

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
6 Hanover Close, Bexhill
East Sussex, TN40 2AU**

NGR 574317 108200

**Planning Ref: RR/2015/1241/P
ASE Project no. 160276
Site Code: HNC 16
ASE Report No: 2016241
OASIS id: archaeol6-254817**



By John Hirst

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill, East Sussex on the 9th and 10th of June 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Sargil Investments Ltd in advance of development of the site.

A single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated, measuring 10m x 1.50m. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) have been commissioned by Sargil Investments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 2AU hereafter referred to as 'the site' centred at NGR 574317 108200 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises a small triangular plot of land lying to the rear of Hanover Close. It is bounded by residential properties to the north-west and north-east and the A259 to the south. The plot is currently heavily wooded.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey the site is located over Wealdon Sandstone and Siltstone bedrock (BGS 2016). Superficial deposits are not recorded.

1.2.3 The site lies within the Bexhill Old Town Archaeological Notification Area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted on appeal by Rother District Council for the construction of a new single storey bungalow (RR/2015/1241/P). The archaeological condition is as follows:

3) No development shall take place until the applicant/developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation, which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. A written record of any archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within three months of the completion of any archaeological investigation, unless an alternative timescale is otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

1.3.2 A WSI for a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in support of the application was prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2016). All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report discusses the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out at the site by Archaeology South-East on the 9th and 10th June 2016. The work was carried out by John Hirst (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork), Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson (Post excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The key results of a search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record within a 500m radius of the site are summarised below (Figure 1).
- 2.2 The site lies within the historic core of Bexhill which dates from the Saxon period, appearing as 'Bexele' in the Domesday Book.
- 2.3 The site lies in very close proximity to the location of a Napoleonic Barracks (MES16392), founded in 1804 as a depot of the Kings German Legion. The burial ground for the barracks lies a short distance to the north-east (MES19796) and an 18th century building used as a drill hall in in the 19th century lies to the south-east (MES23646).
- 2.4 A number of archaeological watching briefs have taken place in the vicinity of the site though these have produced limited results (EES15922, EES15416, EES14271).

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 General Aims

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation to be carried out now are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits
- To assess how these remains might be affected by development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

2.3.2 Specific Research Aims

Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities in alignment with the draft South East Research Framework:

- To better understand early medieval settlement
- To better understand barrack expansion in the Napoleonic period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of a single trench measuring 10m x 1.5m and targeted on the footprint of the new dwelling and associated car park (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The trench was measured in on a west – east orientation, roughly aligned with the corner of the neighbouring property and then accurately tied in using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) Leica System 1200 GPS.
- 3.1.3 The trench was scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.4 The trench was excavated using a suitable 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.5 Only undifferentiated topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine and these were kept separately. The excavation was taken, in spits of no more than 0.20m, down to the top of the underlying natural sediments. All machining was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 3.1.6 A paper record and digital photographic record was maintained throughout the project.
- 3.1.7 On conclusion of the excavation, the spoil was backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course.

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	16
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	1

Table 1: 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 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 Trench 1 Archaeologically Negative

- 4.1.2 No archaeological finds or features were present in Trench 1. All contexts encountered in this trench are summarised in Appendix 1 at the back of the report.
- 4.1.3 The natural geology [1/003], consisting of a yellowish brown silty clay, was encountered at a depth ranging from 0.34 - 0.48m below the ground surface level.
- 4.1.4 Natural geology [1/003] was immediately overlain by subsoil [1/002], measuring a thickness of 0.14 – 0.20m and comprised of greyish, yellow brown, silty clay. It was heavily rooted with occasional gravel pieces throughout.
- 4.1.5 The subsoil [1/002] was immediately overlain by greyish brown, fine sandy clay topsoil measuring a thickness ranging from 0.20 – 0.28m. It contained frequent pea gravel and occasional modern CBM fragments throughout.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.2 The natural geology [1/003] was encountered at a depth varying between 0.34 – 0.48m below the ground surface level. It was overlain by a layer of silty clay subsoil [1/002], measuring a thickness of 0.14 – 0.20m which was immediately overlain by a fine, sandy clay topsoil [1/001], measuring a thickness of 0.20 – 0.28m.

5.2 Potential impact on archaeological remains

5.2.1 Owing to the lack of archaeological remains encountered during the evaluation any archaeological impact is considered to be unlikely.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the evaluation.

5.3.2 None of the research aims set out in section 2.3 can therefore be addressed.

5.4 Conclusion

5.4.1 There is no indication that the site has been affected by previous developments.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Sargil Investments Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and East Sussex County Council for their guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by John Hirst. Paul Mason managed the excavations and Dan Swift and Jim Stevenson the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	HNC 16					
Project code	160276					
Planning reference	RR/2015/1241/P					
Site address	6 Hanover Close, Bexhill					
District/Borough	East Sussex					
NGR (12 figures)						
Geology						
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	9 th - 10 th June 2016					
Sponsor/client	Sargil Investments Ltd					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	John Hirst					
Period summary						
						None
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 2AU on the 9th and 10th of June 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Sargil Investments Ltd in advance of development of the site.</i></p> <p><i>A single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated, measuring 10m x 1.50m. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-254817

Project details

Project name 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill, East Sussex, TN40 2AU on the 9th and 10th of June 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by Sargil Investments Ltd in advance of development of the site. A single archaeological evaluation trench was excavated, measuring 10m x 1.50m. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Project dates Start: 09-06-2016 End: 10-06-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX ROTHER HASTINGS 6 Hanover Close, Bexhill

Postcode TN40 2AU

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 574317 108200 50.874821090557 0.237905221046 50 52
29 N 000 14 16 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Sargil Investments Ltd

Project supervisor John Hirst

Type of sponsor/funding body Sargil Investments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

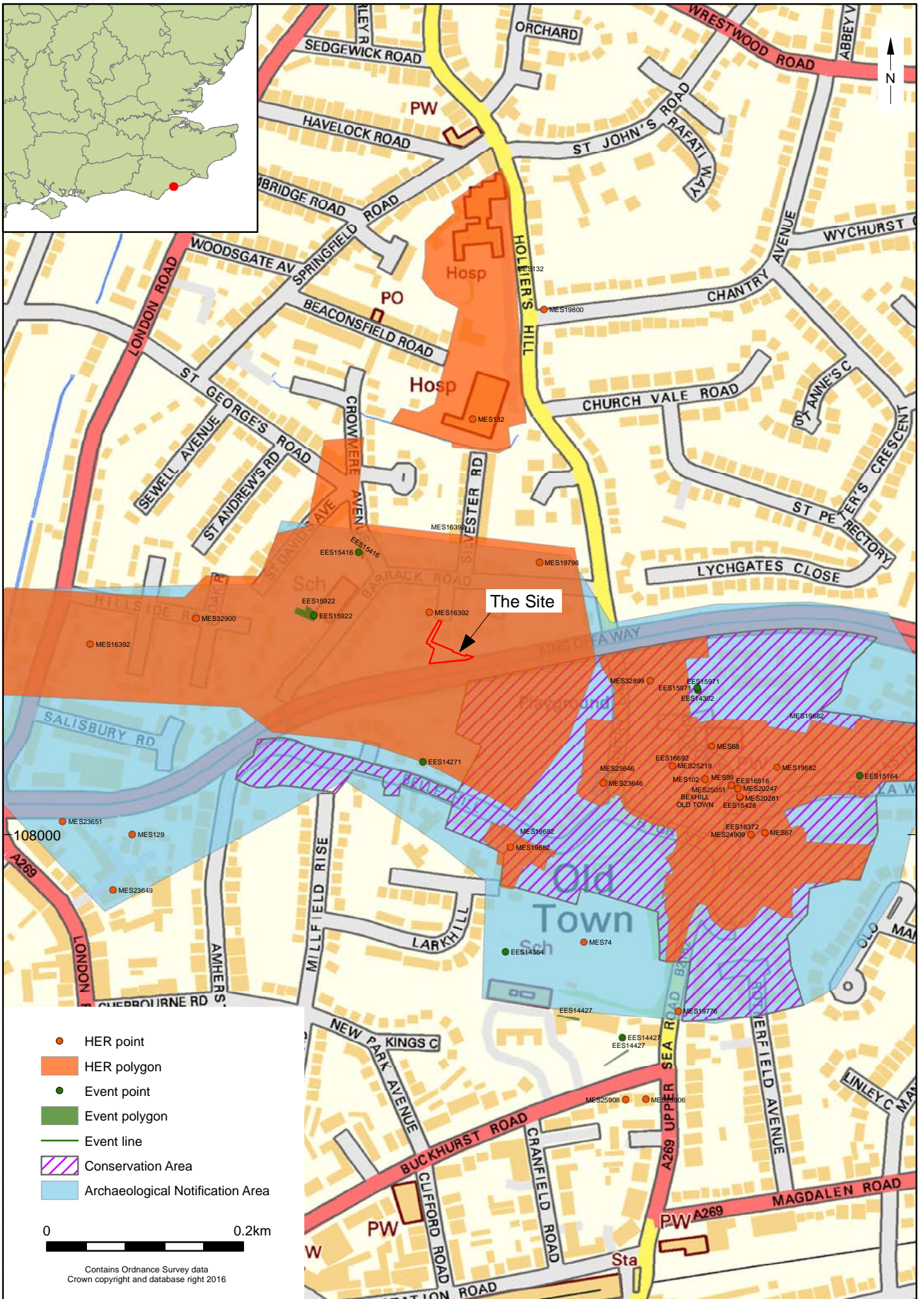
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

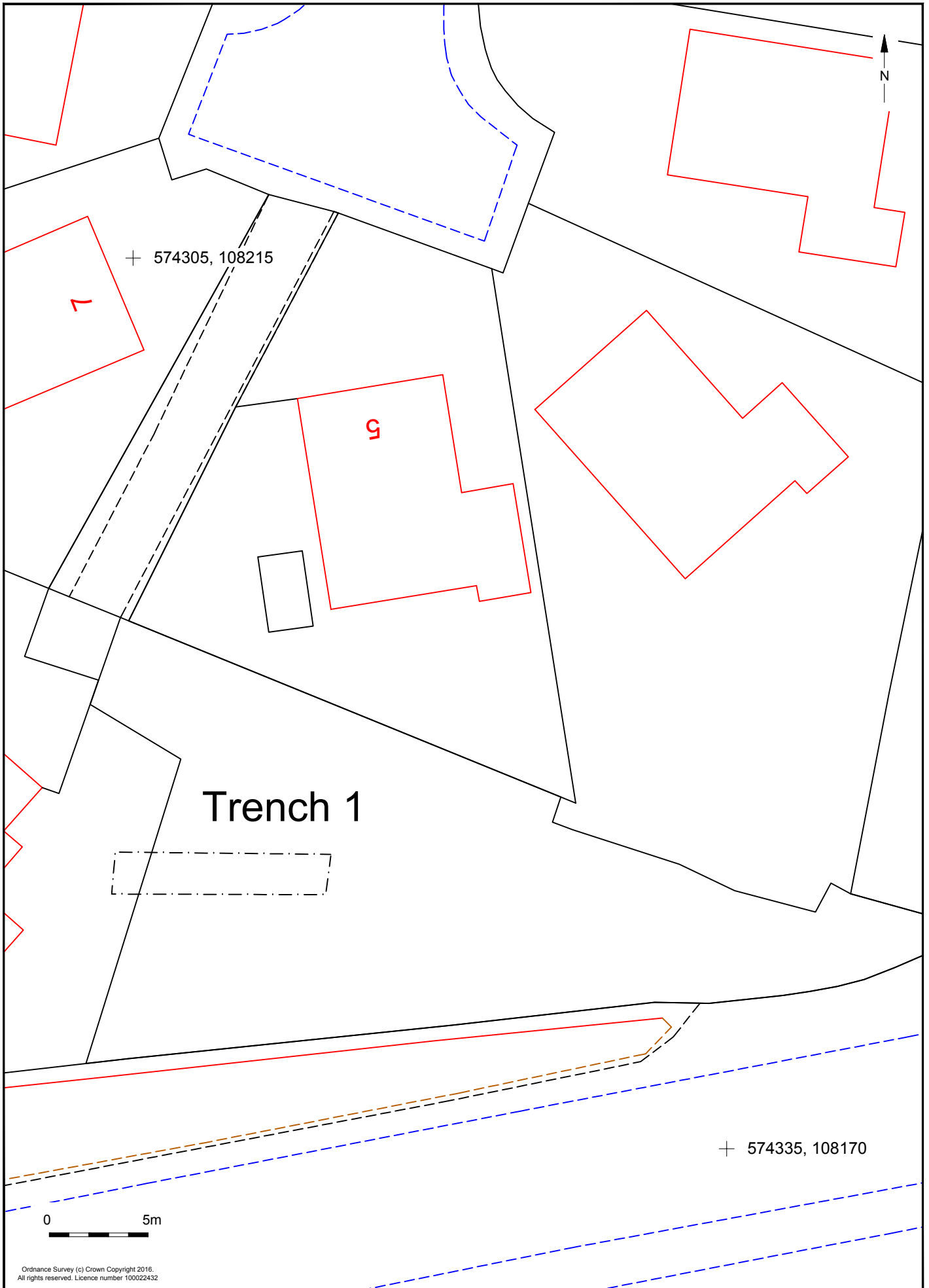
Paper Media available "Context sheet"
Entered by John Hirst (j.hirst@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on 15 June 2016

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches, list of recorded contexts

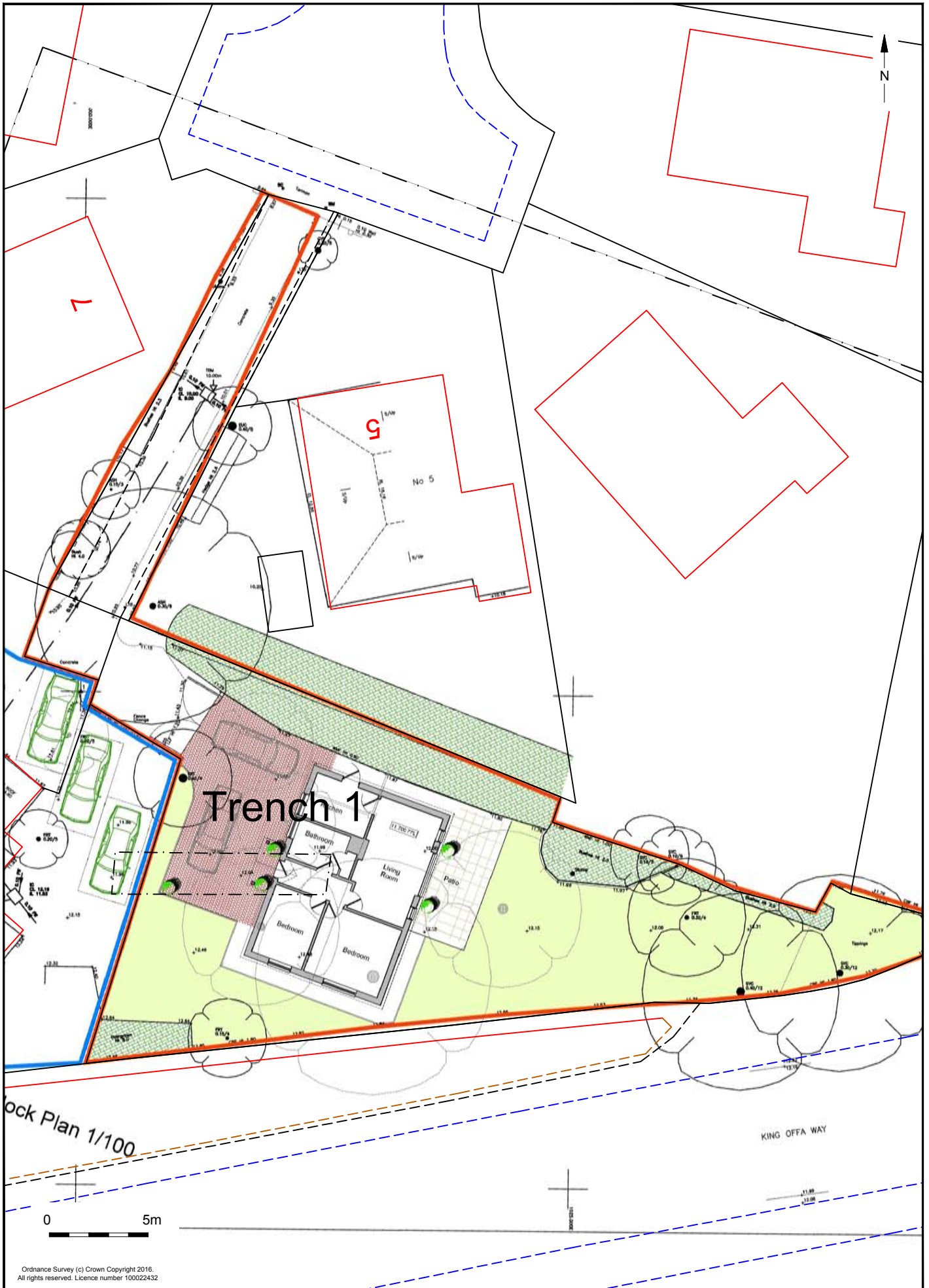
Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m
TR 1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.28
TR 1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.20
TR 1	1/003	Layer	Natural	0.06-0.10



© Archaeology South-East		6 Hanover Close, Bexhill	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160276	June 2016	Site location and HER data	
Report Ref: 2016241	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		6 Hanover Close, Bexhill	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160276	June 2016	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2016241	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		6 Hanover Close, Bexhill		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160276	May 2016	Trench location and proposed development		
Report Ref: 2016241	Drawn by: JLR			

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