

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road in Sevenoaks, Kent**

**(NGR: 552981 153687)
Planning Reference: SE/10/00385/FUL**

**Project No. 4357
Site Code: SLS10**

ASE Report No. 2010191

OASIS id: archaeo16-84929

Alice Thorne

October 2010

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: 552981 153687). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

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Fig. 1: Site location

Fig. 2: Site plan showing monitored groundwork

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology, was commissioned by James Watson of Morgan Stanley to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork during buildings work at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: 552981 153687) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site is located to the west of Solefields Road and south of Soleoak Drive in Sevenoaks (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 According to the maps of the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Gault Formation Mudstone.

1.3 Planning background

1.3.1 The site has planning permission for the proposed replacement of existing ancillary buildings (garage, stores and greenhouse) with ancillary building comprising car port, store, and garden room with games room above to serve the dwelling house.

1.3.2 The Local Planning Authority's planning reference for the proposal is SE/10/00385/FUL.

1.3.3 The Local Planning Authority placed the following condition on the planning consent:

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.

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

1.3.4 A specification outlining the requirements was prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (KCC), requiring the presence of an archaeologist during groundwork.

1.3.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Swift on the 4th and 5th of August 2010. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information has been reproduced from the KCC specification with due acknowledgement (KCC, 2010).

2.2 The site lies within an Area of Archaeological Potential relating to the site of a battle in 1450 between Henry VI's troops and Jack Cade's rebels. Mesolithic flint tools have been found in the surrounding landscape along with an Iron Age stater.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundwork.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification, using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets.
- 3.2.2 The groundwork comprised the excavation of footing trenches for a new timber framed detached extension.
- 3.2.3 The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.2.3 A photographic record of the work was kept (digital images) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The groundwork comprised the excavation of footing trenches measuring 0.45m wide by 1.80m deep (Figure 2).

4.2 Following the removal of a substantial slab and topsoil from across the area (context [001]), the following sequence of deposits was encountered:

- Between 0.30m to 0.50m of a dirty grey clayey sandy silt subsoil (context [002]).
- Below this, a clean light orangish brown clayey sandy silt natural was observed to the base of the trench (context [003]).

4.3 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1** The site is located within an area of Archaeological Potential associated with the mid 15th century battle between Henry VI's troops and Jack Cade's rebels. However, no archaeological remains of this or any other period were identified during the programme of fieldwork.

References

KCC, 2010. *Specification for an archaeological watching brief at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road in Sevenoaks*. Unpublished KCC document.

Appendix 1:

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	SLS10					
Identification Name and Address	Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road in Sevenoaks					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	552981 153687					
Geology	Gault Formation Mudstone.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4357					
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. 4 and 5 th /08/10	Other		
Sponsor/Client	James Watson of Morgan Stanley					
Project Manager	Andy Leonnard					
Project Supervisor	Dan Swift					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: 552981 153687). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.</p>						

Appendix 2:

OASIS ID: archaeol6-84929

Project details

Project name	Solefields Lodge
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundwork at Solefields Lodge, Solefields Road, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: 552981 153687). No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 04-08-2010 End: 05-08-2010
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	SLS10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
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 SEVENOAKS Solefields Lodge
Postcode	XXXXXXX
Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 52981 53687 51.2612486235 0.192824242041 51 15 40 N 000 11 34 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	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Dan Swift
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	James Watson

Project archives

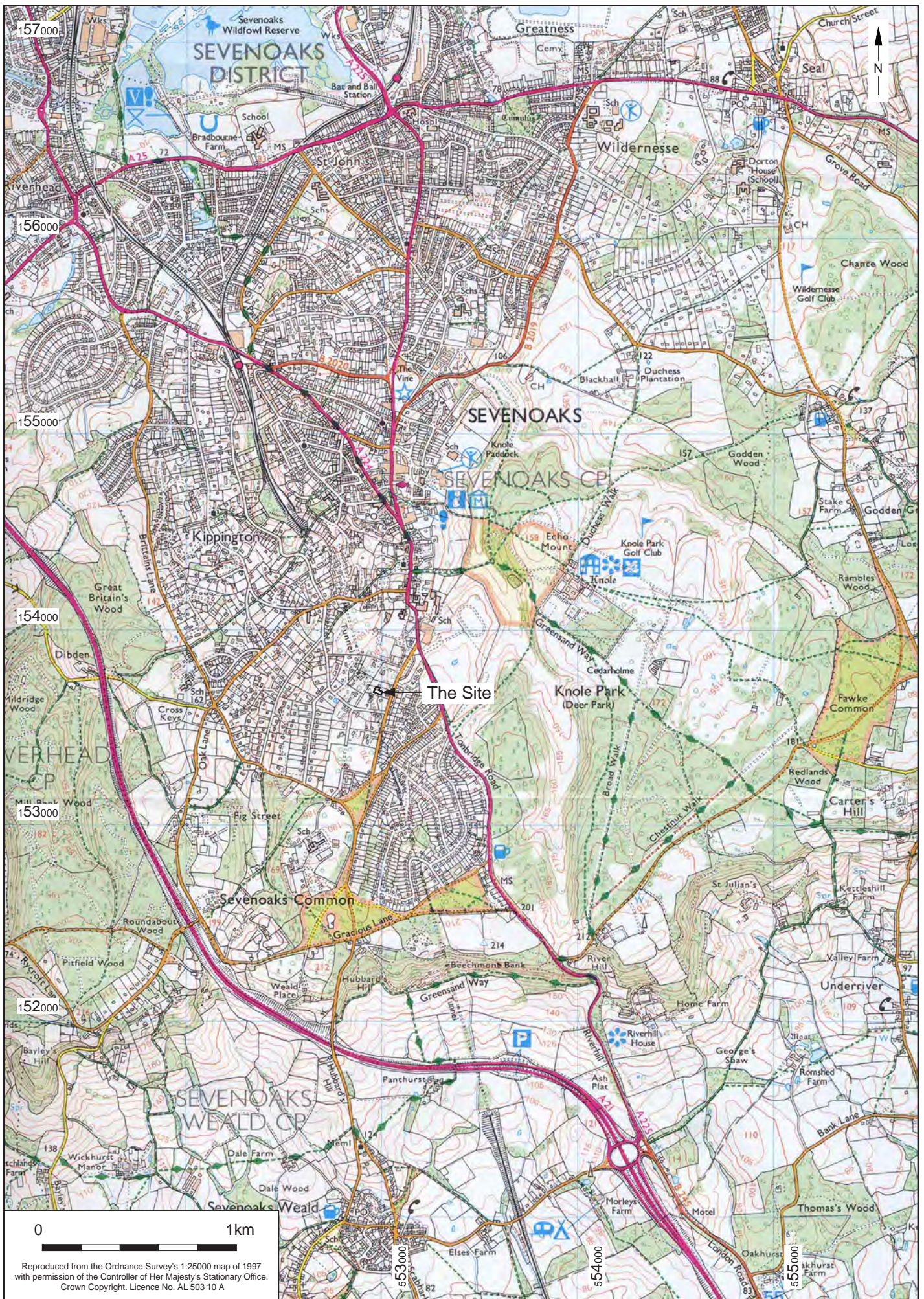
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Notebook - Excavation', ' Research', ' General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Diary', 'Map'

Project bibliography 1

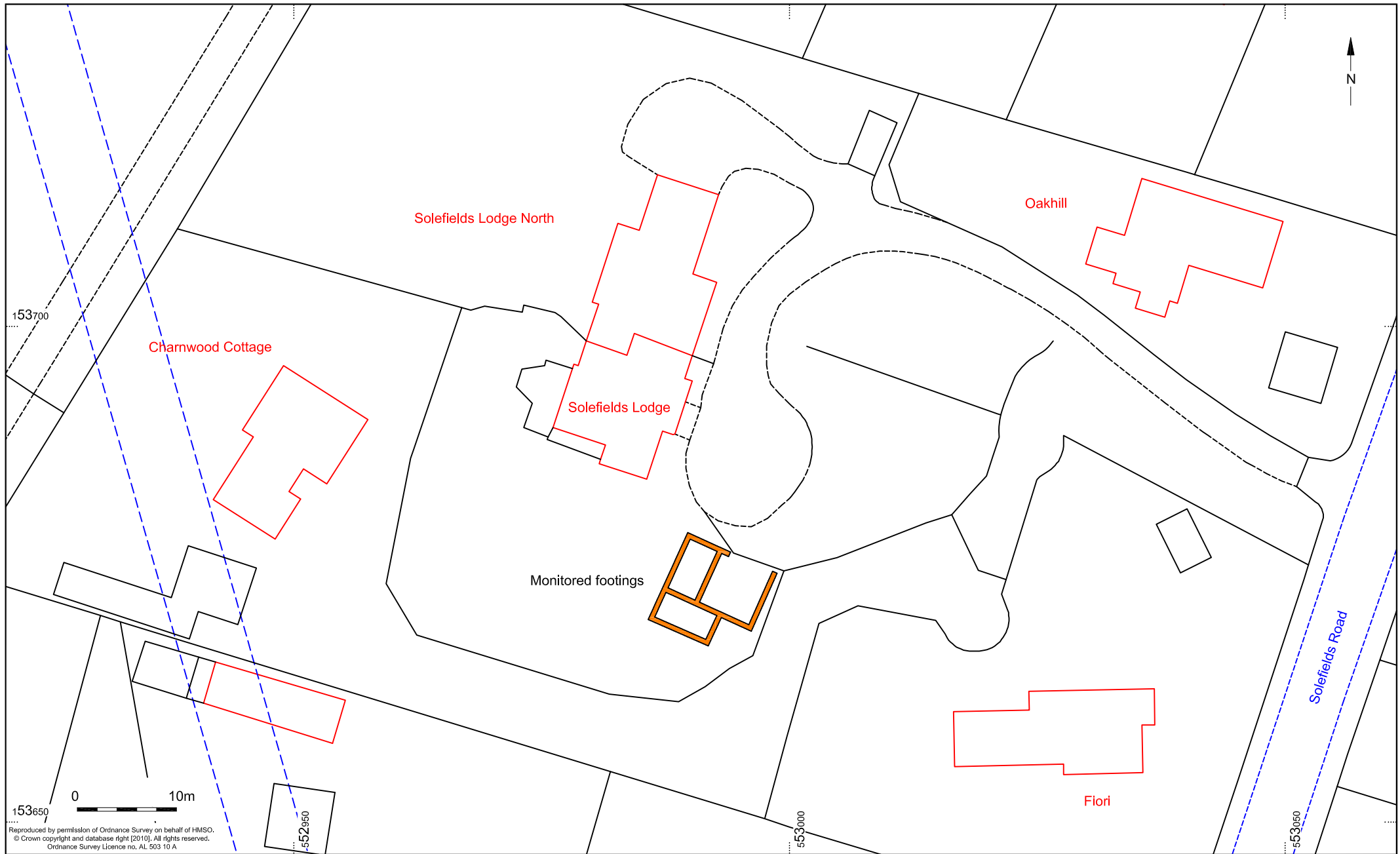
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Solefields Lodge, Sevenoaks		Fig. 1
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Report Ref: 2010191	Drawn by: JLR			



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© Archaeology South-East		Solefields Lodge, Sevenoaks		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4357	Oct 2010	Site plan showing monitored groundworks		
Report Ref: 2010191	Drawn by: JLR			

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