

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road
Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9JY**

**NGR 583714 145571
(TQ 837 455)**

Planning Ref: MA/10/1991

**Project No: 5212
Site Code: LHT 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011278
OASIS id: archaeol6-114545**

**By Gary Webster
With contributions from Trista Clifford and Sarah Porteus
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

December 2011

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Archaeology South-East

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was appointed by Sue Burbridge on behalf of the owner Mrs Anne Astleford to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new extension at Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent. The work was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd of November.

No archaeological finds or features of note were recorded. A 19th-20th century drainage system was uncovered which had disturbed much of the area monitored. The underlying geology was reached when digging the footings on the perimeter of the site, and during most of the ground reduction.

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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 (CAA) at University College London (UCL), was appointed by Sue Burbridge on behalf of the owner Mrs Anne Astleford to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a new extension at Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent, (NGR TQ 83714 45571; Figure 1) hereafter referred to as 'the site.'

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies just to the East of the A274, approximately 9km to the south of the M20. It is just to the north of the village of Headcorn. There is an oasthouse in close proximity towards the south. The site is in the grounds of a medieval house. Some of the site was covered by a concrete slab and some of it was a garden. There were the remains of a large tree in the middle of the site.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey website shows the site on the Weald Clay Formation, which involves mudstone overlying clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The local planning authority, under the advice of the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (HCGKCC), advised the owner, Mrs Anne Astleford, that an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the extension was required as a condition of planning permission. The watching brief would be subject to a specification provided by HCGKCC.

1.3.2 Accordingly, HCGKCC provided ASE with a generic specification (HCGKCC 2011) for an archaeological watching brief.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The specification (*ibid*) outlined the objectives of the watching brief as:

- 'To contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.'

and;

- 'To ensure that any deposits and features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest, were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.'

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Few archaeological sites have been identified within the vicinity. However, numerous listed buildings are recorded in the area.
- 2.2 Number 6, in the table below, is the property next to the site. It is Grade 2 listed and the construction dates from the C15th to the early C16th, with later C19th and C20th additions. It is timber framed with plaster infilling.

No. on Fig 1	HER	NGR	Type	Description
1	TQ 84 NW 23	TQ 842 454	Monument	Moat
2	TQ 84 SW 22	TQ 8370 4459	Monument	Farmhouse
3	TQ 84 NW 47	TQ 8289 4605	Monument	Bridge Sluice Watermeadow
4	TQ 84 NW 49	TQ 8340 4590	Monument	Farm Barn
5	TQ 84 NW 50	TQ 8365 4500	Monument	Marble Quarry
6	TQ 84 NW 168	TQ836114537 4	Listed Building	Wealden House Farmhouse Farmhouse
7	TQ 84 SW 111	TQ 8294 4495	Listed Building	Timber Framed Barn
8	TQ 84 NW 227	TQ 8288 4553	Listed Building	Timber Framed House
9	TQ 84 SW 120	TQ 8331 4488	Listed Building	Farmhouse
10	TQ 84 NW 128	TQ 8362 4541	Listed Building	Oasthouse
11	TQ 84 NW 181	TQ 8371 4559	Listing Building	Wealden House

Table 1: Local HER entries, shown on Figure 1

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 The proposed groundworks consisted of footings excavated around the perimeter of the footprint of the extension, as well as a general ground reduction.
- 3.2 Excavations for these groundworks were monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils, below which there will be no archaeological remains present).
- 3.3 Specifically, the excavations monitored were:
- An area of c. 16.5m by c. 11m was excavated to a depth of 0.50m below ground level within the footprint of the proposed building.
 - The perimeter of this area was dug to a depth of c. 1.1m for the footings of the building (a total length of c. 43m and a width of c. 0.75m – 1m).
 - Removal of large tree trunk, c. 3m by c. 3m to a depth of 0.9m.
- 3.4 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are shown below.

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	54
Bulk finds	6
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 3)

4.1 Summary

4.1.1 The majority of the excavations saw natural Wealden Clay Formation directly overlain by topsoil.

4.1.2 Toward the north-west of the site, next to the existing garage, a large level of disturbance was identified down to the limit of excavation. This disturbance appears to be the result of a drainage works which feed off the existing garage into a drain. The drains all appear to feed into one inspection chamber which was c. 3.35m from the existing garage. It had a modern cover but had been backfilled with bricks.

4.1.3 No archaeological features or building foundations were encountered.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Tarmac	Only in Section	Only in Section	c. 0.1m
002	Layer	Top Soil	c. 10m	c. 10m	c. 0.1m
003	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
004	Layer	Redeposited topsoil	c. 7m	c. 1.5m	c. 0.2m
005	Layer	Silty clay	c. 4m	c. 1.5m	c. 0.3m
006	Layer	Rubble	c. 10m	c. 2m	c. 0.3m
007	Layer	Clay	c. 1.8m	c. 1.5m	c. 0.1m
008	Masonry	Concrete slab	c. 7m	c. 6.5m	c. 0.15m

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the watching brief. All finds were post-medieval.

Context	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Iron	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)
006	10	4812	1	20	2	30	2	4
005							2	412
Total	10	4812	1	20	2	30	4	416

Table 4: Quantification of the finds assemblage

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 A total of 10 fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 4879g were recovered from context [006]. The assemblage is of later 19th to 20th century date. The assemblage has been examined with a X10 magnifier and recorded on pro forma record forms for archive. A provisional fabric series has been drawn up and the assemblage has been discarded.

5.2.2 A complete unfrosted brick measuring 220 by 110 by 65mm in a fine orange fabric with fine black iron rich and cream silt inclusions. The brick has sharp arises and striations on the upper and lower face from the fabrication process. The smooth edges suggest machine manufacture. The brick is most likely of later 19th or 20th century date. Also recovered was a quantity of render. A fragment of render was in a concrete base suggesting a 20th century date, the fragment had been over painted with cream then pale green matt surface then over painted with a green gloss paint and subsequently a blue gloss paint. Further render fragments in a cream sandy fabric were also recovered, some of which had been finished with a white plaster scrim. Traces of pale green and blue paint were visible on most fragments. The reverse of the render retained imprints of square wooden beams of 25mm width running parallel to each other. The render is likely to have covered a dividing or non load bearing wall.

5.3 The Iron by Trista Clifford

5.3.1 Two iron nails were recovered from context [006] (total weight 30g). Both have square sectioned stems; the heads are obscured by corrosion product. A 19th-20th century date is probable.

5.4 The Glass by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Glass weighing a total of 416g was recovered from two separate contexts. Context [005] contained a complete medicine bottle in pale blue gals, together with a 90% complete clear glass jar. Two fragments from context [006] probably derive from a clear cylindrical vessel and window glass. The assemblage is of 19th-20th century date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological finds or features of note were recorded.
- 6.2 Contexts [004], [005], [006] and [007] appear to be associated with the drainage system, being the backfill over the top of the drains, or sitting in the base of the cuts. All of these layers are post-medieval 19th-20th century. They, along with many of the drains themselves, will remain *in situ*.
- 6.3 The underlying geology was reached when digging the footings on the perimeter of the site, and during most of the ground reduction.

Bibliography

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council 2011 '*Specification for Watching brief*' Unpublished grey literature.

BGS 2011 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed on 23/11/11 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html,

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Mrs Anne Astleford for commissioning the work and Wendy Rogers for her guidance throughout the project. The author would like to thank Pat Lindsey (site foreman) for his assistance during fieldwork.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	LTC11					
Identification Name and Address	Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9JY					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 83714 45571					
Geology	Weald Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5212					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 21 st and 22 nd Nov	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mrs Anne Astleford					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at University College London, was appointed by Sue Burbridge on behalf of the owner Mrs Anne Astleford to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological finds or features of note were recorded. A 19th-20th century drainage system was uncovered which had disturbed much of the area monitored. The underlying geology was reached when digging the footings on the perimeter of the site, and during most of the ground reduction.</i></p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS id: archaeol6-114545**

Project name Little Tilden, Ulcombe Road, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9JY

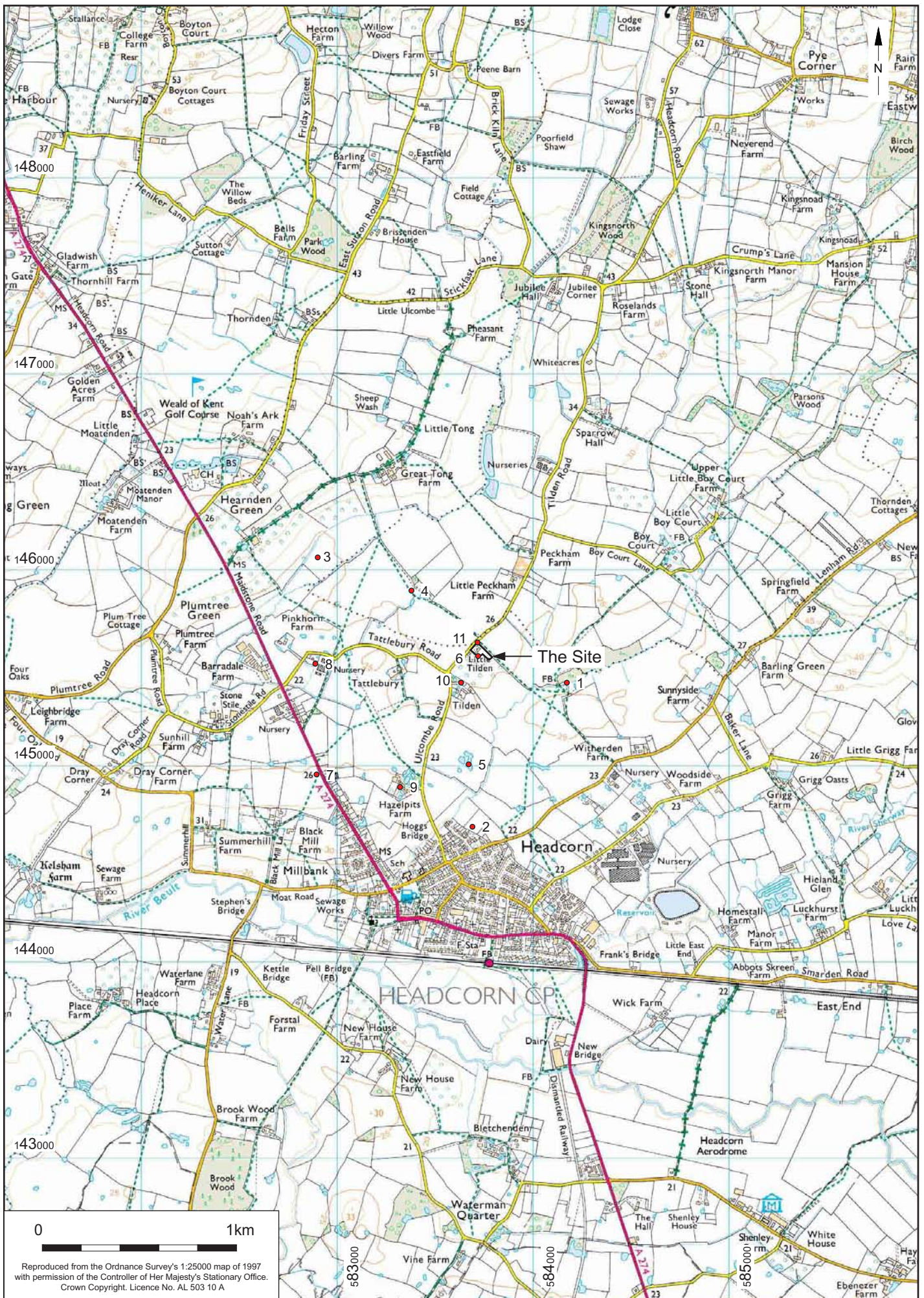
Short description of the project- No archaeological finds or features of note were recorded. A 19th-20th century drainage system was uncovered which had disturbed much of the area monitored. The underlying geology was reached when digging the footings on the perimeter of the site, and during most of the ground reduction.

Project dates
Start: 21-11-2011
End: 22-11-2011

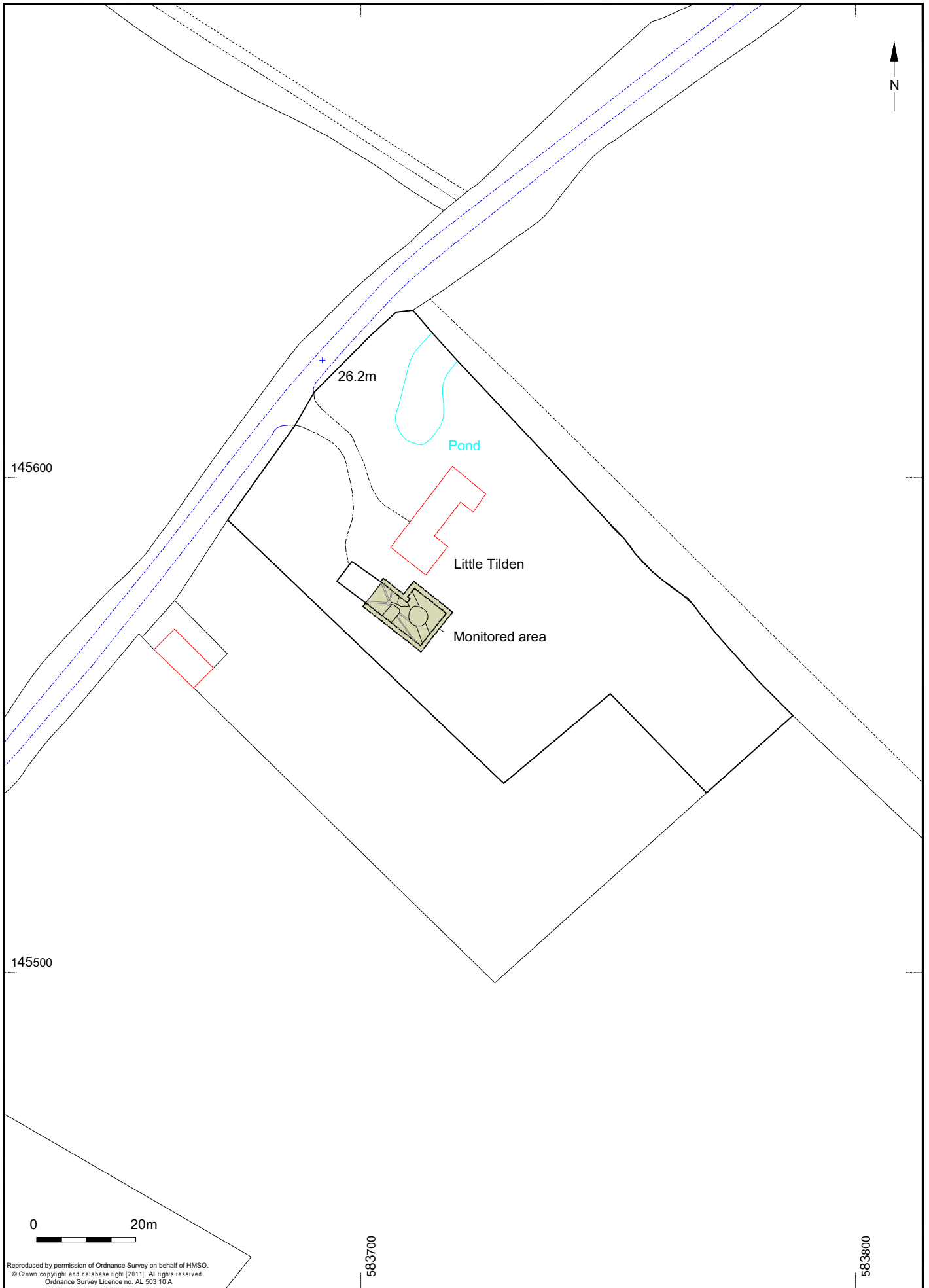
Related HER No. TQ 84 NW 168
Type of project Field evaluation
Site status Listed Building
Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential

Project location
Country England
Site location KENT MAIDSTONE HEADCORN Little Tilden
Postcode TN27 9JY
Study area 17.00 Square metres
Site coordinates TQ 837 455
Project creators
Name of Organisation Archaeology South East
Project director/manager Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor Gary Webster

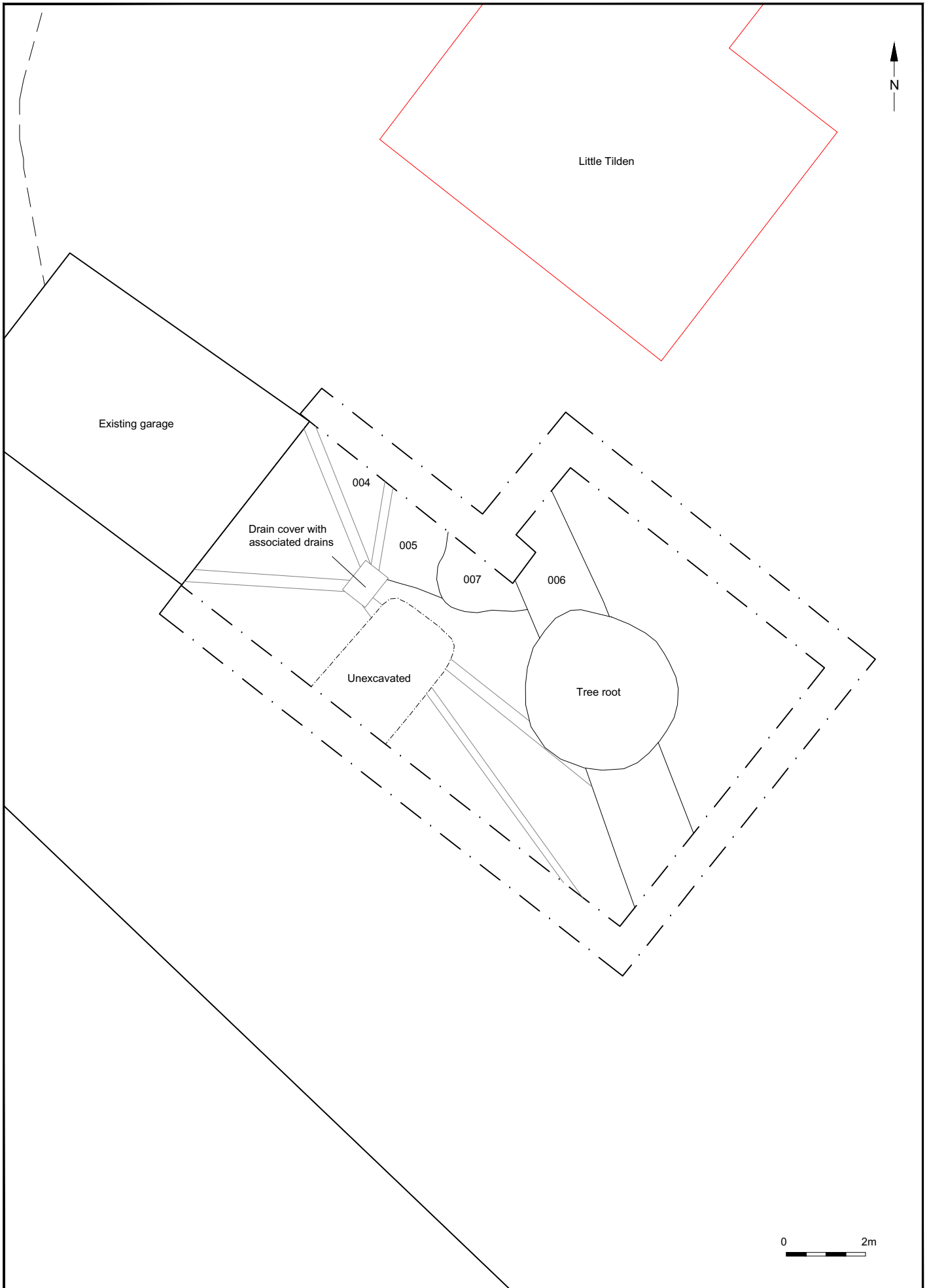
Entered by Gary Webster (garysbehindyou@googlemail.com)
Entered on 24 November 2011



© Archaeology South-East		Little Tilden, Headcorn		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5212	Dec 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011278	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Little Tilden, Headcorn	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5212	Dec 2011	Location of monitored works	
Report Ref: 2011278	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Little Tilden, Headcorn	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5212	Dec 2011	Plan of monitored works	
Report Ref: 2011278	Drawn by: JLR		

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