

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill,
East Sussex**

**NGR 532512 120658
(TQ 32512 20658)**



Simon Stevens BA MIFA

March 2015

**Archaeology South-East
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Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill,
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**NGR 532512 120658
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Planning Reference: LW/14/0320

**Project No: 6933
Site Code: TRB 14**

**ASE Report No. 2015020
OASIS ID: archaeol6-200967**

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex (NGR 532512 120658).

No archaeological deposits 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), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by Dwell Architecture and Design Limited on behalf of their clients Mr & Mrs Valentin to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a rear extension to Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex (NGR 532512 120658) (Figure. 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies to the north of Theobalds Road, to the north-east of the commercial centre of Burgess Hill, to the north of Wivelsfield railway station. Theobalds Road crosses the border between East and West Sussex a short distance to the west of the site, which is surrounded on all sides by residential development.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock at the site consists of the Weald Clay Formation, with outcrops of Horsham Stone immediately to the north and south. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2013).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a two storey rear extension to the existing dwelling on the site (Planning Ref. LW/14/0320; Figure 2). Owing to the archaeological potential of the site, and following consultation between Lewes District Council and West Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a programme of archaeological works is required as a condition of planning consent. Conditions 4 and 5 of the decision notice therefore state that:

4. No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework

5. The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment (including provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition) has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [4] to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority, in consultation with the County Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework

- 1.3.2 Under the terms of the consent, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was prepared by ASE and duly approved by East Sussex County Council before the commencement of the work. It outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results (ASE 2015).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work given in the WSI (*ibid.*) was to:

'record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development'

- 1.4.2 Specific research aims of the archaeological watching brief were defined as follows (*ibid.*):

'Is there any evidence for Iron Age and Roman activity on the site? If so, how does this relate to the settlement evidence recorded to the south of Theobalds Road?'

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks at the site in January 2015. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason and Diccon Hart (Project Managers) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The site lies in an *Archaeological Notification Area* owing to evidence of Late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval activity centred on Theobalds Farm to the south-east of the site. The following details are taken from the WSI (*ibid.*).

2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.2.1 No Palaeolithic or Mesolithic material is recorded within a 1km radius of the site, although in the wider vicinity a single Upper Palaeolithic burin and a small assemblage of Mesolithic worked flint was recovered during an archaeological excavation to the west of Burgess Hill at Eastlands Farm (Sawyer 1999), some 3.5km to the southwest of the site.

2.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

2.3.1 Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age activity has also been recorded on the western outskirts of Burgess Hill, and includes a number of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age tree throws recorded at Maltings Farm (Butler 1998) and findspots of Neolithic and Bronze Age axes at St. Johns Common.

2.4 Iron Age and Romano-British

2.4.1 Theobalds Road itself is thought to follow the line of a prehistoric ridgeway route, which may have continued in use during the Romano-British period linking the London to Brighton Roman road with either the Greensand Way or the London to Ouse Valley road. Excavations immediately to the south of Theobalds Road, almost opposite the site itself, have revealed extensive evidence for Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement, including buildings, kilns, enclosures and a field system (ASE 2008).

2.4.2 The London to Brighton Roman Road runs c. 1km to the west of the site and evidence for this road has been identified at Church Road, some 1km to the southwest. Elsewhere in the vicinity, Roman activity is recorded at Eastlands Farm to the west of Burgess Hill, where excavations revealed a corn drying kiln, six hearths and two ditches (Sawyer 1999), while finds of Roman material are recorded at Wivelsfield Church to the east of the site and Roman pottery has been recorded c.1km to the north of the site.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.5.1 The prehistoric and Roman ridgeway route discussed above appears to survive into the early medieval period, when it is referred to as the '*long ridge*'. No early medieval remains are recorded within a 1km radius of the site, although there are records of finds of Anglo-Saxon artefacts further afield, at Maltings Farm and Eastlands Farm, both c.3.5km to the south-west of the site.

2.5.2 The medieval moated manorial complex of Theobalds is situated just to the south-east of the site, on the south side of Theobalds Road. Antye Farm, also to the south-east of the site, is also considered to have Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Norman origins. To the south of the site, medieval features of 13th -14th century date have also been recorded during recent excavations (ASE 2008). These features almost certainly relate to activity focused on the medieval ridgeway route and associated with the moated settlement of Theobalds Farm, immediately to the west.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 No finds of post-medieval date are recorded within a 1km radius of the site and the cartographic evidence indicates that the vicinity of the site comprised open farmland during the 18th and 19th centuries

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical and limited manual excavation of footings were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for 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.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to Burgess Hill Museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	3
No. Of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	-
Bulk Samples	-
Digital Photographs	19

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks to the rear of the property. The work consisted of the excavation of footings trenches for the extension, which were a maximum of 0.60m wide and 1.30m deep. Mechanical excavation carried out using a Kubota KX 61-3 excavator was monitored, as well as a limited amount of manual excavation.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Garden Soil	310mm
002	Layer	'Natural'	-
003	Layer	Concrete	190mm

Table 2: Recorded Contexts

- 4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. Close to the house the concrete remnants of a former patio were encountered (context [003], but for the most part the trenches were excavated through a mid-brown silty clay topsoil (context [001], which directly overlay the brownish orange silty clay 'natural' Weald Clay.
- 4.2.2 The comparative shallowness of the overburden and the absence of a sub-soil layer strongly suggest that the area affected by the groundworks had been stripped down to the top of the 'natural' at some stage, and that material had been imported to form the former lawned garden.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring of the mechanical and manual excavation at the site showed that no archaeological deposits were disturbed during the groundworks for the foundations of the extension.

- 5.2 Given the paucity of archaeological deposits, it proved impossible to address the site specific research questions, and the northern extent of the archaeological site identified to the south of Theobalds Road remains unclear.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	TRB 14					
Identification Name and Address	Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	532512 120658					
Geology	Wealden Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6933					
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. 14.01.2015 – 19.01.2015	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Dwell Architecture and Design Limited on behalf of Mr & Mrs Valentin					
Project Managers	Paul Mason/Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other <i>NONE</i>		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex (NGR 532512 120658).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-200967

Project details

Project name	Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks for an extension to the rear of Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road, Burgess Hill, East Sussex (NGR 532512 120658). No archaeological deposits were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.
Project dates	Start: 14-01-2015 End: 19-01-2015
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6933 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	TRB 14 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/14/0320 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
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 LEWES WIVELSFIELD Orchard Lodge, Theobalds Road
Postcode	RH15 0SS
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 32512 20658 50.9695173425 -0.112530719567 50 58 10 N 000 06 45 W Point

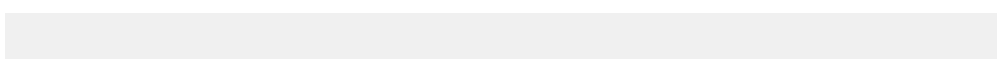
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Dwell Architecture and Design Limited on behlf of Mr & Mrs Valentin

Project archives

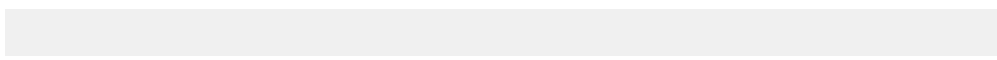
Physical Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Physical Contents	"other"

Digital Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Burgess Hill Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Notebook - Excavation","Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

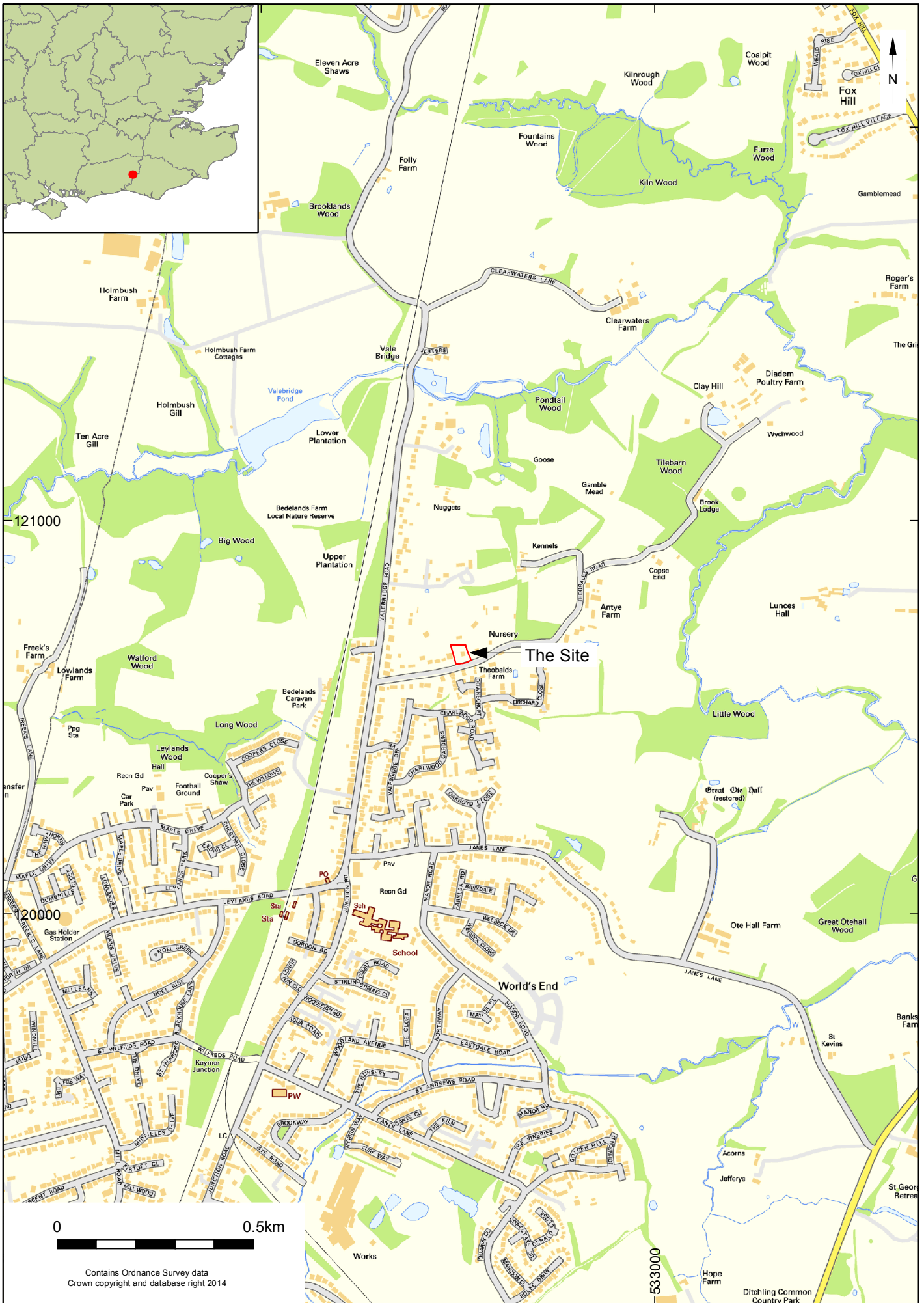


Project bibliography 1

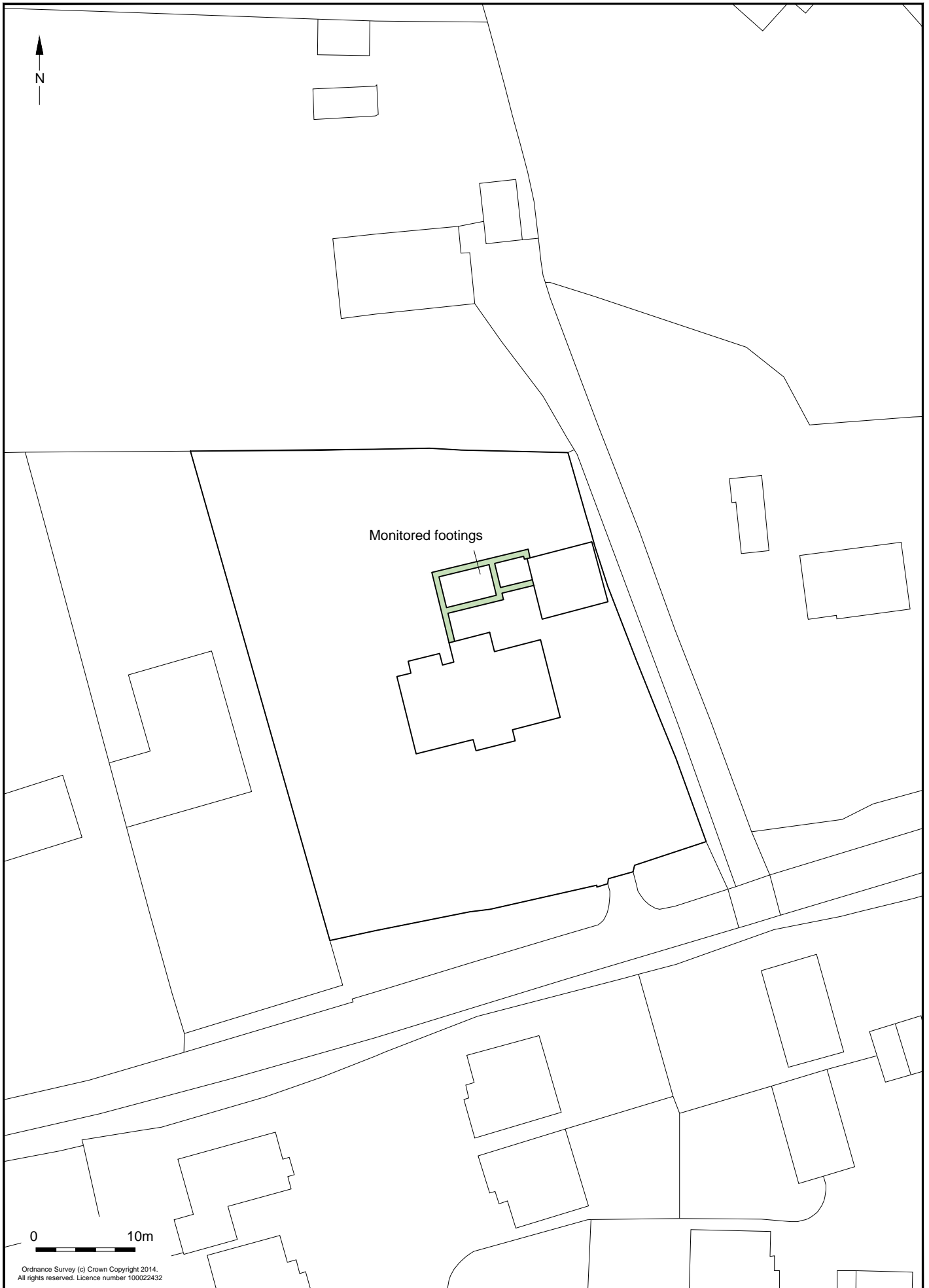
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© Archaeology South-East		Orchard Lodge, Theobolds Road, Burgess Hill	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6933	March 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015020	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Orchard Lodge, Theobolds Road, Burgess Hill	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6933	March 2015	Site plan showing proposed development	
Report Ref: 2015020	Drawn by: JLR		

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