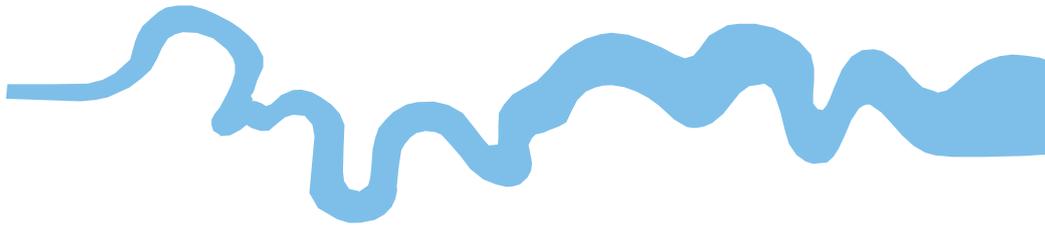


T V A S



SOUTH

**New Monks Farm,
Lancing, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Virginia Fuentes

Site Code: NMF19/173

(TQ 1940 0530)

New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For The Community Stadium Ltd**

by Virginia Fuentes
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NMF 19/173

December 2019

Summary

Site name: New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1940 0530

Planning reference: AWDM/0961/17

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th and 12th December 2019

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Virginia Fuentes

Site code: NMF 19/173

Summary of results: The aim of the watching brief was to establish the extent of made ground deposits on the site and to determine if any of the saltern mounds previously documented had survived beneath the overburden. Six test pits were excavated across the site, and in all the cases the natural was encountered under a layer of made ground that varied between approximately 1m and 4m in depth. The lack of any subsoil horizon indicates that the site had been stripped down to the natural geology prior to the imported material being deposited. Some discolouration of the natural geology was observed, and this is probably a result of the previously stripped areas being sealed beneath made ground deposits consisting largely of Tarmac and concrete. No traces of the salterns were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The preferred depository for the site archive is Worthing Museum.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 31.12.19
	Steve Preston✓ 31.12.19

New Monks Farm, Lancing, West Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Virginia Fuentes

Report 19/118

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to document test pits excavated at saltern mound locations at New Monks Farm, Lancing. The site is located to the south of the A27, east of the historic core of Lancing (TQ 194 053) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr Andy Shelley of PCA Heritage on behalf of The Community Stadium Ltd.

Planning permission (AWDM/0961/17) had been gained from Adur and Worthing District Council for a significant development of the area for residential and commercial purposes. The permission was subject to a standard planning condition (3) relating to archaeology and historic environment, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2019) and the Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment.. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by the planned building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer to comply with the requirements for the archaeological fieldworks contained in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2019) and in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA 2014a).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes between the 4th and 12th December 2019, and the site code is NMF 19/173. The archive is currently held at TVAS Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of the A27, east of the historic core of Lancing, West Sussex. (Fig. 2), and had been massively built up with made ground during the last fifteen years or so. As a result, the whole area is very uneven and the height varies between 2m and 4m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Alluvium: clay, silt and sand with gravel (BGS 2006) and this was confirmed during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a recent Archaeological Mitigation Strategy covering the whole site (PCA Heritage 2018). In summary the site is located on the ancient floodplain of the Rive Adur, at the foot of the South Downs. Although it is possible that much of the area would have consisted of marshland until at least the medieval period, it is possible that any slightly elevated, alluvium free, areas may have attracted human activity. One of the most obvious features relating to activity in the area are the numerous salterns which are shown on historic (and modern) maps. These are relics of salt production, and are largely the result of the waste product of sand-washing being left in mounds. Whilst this method of producing salt appears to have developed in the medieval period, it is likely that the area was exploited from at least Roman times, as salt was a valuable commodity. Other features, including a Late Neolithic pit and a medieval shell midden have also been recorded during recent archaeological fieldwork projects on the site.

Much of the land had been reclaimed by the end of the medieval period, and was then used for farming. A number of farmsteads and barns are recorded on historic maps, some of which were still standing until very recently. Further heritage assets in the form of Second World War pillboxes and gun emplacements are present on the site. These were largely built due to the close proximity of Brighton City Airport, which was used as military airfield during the First and Second World Wars.

Objectives and methodology

The primary aim of the watching brief was to establish the extent of made ground deposit on site and to determine if any of the saltern mound had survived underneath it by excavating test pits. Where archaeological deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ* were encountered, their treatment was to be discussed in consultation with the client and West Sussex County Council Archaeological Officer. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record.

Results

Test pit 1 (HA045) (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

This test pit was 0.9m wide and 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 0.78m. The natural clay geology was encountered immediately beneath 0.50m of topsoil (50). No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological finds or features were recorded. The top of the alluvium was at 1.70m AOD.

Test pit 2 (HA046) (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

This test pit was 0.9m wide and up to 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 1.14m. The natural clay geology was encountered at 1.69m AOD, beneath 0.35m of topsoil (50) and 0.71m of made ground. No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Test pit 3 (HA041) (Figs 2 and 4; Pl. 3)

This test pit was 1m wide and up to 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 3.40m. The natural clay geology was encountered under 0.40m of topsoil (50) and 2.90m of made ground. Various layers of made ground were noted, including a dark layer of Tarmac and concrete rubble which lay directly above the natural geology. The top of the alluvium was at 1.20m AOD. No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

Test pit 4 (HA038) (Figs 2 and 5; Pl. 4)

Test pit 4 was about 1m wide and 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 4.18m. The natural clay geology was encountered beneath about 4.00m of made ground (52). This area was highly disturbed and no topsoil was present. Various layers of made ground were noted, including a dark layer of Tarmac and concrete rubble which lay directly above the natural geology. No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded. The top of the alluvium was at 1.17m AOD.

Test pit 5 (HA039) (Figs 2 and 6; Pl. 5)

This test pit was 1m wide and up to 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 4.18m. The natural clay geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 3.9m of made ground (52). Various layers of made ground were noted, including a dark layer of Tarmac and concrete rubble which lay directly above the natural geology. No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded. The natural clay at the bottom of this test pit had become discoloured, and was a dark grey colour. This is likely the result of a chemical reaction which sometime occurs when deposits are sealed beneath made ground. The top of the alluvium was at 1.24m AOD.

Test pit 6 (HA048) (Fig. 2 and 7, Pl. 6)

Test pit 6 was 1m wide and up to 2m long, and was excavated to a depth of 3.38m. The natural clay geology was encountered under 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 3.00m of made ground (52). Various layers of made ground were noted, including a dark layer of Tarmac and concrete rubble which lay directly above the natural geology. No subsoil horizon was visible, and no archaeological features or finds were recorded. The natural clay at the bottom

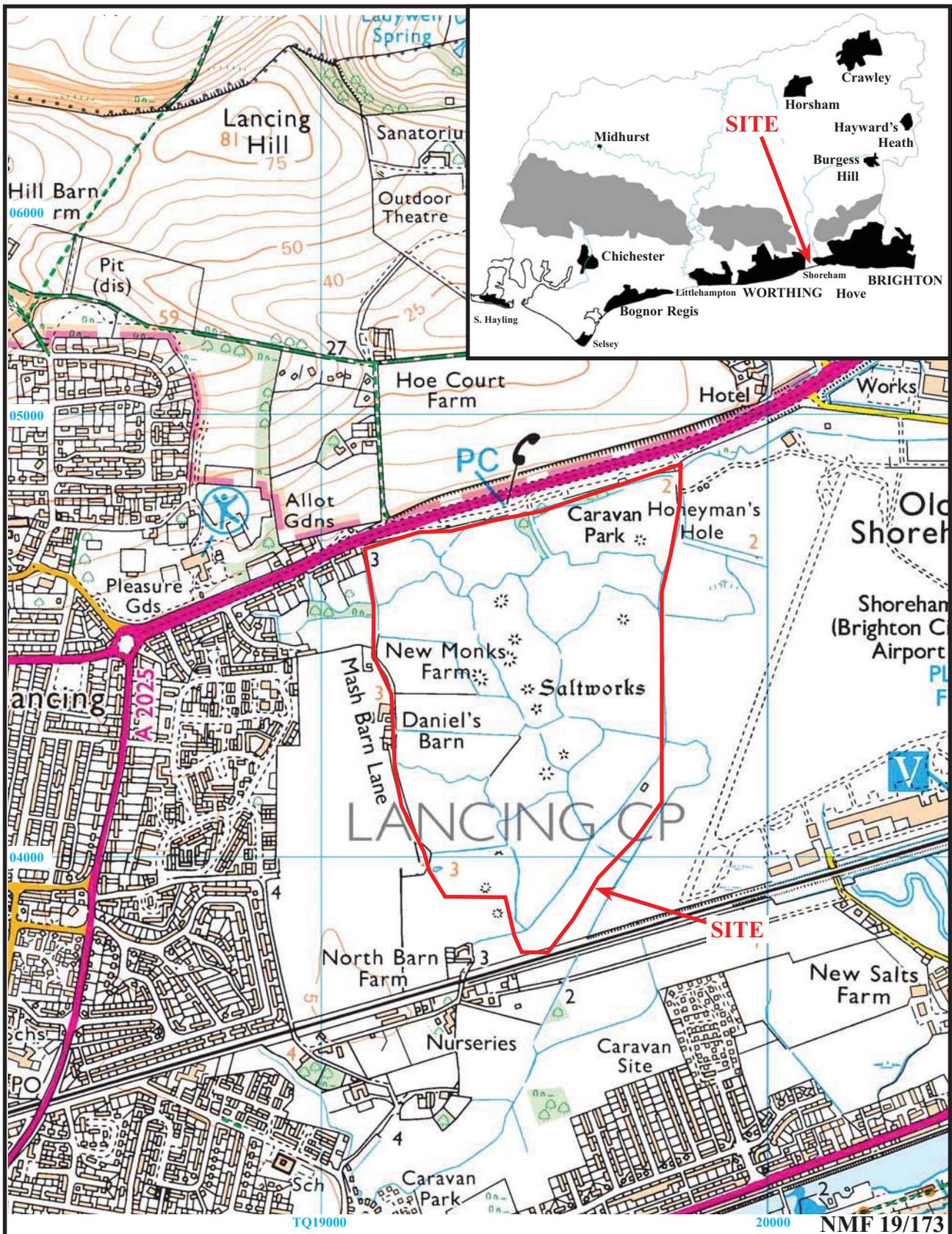
of this test pit (1.45m AOD) had become discoloured, and was a dark grey colour. This is likely the result of a chemical reaction which sometime occurs when deposits are sealed beneath made ground.

Conclusion

The aim of the watching brief was to establish the extent of made ground deposits on the site and to determine if any of the saltern mounds previously documented had survived beneath the overburden. Six test pits were excavated across the site, and in all the cases the natural geology was encountered under a layer of made ground that varied between approximately 1m and 4m in depth. The lack of any subsoil horizon indicates that the site had been stripped down to the natural geology prior to the imported material being deposited. Some discoloration of the natural geology was observed in two of the test pits, and this is probably a result of the previously stripped areas being sealed beneath made ground deposits consisting largely of Tarmac and concrete. No traces of the salterns were observed.

References

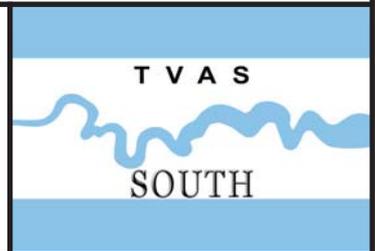
- BGS, 2006, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **318/333**, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading.
- ESCC, 2019, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex Council, Lewes (2nd edition)
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- PCA Heritage, 2018, 'New Monks Farm, Lancing: Archaeological Mitigation Strategy', PCA Heritage unpublished report 10007/R01

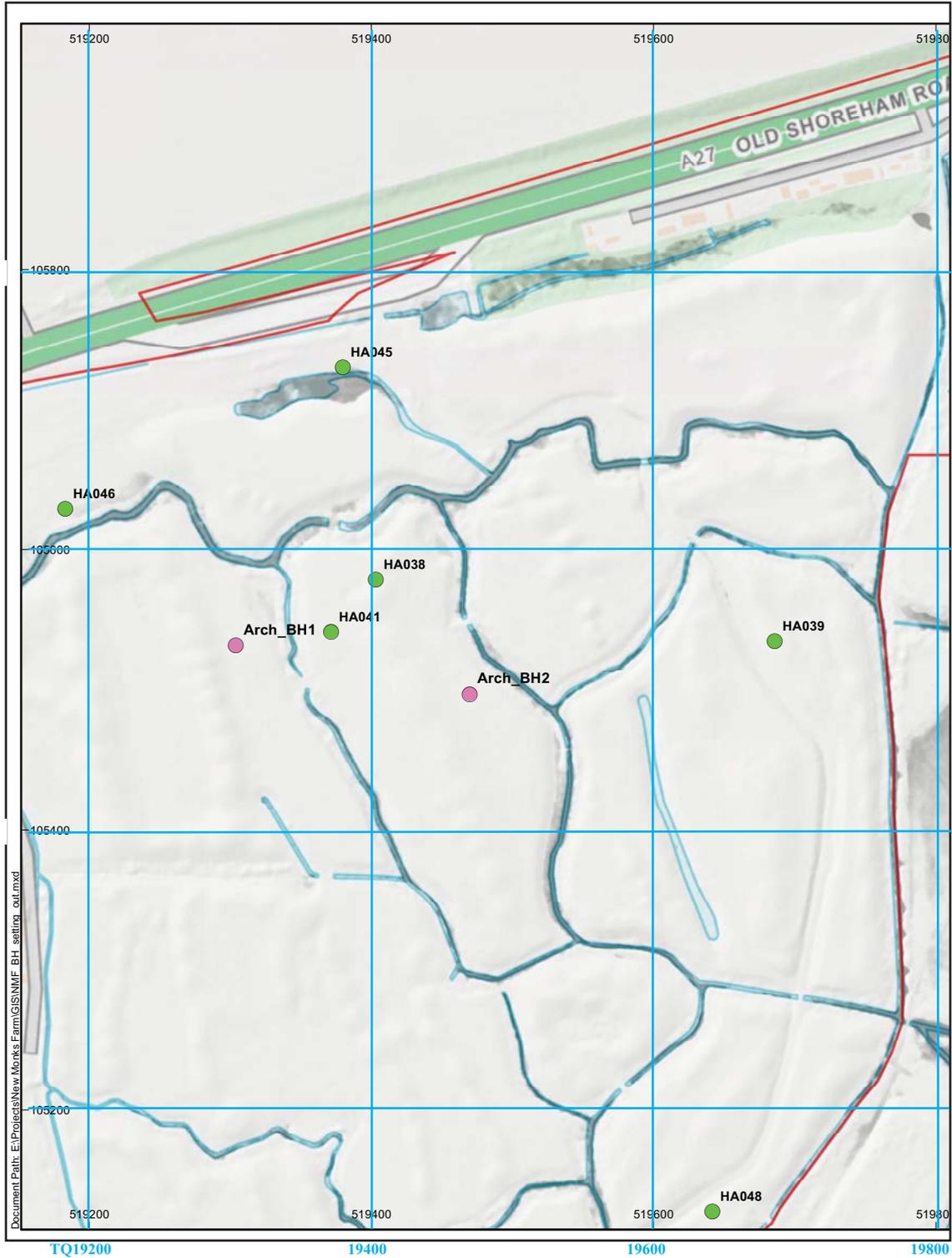


**New Monks Farm, Lancing,
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Lancing and West Sussex.

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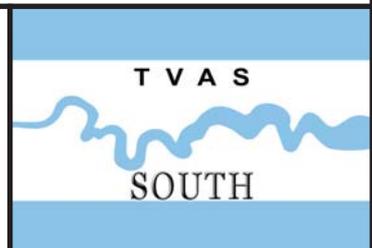




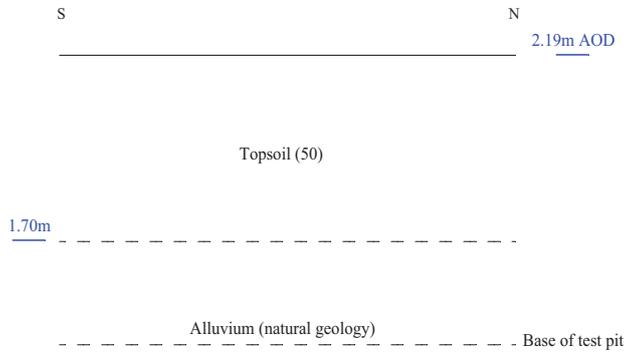
NMF 19/173

**New Monks Farm, Lancing,
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 1. Location of test pits shown in green.

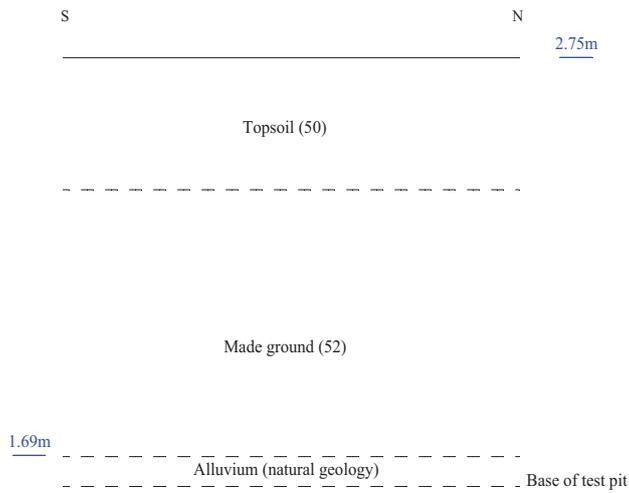
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Trench 1 (HA045)



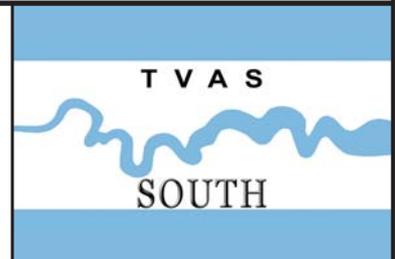
Trench 2 (HA046)



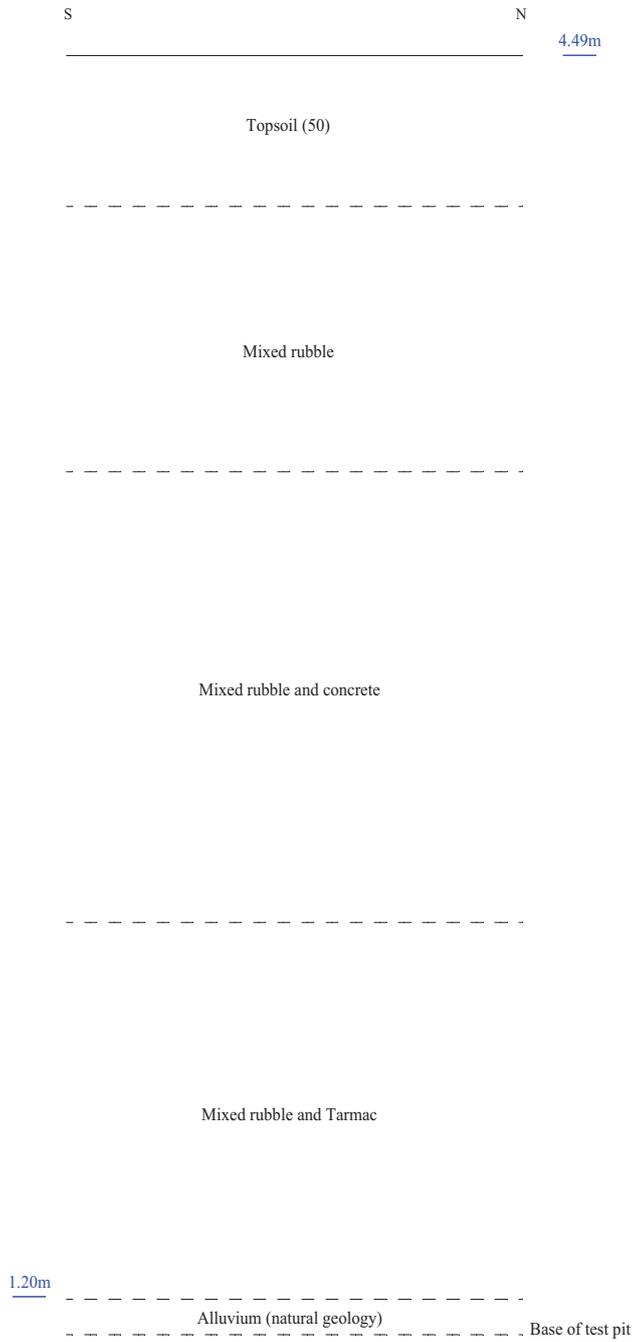
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**New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Sections.



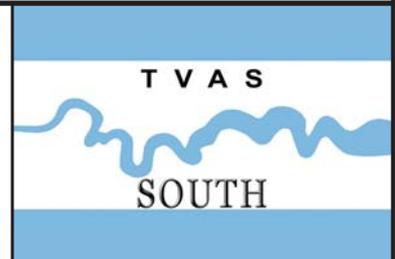
Trench 3 (HA041)



NMF 19/173

New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 4. Sections.



Trench 4 (HA038)

SE

NW

5.21m

Mixed rubble

Mixed rubble and concrete

Mixed rubble and Tarmac

1.05m

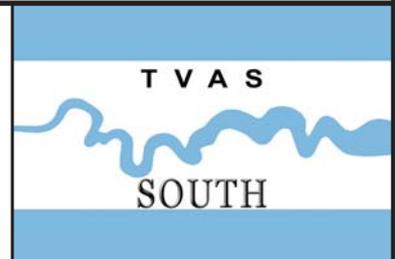
Alluvium (natural geology)

Base of test pit

NMF 19/173

New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 5. Sections.



Trench 5 (HA039)

WNW

ESE

5.41m

Topsoil (50)

Mixed rubble

Mixed rubble and concrete

Mixed rubble and Tarmac

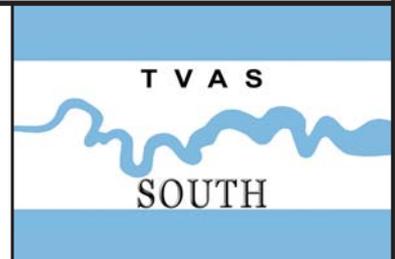
1.24m

Alluvium (natural geology)
Base of test pit

NMF 19/173

New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 6. Sections.



Trench 6 (HA048)

N

S

4.64m AOD

Topsoil (50)

Mixed rubble and concrete

Mixed rubble and Tarmac

1.45m AOD

Alluvium (natural geology)

Base of test pit

NMF 19/173

New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 7. Sections.

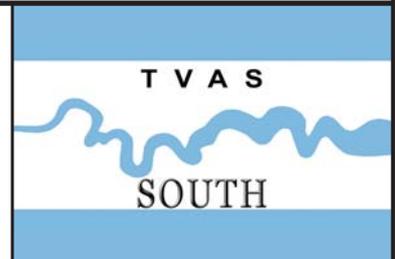




Plate 1. Test pit 1, looking West.
Scales: 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Test pit 2, looking West.
Scales: 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Test pit 3, looking West
Scales: 5m and 1m.

NMF 19/173

**Land at New Monks Farm, Lancing,
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 to 3.**

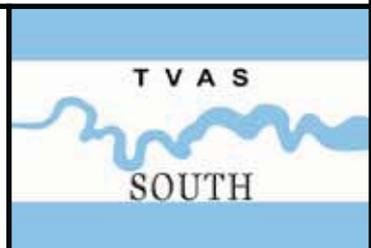




Plate 4. Test pit 4, looking South-west,
Scales: 5m and 1m.



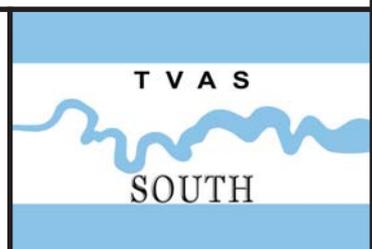
Plate 5. Test pit 5, looking North-east,
Scales: 5m and 1m.



Plate 6. Test pit 6, looking East,
Scales: 5m and 1m.

NMF 19/173

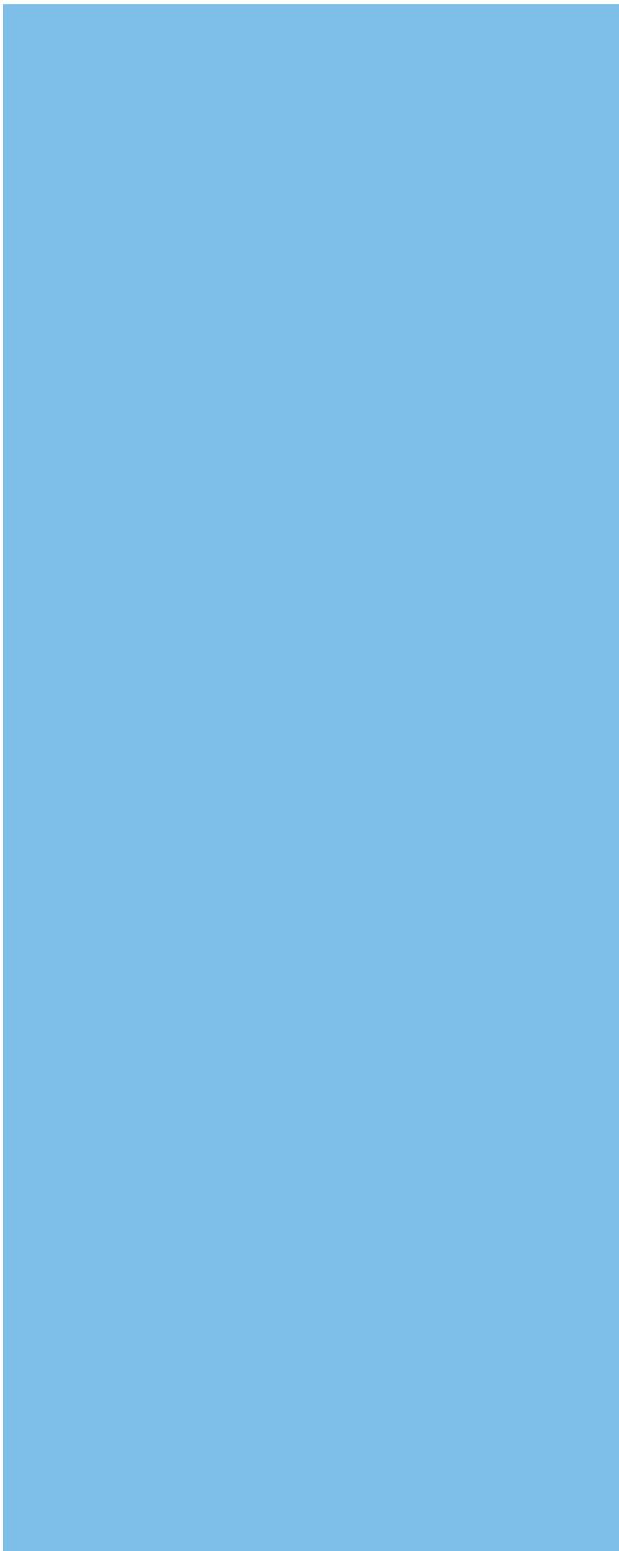
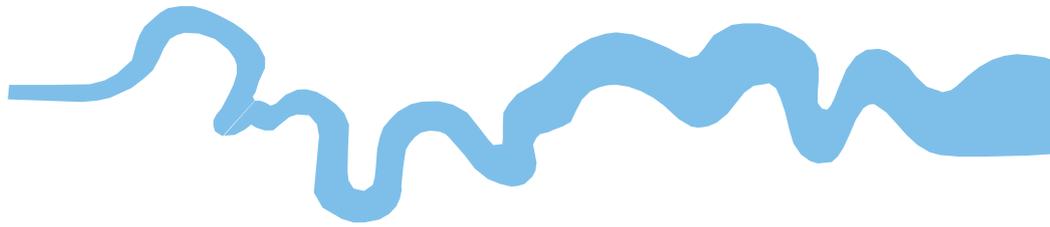
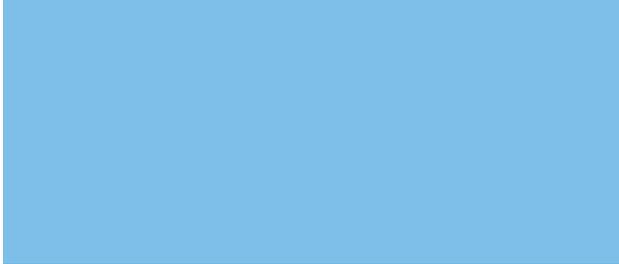
New Monks Farm, Lancing
West Sussex, 2019
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 4 to 6.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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