

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
'Bowries', 27 North End, Ditchling, East Sussex**

**Planning Reference LW/09/1296&1297**

**NGR: TQ 32604, 15533**

**ASE Project No. 4417  
Site Code: NOB 10**

**ASE Report No. 2010078  
OASIS id: archaeol6-78086**



**Kathryn Grant BA MSc AIFA  
With contributions by  
Elke Raemen, Lucy Sibun,  
Justin Russell and Sarah Porteus**

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**June 2010**

**Archaeology South-East  
Units 1 and 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex  
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830  
Fax: 01273 420866  
Email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
[www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Alan Phillips Architects on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Bowries, 27 North End, Ditchling (NGR: TQ 32604, 15533) during an extension to a Grade II Listed 16<sup>th</sup> century residential property. The watching brief took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010.*

*No archaeological features were encountered during the ground works monitored in the watching brief. Several artefacts of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from the garden soil at the site. Natural sandy clay geology was recorded at approximately 70.2m AOD.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London (CAA UCL), was commissioned by Alan Phillips Architects on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works at The Bowries, 27 North End, Ditchling (NGR: TQ 32604 15533, Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.
- 1.1.2 The works monitored were groundworks for an extension to the existing residential building and associated services (Figure 2).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 According to Ordnance Survey Geological Survey (Sheet 318/333, Brighton and Worthing), scale 1:50,000, the underlying geology at the site is Lower Greensand.
- 1.2.2 'Bowries' is located on the main north-south road which leads through the village of Ditchling, 0.3 km north of the parish church and just outside the centre of the village. It is sited on ground sloping to the east, and is raised slightly above the level of the street. The main range of the house is aligned north-south, parallel to the road.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 A planning application was submitted for an extension to the Grade II listed building (planning reference: LW/09/1296).
- 1.3.2 In the light of the archaeological potential of the site Greg Chuter, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) has requested an archaeological watching brief be maintained during ground works.
- 1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared (ASE 2010) in consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist (ESCC) who approved the document prior to archaeological works commencing on site. The WSI complied with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001) and the ESCC Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (ESCC 2008). All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (unless otherwise specified below).

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief as outlined in the WSI (ASE 2009) was to monitor intrusive ground works to ensure that any exposed artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.4.2 The specific aims of the investigation were:
- To identify any evidence of structures contemporary with the 18<sup>th</sup> century building.

- To identify any evidence of earlier buildings. Are there any burgage plot ditches or any features relating to back plot activity?

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeological Field Officer) from 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Fieldwork) and Dan Swift (Post-excavation).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 'Bowries' is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century Grade II Listed (TQ 3215 20/300) house.
- 2.2 In January 2010, the house was the subject of an archaeological interpretative survey by ASE (Report No.2010004). This assessment was commissioned to assess the building's history, design and the degree of alteration that has occurred to the structure over time. The current house is of early 18<sup>th</sup> century date with later modifications.
- 2.3 The following is summarised from the *Ditchling Historic Character Assessment Report*.

*Little prehistoric and Roman activity is known in the vicinity of Ditchling. A Lower Palaeolithic hand-axe was found in the churchyard (HER:TQ 31 NW53-ES1314) and Lodge Hill is a known Mesolithic site (HER: TQ 31 NW50-ES1312). A Roman road is located immediately north of the junction of Boddingtons Lane and High Street (HER: TQ 31 NW49 – ES1311). Other evidence of Roman period activity is provided by pottery sherds and coins (2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries) ploughed up in a local field, and a brooch resembling a pair of tweezers.*

- 2.4 The foundation of the village of Ditchling is probably of Saxon date and may have been a royal manor. The Saxon core is believed to be around East End Lane. It appears in King Alfred's Will as *Diceling* ('people of Diccel') and its present nucleated plan, clustered around St Margaret's Church and the cross roads, suggests little major alteration in form since the middle ages. In the medieval and post-medieval periods the focus of development shifted to the High Street area away from East End Lane.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 The Ground Works**

- 3.1.1. The ground works included the reduction of the ground level to the required formation level of the new build and the excavation of footing trenches for the proposed extension to the west of the existing dwelling (Figure 3).
- 3.1.2 The monitoring of associated service trenches was not required as they were to be excavated within the reduced area, which was monitored to undisturbed natural strata.
- 3.1.3 The objectives of the archaeological work were to monitor the excavation of new ground works in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the intrusive works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. Particular attention was to be made to the extent, character, depth, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.1.4 Modern disturbances associated with service excavations were apparent in the area adjacent to the existing building (under the path).

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.2.1 The complete adopted methodology may be found in the WSI (ASE 2010). This section is a brief précis of the detail within the WSI.
- 3.2.2 Machine excavation was undertaken by a small mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The topsoil/garden soil was removed in spits under the constant supervision of a monitoring archaeologist.
- 3.2.3 During the monitored excavations, all revealed deposits were examined for archaeological features and artefacts. The removed spoil was scanned for any stray, unstratified artefacts. The uncovered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IFA 2000 and 2001, EH 1991) using pro-forma context record sheets
- 3.2.4 A digital photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.2.5 The level of deposits has been approximated from the levels given on the ordnance survey template.



### 3.3 The Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, East Sussex pending submission to a suitable local museum. The contents of the site archive are summarised below in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	2 contexts
Number of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 Plan
Photographs	10 digital images
Finds	1 small box

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 The Groundwork

4.1.1 The reduced area measured approximately 9m north-south by 4.5m east-west. The area was reduced by a maximum of 0.6m in the area of the lawn where there was an upward slope to the garden.

4.1.2 Following ground reduction, footing trenches were excavated with the reduced area. Other intrusive ground works included alterations to the existing services which were not monitored, because the area was previously disturbed.

### 4.2 Findings

4.2.1 Only two contexts were revealed during the intrusive ground works. These have been tabulated below (Table 2) and have been summarised in 4.2.2. Although some artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered from the garden soil for analysis and dating, no archaeological cut features were encountered during the works.

#### 4.2.2

Context Number	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness (maximum)	Approximate Height m AOD
001	Deposit	Topsoil/Garden soil	0.6m	-
002	Deposit	Natural Geology	-	70.2

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

#### 4.2.3 Summary of Contexts

Natural geology [002] comprising light brownish orange sandy clay with grey mottling was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.6m (c.70.2m AOD) and was overlain by dark grey silty garden soil [001]. The garden soil contained a variety of post-medieval finds (see section 5.0).

No further deposits were revealed during the works.

## 5.0 FINDS QUANTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from the topsoil. This has been summarised below in Table 3.

Context	Pot	wt (g)	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)
1	10	566	2	456	4	272	1	32	5	482

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

### 5.2 The Pottery by Elke Raemen

5.2.1 Pottery all ranges in date between the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Four glazed red earthenware fragments including a bowl rim were found, as well as pearlware sherds including a blue transfer printed serving dish fragment and a chamber pot base. A yellow ware bowl base, a creamware fragment and an English white porcelain ornamental vase base were recovered as well.

### 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.3.1 Two fragments of brick were recovered from context [001]. One fragment weighing 240g is part of a machine made frogged brick in a coarse chunky silt fabric with calcareous inclusions of probable 20<sup>th</sup> century date. The second brick fragment has a vitrified surface with sharp arises and a pinkish red fabric with moderate calcareous inclusions and coarse chunky silt with moderate medium sized iron inclusions of probable 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century date. The material has been discarded.

### 5.4 Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

5.4.1 Four fragments of bone were recovered from topsoil [001]. These comprised two sheep humeral fragments showing signs of carnivorous gnawing, a fragment of sheep scapula and a cattle femoral shaft. This fragment of proximal femur shaft had been sawn through at both ends.

### 5.5 Other Finds by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 The topsoil contained a total of five glass fragments, all dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup>- to early 20<sup>th</sup>- century. Included are fragments from a green glass beer bottle, a complete amber 4 oz Bovril bottle, and an aqua piece from a rectangular-sectioned bottle with concave front, embossed "SHORT & (...)".

5.5.2 In addition, a single piece of shale was recovered from the topsoil.

**6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1** No archaeological cut features were encountered during the archaeological watching brief. Therefore, no evidence of structures or burgage plots was uncovered during the ground works.
- 6.2** A small scatter of unstratified finds of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered from the garden soil during the ground works.
- 6.3** Despite the site's proximity to a very large Mesolithic site no residual prehistoric flintwork was encountered during the ground works. The lack of flintwork and the limited overburden revealed at the site may suggest significant 18<sup>th</sup> century truncation during the construction of 'Bowries'.
- 6.4** As such the archaeological watching brief has shown that since no archaeological features or stratified deposits were encountered within the area of the new extension, as such the archaeological resource has not been impacted by the intrusive ground works.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

British Geological Survey Sheets *Brighton and Worthing, Sheet 318/333* (Bedrock and Superficial Deposits) 1:50 000 Series.

ASE, 2009, *Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished ASE Document

English Heritage, 1991, *The Management of Archaeological Projects*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, London: English Heritage

ESCC 2008. *East Sussex County Council Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex*. East Sussex County Council

IFA, 2000, The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*

IFA, 2001, The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance* documents

## **INTERNET SOURCES**

Web Source 1: *Listed Buildings Online* – <http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk>  
- accessed on 07-06-2010

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance of Greg Chuter (ESCC) for his advice and guidance during the project is greatly acknowledged. The author would also like to thank the contractors and the client.

**APPENDIX****Listed Building Details – Web Source 1****Building Details:**

**Building Name:**  
BOWRIES 27  
**Parish:** DITCHLING  
**District:** LEWES  
**County:** EAST SUSSEX  
**Postcode:** BN6 8TF

**Details:**

**LBS Number:** 292850  
**Grade:** II  
**Date Listed:** 20/08/1965  
**Date Delisted:**  
**NGR:** TQ3260115529

**Listing Text:**

DITCHLING NORTH END

1.  
5206 (west side)  
No 27 (Bowries)  
(formerly listed under  
North Street)  
TQ 3215 20/300 20.8.65.

II

2.  
Early C17 timber-framed building, now tile-hung on a red  
brick base. Tiled  
roof. Casement windows. Two storeys. Three windows.

Listing NGR: TQ3260115529

## SMR Summary Form

Site Code	NOB 10					
Identification Name and Address	"Bowries". 27 North End, Ditchling					
County, District and/or Borough	East Sussex, BN6 8TF					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ3260115529					
Geology	Lower Greensand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4417					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	<b>Shallow Urban</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB. 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010</b>	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Alan Phillips Architects					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Kathy Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo. None	Meso. None	Neo. None	BA None	IA None	RB None
	AS None	MED None	PM	Other <b>Late 18<sup>th</sup>-early 19<sup>th</sup> century Topsoil finds only</b>		
100 Word Summary.						
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Alan Phillips Architects on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Bowries, 27 North End, Ditchling (NGR: TQ 32604, 15533) during an extension to a Grade II Listed 16<sup>th</sup> century residential property. The watching brief took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2010.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features were encountered during the ground works monitored in the watching brief. Several artefacts of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from the garden soil at the site. Natural sandy clay geology was recorded at approximately 70.2m AOD.</i></p>						

**OASIS Form****OASIS ID: archaeol6-78086****Project details**

Project name	'Bowries', 27 North End, Ditchling
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Alan Phillips Architects on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Bowries, 27 North End, Ditchling (NGR: TQ 32604, 15533) during an extension to a Grade II Listed 16th century residential property. The watching brief took place on 2nd June 2010. No archaeological features were encountered during the ground works monitored in the watching brief. Several unstratified post-medieval artefacts were recovered from the garden soil at the site. Natural sandy clay geology was recorded at approximately 70.2m AOD.
Project dates	Start: 02-06-2010 End: 02-06-2010
Any associated project reference codes	LW/09/1296 and 1297 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	NOB 10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Listed Building
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES DITCHLING 'Bowries', 27 North End, Ditchling
Postcode	BN6 8TF
Site coordinates	TQ 32601 15529 50.9233950117 -0.113131668216 50 55 24 N 000 06 47 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 7.20m Max: 7.20m



**Project creators**

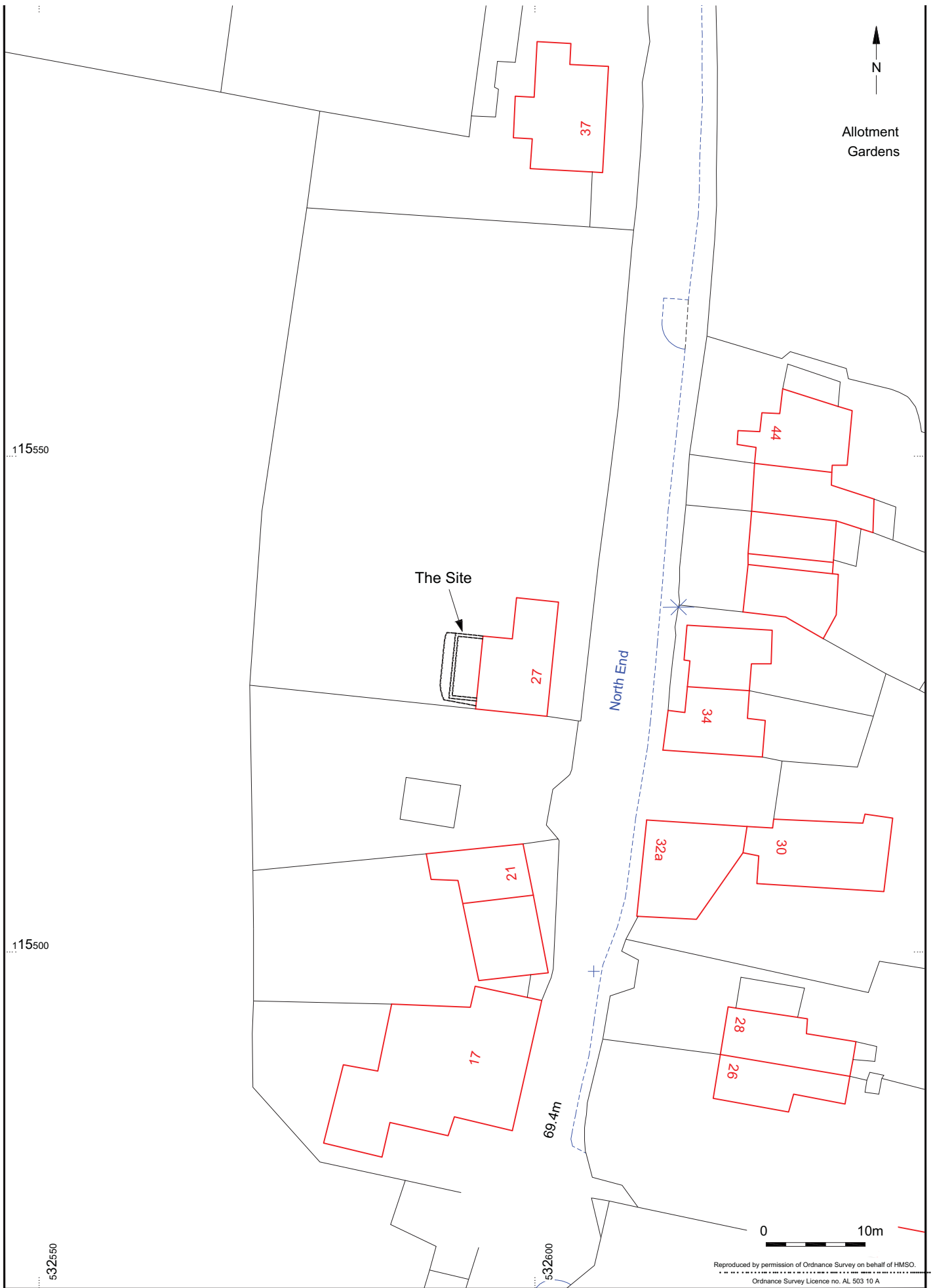
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	East Sussex County Council
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	Alan Phillips Architects

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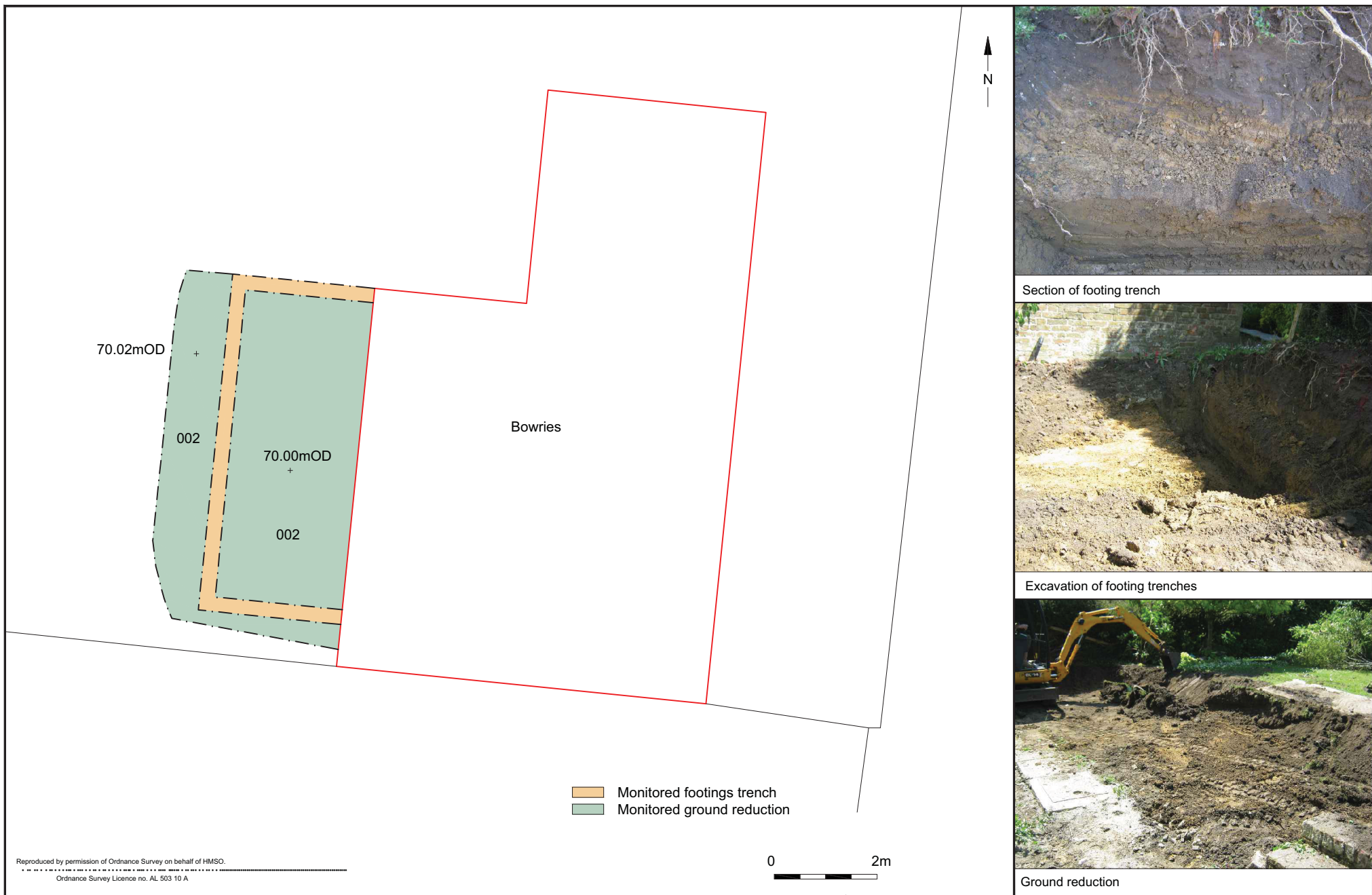
Entered by	Kathryn Grant (Kathryn.Grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	7 June 2010



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Project Ref: 4417	July 2010	Site location		
Report Ref: 2010078	Drawn by: JLR			



• • Archaeology South-East		'Bowries', 27 North End, Ditchling		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4417	June 2010	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2010078	Drawn by: JLR			



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Monitored footings trench  
 Monitored ground reduction

0 2m

<b>• Archaeology South-East</b>		'Bowries', 27 North End, Ditchling	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4417	June 2010	Site plan detail and photos	
Report Ref: 2010078	Drawn by: JLR		

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](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://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](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

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

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