

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
WEST BUCKLAND, LUDDSDOWN, KENT**

**NGR 565918, 166975
(TQ 659 669)**

**Project No.5869
Site Code: WLB 13**

**ASE Report No. 2013083
OASIS ID: archaeol6-148926**

**by
Chris Russel**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT
WEST BUCKLAND, LUDDESDOWN, KENT**

**NGR 565918, 166975
(TQ 659 669)**

**Project No.5869
Site Code: WLB 13**

**ASE Report No. 2013083
OASIS ID: archaeol6-148926**

**by
Chris Russel**

April 2013

**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 was commissioned by Richard Tedder to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent. The watching brief took place on 2nd and 3rd April 2013 and involved the monitoring of foundation trenches, a pipe trench and a soakaway.

A background scatter of artefacts was recovered along with two wall foundations of 19th century date.

Natural Clay with Flints and Chalk were observed at a depth of 0.50mm below ground level. This was overlain by subsoil and topsoil in all of the monitored areas.

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.0 | Introduction |
| 2.0 | Archaeological Background |
| 3.0 | Archaeological Methodology |
| 4.0 | Results |
| 5.0 | The Finds |
| 6.0 | Discussion |

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

Appendix 1: HER Search Results
Appendix 2: SMR Summary Sheet and OASIS Summary Form

FIGURES

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Figure 1: | Site location plan (including HER data) |
| Figure 2: | Location of monitored areas |
| Figure 3: | Walls [004] and [006] in plan and photograph |
| Figure 4: | Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1896 |

TABLES

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| Table 1: | Site Archive Quantification |
| Table 2: | List of recorded contexts |
| Table 3: | Quantification of finds |

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 Richard Tedder to undertake a programme of archaeological works during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 565918, 166975 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 Clay, Silt and Sand Head Deposits (BGS 2011). Field observation revealed chalk outcropping near the surface to the south-east of the site. The site is currently occupied by several domestic structures and associated gardens.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The proposed redevelopment of the site entails the construction of a conservatory on the west elevation of the property (planning reference: 2013083). West Buckland is a Listed Building and due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (KCC) recommended that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken as a condition of permission. Condition 4 of the decision notice therefore 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 specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority’.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 A Specification outlining the requirements for the archaeological work, which consisted of an archaeological watching brief was subsequently produced by KCC (KCC 2013). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief, as set out in the *Specification* (KCC 2013) 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 groundworks.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2013 by Chris Russel (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager)

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The house at West Buckland (listed as Little Buckland on the KCC Historic Environment Record (HER)) is a grade II listed building with the earliest phases being Medieval in date. The house was extensively remodelled in the 19th century when the western portion was rebuilt in red brick.

- 2.2 A search of the KCC HER covering a 1km area around the site revealed some evidence for archaeological activity (detailed on Figure 1 and listed in Appendix 1).

- 2.3 The prehistoric period is represented by a single Mesolithic worked flint to the north and Neolithic stone axes to the north and south.

- 2.4 A possible Roman earthwork is located to the south in Henley Wood which has produced finds of Romano-British pottery. A Roman copper brooch was found to the north in Gold Street.

- 2.5 Other medieval listed buildings are located just to the north in Sole Street and to the west in Camer. There is a cluster of metal finds from the period to the north in Gold Street and these include a copper alloy dagger and a number of coins.

- 2.6 A post medieval copper alloy seal matrix and a copper alloy harness fitting are also recorded as being found at Gold Street and there are Second World War defensive features centred on Sole Street railway station to the north.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 All ground reduction and trenching was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist, with the exception of areas where prior truncation or disturbance could be demonstrated.
- 3.1.2 The following groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring, as shown in Figure 2:
- Excavation of foundation trenches at the western elevation of the property
 - Ground reduction of the internal footprint of the conservatory
 - Excavation of a pipe trench and soak-away.
- 3.1.3 Machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Where archaeological features or deposits were revealed, machining was stopped and excavation was continued by hand. The spoil from the machine excavations was scanned for the presence of any artefacts.
- 3.1.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded in accordance with the Specification and with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Archaeologists (KCC 2013; IfA 2008), using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.

3.2 Quantification of Archive

- 3.2.1 The archive (quantified in Table 1), including the finds, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade. The local museum (Dover) is not currently receiving archives. Therefore the archive will be held by Archaeology South-East until this situation changes.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Number of Contexts | 6 |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 file |
| Plan and sections sheets | 1 |
| Bulk Samples | none |
| Photographs | 22 Digital |
| Bulk finds | 1 box |
| Registered finds | none |
| Environmental flots/residue | none |

Table 1: Site Archive Quantification

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A total of eight contexts were recorded during the watching brief, tabulated below.

| Number | Type | Description | Max. length (m) | Max. width (m) | Max. depth (m) |
|--------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 001 | Deposit | Topsoil and Turf | - | - | 0.30 |
| 002 | Deposit | Subsoil] | - | - | 0.27 |
| 003 | Deposit | Natural Geology | - | - | - |
| 004 | Masonry | Wall/foundation | 0.50+ | 0.20 | 0.10 |
| 005 | Deposit | Deposit? | 0.50+ | 1.05 | 0.15 |
| 006 | Masonry | Wall/foundation | 0.50+ | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| 007 | Cut | Foundation trench for 004 | Not observed | Not observed | Not observed |
| 008 | Cut | Foundation trench for 006 | Not observed | Not observed | Not observed |

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Natural Geology

4.2.1 The natural geology observed during the monitored groundworks consisted of mid orange brown, fine silty clay with frequent inclusions of large flint nodules, [003]. This was observed at between 0.40m and 0.50m below ground level, across the site. The geological substrate was heavily disturbed by roots close to the western end of the house. Natural chalk was seen out-cropping in the south-east of the site during the excavation of the soak-away.

4.3 Overburden

4.3.1 Directly overlying the geological horizon was a plastic, mid grey brown fine clay silt sub-soil, [002]. This contained very frequent chalk fleck inclusions and was a maximum thickness of 0.20m across all excavated areas. Finds from this layer included some 18th century pottery and tile as well as 19th century clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and flint. The sequence was capped by friable, dark grey brown, fine silt topsoil and turf [001] with a maximum thickness of 0.30m.

4.4 Features

4.4.1 The only archaeological features present were recorded in the pipe trench leading to the soak-away and consisted of two parallel walls/foundations, cut into the natural. Both walls were constructed primarily from grey sandy mortar and measured approximately 0.20m wide, crossing the trench from south-west to north-east. The northern most of these [004] was the most regular and contained a fragment of re-used 17th to 18th century floor brick and one large flint nodule. The southern wall, [006] was located approximately 1.0m to the south of [004] and although rougher in construction, also consisted of mortar containing irregular flint nodules.

4.4.2 In between these walls was a deposit of loose, mid grey brown, fine clay silt [005] containing 18th to 19th century pot sherds, frequent 18-19th centuries brick and tile fragments and animal bone.

5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief. An overview can be found in Table 3. Finds were all washed and dried or dried only as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context.

| Cxt | Pot | Wt (g) | CBM | Wt (g) | Bone | Wt (g) | Flint | Wt (g) | CTP | Wt (g) |
|--------------|-----|--------|-----|--------|------|--------|-------|--------|-----|--------|
| 1 | | | 3 | 144 | | | 1 | 21 | | |
| 2 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 1 | <2 |
| 4 | | | 1 | 670 | | | | | | |
| 5 | 3 | 42 | 2 | 858 | 1 | 38 | | | | |
| Total | 5 | 52 | 7 | 1678 | 2 | 48 | 2 | 27 | 1 | <2 |

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the site. The earliest sherds were recovered from context [002] and comprised two quite fresh fragments from a creamware plate of later 18th- century date. Context [005] produced a larger, if somewhat chronologically mixed, group of sherds. This includes a single (26g) fresh sherd from an early transfer-printed pearlware teapot (c. 1780-1810) alongside a sherd from a plain white refined earthenware plate (4g) and one (12g) from a blue transfer-printed dish with Chinese landscape design. These latter two sherds could be placed anywhere between 1830/40 and 1900.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 Four contexts produced brick and tile at the site. One brick and two peg tile fragments were recovered from context [001]. The piece of brick is medium fired and tempered with moderate fine sand with rare flint inclusions to 2mm. Although not particularly diagnostic this fragment would be in keeping with a 17th- to 18th- century date range. The tile fragments from [001] are of two different types: the first being quite well formed and fired (12mm thick) and tempered with sparse fine sand and calcareous inclusions. The surfaces are notably pale/slipped and taken together a 16th- to 17th- century date range can be suggested. The other tile type is also quite well formed/fired (10mm thick) but tempered with sparse fine sand with rare voids/calcareous inclusions. This latter type, which does not have the pale surface/slip, probably falls within a 17th- to 18th- century date range. Context [002] produced a similar fragment of tile. The other tile was recovered from context [005]. This produced an 82g fragment from an 11mm thick quite well formed tile tempered with sparse fine sand and common clay pellets to 4mm. This tile has adhering off-white sandy lime mortar with common chalk to 3mm and coal to 1mm, suggesting an 18th- to mid 19th- century date is probable.
- 5.3.2 Context [004] produced a fragment from a 55mm high, quite well formed and medium/well fired brick. The piece is tempered with sparse fine sand and sparse clay pellets to 4mm. Wear on its upper surface shows it to have originally been used as a floor brick but, judging by the adhering buff sandy lime mortar on the worn and broken faces, it has clearly been reused. A 17th- to 18th- century date is likely for the piece.
- 5.3.3 Context [005] contained part of a well formed and fired 65mm high brick fragment

tempered with sparse fine sand, with some voids and rare angular flint to 2mm. The fragment has adhering off-white sandy mortar with moderate chalk to 2mm. An 18th- to mid 19th- century date is probable.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

- 5.4.1 A single clay tobacco pipe (CTP) stem fragment was recovered from [002]. The fragment is unmarked and undecorated, dating to the 19th century.

5.5 The Flintwork by Karine le Hégarat

- 5.5.1 Two pieces of struck flint weighing 27g were recovered from topsoil/turf deposit [001] and subsoil deposit [002]. The small assemblage consists of two irregular flakes. Both pieces exhibit relatively heavy post-depositional edge damage characteristic of artefacts recovered from disturbed layers. One of the flakes was broken. The other piece of débitage was struck using a hard hammer percussor. This artefact displays a pronounced bulb of percussion, and it is more likely to be of a late prehistoric date.

5.6 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

- 5.6.1 In total, two fragments of animal bone were recovered from contexts [005] and [002]. Context [002] produced a large mammal rib and the specimen from context [005] has been identified as a robust, sheep/goat metacarpal. Both fragments display signs of canid gnawing though no evidence of butchery, burning or pathology has been noted.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed a largely undisturbed sequence of natural geology overlain with subsoil and topsoil/turf. However, the overburden did contain a background scatter of artefacts including residual prehistoric flint and animal bone.
- 6.2 Two parallel wall/foundations were recorded in the soakaway pipe trench. The fragment of re-used 17th to 18th century floor tile recovered from one of them suggests that they are likely to have been constructed after this date, almost certainly in the 19th century, and are probably, therefore, associated with the 19th century re-building works known to have been carried out.
- 6.3 The insubstantial appearance of the walls suggests that they could be related to a garden feature. However examination of historic mapping during the post-excavation analysis has shown that the two walls recorded do appear to align with a building that appears on the 1896 ordnance survey map (Figure 4). It is unclear, however, why there are two walls present, and only 1.0m apart. The deposit between the walls was loose and distinct from the surrounding subsoil. It contained a mixed assemblage of 18th and 19th century finds and it is likely that this material originates from the 19th re-building works.
- 6.4 Due to the limitations of a watching brief, the exact interpretation of the walls discovered remains inconclusive, although the historic mapping does show that they are more than likely related to the building shown on the 1896 ordnance survey map. The watching brief did, however, succeed in the broad aim of assessing and locating any archaeological remains that were encountered during the excavations.

Bibliography

BGS 2011 *Geology of Britain viewer*

http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html. Last accessed 04.04.2013

IfA 2008 *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief.*

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_watching.pdf last accessed 14.03.11

KCC 2013 *Specification for an archaeological watching brief in Kent*

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Richard Tedder for commissioning the work and KCC for their guidance throughout the project.

APPENDIX 1

Selected Results of a 1 Km HER Search Centred on the Site.

| Site no. | OBJECTID | MonUID | Record Type | Name | MonType |
|----------|----------|----------|-------------|---|--|
| 1 | 47881 | MKE66663 | FS | Mesolithic stone lithic implement | FINDSPOT |
| 2 | 2011 | MKE1382 | FS | Polished Neolithic axe | FINDSPOT |
| 3 | 1812 | MKE1367 | FS | Neolithic flint axe | FINDSPOT |
| 4 | 1814 | MKE1368 | FS | Romano-British pottery/U Earthwork | FINDSPOT, EARTHWORK |
| 5 | 47830 | MKE66608 | FS | Roman copper alloy brooch | FINDSPOT |
| 6 | 32743 | MKE27776 | LB | LITTLE BUCKLAND | HALL HOUSE, SERVICE WING, JETTIED HOUSE, |
| 7 | 63879 | MKE84308 | FRM | Little Buckland | Farmstead |
| 8 | 39711 | MKE13833 | LB | Somers | TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE, |
| 9 | 39501 | MKE27672 | LB | YEOMANS HOUSE | HOUSE, HOUSE, WEALDEN |
| 10 | 32652 | MKE27673 | LB | BOWER COTTAGE | HOUSE, WEALDEN |
| 11 | 47861 | MKE66643 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 12 | 47862 | MKE66644 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 13 | 47863 | MKE66645 | FS | Medieval copper alloy dagger | FINDSPOT |
| 14 | 47864 | MKE66646 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 15 | 47871 | MKE66653 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 16 | 47872 | MKE66654 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 17 | 47873 | MKE66655 | FS | Medieval silver coin | FINDSPOT |
| 18 | 38820 | MKE41767 | MON | Sole Street Second World War anti-aircraft searchlight site | SEARCHLIGHT BATTERY |
| 19 | 37871 | MKE41897 | MON | Railway Tavern civil defence vehicle park and first aid post, Sole Street, Cobham, Kent | CIVIL DEFENCE SITE |
| 20 | 47831 | MKE66609 | FS | Post Medieval copper alloy seal matrix | FINDSPOT |
| 21 | 47860 | MKE66642 | FS | Post Medieval copper alloy harness fitting | FINDSPOT |

APPENDIX 2

SMR Summary Form

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------|---|-----------------------|--------|-------|
| Site Code | WLB 13 | | | | | |
| Identification Name and Address | West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Kent, Gravesham | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | 595918, 166975 | | | | | |
| Geology | Head Deposits | | | | | |
| ASE | 5869 | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief ✓ | Standing Structure | Survey | Other |
| Type of Site | Green Field | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Other Domestic | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 02.04.2013 - 03.04.2013 | Other | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Richard Tedder | | | | | |
| Project Manager | Darryl Palmer | | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Chris Russel | | | | | |
| Period Summary | Palaeo. | Meso. | Neo. | BA | IA | RB |
| | AS | MED | PM | Other | Modern | |
| <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Richard Tedder to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent. The watching brief took place on 2nd and 3rd April 2013 and involved the monitoring of foundation trenches, a pipe trench and a soakaway.</i></p> <p><i>A background scatter of artefacts was recovered along with two wall foundations of 19th century date.</i></p> <p><i>Natural Clay with Flints and Chalk were observed at a depth of 0.50mm below ground level. This was overlain by subsoil and topsoil in all of the monitored areas.</i></p> | | | | | | |

OASIS Summary form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-148926

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent |
| Short description of the project | Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Richard Tedder to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a conservatory at West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent. The watching brief took place on 2nd and 3rd April 2013 and involved the monitoring of foundation trenches, a pipe trench and a soakaway. A background scatter of artefacts was recovered along with two wall foundations of 19th century date. Natural Clay with Flints and Chalk were observed at a depth of 0.30mm below ground level. This was overlain by subsoil and topsoil in all of the monitored areas. |
| Project dates | Start: 02-04-2013 End: 03-04-2013 |
| Previous/future work | Not known / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | 5869 - Contracting Unit No. |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | Listed Building |
| Current Land use | Other 5 - Garden |
| Monument type | WALLS Post Medieval |
| Monument type | NONE None |
| Significant Finds | POT Post Medieval |
| Significant Finds | CBM Post Medieval |
| Investigation type | ""Watching Brief"" |
| Prompt | Planning condition |

Project location

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Country | England |
| Site location | KENT GRAVESHAM LUDDESDOWN West Buckland, Luddesdown |
| Postcode | DA130XP |
| Study area | 15.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 659 669 51 0 51 22 34 N 000 23 02 E Point |

Project creators

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Archaeology South East |
|----------------------|------------------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Project brief originator | Kent County Council |
| Project design originator | Kent County Council |
| Project director/manager | Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson |
| Project supervisor | Chris Russel |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Landowner |
| Name of sponsor/funding body | Richard Tedder |

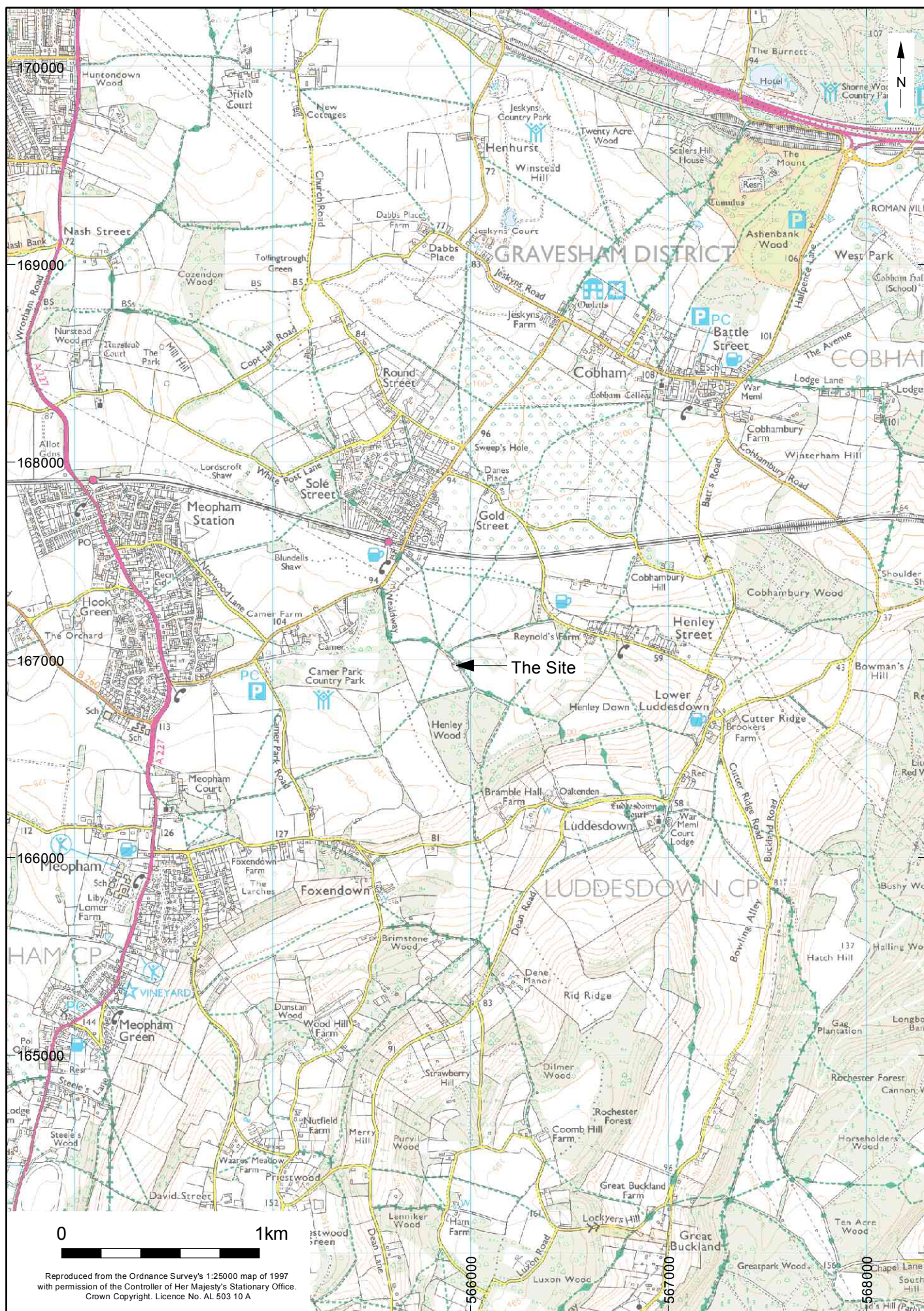
Project archives

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Physical Archive recipient | local museum |
| Physical Contents | "Animal Bones", "Ceramics" |
| Digital Archive recipient | local museum |
| Digital Media available | "Images raster / digital photography" |
| Paper Archive recipient | local museum |
| Paper Media available | "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Unpublished Text" |

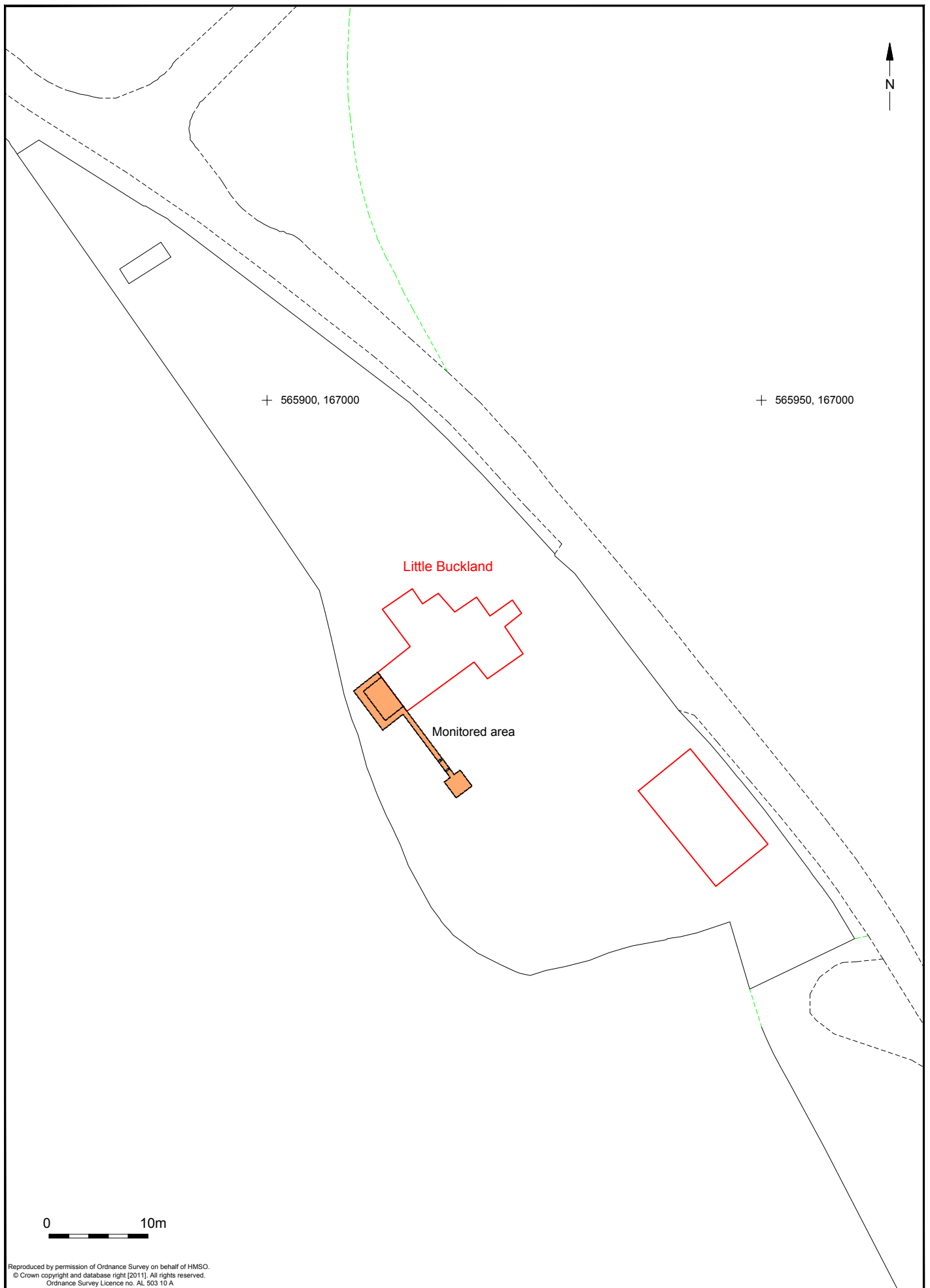
Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
| Title | An Archaeological Watching Brief at West Buckland, Luddesdown, Kent |
| Author(s)/Editor(s) | Russel, C |
| Other bibliographic details | 2013083 |
| Date | 2013 |
| Issuer or publisher | ASE |
| Place of issue or publication | Portslade |
| Description | Unpublished report and illustrations |

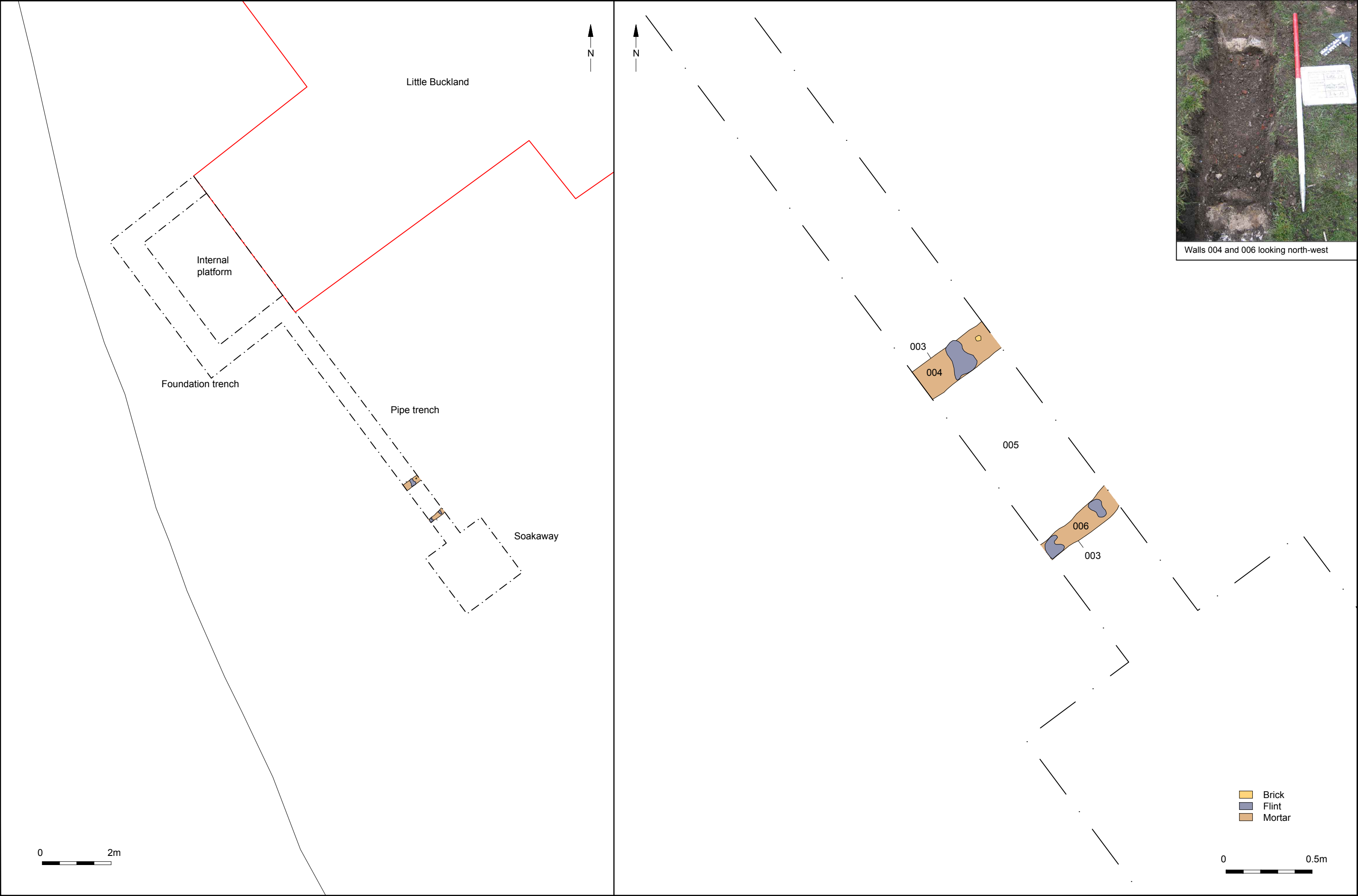
Entered on 8 May 2013

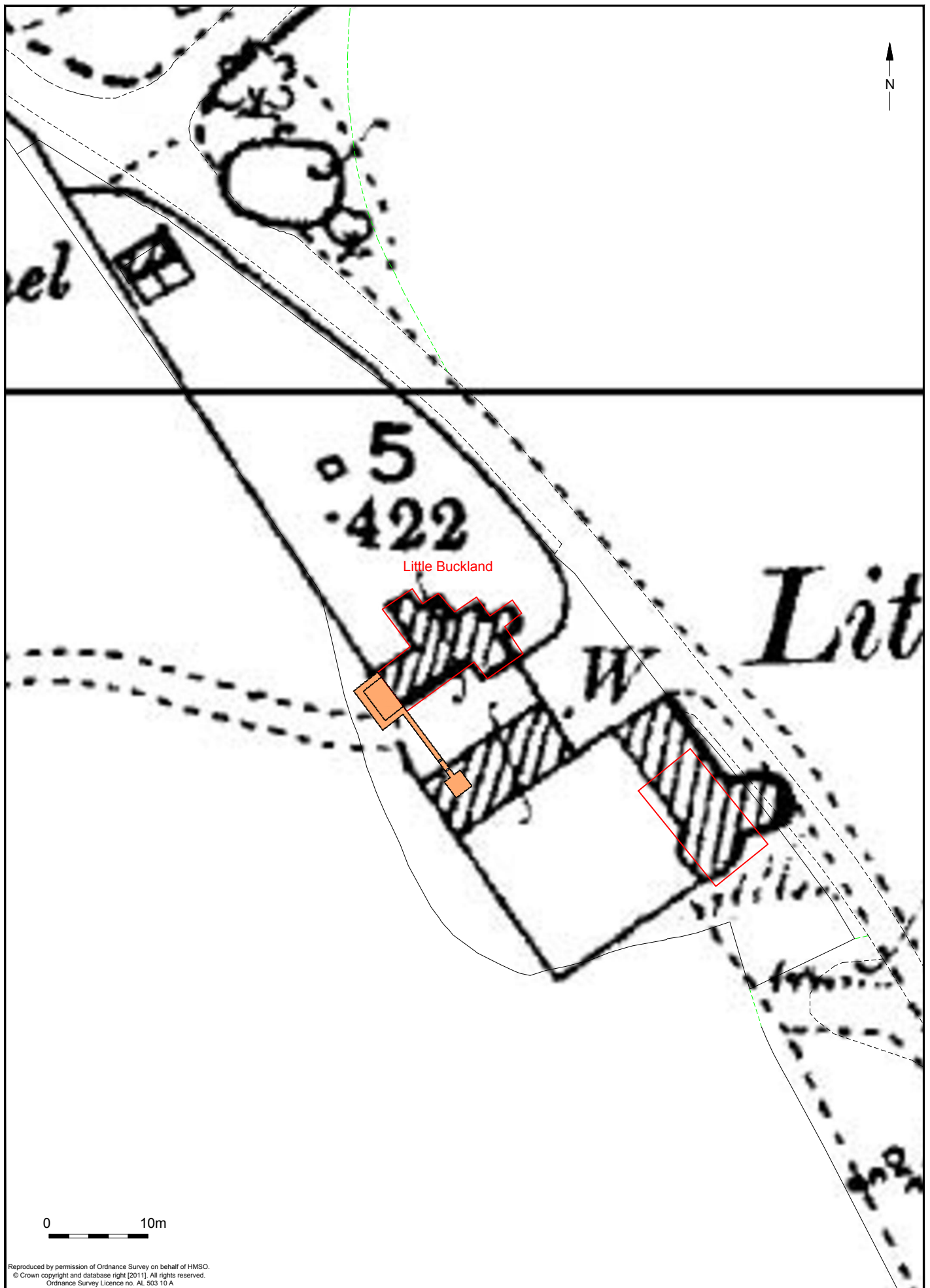


| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | West Buckland, Luddesden | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 5869 | May 2013 | Site location | |
| Report Ref: 2013083 | Drawn by: JLR | | |



| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | West Buckland, Luddesden | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 5869 | May 2013 | Location of Monitored Areas | |
| Report Ref: 2013083 | Drawn by: RHC | | |





| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | West Buckland, Luddesden | Fig. 4 |
| Project Ref: 5869 | May 2013 | Ordnance Survey 1:2500, 1896 | |
| Report Ref: 2013083 | Drawn by: JLR | | |

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

The Old Magistrates Court
79 South Street
Braintree
Essex CM7 3QD
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

