

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
No. 40 Roedean Crescent
Brighton, East Sussex**

NGR 534660 103440

Planning Reference: BH2012/00790

**ASE Project No: 5575
Site Code: RCB 12**

**ASE Report No: 2013159
OASIS ID: archaeol6-154187**



Simon Stevens BA MIFA

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July 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arch Angel Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs R Warby to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of No 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex

However, all of the groundworks at the site were undertaken without archaeological monitoring and it was not possible therefore to conclusively record whether any potential archaeological remains were encountered/disturbed/destroyed during the construction work.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Arch Angel Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs R Warby to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of No 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex (NGR 534660 103440; Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies close to the eastern extent of the Brighton/Hove conurbation on undulating downland at a height of c.53m AOD. It is located on the southern side of Roedean Crescent and is bounded to the east and west by properties fronting onto the road, and to the south by the fence of a property fronting onto Roedean Way. There is a marked slope from north to south.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock at the site consists of the Newhaven Chalk Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the demolition of the existing property on the site and the construction of a new three storey, five bedroomed house (Ref.: 2012/00790). Owing to the location of the site in an area of high archaeological potential, Brighton and Hove City Council's archaeology advisors at East Sussex County Council (ESCC) recommended an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. Accordingly Condition 16 of the permission stated:

“No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.”

REASON: In order to provide a reasonable opportunity to record the history of the site and to comply with policy HE12 of the Brighton and Hove Local Plan

1.3.2 Accordingly a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2013) was prepared by ASE and approved by East Sussex County Council. It outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological work given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

GENERAL

- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.*
- *The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits.*
- *How they might be affected by the development of the site*
- *What options should be considered for mitigation*

SPECIFIC

- *Is there any evidence for further burials, be they Bronze Age, Roman or Saxon?*
- *Is there any evidence for Saxon settlement at the site?*

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

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of two visits to the site in February 2013 and June 2013 respectively. The on-site work was undertaken by Giles Dawkes and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists) and by John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from a report on an archaeological evaluation undertaken at No. 4 Roedean Crescent (ASE 2010).
- 2.2 The site lies within an Archaeologically Sensitive Area (ASA) encompassing the clifftops at Black Rock where a number of prehistoric finds and sites have been recorded. This ASA also includes the Brighton-Norton raised beach deposits, which are sealed within the chalk cliff line, itself a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS), and a Geological Conservation and Review Site (GCR).
- 2.3 Bronze Age burials and burial mounds (barrows) are known in the immediate area and a hoard of bronze jewellery and decorative armbands was found nearby. Hollingbury Camp, an Iron Age hillfort, lies approximately two miles to the north of the site. An urned cremation burial and animal bones were found in 1910, embedded in the cliff face near Brighton, and a gold stater of Commius or Tincommius was recovered in 1932.
- 2.4 The only known Roman villa in the area is located at Springfield Road, the truncated remnants of which have been excavated. Numerous villa sites are known across Sussex, with nearby sites at Southwick, Barcombe, and Beddingham. Roman burial activity in the vicinity of the site includes a Roman coffin burial adjacent to the north boundary of 4 Roedean Crescent and an undated burial in the rear garden of 6 Roedean Crescent. In addition to these, three Romano-British sites are known in the area; two are coin findspots and the last is a collection of artefacts found at the rear of St Mary's Hall; including an Iron Age brooch, and Roman pottery, coins and a brooch.
- 2.5 Much of the archaeological evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period is characterised by cemeteries and comparatively infrequent settlement sites. In 1837 a male inhumation was found in an upstanding barrow in Kemp Town. The burial was accompanied by a spear head, boar's tusks, bone pins, horse bones and a sword and is likely to be pre-Christian (pre 8th century) in date.
- 2.6 Brighton itself almost certainly has Anglo-Saxon antecedents, probably as an Anglo-Saxon farm, as its original name Brijthelmstone, is a likely corruption of 'Beorthelm's tun' or the farm of Beorthelm. The first documented overlord of Brighton is Wulnoth, who in 1008 commanded an English fleet intended to repel a Danish invasion. Juxtaposed against the historical data, is a relative paucity of archaeological evidence, with cemetery sites and stray finds dominating the record.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 As stated in the WSI (*ibid.*):

*Any intrusive ground works associated with the development will be monitored by an archaeologist. Any machine used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil will be **fitted with a toothless bucket** of appropriate width whenever practicable. Any hand excavation undertaken by the ground work contractor must be undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.*

*Where new excavations reveal significant archaeological remains, an opportunity will be made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time will be made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological and environmental information, should this prove necessary. Environmental sampling will be undertaken in accordance with the ESCC 2008 Standards (ESCC 2008). **A final decision on site as to how to proceed in the event that significant remains are revealed during the Watching Brief will be determined in agreement with the County Archaeologist.***

This approach will enable any archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in NPPF which has replaced PPS 5.

- 3.2 However, ASE was not informed that the groundworks (ground reduction within the footprint of the proposed new building) were due to be undertaken and were therefore not on-site to monitor the excavations.
- 3.3 An ASE archaeologist called to the site on 12th February 2013 noted that the ground reduction had been previously undertaken and that the construction of the foundations for the new house had begun.
- 3.4 Subsequently it was agreed between ASE, ESCC (acting on behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council) and the client that no further groundwork would be undertaken without archaeological monitoring and that evaluation trenches would be mechanically excavated to the rear of the new property.
- 3.5 However, in a second visit to the site by an ASE archaeologist on the agreed date of the commencement of the evaluation (28th June 2013) it was noted that further stripping down to the surface of the chalk had again already been undertaken to the rear of the property, in an area measuring c.6m by c.4m.
- 3.6 Following further discussions between ASE, ESCC and the on-site contractors, it was agreed that this area would be manually cleaned in order to identify any potential surviving archaeological features in lieu of the excavation of the proposed evaluation trenches.
- 3.7 All exposed sections were also examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all available spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.

- 3.8 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard ASE recording sheets. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.9 A full 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 offered to a Brighton Museum. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	3
No. Of files/paper record	1
Photographs	10

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A broadly rectangular area to the rear of the property was manually cleaned in order to identify archaeological features. Conditions for the identification of archaeological features were near ideal with periods of rain providing good colour contrast.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Garden Soil	230mm
002	Layer	Sub Soil	110mm
003	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-

Table 2: Recorded contexts

4.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence was straightforward and consisted of a mid-greyish brown silty clay topsoil, context [001], which overlay a deposit of sub-soil which was orangey brown in colour, but similar in texture, context [002]. This deposit directly over the 'natural' chalk, context [003] which was encountered at heights varying between 51.89mAOD and 52.59mAOD. Although the maximum depth of the surface of the chalk was 340mm below the previous garden surface the average depth was nearer 200mm.

4.2.2 Despite thorough hand-cleaning and potentially good definition provided by the rainfall, no archaeological features were identified and no archaeological artefacts were recovered from the spoilheaps or during the hand cleaning.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 All of the groundworks at the site were undertaken without archaeological monitoring.
- 5.2 Ground reduction was completed and construction had begun in the main footprint of the proposed development at the time of the first archaeological visit to the site which rendered the visit pointless.
- 5.3 A second proposed evaluation area (2 trenches) to the rear of the properties was also machined-out by the time of the second archaeological visit.
- 5.4 Nevertheless, construction work had not begun in this second area which was then hand-cleaned to search for any archaeological features cut into the underlying chalk.
- 5.5 No archaeological features or finds were recorded in either of the site visits.
- 5.6 It was not possible therefore to conclusively record whether any potential archaeological remains were encountered/disturbed/destroyed during the construction work, or to propose any further mitigation options.
- 5.7 Greg Chuter (ESCC) has concluded that if any further groundworks are undertaken in the future as part of this redevelopment and archaeological deposits are encountered the on-site contractors must contact ASE.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2010, *An Archaeological Evaluation on land at 4 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report No. 2010158-4416

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BGS, 2013. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 21.05.2013. <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Arch Angel Architects (on behalf of Mr & Mrs R. Warby) for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to the groundworks contractors for their co-operation and hospitality.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	RCB 12					
Identification Name and Address	No. 40 Roedean Crescent					
County, District &/or Borough	City of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	534660 103440					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5575					
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.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Arch Angel Architects (on behalf of Mr & Mrs R. Warby)					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other <i>NONE</i>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arch Angel Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs R Warby to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of No 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex</p> <p>However, all of the groundworks at the site were undertaken without archaeological monitoring and it was not possible therefore to conclusively record whether any potential archaeological remains were encountered/disturbed/destroyed during the construction work.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-154187

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at No. 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, east Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Arch Angel Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs R Warby to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of No 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex However, all of the groundworks at the site were undertaken without archaeological monitoring and it was not possible therefore to conclusively record whether any potential archaeological remains were encountered/disturbed/destroyed during the construction work.
Project dates	Start: 12-02-2013 End: 28-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5575 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RCB 12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	BH2012/00790 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX BRIGHTON AND HOVE ROTTINGDEAN No. 40 Roedean Crescent
Postcode	BN2 5RH
Study area	24.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 3466 0344 50 0 50 48 51 N 000 05 17 W Point
Height OD / Depth Min: 51.00m Max: 53.00m

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/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body Client
Name of sponsor/funding body Arch Angel Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs R. Warby

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Physical Archive recipient Brighton and Hove Museum
Digital Archive recipient Brighton and Hove Museum
Digital Contents "other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Brighton and Hove Museum
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

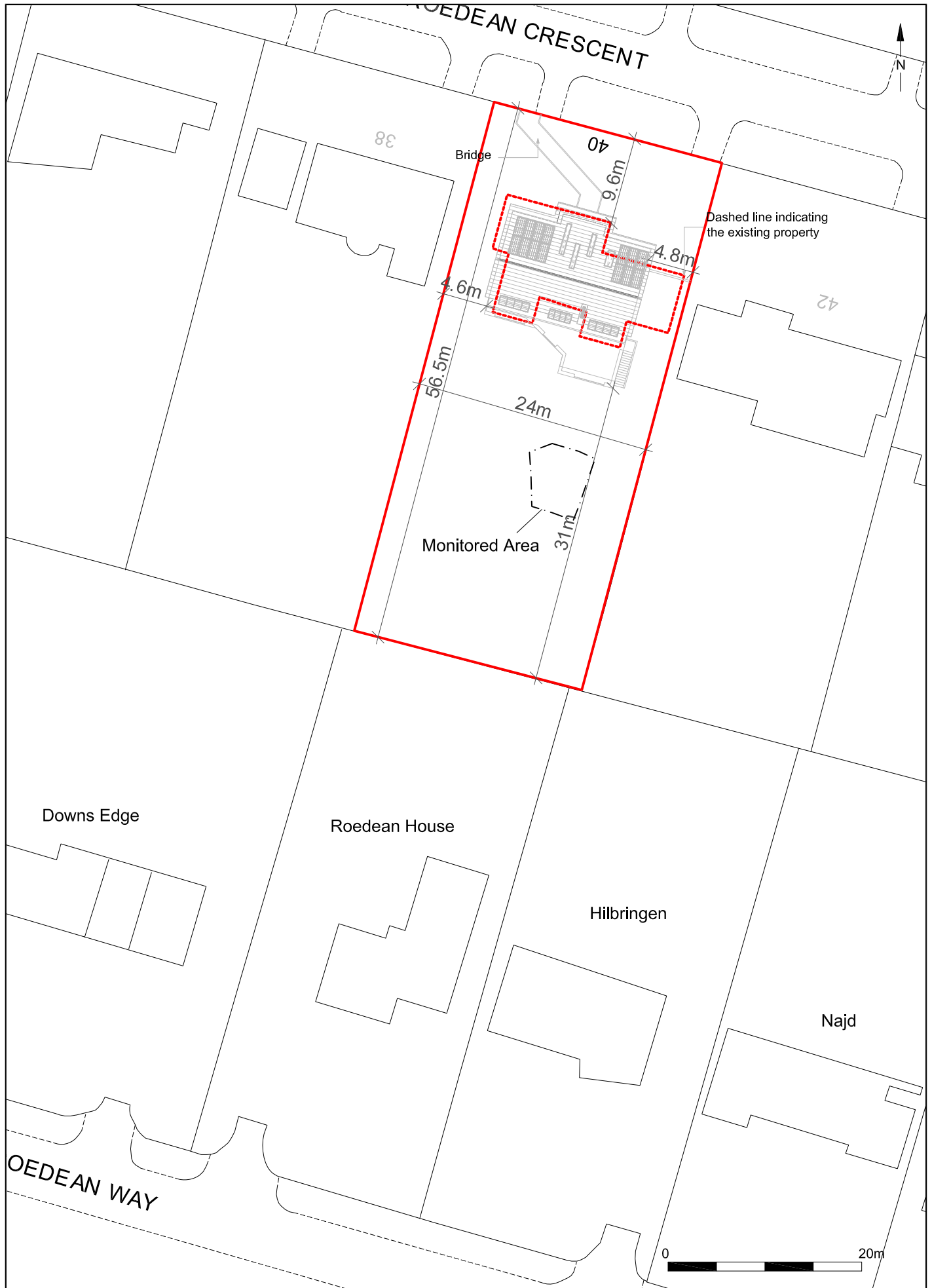
Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - No. 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2013159
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client Report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	2 July 2013



© Archaeology South-East		No. 40 Roedean Crescent, Brighton		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5575	July 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013159	Drawn by: RHC			



© Archaeology South-East		No. 40 Roedeau Crescent, Brighton		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5575	July 2013	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2013159	Drawn by: RHC			

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