

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven,  
East Sussex BN10 8NT**

**NGR: 541162 100934  
(TQ 41162 00934)**

**Planning Ref: LW/14/0048**

**ASE Project No: 6679  
Site Code: SOC15**

**ASE Report No: 2015022  
OASIS id: archaeol6-202756**



**Suzanne Westall MA MSc ACIfA  
Illustrations by Nathalie Gonzalez**

**January 2015**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven,  
East Sussex BN10 8NT**

**NGR: 541162 100934  
(TQ 41162 00934)**

**Planning Ref: LW/14/0048**

**ASE Project No: 6679  
Site Code: SOC15**

**ASE Report No: 2015022  
OASIS id: archaeol6-202756**

**Suzanne Westall MA MSc ACIfA  
Illustrations by Nathalie Gonzalez and Rob Cole**

**January 2015**

**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**

*In January 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lid Developments Ltd. at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The evaluation consisted of two trenches: one 10m by 1.8m and the other 5m by 1.8m in size, set within the garden of a former bungalow. The site fell partially within an Archaeological Notification Area relating to Mesolithic flint finds from Peacehaven, but no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.*

## **CONTENTS**

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

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

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

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location  
Figure 2: Trench Location  
Figure 3: Trenches 1 and 2, plan and photographs

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site archive  
Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts  
Table 3: Trench 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 (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Lid Developments Ltd to carry out an archaeological evaluation at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (NGR 541162 100934) (Figure 1) in January 2015.

1.1.2 The site is roughly rectangular in shape and 375m<sup>2</sup> in size. It is bounded to the north by the South Coast Road, to the east by a car park, to the south by residential property, and to the west by the end of Bramber Avenue. A spot height on the South Coast Road just to the north of the site is recorded as 35.9m AOD.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online, the natural geology of the site comprises Upper Chalk. No superficial deposits are recorded for the area.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted by Lewes District Council for demolition of the bungalow that stood on this site (this had been carried out prior to the evaluation work taking place) and the erection of five two-bedroom flats with associated parking and a communal garden area (planning reference LW/14/0048). ASE produced a heritage statement in support of the application (ASE 2014, see below). As the site lies partially within an Archaeological Notification Area designated after the recovery of a Mesolithic worked flint assemblage in 2008, planning consent was granted subject to the following archaeological conditions:

*6. 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.*

*7. 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 [6] 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 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) requested that a Stage 1 trial trenching exercise be undertaken to establish whether or not significant archaeological remains were present on the site. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by ASE (2015) and approved before the commencement of work on site.

#### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report covers the evaluation work carried out by ASE on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015, during which two trial trenches were opened in what had been the garden of the bungalow, between that building (now demolished) and the South Coast Road. The work was carried out by Suzie Westall with assistance from Lauren Figg. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Heritage Statement produced by ASE (2014) provides a comprehensive account of the known archaeological potential and historic development of the site and its environs (a 1km radius around the site, hereafter referred to as the 'study area'). Relevant elements are reproduced below with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) encompassing an assemblage of Mesolithic flintwork found in Dorothy Avenue in 2008. Three other ANAs are located within the boundaries of the study area.
- 2.3 The earliest human cultural material known from the Peacehaven area is of Palaeolithic date but this is rare. Mesolithic activity is attested by a number of assemblages of flintwork to the north of the study area. A number of Neolithic sites are also known, including causewayed enclosures at Whitehawk and Offham, long barrows, and numerous finds of stone axes. Closer to the site, significant quantities of residual Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork were recovered at 200–204 South Coast Road, Peacehaven (ASE 2011), along with evidence of Late Iron Age to Early Roman activity. Other recent excavations within 1km of the site have revealed settlement and field systems of Middle to Later Bronze Age and Iron Age date.
- 2.4 Evidence suggests that many downland farming settlements originating in the Bronze and Iron Ages continued to be occupied through the Roman period. A Romano-British settlement site is known from the eastern end of Peacehaven, lying to the north of the coast road.
- 2.5 It is likely that the area around the site was used as a mixture of open field arable and common pasture during the Saxon period, and that it continued to be used as such throughout the medieval period.
- 2.6 The Peacehaven area began to be developed for residential use from the 1890s onwards. In 1915, Charles Neville bought up much of the surrounding land to establish a new resort. Building began in earnest in 1920, and by 1927 Peacehaven had become a thriving town (Bernard 2007). During the First World War, the area to the west of the site was used as a military airfield.
- 2.7 According to historic mapping, the site itself was open downland until sometime between 1955 and 1960 when the residence just demolished was erected. An extension was added to the building after 1971. Maps from the 19<sup>th</sup> century show a large gravel pit immediately to the east of the site in the area now occupied by the car park.
- 2.8 The Heritage Statement (ASE 2014) concluded that the site had moderate potential for containing localised archaeological deposits. It was considered that deposits might survive relatively undisturbed beneath the garden areas of the site, with greater levels of truncation expected beneath the former buildings.

## **2.3 Project Aims and Objectives**

2.3.1 The general aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- Ascertain whether archaeological remains were present on the site and, if present, to assess the date, survival and condition of said remains.
- Assess how any identified remains might be affected by the proposed development works
- Enable an informed decision to be made regarding the need for mitigation

2.3.2 The specific aims of the archaeological investigation were to:

- Establish whether later prehistoric archaeological remains exist on the site as elsewhere in Peacehaven
- Confirm whether the Mesolithic flint work recorded in Dorothy Avenue in 2008 extends into the site.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015) as well as the ESCC standards for fieldwork (ESCC 2008). However, due to the location of a number of drains and a possible septic tank, the position of the trenches had to be adjusted from that proposed in the WSI specifications. This adjustment was slight however, moving Trench 1 approx. 1m to the north, and placing Trench 2 so that the two trenches formed a 'T' shape rather than an 'L'. The length of each trench remained as proposed, with Trench 1 measuring 10m long and Trench 2 extending for 3m on the north side of Trench 1 and 2m to the south (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 Topsoil was removed and the underlying subsoil reduced in spits of approx. 0.05m-0.1m thick. This work was carried out with a small (7 tonne) tracked machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Once open, the trenches were inspected for archaeological features and artefacts. Spoil from the trenches was also inspected for artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. All features were planned using DGPS survey equipment, and sections were drawn by hand at a scale of 1:10. Drawings were on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 ASE informed Lewes Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated and the site archive will be held at the offices of ASE until space becomes available at Lewes. Lewes Museum does not issue archive accession numbers. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	8
No. of files/paper record	10
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	27
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

- 3.2.3 A county-wide policy of selection and retention of archaeological finds is currently under review by the Sussex Archaeological Museum Group working party. Once the policy is agreed and in place, it will be implemented by Archaeology South East. The finds archive will be revised in accordance with this policy in the event that it is implemented before deposition of the archive occurs.

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was opened parallel to the South Coast Road (i.e. in an east-west direction) and was 10m long. A sondage was excavated at its western end to test the depth of the geological deposits and ascertain the level to which excavation needed to be carried out.
- 4.1.2 The deposits identified are listed in Table 2 (below). Chalk bedrock [1/004] was identified at a depth of approximately 1m below the current ground surface and this was covered by 0.35m of naturally deposited orange-brown sandy, silty clay [1/003]. Above this was 0.35m-0.4m of mid-brown silty loam subsoil [1/002], beneath a layer of garden topsoil 0.22m deep [1/001].
- 4.1.3 A modern footing cut the topsoil and subsoil at the western end of the trench, and a modern septic tank or drainage feature set in concrete was present at the very east end of the trench. This cut the subsoil but was sealed by the garden topsoil.
- 4.1.4 Nothing of archaeological interest was observed and no artefacts were collected.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
1/001	Garden topsoil	Garden soil with modern disturbance	>10m	>1.8m	0.22m
1/002	Subsoil	Mid-brown silty loam subsoil	>10m	>1.8m	0.35m-0.4m
1/003	Natural deposit	Orange-brown sandy, silty clay	>10m	>1.8m	0.35m
1/004	Natural deposit	Chalk (bedrock)	>1.8	>1.6	

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

### 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was oriented north-south at the eastern end of Trench 1. The trenches formed a T-shape with Trench 2 extending for 3.2m to the north of Trench 1 and 2m to its south (Figure 2).
- 4.2.2 The deposits identified in Trench 2 (Table 3) were the same as those in Trench 1, with an additional layer of modern rubble and topsoil [2/001] 0.14m-0.25m thick overlying the garden soil [2/002] at the north end of the trench.
- 4.2.3 Excavation stopped at the level of the natural orange-brown sandy, silty clay [2/004].

4.2.4 Nothing of archaeological interest was observed and no artefacts were collected. No environmental samples were taken from either trench.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
2/001	Topsoil	Modern rubble and topsoil deposit	>1.8m	approx. 1.5m	0.14m-0.25m
2/002	Garden soil	Dark brown and crumbly, fine garden topsoil. Same as [1/001]	>7m	>1.8m	0.09m-0.23m
2/003	Subsoil	Mid-brown loam subsoil. Same as [1/002]	>7m	>1.8m	0.27m-0.35m
2/004	Natural deposit	Orange-brown, sandy, silty clay. Same as [1/003].	>7m	>1.8m	>0.05m

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

5.1.1 The trial trenches covered approximately 7.5% of the total plot. The trenches were confined to the north end of the plot because this was outside the area previously built on and was thought to offer the best chance of finding undisturbed remains. A footing exposed in the south-west corner of Trench 1 would suggest that this supposition was correct.

5.1.2 Chalk bedrock was identified at the west end of Trench 1 at a depth of approximately 1m below the current ground surface. This was beneath a natural geological deposit of orange-brown sandy, silty clay, in turn beneath loamy subsoil 0.35m-0.4m thick and modern topsoil, 0.2m-0.4m thick.

5.1.3 No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts collected

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

5.2.1 With the exception of a modern footing and septic tank in Trench 1, there was no obvious disturbance to the subsoil or underlying natural horizon. The lack of archaeological finds and features therefore appears to represent a true lack in past activity on the site.

### **5.3 Consideration of research aims and objectives**

5.3.1 The work did not identify any archaeological deposits or remains, suggesting that the Mesolithic flint deposit identified in Dorothy Avenue did not extend this far and that no further mitigation works should be required.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

5.4.1 Although the site lies partially within an Archaeological Notification Area designated after the recovery of a Mesolithic worked flint assemblage in 2008, no archaeological artefacts or features were identified within the trial trenches opened under this evaluation.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2011. *Archaeological Investigations on Land at 200-204 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex*. ASE Report 2011060 (Project No. 4326)

ASE 2014. *199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex: Heritage Statement*. ASE Report No. 2014148 (Project 6679)

ASE 2015. *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Stage 1 Trial Trench Evaluation at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8NT*. Unpublished ASE Report.

Bernard, S. 2007. *Before the Bungalows: How Peacehaven & Telscombe Cliffs came into existence*. Paths Publishing.

ESCC 2008. *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Lid Developments Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter, County Archaeologist at East Sussex County Council, for his guidance and monitoring.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	SOC15					
Identification Name and Address	199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8NT					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	541162 100934					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6679					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site		Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 21/1/2015					
Sponsor/Client	Lid Developments Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Suzie Westall					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>In January 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lid Developments Ltd. at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The evaluation consisted of two trenches: one 10m by 1.8m and the other 5m by 1.8m in size, set within the garden of a former bungalow. The site fell partially within an Archaeological Notification Area relating to Mesolithic flint finds from Peacehaven, but no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-202756

#### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex
Short description of the project	In January 2015, Archaeology South-East (ASE) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Lid Developments Ltd. at 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The evaluation consisted of two trenches: one 10m by 1.8m and the other 5m by 1.8m in size, set within the garden of a former bungalow. The site fell partially within an Archaeological Notification Area relating to Mesolithic flint finds from Peacehaven, but no finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.
Project dates	Start: 21-01-2015 End: 21-01-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Small-scale (e.g. single house, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES PEACEHAVEN 199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven
Postcode	BT10 8NT
Study area	375.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 541162 100934 50.8691874211 0.19050603154 50 52 09 N 000 11 25 E 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	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Suzie Westall
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Lid Developments Ltd.

---

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Media available	"Diary", "Report", "Survey "

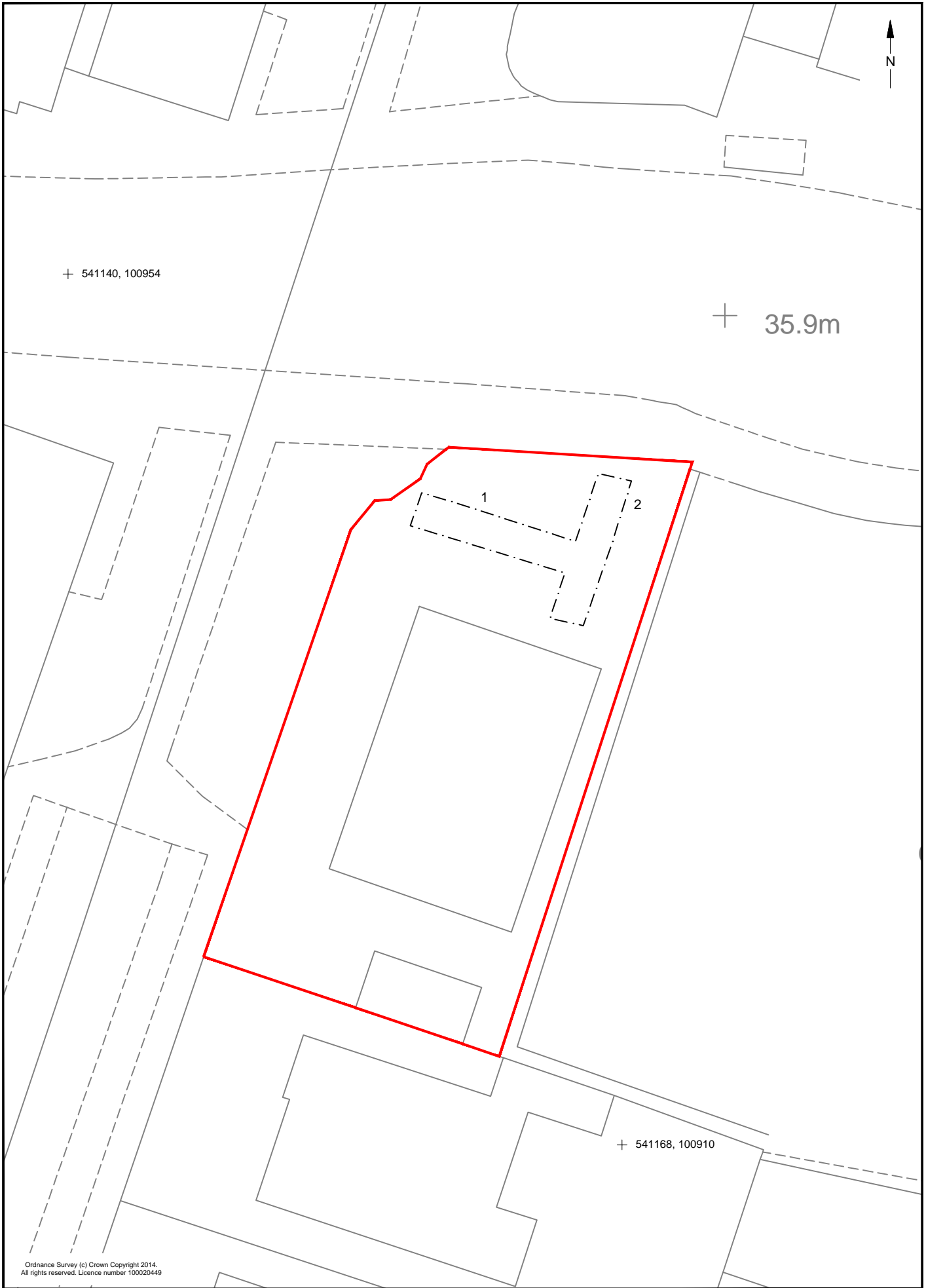
---

Entered by	S. Westall
Entered on	5 February 2015



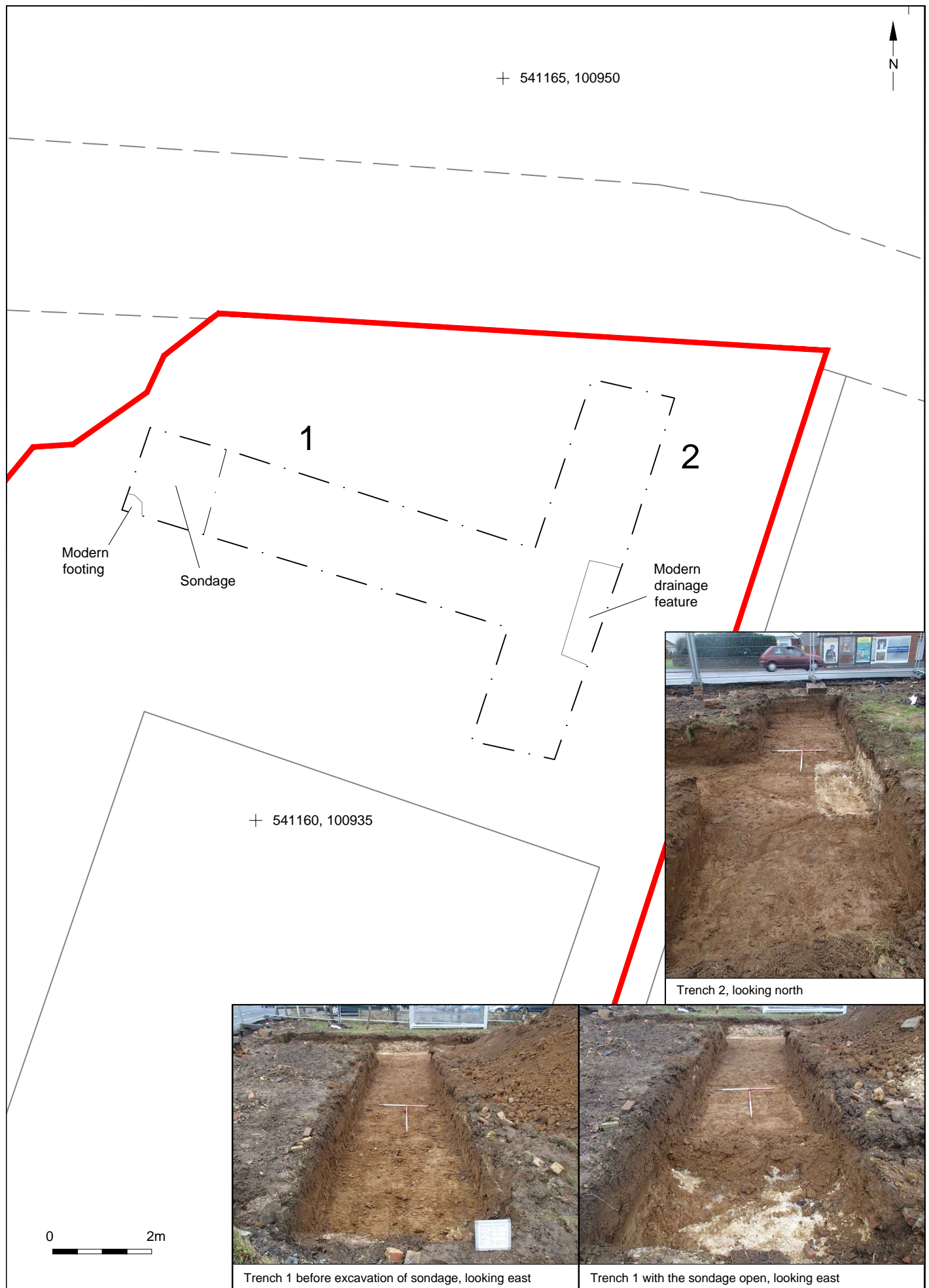


© Archaeology South-East		199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6679	February 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015022	Drawn by: NG		



Ordnance Survey (c) Crown Copyright 2014.  
All rights reserved. Licence number 100020449

© Archaeology South-East		199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6679	January 2015	Evaluation trench location	
Report Ref: 2015022	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		199 South Coast Road, Peacehaven	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6679	January 2015	Trenches 1 & 2: plan and photographs	
Report Ref: 2015022	Drawn by: RHC		

**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)

