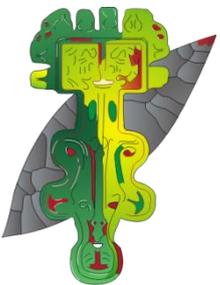


**Absolute
Archaeology LLP
2015**

Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief & Building Recording ~
Archirondel Cottage, La Route De La Cote, St Martin, JE3 6DY



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Absolute Archaeology LLP

On behalf of Mr K Martin

Client: Mr Keith Martin

Document Title: Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief & Building Recording
 ~ Archironde! Cottage, La Route De La Cote, St Martin, Jersey,
 JE3 6DY

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Summary

This document sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief and building recording on land belonging to Archirondel Cottage, La Route De La Cote, St Martin, Jersey, JE3 6DY (the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the demolition of the west wing extension, lean-to, utility room and external WC, to allow for the formation of a new single storey extension to the rear cottage elevation, the creation of a single garage/boathouse store and alterations to vehicular access. The programme of work was commissioned by Mr K Martin, the developer and was carried out from the 5th – 7th May 2015.

The results of the watching brief were negative, revealing a truncated compact silt deposit sealed by made ground and Post Medieval landscaping. Excavations to establish the foundation slab for the extension and garage did not reach significant depths and therefore, whilst there is potential for archaeology to be preserved beneath the potential Head deposits, the current scheme of work did not pose a threat to any undiscovered resource.

Acknowledgements

Absolute Archaeology LLP would like to thank Mr Keith Martin (the developer) for his assistance throughout the project. We would also like to thank Ms Olga Finch (Jersey Heritage) and Ms Tracey Ingle (Principle Historic Buildings Officer) for their help and expertise.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief and building recording on land belonging to Archirondel Cottage, La Route De La Cote, St Martin, Jersey, JE3 6DY (the Project Site). Permission has been granted for the demolition of the west wing extension, lean-to, utility room and external WC, to allow for the formation of a new single storey extension to the rear cottage elevation, the creation of a single garage/boathouse store and alterations to vehicular access. The programme of work was commissioned by Mr K Martin (the developer) and was carried out from the 5th – 7th May 2015.

The programme of work was carried out in response to the following conditions of planning permit P/2013/1760

Condition 1. Prior to the commencement of construction, a Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Minister for Planning and Environment. This Project Design will deliver archaeological supervision during ground breaking works to assess any further archaeological interests. The archaeological works shall then be carried out in accordance with the agreed Project Design. Any features of archaeological interest shall be reported immediately to the Minister for evaluation of their importance and potential for removing, recording and retention.

Reason: In the interests of improving the understanding of the archaeology and historic development of the island in accordance with Policy HE5 of the Adopted Island Plan, 2011.

Condition 2. Prior to the commencement of the development, hereby permitted, a programme of recording and analysis of the protected structures forming the adjacent bunker to the terms of a brief to be supplied by the Department, shall be submitted to and approved by the Minister for Planning and Environment, to be thereafter implemented.

Reason: To ensure that special regard is paid to the interests of protecting the architectural and historical interest, character and integrity of the building under the provisions of Policies SP4, HE1, HE2, HE5 of the Adopted Island Plan 2011.

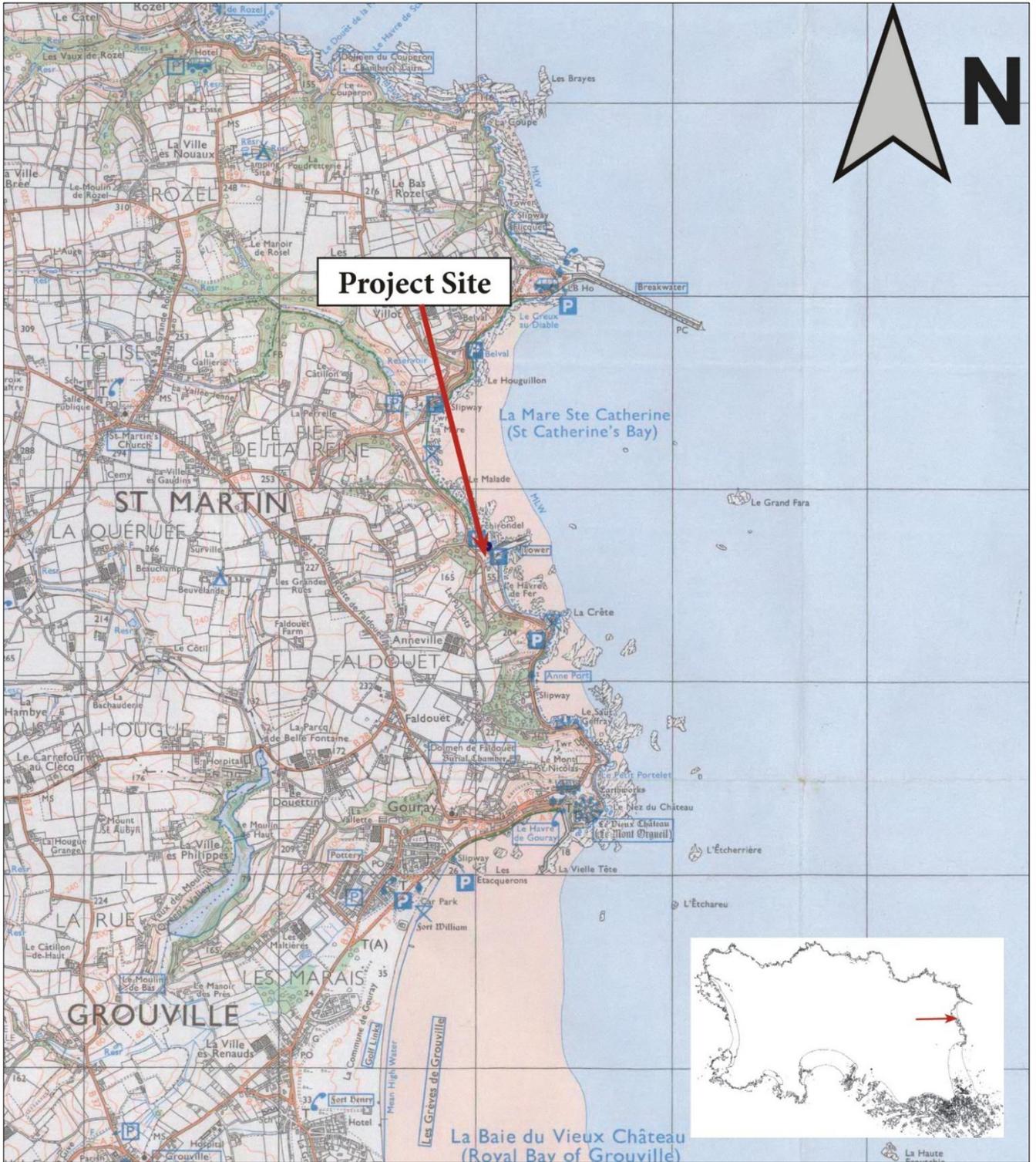


Figure 1 Project Site Location

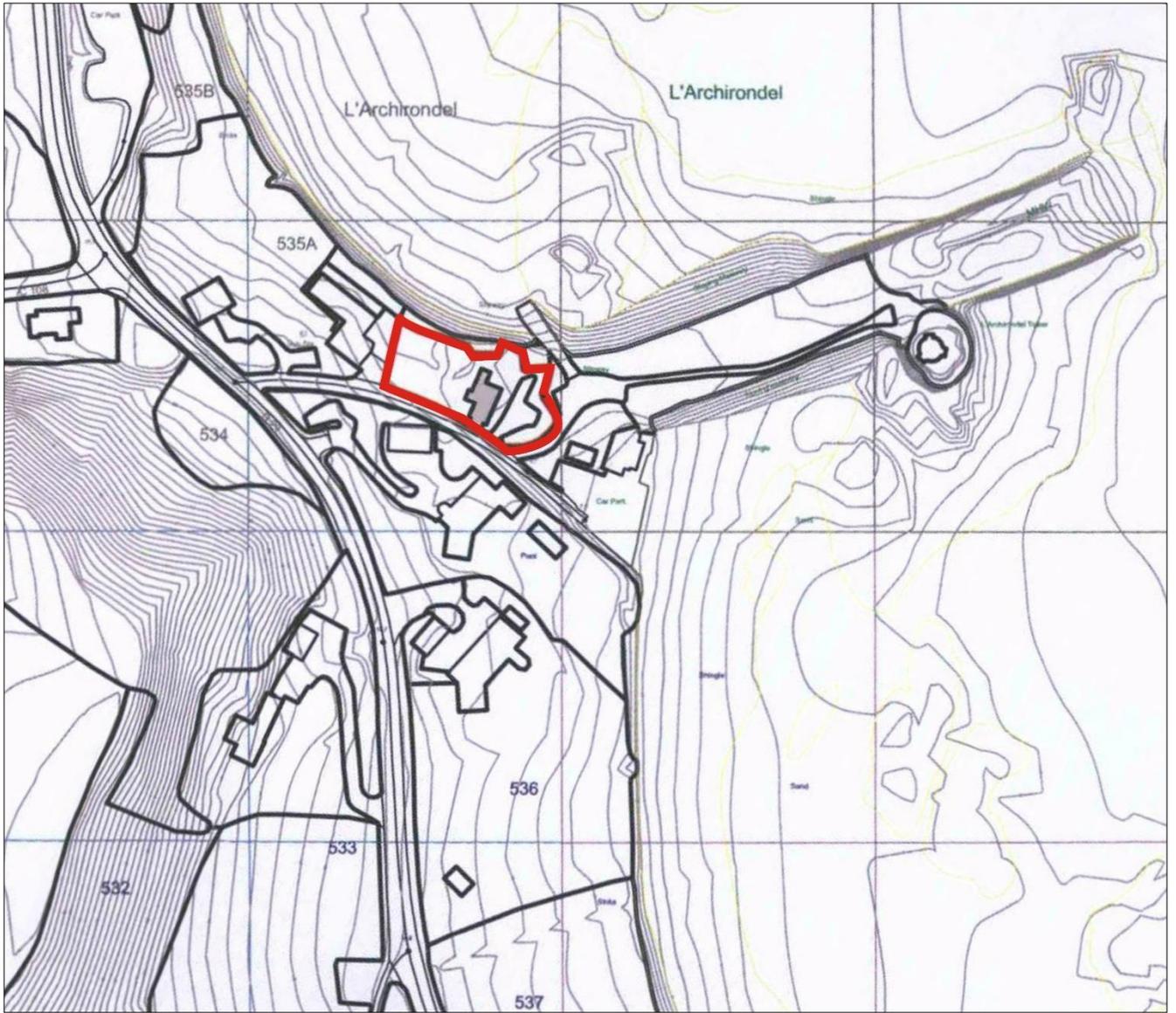


Figure 2 Detailed Project Site Location © B D K Architects

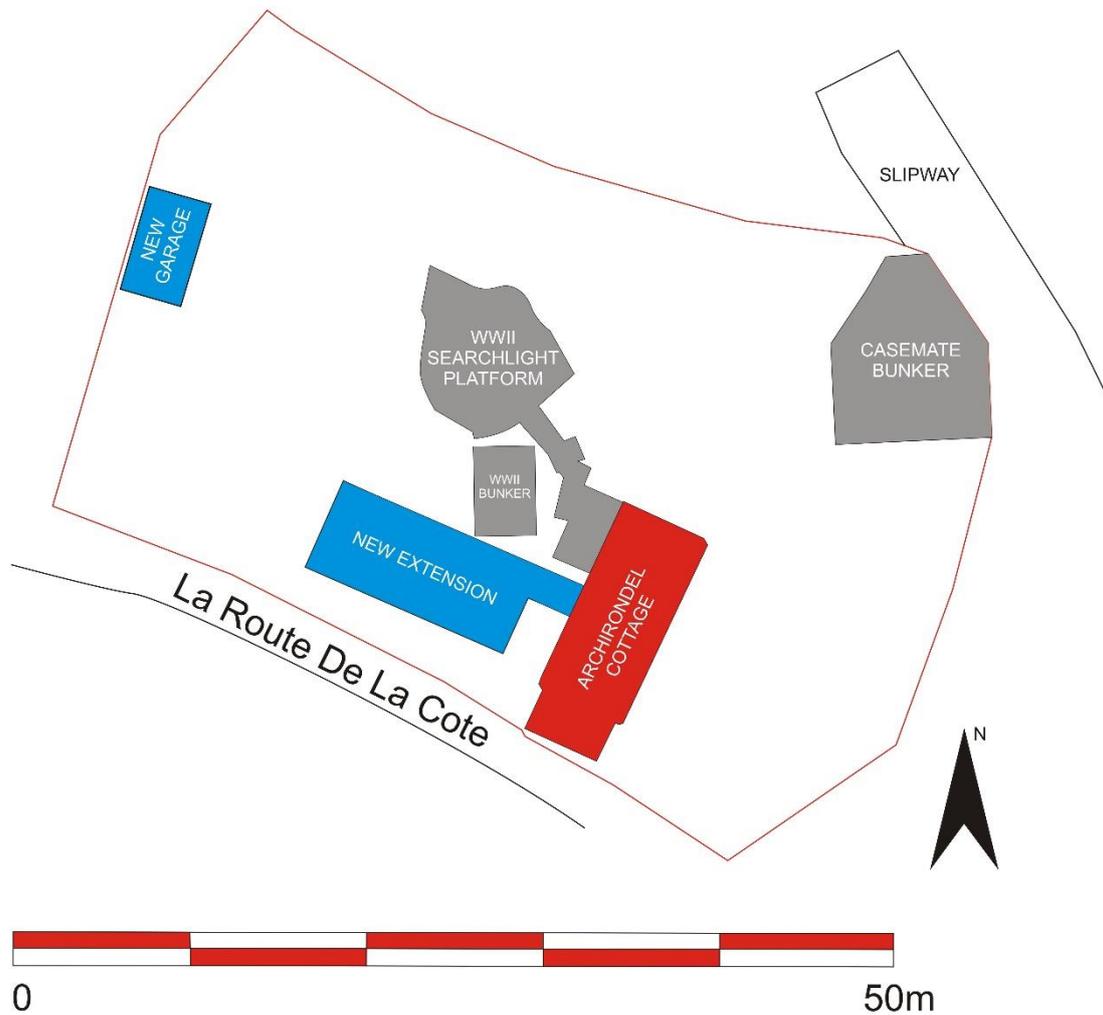


Figure 3 Site plan showing main features. Areas of excavation shown in blue.

2. THE PROJECT SITE

2.1. Location

The Project Site is located on the east coast of Jersey at Archirondel, south of St Catherine’s Bay and north of Anne Port. The site is defined by Archirondel Cottage, built in the 1820’s and a series of WWII defensive installations, including bunkers and a probable searchlight emplacement, forming one of the German defensive coastal positions.

The Project Site is centred on UTM 570970, 5451470 at c. 13m aJD and is defined geologically by Lower Archirondel Ignimbrite.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Watching Brief

Monitoring of the work was comprehensive (present during all groundwork) and carried out in accordance with the IFA *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (revised 2008).

Primary Aims:

- Seek to assess the potential for archaeological activity associated with the Project Site;
- Record and identify archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;
- Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to interpret archaeological features and phasing identified during site works, and to place these within their local and regional context;
- Create a site archive for deposition in a suitable repository.

Archaeological control was maintained over the mechanical ground reduction method and all excavation was closely monitored during the reduction of soil, which was undertaken using a Mini-Digger with a 1m wide grading bucket.

3.2. Building Recording

In the event that features of interest were exposed, it was agreed that appropriate measured drawings would be prepared. The dimensions and materials would be recorded and the plans prepared by the architect would be used to document the precise location of the structure. All work was carried out in accordance with English Heritage Guidance, entitled *Understanding Historic Buildings A guide to good recording practice*, in order to-

- Ensure the creation of a paper and digital archive;
- Ensure replacement by record of the historic feature;
- Appropriately report and publish the results of the project.

The Project Supervisor maintained communication with Ms Olga Finch (Jersey Heritage) throughout the project and Ms Finch was informed of the results following the completion of the fieldwork.

4. RESULTS

The mechanical excavation of the footprint of the new build revealed a topsoil/ turfline deposited in the modern period (1), sealing the reinforced concrete roof slab of the WWII bunker [2], which is preserved to the SE of the site and a modern period soakaway [4] to the SW. Both features were cut into made ground (3) which consisted of poorly mixed topsoil and sandy clay. The made ground was seen to seal a truncated compacted silty deposit (7), which was noted across the Project Site, at a depth of between 9.60m aJD – 11.55m aJD (400mm – 750mm below the current ground level).

Due to constraints on site and the resulting method employed to remove the overburden from the footprint of the new build, spoil was constantly transported around the development area, therefore it was deemed appropriate to excavate test pits to the formation depth in order to properly demonstrate the stratigraphy for the purpose of this report. The results of the test pits are detailed below.



Photo 1 SW facing view of Project Site during excavation

4.1. Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was located to the NW corner of the footprint of the main new build. Excavation revealed a topsoil/turfline (100), deposited in the modern period, sealing made ground comprising soft humic topsoil, poorly mixed with soft sandy clay (101). The material was loosely compacted and represents Post Medieval ground disturbance, most likely contemporary with the WWII redevelopment of the Project Site. The made ground was seen to seal a truncated compacted silty deposit, with low clay content (102).



Photo 2 SSE facing section of Test Pt 1 (Scales 2 x 1m)

4.2. Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was located to the NE corner of the footprint of the new build. Excavation revealed 300mm of made ground (200), comprising soft sandy clay mixed with modern plastic sheeting. This deposit was seen to seal a soft sandy clay (201) with crushed concrete throughout, which was seen to overlay a truncated compacted silty deposit with a low clay content (202).



Photo 3 SSW facing section of Test Pit 2 (Scales 2 x 1m)

4.3. Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was located to the SE corner of the footprint of the new build. Excavation revealed 400mm of loosely compacted made ground (300), sealing truncated compacted silt with a low clay content (301).



Photo 4 SSW facing section Test Pit 3 (Scales 2 x 1m)

4.4. Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 was located to the NE corner of the Project Site, in the area of the new garage building. Excavation revealed topsoil turfline (400), sealing made ground comprising redeposited topsoil with irregular angular stone inclusions (average size 200mm (l) x 150mm (w) x 100mm (d)). The deposit was seen to overlay a truncated compacted silt deposit with a low clay content.



Photo 5 West facing section of Test Pit 4 (Sales 2 x 1m)

4.5. Finds

No finds were identified during the groundwork and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil, which was monitored throughout.

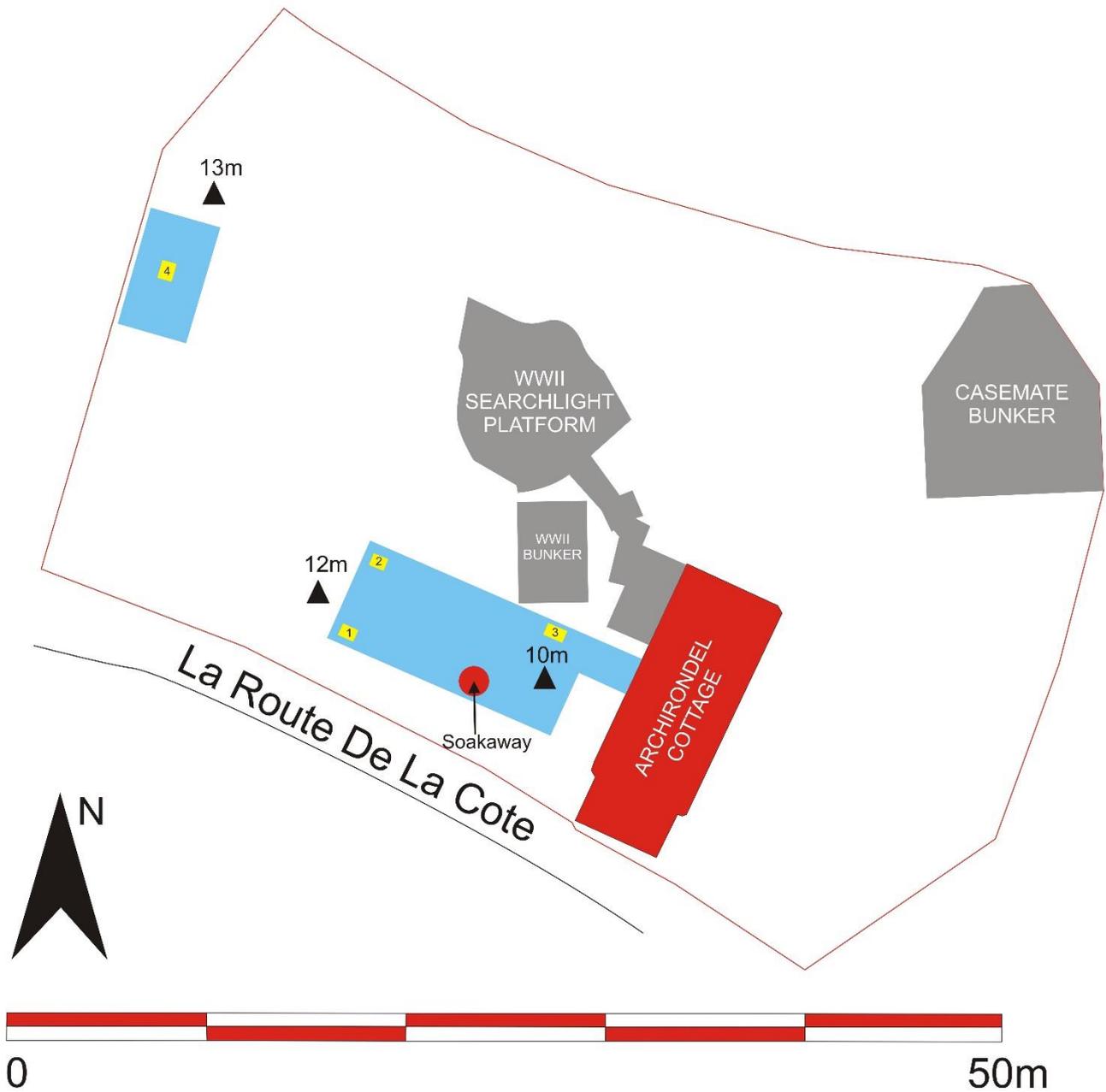


Figure 4 Test Pit & Soakaway locations (yellow)

4.6. Discussion

All test pits were excavated to the depth of the final slab formation level, which will form the foundation support for the new extension and garage. The four areas of investigation revealed similar stratigraphy with topsoil (where it survived) sealing made ground, which in turn was seen to overlay a truncated natural compacted silt deposit (7). Context (7) was seen to have a

low clay content. Geology maps of the area show Loess bordering the development area to west and Head deposits defining the Project Site.

Similar deposits were identified sealing archaeological layers during the evaluation of sites on the SE and east coast, most notably at La Platte Rocque Harbour (UTM 7042 4618), where deposits containing Prehistoric Pottery were identified at 9.5m aJD (1.2m below the current ground level). Similarly, at Keppel Tower, Grouville (UTM 5706 5446), where deposits containing Medieval pottery were identified at 9m aJD (1.9m below current ground level). Although the deposits at the above sites are similar to those identified on the Project Site, the material recorded from within the development area at Archirondel was more compact, with a low clay content.

The origin of the compacted silt deposit (7) identified on the Project Site is unclear from this investigation, however the low clay content favours the interpretation of Head deposits. Therefore, there is potential for the material to seal evidence of early archaeological activity in the vicinity of the Project Site.

5. BUILDING RECORDING

5.1. WWII Bunker

The groundwork to establish the foundation of the new extension to Archirondel Cottage did not have a negative impact on the WWII bunker [2], which is located close to the NE portion of the area of excavation. However the reinforced concrete slab that forms the roof was exposed during the groundwork, to improve visibility and to ensure that it was not accidentally damaged.

The feature [2] comprised a single cast concrete slab, measuring 5.1m (l) x 3.48m (w) x 440mm (d). The top of the slab has a smooth finish, whilst the base and sides are rough, having most likely been cast in situ.



Photo 6 North facing view of bunker roof slab (Scales 2 x 1m)



Photo 7 SSW facing elevation of bunker roof slab (Scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 500mm)

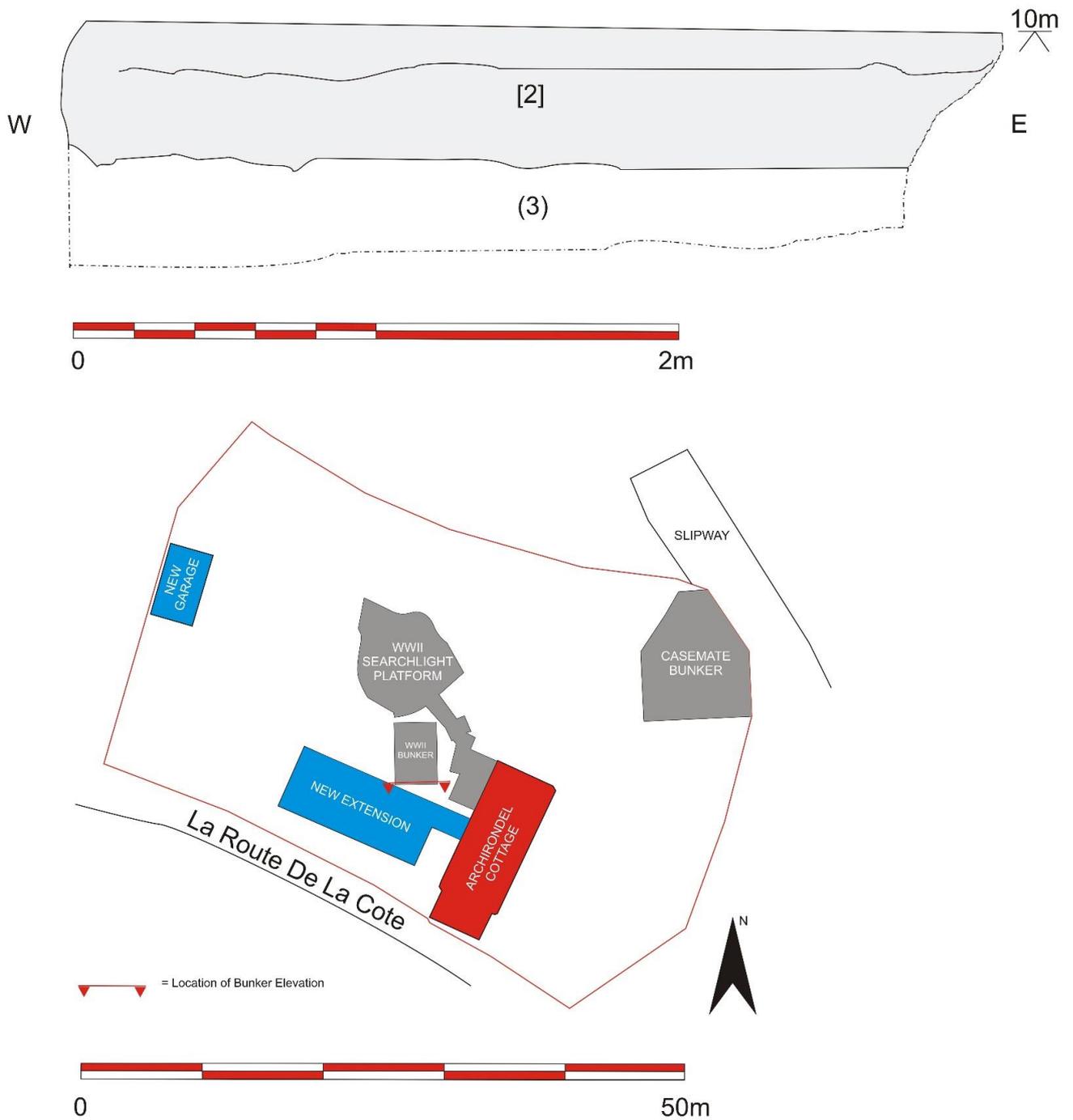


Figure 5 Elevation of bunker roof slab with location plan

5.2. Modern Soakaway

A modern soakaway was discovered to the SW of the Project Site, which was preserved in situ, as it was apparently still functioning. Discovery of the feature [5] halted work in this area of the site, in order not to destabilise the brickwork. The tank was covered by a single square

cast concrete slab and is thought to have been inserted during 20th century road works, carried out by the States' highways authority.



Photo 8 WNW facing view of modern soakaway (Scale 500mm)

6. CONCLUSION

The results of the watching brief were negative, revealing a truncated compacted silt deposit sealed by made ground and Post Medieval landscaping. Excavations to establish the foundation slab for the extension and garage did not reach significant depths and therefore, whilst there is potential for archaeology to be preserved beneath the proposed Head deposits, the current scheme of work did not pose a threat to any undiscovered resource.

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Table 1 Context Descriptions

Contexts 1-7							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
1 Same as (100) & (400)	Topsoil/Turflif	150mm - 200mm	17m	20m	Dark yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015
2	Structure – Reinforced bunker roof	410mm - 440mm	348mm	510mm	-	-	7/05/2015
3 Same as (200) & (300)	Deposit – Made Ground	250mm - 400mm	>17m	>20m	Mixed deposit	-	7/05/2015
4	Cut – for soakaway [5]	-	C1.5m	-	-	-	7/05/2015
5	Structure – Modern Soakaway	-	c. 1.5m Diameter	-	-	-	7/05/2015
6	Cut- for bunker [2]	-	>348mm	>510mm	-	-	7/05/2015

7	Natural compacted silt deposit with low clay content	>800mm	-	-	Light yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015
Same as (102), (202), (301) & (402)							

Table 2 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1							
Orientation				-			
Depth				1.2m			
Width				1.2m			
Length				1.5m			
Contexts 100-102							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Findings	Recorded Date
100	Topsoil/Turfline	150mm	>1.2m	>1.5m	Dark yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015
101	Deposit / Made Ground	300mm	>1.2m	>1.5m	Mixed materials	-	7/05/2015
102	Compacted silt (Head)	>750mm	>1.2m	>1.5m	Mid yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015

Table 3 Context Descriptions Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2							
Orientation			-				
Depth			900mm				
Width			1.2m				
Length			2m				
Contexts 200-202							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length	Colour (Munsell Ref)	 Finds	Recorded Date
200	Deposit – mixed loess and topsoil	300mm	>1.2m	>2m	-	-	7/05/2015
201	Layer – soft sandy clay	200mm	>1.2m	>2m	Dark yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015
202	Compacted silt (Head)	>700mm	>1.2m	>2m	Light yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015

Table 4 Context Descriptions Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3	
Orientation	-
Depth	1.2m

Width		1.2m					
Length		1.6m					
Contexts 300 - 301							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
300	Deposit – Made Ground	400mm	>1.2m	>1.6m	-	-	7/05/2015
301	Compacted silt (Head)	>800mm	>1.2m	>1.6m	Light yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015

Table 5 Context Descriptions Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4							
Orientation		-					
Depth		1m					
Width		1.4m					
Length		1.8m					
Contexts 400-402							
Context Number	Type	Depth/ Height	Width	Length	Colour (Munsell Ref)	Finds	Recorded Date
400	Topsoil/Turfline	500m	>1.4m	>1.8m	Dark yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015

401	Deposit – Made Ground	250mm	>1.4m	>1.8m	-	-	7/05/2015
402	Compacted silt (Head)	>250mm	>1.4m	>1.8m	Light yellowish brown	-	7/05/2015