

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven
East Sussex, BN1 9RD**

NGR: 541918 100996

Planning Ref: LW/15/0767

**ASE Project No: 160227
Site Code: ARO16
ASE Report No: 2016152
OASIS id: archaeol6-248452**



By Tom Munnery

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven
East Sussex, BN1 9RD**

NGR: 541918 100996



Planning Ref: LW/15/0767

ASE Project No: 160227

Site Code: ARO16

ASE Report No: 2016152

OASIS id: archaeo16-248452

Prepared by:	Tom Munnery	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
Date of Issue:	May 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

An archaeological watching brief was conducted at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex. The foundations of a single house were monitored and recorded.

There were no archaeological features or deposits. A small quantity of unstratified prehistoric worked flint was recovered from the overburden.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 The Finds
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive
- Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples
- Table 3: List of recorded contexts (for multiple blank trenches)

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Mr Mick Philp to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex (hereafter 'the site'; centred NGR; 541918 100996, Figures 1 and 2).

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 Lambeth Beds, clay deposits with sands and gravels (formerly called the Woolwich and Reading Beds) and overlying the Chalk.
- 1.2.2 The site is bounded to the north by Arundel Road and to the east, south and west by adjoining properties.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted by Lewes District Council to redevelop the site with a detached two bedroom bungalow (LW/15/0767) (Figure 3). The East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeologist was consulted on the scheme and due to the archaeological potential of the site (see below) recommended that a programme of archaeological works condition be attached to any consent granted for the site. Accordingly, the following condition is attached to the consent:

1. 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.

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

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development and report any subsequent findings.

Specific Research Aims

- 1.4.2 This site is located within an area that has evidence of past human activity, although the significance of this particular site is unclear. With this in mind,

the watching brief had the following more specific objectives:

- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric activity
- To establish the presence or otherwise of Roman activity
- To establish the presence or otherwise of activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon or medieval periods
- To what extent do the results of the work inform understanding of the chronology and development of landscape use within the site and does this understanding enhance the known heritage assets in the wider area

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results the watching brief carried out on 22nd March 2016 by Tom Munnery.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is a summary taken from the historic environment desk-based assessment (ASE 2015) which focused on a study area defined by a 1km radius centred on the site.

Prehistoric

- 2.2 The earliest human cultural material known from the Peacehaven area is of Palaeolithic date – stray finds of a struck flint and a handaxe have been found, possibly associated with the Clay-with-Flint deposits that once masked the chalk. Mesolithic activity is attested by a number of assemblages of flintwork that have been found concentrated on the Lambeth Group deposits that overlie the chalk in various parts of the Study Area (including the site). These form a discrete concentration of Mesolithic material on the downland – most findspots in Sussex are known from the High Weald and the river valleys. The material relates to nomadic hunter-gatherer communities exploiting a number of different resource locations. Further limited evidence for Mesolithic activity has been recorded in recent excavations near the site.
- 2.3 By the Neolithic period, settled agriculture had begun to develop. A number of sites are known on the downland, including causewayed enclosures at Whitehawk and Offham, long barrows and numerous finds of stone axes. Neolithic worked flint and a number of features, including pits, linear features and a possible shaft or well have been recovered from recent excavations by ASE. Settlement activity increased during the Bronze Age. Two round barrows, both Scheduled Monuments (SM), are known from the Peacehaven area, although neither is close to the study area - one at Telscombe Cliffs and the other on Peacehaven Heights – a further example was destroyed by the construction of Friars Avenue in the early 20th century. Recent excavations revealed a ploughed out round barrow near to the Site, and also evidence for contemporary land divisions. Middle and Later Bronze Age activity is represented by field systems and roundhouses.
- 2.4 Iron Age occupation is represented within the study area by recent excavated evidence, with evidence for settlement and field systems spanning the whole period. A recent evaluation in the sports facilities north and north-east of the site produced some evidence for Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity in the form of a single possible cremation burial and a scatter of pottery and struck flints (Wallis 2012).

Romano-British

- 2.5 The Roman period saw a large degree of continuity in the rural landscape, with many downland farming settlements originating in the Bronze and Iron Ages continuing 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, and recent excavations have recorded evidence for early Roman occupation in the vicinity of the site.

Early Medieval and Medieval

- 2.6 The decline of Roman power in Sussex saw the influx of Germanic settlers from across the North Sea. The archaeological record is dominated initially by cemeteries, a number of which are scattered across the downland. Later Saxon settlement tended to avoid the higher slopes, concentrating along the river valleys and the Greensand shelf along the foot of the downland scarp. The study area falls within the land that was controlled from an estate situated along the edge of the Ouse valley at Piddinghoe. These early estates formed the basis for the later parishes and manors. It is likely that the study area itself was used as a mixture of open field arable and common pasture at this time, and continued to be used as such throughout the medieval period. A small farmstead called Moredale may have originated at this time in the Steyning Avenue area of Peacehaven – it was mentioned in documents of 1587 (Payne & Bernard 2000, 4). The study area appears to have been largely sheepdown at this time.

Post Medieval

- 2.7 For most of its recorded history, the study area has been used as sheepwalk. Much of it was occupied by Deans and Hoathdown (Hodder) Farms – William Figg drew a plan of these in 1806, labelling the southern part of the study area as ‘The Cliff Down’, comprising open pasture with a scatter of small circular chalk pits (ESRO ACC 3714/3 – not illustrated). A Coastguard watch-house was built at Bearshide (near the end of Victoria Avenue) in 1832, to accommodate three coastguardsmen, although this has now been destroyed by cliff erosion (Hibbs nd).
- 2.8 The Peacehaven area began to be developed for residential use from the 1890s onwards. The Cavendish Land Co. Ltd. began building in 1898, but were hampered by various factors, including the Coastguard’s refusal to allow shingle to be taken from the beach without a Board of Trade licence. The main stimulus was provided in 1915 when Charles Neville bought up much of the surrounding land to establish a new resort, originally to be called New Anzac-on-Sea in honour of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps’ campaign at Gallipoli, but quickly renamed Peacehaven in response to the appalling casualty figures. Building began in earnest in 1920, and by 1924 Neville had also acquired Telscombe Cliffs. By 1927 it had become a thriving town (Bernard 2007).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The foundations were excavated by machine using a 0.60m wide toothless bucket and the internal reduction area with a 1.20m wide grading bucket in spits of up to 0.10m.
- 3.1.2 The excavations were monitored throughout the process and access allowed for the inspection and retrieval of any potential archaeological deposits.
- 3.1.3 Spoil from the excavations were visually inspected and scanned with a metal detector for the recovery of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.1.4 The site was planned by hand so that it could be tied into OS mapping.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 The narrow width of the foundation trenches impeded access and recording, but it is considered that no data was lost because of this.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable local repository in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	6

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

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

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Foundation trenches monitored on 22/03/2016

- 4.1.1 The foundation trenches were excavated to an overall depth of between 0.80m and 0.96m and had stratigraphy comprising a dark grey-brown loamy sand topsoil above a mid-brown sand subsoil. The natural was formed of an orange-yellow sand-clay. Topsoil was not present in some areas as it had been removed during the construction of the extension to the adjacent house (now demolished), which corresponded with the locations of foundation trenches 1 and 3.
- 4.1.2 Subsoil generally ranged in thickness from 0.24m-to 0.38m except towards the junction of foundation trenches 1 and 3 where it reached 0.60m in thickness.
- 4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the machining of the trenches or the reduction of the internal area. A relatively large quantity of flint work was however recovered from the subsoil from all the foundations and the internal reduction.

Foundation Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Deposit Thickness m
T1	1/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.50
T1	1/002	Layer	Natural	0.40
T2	2/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.24-0.60
T2	2/002	Layer	Natural	0.35-0.60
T2	2/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.00-0.12
T3	3/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.38
T3	3/002	Layer	Natural	0.47
T4	4/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.33
T4	4/002	Layer	Natural	0.33-0.49
T4	4/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.00-0.15
T5	5/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.29
T5	5/002	Layer	Natural	0.35
T5	5/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.15
T6	6/001	Layer	Subsoil	0.25
T6	6/002	Layer	Natural	0.37-0.60
T6	6/003	Layer	Topsoil	0.13

Table 3: List of recorded contexts (for multiple blank trenches)

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The only finds recovered from site were worked flints recovered from the subsoil.

5.2 Worked Flint by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 In total, 50 pieces of struck flint weighing 1367g and a flint hammerstone weighing 1626g were recovered during the watching brief. All the pieces were collected from the subsoil. Thirty three pieces came from the subsoil in six trenches (Trenches 1-6) and 13 pieces came from the subsoil reduction of the internal area. No chronologically diagnostic pieces were recovered, but based on technological and morphological traits a broad Neolithic – Bronze Age date can be proposed for the assemblage. A small earlier component was also present.

5.2.2 The pieces of struck flint were quantified by piece count and weight. They were individually examined and classified using standard set of codes and morphological descriptions (Butler 2005, Ford 1987 and Inizan *et al.* 1999). Basic technological details as well as further information regarding the condition of the artefacts were recorded. Dating was attempted when possible. All data have been entered onto a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet, and it is summarized by artefact types in Table 1.

Category	Flakes	Blades & blade-like flakes	Cores	Retouched form	Hammerstone	Total
Total	34	10	5	1	1	51

Table 1: the flintwork

Condition and raw material

5.2.3 The condition of the raw material varies, but overall the material displays minimal signs of weathering, which is surprising given the provenance of the flints. Nonetheless several pieces display moderate edge damage indicating that the pieces endured successive re-deposition. In total 23 pieces (or 45% of the total assemblage) display white or light bluish surface re-cortication. Iron marks, often associated with agricultural activities, were noted on three pieces. Thirty two pieces were recorded as broken.

5.2.4 Light to dark grey flint with a stained relatively thin cortex (2 to 4mm) was the most frequently occurring material in the assemblage. Cherty inclusions were common. This material is likely to derive from superficial deposits. A few pieces displayed a thin pitted outer surface. This raw material would have also been available locally from gravel sources.

Results

- 5.2.5 The assemblage of struck flint consists principally of unmodified waste pieces, of which flakes are the dominant types (Table 1). They represent 69% of the débitage component. The majority of the flakes are irregular. A mixed hammer mode was recorded. The majority of the flakes were crudely worked and displayed plain unprepared platform, but others were more carefully worked. Two pieces displayed winged platforms. The flake-based character of the assemblage suggests a Neolithic / Bronze Age date. The majority of the blade-like flakes and blades lacked characteristics associated with blade reduction technology, but three pieces with parallel lateral edges and platform preparation are likely to be Mesolithic or Neolithic in date.
- 5.2.6 Five cores were recovered (two single platform flake cores, a multiplatform flake core, a fragmentary core and a multiplatform blade core). The latter used to remove blades is possibly associated with Mesolithic or Early Neolithic knapping activities. The other cores are likely to be later in date. The large hammerstone (1626g) consisted of a re-used tested nodule. Due to its size and shape it is unlikely that the artefact was used for flint knapping.
- 5.2.7 A single modified piece was present. It was made on a flake. The artefact displays minimal semi abrupt retouch on the right side towards the proximal end.

Discussion

- 5.2.8 The watching brief has produced a small quantity of struck flint and a flint hammerstone. The assemblage provides limited evidence of a prehistoric presence in the vicinity. No diagnostic artefacts were found, but based on technological and morphological traits a broad Neolithic / Bronze Age date is more likely. Three blades and a blade core indicate presence possibly during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.
- 5.2.9 The assemblage is consistent with that recovered during the Peacehaven project (Hart 2015) and during the more recent excavation on Land off Arundel Road (ASE 2013).

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Topsoil was present across most of the site, except the south-eastern portion where it had been removed during the construction of a previous extension. Where present, it sat above subsoil which was recorded across the site. This in turn lay above the natural geology.
- 6.1.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the monitored works.
- 6.1.3 51 pieces of worked flint were recovered from the subsoil. Neither evidence of their being *in situ* or in a concentration was noted.

6.2 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

- 6.2.1 The only archaeological evidence encountered was worked flint, much of which could only be broadly dated to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, with the exception of a few pieces which could be Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.
- 6.2.2 The recovery of this assemblage is not unexpected in this area, and its recovery from later deposits mirrors that of similar material yielded from excavations directly to the north (Anderson-Whymark 2015, 195).
- 6.2.3 This evidence clearly demonstrates the continuation of Mesolithic and Neolithic use of the landscape south of the Peacehaven excavations, which is similarly attested by several groups of finds recorded in the East Sussex HER just over 500m to the west of this site.
- 6.2.4 Although no *in situ* artefacts or features were observed, the presence of fresh flintwork indicates that it has moved little from its original place of deposition.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

- 6.3.1 The watching brief was successful in establishing the presence of prehistoric activity within the locale of the site. This was, however, entirely from unstratified finds, which makes inference of more substantial activity difficult.
- 6.3.2 Neither Roman, Saxon nor medieval activity was noted during the watching brief.
- 6.3.3 The localised observations of the watching brief add little to our knowledge of the chronology of the surrounding landscape, or enhancement of our understanding of known heritage assets in the area. However, the use of the landscape during the Neolithic and Mesolithic, documented in the nearby Peacehaven excavations, demonstrably continued beyond that site, and probably further south than this phase of monitoring, leaving the possibility of further *in situ* remains nearby.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson-Whymark, H 2015 Struck Flint, in D. Hart, *Around the Ancient Track: Archaeological Excavations for the Brighton and Hove Waste Water Treatment Works and adjacent housing at Peacehaven, East Sussex* SpoilHeap Monograph 10

ASE 2013 *An Archaeological Evaluation on Land off Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex*: ASE project 6287. ASE unpublished report

ASE 2016 52 Arundel Road, Peavehaven, East Sussex, BN1 9RD: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Butler, C 2005 *Prehistoric Flintwork*. Tempus, Stroud

English Heritage 2002. *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation and Geoarchaeology: Using earth sciences to understand the archaeological record*

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation*

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

Ford, S 1987 Chronological and functional aspects of flint assemblages, in *Lithic analysis and Later British Prehistory* (eds A Brown and M Edmonds), BAR Brit Ser 162, 67-81, Oxford

Hart, D, 2015 *Around the ancient track: Archaeological excavations for the Brighton and Hove Waste Water Treatment Works and adjacent housing at Peacehaven, East Sussex*, SpoilHeap Monog Ser 10, London

Inizan, M-L, Reduron-Ballinger, M, Roche, H, & Tixier, J 1999 *Technology and Terminology of Knapped Stone*. Tome 5. Cercle de Recherches et d'Etudes Préhistoriques (CREP), Nanterre

McKinley, J I 2005 'Compiling a skeletal inventory: cremated human bone' in M Brickley and J I McKinley (eds) *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Bone*, IFA Paper no. 7, 9-13

McKinley, J I and Roberts, C 1993 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains*, IFA technical paper no. 13

MoLAS 1994. *Site Manual for Archaeological Fieldwork*

Watkinson, D E & Neal V, 2001, *First Aid for Finds*, RESCUE/UKIC Archaeology Section

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mick Philp for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Greg Chuter County Archaeologist East Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was directed by Tom Munnery. Lauren Gibson and John Cook produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	ARO16				
Project code	160227				
Planning reference	LW/15/0767				
Site address	53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN1 9RD				
District/Borough	Lewes District Council				
NGR (12 figures)	541918 100996				
Geology	Lambeth Beds				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	22 March 2016				
Sponsor/client	Mick Philps				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery				
Period summary		Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	
Project summary (100 word max)	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex on the 22nd March 2016. The foundations of a single house were monitored and recorded. A quantity of unstratified worked flint predominantly dating to pre Middle Bronze Age was recovered from the overburden, along with a few pieces of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.				

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Struck flint	Flint	Pre Middle Bronze Age	46
Struck flint	Flint	Mesolithic/ Neolithic	5

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-248452

Project details

Project name A Watching Brief at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was conducted at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex NGR 541918 100996, between on 22nd March 2016. The foundations of a single house were monitored and recorded. A quantity of unstratified worked flint predominantly dating to Neolithic or Bronze Age was recovered from the overburden, along with a few pieces of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date.

Project dates Start: 22-03-2016 End: 22-03-2016

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference ARO16 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference 160227 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Type of project Recording project

Site status Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)

Current Land use Other 3 - Built over

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX LEWES PEACEHAVEN 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN1 9RD

Postcode BN1 9RD

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 54178 10089 50.869131353088 0.191381875509 50 52 08 N 000 11 28 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project originator brief Archaeology South-East

Project originator design Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Tom Munnery

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Mick Philips

Project archives

Physical recipient Archive Local Museum

Physical Contents "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital recipient Archive Local Museum

Digital available Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper recipient Archive Local Museum

Paper available Media "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at 53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven,
East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Munnery, T.

Other bibliographic details 2016152

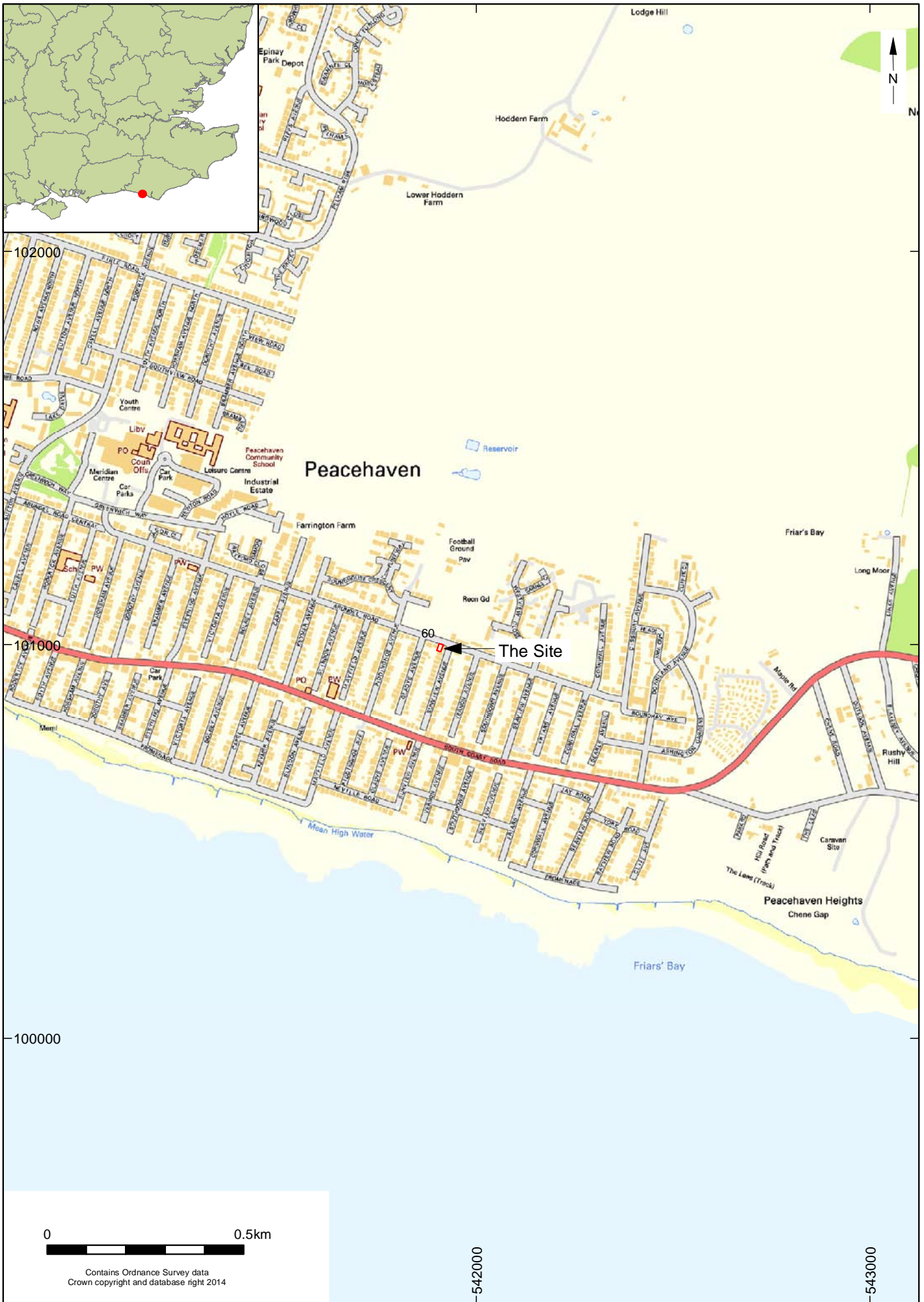
Date 2016

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication East Sussex HER

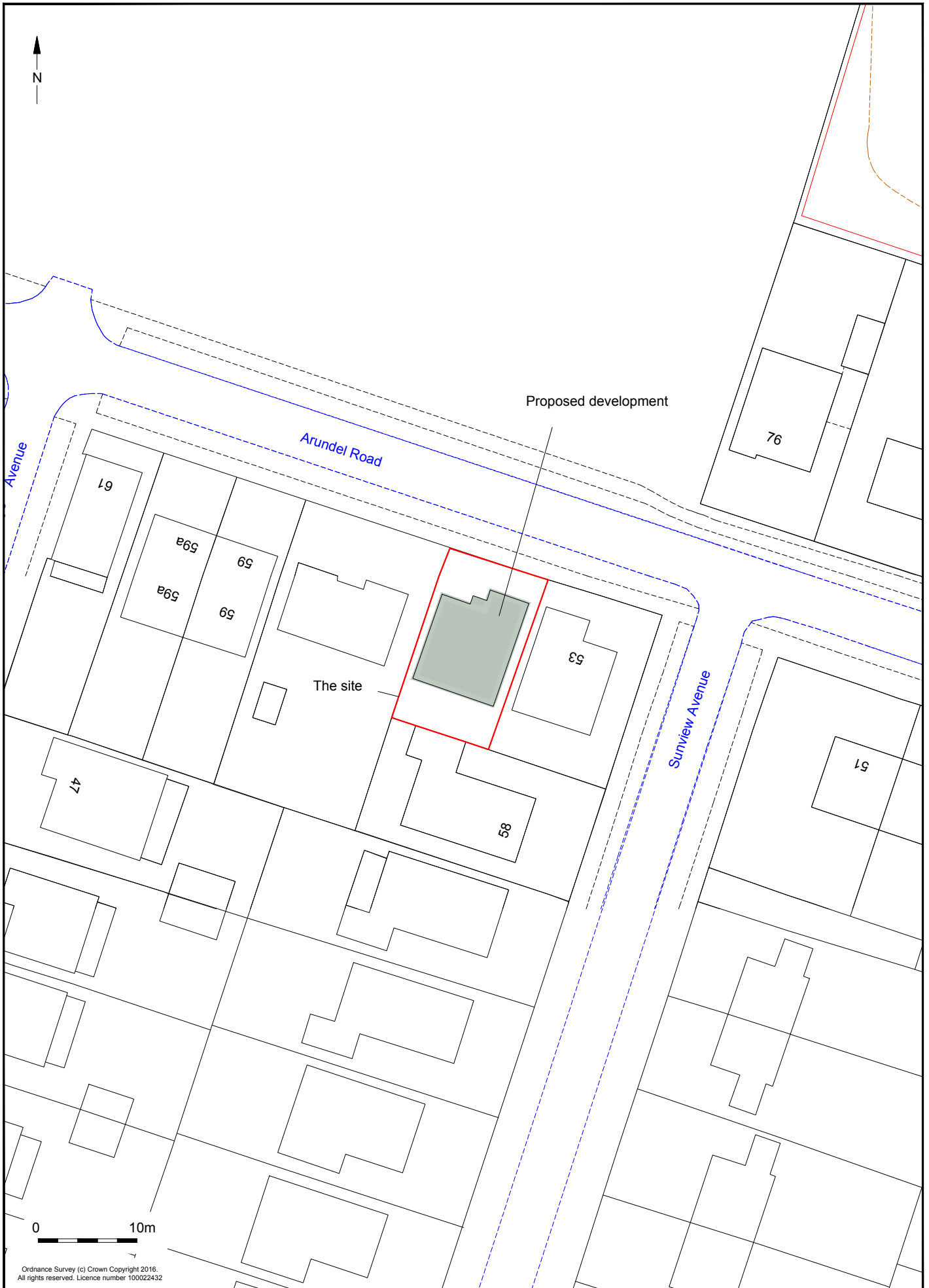
Entered by Tom Munnery (t.munnery@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 15 April 2016



Contains Ordnance Survey data
Crown copyright and database right 2014

© Archaeology South-East		53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160227	April 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016152	Drawn by: LG		



© Archaeology South-East		53 Arundel Road, Peacehaven	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160227	April 2016	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2016152	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

