

**Archaeological Evaluation
on Land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue
Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex**

NGR TQ 3957 0186

Planning Reference: LW/11/0107

**ASE Project no: 4958
Site Code: SAT 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011137
OASIS ID: archaeol6-103297
Archive Recipient: Brighton Museum**

**Giles Dawkes BA MIFA
With Contribution from Anna Doherty
Illustrations by Leslie Davidson and Dylan Hopkinson**

June 2011

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June 2011

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Rigden Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation of 2 trial trenches on the land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex, on the 10th June 2011.

No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Untruncated natural clay was encountered at between 47.81m OD and 48.13m OD.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Conclusions**

References

Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet

OASIS Form

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Study area showing ESHER data
- Figure 3: Trench location plan

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1: Summary of ESHER records with 1km
- Table 2: Quantification of site archive

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), have been commissioned by the Rigden Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of the redevelopment of land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 3957 0186 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site sits on the Woolwich Beds and lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA), approximately 200m to the southeast of a Bronze Age bowl barrow (MES 2055) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Reference: 25477).

1.2.1 The site is the former garden of 23 Springfield Avenue with grass sloping gently from north to south. The proposed development comprises the construction of a new residential property.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of a three bedroom bungalow on the site has been granted (Application Ref: LW/11/0107), subject to conditions. Condition 3 relates to archaeology and states:

“No development shall take place within the area indicated (this would be the area of archaeological interest) until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has/have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and carried out in accordance with that approval”

REASON: The development is likely to disturb remains of archaeological interest, having regard to National Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Archaeology South-East, 2011) was prepared and approved by Greg Chuter (ESCC). All work was carried out in accordance with this document

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the 10th June 2011.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information is drawn from a 1km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at East Sussex County Council, centred on NGR 3957 0186. The results of the search are summarised below (Table 1) with selected locations plotted on Figure 2.

Table 1: Summary of ESHER records within a 1km radius of the site

ESCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
MES 1831	TQ 4060 0189	Large Neolithic polished axe
MES 2045	TQ 4018 0264	Roman cross ridge dyke
MES 2052	TQ 3961 0267	Bronze Age bowl barrow (SAM 25476)
MES 2053	TQ 396 023	Early Bronze Age to Roman field system
MES 2054	TQ 392 018	Early Iron Age pits
MES 2055	TQ 3940 0205	Bronze Age bowl barrow
MES 6982	TQ 3921 0226	Saxon saucer brooch
MES 7248	TQ 4074 0194	Two Mesolithic flint axes
MES 7321	TQ 3990 0240	Medieval pottery scatter
MES 7414	TQ 4054 0195	Mesolithic tranchet axe
MES 7488	TQ4060 0170	WWI airfield
MES 8908	TQ 3936 0282	Post medieval building shown on Surveyors Draft

2.2 Of the six archaeological interventions undertaken within the search radius none have identified any archaeological remains other than some unstratified struck flint, recognised as 'background noise' frequently found on chalk downland.

2.3 There are three Listed Buildings within the search radius; a 17th century house (DES 1932), The Ocean Hotel (DES 7855) and the walls and gate to The Ocean Hotel (DES 7856).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- i) Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- ii) Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present.
- lii) Establish the ecofactual/environmental potential of archaeological features
- iv) Appraise the likely impact of the development proposals on any archaeology located
- v) To enable the County Archaeologist to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work to fulfil the condition.

Specifically the aims of the investigation are to identify remains of early prehistoric hunter/gatherer activity.

The final aim is to make public the results of the investigation, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

- 3.2** Two trenches were excavated in the development area (Figure 3). The trenches were 10m long and 2m wide.
- 3.3** The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS) ensuring the geophysical anomalies were accurately targeted. Trench 3 was moved approximately 10m further east to ensure there was no disturbance to a badger set.
- 3.4** The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were cut by 13 tonne machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.5** The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit, whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts. Subtle differences in the natural were drawn as they may represent possible prehistoric features which are difficult to identify in trial trenching.
- 3.6** All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the agreed specification of the works using pro-forma context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.7** A photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices, and has been offered to Brighton Museum. Brighton Museum cannot currently accept archives due to a lack of storage space.

Trench Record Sheets	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Context sheets	none
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Photographs	4

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.1.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [1/003] was encountered at 47.81m OD.

No archaeological features were identified.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m
2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A

4.2.2 Summary

Natural geology of orange brown clay with gravel lenses [2/003] was encountered at 48.13m OD.

No archaeological features were identified and a single sherd of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from subsoil [2/002].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A single sherd of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, weighing 16g, was recovered from subsoil [2/002]. It is a well-burnished bodysherd in a coarse sandy fabric containing sparse glauconite and very rare flint of up to 3mm.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 There were no archaeological features recorded in the evaluation. The single sherd of pottery therefore is likely to represent activity within the general area rather than *in situ* activity.

6.2 The evaluated areas are considered therefore to be without archaeological potential.

REFERENCES

Archaeology South-East May 2011 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation at land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank the Rigden Group for commissioning the work and Greg Chuter of East Sussex County Council for his assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	SAT 11					
Identification Name and Address	Land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue Telscombe Cliffs					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	3957 0186					
Geology	Woolwich beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4958					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green✓ Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. June 11	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Rigden Group					
Project Manager	Andrew Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
100 Word Summary						
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Rigden Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation of 2 trial trenches on the land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex, on the 10th June 2011.</p> <p>No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Untruncated natural clay was encountered at between 47.81m OD and 48.13m OD.</p>						

OASIS Form

APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: archaeol6-103297

Project details

Project name	23 Springfield Avenue Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Rigden Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation of 2 trial trenches on the land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex, on the 10 th June 2011. No archaeological features were identified during the evaluation. Untruncated natural clay was encountered at between 47.81m OD and 48.13m OD.
Project dates	Start: 10-06-2011 End: 10-06-2011
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	4958 - ALSF project no.
Any associated project reference codes	SAT 11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Middle Iron Age
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches'
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE ROTTINGDEAN 23 Springfield Avenue Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex
Postcode	BN10 7DZ
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3957 0186 50.7988894791 -0.01924108026120 50 47 56 N 000 01 09 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 47.80m Max: 48.15m

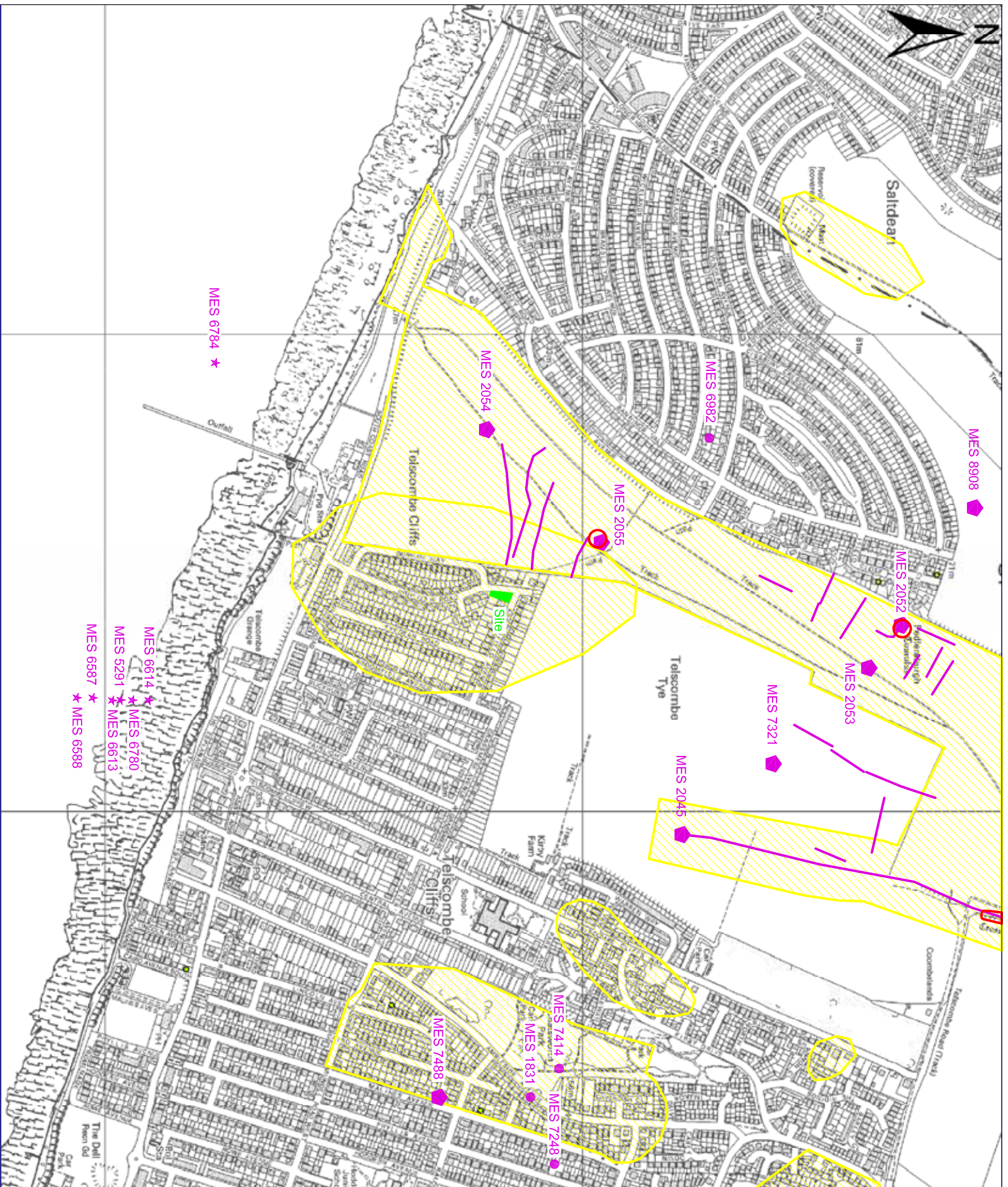
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Giles Dawkes
Type of sponsor/funding body	private client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Rigden Group
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Contents	'Ceramics'
Digital Media available	'Database','Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Contents	'Ceramics'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Report'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation on Land adjacent to 23 Springfield Avenue Telscombe Cliffs, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Giles Dawkes
Other bibliographic details	2011137
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Grey report
Entered by	Giles Dawkes (gilesdawkes@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on

16 June 2011



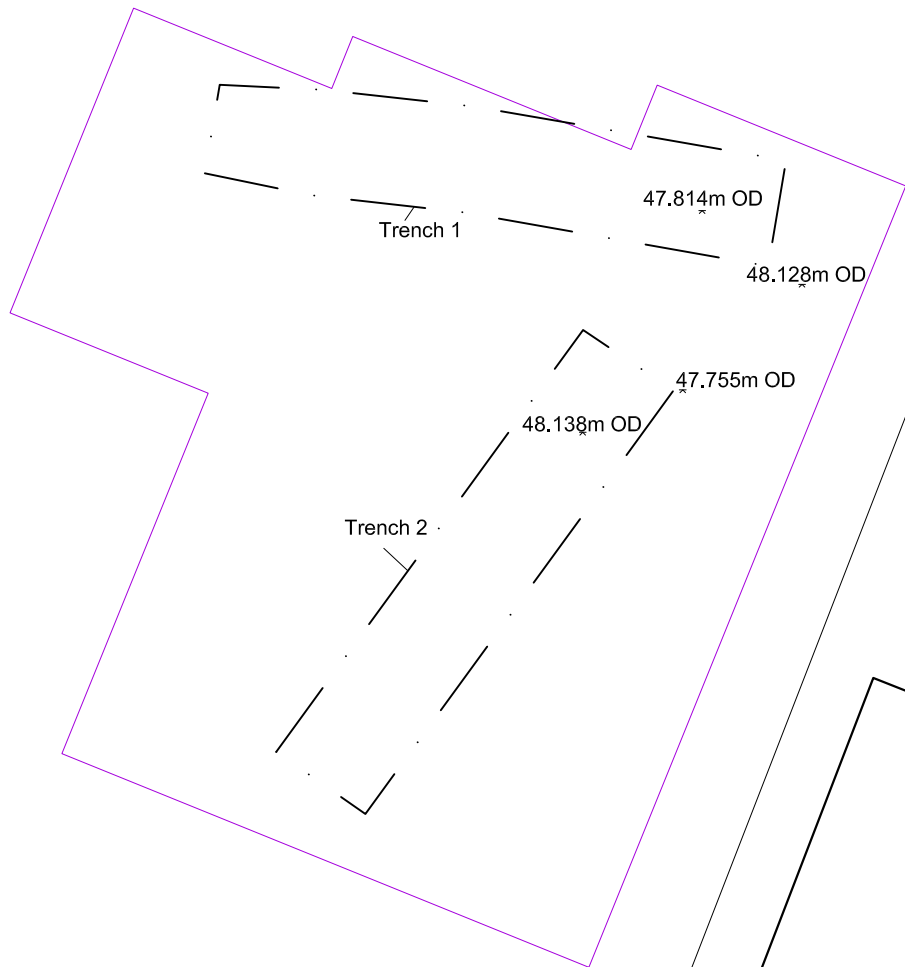
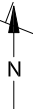
© Archaeology South-East		23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4958	May 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011138	Drawn by: DJH		



- KEY**
- Find Spot
 - Monument
 - ★ Marine
 - Scheduled Monuments
 - ▨ Archaeological Notification Areas

0 500m

101850



Proposed building



1039850

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© Archaeology South-East		23 Springfield Avenue, Telscombe Cliffs		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4958	June 2011	Trench location plan		
Report Ref: 2011140	Drawn by: LD			



Trench 1 viewed from the west



Trench 2 viewed from the north-east

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