

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road  
London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames  
KT2 7DU**

**NGR: TQ 21124 70204**

**Planning Ref: 14/14844/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 7373  
Site Code: COO15**

**ASE Report No: 2015108  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-208422**



**By Stephen White**

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**April, 2015**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road.*

*No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present. There was evidence of significant horizontal truncation across the site and the natural geology was found to be overlain by modern made ground.*

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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) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road (NGR TQ 2112 7020; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The 0.137 ha development site lies on the north side of Coombe Hill Road, in the London Borough of Kingston upon Thames. The site was bounded to the north, west and east by fencing and trees which separated the site from neighbouring properties. The site was accessed from Coombe Hill Road (Figure 2).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS map viewer accessed 19/2/15) the solid geology of the site is Claygate Member - sand, silt and clay – a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. Where superficial deposits exist at all they consist of head deposits - clay, silt, sand and gravel which were formed in the Quaternary Period from the material accumulated by downslope movements including landslide, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash.

1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 44.5m AOD, on a gentle east-facing slope; the land rising to Coombe Hill to the north-west and falling as it reaches a brook 0.6km to the east. On the other side of the brook is Wimbledon Common.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning consent (Planning Ref: 14/14844/FUL) for the demolition of the previous house and erection of two detached 3 storey houses was granted on the 4th December 2014. A second application was submitted in December 2014 with a minor amendment to the previously approved scheme relating to the positioning of the two houses (Planning Ref: 14/15298/FUL). This was approved in February 2015 and included a condition (Condition 10) for a programme of archaeological investigation including the analysis, publication and dissemination of the results.

## **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The research aims and objectives were identified in the WSI (ASE 2015). The broad aim was to record and excavate any features encountered during the course of the excavation of the basements for the new houses, and to determine the character, quality and date of each feature or group of features.
- 1.4.2 Within these parameters, the watching brief presents an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site
  - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
  - To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
  - To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits
  - To make public the results of the work, subject to any confidentiality restrictions

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief in February and March of 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015). The work was carried out by Stephen White (Archaeologist), Simon Stevens (Archaeologist), and Cat Douglas (Archaeologist).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 The following is taken from the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2015).

### **2.2 General Background**

2.2.1 The site lies on a gentle gradient - the east-facing slope of Coombe Hill. Numerous springs and watercourses are located on this slope which would have made it a favourable location for habitation in the past. Late 19th century maps record 'numerous Roman coins and remains' found to the north in Coombe Wood on what is now Coombe Hill Golf Course (Digimaps, accessed 19/2/15).

2.2.2 The site lies within the Archaeological Priority Area (APA) of Kingston Hill as defined by Kingston upon Thames Borough Council (DL035714; 482 on Fig 1). Kingston Hill is a known prehistoric occupation site. To the east of the site is Wimbledon Common which is also assigned as an APA (DL035479) due to prehistoric evidence in the form of stray finds. It also contains the monument Caesar's Camp – an Iron Age hillfort.

### **2.3 HER information**

2.3.1 An HER search was requested by CgMs and provided by the GLHER. The following is a summary of the relevant findings within a 0.5km radius of the site (Figure 1).

2.3.2 Finds of prehistoric material have been made within the area, for example Mesolithic and Neolithic flints were found at Coombe Hill Golf Course (HER 38512; 37040) and flint implements and burnt flints were found within a prehistoric soil during a watching brief at Warren Road (HER event 8074; 25557-24471). An evaluation and excavation at Warren End in 1993 recorded a ditch, possibly an enclosure ditch, containing pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age. This is at the western edge of Coombe Hill Golf Course (HER 37041 and 37942). Two prehistoric flint implements were also found to the south-east of the site (HER 34462).

2.3.3 To the south lies the site of a medieval manor house on Fitzgeorge Avenue (HER 22255 and 2093) and a moated site (HER 26257; APA 481). However, the extent of medieval occupation surrounding these residences is not clear and the likelihood of medieval occupation within the development site is not known. The area was used by rabbits as indicated by place names such as 'The Warrens' and 'Warren Road'.

2.3.4 Coombe Hill Golf Course to the north of the site (HER 7753) was part of the estate of Coombe House, which the 1st Duke of Cambridge purchased in 1837, enlarging his estate for a shooting park by the purchase of common land on Coombe Hill. In the early 20th century two golf courses were laid out.

2.3.5 The events recorded on the HER and denoted on Figure 1 relate to archaeological investigations. HER 3413, 8228 and 3411 were all negative. HER 2792 relates to an investigation that found undated field boundary ditches and 9388 refers to a desk-based assessment.

## **2.4 Cartographic Evidence**

2.4.1 Historic OS mapping from the 1870s to the 1910s depicts the site as covered by trees, seemingly part of Coombe Wood which formed part of Coombe Warren. The 1930s saw the start of piecemeal development up Coombe Hill Road, including the construction of a large house with extensive grounds to the north of the site. Red Roofs was not constructed until after the 1950s, the land being formerly part of the grounds of the large house to the north.

2.4.2 Two gravel pits are shown within Coombe Wood to the north of the site and a large gravel pit is shown on maps from the 1870s to the 1890s in the angle between what are now Coombe Hill Road and Golf Club Drive. Although the actual site does not appear to have been quarried since the 1870s map was surveyed, evidence of earlier quarrying may be encountered. Any quarrying will have impacted on earlier archaeological remains.



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### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The work comprised the monitoring of the machine excavation for the basements and piling for the new houses, as well as general ground reduction works across the site.
- 3.1.2 Spoil from the excavation and ground reduction was visually scanned for finds.
- 3.1.3 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

#### **3.2 The Site Archive**

- 3.2.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) before the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	6
Photographs	55

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Basement excavation and general groundworks**

4.1.1 No archaeological finds or features were recorded over the course of the site visits.

4.1.2 Initially secant piling was inserted around the perimeter of the basements followed by general ground reduction within the piled perimeter. There were also some lesser ground works around the periphery of site.

4.1.3 A sequence of natural sand and silt geology directly overlain by modern made ground was recorded implying that extensive groundworks relating to the construction of the previous building had been undertaken in the 1950s.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
01	Layer	Made ground	Site	Site	0.20-1.00
02	Layer	Natural geology	Site	Site	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Stratigraphic Sequence**

- 5.1.1 Natural deposits were identified however no subsoil or topsoil was evident and the natural was directly overlain by modern made ground across the entire site.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were identified during the course of the watching brief.

### **5.2 Conclusions and consideration of research aims**

- 5.2.1 With regard to the project's research aims, no activity associated with the prehistoric, Roman and post-Roman periods has been identified.
- 5.2.2 Past development of the Red Roofs building has clearly had a sizable impact on any potential archaeological resource.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2015 *Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road, London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 7DU* Written Scheme of Investigation

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Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service, 2014 *Standards for Archaeological Work*

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CGMS for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Gillian King, Historic England GLAAS advisor for her guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Stephen White with Simon Stevens and Cat Douglas providing secondary supervisory cover. Justin Russell produced the figures for this report; Andrew Leonard project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	DOO15				
Identification Name and Address	Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road, KT2 7DU				
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Kingston Upon Thames				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 21124 70204				
Geology					
Arch. South-East Project Number					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site		Shallow Urban			
Dates of Fieldwork			Feb and March 2015		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS				
Project Manager	Andrew Leonard				
Project Supervisor	Stephen White				
Period Summary					
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present. There was evidence of significant horizontal truncation across the site and the natural geology was found to be overlain by modern made ground.</i></p>					

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## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-208422

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#### Project details

Project name	Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for a residential development at Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present. There was evidence of significant horizontal truncation across the site and the natural geology was found to be overlain by modern made ground.
Project dates	Start: 15-02-2015 End: 15-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	COO15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status (other)	Archaeological Priority Area
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON KINGSTON UPON THAMES KINGSTON UPON THAMES Red Roofs
Postcode	KT2 7DU
Study area	900.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 21124 70204 51.4173911235 -0.257937503024 51 25 02 N 000 15 28 W Point

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#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	ASE

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Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Steve White
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd

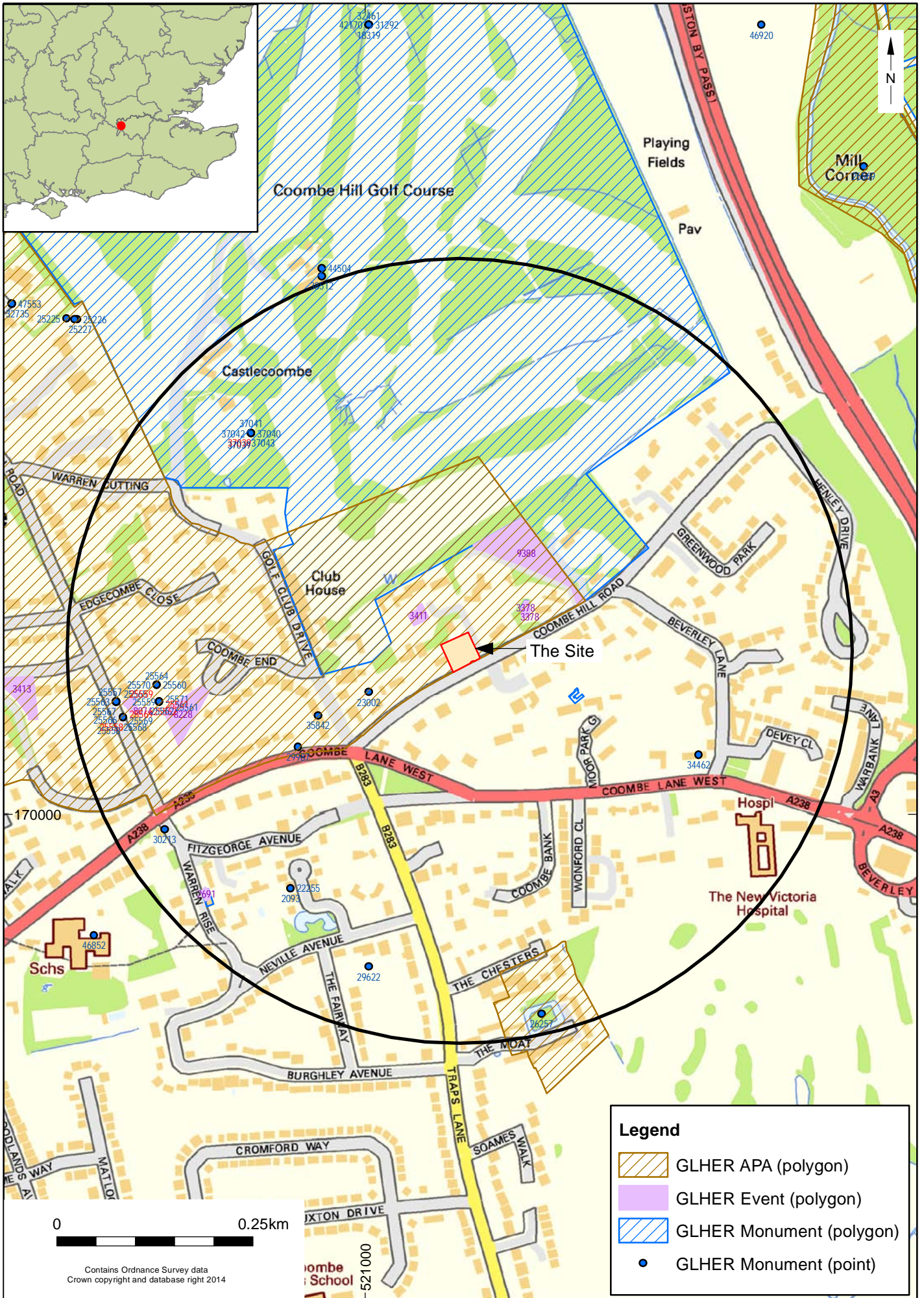
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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	COO15
Digital Media available	"Text"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	COO15
Paper Media available	"Miscellaneous Material","Report"

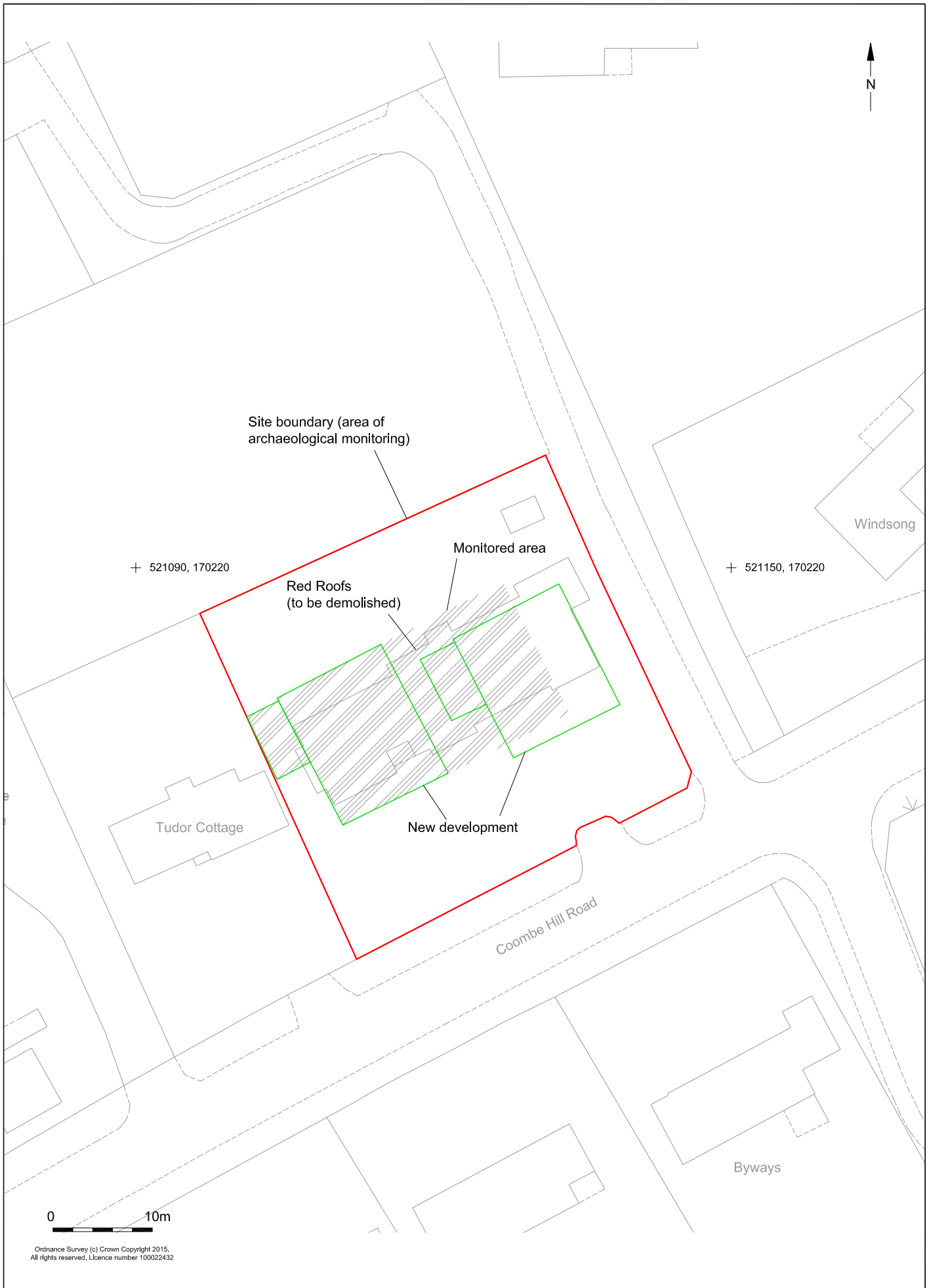
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Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 April 2015



© Archaeology South-East		Kingston, Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Rd	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7373	April 2015	Site location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: NG		





© Archaeology South-East		Red Roofs, Coombe Hill Road, Kingston	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7373	April 2015	Location of monitored area	
Report No:	Drawn by: NG		

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