



**Chris Butler MifA
Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Evaluation
at
Yew Tree Cottage,
The Green,
Godstone.
Surrey**

CBAS0412

By
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March 2014

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new two storey detached dwelling towards the rear of Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone Green, Godstone, Surrey. Two evaluation trenches were excavated in a T-shape located on the footprint of the new build using a 3 tonne tracked excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket down to the natural. The only archaeological feature was an 18th century pit or ditch terminal otherwise no archaeological features or finds of note were encountered during the evaluation.

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Plate 1 Trench 1 looking South-West.

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Plate 3 Trench 2 looking North-West

Appendix

Appendix I: HER Summary Form

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1** Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd had been commissioned by John Brice Construction Ltd to carry out an Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone Green, Godstone, Surrey, in order to establish whether there are any archaeological remains present at the site that may be affected by the new build.
- 1.2** As a result of the site's location and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority put a condition on the planning consent for the development requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.
- 1.3** The site, centred at TQ 350 515, is located on the southern side of Godstone Green in an area designated as Green Belt Settlement and is between two existing buildings which front onto The Green; being roughly 'L' shaped. It is served by an existing vehicular access which also provides access to a number of non-residential units forming part of the old Dairy.
- 1.4** Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone Green (Fig. 1) falls on the edge of the Area of High Archaeological Potential around the historic settlement of Godstone and it is possibly within the area of the medieval village and contains buried Heritage Assets with archaeological significance (Fig. 2). Additionally the presence of the Roman Road, Stane Street which possibly followed the line of the current High Street and three Scheduled Bronze Age Barrows to the north-west, do raise the possibility that pre-medieval archaeological assets may exist on the site.
- 1.5** The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey, Sheet 286, comprises Weald Clay (180 - 210m) with areas of Sandstone to the south.
- 1.6** An appropriate programme of archaeological work comprising of an evaluation excavation was put in place. A written scheme of investigation covering the evaluation was approved by the Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team and was submitted to and subsequent approved by the local planning authority¹.
- 1.7** The aims of the evaluation was to establish whether there were any archaeological remains present which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, and to determine the extent, dating and importance of those remains.

¹ Bradshaw, A. 2013 Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation Excavation at Yew Tree Cottage, The Green, Godstone. CBAS

2.0 Archaeological & Historical Background (Fig. 4)

- 2.1 The site falls on the edge of an Area of High Archaeology Potential designated around the historic settlement of Godstone. To the north-east of the site three Scheduled Bronze Age Barrows exist, showing Bronze Age or at least pre-medieval activity around the site. In the fields near Castle Hill Neolithic flints have been found.²
- 2.2 The Bronze Age habitation of Surrey is generally now more understood than it was 20 years ago, the Bronze Age people being known to us today chiefly as builders of barrows on the lower greensand hills such as at Godstone, Oxted, Reigate and Puttenham.³ On Castle Hill, by Leigh Place, several barrows are said to have existed, and two still remain near it, one injured by the road and both apparently rifled.⁴
- 2.3 The presence, possibly along the existing High Street, of the Roman road, Stane Street, indicates the potential of pre-medieval/Roman activity on the site (Fig. 5). A fragment of Romano-British pottery has been found in the bank on Castle Hill¹.
- 2.4 The village originally formed part of the Anglo-Saxon administrative area of the Tandridge Hundred, lying on a stretch of the London to Brighton Roman Road which emerges through the Caterham Gap southward along the Tilburstow Hill Road. The village was originally known as Walkingstead (*OE* meaning Wolcens Place), there is a record of 932 of the place name as Wuulicinstead.
- 2.5 In the Domesday Book of 1086 Godstone is known as *Wachelstede* and was held by Count Eustace, being formerly held by Oswald from King Edward; when it then answered for 40 hides, at the time of Domesday it answered for 5 hides. Land for 30 ploughs; 39 villagers and 2 smallholders with 22 ploughs. 10 slaves. A mill at 6s; meadow, 3 acres; woodland for 100 pigs. To the manor belong 15 dwellings in Southwark and in London, at 6s and 200 herrings. Its value before 1066 was £20; later £16 at the time of Domesday £20; however, it pays £28 by weight.⁵
- 2.6 The first tenant of whom there is any record is Richard de Lucy, apparently the son of the Reginald de Lucy who gave a moiety of the church here to Lesnes Abbey. Richard held Walkhampstead of the king in chief as of the honour of Boulogne, and gave half of this vill to Odo de Dammartin with his sister in marriage, to be held by the service of a quarter of a knight's fee. The other half came to Roger St. John, who, according to Dugdale, married Lucy's other sister. The St. Johns, obtaining the Dammartin portion

² 'Parishes Godstone' A History of the County of Surrey: Vol 4 1912 pp. 283-291. Edited by .E.Malden.

³ History of Surrey. Peter Brandon. Phillimore 1998. P.23.

⁴ 'Parishes Godstone' A History of the County of Surrey: Vol 4 1912 pp. 283-291. Edited by .E.Malden.

⁵ Domesday Book, Surrey. Edited by John Morris. 1975.

also, certainly had the whole of the original holding by 1251, but it is evident that in the early 14th century they held the fee as two separate manors, Lagham and Marden⁶.

- 2.7** The village name is recorded in 1248 as *Godeston*, (*OE* Goda and Farm, Village) Goda was the daughter of Aethelred the Unready and was the wife of Count Eustace II of Boulogne; suggesting the farm or village of Goda.
- 2.8** A Medieval earthwork, of uncertain date, which is often claimed as a lesser Norman Castle has been noted at Godstone. There is a moated site at Flore Farm, these sites seem to have appeared c.1200-1325, which was possibly in response to violent marauders and local undesirables. Another similar site, at Lagham Manor, has been excavated and enclosed an area of 3.7ha (9 Acres), it has a number of features which make it more like an earthwork castle or ringwork than a normal moated site; it appears not to have been constructed until the late 13th century (licence to crenellate 5 February 1262 - Cal Pat Rolls, 1258-66).⁷
- 2.9** The early religious organisation in Surrey identified the earliest churches as minster churches, founded by kings or bishops which were located at important and administrative centres, one of which was at Godstone; typically comprising of five to fifteen modern parishes.⁸ Godstone Church Town lies 5 miles east of Redhill and 20 miles from London. The church stands upon high ground. To the south of it is a picturesque group of almshouses, erected in 1872 from the designs of Sir Gilbert Scott at the cost of Mrs. Hunt of Wonham House, in memory of her daughter. On the north side, and forming the northern wing of the group, is the chapel of St. Mary, partly of stone and partly of half-timber. The road, here called Church Lane, slopes steeply down-hill past the church, and near the bottom is a pair of 17th-century half-timber cottages standing at right angles to the road. Some stonework in the chimney stack may be of an earlier date. The Bell Inn, further south, is a two-story building of early 18th-century date, with a wood modillion cornice and tiled roof. Near the junction of this lane with the present main road is a group of half-timbered cottages which appear to be of 16th-century date and are locally supposed to be the old Packhorse Inn. The principal portion of the village at Godstone Green lies along the main road about half a mile to the west of the church, the two portions of the village being quite distinct. The houses surrounding The Green are mostly modern.⁹
- 2.10** A letter from John Evelyn to John Aubrey, the author of the first detailed history of Surrey, in 1675 mentions *'Not far from my brothers house, upon the streams and ponds, since filled up and drained, stood formerly many powder mills erected by my*

⁶ *Ibid*

⁷ The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540. Edited by Joanna Bird & D.G.Bird. Surrey Archaeological Society. 1987. P226, 232, 234.

⁸ History of Surrey. Peter Brandon. Phillimore 1998. P.23.

⁹ 'Parishes Godstone' A History of the County of Surrey: Vol 4 1912 pp. 283-291. Edited by H.E.Malden.

ancestors - these were the first set up in England - for casting, hammering into plates, cutting and drawing it into wire.¹⁰

- 2.11** In 1725 a small school, unendowed, for twenty children, was returned as existing in Bishop Willis's visitation. In 1709 Mr. David Maynard of Tandridge had left £200 for the education of poor children of Tandridge and Godstone. As no school is returned under Tandridge, this was perhaps Mr. Maynard's school. Godstone school (National) was built in 1854 and enlarged in 1887. Godstone station school (Church) was built in 1884 and enlarged in 1905.¹¹
- 2.12** A number of coaching roads ran through Surrey around the 1820's, one of which ran *'the old way'* via Godstone and was improved by avoiding the climb over Tilburstow Hill.¹² The White Hart at Godstone (SMR No. 11324) being a former 16th century coaching inn, with 18th & 19th century extensions, is associated with these coaching roads. The White Hart Inn is situated towards the southern end of the main street, it is a two-storied mid 16th century house of H plan plastered externally and tile-roofed.
- 2.13** An early 16th century timber framed house, standing on a rendered plinth, with later 19th century casements, exists close to the site at 126 High Street. (SMR No. 11496.) A row of 18th century Terraced Cottages also exist in the 67 - 68 High Street and are known as 'Clayton Cottages'. (SMR No. 17969)
- 2.14** A Grade II listed 18th century, part timbered, row of houses with shop end at number 77 High Street is also close to the site, these being altered later in the 19th century. (SMR No. 11582). Also near to the site is an early 19th century Grade II listed house of yellow stock brick with a hipped slate roof, known as 'Pond House'. (SMR No. 11318.)
- 2.15** The 1st Edition OS Map of 1869-70 (Fig. 6) shows the site within buildings to the south of the pond. It is possible that some of the smaller buildings on this and later OS maps may fall within the area of the site. There is little change in the later OS maps of 1896, 1912 and 1935.

¹⁰ History of Surrey. Peter Brandon. Phillimore 1998. P.51.

¹¹ 'Parishes Godstone' A History of the County of Surrey: Vol 4 1912 pp. 283-291. Edited by H.E.Malden.

¹² History of Surrey. Peter Brandon. Phillimore 1998. P.87.

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct*, and the Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, together with the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (2009)*, *English Heritage's Guidance on Environmental Archaeology (2011)* and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Guidelines (MoRPHE)* and *The Treasure Act (1996 as amended)* (Recommended Standards).
- 3.2** Two evaluation trenches were excavated in an T-shaped plan with both trenches measuring 10m by 1.5m and were positioned over the footprint of the new building (Fig. 7). Trench 1 was orientated approximately north-east – south-west and Trench 2 was orientated approximately north-west – south-east. The trenches were excavated by a 3 tonne machine using a 1.5 toothless ditching bucket in accordance with the Recommended Standards. Both trenches were excavated down into the natural, a depth of approximately 800mm from the current ground level.
- 3.3** All exposed sections and surfaces were inspected for archaeological features, structures or finds. The spoil from the excavations was inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was initially used to scan the location of the trenches however, no signals were noted. The metal detector was also used to scan the spoil heap during the evaluation.
- 3.4** All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5** Both trenches were levelled in relation to a TBM on the gate post that will form the entrance way to the new property. This TBM was not tied into the Ordnance Datum.
- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of YTC13 has been allocated and after any further analysis, the archive will be offered to an appropriate local museum.

4.0 Results (Figs. 8 & 9)

4.1 Trench 1

4.2 The topsoil was a soft, humic sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component (Context **1/001**). It comprised of a dark black-grey deposit with bioturbation in the form of roots at 3%. It was between 300-340mm in depth across the trench.



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking South-West

4.3 Below the topsoil deposit (**1/001**) was a made ground deposit, Context **1/002**. This was a soft, light yellow, silty-sand deposit that was 220mm in section. Inclusions amounted to ceramic building material (CBM) at 1%.

4.4 Below this made ground deposit was a silty-sand formation, Context **1/003**. This was a soft, dark-grey with mottled orange streaks, with no inclusions and had a depth of 120mm to the limit of excavation (LOE). It was interpreted as re-deposited natural due to its similarity to the underlying natural sand formation (Contexts **1/004** and **1/005**).

4.5 Context **1/004** was what looked a 'dirty' version of the underlying natural or a possible subsoil as suggested by the inclusions of CBM at <1%. It was approximately 250mm deep and was a soft to compact, dark brownish-grey deposit above the cleaner, slightly more compact silty-sand that was the natural (Context **1/005**).

- 4.6** Context **1/005** was a slightly more compact and cleaner version of **1/004**. It was a dark brown-grey silty-sand and was a mid-grey, silty-sand. It was 120mm deep to the LOE with no inclusions.
- 4.7** Trench 2
- 4.8** The topsoil in Trench 2 (**2/001**) was the same as same as in Trench 1 (Context **1/001**). It was a soft, humic sandy-silt deposit, with a strong sand component. It comprised a dark black-grey deposit and was between approximately 400mm in depth across the trench.
- 4.9** Below the topsoil deposit was the subsoil, Context **2/002**. This was a mid, reddish-brown silty-sand deposit that was between 180-240mm in section. Inclusions amounted to sub-angular flints <50mm at 1%. At the north-eastern end of the trench any distinction in either colour or texture between the topsoil and subsoil had disappeared and the topsoil (Context **2/001**) appeared to extend down to above the natural.
- 4.10** Below the subsoil was the natural sand formation, Context **2/003**. Context **2/003** was a natural deposit that was also present in Trench 1. It was a soft to firm deposit (when compared to Contexts **1/003** and **3/004**) and was a fine to medium sand, red-brown in colour, between 90-170mm to the limit of excavation and contained no inclusions.



Plate 2: Cut **2/004** and fill **2/005**

- 4.11** Context **2/004** was a cut feature that appeared to be below **2/001** as no cut through **2/001** could be ascertained, although the fill was very similar to the topsoil. A clear cut through Contexts **2/002** and **2/003** could clearly be seen. It had vertical sides in section and was approximately 500mm deep and 500mm wide and extended 430mm in plan into the trench.
- 4.12** Context **2/005** was the fill of Context **2/004**. It was a soft black-grey sandy-silty fill with inclusions including glass at <1%, CBM <1% and pot <1% and was very similar to the topsoil, **2/001**. The fill dated from the 18th century but also contained residual 16th-17th century artefacts as well.



Plate 3: Trench 2 looking North-West

5. Finds

- 5.1** A small assemblage of artefacts was recovered during the evaluation and is summarised in Table 1 below.
- 5.2** The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

Table 1: Quantification of finds (no./weight in grams)

Context	Pottery (by date group)	Ceramic Building Material	Glass	Deposit Date
1/002	-	Brick 1/105g Peg tile 5/247g	-	C17th – 18 th
1/004	1550-1750: 1/35g	Brick 2/281g Peg tile 3/121g	-	c. 1650-1775
2/002	1225-1375: 1/4g	Peg tile 8/324g	-	C17th – 18 th (resid. C13th/14 th)
2/005	1550-1750: 2/32g 1750-1900: 3/41g	Peg tile 2/48g Floor tile 1/85g	1/35g	C18th (resid. C16th/17 th)

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1** The evaluation recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the site. By far the earliest sherd consists of a slightly abraded reduced sand-tempered cooking pot sherd of mid 13th to mid 14th century date, possibly from the Limpsfield industry (residual in **2/002**). There are three fresher sherds of early post-medieval date. These consist of hard-fired fine earthenwares of mid 16th to 17th century date (both from **2/005**). One is from an oxidised handle, the other a reduced bodysherd similar to 17th types from Wrotham.

5.2.2 Context **1/004** produced the base from a glazed red earthenware vessel of probable mid 17th to mid 18th century date. The few definite sherds of Late Post-medieval pottery were recovered from Context **2/005** and consist of part of an 18th century glazed red earthenware dish, part of a creamware plate, and part of a pearlware teabowl.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A scattering of post-medieval brick and tile was recovered. The three pieces of brick include a reused fragment tempered with sparse fine sand and sparse iron oxides to 1mm from **1/002**. This is likely to be of 17th to 18th century date. The brick from **1/004** includes a fragment from a 44mm thick floor brick in a similar fabric to the above and a 133g piece tempered with common/abundant marl. Both can be placed in a later 17th to 18th century date range.

5.3.2 The peg tile from the site is in one of four fabrics:

T1 – sparse fine sand with occasional calcareous inclusions

T2 – Sparse fine sand with rare iron oxide inclusions

T3 – Sparse fine sand with some marl streaking

T4 – A buff/pale orange fabric tempered with sparse fine sand and notable marl streaks.

5.3.3 Context **1/002** produced fragments of T1 (1/33g), T2 (2/175g) and T3 (2/39g), the only peg hole being a diamond-shaped example in T1. Context **1/004** produced the same range of fabrics (T1: 1/69g; T2 1/20g and T3 1/31g) with another diamond peg hole in T1). Context **2/002** again produced the same range of types (T1 1/29g; T2 6/270g and T3 1/25g) but included a T2 example with circular peg hole. Context **2/005** produced two pieces of T5, none with features, and a fragment from an unglazed 25mm thick floor tile tempered with moderate medium sand. All of the tile can be placed within a later 16th to 18th century date range.

5.4 Glass by Chris Butler

5.4.1 A single sherd from a green glass bottle was recovered from Context **2/005**. It is likely to date from the 18th century.

6. Discussion

- 6.1** The lack of any archaeological finds and features of any great antiquity from a stratigraphic secure context is disappointing given the surrounding environs. This lack of archaeology would suggest that any use of the site has been extremely limited or non-existent, although the single sherd of medieval pottery would hint at activity nearby, although we cannot be sure of what depositional or post-depositional factors may have influenced its deposition.
- 6.2** The 18th century feature could be either a pit or a ditch terminal although its function is unknown. This feature also contained residual pottery of mid 16th to 17th century date, hinting at nearby activity between these dates.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1** The evaluation excavation undertaken at Yew Tree Cottage was successfully completed and largely achieved its objectives. The depth of deposits across the site was established and, moreover, the potential for surviving deposits was also ascertained.
- 7.2** The presence of a feature within the impact area of the new development demonstrates that there may be further evidence in the form of undisturbed features present on the site. It is therefore recommended that an archaeological watching brief is put in place during the development to ensure that any features that may be damaged or destroyed by the development can be adequately recorded.

8 Acknowledgements

- 8.1** I would like to thank the client, John Brice Construction Ltd, for commissioning the archaeological evaluation. Luke Barber and Chris Butler reported on the finds. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler, and monitored by Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team.



Fig. 1: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone: Site Location Map
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Fig.2: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone. AHAP Map.
Adapted from map supplied by Surrey County Council
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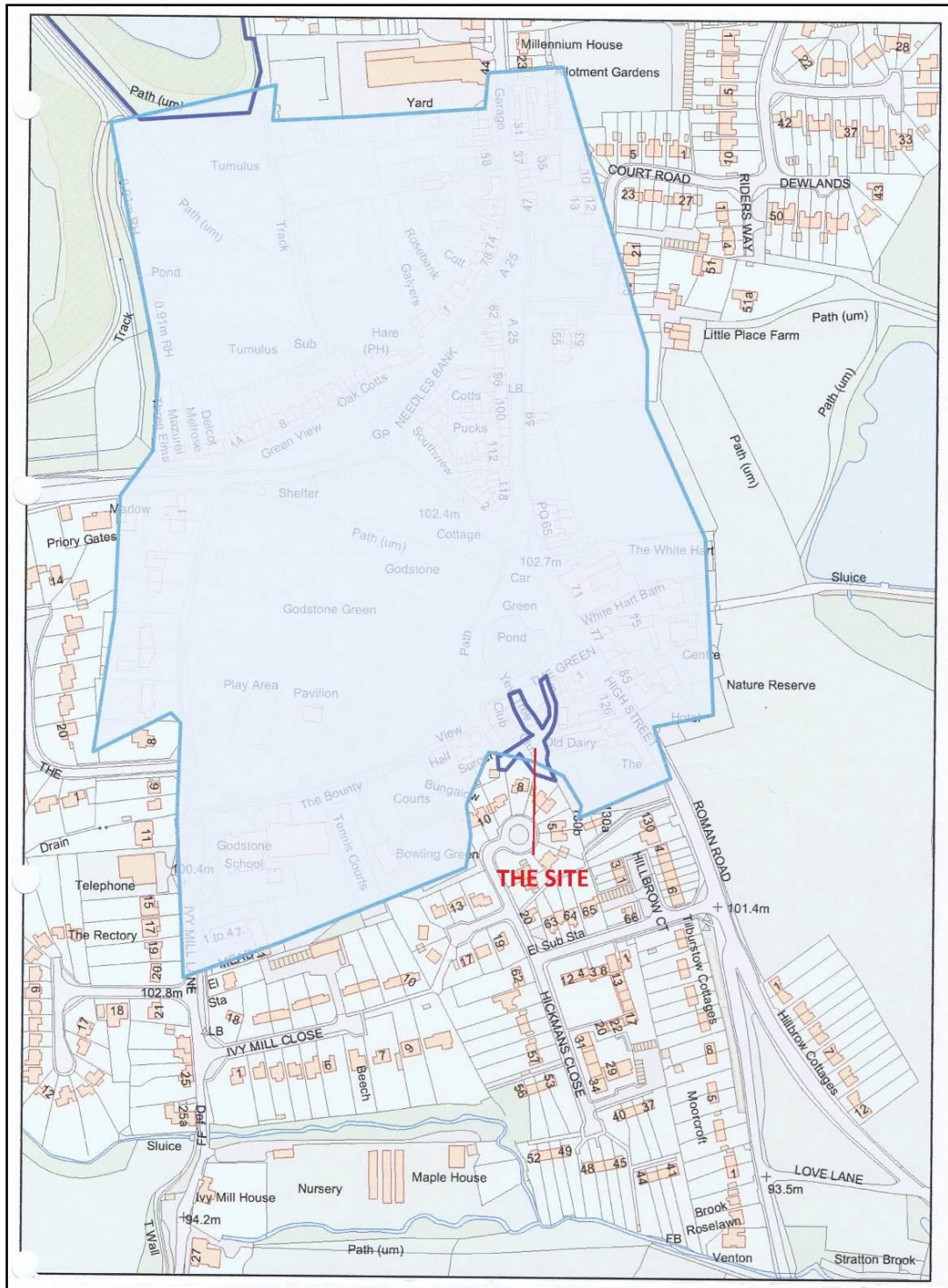


Fig. 3: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone. Conservation Area Map.

Adapted from map supplied by Surrey County Council

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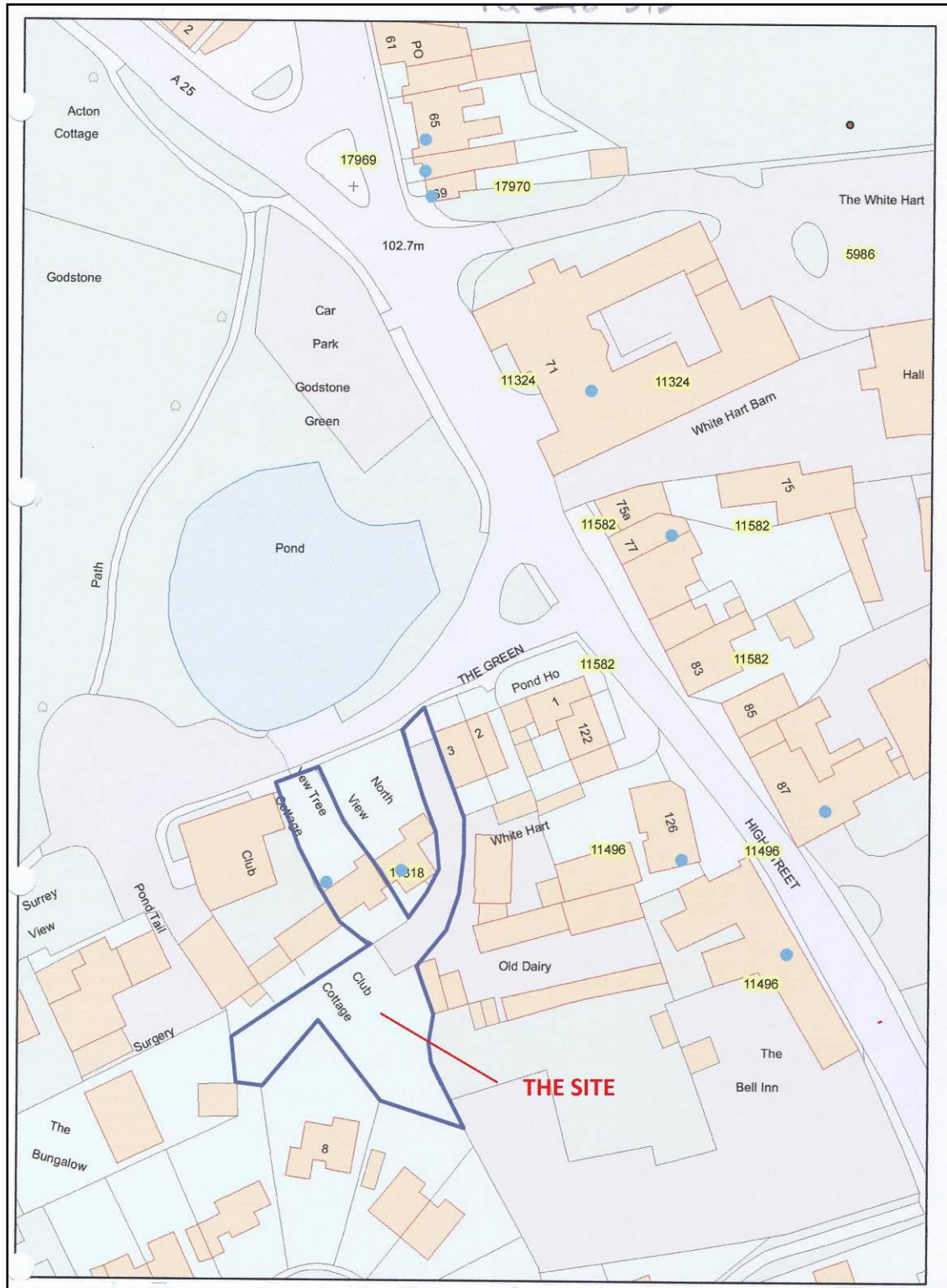


Fig. 4: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone. HER Map.
Adapted from map supplied by Surrey County Council
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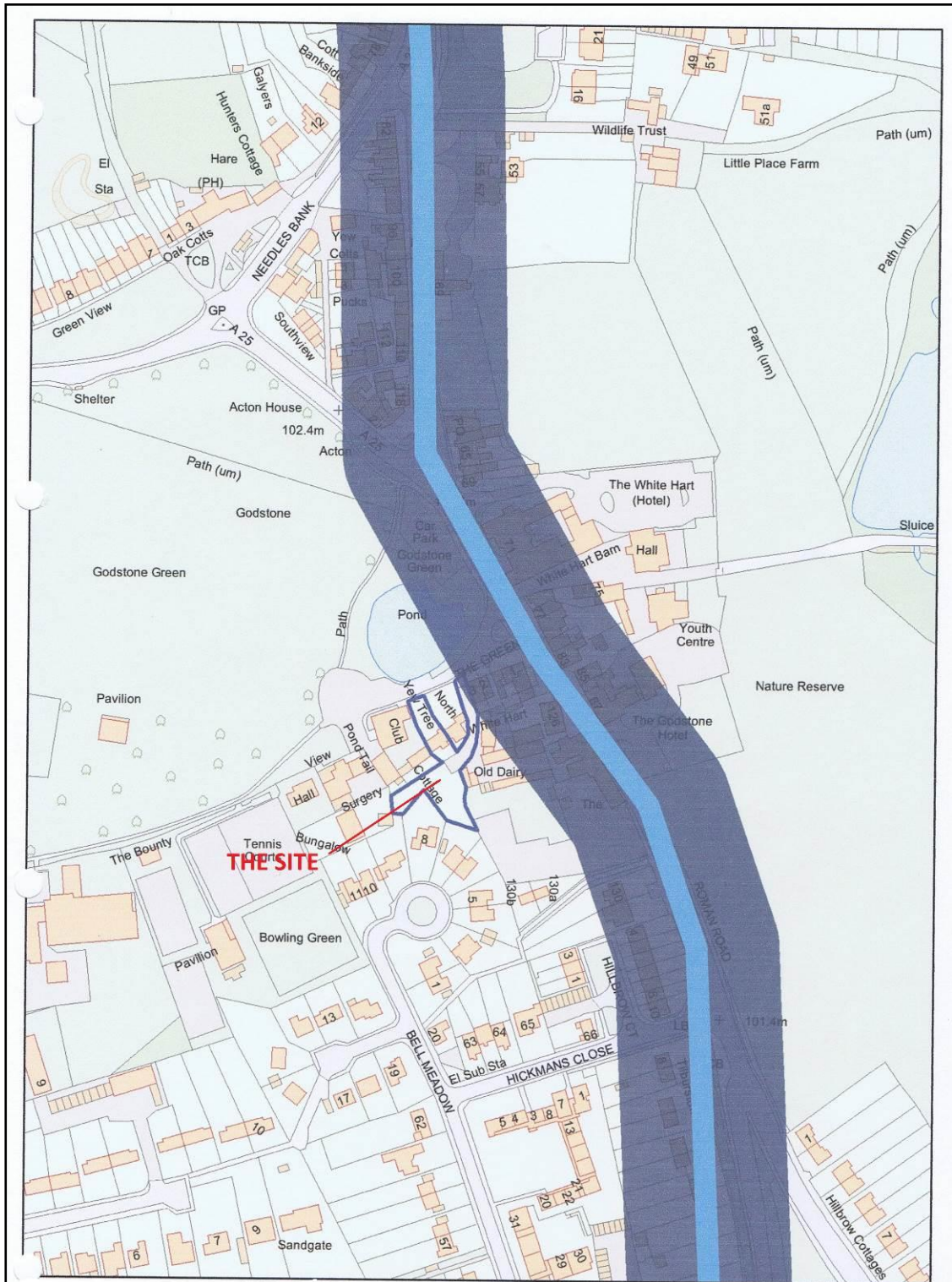


Fig.5: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone. Roman Road Map.
(Adapted from map supplied by Surrey County Council)
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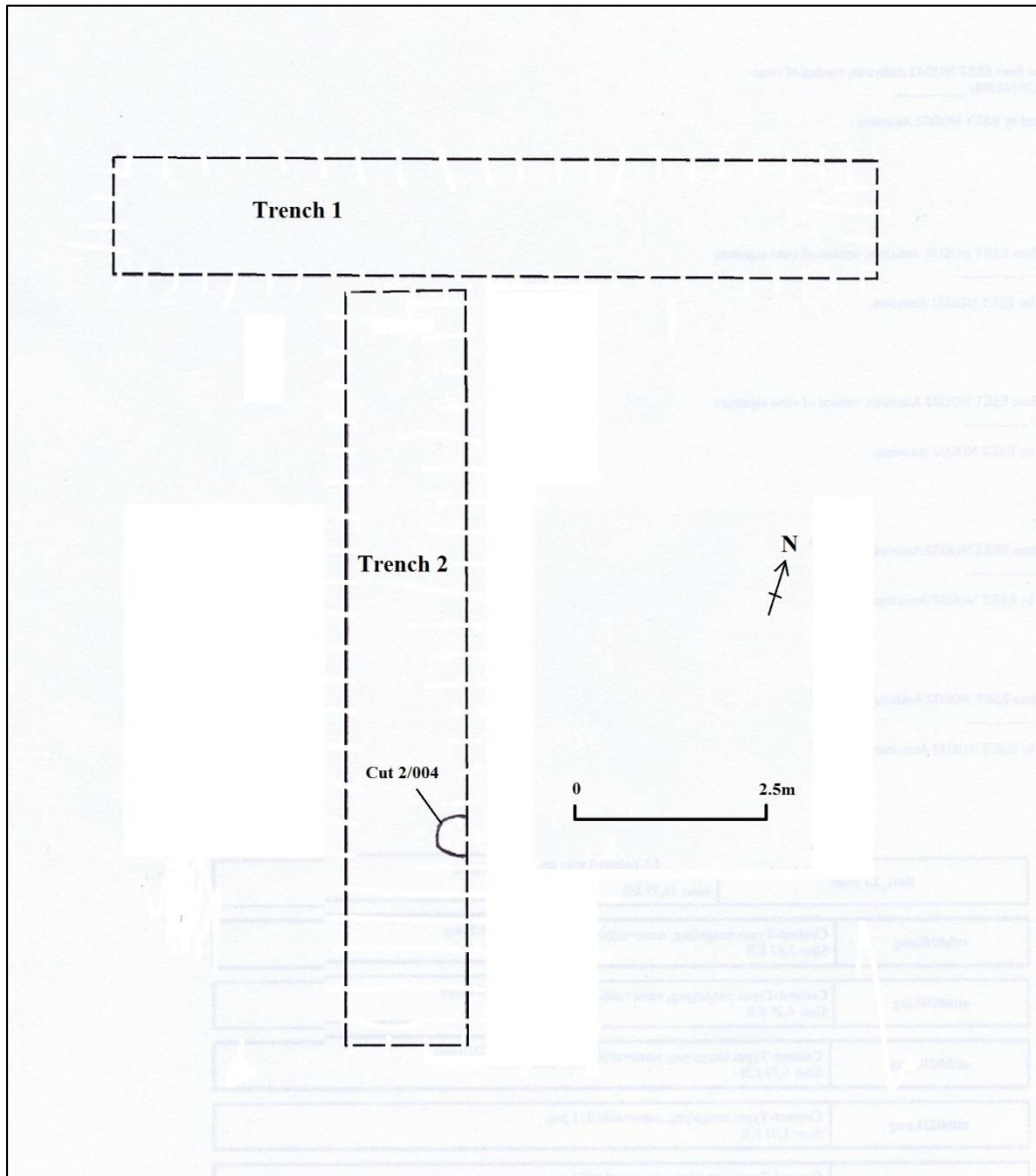


Fig.8: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone: Plan of Trenches.

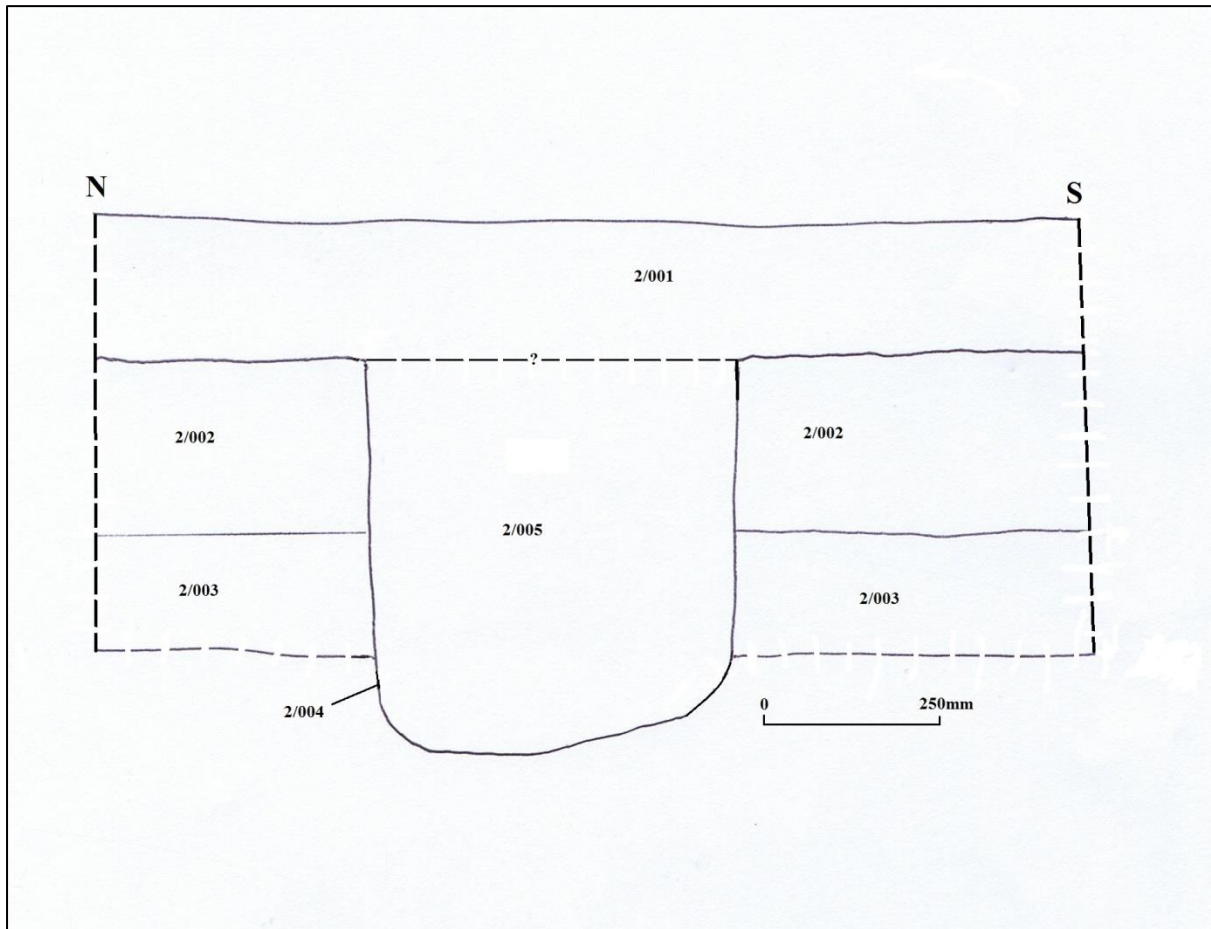


Fig.9: Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone: Section of Feature 2/004.

Appendix 1: HER Summary Form

Site Code	YTC13					
Identification Name and Address	Yew Tree Cottage, The Green, Godstone, Kent.					
County, District &/or Borough	Tanbridge District Council					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 350 515					
Geology	Sandstone					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. X	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban X	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 20/02/14	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Glyn Doughty Design Ltd.					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MfA					
Project Supervisor	David Atkin					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of the construction of a new two storey detached dwelling towards the rear of Yew Tree Cottage, Godstone Green, Godstone, Surrey. Two evaluation trenches were excavated in a T-shape located on the footprint of the new build using a 3 tonne tracked excavator using a 1.5m toothless ditching bucket down to the natural. The only archaeological feature was an 18th century pit or ditch terminal otherwise no archaeological features or finds of note were encountered during the evaluation.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and until recently taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Building Surveys, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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