

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road,  
Blindley Heath, Surrey**

**Planning Ref: TA/2009/1349**

**NGR 536330 145590  
(TQ 36330, 45590)**

**Project No: 4963  
Site Code: ABH 11**

**ASE Report No. 2011157  
OASIS id: archaeol6-104687**

**Nick Garland MA**

**With contributions by  
Lesley Davidson and Karine Le Hegarat**

**July 2011**

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**Abstract**

*A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Surrey in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011 and was commissioned Rydon Construction Ltd. The first phase of work comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 15 metres in length. The natural horizon varied in depth from 54.72 OD in the north of the site and 55.98 OD in the south of the site.*

*A single ditch, orientated north-west to south-east, was observed within Trench 3. No finds were recovered from this feature, however, its loosely compacted fill and modern intrusions visible in the environmental sample suggest that this was fairly recent in date.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, UCL, were commissioned by Rydon Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Surrey (Fig 1) (NGR 536330 145590).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 Currently the site is occupied by pre-existing housing and gardens. It is bounded to the west by Eastbourne Road and to the east and south by further residential housing. The site is bounded to the north by a social club.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the bedrock geology on the site is Mudstone of the Weald Clay formation; no superficial geology has been recorded.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Surrey County Council for the construction of forty-five residential units and associated works. Surrey County Council placed a planning condition on this work due to the archaeological potential of the site (Ref: TA/2009/1349).

1.3.2 Following a desk based assessment of the site (MOLAS 2007) and consultation between ASE and Surrey County Council's (SCC) Archaeological Officer, Gary Jackson, it was decided that an archaeological evaluation of the site should be conducted.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the Archaeological Field Evaluation was produced by ASE and submitted to Surrey Council for approval prior to the commencement of work (ASE 2011). This document detailed the aims, objectives and methods to be used during the archaeological evaluation.

1.3.4 This report covers Phase 1 of two phases of evaluation on the site. The first phase consisted of three trenches located on the northern half of the site; a further 5 trenches will be excavated on the southern half of the site in Phase 2 of the evaluation (Fig. 2).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of this work were outlined in the WSI and are reproduced below (ASE 2011).

To determine:

- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.

- How they might be affected by the development of the site.
- What options should be considered for mitigation.

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation (Trenches 1-3) undertaken by Nick Garland (Archaeologist) and Lesley Davidson (Surveyor) between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) of the area was undertaken by MoLAS and is summarised below, (with relevant recent additions), with due acknowledgment (MoLAS 2007).

### **2.2 Prehistoric (c 50,000 to AD 43)**

2.2.1 Little evidence for the prehistoric period has been uncovered in the immediate vicinity of the site; however, evidence for the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic, in the form of findspots of flint have been found in the wider area. It is thought that the Weald would have been heavily wooded in the Bronze Age and Iron Age, suggesting that this area would have been sparsely populated. The nearest hillfort is located approximately 8km from the site, at Dry Hill, Lingfield. It is thought that a prehistoric trackway lies to the east of the site running on a north-south orientation and forming a precursor to the London to Brighton Roman road.

### **2.3 Roman (AD 43 to 410)**

2.3.1 Two areas of Roman activity lie in fairly close proximity to the site. The first is the aforementioned London to Brighton Roman road which is thought to lie immediately to the west of the site, underneath what is now known as Eastbourne Road. This road runs north to the Roman settlement at Godstone, approximately 5.5 km away. Secondly, a Roman villa is thought to exist 2 km to the north-east of the site; however, the existence of this building or a surrounding agricultural landscape has not been confirmed.

### **2.4 Early Medieval (AD 410 to 1066)**

2.4.1 While there is little archaeological data for the early medieval period, it is thought that the London-Brighton road may have remained in use after the Roman period, suggesting some potential for archaeology of this period to be found in the area. The earliest certain evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity comes from the Domesday survey, which suggests that Godstone, to the north, was the most valuable manor within the Tandridge area.

### **2.5 Later Medieval (AD 1066- 1485)**

2.5.1 Later in the medieval period, there is an increase in known occupation in this area. A medieval moated manor at Moat Farm lies to the east of the site and two others, one to the south and one to the north-east, have also been tentatively interpreted as further manor sites. Three farmhouses and barns of medieval date are also located in the vicinity of the site at Yew Tree Farm to the north, Comforts Place to the north-east and Jarves farmhouse to the west. These sites suggest that the area was agricultural in function during this period.

### **2.6 Post-Medieval (AD 1485 – present)**

- 2.6.1 Nine post-medieval listed buildings are located within the study area surrounding the site. These include The Blue Anchor public house which lies immediately to the south of the site and which dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.6.2 A map regression exercise was undertaken for the site which illustrated that the site was located within agricultural fields at the time of the Godstone parish Tithe Map of 1840 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1912. The houses presently occupying the site are shown on the 1961 Ordnance survey map. Very few field boundaries were observed crossing the site in these maps apart from one located to the south-east, which falls within the area to be evaluated in Phase 2 of the archaeological works. .

## **2.7 Previous Archaeological Investigation**

- 2.7.1 There have been no known archaeological investigations within the boundaries of the site and only one investigation within a 2km radius. This comprised the survey of 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings at Comfort Place, to the north-east of the site.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Three trenches, each measuring 15m x 1.8m, were machine excavated across the area of the proposed development under archaeological supervision (Fig 2 & 3).
- 3.2** The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision, using a 13 ton 360 degree excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.3** Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin was removed by machine and kept separately. These layers were excavated in spits of no more than 0.1m for the top and subsoil, down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying 'natural'. Surfaces were manually cleaned to identify any archaeological deposits or features. All spoil removed from the trenches was inspected visually and also scanned with a metal detector for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (IfA 2008; ASE 2011). Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 or by GPS Total Station. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.5** A full photographic record of the trenches and associated deposits and features was kept (including monochrome prints, colour slides and digital images), and will form part of the site archive.
- 3.6** The archive, which is quantified in Table 1, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex and will be offered to East Surrey museum. Pending confirmation from the museum, it will be deposited in due course.

Number of Contexts	11 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheets
Bulk Samples	1 samples
Photographs	4 colour slides, 4 B+W, 16 digital

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS (Fig 4)

### 4.1 Trench 1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.3 m	56.56
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.28 m	56.26
1/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	55.98

Table 2: Recorded Contexts within Trench 1

#### 4.1.1 Summary

Natural layer [1/003], a light yellow clay with occasional root inclusions, was observed between 55.54 OD in the north-west of the trench and 55.53 OD in the south-east of the trench. A subsoil layer, [1/002], a light brown silty clay, lay over the natural geology and underneath a layer of topsoil [1/001]. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within this trench.

### 4.2 Trench 2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.25 m	55.75
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.28 m	55.50
2/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	55.22

Table 3: Recorded Contexts within Trench 2

#### 4.2.1 Summary

Natural layer [2/003], a light yellow clay with occasional root inclusions, was observed between 55.15 OD in the north-east of the trench and 54.86 OD in the south-west of the trench. A subsoil layer, [2/002], a light brown silty clay, lay over the natural geology and underneath a layer of topsoil [2/001]. No archaeological features or finds were uncovered within this trench.

### 4.3 Trench 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	N/A	N/A	0.28 m	55.18
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	N/A	N/A	0.27 m	54.90
3/003	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	54.63
3/004	Cut	Cut of ditch	Tr.	0.45 m	0.08 m	54.72
3/005	Fill	Fill of ditch	Tr.	0.45 m	0.08 m	54.72

Table 4: Recorded Contexts within Trench 3

#### 4.3.1 Summary

Natural layer [3/003], a light yellow clay with occasional root inclusions, was observed between 54.89 OD in the north-west of the trench and 54.73 OD in the south-east of the trench.

Cutting [3/003], was a ditch, [3/004], which ran across the trench in a north-west to south-east orientation. It was concave in profile with gradually sloping sides. It was filled by [3/005], a loose light brown silty clay with occasional root inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature.

A subsoil layer, [3/002], a light brown silty clay, lay over the ditch and underneath a layer of topsoil [3/001].

## 5.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Karine Le Hegarat

### 5.1 Introduction and Methodology

5.1.1 A single bulk soil sample <1> was extracted from the silty clay fill, [3/005], of an undated ditch, [3/004]. Sampling aimed to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as wood charcoal, charred macrobotanical remains, bones and shells as well as to assist finds recovery. The sample was processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 5). The flot was scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and its content recorded (Table 6).

### 5.2 Results

5.2.1 The small flot (25mm) was dominated by uncharred vegetation (90%), including modern very fine roots, fine twigs and occasional uncharred seeds from the goosefoot (Chenopodiaceae) family. As the deposit was not waterlogged or well-sealed enough for anaerobic preservation, this could indicate some post-depositional disturbance and potential modern contamination. In addition, the flot contained a moderate number (4%) of probable modern fungal sclerotia, which are common in active soils. The archaeobotanical remains were restricted to infrequent and predominantly small (<4mm in size) fragments of wood charcoal. No other classes of biological materials were present and no artefacts were recovered.

### 5.3 Discussion

5.3.1 Analysis of the bulk environmental sample confirmed the presence of a limited assemblage of modern uncharred macrobotanical remains and fungal sclerotia. These provide evidence that this is either a feature of modern date or one which has been subject to modern disturbance. The charcoal assemblage is too limited to provide meaningful interpretations regarding fuel use and the vegetation environment or to provide material suitable for dating.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)
1	3/005	Fill of ditch [3/004]	20	20	*	<2	*	<2

Table 5: Residue Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

Sample Number	Context	weight g	Flot volume ml	Uncharred %	sediment %	seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	3/005	2	25	95	1	* Chenopodiaceae		**	***

Table 6: Flot Quantification (\* = 1-10, \*\* = 11-50, \*\*\* = 51-250, \*\*\*\* = >250)

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION**

### **6.1 Summary**

6.1.1 Phase 1 of the archaeological evaluation has illustrated a lack of archaeological activity to the north of the site. A single ditch was uncovered in Trench 3, from which no finds were recovered. The loose fill of the ditch and evidence of modern intrusions within the environmental sample suggest that this feature was fairly recent in date.

### **6.2 Extent of modern truncation**

6.2.1 Where modern truncation was observed during Phase 1 of the evaluation, it generally only impacted on the subsoil layer. Only very minor truncation of the natural Wealden clay was observed within the three trenches located on the northern half of the site.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

6.3.1 Whilst this phase of work has not uncovered significant archaeological remains, it has demonstrated a lack of modern truncation. Given the proximity of other archaeological remains, as suggested in the desk based assessment, there remains some potential that preserved archaeological features or deposits may be uncovered in the southern area of the site.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The assistance of Ben Finch of Rydon Construction Ltd and Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	ABH 11					
Identification Name and Address	Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath Surrey					
County, District &/or Borough	Tandridge, Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	536330 145590					
Geology	Wealden Clay (BGS Sheet 286)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4963					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. <b>X</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban <b>X</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20/6/11 to 21/6/11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Rydon Construction Ltd					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM <b>X</b>	Other		
<p><i>100 Word Summary.</i></p> <p><i>A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Surrey in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011 and was commissioned Rydon Construction Ltd. The first phase of work comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 15 metres in length. The natural horizon varied in depth from 54.72 OD in the north of the site and 55.98 OD in the south of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A single ditch, orientated north-west to south-east, was observed within Trench 3. No finds were recovered from this feature, however, its loosely compacted fill and modern intrusions visible in the environmental sample suggest that this was fairly recent in date.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-104687**

## Project details

Project name Anchor Cottages, Blindley Heath

Short description of the project A programme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Surrey in advance of a proposed development. The work was undertaken between the 20th and 21st June 2011 and was commissioned Rydon Construction Ltd. The first phase of work comprised the excavation of three trenches, each measuring 15 metres in length. The natural horizon varied in depth from 54.72 OD in the north of the site and 55.98OD in the south of the site. A single ditch, orientated north-west to south-east, was observed within Trench 3. No finds were recovered from this feature; however, its loosely compacted fill and modern intrusions visible in the environmental sample suggest that this was fairly recent in date.

Project dates Start: 20-06-2011 End: 21-06-2011

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference codes ABH11 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

## Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY TANDRIDGE TANDRIDGE Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath

Postcode RH7 6JJ

Study area 2392.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 36330 45590 51.1927117393 -0.048773850004 51 11 33 N 000 02 55 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 54.72m Max: 55.98m

## Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief Archaeology South-East

originator  
Project design originator Archaeology South-East  
Project director/manager Darryl Palmer  
Project supervisor Nick Garland  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer  
Name of sponsor/funding body Rydon Construction Ltd  
Project archives  
Physical Archive recipient Local Museum  
Physical Contents 'other'  
Digital Archive recipient Local Museum  
Digital Contents 'other'  
Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Survey','Text'  
Paper Archive recipient local museum  
Paper Contents 'other'  
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '  
Project bibliography 1  
Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Anchor Cottages, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, Surrey  
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Other bibliographic details 2011157  
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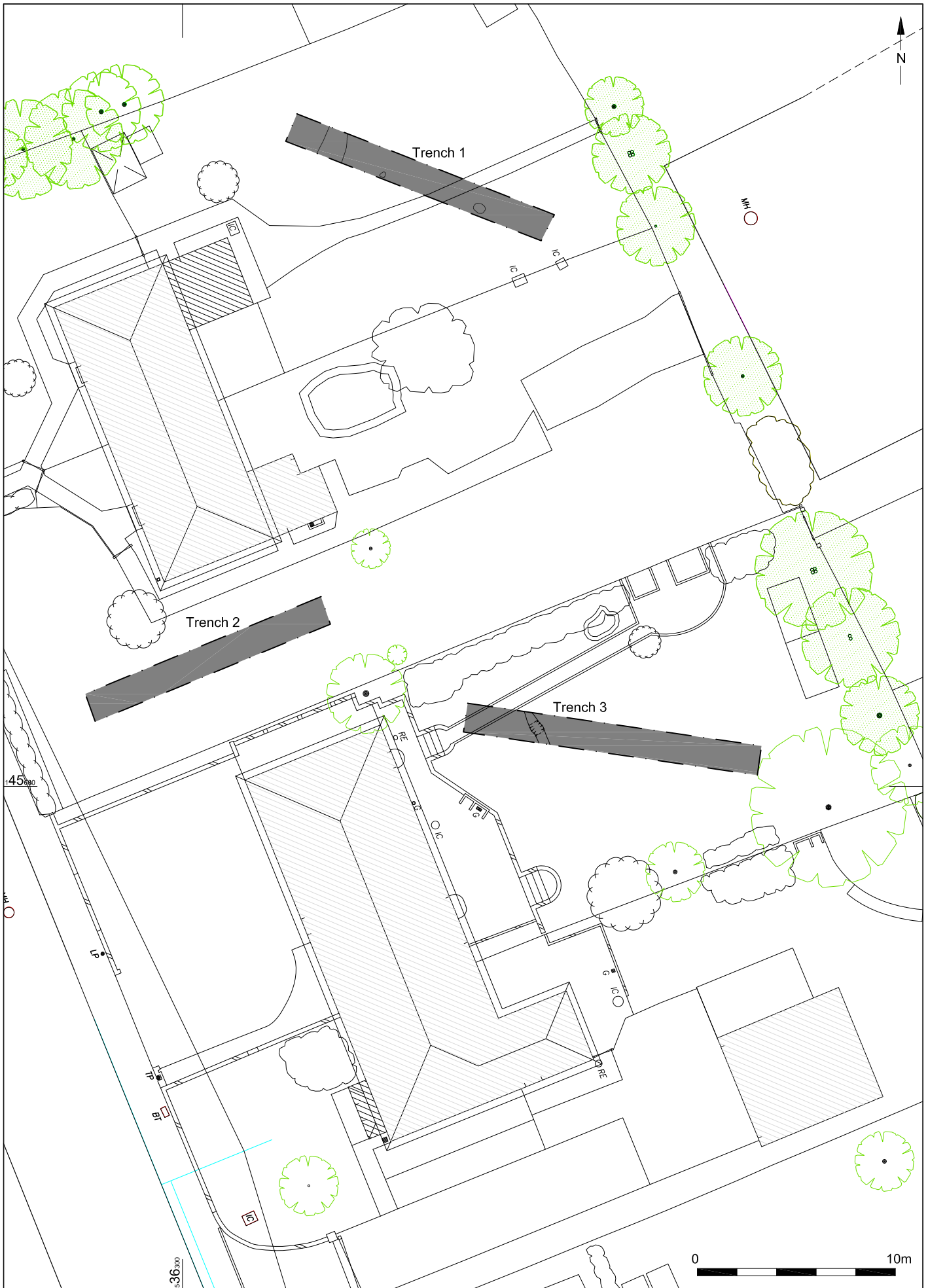


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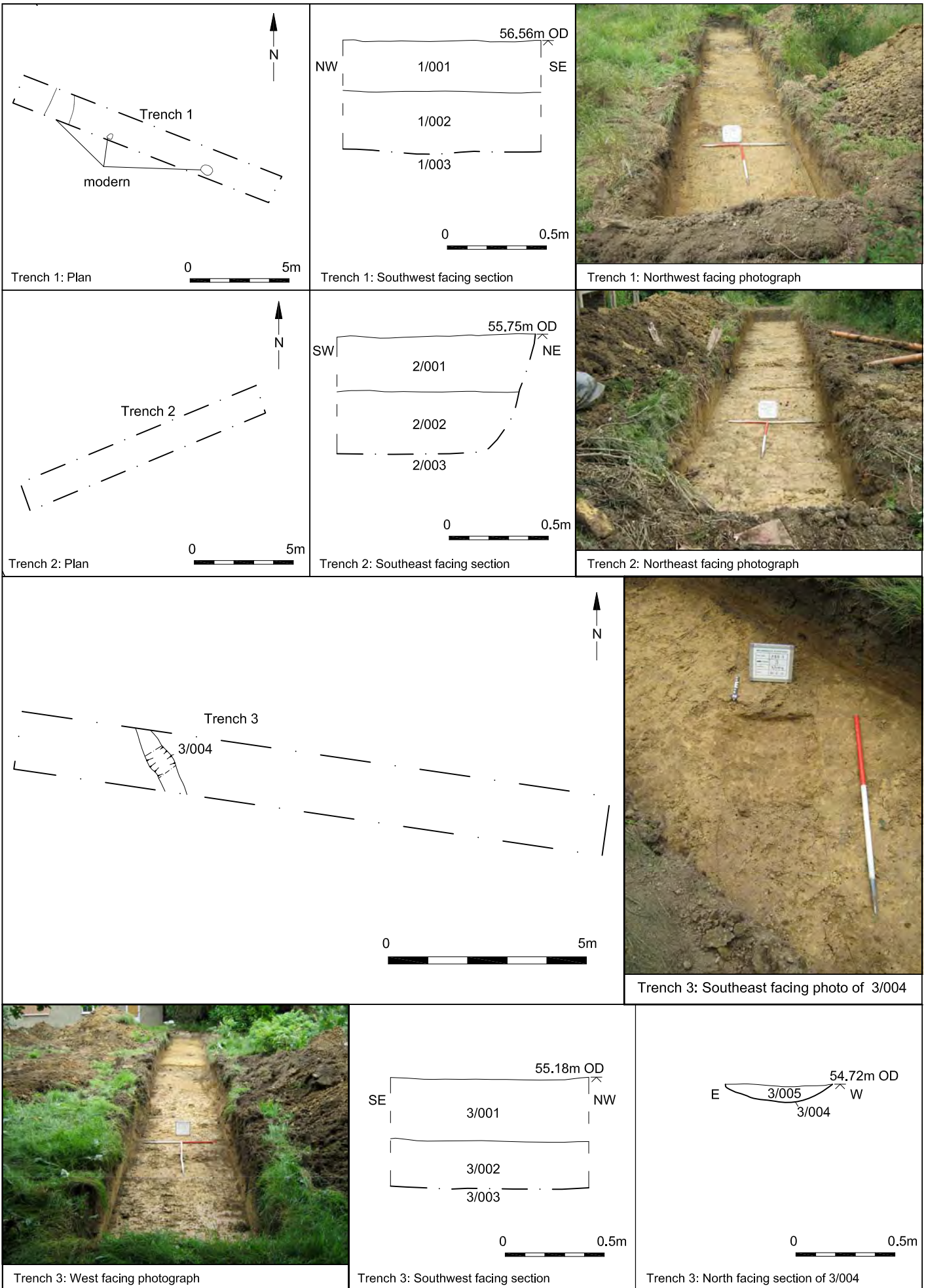
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Project Ref: 4963	June 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011157	Drawn by: FEG			



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Project Ref: 4963	May 2011	Trench location @ 1:1250		
Report Ref: 2011157	Drawn by: FEG			



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Project Ref: 4963	June 2011	Phase 1: Trench location plan		
Report Ref: 2011157	Drawn by: LD			



© Archaeology South-East		Blindley Heath, Anchor Cottages Evaluation	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4963	June 2011	Trench plans, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2011157	Drawn by: LD		

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