

**Land at 4 Elm Rise, Findon,
West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation Report (ERF07)
(NGR 512352 108962)**

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**ASE Project No. 2775
Planning Refs: FN/43/06**

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, the Field Archaeology Unit retains a special interest in South-East England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by Charles James Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 4 Elm Rise, Findon, Worthing, West Sussex. The work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a small housing development consisting of 8 houses on the 26th of February 2007.

Six trenches were excavated within the footprint of the development. The site was found to have been landscaped and no archaeological deposits or finds were observed.

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FIGURES

Fig. 1	Site Location
Fig. 2	Trench Location

1 INTRODUCTION

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Charles James Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at 4 Elm Rise, Findon, Worthing, West Sussex (centred NGR 512352 108962) hereafter referred to as 'the site' (see Fig 1). The work was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of a small housing development consisting of 7 houses on the 26th of February 2007.

The site is bounded to the north by Elm Rise, and to the south, east and west by existing domestic gardens. Approximately the southern half of the site is composed of gardens, whilst in the northern part of the site stands a small bungalow to be demolished prior to redevelopment (Fig. 2).

The ground surface across the site varied from 61.88m OD in the west to 66.41m OD in the east.

Fieldwork was conducted by Dan Swift (Senior Archaeologist), David Dunkin (Archaeological Assistant) and Maggie Henderson (Surveyor) on 23th and 26th February 2007. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager).

According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333) the underlying geology at the site consists of Head deposits overlying Upper and Middle Chalk.

1.1 Planning Background

An application for planning permission for the residential development of the site has been granted by Arun District Council (Planning ref FN/43/06). Following the advice of the West Sussex County Council's Archaeologist (in the County Council's capacity as advisor to Local Planning Authorities (LPA's) on archaeological planning matters), a planning condition (Condition 3) was imposed on the planning permission. The applicant was required to carry out a programme of (Stage 1) archaeological work on the site before development commenced. The work was to ascertain the character and quality of archaeological remains on the site should any exist. Mark Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC), established the scope for the work.

Prior to the Archaeological Evaluation ASE produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ASE 2007), which was approved by Mark Taylor.

This report outlines the results of a Stage 1 Archaeological Evaluation.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the evaluation were to ascertain:

- a) whether archaeological remains extend across the development site
- b) the character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits
- c) how they might be affected by the development of the site
- d) whether particularly important remains should be preserved *in situ*
- e) what options should be considered for mitigation

2 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

The site's greatest archaeological potential was for archaeological remains of Mesolithic to Roman date.

Various prehistoric flint mines are known in the area, for instance at Church Hill, c 1.4km to the south-west, and Cissbury Ring, also the site of the famous Iron Age Hillfort, which lies c 1.8km to the south-east. Additionally, numerous tumuli are known in the area.

Aerial photographs of the area reveal cropmarks of a large rectangular enclosure and probable buildings, perhaps of Roman date, and a very deep Roman well, situated c 1.2km west of the site was discovered and investigated in the 1960's. A Roman temple was excavated within Cissbury Ring in 1908.

3 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

The trench layout was agreed prior to the evaluation with Mark Taylor (Senior Archaeologist West Sussex County Council) and was designed to provide a representative sample of the redevelopment area (Fig. 2). The evaluation consisted of seven 10m by 2m trenches in the footprints of the new buildings and road.

The trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne tracked machine fitted with a smooth grading bucket through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until the top of the underlying natural chalk was reached. Care was taken so that potential archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining. Trenches were to be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m due to health and safety requirements, with any greater depths requiring stepping or shoring as appropriate.

All recording was undertaken in accordance with accepted professional standards according to the UCLFAU Fieldwork Manual (draft) and the WSI (ASE 2007).

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

A photographic record of the trenches was kept.

The trenches were levelled in relation to a nearby spot height outside The Gun Inn on Findon High Street.

The trenches were surveyed into the agreed positions using a Total Station (see Fig. 2).

Trench record sheets were filled out for each trench and measured sketch sections produced.

An online OASIS form was filled out for the site, a copy of which is reproduced as an appendix to this document.

The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South East office in Ditchling and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course.

4 RESULTS

The results are presented by trench.

4.1 Stratigraphic (Fig. 2)

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located in the north of the site and was not excavated because the existing bungalow beneath which the trench was located was still standing at the time of the evaluation. It was agreed with Mark Taylor that Trench 2 be extended by 10m, to 20m in length, by means of a replacement for Trench 1.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located in the central area of the site. The trench measured 20m x 2m and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.75m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 2 was recorded as 64.14m OD at the south end of the trench and 63.14m OD at the north. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
0.35m (N) to 0.65m (S)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
0.45m (N) to 0.75m (S)	Clean featureless natural chalk

Trench 3

Trench 3 was located in the east of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.05m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 3 was recorded as 66.38m OD at the northern end of the trench and 66.41m OD at the south. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
1m (N) to 0.8m (S)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
1m (N) to 1.05m (S)	Natural chalk with occasional ice-cracks and run-off scars running north to south down slope

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located in the east of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.2m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 4 was recorded as 66.13m OD at the north end of the trench and 66.32m OD at the south. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
1.05m (N) to 1m (S)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
1.05m (N) to 1.2m (S)	Natural chalk with occasional ice-cracks and run-off scars running north to south down slope. Large tree hole at the south end of the trench.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was located in the south-central part of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.7m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 5 was recorded as 63.93m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 62.87m OD at the west. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
0.5m (E) to 0.8m (W)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
0.7m (E) to 0.8m (W)	Natural chalk with frequent ice-cracks and run-off scars running north to south down slope

Trench 6

Trench 6 was located in the south-west of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.58m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 6 was recorded as 62.53m OD at the eastern end of the trench and 61.88m OD at the west. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
0.5m (E) to 0.58m (W)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
0.5m (E) to 0.58m (W)	Natural chalk with frequent ice-cracks and run-off scars running north to south down slope. Western end of trench heavily truncated in to the chalk by modern drainage intrusion.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was located in the south of the site. The trench measured 10m x 2m, and was dug to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The modern ground surface adjacent to Trench 4 was recorded as 63.87m OD at the north end of the trench and 63.82m OD at the south. The sequence of deposits in the trench was as follows:

Base of deposit from surface	Description
0.25m (N) to 0.35m (S)	Topsoil (dark grey-brown silty clay)
0.25m (N) to 0.35m (S)	Clean featureless natural chalk

5 DISCUSSION

The site had been previously landscaped to create level terraces for the present buildings and gardens.

Whilst no archaeological findings were uncovered in the evaluation it should be noted that any such material would have been largely removed during the terracing.

This evaluation therefore *does not* necessarily signify the absence of archaeological remains in this area of Findon, but *does* signify that substantial truncation at the site has previously occurred.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Charles James Homes for commissioning this work.

7 REFERENCES

ASE 2007, *Written Scheme of Investigation*, unpub ASE grey report

8 APPENDIX

8.1 OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-24383

Project details

Project name	Land at Elm Rise, Findon, West Sussex
Short description of the project	negative 7 trench evaluation
Project dates	Start: 26-02-2007 End: 26-02-2007
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ELF07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Status Complete

Project location

Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN FINDON land at 4 elm rise
Postcode	BN14
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 122 089 LL - 50.8681373927 -0.405337005215 (decimal) LL - 50 52 05 N 000 24 19 W (degrees) Point
Height OD	Min: 61.30m Max: 65.40m

Status Complete

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design	Archaeology South-East

originator

Project director/manager JON SYGRAVE

Project supervisor Dan Swift

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Status Complete

? Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? 'No physical archive'

Digital Archive Exists? 'No digital archive'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID ASE project 2775 sitecode ERF07

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Report','Unpublished Text'

Status Complete

? Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1

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Please enter your name and personal email address here so that any queries about this form can be directed to you:

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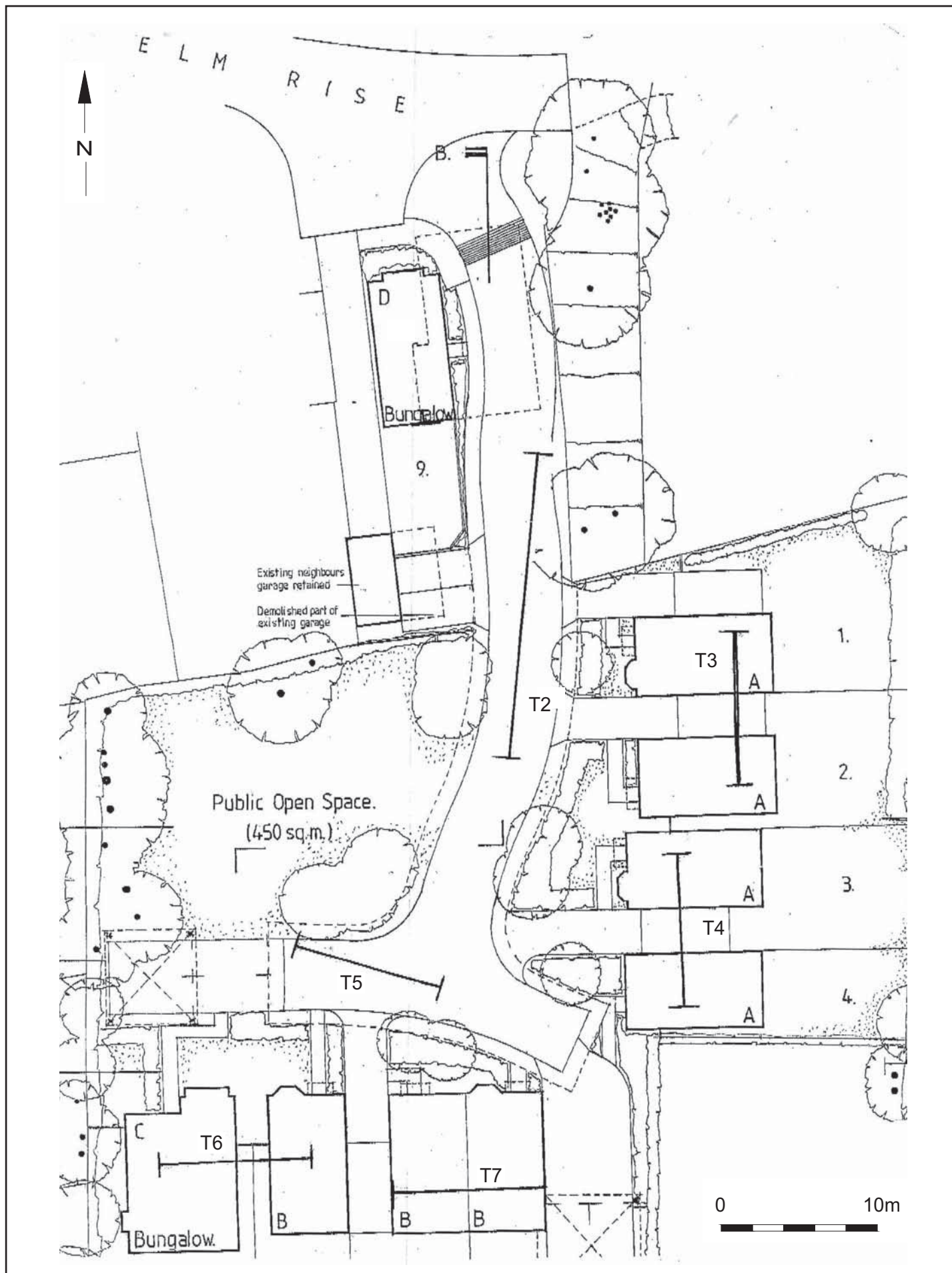
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© Archaeology South-East			4 Elm Rise, Findon	Fig. 1
Ref: 2775	March 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East		4 Elm Rise, Findon	Fig. 2
Ref: 2775	March 2007	Trench Location Plan	