first of these states that:

No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant or their agents or successor in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works in accordance with a Written Archaeological Mitigation Strategy and timetable which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

- 1.3.3 There is a proposal for one part of the site to be developed into two new sports pitches (Shelley, A pers comm). This part of the site formerly contained a number of salterns assumed to be sealed by modern overburden (ASE 2002, ASE 2011).
- 1.3.4 In light of this, ASE were commissioned by PCA Heritage to attend site and supervise the excavation of up to 4 exploratory test pits (dug by contractors) to determine to what level (AOD) the tops of the former saltern mounds survive. Specifically, where the interface between the base of the overburden and the top of the pre-existing ground surfaces existed.
- 1.3.5 As no works-specific written scheme of investigation for the watching brief was produced, Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC / CDC / WSCC 2017) were adhered to.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the 04/05/2018.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric and Roman

2.1.1 Although prehistoric and Roman activity has not been noted within the bounds of the site, the Middle/Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age and Roman periods are well represented across the West Sussex coastal plain. For example a number of features, including Middle Bronze Age structured deposits were excavated at the Sir Robert Woodard Academy around 1km to the west (ASE 2010). Roman find-spots in the general vicinity are numerous and the best known site in the area around Lancing is the Roman Celtic temple at Lancing Down (Bedwin 1981). It has also been suggested that the A27, which bounds the site to the north, has its origins in the Roman period (Margary 1965).

2.2 Medieval

2.2.1 The archaeological potential of the site may be judged chiefly in terms of the evidence for medieval salt production. A number of saltern mounds of probable medieval date are known to exist within the site boundaries (e.g. Holden and Hudson 1981; Place 1999) and have been subject to archaeological investigation on two occasions to date, including a small excavation of one such mound in 1971 (Holden and Hudson 1981) and the investigation of two further mounds during an archaeological evaluation in 2002 (ASE 2002). Both investigations identified deposits associated with salt production, albeit partially truncated by later ploughing, including deposits of charcoal and burnt clay, as well as hearths and pits. Pottery recovered during both investigations indicates an 11th-12th century date for initial salt production associated with the mounds, with some later 13th-14th century activity.

2.2.2 The saltern mounds at New Monks Farm comprise just one group in an extensive network of salt production sites distributed across the floodplain of the river Adur between Bramber and the coast. Production seems to have been undertaken on a seasonal basis by the local population, largely for local consumption (Holden and Hudson 1981). The available evidence suggests that the majority of salt production in the Adur Valley spans a period from the 10th to 14th centuries, after which the industry fell into decline as a result of a combination of economic and environmental factors.

2.3 Post-medieval

2.3.1 In addition to the known medieval potential of the site, it lies immediately to the west of Shoreham Airport. The airport was utilised during both World Wars and still retains many of its Second World War perimeter defences, including a very rare example of a Dome Trainer, used for anti-aircraft training (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. WS487). It is possible that remains associated with military activity at the adjacent airport site survive within the site boundary.

2.4 Recent Archaeological works

2.4.1 In 2002 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at New Monks Farm (ASE 2002). Seven trenches were excavated in advance of construction of a proposed golf course and clubhouse. Two mounds were subjected to trenching, from which it was established that the mounds were saltern mounds,

one of medieval date, the other undated although most likely to be of the same date. Both mounds were shallow, and had suffered some truncation from ploughing. Both preserved archaeological deposits relating to salt-working and, in the case of one of the mounds, showed evidence of pits having been cut through it. No evidence was found for mounds buried by later alluviation and inundation.

2.4.2 Evidence for other types of activity is rare but does exist. In 2011, an archaeological watching brief monitored the removal of the topsoil from the site, on which at that time construction a golf course was proposed (ASE 2011). The watching brief revealed two small refuse pits and a small shell midden dating to the 11th to 13th centuries; these features have been interpreted as the remains of small-scale oyster processing (MWS9494)

2.5 Project Aims and Objectives

2.5.1 The general aims of the watching brief are:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed groundwork and to preserve by record any such remains.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological and/or geoarchaeological deposits.

2.5.2 The specific aim of the watching brief was to supervise the excavation of up to 4 exploratory test pits (dug by contractors) to determine to what level (AOD) the tops of the former saltern mounds survive. Specifically, where the interface between the base of the overburden and the top of the pre-existing ground surfaces existed.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Three test pit locations were surveyed in by the client. Each measured 3m in length and 1.2m in width (Figure 2)
- 3.1.2 The test pits were excavated with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, grading in spits of no more than 100mm at a time until the first undisturbed geological horizon was reached.
- 3.1.3 All spoil was placed at a minimum of 0.5m away from all test pit edges.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE context sheets with colours recorded by visual inspection only. A digital photographic record was made of the test pits.
- 3.1.5 The spoil heap and the test pit bases were scanned by eye for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.6 All recording was conducted according to Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC / CDC / WSCC 2017)

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 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).

Context sheets	0
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	8
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
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 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 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.0.1 Presented below are the findings for the archaeological watching brief that took place on the 4/05/2018. None of the test pits contained any archaeological features, finds or deposits and revealed only natural alluvium sealed beneath multiple layers of modern made ground.

4.1 Test Pit 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.6m	4m
1/002	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.5m	3.4m
1/003	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.6m	2.9m
1/004	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.54m	2.3m
1/005	Layer	Alluvium	3m	1.2m	0.01m+	1.76m

Table 3: Test Pit 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Test pit 1 measured 3m x 1.2m in length and 2.24m in depth and was located in the north of the field.
- 4.1.2 Layer [1/005] was alluvium; a light brown-grey silty sand mix.
- 4.1.3 This was sealed by layer [1/004] a black clay/peat mixture contaminated by frequent amounts of modern construction debris.
- 4.1.4 Layer [1/003] was a sealing or capping layer over [1/004] and consisted of a mix of chalk and concrete crush.
- 4.1.5 Layer [1/002] a mix of redeposited chalk and broken asphalt overlay [1/003]. Frequent modern CBM deposits were encountered.
- 4.1.6 Layer [1/001] was the uppermost sealing layer of modern made ground and consisted of a light brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of asphalt and modern CBM.

4.2 Test Pit 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.47m	4.3m
2/002	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.3m	3.83m
2/003	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.15m	3.53m
2/004	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	2.3m	3.38m
2/005	Layer	Alluvium	3m	1.2m	0.01m+	1.08m

Table 4: Test pit 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Test pit 2 measured 3m x 1.2m in length and 2.95m in depth and was located in the west of the field.
- 4.2.2 Layer [2/005] was an alluvium layer completely sealed by multiple deposits of modern made ground. It consisted of a light brown-grey silty sand mix.
- 4.2.3 Layer [2/004] was a black clay/peat mixture contaminated by frequent amounts of modern construction debris.
- 4.2.4 Layer [2/003] was a mottled black and light brown clay with large amounts of modern sand, concrete, brick and plastic.
- 4.2.5 Layer [2/002] was a mix of redeposited mix of silty clay and chalk. Frequent modern CBM deposits were encountered in this layer.
- 4.2.6 Layer [2/001] was the uppermost sealing layer of modern made ground and consisted of a light brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of asphalt and modern CBM.

4.3 Test Pit 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.45m	4.1m
3/002	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.25m	3.65m
3/003	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.4m	3.4m
3/004	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.2m	3m
3/005	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.25m	2.8m
3/006	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.2	2.55m
3/007	Layer	Made Ground	3m	1.2m	0.4	2.35m
3/008	Layer	Alluvium	3m	1.2	0.01	1.95m

Table 5: Test pit 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Test pit 3 measured 3m x 1.2m in length and 2.5m in depth and was located in the south of the field.
- 4.3.2 Layer [3/008] was an alluvium layer completely sealed by multiple deposits of modern made ground. It consisted of a light brown-grey silty sand mix.
- 4.3.3 Layer [3/007] was a black clay/peat mixture contaminated by frequent amounts of modern construction debris.
- 4.3.4 Layer [3/006] was a mottled dark grey/ brown clay with modern CBM inclusion throughout.
- 4.3.5 Layer [3/005] was a chalk capping layer and consisted of crushed chalk and infrequent modern CBM deposits.
- 4.3.6 Layer [3/004] was a layer of dark brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern CBM throughout.
- 4.3.7 Layer [3/003] was a light brown silty clay layer with frequent chalk inclusion throughout.
- 4.3.8 Layer [3/002] was an orange-brown clay layer with modern construction debris throughout.
- 4.3.9 Layer [3/003] was a dark grey silt clay layer with chalk inclusions throughout.
- 4.3.10 Layer [3/001] was the uppermost sealing layer of modern made ground and consisted of a light brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of asphalt and modern CBM.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 All three test pits exhibited a similar stratigraphic sequence of natural alluvium directly overlain by modern made ground. No evidence of saltern mounds was uncovered.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 Silty natural alluvium was encountered at between 1.08m AOD and 1.95m AOD.

5.2.2 The area in which the watching brief took place has been significantly impacted by modern groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural geology and the deposition of multiple layers of modern made ground.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 Due to the lack of evidence of saltern mounds within the test pits the specific research aims could not be addressed.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The area in which the evaluation took place has been significantly impacted by modern groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, and truncation of the natural geology. All three test pits exhibited a stratigraphic sequence of natural alluvium overlain by modern made ground. Silty natural alluvium was encountered at between 1.08m AOD and 1.95m AOD. No evidence of saltern mounds was uncovered.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, 2002 An Archaeological Evaluation at New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex

ASE, 2010 An Archaeological Excavation at the New Sir Robert Woodard Academy, Lancing, West Sussex

ASE, 2011 An Archaeological Watching Brief at New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex

Bedwin, O, 1981 Excavations at Lancing Down, West Sussex, 1980, SAC 119, 37-56

BGS, 2018 Geindex <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/> Date accessed 4/05/2018

ESCC / CDC / WSCC, 2017 *Sussex Archaeological Standards*

Holden, E, W and Hudson, T, P, 1981 *Salt-making in the Adur Valley, Sussex*. Sussex Archaeological Collections 119, 117-148

Place, C, 1999 *An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex*

Margary, I, D, 1965 *Roman Ways in the Weald* (3rd Edition) Phoenix House

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank PCA Heritage for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and West Sussex County Archaeologist for their guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was undertaken by Jake Wilson. Paul Mason managed the excavations and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.									
Site code	LNM18								
Project code	180306								
Planning reference	AWDM/0961/17								
Site address	New Monk's Farm, Lancing, West Sussex								
District/Borough	West Sussex								
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 19394 04941								
Geology	Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain by alluvium								
Fieldwork type	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%; text-align: center;">WB</td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr></table>			WB					
		WB							
Date of fieldwork	4/05/2018								
Sponsor/client	New Monks Farm Development Ltd								
Project manager	Paul Mason								
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson								
Period summary	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td><td style="width: 25%;"></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td style="text-align: right;">Other</td></tr></table>								Other
			Other						
Project summary	<p>An archaeological watching brief was conducted at New Monks Farm, West Sussex, on the 4th May 2018. Three test pits measuring up to 3m in length were excavated.</p> <p>The area in which the watching brief took place has been significantly impacted by past groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, and truncation of the natural geology. All three test pits exhibited a stratigraphic sequence of natural alluvium overlain by modern made ground. Silty natural alluvium was encountered at between 1.08m AOD and 1.95m AOD. No evidence of saltern mounds was uncovered.</p>								
Museum/Accession No.									

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-316500

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at New Monks Farm, Lancing West Sussex.
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at New Monks Farm, West Sussex, on the 4th May 2018. Three test pits measuring up to 3m in length were excavated. The area in which the watching brief took place has been significantly impacted by past groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, and truncation of the natural geology. All three test pits exhibited a stratigraphic sequence of natural alluvium overlain by modern made ground. Silty natural alluvium was encountered at between 1.08m AOD and 1.95m AOD. No evidence of saltern mounds was uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 04-05-2018 End: 04-05-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LN18 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None
Methods & techniques	"Test Pits"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR LANCING An Archaeological Watching Brief at New Monks Farm, Lancing West Sussex.
Postcode	BN15 0QZ
Study area	13362.5 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1929 499 50.831578 -0.305922 50 49 53 N 000 18 21 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Position derived from charts

Height OD / Depth Min: 1.08m Max: 1.95m

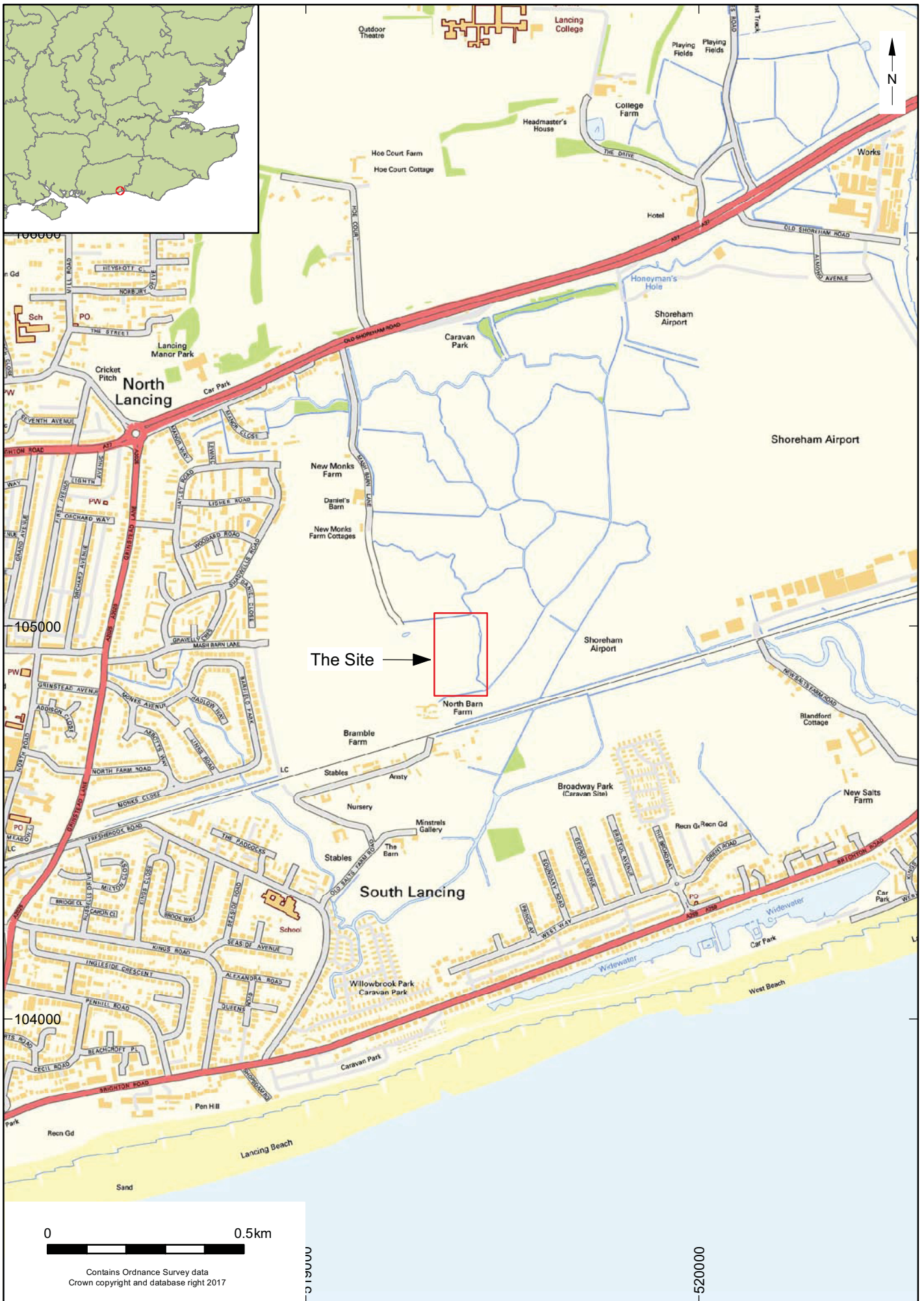
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	PCA HERITAGE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	PCA HERITAGE

Project archives

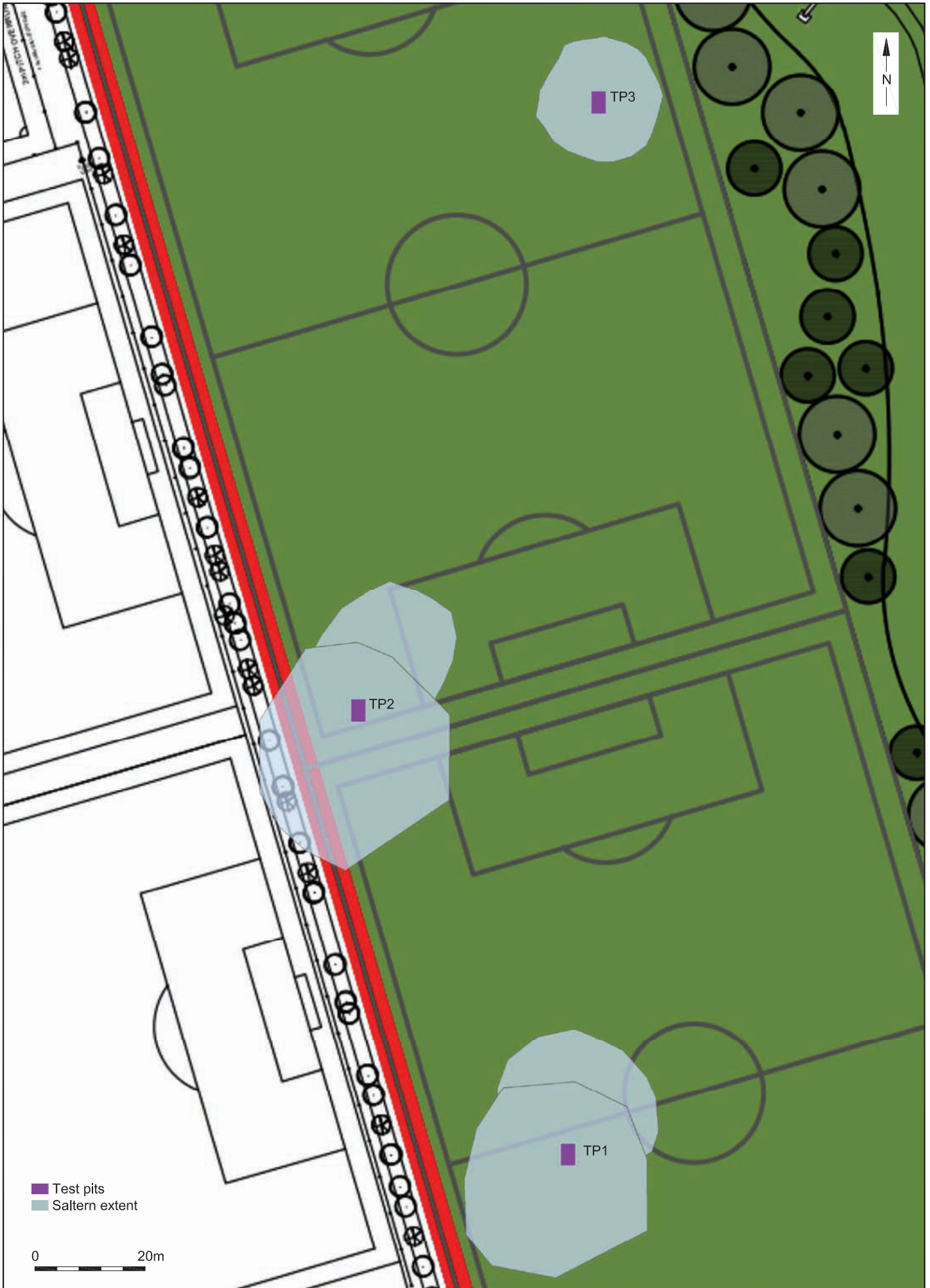
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Diary", "Map", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Report", "Survey "

Entered by	Jake Wilson (Tcrnjrw@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	8 May 2018



Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2017

© Archaeology South-East		New Monks Farm, Lancing	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180306	May 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2018154	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		New Monks Farm, Lancing	Fig.2
Project Ref: 180306	May 2018	Test pit locations	
Report Ref: 2018154	Drawn by: LG		



TP1



TP2



TP3

© Archaeology South-East		New Monks Farm, Lancing	Fig.3
Project Ref: 180306	May 2018	Test pit photographs	
Report Ref: 2018154	Drawn by: LG		

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

