

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at  
Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne  
West Sussex**

**NGR: 526501 116535  
(TQ 265 165)**

**Site Code: CCA13  
Project No: 5857**

**Planning Ref: 11/01715/FUL, 12/03674/FUL  
Mid Sussex District Council**

**ASE Report No. 2013049  
OASIS ID: archaeol6\_144706**

**Philippa Stephenson**

**Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**Feb 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by K. A. L Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex.*

*Footing trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.0m over an area 20.0m x 12.0m in an area occupied by a tarmac tennis court in the southern part of Albourne village. Natural substrate was attained at a depth of 0.20m below current ground level (at approximately 45.0m AOD), directly underlying the modern tarmac. No archaeological remains were present.*

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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, Institute of Archaeology, UCL, have been commissioned by K. A. L Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex. The site is centred on National grid Reference (NGR) 526501 116535 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.1.2 The investigation involved the monitoring of foundation trenches of c.0.8m in width, located around the edges a proposed building covering an area 20.0m x 12.0m (Figure 2)

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located in the southern part of Albourne village, within a space occupied by a tarmac tennis court, surrounded to the west, south and east by the gardens of residential buildings and to the north by open space.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2013) shows the site to lie on bedrock geology of sedimentary silty sandstone belonging to the Lower Greensand group. However, observations on site indicate the presence of clay geology, possibly of the Weald Clay formation, to a depth of 2.0m.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted for the erection of a new detached dwelling on the site subject to conditions (Planning References: 11/01715/FUL and 12/03674/FUL). Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Condition 9 of the permission states:

*‘The developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.*

*Reason: The site is potentially of archaeological interest and to comply with policies BE6 of the South East Plan, policy B18 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan and PPS5’.*

1.3.2 In accordance with the planning condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the proposed archaeological works was prepared and submitted to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) for approval prior to commencement of fieldwork (ASE 2012).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work, as set out in the WSI (ASE 2012) was to monitor all excavations associated with the development in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The work was undertaken over 1 day between on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2012 by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist). Project Management was undertaken by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation management). The illustrations were prepared by Justin Russell.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following extract is reproduced from the Victoria County History (VCH 1987), with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 A park at Albourne manor was mentioned in 1502; in 1578 and apparently earlier it was leased. It still seems to have existed as a park in the 17th century, but by 1743 had been thrown into Albourne Place farm. The park seems to have surrounded Albourne Place on all sides, extending northwards as far as Northpark Farm; land called North parks formed part of Albourne Place farm in 1779. A serpentine fish pond lay north of the house c. 1840; by 1875 it had been divided into three linked ponds. There was still parkland all round Albourne Place in the 1870s, but by 1909 its extent had been reduced, and by the mid-20th century the park had gone.
- 2.3 Albourne church lies in the centre of the parish, on an old road running north-south, and near the alder stream which gave the parish its name. There is no evidence, however, for a nucleated settlement near it in the Middle Ages, and the manor house and Albourne Place farm are  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the south-west. In 1679 there were two houses by the church, the rectory to the south-west, and a house to the west which survived in 1850, when there was also a house north of the church. The house to the west had gone by 1875. In 1984 there were only the former rectory and a house north-east of the church. Traces of other houses are said to have been found along the road south of the former rectory.
- 2.4 The modern village lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north-east of the church near the eastern parish boundary. The name Albourne Street was used in 1594, apparently to describe what was later the village street; it was called the village street of Albourne in 1619. The fact that that street lies parallel to the then existing main road, the modern London-Brighton road, and the regular layout of houses and plots there, all of which in 1681 apparently belonged to tenants of Bishopshurst manor, suggests the possibility that Albourne was a planned settlement laid out by the lord of Bishopshurst.'
- 2.5 The Roman Greensand Way crosses the southern end of Albourne parish, with traces of its *agger* visible at Shaves Farm to the southeast of the village.
- 2.6 Archaeological sites and findspots held on West Sussex County Council's (WSSCC) Historic Environment Record (HER), located within a 1km radius of the site, are summarised in Table 1.

| <b>WSSC No.</b> | <b>HER</b> | <b>OS Co-ordinates</b> | <b>Description</b>   |
|-----------------|------------|------------------------|--|
| MWS560          |            | TQ 27200 16640         | Pakyns Manor House dates from early to mid 16 <sup>th</sup> -century. Grade II Listed Building. The site lies within the curtilage of this property (to the south) |
| MWS561          |            | TQ 26470 16570         | Gallops' – Albourne. Elizabethan to 1661 construction date   |
| MWS566          |            | TQ 25800 16360         | Medieval/post-medieval watermill site – Albourne. Identified by series of earthworks   |
| MWS567          |            | TQ 25700 16200         | Albourne deserted medieval village   |
| MWS888          |            | TQ 25680 16170         | The Parish Church of St Bartholomew, Albourne  |
| MWS3762         |            | TQ 26910 16580         | Prehistoric flintwork found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber   |
| MWS3773         |            | TQ 26910 16580         | Medieval pottery found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber  |
| MWS3774         |            | TQ 26910 16580         | Mesolithic flintwork found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber  |
| MWS3775         |            | TQ 26910 16580         | Bronze Age(?) pottery found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber   |
| MWS3776         |            | TQ 26920 16620         | Windmill site depicted on cartographic sources between 1813-1874 but not on map of 1795. Debris noted in approximate area in 1990                                  |
| MWS3777         |            | TQ 26920 15970         | Mesolithic flintwork found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber  |
| MWS3778         |            | TQ 26920 15970         | Whetstone found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber   |
| MWS3779         |            | TQ 26950 15940         | Prehistoric flintwork found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber   |
| MWS3780         |            | TQ 26930 15840         | Prehistoric flintwork found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber   |
| MWS3781         |            | TQ 26930 15840         | Medieval pottery found during road improvement works to the A23 between Sayers Common and Newtimber  |
| MWS4854         |            | TQ 26300 15800         | Brickell Field – brickworks dating to at least 1679  |
| MWS7337         |            | TQ 27487 16666         | Orchard Way, Hurstpierpoint – prehistoric flints and medieval pottery identified during archaeological fieldwork   |
| MWS8501         |            | TQ 27471 16799         | Orchard Way, Hurstpierpoint – undated linear gully identified during archaeological fieldwork  |
| MWS9415         |            | TQ 2629 1571           | Bishops Place Historic Farmstead, Albourne. An 18 <sup>th</sup> -century dispersed cluster farmstead   |

Table 1: HER findspots

- 2.7 In addition, a total of 28 listed buildings were also located within the 1 km search radius, mostly comprising rural post-medieval buildings. The site falls within the historic core of a settlement dating to the medieval period



### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological methodology was laid out in the WSI (ASE 2012). The work was carried out in accordance with this document and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), as well as with reference to Annex B of West Sussex County Council's, *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions* (WSCC 2007). Mid Sussex District Council was kept informed of progress on site.
- 3.2 Footings trenches, located on Figure 2, were machine excavated under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Excavation was taken in spits down to the top of natural geology. After the footings trenches associated with the western half of the building were monitored, it became clear that the area had been subject to significant modern truncation and John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council confirmed in an email dated 13.02.13 that there was no requirement to continue with the archaeological watching brief.
- 3.3 All deposits were recorded using the standard ASE context record sheets
- 3.5 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the watching brief.
- 3.6 The archive generated by the work is quantified in Table 2. It is currently held by Archaeology South-East and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Number of Contexts          | 2 |
| No. of files/paper record   | 1 |
| Plan and sections sheets    | 0 |
| Bulk Samples                | 0 |
| Photographs                 | 4 |
| Bulk finds                  | 0 |
| Registered finds            | 0 |
| Environmental flots/residue | 0 |

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 The ground-works comprised the excavation of a single narrow trench (0.8m), at the site of each of the proposed walls for the building, within the designated area (Figure 2), excavated to a maximum depth of 2.0m.
- 4.1.2 The tarmac, [001], was 0.20m thick directly overlying the undisturbed geological substrate [002] comprising orange-brown clay possibly of the Weald Clay formation.
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features, deposits or structures were observed, no finds retrieved and no samples taken.

| Context | Type                 | Description | Max. Length<br>m | Max. Width<br>m | Thickness<br>m | Depth<br>Below grd<br>m |
|---------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| 001     | Construction         | Tarmac      | 20.0             | 12.0            | 0.20           | -                       |
| 002     | Natural<br>Substrate | ?Weald Clay | 20.0             | 12.0            | >1.80          | 0.20                    |

Table 3: Contexts recorded

**5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed undisturbed natural substrate at a depth of 0.20m below the existing ground level, directly below the tarmac of the tennis court, at an approximate height of 45.0m AOD. This strongly suggests that the area had been subject to previous ground reduction which would have removed any archaeology present.
- 5.2 No archaeological features, deposits, structures or finds were encountered.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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accessed: 04 December 2012

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<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18443>  
Date accessed: 04 December 2012

WSCC 2007 *Recommended Standard Archaeological Conditions*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank K.A.L Homes Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance as well as John Mills, West Sussex County Archaeologist for his guidance and monitoring

**HER Summary Form**

|   |  |   |  |   |        |       |
|---|--|---|--|---|--------|-------|
| Site Code   | CCA13  |   |  |   |        |       |
| Identification Name and Address   | Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex  |   |  |   |        |       |
| County, District &/or Borough   | West Sussex  |   |  |   |        |       |
| OS Grid Refs.   | 526501 116535 (TQ 265 165)   |   |  |   |        |       |
| Geology   | Recorded as Lower Greensand by the BGS but observed on site as clay possibly of the Weald Clay formation |   |  |   |        |       |
| Arch. South-East Project Number   | 5684   |   |  |   |        |       |
| Type of Fieldwork   | Eval.  | Excav.  | Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Standing Structure                              | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site  | Green Field  | Shallow Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Deep Urban   | Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built |        |       |
| Dates of Fieldwork  | Eval.  | Excav.  | WB.<br>12/02/2013                                  | Other   |        |       |
| Sponsor/Client  | National Trust   |   |  |   |        |       |
| Project Manager   | Neil Griffin   |   |  |   |        |       |
| Project Supervisor  | Giles Dawkes   |   |  |   |        |       |
| Period Summary  | Palaeo.  | Meso.   | Neo.   | BA  | IA     | RB    |
|   | AS   | MED   | PM   | Other Modern                                    |        |       |
| <p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by K. A. L Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>Footing trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.0m over an area 20.0m x 12.0m in an area occupied by a tarmac tennis court situated in the southern part of Albourne village. Natural substrate was attained at a depth of 0.20m below current ground level (at approximately 45.0m AOD), directly underlying the modern tarmac. No archaeological remains were present.</i></p> |  |   |  |   |        |       |

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-144706**

Project details

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Project name                           | Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex   |
| Short description of the project       | Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by K. A. L Homes Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new detached dwelling at Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne, West Sussex. Footing trenches were excavated to a depth of 2.0m over an area 20.0m x 12.0m in an area occupied by a tarmac tennis court situated in the southern part of Albourne village. Natural substrate was attained at a depth of 0.20m below current ground level (at approximately 45.0m AOD), directly underlying the modern tarmac. No archaeological remains were present. |
| Project dates                          | Start: 12-02-2013 End: 12-02-2013   |
| Previous/future work                   | No / No   |
| Any associated project reference codes | CCA13 - Sitecode  |
| Type of project                        | Recording project   |
| Site status                            | None  |
| Current Land use                       | Other 3 - Built over  |
| Investigation type                     | ""Watching Brief""  |
| Project location                       |   |
| Country                                | England   |
| Site location                          | WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX ALBOURNE The Street  |
| Postcode                               | BN6 9DJ   |
| Study area                             | 220.00 Square metres  |
| Site coordinates                       | TQ 26501 16535 50 0 50 56 01 N 000 11 58 W Point  |
| Height OD / Depth                      | Min: 43.00m Max: 45.00m   |
| Project creators                       |   |
| Name of Organisation                   | Archaeology South East  |
| Project brief originator               | Archaeology South-East  |
| Project design originator              | Archaeology South-East  |
| Project director/manager               | Neil Griffin  |
| Project supervisor                     | Giles Dawkes  |
| Type of sponsor/funding                | Developer   |

body

Name of  
sponsor/funding  
body k.A.L Homes

Project archives

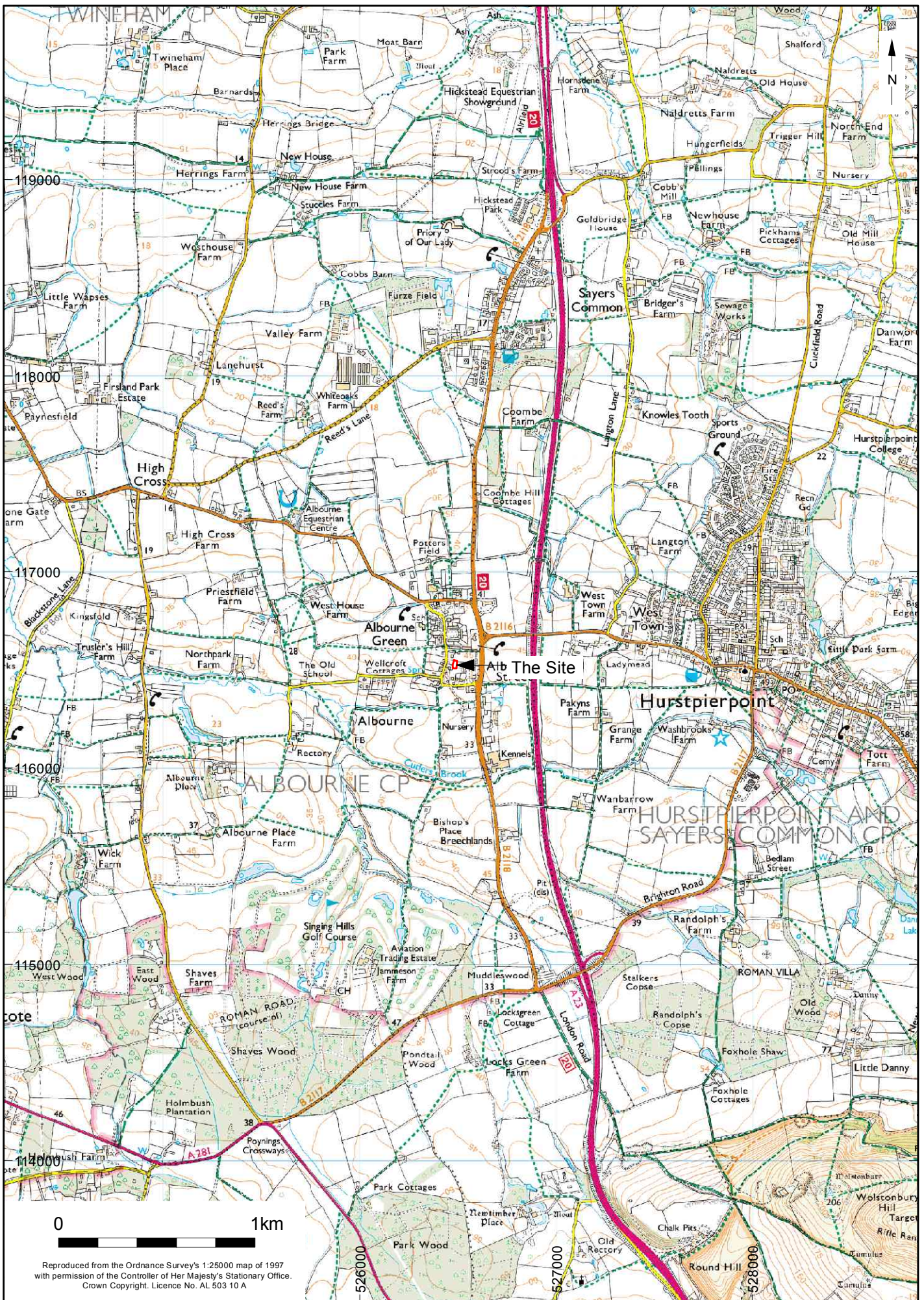
Physical Archive  
Exists? No

Digital Media  
available "Images raster / digital photography", "Text", "Images vector"

Paper Media  
available "Context sheet", "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General  
Notes"

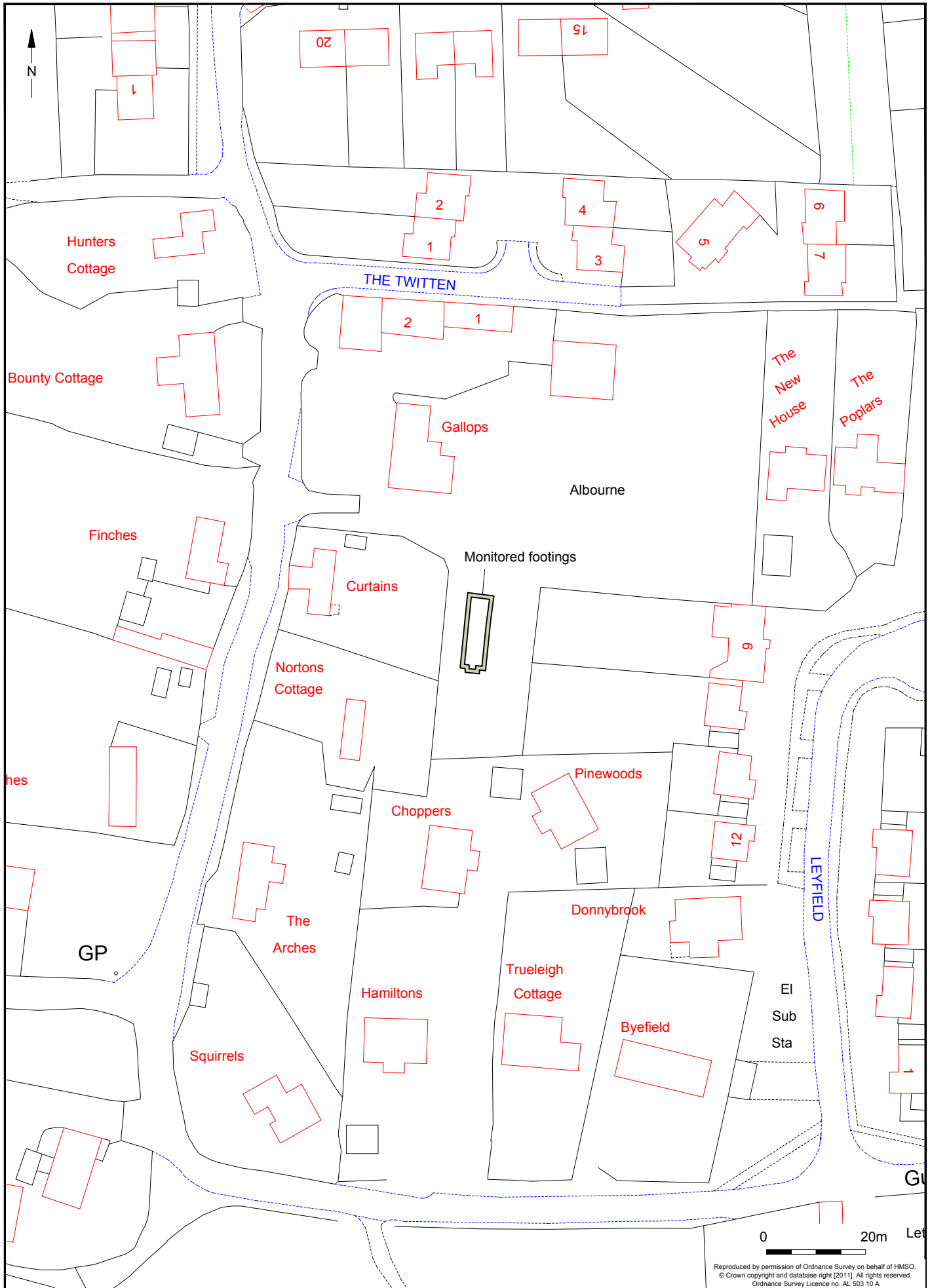
Entered by pip stephenson (pipstep@hotmail.com)

Entered on 27 February 2013



|                          |               |                                     |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Chesnut Court, The Street, Albourne |  | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 5857        | Feb 2013      | Site location                       |  |        |
| Report Ref: 2013049      | Drawn by: JLR |                                     |  |        |





|                          |               |                                      |  |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East |               | Chestnut Court, The Street, Albourne |  | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 5857        | Feb 2013      | Site plan                            |  |        |
| Report Ref: 2013049      | Drawn by: JLR |                                      |  |        |

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