Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report 50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven East Sussex

> NGR: 541997 101015 (TQ 41997 01015)

Planning Ref: LW/14/0199 (Lewes District Council)

ASE Project No: 6754 Site Code: PEA 14

ASE Report No: 2014296 OASIS ID: archaeol6-188837



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MIFA

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September 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Lid Construction Ltd. to carry out archaeological monitoring on groundworks for a residential development at 50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex.

No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Lid Construction Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at 50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 541997 101015; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site, formerly occupied by a bungalow and associated gardens, lies on the northern side of Arundel Road, almost opposite the junction with Southdown Avenue. It is bounded to the east and west by properties fronting onto Arundel Road, and to the north by properties in Westview Close.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is Tarrant Chalk Member Formation, with the Lambeth Group of clays, silts and sands immediately to the west. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2014).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Lewes District Council for the demolition of the existing structure at the site and for the erection of two new bungalows, (planning ref. LW/14/0199). Following consultation between Lewes District Council (LDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), it was noted that the site lies within an ESCC *Area of Archaeological Interest*, and hence that archaeological work should be carried out at the site in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework*.
- 1.2.2 Consequently, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for archaeological monitoring during groundworks at the site was produced by ASE (2014) to be included with the planning application. The WSI document outlined the methods to be used during an archaeological watching brief and was compiled with reference to the *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork* (ESCC 2008) issued by ESCC and with the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). All fieldwork undertaken during the monitoring works was carried out in accordance with the WSI.

1.3 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 In general, the aim of a watching brief given in the WSI (ASE 2014) was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 1.3.2 The watching brief also sought to assess the past impacts on the site and to pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 1.3.3 Specific research aims (*ibid*.) were aimed to address various questions raised during the extensive recent fieldwork in the vicinity:

'Are any worked flint assemblages recovered contemporary with previously recorded assemblages from the area? To what extent is their character similar or different and how does this inform understanding of the range of activities/functions taking place in this environ?

To what extent are the artefacts (principally flints) in the plough zone the result of plough damage to buried deposits and features and/or to what extent do they reflect past human activity for periods where no features remain?

How does the worked flint and prehistoric pottery (Neolithic/Early Bronze Age) relate to contemporary activity in the wider landscape? What is the character of associated features and to what extent do these compare or contrast with previously identified activity?

To what extent do any field ditches and identified form part of the wider Neolithic to Iron Age landscape as evidenced at the Keymer Avenue, Seaview Avenue, Arundel Road and Water Treatment Works sites? How do any associated artefact and environmental assemblages contribute to our understanding of the character of this activity in this period?

Can it be demonstrated that linear features identified on adjacent sites extend into the current site?

Is there any evidence for Late Iron Age/Roman activity? How does this compare to the relatively low-level evidence found more widely in the area?

To what extent do the results of the work inform understanding of the chronology and development of landscape use within the site and does this understanding enhance the known heritage assets in the wider area.'

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The current report provides the results of archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site carried out in July 2014. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies at the heart of a landscape that has been subject to intensive archaeological scrutiny in recent years. Excavations have been undertaken on land fronting Arundel Road and at Keymer Avenue to the west, Seaview Avenue to the east and at the water treatment works to the north.

2.2 Cartographic Sources

2.2.1 Historic map regression indicates that for most of its recorded history, the site has been used as sheepwalk. Much of it was occupied by Deans and Hoathdown (Hoddern) Farms. Modern mapping emphasises the lack of significant change within the landscape around the site over the last few centuries, but the later mapping suggests the site was developed from the mid-20th century.

2.3 Recent Archaeological Investigations

2.3.1 The archaeological context of the site has been considerably enhanced by recent extensive excavations carried out by ASE in advance of service utility developments to the north of the site which revealed a multi-period prehistoric landscape (ASE 2010b). Further extensive archaeological investigations undertaken by ASE in advance of residential development at Keymer Avenue (ASE 2008) and Arundel Road (ASE 2013a, 2013b 2013c, 2013d, in prep), to the west of the site and Seaview Avenue (ASE 2010a), to the north of the site, further illustrate the extensive nature of prehistoric land use in the Peacehaven area. The results of these individual sites are summarised below.

2.4 Investigations at Keymer and Seaview Avenues (SKP06 & SPV10)

- 2.4.1 Geophysical survey and evaluation work undertaken at Keymer Avenue and Seaview Avenue identified the presence of a variety of landscape features which were predominantly Iron Age in date. Subsequent excavations on land to the north of Keymer Avenue revealed a ditched enclosure system, with associated pits and postholes, dating to the Middle Iron Age. Substantial worked flint assemblages of Mesolithic and Neolithic date were also recovered, along with smaller quantities of Neolithic pottery and a scatter of associated features.
- 2.4.2 Residual Mesolithic and Early Neolithic struck flint recovered from the Seaview Avenue site suggests at least some activity of this date in the vicinity of this site. However, the earliest stratified activity appears to be of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date and comprised a large deep pit, containing a small assemblage of 'Beaker' pottery. There is an apparent hiatus in activity during much of the Middle Bronze age and it is not until towards the end of this period that activity recommences, with the deposition of a near-complete pottery vessel in the north-west corner of the site.

- 2.4.3 The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods are typified by an expansion in agricultural activity on the site, marked by the appearance of an east west aligned droveway. A probable hearth or fire pit in the northwest corner of the site can also be dated to this period and, together with pits more broadly dated to the later prehistoric period, may indicate activity peripheral to settlement during the period. No Middle Iron Age activity could be identified on the site and activity of Late Iron Age date is restricted to two large, amorphous features in the northwest corner of the site that represent areas of turbation or mixing of the underlying natural geology, perhaps as a result of trampling by livestock.
- 2.4.4 Other features dated broadly to the later prehistoric period include an additional droveway and Holloway or lynchet, both aligned along the axis of the dry valley and a group of pits and postholes and north south aligned ditch in the southeast of the site. These are accompanied by a range of undated features dispersed across the site that include field boundary ditches on a variety of alignments, as well as various pits, postholes and tree throws.

2.5 Peacehaven Wastewater Treatment Works site (BHT09)

2.5.1 Between July and December 2009 Archaeology South-East undertook large scale archaeological excavations at Lower Hoddern Farm in Peacehaven in advance of the construction of the new Brighton and Hove Wastewater Treatment Works. The work involved the excavation of some 30 hectares of chalk downland, making this one of the largest archaeological excavations ever undertaken in Sussex and revealing evidence of some 4000 years of occupation on the site. A chronological overview follows:

2.6 Early activity: The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age c.3700-1700 BC

2.6.1 A scatter of flint implements of Mesolithic date hints at some activity on or near the site over the period immediately following the end of the Ice Age in Britain, from c. 10,000 to 4,000 years BC. However, it is not until the Early Neolithic period, from about 3,700-3,300 BC that we see the earliest definite evidence for occupation on the site. This comprised a cluster of pits that contained one of the largest assemblages of Early Neolithic pottery to be recovered in Sussex in the last 30 years, as well as significant assemblages of flint tools and cereal processing equipment and even charred grain. Pits such as these are a common feature on Early Neolithic sites in Britain, although their exact meaning and significance is much debated The Later Neolithic period, from c. 3300-2500 BC is very poorly represented, with just a handful of small pits of this date scattered across the site and suggesting only limited activity during this period. Features of Early Bronze Age date, from c. 2500-1700 BC include a round barrow and several deep shaft-like pits of probable ritual or ceremonial function, as well as exciting new evidence for Early Bronze Age land division in Sussex.

2.7 A farmed landscape: The Middle and Late Bronze Age c. 1700-950 BC

- 2.7.1 The Middle Bronze Age period, from c. 1700-1150 BC was marked by the development of an extensive system of fields and drove roads across the site, interspersed with small settlements. The presence of drove roads indicates the seasonal movement of livestock around a carefully managed landscape but the presence of grinding stones and the charred remains of wheat, barley and beans recovered from storage pits associated with Middle Bronze Age settlement suggest a mixed farming economy. The best evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement on the site comes from a group of two or three roundhouses clustered around an enigmatic circular ditched monument of uncertain date and function. These roundhouses were generally guite humble affairs, consisting of a circle of timber roof support posts set within a hut platform some six or seven metres in diameter with a small south-east facing porch supported on two additional posts. Heating was by means of a small central hearth and several larger pits around the edge of the roundhouse would have been used for storing grain and other perishables.
- 2.7.2 By the beginning of the Late Bronze Age, at around 1150 BC, the small dispersed settlements of the preceding period had been abandoned and the available evidence points to a move towards a new settlement location in the south of the site. Evidence for buildings of this period is rare but includes the poorly preserved remains of at least one possible roundhouse, as well as a rectangular six-post structure that may represent a raised granary or similar feature. Other significant features of this period include a rubbish pit containing one of the largest groups of Late Bronze Age pottery found in Sussex so far.

2.8 Iron Age developments c. 950BC-AD 50

2.8.1 The Early Iron Age on the site is very much a continuation of the Late Bronze Age, with continued settlement in the south of the site and little evidence of activity elsewhere. By the beginning of the Middle Iron Age, around 300 BC, this small settlement had developed into an extensive complex of enclosures. Again, evidence for buildings during this period is rare but includes at least one and possibly two round houses. The Late Iron Age, c. 100 BC-AD50 saw further development of this enclosure system, as well as the creation of several new drove roads and field boundary ditches that indicates an intensification in farming during the period.

2.9 The end of prehistory: The Early Roman period c. AD50-100.

2.9.1 The available evidence suggests a great deal of continuity between the Iron Age and Early Roman period on the site. Those elements of the enclosure system still in use during the Late Iron age appear to remain in use during the early years of the Roman occupation, although there is very little evidence for occupation on the site after c. AD100. Significant features of Early Roman date include a small group of cremation burials in pottery vessels.

2.10 The post-Roman period

2.10.1 There is almost no evidence of activity on the site after the first century AD. The medieval period, c. AD410-1540 is represented by a single sherd of pottery, and just a handful of ditches were dated to the post-medieval period, from c. 1540 onwards.

2.11.1 Land North of Arundel Road (ARN 13)

- 2.11.1 A recent geotechnical and environmental site investigation of the site indicated the presence of c. 400mm of made ground below topsoil at the south-east corner of the site and c. 800mm of made ground below topsoil at the south-west corner (Southern Testing 2013).
- 2.11.2 A recent magnetometer survey at the site identified quantities of modern disturbance and failed to detect any potential buried archaeology. As a result the evaluation trenches were not targeted on any geophysical anomalies but were spread as evenly across the site as possible.
- 2.11.3 Six 30m a 1.8m wide trenches recorded undisturbed subsoil was recorded across the site and this yielded a good quantity of worked flint and 1 sherd of prehistoric pottery (ASE 2013d). A finely made Neolithic polished axe was also recovered. Some prehistoric pottery dating to the Late Neolithic/early Bronze Age or Late Iron Age/Roman and Middle/Late Iron Age period was also recovered from within two pits. The flintwork and pottery is consistent with that across the Peacehaven area. Several probable field boundary ditches of likely prehistoric date were also encountered across the site. The alignment of some of these ditches suggests they may form part of small scale Middle Iron Age field systems identified to the east and west of the site during previous excavations.
- 2.11.4 Subsequent excavation of the majority of this site identified a spread of Middle Neolithic pits, a ?Middle Bronze Age field system, Middle Iron Age pits associated with a group of contemporary droveways, and limited evidence of early Romano-British activity. Analysis of the finds and environmental material is oning (ASE in prep)

2.12 Designated Sites

2.12.1 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA 776) defining an area of prehistoric and Romano-British settlement and activity. Mesolithic activity in particular has been found to be focussed on sands and silts of the Lambeth Group (formerly known as the Woolwich and Reading Beds).

2.13 Historic Environment Record

2.13.1 A 500m radius search of the ESCC HER was obtained under reference 119/14. This number will be referenced within any report submitted to the Archaeology Section of East Sussex County Council in due course. A total of 21 events, 31 records and 4 ANAs are identified. These are summarised in Appendix 1 and locations are plotted on Figure 1.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the redevelopment work, specifically the mechanical and manual excavation of strip footings which were a maximum of 650mm wide and 1.1m deep.
- 3.2 All excavations were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and by use of a metal detector.
- 3.3 All deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area was kept and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.4 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be offered to Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	8 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

Context	Туре	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Deposit Thickness mm
001	Layer	Overburden	Trench	Trench	450mm
002	Layer	'Natural'	Trench	Trench	-

Table 2: list of recorded contexts

- 4.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward and consisted of an overburden made up of a mixture of demolition rubble and mid-orangey brown topsoil, context [001], which directly overlay the 'natural' brownish orange clayey sand, context [002]. The 'natural' was similar to that encountered further to the west in Arundel Road (e.g. ASE in prep.) which suggests the Lambeth Group of clays, silts and sands extends further to the east than recorded by the British Geological Survey.
- 4.2 There was heavy rooting in the northern part of the site, and some disturbance from previous footings (and their removal) in the southern part. Given this truncation it was agreed with Greg Chuter, ESCC that monitoring of the new footings closest to the street frontage was unnecessary.
- 4.3 No archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden during the limited groundworks at the site.
- 5.2 Given the absence of archaeological deposits, it proved impossible to address the research aims. Despite the site's location within a landscape rich in a variety of archaeological remains, the monitoring of the groundworks at the site does not add to the evolving understanding of Peacehaven's past.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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No. on Fig 1	HER ref.	Description	Easting (TQ)	Northing (TQ)
1	DES9069	4210	0063	
2	DES8557	Archaeological Notification Area (ANA 153) defining Mesolithic and Neolithic sites	4190	0202
3	DES9181	Archaeological Notification Area (ANA 777) defining Neolithic and Roman sites	4253	0070
4	DES9180	Archaeological Notification Area (ANA 776) defining prehistoric settlement	4183	0118
5	EES14323	Archaeological evaluation on two parcels of land to the north-east of Keymer Avenue and to the west of Seaview Avenue (see Section 2.4 above)	42091	01033
6	EES14369	Magnetometer survey at Peacehaven & Telescombe Football Club indicate the possible presence of a number of archaeological features, including two pairs of linear anomalies, a possible ring ditch and a cluster of pits/ postholes	41962	01253
7	EES14393	Magnetometer survey on land adjacent to Seaview Avenue revealed a number of anomalies likely to be of archaeological origin.	42205	01128
8	EES14399	22 trial trenches on land at Lower Hoddern Farm revealed several pits and a double ditched enclosure. Pottery recovered from the features dated the enclosure to the Late Bronze Age to Middle Iron Age.	42144	01496
9	EES14593	Full excavation in advance of the construction of a waste water treatment works (Section see 2.5 above)	4195	0157
10	EES14917	Full excavation in advance of housing development at Keymer Avenue (see Section 2.4 above)	4174	0120
11	EES14919	Investigations in advance of housing development at Keymer Avenue (see Section 2.4 above)	4204	0105
12	EES14920	Investigations in advance of housing development at Seaview Avenue (see Section 2.4 above)	4217	0114
13	EES14921	Archaeological evaluation at Seaview Avenue identified Late Bronze Age/Early Iron and undated features	4221	0114
14	EES15077	Desk-based assessment of Former Seaview Avenue Garage identified site as having a high potential for containing significant prehistoric and later archaeological deposits	4219	0101
15	EES15493	Desk-based assessment of land off Arundel Road identified the site as having a high potential for containing archaeological deposits relating to prehistoric and Romano-British occupation	4188	0107
16	EES15531	Desk-based assessment of land at Farrington Farm	4163	0127
17	EES15574	A watching brief carried out at 1 Piddinghoe Close found no features or finds which could be related to the adjacent Iron Age settlement	4183	0112

Appendix 1: HER data, shown on Figure 1

No. on Fig 1	HER ref.	Description	Easting (TQ)	Northing (TQ)
18	EES15622	Geophysics and trial trench evaluation (no further details)	4187	0106
19	EES15730	Trial trench evaluation (no further details)	4219	0101
20	EES15772	Extensive Urban Survey - Peacehaven	4127	0158
21	EES14713	An archaeological watching brief maintained at 12 Arundel Avenue found no archaeological features or finds	4229	0089
22	EES14322	Archaeological evaluation at Keymer Avenue identified Bronze Age/Early Iron and undated features	41747	01205
23	EES15194	An evaluation at Piddinghoe Sports Park identified a possible cremation burial and post- hole in addition to artefacts dating from the late Bronze Age and Iron Age	4198	0120
24	EES14468	A watching brief at 57 South Coast Road revealed nothing of archaeological significance	42125	00671
25	EES14747	An archaeological evaluation on land at Seaview Avenue (see section 2.4 above)	42200	01070
26	MES1833	Romano-British occupation site at Peacehaven Heights	425	007
27	MES1849	A probable bowl barrow severely mutilated during the construction of Friars Avenue	4211	0063
28	MES7168	Middle Iron Age enclosed settlement	4182	0127
29	MES7366	Early Iron Age settlement	41720	01210
30	MES15520	7 sherds of Roman East Sussex Ware pottery apparently recovered in 1980 during the construction of the playing fields	4198	0111
31	MES18929	Early Bronze Age double ditched linear droveway recorded during excavation	4210	0156
32	MES18933	Two Early Bronze Age pits recorded during excavation	4158	0141
33	MES18934	Early bronze Age ring ditch / barrow recorded during excavation	4154	0141
34	MES18937	Middle Bronze Age settlement / activity area recorded during excavation	4204	0141
35	MES18939	Middle Bronze Age settlement / activity area recorded during excavation	4216	0123
36	MES18942	Late Bronze Age settlement recorded during excavation	4171	0133
37	MES18945	Long linear early Iron Age ditch partially backfilled with burnt flint recorded during excavation	4169	0138
38	MES18987	Substantial assemblage of worked flint of Mesolithic date as well as in-situ area of flint napping	4176	0112
39	MES18989	Substantial assemblage of worked flint of Neolithic date as well as pottery and related pits and gullies	4177	0114
40	MES18990	Series of late Iron Age features recorded during excavation	4170	0120
41	MES18991	Single Roman pit recorded during excavation	4173	0117
42	MES18994	Series of Neolithic pits recorded during excavation	4205	0105
43	MES18995	Small assemblage of Mesolithic - Neolithic flint and Neolithic pottery recovered during excavation	4217	0111
44	MES18997	Late Neolithic / Early bronze Age quarry pit recorded during excavation	4219	0118

No. on Fig 1	HER ref.	Description	Easting (TQ)	Northing (TQ)
45	MES18999	Series of middle / late Bronze Age - early Iron Age features including placed vessel and droveway recorded during excavation	4212	0117
46	MES19002	Series of late Iron Age features recorded during excavation	4209	0119
47	MES19004	Series of undated but probably prehistoric features recorded during excavation	4220	0113
48	MES21139	A possible cremation burial and post hole were discovered during an evaluation accompanied by Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery	4207	0122
49	MES21140	A small assemblage of late Bronze Age to Iron Age Pottery was found on this site.	4199	0123
50	MES21850	Post medieval features including three field boundaries, large quarry pit and a series of pits to the south east of the site	4200	0138
51	MES21851	Large concentration of undated features including pits and a probable roundhouse discovered on an area excavation to the south west of the site	4159	0142
52	MES21854	Undated features which represent a building discovered during an area excavation	4212	0125
53	MES23556	Pits and ditches identified by evaluation excavation. Part of settlement site to the north west and north east	4187	0106
54	MES23686	Large probably in-situ worked flint deposit partially excavated	4248	0079
55	MES23768	Large concentration Mesolithic / Neolithic flint tools found, including scrapers, cores and secondary debitage	4174	0113
56	MES23769	Small concentration Mesolithic / Neolithic flint tools found	4161	0119

HER Summary

Site Code	PEA 14						
Identification Name and Address	50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven						
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes Dis	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	561850 10	561850 105490					
Geology	Lambeth C	Group					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6754	6754					
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. 22.07.2014	Other			
Sponsor/Client	Lid Develo	pments Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin	l					
Project Supervisor	Simon Ste	vens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB	
	AS	MED	PM	Other <i>None</i>			
Summary							

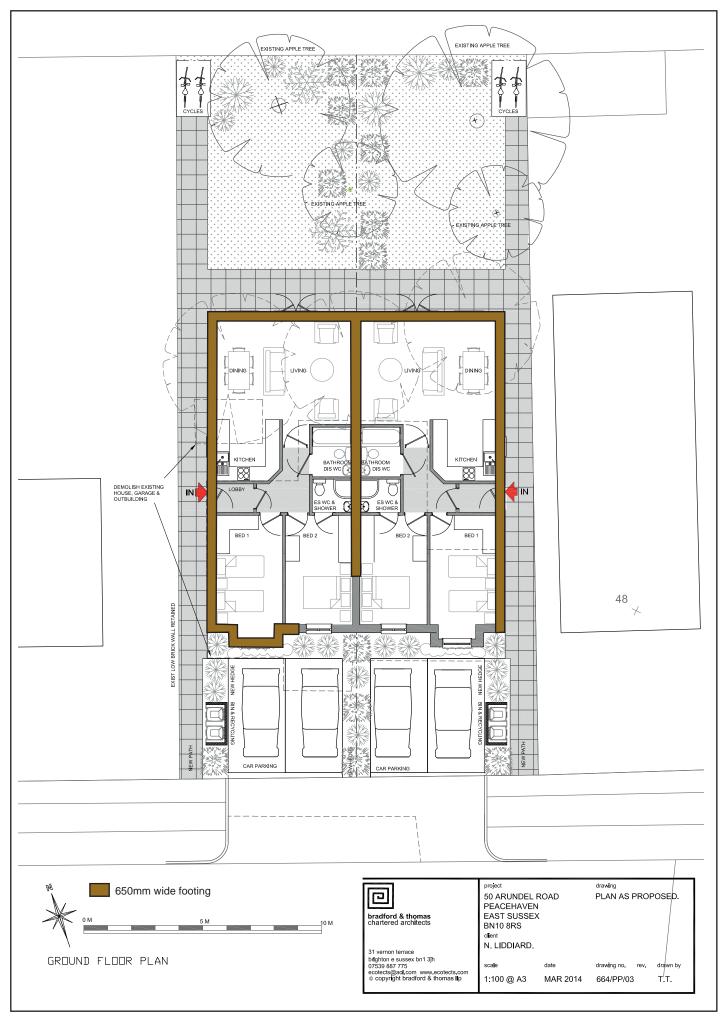
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Archaeology South-East WB: 50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven ASE Report No: 2014296

OASIS Form

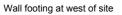




© Archaeology South-East		50 Arundel Road, Peacehaven		
Project Ref: 6754 S	September 2014	Detailed plan of proposed development	Fig. 2	
Report Ref: 2014296	Drawn by: RHC	Detailed plan of proposed development		









The site prior to construction work looking south







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Project Ref: 6754	September 2014	Selected site photographs	
Report Ref: 2014296	Drawn by: RHC		

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