

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
North Lawn, Ightham Mote
Mote Road, Ivy Hatch
Sevenoaks
Kent, TN15 0NT**

NGR: 558436 153542 (Centred)

Scheduled Monument No. 12717

**ASE Project No: 7048
Site Code: IGH 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014313
OASIS id: archaeol6-191965**



By John Hirst

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October 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive site investigations on the east bank of the North Lawn at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previously laid services in the monitored area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology (IoA) Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive site investigations on the North Lawn at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 558436 153542; Figure 1.)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Ightham Mote is a 14th century moated manor house situated to the south of Ivy Hatch in Kent and is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 12717). The groundworks took place just outside of the Scheduled Area in the east bank of the North Lawn.

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the site, according to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) consists of Atherfield Clay Formation.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 ASE was commissioned by NT to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks which consisted of remedial works in the east bank of the North Lawn in order to determine the reason for recent flooding of the lawn and to carry out corrective measures required to prevent future flooding. These works took place just outside the Scheduled Area (Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 12717) and Scheduled Monument Consent was therefore not required for the works to take place.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor any intrusive groundworks to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the works were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 Site specific aims were to assess if there was any evidence for the former fish pond known to have existed in this area.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The monitoring was undertaken by John Hirst (Assistant Archaeologist) between 18th and 19th September 2014. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following is reproduced from the English Heritage record of Scheduled Monuments (EH 2014), with due acknowledgement.

'Ightham Mote includes an exceptionally well preserved moated manor house, a nearly-square moat some 50m long by 7-10m wide, an infilled fishpond and an outer courtyard of buildings. The evolution of the building from a hall-house with adjoining solars and chapel in the mid-14th century to a grand Jacobean mansion set around a quadrangle in the 17th century is documented both historically and archaeologically. Such moated sites are generally seen as prestigious residences of the Lords of the Manor, the moat not only marking the high status of the occupier but also serving to deter casual raiders and wild animals.

In the mid-16th century an outer courtyard to the west of the house was enclosed by ranges of half-timbered stables, staff quarters and a gatehouse. Only the western end of this courtyard survives, a fire having destroyed the remainder. The central area is now a lawn. To the north of the house the lawn [the site] occupies the area of a former fish-pond which would have provided fish for the table. The date of its construction is unknown, but it was infilled between 1789 and 1849 as part of a change in fashion towards lawns and landscaped gardens.'

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the locating of an existing drain in the east bank of the North Lawn, which was the source of the recent flooding, followed by corrective measures to replace the existing pipe. Specifically this entailed the mechanical and manual excavation of a small drainage trench. Monitoring visits were undertaken in September 2014.
- 3.1.2 All excavations were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was visually scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area was kept and forms part of the site archive.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Owing to the nature of the groundworks the ground conditions were subject to flooding.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be deposited with the National Trust in due course. The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	55 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken over a two day period in September 2014. Despite eventual localised flooding, initial conditions were favourable for the identification of archaeological features and the recovery of artefacts.
- 4.1.2 A large proportion of the southern end of the east bank had been dug out and reformed during groundworks in 1987. This disturbed ground was observed during the watching brief. A piece of worked timber and a tile fragment were found here but both are most likely ex situ finds relating to the rebuilding of the bank in the mid- 1980s.
- 4.1.3 An Initial 2m x 1m sondage was dug to a depth of 1.30m to ascertain the location of the existing drain. This was followed by a topsoil strip following the course of the drain.
- 4.1.4 The 'new' drainage trench was approximately 65m in length, running north-west. It was consistently 500mm wide and a maximum of 400mm in depth. The trench was dug to replace the existing drain and ran directly parallel to it. The works took place outside the Scheduled Area (Figure 2).
- 4.1.5 The stratigraphy of the drainage trench for the first 10m was observed to be subsoil (002) overlain by topsoil (001) which then changed to natural (004) overlain by topsoil (001). This is likely a result of the 1987 groundworks.
- 4.1.6 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.35
002	Layer	Subsoil	10m	Trench	0.50
003	Deposit	Made Ground	Sondage	Trench	0.29
004	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the watching brief.
- 5.2 There had been considerable disturbance from previously laid services in the monitored area.
- 5.3 None of the research aims set out in section 1.4 can therefore be addressed.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project and Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Archaeologist, for her guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was directed by John Hirst. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the excavations; Rob Cole who produced the figures for this report; Neil Griffin who project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift who project managed the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site Code	IGH 14				
Identification Name and Address	North Lawn, Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 0NT				
County, District &/or Borough	Tonbridge and Malling, Kent				
OS Grid Refs.	558436 153542				
Geology	Atherfield Clay Formation				
Arch. South-East Project Number	7048				
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief		
Type of Site				Other: Horticultural	
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 18 th & 19 th Sept. 2014		
Sponsor/Client	National Trust				
Project Manager	Neil Griffin				
Project Supervisor	John Hirst				
Period Summary					
				Other Modern	
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive site investigations on the east bank of the North Lawn at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previously laid services in the monitored area.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-191965

Project details

Project name	North Lawn, Ightham Mote, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive site investigations on the east bank of the North Lawn at Ightham Mote, Mote Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent. No archaeological features or deposits were identified in the watching brief. There had been considerable disturbance from previously laid services in the monitored area.
Project dates	Start: 18-09-2014 End: 19-09-2014
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING IGHTHAM North Lawn, Ightham Mote
Postcode	TN15 0NT
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 558436 153542 50.9160001323 0.217283356639 50 54 57 N 000 13 02 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	National Trust
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	John Hirst
Type of sponsor/funding body	Charity

Name of sponsor/funding body National trust

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient National Trust

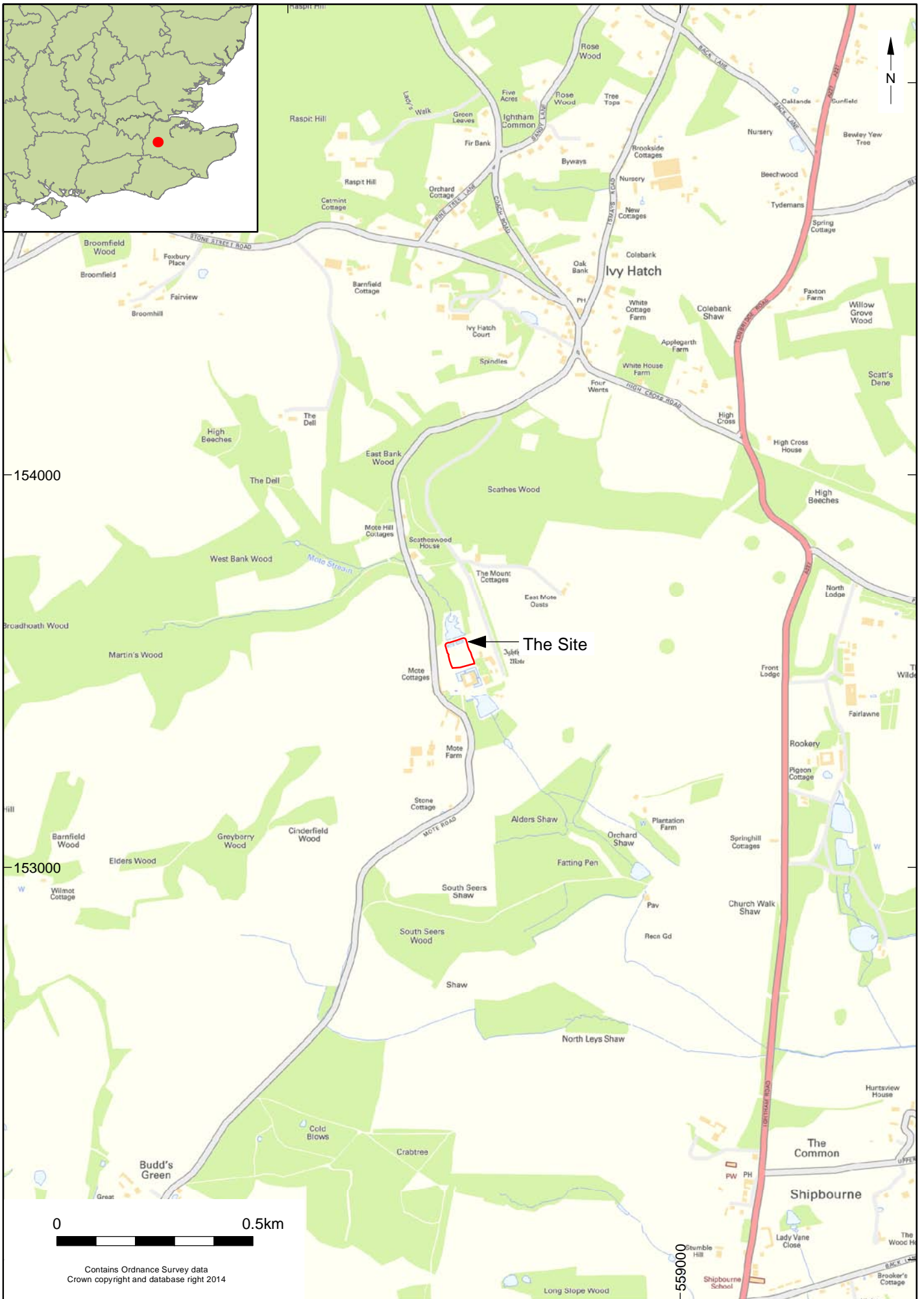
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient National Trust

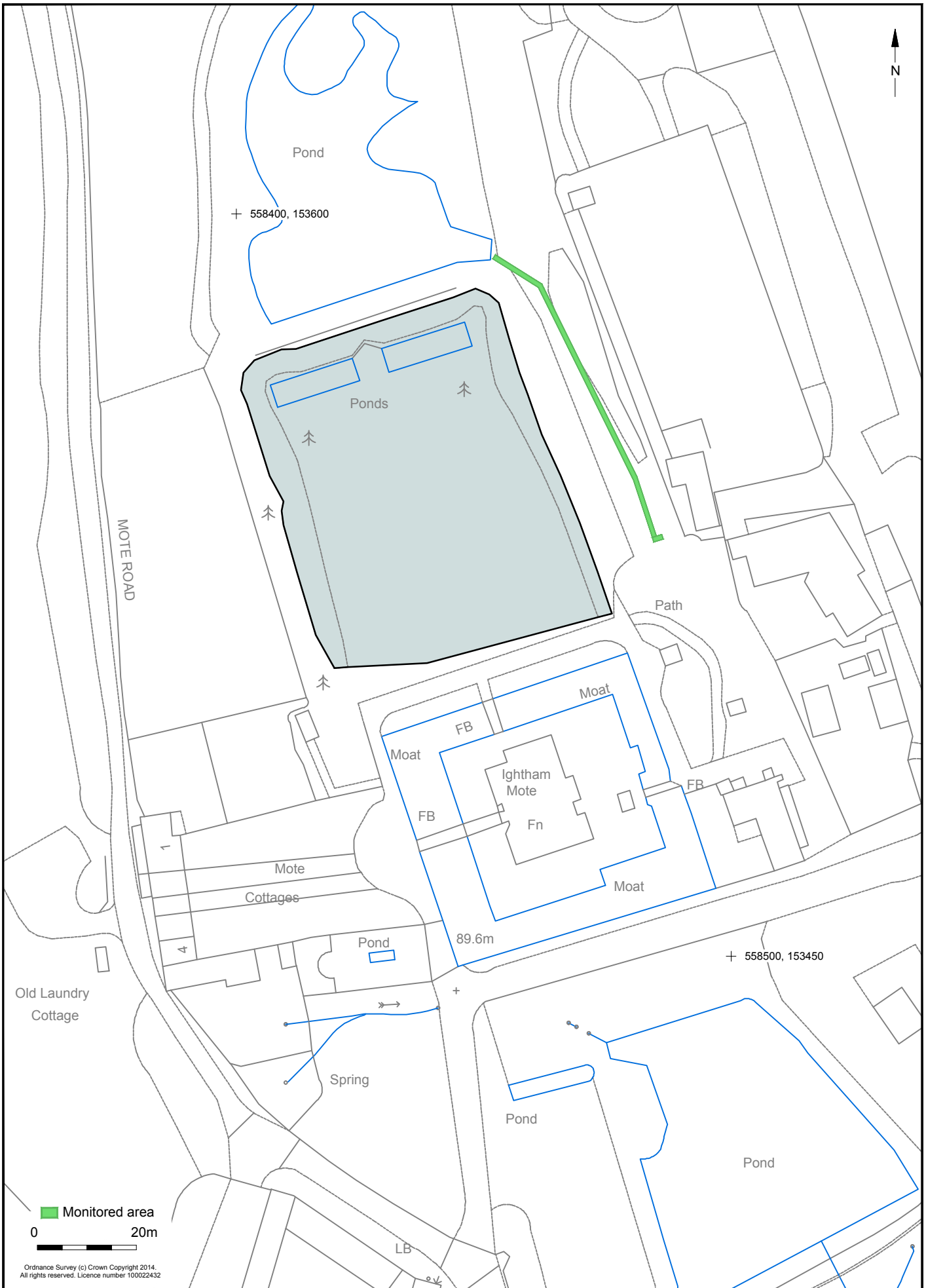
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Report", "Section"

Entered by John Hirst (j.hirst@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 7 October 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Ightham Mote	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7048	October 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014313	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Ightham Mote	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7048	October 2014	Location of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2014313	Drawn by: RHC		

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