

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT
ELMWOOD, TUDOR CRESCENT
OTFORD, KENT**

NGR 553473 159239

**Project No: 5033
Site Code: OTC 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011241
OASIS ID: archaeol6-112492**

By Chris Russel

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Harry Bailey Architectural Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the redevelopment of the former residential complex of Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford, Kent.

No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered.

The Elmwood complex appears to have been constructed upon a terrace cut into the natural slope of the hill that would probably have removed any potential archaeological remains at the site.

Natural chalk geology was encountered at between 52.59m and 53.19m OD.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the UCL Institute of Archaeology Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by Harry Bailey Architectural Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the redevelopment of 'Elmwood', Tudor Crescent, Otford, Kent (hereafter referred to as 'the site'). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 553473 159239 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the site lies on West Melbury, Marly and Zig Zag Chalk Formation with Gault Formation deposits immediately to the south (BGS 2011).
- 1.2.2 The site was formerly the location of the residence known as 'Elmwood' which consisted of a complex of buildings including April Cottage, an annex and Elmwood itself. April cottage was demolished before monitoring began and Elmwood was demolished between the first and second phases of the watching brief. The annex was still upstanding when the monitoring ceased. These structures appeared to have been constructed on a terrace cut into the natural topography (see Figure 4).
- 1.2.3 The site was situated at around 55m OD in the north with a marked fall off in contour values to approximately 50m OD in the south.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed redevelopment of the site entailed the construction of two 4-bedroom houses with internal garages (Planning Ref: SE/10/00482). Due to the archaeological potential of the site the Heritage Conservation Group of Kent County Council (HCGKCC) in its capacity as advisor to Sevenoaks District Council recommended that an archaeological watching brief be carried out as a condition for planning consent for the development. The condition stated:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority'

- 1.3.2 A *Specification* outlining the requirements for the archaeological work, which consisted of an *archaeological watching brief*, was subsequently produced (HCGKCC 2011) and all work was carried out in accordance with this and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks on the site between the 8th August and the 10th of October 2011 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and Chris Russel (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The site lies in an area of high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval date. The following summary is based on a 1Km HER search centred on NGR 553473 159239 (see Appendix 1). Listed buildings were omitted from the search.
- 2.1.2 Prehistoric activity close to the site is chiefly concentrated to the north and consists of a variety of worked flint artefacts, a track way, a Neolithic settlement and evidence of Bronze Age funerary activity. Evidence for the prehistoric period is less common to the south of the site. Here a barbed and tanged arrowhead and a Mesolithic pick were discovered close to Otford village centre.
- 2.1.3 The site lies c. 70m to the west of Otford Roman Villa and evidence of another Roman building is recorded to the west of the site. Further Roman activity is represented by a single coin of Constantine II found in the garden of nearby Longlodge Cottage.
- 2.1.4 A single Saxon rubbish pit is recorded to the south east of the site and later medieval activity centres on the Bishop's Palace to the south-west.
- 2.1.5 Post-medieval activity is recorded in the form of Otford Court to the north east; houses in Otford village and the nearby railway and railway station. An intaglio of possible post-medieval date was also found close to the Bishop's Palace.
- 2.1.6 Further but undated features near to the site include possible quarry pits, field systems and other similar landscape features.
- 2.1.7 An evaluation conducted by Archaeology South East at Well Road to the north-west of the site (ASE:2006) failed to identify any cut features although struck flint along with late medieval and post-medieval tile fragments were recovered.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 All ground reduction and trenching was carried out under the supervision of archaeologists, with the exception of areas where prior truncation or disturbance could be demonstrated to have already removed any potential archaeological remains.
- 3.1.2 Wherever possible, machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The resultant spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded in accordance with the specification (HCGKCC 2011) and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008), using *pro-forma* context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50, with selected detail drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 2) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.1.5 The following groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring:
- The excavation of footings on Plot 1
 - Ground reduction to the geological horizon of an area of approximately 104 m² adjacent to the site of Elmwood to accommodate footings for Plot 2.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief, as set out in the specification (HCGKCC 2009) were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works.

3.3 Quantification of Archive

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	none
Bulk Samples	none
Photographs	13 Digital
Bulk finds	none
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 1: Site archive quantification

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 3 and 4)

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m OD)
001	Layer	Turf/Topsoil	-	-	0.16m	53.84m
002	Layer	Made Ground	-	-	0.75m	53.19m
003	Layer	Natural Geology	-	-	-	53.32m
004	Layer	Subsoil, Plot 2		-	0.42m	53.42m

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.1 Overburden & Natural Geology

4.1.1 Plot 1

Excavations for the foundations on Plot 1 revealed chalk geology [003] at c. 52.29m OD. This was overlain by a made ground layer [002] comprised of friable, mid grey silty clay deposit with modern demolition rubble inclusions. This made ground was seen to a maximum thickness of c. 0.75m. The sequence was capped by a friable mid brown silty clay topsoil of c. 0.15m maximum thickness. The excavated trenches measured c. 0.50m wide and were dug to a maximum depth of c. 1m below ground level (BGL).

4.2.2 Plot 2

Much of Plot 2 fell within the footprint of the demolished 'Elmwood' although a portion of the proposed footings extended into apparently undisturbed ground in the adjacent garden. This was stripped to the geological horizon and revealed chalk geology at c. 53.19m OD. This was overlain by friable, light grey, silty subsoil [004] with rare sub angular flint inclusions and common sub spherical chalk fragments. This subsoil was noted to a maximum depth of c. 0.42m. The sequence was capped by topsoil [001] seen to a maximum depth of c. 0.16m. The topsoil and geological layers were as described in Plot 1.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 Overburden, Geology and Topography

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered.
- 5.1.2 Excavations for footings in Plot 1 revealed chalk geology [003] overlain by a made ground deposit [002] presumably part of landscaping activities associated with the Elmwood complex of buildings.
- 5.1.3 Ground reduction in the garden area to accommodate footings for Plot 2 revealed chalk geology [003] overlain by a silty subsoil [004] observed to contain modern building material.
- 5.1.4 The Elmwood complex appeared to have been constructed upon a terrace cut into the natural slope of the hill that would probably have removed any potential archaeological remains at the site.

Bibliography

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Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Harry Bailey Architectural Design Ltd for commissioning the work, Mick Wade and his team for their assistance on site and HCGKCC for their guidance throughout the project.

Appendix 1: Results of a 1 Km HER Search Centred on NGR 553473 159239

HER No	OS COORDINATES	DESCRIPTION
TQ 55 NW 3	TQ 5365 5919	Roman Villa
TQ 55 NW 4	TQ 5412 5978	Field System
TQ 55 NW 5	TQ 5384 5966	Bowl Barrow
TQ 55 NW 7	TQ 5303 5925	Roman Building
TQ 55 NW 17	TQ 5313 5920	Medieval Reservoir
TQ 55 NW 19	TQ 5291 5919	Medieval Bishop's palace
TQ 55 NW 24	TQ 5378 5981	Flint Implement
TQ 55 NW 25	TQ 5382 5938	Scraper
TQ 55 NW 26	TQ 5396 5975	Microlith
TQ 55 NW 27	TQ 5413 5995	Mound
TQ 55 NW 29	TQ 5331 5891	Barbed & Tanged Arrowhead
TQ 55 NW 30	TQ 5317 5852	Romano-British Coin
TQ 55 NW 35	TQ 5360 5961	Handaxe
TQ 55 NW 49	TQ 5284 5910	Papal Seal
TQ 55 NW 68	TQ 525 593	Mesolithic Pick
TQ 55 NW 82	TQ 5321 5938	Railway Station
TQ55 NW 87	TQ 5271 5938	Post medieval house
TQ55 NW 90	TQ 5266 5937	Post medieval house
TQ55 NW 98	TQ 5275 5924	Poss stone floor or hearth of unknown date.
TQ55 NW 99	TQ 5436 5949	Otford Court. Post medieval house.
TQ55 NW 124	TQ 53162 59362	Prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds.
TQ55 NW 125	TQ 53166 59345	Prehistoric pit and post medieval boundary ditch and water management features
TQ55 NW 324	TQ 53509 59066	Middle Saxon rubbish pit
TQ55 SE 124	TQ 5584 5331	Prehistoric trackway
TQ 56 SW 27	TQ 5355 6005	Neolithic Settlement/Bronze Age Cinerary Urn
TQ 56 SW 44	TQ 5302 6010	Scraper
TQ 56 SW 55	TQ 5394 6010	Flint Flake
TQ 56 SW 66	TQ 5297 6010	Flint Scraper
TQ 56 SW 198	TQ 53497 60091	Possible quarry pits
TQ 75 NE 816	TQ 7584 5545	Railway Line
MKE 72343	TQ 52800 59139	Post medieval copper alloy intaglio

Appendix 2: HER Summary Form

Site Code	OTC 11					
Identification Name and Address	Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford.					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	553473 159239					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3513					
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.	WB. 08.08.2011 - 10.10.2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Harry Bailey Architectural Design					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel/Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other	Modern	
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Harry Bailey Architectural Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the redevelopment of the former residential complex of Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford, Kent. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered. The Elmwood complex appears to have been constructed upon a terrace cut into the natural slope of the hill that would probably have removed any potential archaeological remains at the site. Natural chalk geology was encountered at between 52.59m and 53.19m OD.</p>						

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-112490

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Harry Bailey Architectural Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the redevelopment of the former residential complex of Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford, Kent. No archaeological features were observed during the watching brief and no finds were recovered. The Elmwood complex appears to have been constructed upon a terrace cut into the natural slope of the hill that would probably have removed any potential archaeological remains at the site. Natural chalk geology was encountered at between 52.59m and 53.19m OD.
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2011 End: 10-10-2011
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OTC 11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5033 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS OTFORD Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford
Postcode	TN14 5QS
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 553473 159239 50.9212540336 0.210470478359 50 55 16 N 000 12 37 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 52.59m Max: 53.19m

Project creators

Name of	Archaeology South East
---------	------------------------

Organisation

Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Chris Russel/Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

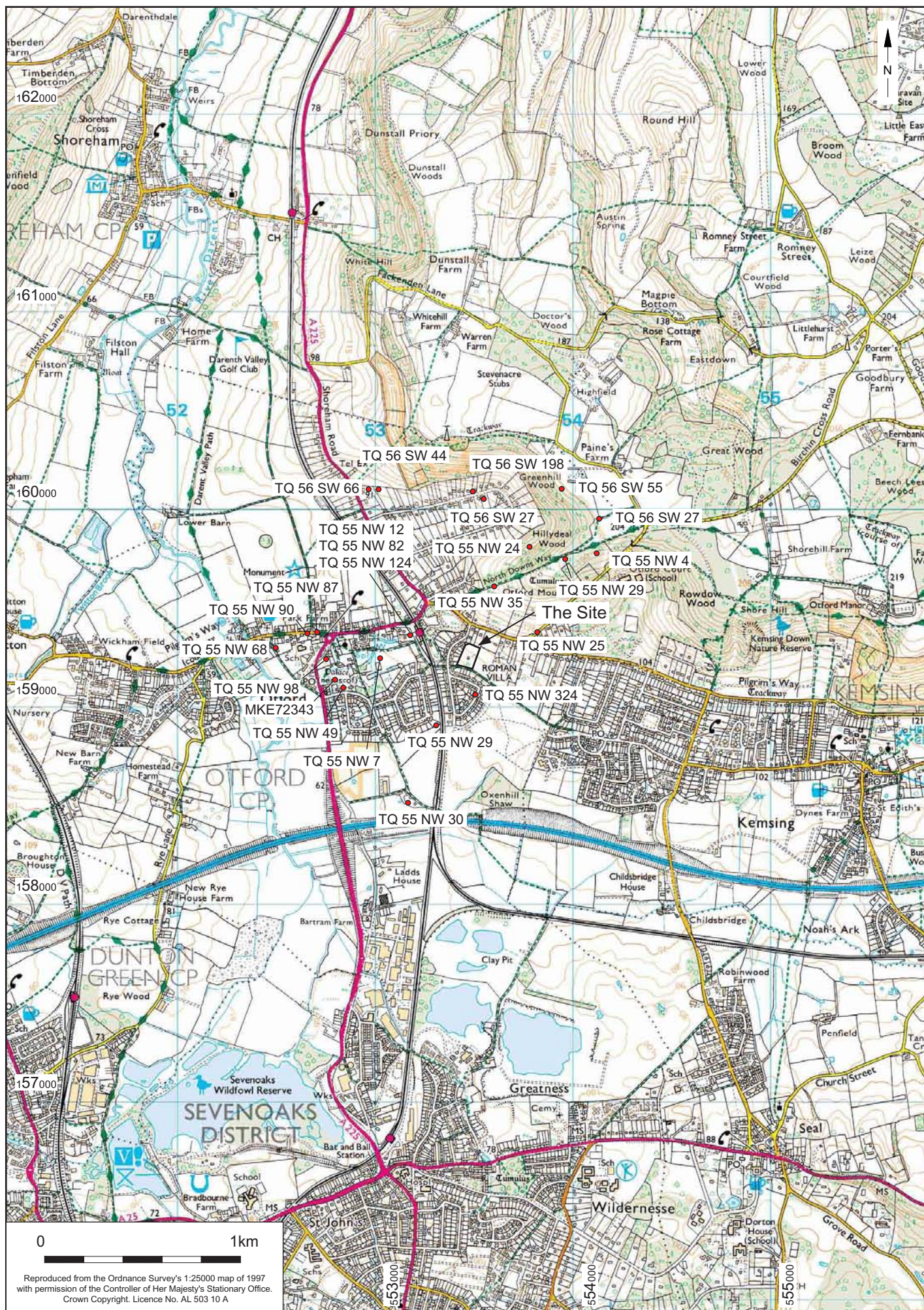
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Elmwood, Tudor Crescent, Otford.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel, C.
Other bibliographic details	Report No:2011241
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade

Entered by	Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	24 October 2011

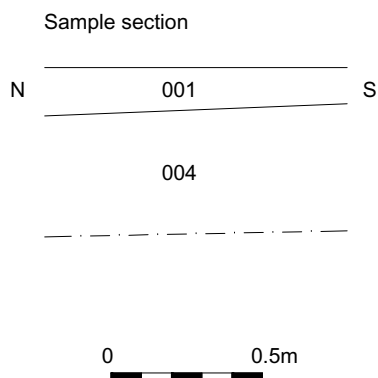


© Archaeology South-East		Tudor Crescent, Elmwood	
Project Ref: 5033	Oct 2011	Site location	
Report Ref: 2011241	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



© Archaeology South-East		Tudor Crescent, Elmwood	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5033	Oct 2011	Plan of monitored areas	
2011241Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



Sample section



Difference in levels between ground surface and foundation level



Difference in levels between ground surface, geological horizon and Elmwood foundation terrace

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