

# Archaeological Monitoring of Land at the New Barn, Silver Lane, Bishopstone Village, East Sussex

Site Code BISH/WB/18



Report for Mr and Mrs Attwood  
Date of report 12/03/2018

**SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY**

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company  
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road  
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP

Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112

info@swatarchaeology.co.uk [www.swatarchaeology.co.uk](http://www.swatarchaeology.co.uk)

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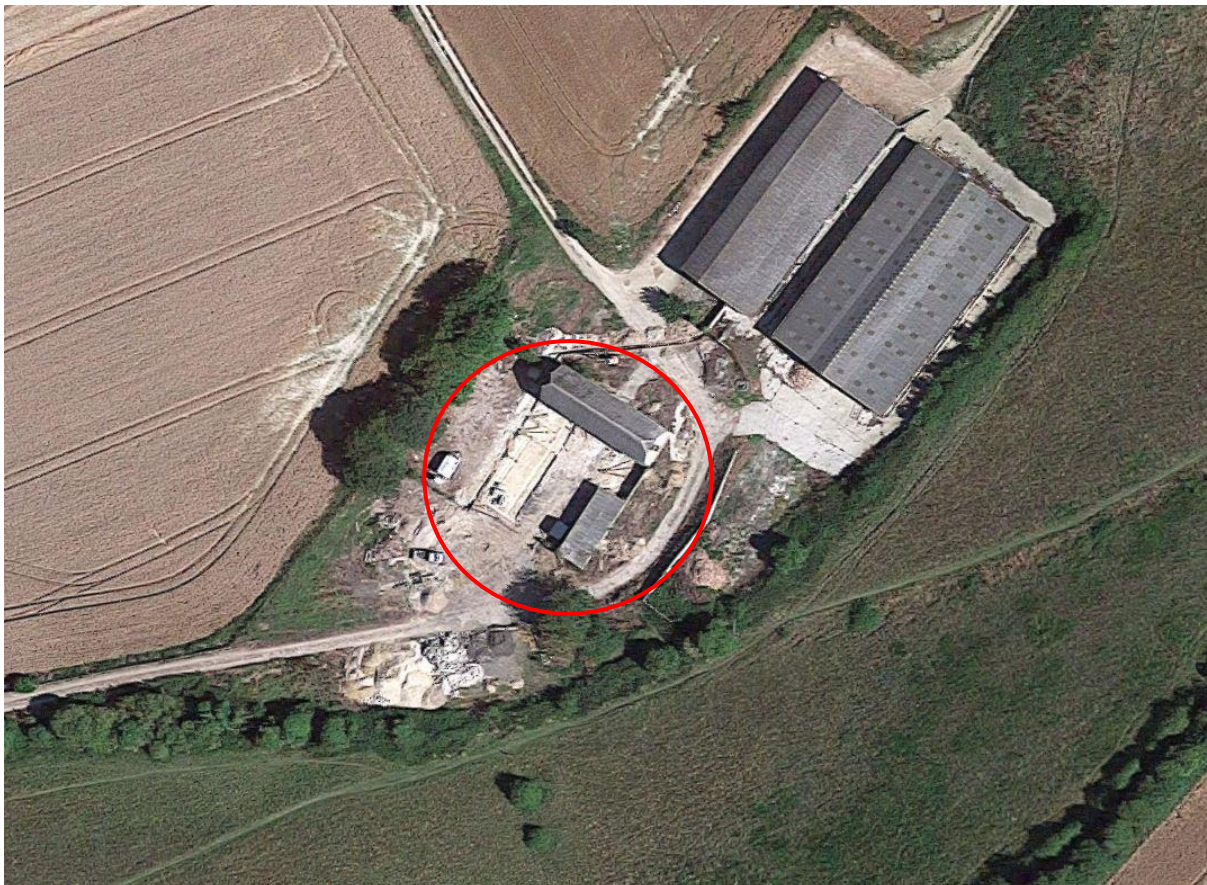
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Date of report: 12/03/2018



**Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site during development.**

**(Google Earth 2018: Eye altitude 322m).**

## **1.0 Summary**

1.1. In March 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a new extension to the New Barn, Silver Lane, Bishopstone Village, East Sussex (Fig. 1 & Plates 2-7).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of Mr and Mrs Attwood.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging of a foundation trenches and drainage runs (Plates 5-7).

The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1. Clearing of site and foundation trenches (Plate 2-4)

Phase 2: Foundation trenches (Plates 5-7)

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any signs of archaeological activity. In particular, any evidence of archaeological activity associated with the known archaeological sites in the area.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is SDNP/13/05879/FUL

1.6. Although the archaeological potential has been highlighted by the CgMs Desk Based Assessment and the SWAT Archaeology WSI specification the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features or pits, and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Planning Background**

Planning application SDNP/13/05879/FUL was submitted to Lewes District Council the Local Planning Authority (LPA). East Sussex County Council Heritage and Conservation on behalf of the LPA requested that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken in order to record any archaeological remains uncovered during the development work. The following condition (5) was attached to the planning consent:

*The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition 3, to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.*

*Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.*

### **3.0 Schedule of Visits**

An archaeologist suitably experienced attended the site (Dr Paul Wilkinson SWAT Archaeology) and monitored the excavation works during March 2015.

### **4.0 Aims and Objectives**

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording are:

*The Historical Environment Record (HER) data maintained by ESCC has been summarised in a Desk-based Archaeological Assessment commissioned by the client from CgMs Consulting dated April 2013. In essence find spots and archaeological investigations within 1km of the site are clustered to the east and south of the site and include six listed buildings, a Paleolithic hand axe just outside the area of search (ESCC HER MES8). Mesolithic activity zones such as a flint scatter found close to the nearby village (ESCC HER MES49). A Bronze Age barrow is recorded close to the site at Beacon Hill (ESCC HER MES21224) including an extensive field system with ceramic finds (ESCC HER MES 10300 & 7346). Romano-British activity is attested by numerous coin finds from excavations at Manner Farm just to the south of the site, and for the Saxon period the well-known Late Saxon complex within the village of Bishopstone. In 1840 the 'New Barn' the subject of this investigation was occupied by a Mr George Farncombe and is shown on the 1872 OS map (CgMs 2013: Fig 7). By 1898 an open-fronted structure had been added and by 1908 an additional series of structures had been added.*

4.2. The ground works were to watch the excavation of foundation trenches of the new build single storey extension. Any new services would connect to existing pipe runs (Plates 2-7).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

## **5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background**

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey map is Newhaven Chalk Formation-Chalk. The geology revealed on site was demolition material mixed with topsoil overlaying chalk.

5.2. The application site consisted of an existing barn (Plate 2) with associated yard and byres to the rear. The buildings on site form a square 'U' shaped complex covering an area of c.700 sq. metres (Plate 1).

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with evidence of settlement from the Palaeolithic period up to the present day (CgMs DBA).

## **6.0 Methodology**

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology and it also complied with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA: Dec 2018).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in one phase according to the needs of the building contractors from March 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the area was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothed bucket necessary to remove the overburden and chalk from the foundation trenches (Plates 2-7).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA).

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current CIfA Standards and Guidance, (CIfA: 2014), and methodology discussed with the County Archaeologist ESCC and to include Sussex Archaeological Standards.

## **7.0 Results**

### **7.1 General**

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was the Newhaven Chalk overlaid by demolition material mixed with topsoil. No archaeological features were revealed in the natural geology and no archaeological finds retrieved from the exposed foundation trenches.

## **8.0 Finds**

No finds were retrieved.

## **9.0 Discussion**

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential. No archaeology was revealed on the development site.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the SWAT Archaeological Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

## **11.0 Acknowledgments**

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank the landowners for commissioning the project. Fieldwork was undertaken and report written by Paul Wilkinson.

Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA.

## **References**

HER data (ESCC 2015)

CIfA (2017) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

CgMs Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief (2015)

## **Appendix 1**

### **ESCC HER Summary Form**

**Site Name:** New Barn, Silver Lane, Bishopstone Village, East Sussex

**SWAT Site Code:** BISH/WB/18

**Site Address:** As above

#### **Summary:**

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a change of use and conversion whereby ESCC Archaeologist requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

**District/Unitary:** Lewes District Council

**Period(s):**

**NGR (centre of site to eight figures)** 548049 101286

**Type of Archaeological work:** Archaeological Monitoring

**Date of recording:** March 2015

**Unit undertaking recording:** Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

**Geology:** Underlying geology is Newhaven Chalk Formation

**Title and author of accompanying report:** Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Monitoring of Land at New Barn, Silver Lane, Bishopstone, East Sussex

**Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)**

See above

**Location of archive/finds:** SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

**Contact at Unit:** Paul Wilkinson

**Date:** 12/03/2018



## Plates



Plate 2. General view of site looking north-east



Plate 3. General view of site looking NNE



Plate 4. View of made-up ground to be removed



Plate 5. View of foundation trenching



Plate 6. Cutting foundations

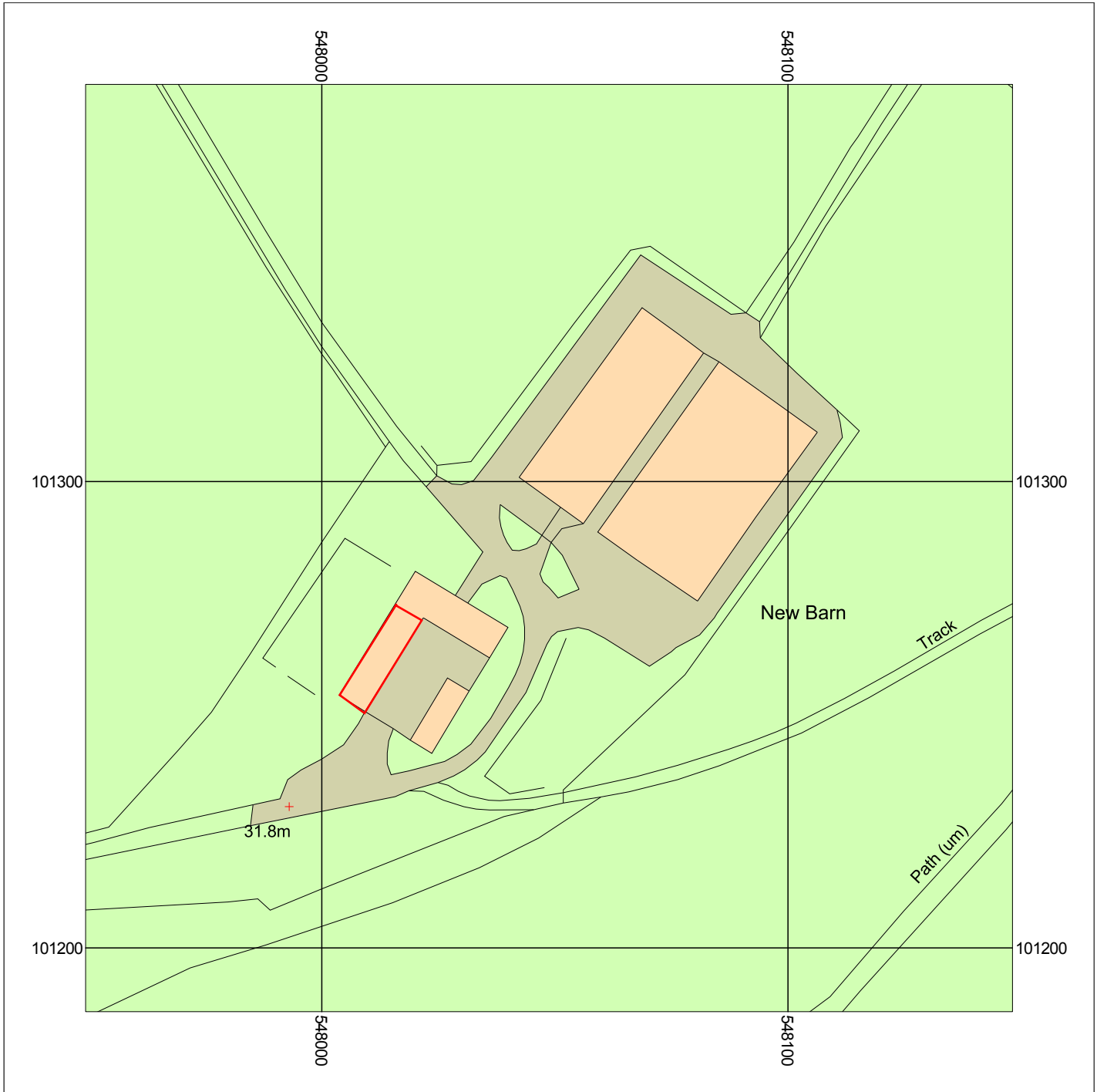


Plate 7. Completed foundations



Plate 7. Completed foundation trenches

Figure 1. Location of area watched (Inside red line)



Metres  
0 5 10 20 30 40 50  
Scale: 1:1250



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**New Barn  
Manor Farm  
Silver Lane  
Bishopstone  
BN25 2UD**

Plot centre co-ordinates: 548049,101286  
Download file: swat\_newbarn.zip  
Project name: swat\_newbarn