

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Burgate, Solefields Road
Sevenoaks
Kent, TN13 1PL**

**NGR: 55281538
TQ528538**

Planning Ref: SE/09/02482/FUL

**Project No: 4907
Site Code: BSS 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011301
OASIS id: archaeol6-115605**

By Andy Margetts and Anna Doherty

December 2011

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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

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of residential redevelopment at Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PL. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

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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 (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of residential redevelopment at Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PL (NGR TQ528 538; Fig 1) henceforth referred to as 'the site'..

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2011) the bedrock geology on site consists of sandstone and mudstone of the Sandgate Formation; no superficial geology has been recorded.
- 1.2.2 The site is currently occupied by a house and associated garden.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Sevenoaks District Council for residential redevelopment of the site (Planning ref SE/09/0248/FUL).
- 1.3.2 After consultation with the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (HCGKCC), the following condition was placed on the planning consent:

'No development shall take place until the developer, their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme 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 scheme of investigation and specification which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

Reason: to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Policy EN25A of the Sevenoaks District Local Plan 2000.'

- 1.3.3 In accordance with the planning condition, a specification for the watching brief was prepared by CgMs (2011) and submitted to HCGKCC prior to the commencement of the fieldwork.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the watching brief, as set out in the specification, was to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains in order to provide an assessment of the likely archaeological impact of the scheme.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the watching brief carried out by Andy Margetts (Senior Archaeologist), who attended on the 2nd and 8th November 2011 and John Cook (Archaeologist), who attended on the 21st November 2011. The fieldwork was managed by Andy Leonard and the post-excavation analysis by Jim Stevenson

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

- 2.1.1 Although some significant prehistoric find-spots are located in the vicinity of the site, the principal archaeological potential of the area is that it lies near to the site of the Battle of Solefields.

2.2 Mesolithic

- 2.2.1 Many Mesolithic implements, including a tranchet axe, 18 blades, 6 scrapers, a graver and a microlith have been found near to the site, in Knowle Park (Source ADS).

2.3 Iron Age

- 2.3.1 A gold stater of Iron Age date has been recorded on the HER c. 350m to the north of the site.

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 The battle of Solefields was fought in the vicinity of the current site on 24th June 1450 between royalist troops under the command of Sir Humphrey Stafford, and the men of Kent led by Jack Cade, as part of the latter's uprising against Henry VI. Cade's men were victorious in the battle.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork followed the general methodology set out in the WSI (CgMs 2011) and was carried out in accordance with the relevant watching brief guidelines issued by both Kent County Council (KCC 2007) and the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 Archaeological monitoring was maintained during ground reduction/terracing for installation of a piling mat at house plot locations 1 and 3 (Figure 2). An archaeological presence was not maintained during groundworks at house plot location 2 due to the heavy disturbance caused by both the construction and demolition of the existing buildings on site. In addition, monitoring took place at three soakaway locations to the south of each of the three building plots.
- 3.2.2 In the monitored locations, topsoil and subsoil were carefully removed in spits, using a flat-bladed machine bucket under constant supervision by an archaeologist, until the surface of the natural geology was reached.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All deposits were recorded using Archaeology South-East pro-forma context sheets. A digital photographic record of the watching brief was also maintained.

3.4 Site Archive

- 3.4.1 The site would normally fall within the collection area of Sevenoaks Museum, which, owing to full capacity, is not currently accepting archaeological archives. The site archive will continue to be held at the offices of ASE in Portslade until a long-term storage solution can be found. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	
Bulk Samples	
Digital Photographs	9
Bulk finds	
Registered finds	
Environmental flots/residue	

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary of Deposits

- 4.1.1 In all of the monitored locations, a similar sequence of deposits, of uniform depth, was recorded (Table 2). Natural geology, [003], consisted of a compact mid orangey-yellow sand with occasional sandstone inclusions. In places, just below the interface with the subsoil, the natural geology was affected by rooting. The heavily rooted subsoil, [002], comprised a mid yellowish-brown, sandy silt with moderate to frequent sandstone inclusions. Overlying this was topsoil, [001], a firm to friable, mid greyish-brown sandy silt.
- 4.1.2 The maximum height of the topsoil ranged from 161.24m AOD at the east end of the site (Building Plot 1) to 163.83 m AOD at the west end (Building Plot 3).
- 4.1.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the course of the watching brief

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil			0.25
002	Layer	Subsoil			0.20-
003	Layer	Natural			NFE

Table 2: Summary of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded during monitoring of the groundworks associated with the residential redevelopment.
- 5.1.2 Although some root disturbance was noted in places, no significant truncation to the potential archaeological horizon was observed. This suggests that the negative results of the watching brief represent a real absence of remains rather than being the result of the impact of previous modern buildings or services.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2011, British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, Accessed at http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

CgMs 2011, Specification for an archaeological monitoring exercise, Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PL

IFA 2008, Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief, published online at www.archaeologists.net

KCC 2007. *Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers of the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	BSS 11					
Identification Name and Address	Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1P					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Sevenoaks					
OS Grid Refs.	5528 1538					
Geology	Sandstone and Mudstone of the Sandgate Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4907					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 2 nd -21 st November 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Andy Margetts					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of residential redevelopment at Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PL. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-115605

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL), were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of residential redevelopment at Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1PL. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed
Project dates	Start: 02-11-2011 End: 21-11-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BSS11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4907 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS SEVENOAKS Burgate, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent
Postcode	TN13 1PL
Study area	30.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 528 538 51.2623127524 0.190280110582 51 15 44 N 000 11 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 160.80m Max: 163.83m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
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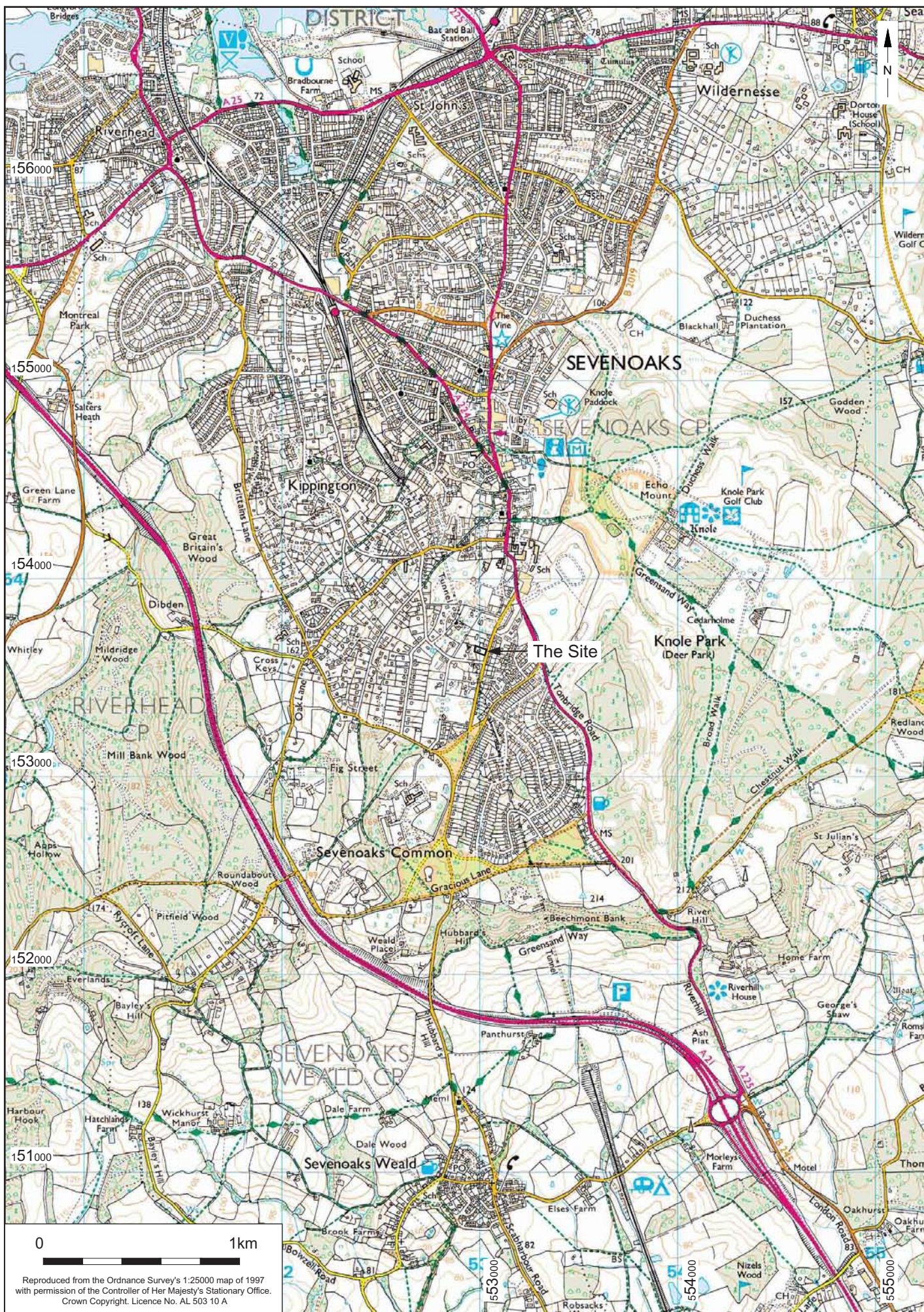
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Andrew Margetts
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

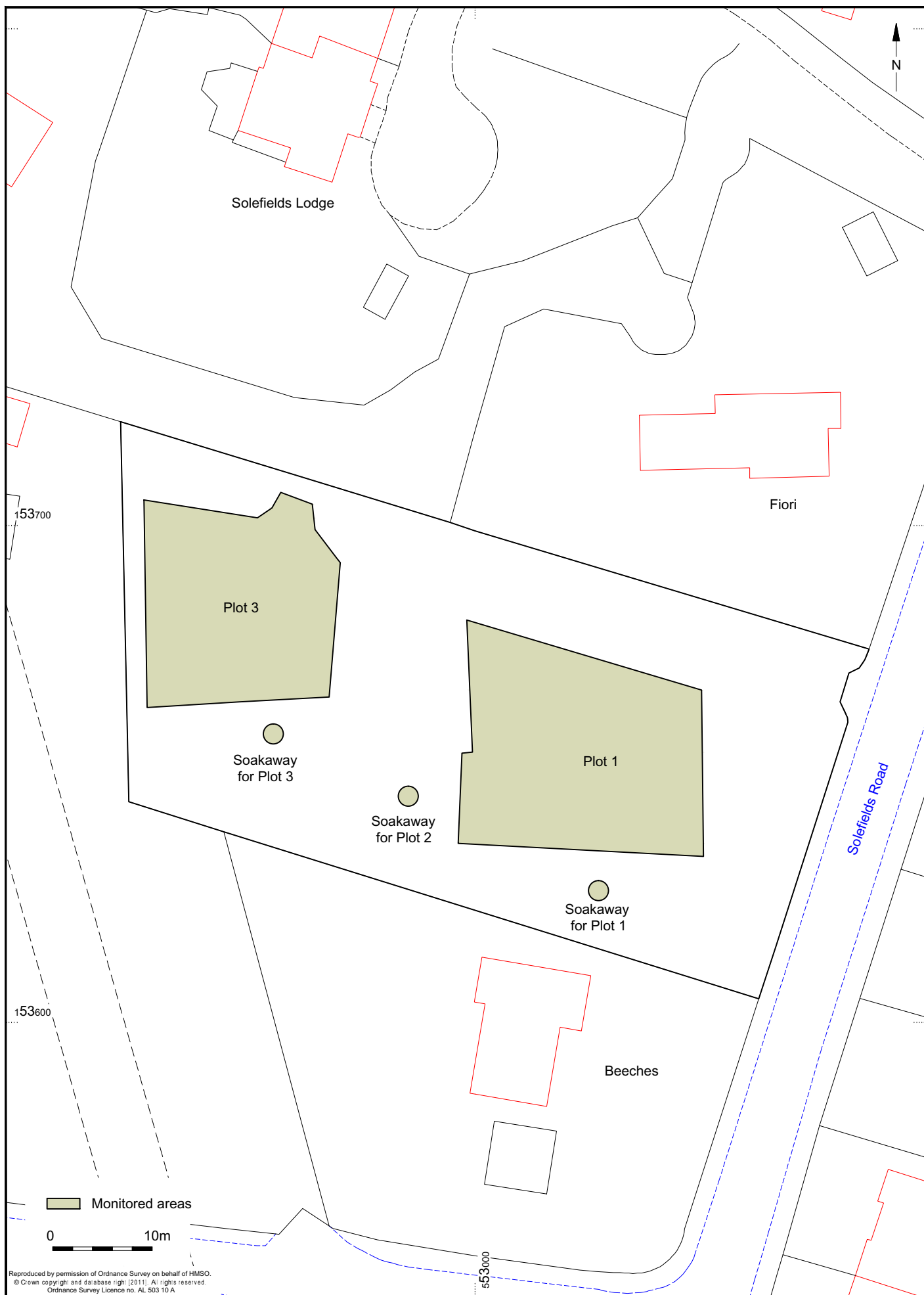
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	n/a
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Photograph'
Paper Archive notes	Archive not accepted by Sevenoaks museum owing to full capacity

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Solefields Road, Sevenoaks		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4907	Dec 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011301	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
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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