

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
Bylanes Close, Cuckfield  
West Sussex**

**NGR: TQ 3065 2554**

**ASE Project No: 5823  
Site Code: BCC 12**

**ASE Report No: 2013164  
OASIS id: archaeol6 - 154216**

**Gary Webster  
With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Elke Raeman**

**July 2013**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
Bylanes Close, Cuckfield  
West Sussex**

**NGR: TQ 3065 2554**

**ASE Project No: 5823  
Site Code: BCC 12**

**ASE Report No: 2013164  
OASIS id: archaeol6 - 154216**

**Gary Webster  
With contributions by  
Luke Barber, Elke Raeman**

**July 2013**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the groundworks at Land to the north of Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex.*

*A post-medieval ditch was the only feature identified on site. The ditch represents a field boundary ditch and is situated where a field boundary, mostly comprised of trees, still exists. This boundary is to be retained by the new development. The watching brief has demonstrated that there is little to no potential for impact on the archaeological resource.*

## CONTENTS

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

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

### **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site location  
Figure 2: Monitored areas  
Figure 3: Section and photographs

### **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site archive  
Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **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, University College London was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of 42 dwellings, an access road and a children's play area on land to the north of Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex (NGR: TQ 3065 2554, Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site.'

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies just to the north of Bylanes close, which runs off of Ardingly Road. Cuckfield centre lays to the south. Whitemans Green lies to the west. Gore's Wood and Pratt's Wood lie to the north-east. The site consists of four separate fields, with some light scrub coverage.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey website the underlying geology consists of the Ardingly Sandstone Member to the north of the site, and Lower Grinstead Clay with mudstone.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning consent was given for the development in 2010 (Appeal Reference: APP/D3830/A/10/2132146) subject to archaeological conditions.

1.3.2 An archaeological Desk Based Assessment (CgMs 2011) was compiled and established that the site has generally low potential for archaeological remains of all periods. It was recommended that an archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site to mitigate against any archaeology that may be disturbed.

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was then prepared (ASE 2012).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general objective is to monitor all excavations associated with the development in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological Watching Brief which took place between 6<sup>th</sup> June 2013 to the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The monitoring was undertaken by Gary Webster (Archaeologist) and was managed by Andy Leonard and Jim Stevenson (Post Excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following information is taken from the WSI (*ibid.*) which summarised the archaeological information found in the DBA (CgMs 2011).
- 2.2 Generally the potential for prehistoric remains is considered to be low; from a 1km radius search of the site a solitary find comprising a leaf shaped arrowhead dating to the Neolithic period was found about 1km to the southwest of the site.
- 2.3 Some Roman pottery sherds were discovered 500m to the northwest of the site but no associated features were found and no other evidence from this period has been discovered within the vicinity of the site.
- 2.4 The first documentary evidence for Cuckfield comes from 1092 when a church in the possession of William de Warenne is recorded at 'Kukefeld'. The first archaeological evidence for the medieval period was discovered in 1998. A number of cut features of 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century date were excavated, indicating the presence of a small but active settlement.
- 2.5 Cuckfield continued to develop in size during the post-medieval period to the southwest of the site. However, the site itself is depicted as open agricultural land in William Gardner and Thomas Gream's map of 1795 and has remained as fields up to present day.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The monitored area measured a total of c. 120m by 6.5m, widening out to over 8m in areas, over part of the haul road through the site, which will later become the tarmacked access road to the estate. The areas monitored can be seen in Figure 2. Excavation was conducted by a tracked machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The area was stripped to the surface of the natural geology.
- 3.2 Sufficient time was given for the area to be thoroughly looked over by an archaeologist before the construction of the haul road began.
- 3.3 Groundwork was monitored until the Senior West Sussex County Council Archaeologist, John Mills, in consultation with CgMs, decided that it was no longer necessary.
- 3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the WSI.
- 3.5 ASE informed the Lewes Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be produced. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	6
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Photographs	28
Bulk finds	1 Bag

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Top Soil	Site	Site	0.25-0.45
02	Layer	Sub Soil	Site	Site	0.20
03	Layer	Natural	Site	Site	-
04	Cut	Ditch	>8	1.8	
05	Fill	Secondary Fill	-	1.8	0.30
06	Fill	Primary Fill	-	1.3	0.44

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

- 4.1 The natural geology [03], a moderately compact, mottled rust and grey coloured sand and sandstone was identified across the site. This was overlain by subsoil [02], a soft, pale yellowish grey slightly clayey silt, which was 0.2m thick. Topsoil [01] covered the entire site. It was a soft, mid greyish brown, very fine clayey silt and was 0.25 thick.
- 4.2 A single post-medieval ditch [04] crosses the site site on a NW-SE alignment, following an extant tree line field boundary. The ditch was still visible on the surface prior to stripping though it was very shallow.
- 4.3 The ditch was cut at a moderate angle through the natural and had a gradual break of slope at the bottom to a concave base. It was 1.8m wide and 0.74 in depth.
- 4.4 The primary fill [06] was moist, moderately compacted, dark bluish grey silt. It had small angular stone inclusions (2mm – 20mm), and was quite disturbed by bioturbation. It was 0.44m in depth and contained post-medieval pottery and CBM.
- 4.5 The upper fill of the ditch [05] was a soft, mid grey brown, slightly sandy silt. This also contained moderate small angular stones (2mm – 20mm). The interface between the top of the ditch and the subsoil was quite unclear. The location of the ditch can be seen on Figure 2.
- 4.6 No significant archaeology was identified.



## 5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of finds (table 3) was recovered from context [6]. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context. None of the finds require further conservation.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)
06	6	276	1	176	1	146

Table 3 quantification of the finds

## 5.2 The post-Roman pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Only six sherds of pottery were recovered from the site, all coming from context [6]. The sherds are of a good average size and do not show any notable signs of abrasion. As such the material does not appear to have been subjected to any notable reworking. The assemblage consists of two sherds (86g) from unglazed earthenware flower pots, a 92g fragment from a glazed red earthenware bowl base, a refined white earthenware sherd of unknown form (18g) and two bottle fragments in English stoneware (79g). These bottles include a light grey Bristol glazed example and a much smaller vessel, also with Bristol glaze, with a brown iron wash. This latter vessel is stamped '1 // DOULTON // LAMBETH' near its base. Taken together the group can be placed between c. 1860 and 1900.

## 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [6] contained a single 13mm thick peg tile fragment (175g). The tile is well formed and fired and is tempered with sparse/common sand with common iron oxide and marl pellets to 1mm. A mid 18<sup>th</sup>- to 19<sup>th</sup>- date range is likely.

## 5.4 The Ironwork by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 Context [6] also contained a tapering late post-medieval iron strip end that measured 153mm+ long by 31 to 35mm wide. It measures 3.5mm thick.

**6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 The singular finding of a post-medieval ditch confirms the low archaeological potential of the site identified in the DBA (CgMs 2011).
- 6.2 The ditch represents a field boundary ditch and is situated where a field boundary, mostly comprised of trees, still exists. This boundary is to be retained by the new development.
- 6.3 The watching brief has demonstrated that there is little to no potential for impact on the archaeological resource.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2012. *Archaeological Watching Brief. Land at Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex*. Unpublished.

British Geological Survey website accessed on 02/07/2013

CgMs 2011. *Archaeological Desk Based Assesment. Land at Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex*. Unpublished

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and Senior West Sussex County Council Archaeologist, John Mills, for his guidance and monitoring.

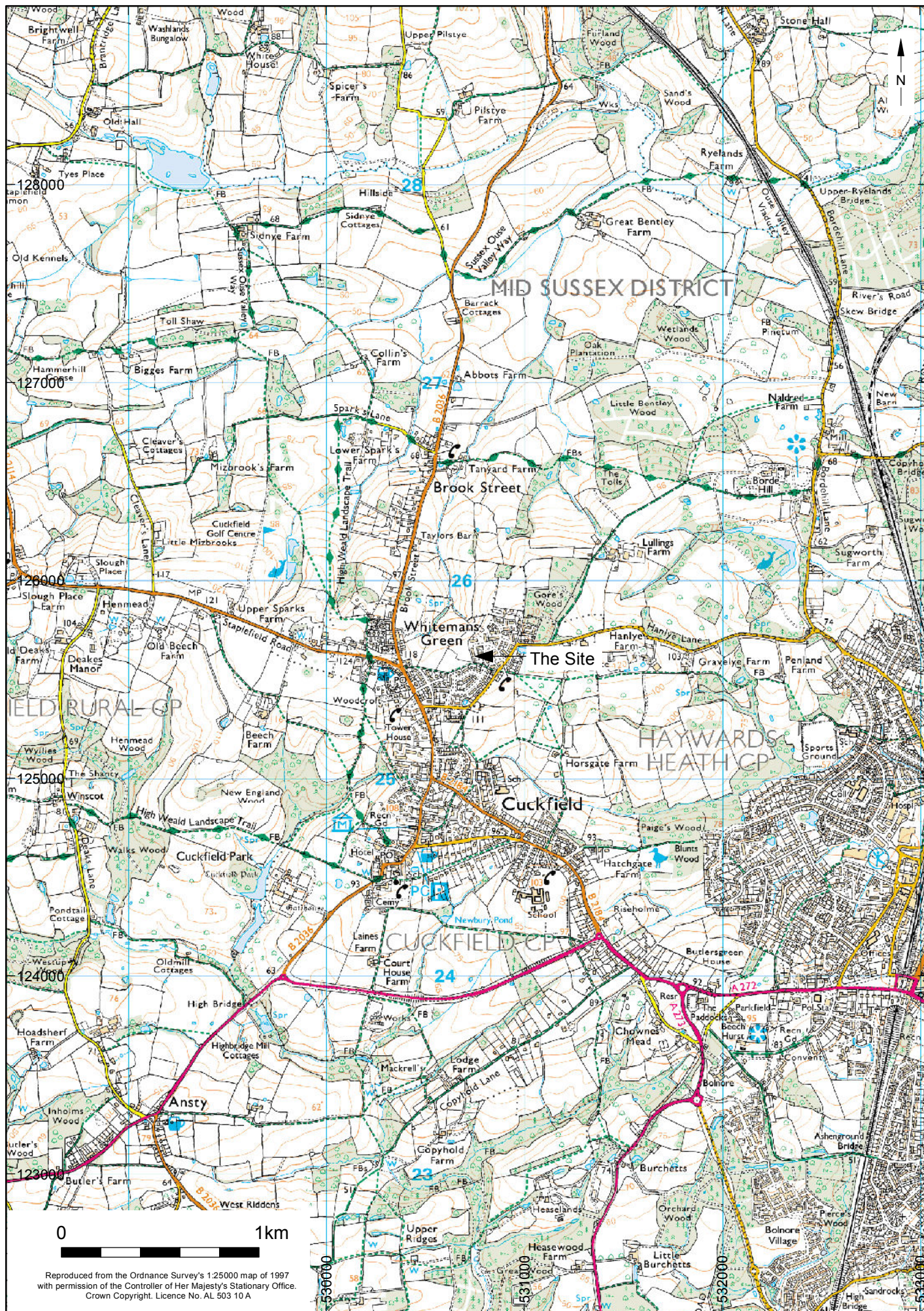
**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	BCC 12					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Cuckfield, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3065 2554					
Geology	Ardingly Sandstone Member					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2013164					
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. 6-11 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other Modern		
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the groundworks at Land to the north of Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex.</p> <p>A post-medieval ditch was the only feature identified on site. The ditch represents a field boundary ditch and is situated where a field boundary, mostly comprised of trees, still exists. This boundary is to be retained by the new development. The watching brief has demonstrated that there is little to no potential for impact on the archaeological resource.</p>						

## OASIS Form

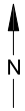
### OASIS id: archaeo16 - 154216

Project name	A Watching Brief at Bylanes Close, Cuckfield West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief of the groundworks at Land to the north of Bylanes Close, Cuckfield, West Sussex.  A post-medieval ditch was the only feature identified on site. The ditch represents a field boundary ditch and is situated where a field boundary, mostly comprised of trees, still exists. This boundary is to be retained by the new development. The watching brief has demonstrated that there is little to no potential for impact on the archaeological resource.
Project dates	Start: 06-06-2013 End: 11-06-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BCC 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX CUCKFIELD Bylanes Close, Cuckfield
Postcode	RH17
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 3065 2554 LL - 51.0138255734 -0.137281196305 (decimal) LL - 51 00 49 N 000 08 14 W (degrees) Point
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Gary Webster



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:25000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Bylanes Close, Cuckfield	
Project Ref: 5823	July 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013164	Drawn by: RHC	Fig. 1	



0 20m

- Area monitored 60/06/13
- Area monitored 07/06/13
- Area not monitored



© Archaeology South-East

Bylanes Close, Cuckfield

Project Ref: 5823

July 2013

Report Ref: 2013164

Drawn by: RHC

Monitored Areas

Fig. 2

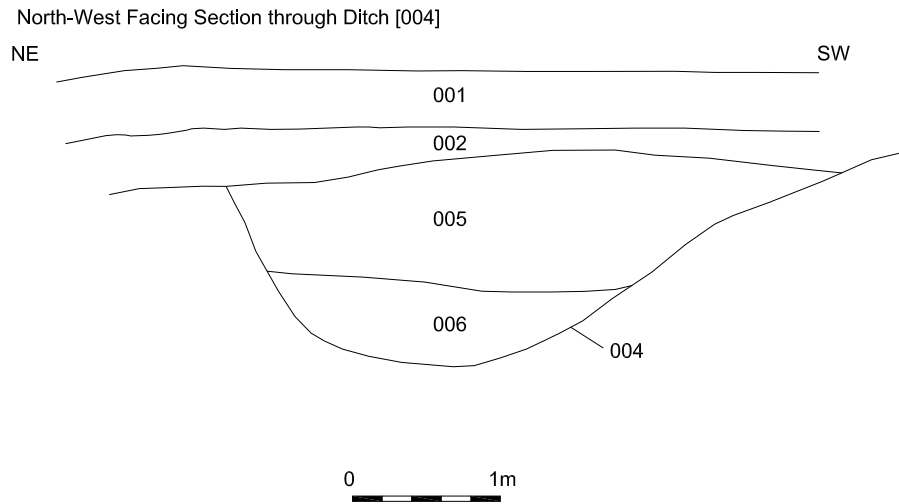


Fig. 3.1 Haul road looking North



Fig. 3.2 North-West facing section through ditch [004]



**Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
tel: +44(0)1273 426830  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**Essex Office**

The Old Magistrates Court  
79 South Street  
Braintree  
Essex CM7 3QD  
tel: +44(0)1376 331470  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**London Office**

Centre for Applied Archaeology  
UCL Institute of Archaeology  
31-34 Gordon Square  
London WC1H 0PY  
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

