

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
East Grinstead Sports Club  
East Grinstead, West Sussex**

**NGR 537948 136020**

**Mid Sussex District Council Planning Reference 08/03069/FUL**

**Project No: 5100  
Site Code: ESG11**

**ASE Report No: 2012032  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-118759**

**By Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

**February 2012**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned C. H. Design Partnership Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of new squash courts at East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex.*

*No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. It appears that the footings trenches were excavated in an area which had been previously stripped, presumably during the erection of the adjacent buildings, and/or during the construction of the car-park.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned C. H. Design Partnership Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of new squash courts at East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex (NGR 537948 136020; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Topography and Geology**

1.2.1 The site lies to the south-east of the town of East Grinstead in the High Weald of Sussex. It is located on the western side of Saint Hill Road, immediately adjacent to the existing buildings of East Grinstead Sports Club, and was previously occupied by part of the Club's car-park and associated access to the building.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock is Cuckfield Stone. No superficial geology is recorded for the site. (BGS 2012).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission for the construction of squash courts and other facilities at the site was originally granted by Mid-Sussex District Council in December 2008 (ref. 08/03069/FUL). A condition was attached to that permission requiring that.

*'No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successor in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the council.'*

*Reason: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development and to accord with Policy CH11 of the adopted West Sussex Structure Plan 2001-2016.'*

1.3.2 Subsequently a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2011) for an archaeological watching brief was produced by ASE. This document outlined the methodologies to be used during monitoring at the site, and in subsequent reporting of the results.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* were to:

*'monitor all excavations associated with the development including, but not limited to, any topsoil removal in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.'*

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of the footings trenches at the site carried in January 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological potential of the environs of the site has been given elsewhere in a report on previous archaeological work (ASE 2002) where a watching brief was carried out in 2002 during the construction of the adjacent hockey pitch. No deposits, features or finds of archaeological significance were encountered (*ibid.*).
- 2.2 However, the site lies in an area of the High Weald which has seen little published fieldwork, but does contain evidence of Mesolithic activity, and perhaps traces of later iron-working. Six sites of archaeological interest were noted following an examination of the West Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record (HER):

HER Number	Description
TQ 33 NE 19	Post-Medieval Parkscape at Saint Hill
TQ 33 NE 12	Mesolithic rock shelter found at Ridge Hill. Assemblage of 65 flints including tranchet arrowhead
TQ 33 NE 26	Minepits located in area of woodland. Probably associated with ironworking industry
TQ 33 NE 27	Undated ridge-and-furrow earthworks located within woodland
TQ 33 NE 35	'Chisel' transverse arrowhead found at Saint Hill Rocks.
TQ 33 NE 46	Minepit located in area of woodland. Probably associated with ironworking industry.

Table 1: Summary of HER data

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The mechanical excavation of trenches for the foundation walls of the new squash court building was monitored. All revealed sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.2 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and has been accepted for deposition at East Grinstead Museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Digital Photographs	5
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 2: Quantification of site archive



#### 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

- 4.1 The excavation of footings trenches undertaken by a 5 tonne 360° mechanical excavator were monitored between 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The trenches were 600mm in width and a maximum of 1.4m in depth and revealed the following sequence.
- 4.2 Much of the area had previously been occupied by tarmac or paving [001], some of which had been removed prior to the commencement of the watching brief. This surfacing material was a maximum of 60mm in thickness. Close to the existing building this material directly overlay a 450mm thick deposit of mixed topsoil and brick rubble, [002]. This in turn overlay the 'natural' orangey yellow, grey mottled clay, [003], which extended to the base of the excavated trenches. There was also considerable disturbance from service trenches close to the existing building.
- 4.3 Further away from the building an intermittent layer of *Terram* sheeting, [004], lay between the brick rubble and the surface of the 'natural', but this was the only change to the stratigraphic sequence in the observed sections of the trench. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered, and the nature of the sequence strongly suggests that the area had been mechanically stripped during previous groundworks.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Deposit	Tarmac/paving	60mm
002	Deposit	Brick rubble	450mm
003	Deposit	'Natural'	>1m
004	Deposit	Terram Sheeting	<10mm

Table 3: Recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded during the monitoring of the groundworks at the site. It appears that the footings trenches were excavated in an area which had been previously stripped, presumably during the erection of the adjacent buildings, and/or during the construction of the car-park.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2002. *An Archaeological Survey at East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report 1314.

ASE 2011. *East Grinstead Sports Club, East Grinstead, West Sussex Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub. ASE document

BGS 2011. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 30.01.2012 [http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html)

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank C. H. Design Partnership Ltd. for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due for the guidance of John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, and of Sarah Sheath, Mid-Sussex District Council Planning Case Officer. The co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors is also gratefully acknowledged.

### HER Summary Form

Site Code	ESG11					
Identification Name and Address	East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road					
County, District &/or Borough	Mid Sussex District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	537948 136020					
Geology	Cuckfield Stone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5100					
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.	Excav.	WB. 26.01.2012 – 30.01.2012	Other <i>None</i>		
Sponsor/Client	C. H. Design Partnership Ltd.					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned C. H. Design Partnership Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of new squash courts at East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex.</p> <p>No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. It appears that the footings trenches were excavated in an area which had been previously stripped, presumably during the erection of the adjacent buildings, and/or during the construction of the car-park.</p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-118759**

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**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at East Grinstead Sports Club, East Grinstead, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned C. H. Design Partnership Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the construction of new squash courts at East Grinstead Sports Club, Saint Hill Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. It appears that the footings trenches were excavated in an area which had been previously stripped, presumably during the erection of the adjacent buildings, and/or during the construction of the car-park.
Project dates	Start: 26-01-2012 End: 30-01-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5100 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ESG11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	08/03069/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX EAST GRINSTEAD East Grinstead Sports Club
Postcode	RH19 4JU
Study area	100.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 37948 36020 51.1063103120 -0.02929888568990 51 06 22 N  
000 01 45 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 120.00m Max: 125.00m

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator West Sussex County Council

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body C. H. Design Partnership Ltd.

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient East Grinstead Museum

Digital Archive recipient East Grinstead Museum

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient East Grinstead Museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Report','Unpublished Text'

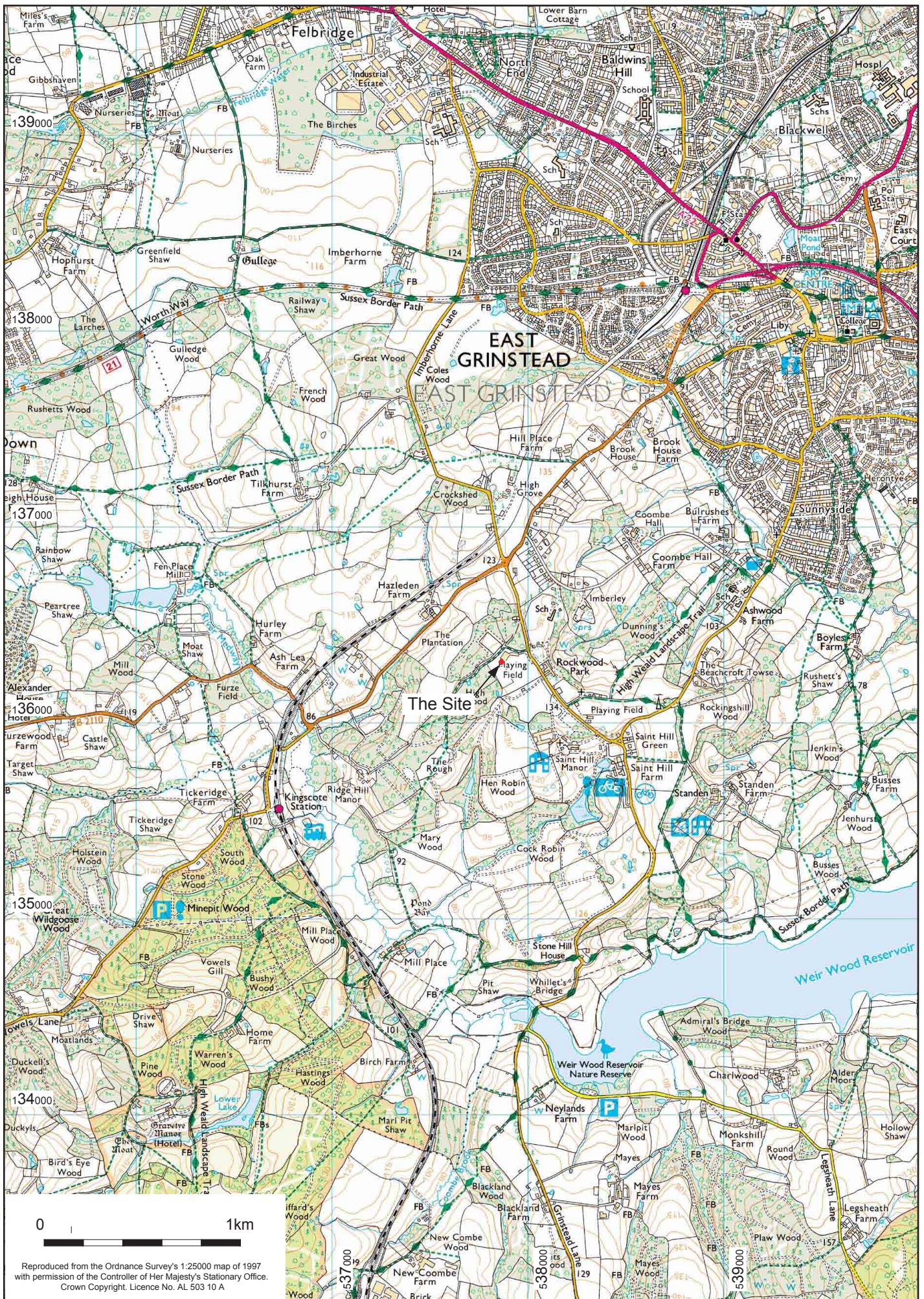
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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report East Grinstead Sports Club. East Grinstead, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
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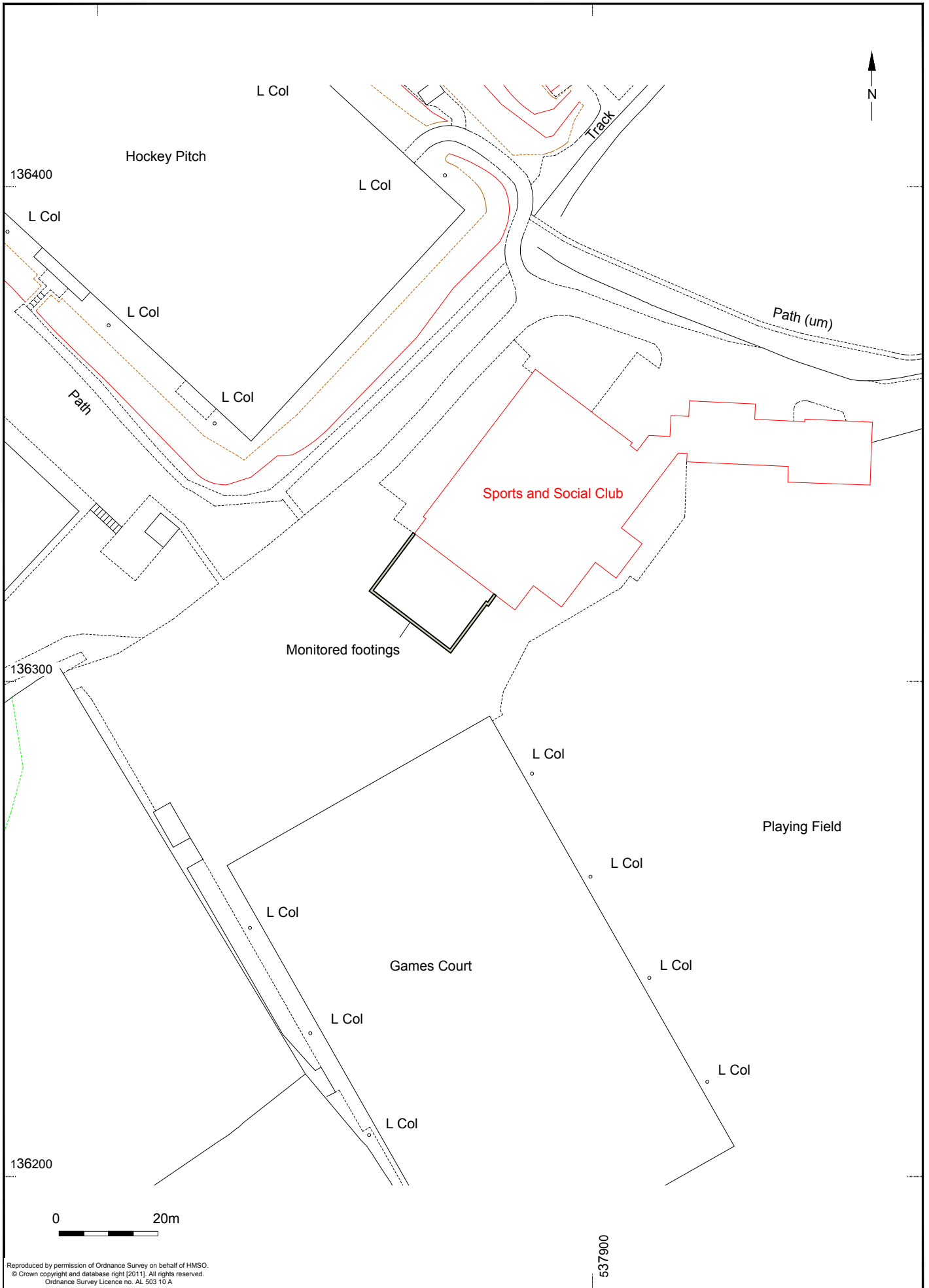




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Project Ref: 5100	Feb 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012032	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1





© Archaeology South-East		East Grinstead Sports Club	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5100	Feb 2012	Plan of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2012032	Drawn by: JLR		

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