

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at
Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex**

**Planning Ref: LW/09/1143
NGR 544477 112130
Project No. 4173
Site Code: RIN 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010017
OASIS ID: archaeol6-72906**



**Dylan Hopkinson MA
March 2010**

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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 on land between two care homes; Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, (NGR 544477 112130). The work was carried out on the 22nd February by Archaeology South-East after being commissioned by Felce & Guy Partnership LLP (Architects) on behalf of their client Mrs S Ratnasinkham. Works to excavate the footings of a covered walkway between the properties were monitored in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed.

The natural geology of the area comprised light yellowish brown clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 319 to be an outcrop of Gault Clay. This was encountered at 0.35m below ground level and was overlain by a topsoil deposit.

The Gault Clay yielded poor quality land in terms of agriculture in antiquity and it appears that the area was common wasteland between four separate hamlets in the immediate area, however the geology provided the source material for a pottery industry that developed around the 13th and 14th centuries and continued into the 16th century.

The stratigraphic sequence was heavily rooted and was cut by a gas pipe service trench; however no archaeological features were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Felce & Guy Partnership LLP (Architects) on behalf of their client Mrs S Ratnasinkham, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of wall footing trenches on land between the two care homes (NGR 544477 112130) (Figure 1).

1.2 Planning background

1.2.1 The proposed development involves the erection of a link corridor between Hidden Cottage and Holm Lodge and a change of use from residential to care home for Hidden Cottage.

1.2.2 Full planning consent was obtained for the development of the land (Planning Ref: LW/09/1143) subject to an archaeological planning condition to ensure that features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded. This condition states that:

"No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the local planning authority and the works shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved details."

1.2.3 Due to the archaeological potential of the site East Sussex County Council archaeologist Greg Chuter requested that an archaeological watching brief be carried out in order to establish the presence, or absence, of archaeological deposits on the site.

1.2.4 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2010) was prepared by ASE in response to this condition and was submitted and approved by Greg Chuter.

1.2.5 All work was carried out in accordance the WSI and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA).

1.3 Scope of the report

1.3.1 This report details the results of archaeological monitoring of works on the site. The work was undertaken on 22nd February 2010 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist).

1.3.2 The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and geology

2.1.1 The site lies on the eastern side of Ringmer, on the south-eastern side of Lewes Road (B 2192), and is accessed via Butlers Way.

2.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 map (Sheet 319, Lewes); the natural geology of the site comprises Gault Clay.

2.2 Archaeological and historical potential

2.2.1 A recent desktop assessment of Nought, Church Hill, Ringmer undertaken by ASE (2009) indicates that the site lies on the western limits of the medieval town of Ringmer. Information contained within the desktop assessment has been summarised below with due acknowledgement.

2.2.2 There is a low instance of archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site from the prehistoric, Romano-British and Saxon periods. However, finds from these periods are known to exist in the wider region and are outlined below.

2.2.3 Prehistoric

- Residual sherds of Iron Age pottery were found during an evaluation of a medieval settlement site at The Elms 150m north of the site, suggesting activity in the area.

2.2.4 Romano British

- A single Romano-British site has been recorded around 250m south of the development site, providing some evidence of occupation, but was poorly recorded and located in 1972.
- Additionally, several tiles with a possible Roman date were found during excavations of medieval pottery kilns in Potter's Field in 1894.

2.2.5 Anglo-Saxon

- No Anglo-Saxon sites are known within the area. Ringmer did not exist as a discrete settlement at this period. The place-name itself is first attested in 1275 and probably means 'circular pool', although it has been suggested that the first element may alternatively relate to a Saxon personal name 'Hringa'. It appears that the village is sited on communal wasteland set between four separate hamlets (Ashton, Middleham, Norlington and Wellingham), all with good Anglo-Saxon names. On this basis, it is likely that the site and its locality were used for common pasture, fuel gathering etc during this period. There is no evidence for any pottery making of this date in the locality.

2.2.6 Medieval

- Eleven medieval sites are known of in the area. Ringmer is notable in the medieval period for its pottery industry; producing cheap domestic wares around the 13th and 14th centuries, but with evidence for origins in the 12th century and persisting into the 16th century. The main area of focus of the industry was in the area north of Bishop's Lane, with other evidence known from the Delve, where Robert Rede was listed as a potter in records of 1305/6.

2.2.7 Post medieval

- The village grew during the early post-medieval period, as evidenced by the numerous listed buildings of this date, but did not develop any larger than a small agricultural settlement. The pottery industry declined after the 16th century, although it was to some extent replaced by tile and brick-making.
- Twenty-two post-medieval sites are recorded within the area including the unlisted 16th century Norlington Farmhouse, and other listed buildings and structures of various dates around the village.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2010) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).
- 3.1.2 The intrusive groundworks associated with the development were monitored by an archaeologist to assess the level of archaeological survival.
- 3.1.3 All monitored groundworks were excavated by hand using shovels and mattocks.
- 3.1.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.
- 3.1.5 A full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.
- 3.1.6 All features were to be drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 with section drawings of the excavated profiles drawn at a scale of 1:10.

3.2 Excavation aims and objectives

- 3.2.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains exposed during the groundworks (including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest) to appropriate archaeological standards.

3.3 Status of site archive

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

- 3.3.2 Table 1. Quantification of site archive

Number of Contexts / Context Sheets	2
Context Register Sheets	1
Photographic Record Sheets	1
Annotated site plans	1
Watching Brief Record Sheets	1
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	21

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Natural Geology and Overburden

- 4.1.1 The natural geology across the site comprised firm light yellowish brown clay [002], which was encountered at 0.35 metres below ground level.
- 4.1.2 Overlying the natural was a layer of made ground composed of compacted dark brown silty clay containing occasional fragments of brick rubble and gravels. This layer was 0.35 metres thick and showed severe rooting from trees that had been previously removed from between the two properties.
- 4.1.3 A gas pipe was also identified running parallel to Hidden Cottage 0.40 metres from the wall.
- 4.1.4 No evidence of finds, features or deposits of archaeological significance was observed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2009: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Nought, Church Hill, Ringmer. ASE Report no: 2009089

ASE 2010: Holm Lodge/Hidden Cottage, Ringmer, East Sussex: Archaeological Watching Brief; Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished ASE document.

IFA 2001: IFA 2001 Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	RIN 10					
Identification Name and Address	Holm Lodge/Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 544477 112130					
Geology	Gault Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4173					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching brief. ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	W.B. 22-01-10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Felce & Guy Partnership LLP (Architects) on behalf of their client Mrs S Ratnasinkham.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land between two care homes; Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, (NGR 544477 112130). The work was carried out on the 22nd February by Archaeology South-East after being commissioned by Felce & Guy Partnership LLP (Architects) on behalf of their client Mrs S Ratnasinkham. Works to excavate the footings of a covered walkway between the properties were monitored in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed.</i></p> <p><i>The natural geology of the area comprised light yellowish brown clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 319 to be an outcrop of Gault Clay. This was encountered at 0.35m below ground level and was overlain by a topsoil deposit.</i></p> <p><i>The Gault Clay yielded poor quality land in terms of agriculture in antiquity and it appears that the area was common wasteland between four separate hamlets in the immediate area, however the geology provided the source material for a pottery industry that developed around the 13th and 14th centuries and continued into the 16th century.</i></p> <p><i>The stratigraphic sequence was heavily rooted and was cut by a gas pipe service trench; however no archaeological features were identified.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-72906

Project details

Project name	Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was conducted on land between two care homes; Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, (NGR 544477 112130). The work was carried out on the 22nd February by Archaeology South-East after being commissioned by Felce and Guy Partnership LLP (Architects) on behalf of their client Mrs S Ratnasinkham. Works to excavate the footings of a covered walkway between the properties were monitored in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and record any remains that were likely to be disturbed. The natural geology of the area comprised light yellowish brown clay, indicated on British Geological Survey Sheet 319 to be an outcrop of Gault Clay. This was encountered at 0.35m below ground level and was overlain by a topsoil deposit. The Gault Clay yielded poor quality land in terms of agriculture in antiquity and it appears that the area was common wasteland between four separate hamlets in the immediate area, however the geology provided the source material for a pottery industry that developed around the 13th and 14th centuries and continued into the 16th century. The stratigraphic sequence was heavily rooted and was cut by a gas pipe service trench; however no archaeological features were identified.
Project dates	Start: 22-02-2010 End: 22-02-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RIN 10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	LW/09/1143 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 2 - Institutional and communal accommodation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	'Measured Survey','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

planning process

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES RINGMER Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex
Postcode	BN8 5ES
Study area	10.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 4436 1219 50.8905555556 0.05277777777780 50 53 26 N 000 03 10 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mrs S Ratnasinkham

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'

Archaeology South-East
Holm Lodge and Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer, East Sussex

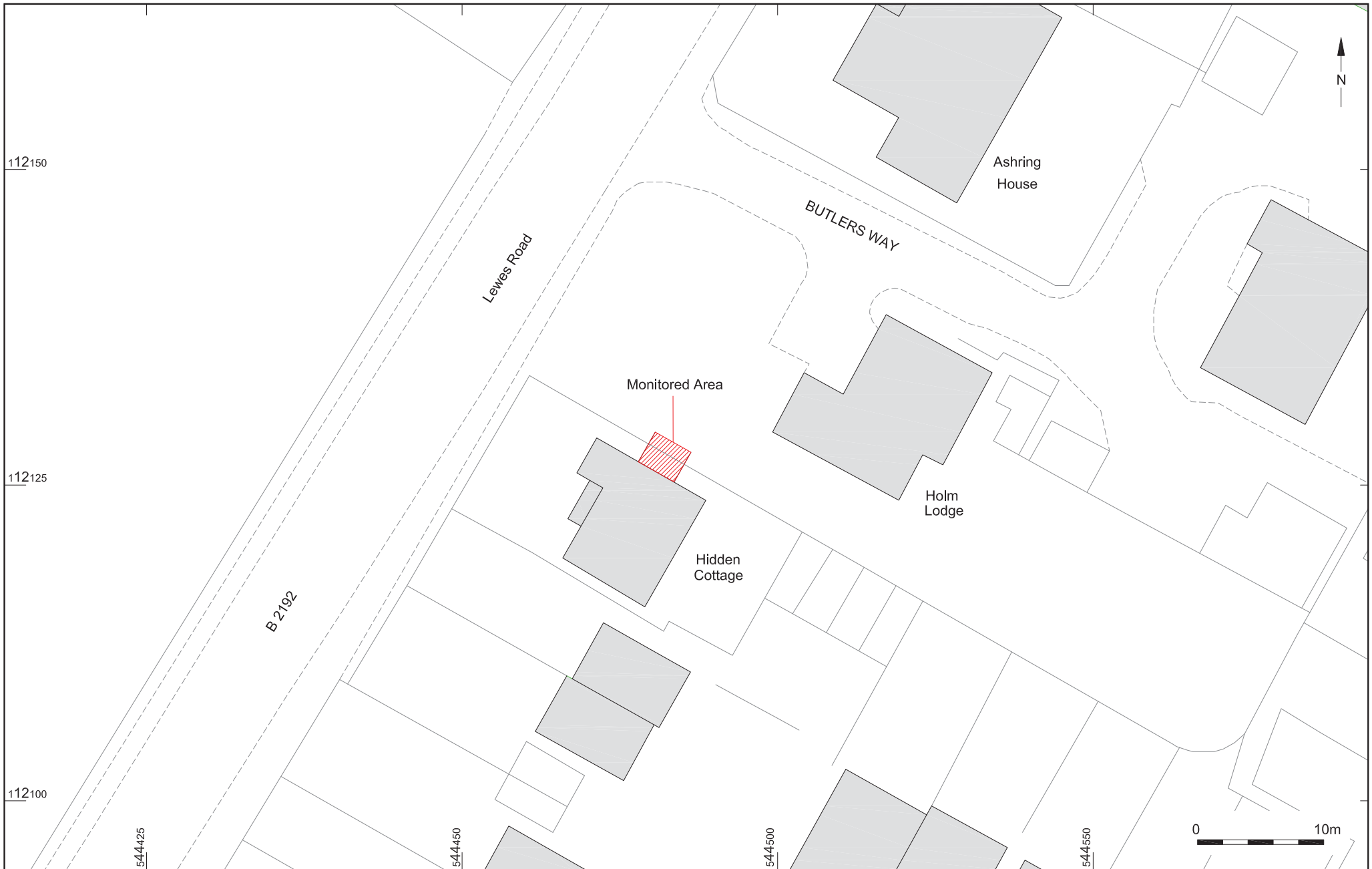
Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Notebook - Excavation','
Research',' General Notes','Unpublished Text'

Entered by Dylan Hopkinson (dylan.hopkinson@btinternet.com)

Entered on 23 February 2010



© Archaeology South-East		Holm Lodge & Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4173	Feb 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010017	Drawn by: DJH			



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© Archaeology South-East		Holme Lodge & Hidden Cottage, Lewes Road, Ringmer	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4173	Feb 2010	Site plan showing the location of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2010017	Drawn by: DJH		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax: +44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk



London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778 Fax: +44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

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