

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex**

**NGR 551275 109865
(TQ 51275 09865)**

Planning Reference: APP/C1435/A/14/2219936

Project No: 7479

Site Code: RIP 15

ASE Report No. 2016029

OASIS ID: archaeol6-240185



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA



**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex**

**NGR 551275 109865
(TQ 51275 09865)**

Planning Reference: APP/C1435/A/14/2219936

**Project No: 7479
Site Code: RIP 15**

**ASE Report No. 2016029
OASIS ID: archaeol6-240185**

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---|
| Prepared by: | Simon Stevens | Senior Archaeologist |  |
| Reviewed and approved by: | Lucy Sibun | Senior Archaeologist |  |
| Date of Issue: | February 2016 | | |
| Revision: | | | |

**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**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Nicholas Herbert to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex (NGR 551275 109865).

No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of strip footings at the site. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: HER records within 1km radius of the site
- Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 3: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 4: Recorded contexts

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location plan showing HER data
- Figure 2: Site layout (with monitored areas)

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 Mr Nicholas Herbert to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex (NGR 551275 109865) (Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies to the south-east of the centre of the historic settlement of Ripe on the southern side of Church Lane, in a substantial, broadly level plot within the Ripe Conservation Area. It is bounded by the gardens of properties to the east and west, and by open field to the south. Eckington Manor, a Grade II* Listed Building lies on the opposite side of Church Lane.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geological strata at the site consist of Lower Greensand overlain by superficial Head deposits (BGS 2015).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the demolition of an existing structure and the erection of a new dwelling at the site was refused by Wealden District Council in 2014 (planning ref. WD/2013/2594/F. However planning permission was granted after an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in 2015 (Planning ref. APP/C1435/A/14/2219936).

1.3.2 Owing to the archaeological potential of the site, and following consultation between Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council (Wealden District Council's advisers on archaeological issues) during the original planning process, archaeological works were required as a condition of planning consent. The condition (No. 3) stated that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is first agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.'

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE (ASE 2015) and duly approved by East Sussex County before the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and during the reporting and archiving stages of work.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

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

'to record, interpret and report on any archaeological remains exposed during groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards and to establish whether any further archaeological work is necessary.'

1.4.2 Site specific research aims (*ibid.*) were:

*'To better understand the Roman occupation in the area.
To further our understanding of the medieval period in Ripe.
To assess the potential for post-medieval activity.'*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks undertaken in January 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Greg Priestley Bell and by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists). The project was managed by Paul Mason and Neil Griffin (Project Managers) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by East Sussex County Council produced 32 sites recorded within a 1km radius of the site. Those sites are shown on Figure 1 and are tabulated below.

| | ESCC HER No. | OS Co-ordinates | Description |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | MES2923 | TQ 51 10 | Bronze Age arrowhead - Findspot |
| 2 | MES2922 | TQ 51 10 | Roman Field System |
| 3 | MES2935 | TQ 5121 0999 | Mark Cross to Ripe Roman Road |
| 4 | MES17111 DES9929 | TQ 4826 1065 | Arlington to Barcombe Roman Road |
| 5 | MES2929 DES5027 | TQ 5138 0986 | Saint John the Baptist's Medieval Church. Listed Building Grade I |
| 6 | MES2931 | TQ 513 099 | Medieval Skillet Handle - Findspot |
| 7 | MES17158 DES9442 | TQ 5162 1026 | Foulers Barn and Medieval Farm |
| 8 | MES21629 | TQ 5107 1002 | Eckington Medieval Settlement |
| 9 | MES21828 DES9194 | TQ 5195 0938 | Chalvington Medieval Hamlet |
| 10 | MES22428 | TQ 5094 1010 | 15 th Century timber-framed cottage |
| 11 | MES2924 DES5028 | TQ 5085 1015 | 16 th Century Manor House. Listed Building Grade II* |
| 12 | MES2925 DES6366 | TQ 5109 1013 | 17 th Century Eckington House. Listed Building Grade II* |
| 13 | MES2926 DES5031 | TQ 5097 1008 | 17 th Century The Old Cottage. Listed Building Grade II* |
| 14 | MES2930 DES6237 | TQ 50 10 | 17 th Century Starr's Barn. Listed Building Grade II |
| 15 | MES22425 DES6256 | TQ 5106 1009 | 17 th Century Burton Cottage. Listed Building Grade II |
| 16 | MES22429 DES5909 | TQ 5097 1013 | 17 th Century Manor Farmhouse. Listed Building Grade II |
| 17 | MES22430 | TQ 5102 1012 | 17 th Century Cottage |
| 18 | MES24291 | TQ 5091 0997 | 17 th Century Mill Farm building |
| 19 | MES2927 DES6436 | TQ 5127 0995 | 18 th Century Eckington Manor. Listed Building Grade II* |
| 20 | MES16589 DES9197 | TQ 5072 0963 | 18 th Century demolished windmill |
| 21 | MES22427 | TQ 5100 1003 | 18 th Century Cottage |
| 22 | MES22431 DES5029 | TQ 5106 1014 | 18 th Century Curls Farmhouse building. Listed Building Grade II |
| 23 | MES24386 | TQ 5100 0999 | 18 th Century buildings at King Field |
| 24 | MES24387 | TQ 5102 1002 | 18 th Century Channers Lane building |
| 25 | MES24388 | TQ 5103 1008 | 18 th Century Lamb Inn building |
| 26 | MES24389 | TQ 5104 1006 | 18 th Century Barn |
| 27 | MES22423 DES6367 | TQ 5099 1009 | 19 th Century Chipps Cottage. Listed Building Grade II |
| 28 | MES22424 DES5030 | TQ 5106 1011 | 19 th Century Diamond Cottage. Listed Building Grade II |
| 29 | MES22443 | TQ 5105 1012 | 19 th Century Ripe Lane building |
| 30 | MES24266 | TQ 5087 0989 | 19 th Century Mill Lane Barn |
| 31 | MES24267 | TQ 5087 0988 | 19 th Century Mill Lane Chapel |
| 32 | MES24268 | TQ 5088 0991 | 19 th Century Forge House, Mill Lane. |

Table 1: HER Records within 1km radius of the site

- 2.2 There is little evidence for prehistoric and Romano-British occupation but the close proximity of two Roman roads (MES2935 and MES17111) as well as a field system (MES2922) suggests Roman remains may survive in the Ripe area.
- 2.3 The medieval settlement and hamlet of Eckington and Chalvington, together with buildings such as a 15th century cottage (MES22428) and the Church of St. John the Baptist (MES2929) are evidence of Ripe's medieval past.
- 2.4 Most of the evidence detailed by the HER is however of post-medieval date and many listed buildings lie in the vicinity of the site, including Grade II* listed Eckington Manor.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical excavation of strip footings was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features and all available spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts. The monitored area is shown on Figure 2.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits 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 which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to Lewes Museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Context sheets | 3 |
| Section sheets | 0 |
| Plans sheets | 0 |
| Colour photographs | 0 |
| B&W photos | 0 |
| Digital photos | 29 images |
| Context register | 1 |
| Drawing register | 0 |
| Watching brief forms | 2 |
| Trench Record forms | 0 |

Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive

| | |
|--|---|
| Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box) | 0 |
| Registered finds (number of) | 0 |
| Flots and remains from bulk samples | 0 |
| Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides) | 0 |
| Waterlogged wood | 0 |
| Wet sieved remains from bulk samples | 0 |

Table 3: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks at the site in January 2016, which consisted of the mechanical excavation of strip footings.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

| Context Number | Type | Description | Max. Deposit Thickness (m) |
|----------------|-------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 001 | Layer | Overburden | 1.3 |
| 002 | Layer | Overburden | 0.3 |
| 003 | Layer | Natural | - |

Table 4: Recorded Contexts

4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward across the monitored area. At the base of the excavation was the natural; brownish yellow sand [003]. This was overlain by an intermittent layer of mid-brown sandy clay [002]. Above [002] was topsoil layer [001], a mixture of mid-brown sandy clay topsoil [001] with brick and chalk rubble, and occasional fragments of timber and other modern debris.

4.2.2 The sides of the excavated footings proved to be unstable given the sandy nature of the overburden and partial waterlogging, leading to regular collapse of both external and internal foundations. Therefore, removal of much of the overburden from the interior of the new building was also monitored. Excavation of much of the northernmost footing was not monitored, when it became clear that there were deep deposits of made ground across the site. The majority of the western footing was sited through a recently-removed cellar, which had removed all deposits overlying the natural sand.

4.2.3 No archaeological deposits were observed during the groundworks and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation at the site showed that no archaeological deposits were disturbed during the observed groundworks.
- 5.2 No subsoil horizon was detected during the watching brief and this, as well as the general mixed nature of the overburden suggest that the whole area affected by the groundworks had been heavily disturbed or mixed, presumably during the construction or demolition of the building that previously occupied much of the site.
- 5.3 The vast majority of the area to be affected by the groundworks was monitored providing ample coverage of the site. However, given the paucity of any archaeological deposits, it has proved impossible to address the site specific research questions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East, 2015. *Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub. ASE document

BGS, 2015. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 26.01.2016. <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mr Nicholas Herbert for commissioning the archaeological work. Thanks are also due to Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council for his input at all stages of the project, and to the groundworkers from Comber & Son Building Contractors for their co-operation and hospitality.

HER Summary

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Site Code | RIP 15 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | Church Lane House, Ripe | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Wealden District, East Sussex | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 551275 109865 | | | | | |
| Geology | Greensand | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 7479 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | | | Watching Brief | | | |
| Type of Site | | | | Conservation Area | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | | | 14.01.2015 - 18.01.2015 | | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Mr Nicholas Herbert | | | | | |
| Project Managers | Paul Mason/Neil Griffin | | | | | |
| Project Supervisors | Simon Stevens | | | | | |
| Period Summary | | | | | | |
| | | | | None | | |
| <p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Nicholas Herbert to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex (NGR 551275 109865).</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of strip footings at the site. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-240185

Project details

Project name Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Mr Nicholas Herbert to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex (NGR 551275 109865). No archaeological deposits or features were observed during archaeological monitoring of the mechanical excavation of strip footings at the site. No artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

Project dates Start: 14-01-2016 End: 18-01-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 7479 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes RIP 15 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes APP/C1435/A/14/2219936 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status Conservation Area

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

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 WEALDEN CHALVINGTON WITH RIPE Church Lane House, Ripe

Postcode BN8 6AU

Study area 100 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 51275 09865 50.867887344541 0.150059253013 50 52 04 N 000 09 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator East Sussex County Council

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

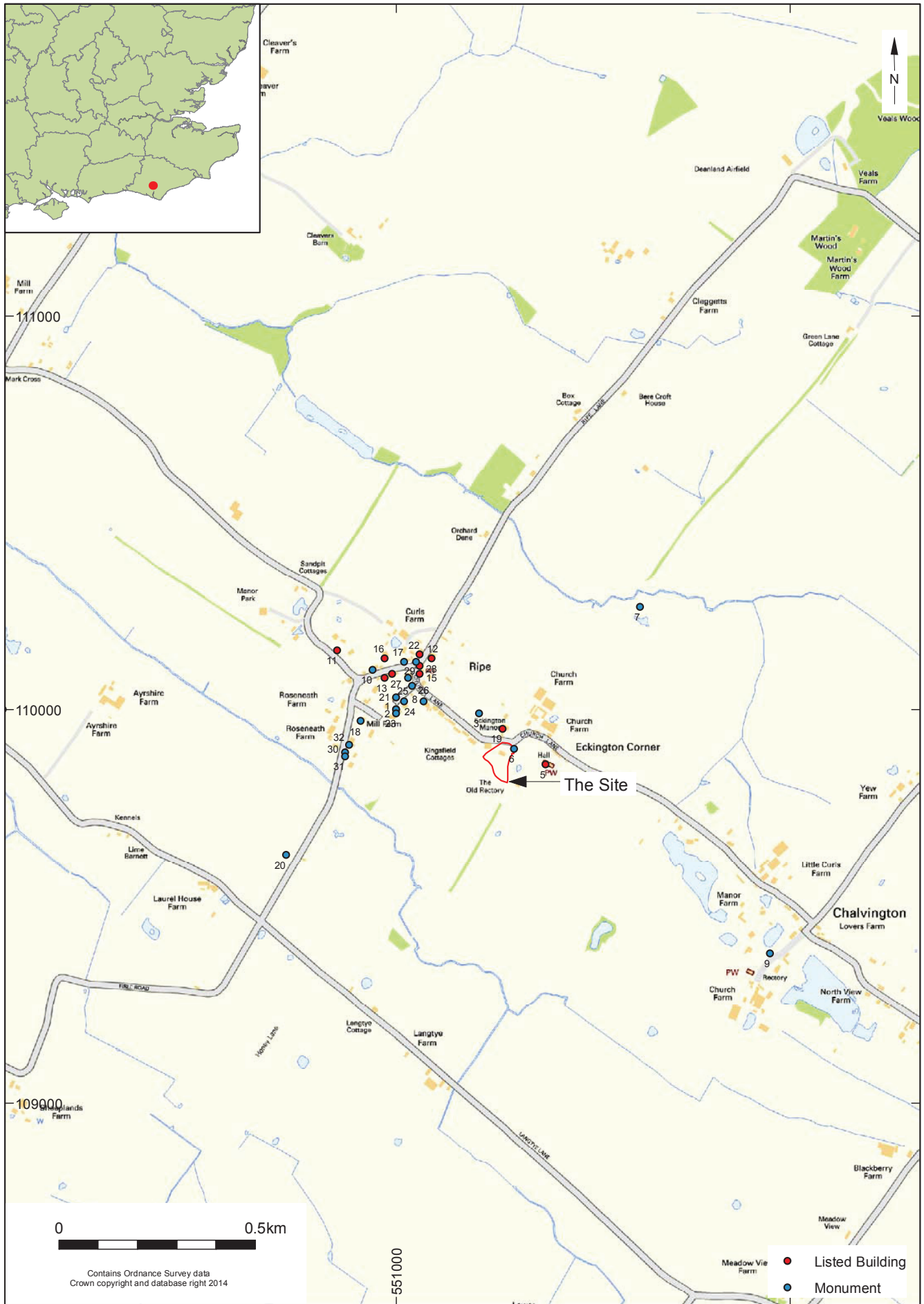
Project director/manager Paul Mason
Project supervisor Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body Client
Name of sponsor/funding body Mr Nicholas Herbert

Project archives

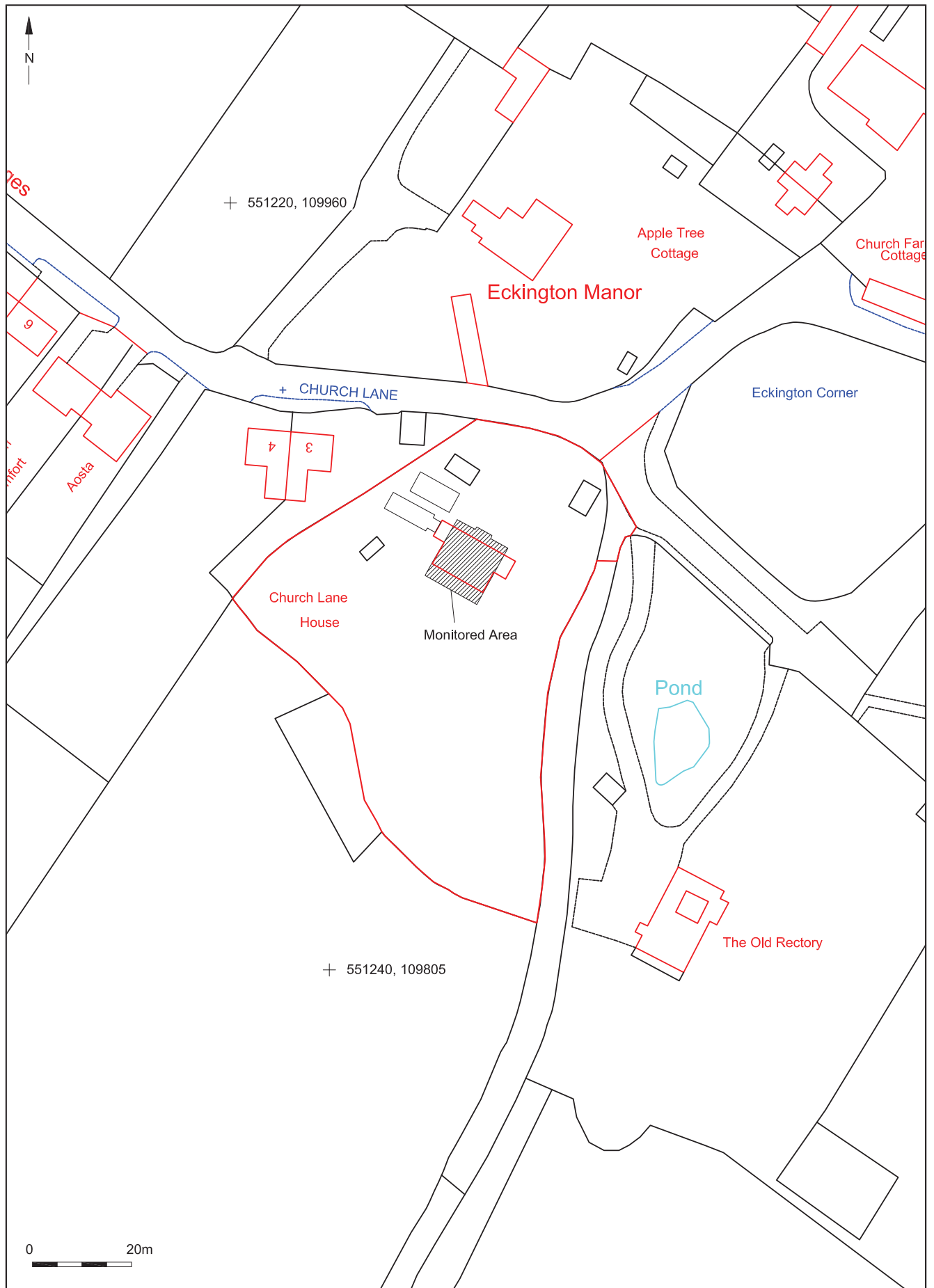
Physical Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Physical Contents "other"
Digital Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Digital Contents "other"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient Lewes Museum
Paper Contents "other"
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous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

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Church Lane House, Ripe, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details ASE Report No. 2016029
Date 2016
Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication Portslade, East Sussex
Description Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 27 January 2016



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Ripe, Church Lane House | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 7479 | February 2016 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2016029 | Drawn by: LG | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | Ripe, Church Lane House | Fig.2 |
| Project Ref: 7479 | February 2016 | Site layout | |
| Report Ref: 2016029 | Drawn by: LG | | |

Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
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
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

