

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent**

**NGR 558508 153472
(SU 58508 53472)**

Scheduled Monument Consent Reference: S00100895

Project No: 7449

Site Code: IMC 15

ASE Report No: 2016091

OASIS ID: archaeol6-244413



By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA

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Luke Barber, Elena Baldi and Gemma Ayton

Prepared by:	Simon Stevens	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Lucy Sibun	Senior Archaeologist	
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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 was commissioned by Stuart Page Architects on behalf of the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks adjacent to The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent.

No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during the limited groundworks at the site, and only a small assemblage of post-medieval artefacts was recovered from an encountered layer of made ground.

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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), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned Stuart Page Architects on behalf of the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks adjacent to The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent (NGR 558508 153472) (Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 Ightham Mote consists of a complex of buildings including a medieval moated manor house (known as *The Mansion*) currently owned by the National Trust. The site lies in a secluded wooded valley, surrounded by farmland. The Coach House is a Grade II listed building adjacent to the moat.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying geological strata at the site consists of Atherfield Clay Formation, with local deposits of sandstone and limestone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2016).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for works to repair/replace an area of sunken paving adjacent to The Coach House was granted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in March 2015 (SMC reference S00100895). An area of paving has sunk and cracked, possibly owing to the collapse of an underlying drain.

1.3.2 One of the conditions of the SMC was the provision of archaeological monitoring during the groundworks to investigate the problem and repair it. The condition stated that:

'No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work to take place during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage'

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by Stuart Page Architects (SPA 2015) and duly approved before the commencement of the work. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of groundworks (*ibid.*).

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work given in the WSI (*ibid.*) was to:

'ensure that all features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the proposed groundworks are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standard.'

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the monitoring of groundworks undertaken during visits to the site between September 2015 and February 2016. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens and Greg Priestley-Bell (Senior Archaeologists), Chris Russel and Gary Webster (Archaeologists) and Jake Wilson (Archaeological Assistant). The project was managed by Paul Mason (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 (ref. 12717) 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 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.'

- 2.2 The Coach House was apparently built in the late 19th century, but graffiti provides an earlier date of 1840 for some elements of the structure. It has been argued that much of the building dates from the 1870, built to a design by R. N. Shaw at the same time as he undertook work on the manor house (SPA 2015).
- 2.3 There have been known alterations to the building in 1891, when a lean-to was added, and in 1986 when the Coach House was converted to the current use as a shop, toilet block and garage (*ibid.*).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Mechanical excavation was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts. The area monitored is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive, which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to the National Trust in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Context sheets	5
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	62 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	9
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 small box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved remains from bulk samples	

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks at the site between September 2015 and February 2016. The monitored groundworks consisted of the manual reduction of ground level to a maximum depth of 400mm of an area immediately adjacent to The Coach House.

4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Concrete	0.13
002	Layer	Made Ground	0.24
003	Layer	Made Ground	0.12
004	Layer	Made Ground	0.24
005	Masonry	Brickwork	0.20

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. At the base of the excavations was a highly mixed deposit of made ground containing brick and concrete rubble, builders sand and topsoil [002] and [004], which contained a limited assemblage of artefacts. This was beneath an intermittent layer of sand levelling, context [003], which was overlain by a layer of cracked and partially sunk concrete, context [001].

4.2.2 The only feature recorded was an isolated chunk of brick masonry rendered in mortar and only partially exposed in the excavation area [005]. It measured 800mm by 680mm and was interpreted by the excavator as the brick-built socket for an upright post of some kind. It was clearly of recent origin, and appeared not to predate the construction of The Coach House.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of material was recovered during the watching brief. The material was air dried as appropriate, subsequently quantified by count and weight, and was bagged and labelled (Table 4). The objects were packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (ClfA 2014). No further conservation is required.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Other	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	Copper	Wt (g)
002	53	1251	22	3267	1	45	Shell, 2 Coal, 1	17 10	4	285	5	149	1	
004			7	1282	18	1495					2	28	1	55
Total	53	1251	29	4549	19	1540	2	17	4	285	9	177	1	61

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 47 sherds of pottery, weighing 872g, from a single context. The material has been fully listed in Table 5 as part of the visible archive.

Context	Fabric	Period	No	Weight	Comments
002	Frechen stoneware	EPM	1	12g	Bottle (C17th)
002	White salt-glazed stoneware	EPM	2	12g	Uncertain form x1
002	Glazed red earthenware	LPM	5	214g	Jar x1 (moulded club rim with rouletted line below), dish x1 (inturned rim), uncertain form x1
002	English stoneware	LPM	7	212g	Bottle x1 (fe wash, salt glaze)
002	Creamware	LPM	15	72g	Plate x1 (scalloped rim). MI C18th
002	Blue transfer-printed ware	LPM	2	14g	Plate x1 (willow-pattern), bowl x1 (unclear design)
002	Green transfer-printed ware	LPM	12	84g	Plate x1 (foliage pattern)
002	Refined whiteware	LPM	2	10g	Plate x1
002	Chinese porcelain	EPM	1	4g	Plare x1 (Chinese blue hand-painted)

Table 5: Pottery assemblage EPM – Early Post-Medieval c. 1525/50-1750; LPM - Late Post-Medieval c. 1750-1900+).

5.2.2 The single sherd of 17th- century Frechen stoneware is the earliest sherd of pottery, with the white salt-glazed stoneware, early creamware and Chinese porcelain belonging to the 18th century. The remainder of the assemblage can all be placed in the 19th century. The assemblage is too small to comment on meaningfully but the material appears to represent a typical spread of domestic material.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber and Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 A relatively small assemblage of brick and tile was recovered during the archaeological work. The material recovered from context [002] is summarised in Table 6.

Form	Fabric	No	Dimensions	Comments
Brick	B1: Moderate fine 'sugary' quartz, rare/sparse iron oxides to 1mm	1/128g	65mm thick	Well formed, medium fired. Late C17th – 18th
Brick	B1	1/1022g	65mm thick	As above but with shaped curving edge and notable wear on upper face (floor brick)
Brick	B2: Common/moderate medium quartz, sparse iron oxides to 1mm	1/210g	50mm thick	Quite crudely formed, hard fired (some self glaze). C16th – 17th
Brick	B2	1/66g	?	Self-glazed
Ridge tile	T1: Sparse fine quartz, occasional calcareous inclusions to 1mm (voids)	1/55g	13mm thick	Quite well formed and fired. Mid C15th – 16 th ?
Ridge tile	T2: Moderate medium quartz, common marl pellets to 2mm	1/272g	22mm thick	Quite well formed and fired. Similar to Roman imbrex but probably a heavy C16th- century tile
Ridge tile	T3: Common/moderate medium quartz, very rare iron oxides to 2mm	1/84g	12mm thick	Well formed and fired. C17th – 18 th ?
Peg tile	T1	4/328g	13-14mm thick	
Peg tile	T4: Abundant fine calcareous speckling with some larger pieces to 1mm (voids)	3/468g	13-14mm thick	Quite well formed, medium/well fired. Mid C15th – 16 th ?
Peg tile	T5: Sparse fine quartz	7/184g	10-11mm thick	Well formed and fired. Diamond peg holes. Mid C18th – 19th
Floor tile	F1: Moderate/abundant medium quartz, occasional white inclusions to 1mm	1/450g	24mm thick	Bevelled edge. Unglazed/worn surface. C15th – 17th

Table 6: Ceramic Building Material assemblage from context [002]

5.3.2 A total of seven pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) collectively weighing 1282g were subsequently recovered from context [004]. Included in this assemblage were three half round and one sharply curving ridge tile fragments, all well-fired and several almost vitrified; one vitrified fragment of peg tile with two small diamond shaped peg holes; and two slightly thicker flat tile fragments. All the CBM was post-medieval in date and a c.18th-19th century date is likely. None of the CBM has been retained.

5.3.3 The ceramic building material assemblage is notably varied in types and fabrics, particularly considering it was recovered from a single context. It would certainly appear there is a significant early post-medieval residual/re-used element in the assemblage. However, enough later material is present to suggest a 19th- century date for the made ground, context [002] and [004].

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 Context [002] produced five fragments of glass. The earliest consists of two pieces (64g) from heavily corroded green wine bottles of 18th- century date. There are a further two shards of uncorroded heavy dark green glass from wine/beer bottles of a likely 19th- century date as well as an 8g fragment from a colourless cylindrical vessel, with slight corrosion, that is likely to be of the same date. The only other glass recovered came from context [004] and consists of two shards (28g) of heavily corroded dark green glass, probably of 18th- century date.

5.5 The Metalwork by Elena Baldi

5.5.1 A small assemblage consisting of four iron objects, weighing 285g were recovered from context [002]. All are covered in thick layer of iron corrosion products inhibiting the determination of their functionality. All the finds can be compared to similar examples throughout England and date to the late medieval or post-medieval periods.

5.5.2 The four pieces are identified as follows:

Staple

Rectangular in shape, 40mm in length, 33mm in width, with straight arms, one of which is broken, whilst the second seems complete (Goodall 2011, H51-81). This type of staple was commonly hammered into wood or masonry.

Nail

Hand wrought, it is not possible to see if square in section. It is 108 mm in length with thick corrosion layer and consequently, it is not possible to see if the head of the nail is present.

Pivot

A hinge pivot, 116 mm in length and 58 mm in height, with bent shank, which seems to imply that it had been passed through the wood completely (Goodall 2011, H365). The pivot was often set in mortar or lead, but there is no evidence of either visible on the surface.

Hinge/fitting or key

This piece is rectangular in shape, with one rounded and one flat ends. It measures 153 mm in length and max width is 45 m. It is possible that the corrosion products cover entirely one central hole that seems visible on the rounded part.

5.6 The Registered Find by Elena Baldi

5.6.1 Only one object made from copper alloy was assigned a unique Registered Finds Number. The object was air dried as appropriate, recorded on separate pro-forma sheet, bagged and individually labelled (Table 7). The object is stored in an air-tight Stewart box with silica gel, following ClfA guidelines (2014). X-radiography was not deemed necessary at this stage, in order evaluate further intervention. No further conservation is required.

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period	Wt (g)
1000	004	Ingot	Copp	Uncertain	55

Table 7: Registered find

5.6.2 The copper object found in context [004] is oblong in shape and has a triangular section. It is 50 mm in length and 14 mm in width, it weighs 55 g and it is covered with soil and corrosion products. A collar is visible on one side, but it is not clear if a similar feature is also present on a second surface, as this is covered with corrosion products. The third side does not display this feature.

5.6.3 The function and date remain unclear.

5.7 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.7.1 Context [002] contained a 10g fragment of coal likely to be of 18th- to 19th-century date.

5.8 The Shells by Elena Baldi

5.8.1 Only two fragments of oyster shell (*Ostrea Edulis*), were recovered, both from context [002], which weigh in total 17g. One piece is very small and incomplete. The second is a juvenile shell, with only few growth steps recorded. This piece is complete, but has a regular hole in the centre of the valve. This is quite well defined and regular; however it is likely that it occurred in the natural environment, more than a product of human intervention.

5.9 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.9.1 A small assemblage of animal bone has been collected, which contains 19 fragments recovered from two contexts ([002] and [004]). Context [002] contains a single fragment identified as the shaft of a pig femur. Context [004] contains an array of specimens including fragments of a cattle mandible and tibia, a sheep/goat tibia, a goat metacarpal and a horse metacarpal. There is no evidence of butchery, burning, gnawing or pathology on the bones. The whole assemblage is in a moderate state of preservation displaying little sign of surface erosion, though no complete bones have been recovered.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits or features were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks at the site. The comparatively shallow depth of the excavation limited the scope for the exposure of features, and similarly, only a limited assemblage of artefacts was recovered from the thin layer of made ground disturbed during the works. The natural was not exposed at any point.
- 6.2 The assemblage contains no artefacts out of place on a site known to have been occupied since the medieval period, and represents evidence of post-medieval domestic activity, as well as clear indications of 19th century buildings work/repair in the form of the relatively numerous tiles.

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ASE would like to thank Stuart Page Architects for commissioning the archaeological work on behalf of the National Trust. Thanks are also due to the groundworks contractors for their co-operation, and to various members of staff from the National Trust for their hospitality.

HER Summary

Site Code	IMC 15					
Identification Name and Address	The Coach House, Ightham Mote					
County, District &/or Borough	Tunbridge and Malling District, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	558508 153472					
Geology	Atherfield Clay Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7449					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site				Scheduled Monument		
Dates of Fieldwork			08.09.2015 - 09.02.2016			
Sponsor/Client	Stuart Page Architects on behalf of the National Trust					
Project Managers	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisors	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
			PM			
<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Stuart Page Architects on behalf of the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent</i></p> <p><i>No significant archaeological features or deposits were identified during limited groundworks at the site, and only a small assemblage of post-medieval artefacts was recovered from an encountered layer of made ground.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-244413

Project details

Project name	The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Stuart Page Architects on behalf of the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks adjacent to The Coach House, Ightham Mote, Kent. Owing to the limited scope of the groundworks, no significant archaeological features or deposits were identified, and only a limited assemblage of post-medieval artefacts were recovered from an encountered layer of made ground.
Project dates	Start: 08-09-2015 End: 09-02-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	IMC 15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	7449 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING IGHTHAM The Coach House, Ightham Mote
Postcode	TN15 0NT
Study area	25 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 58508 53472 51.257802335927 0.27188718999 51 15 28 N 000 16 18 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust

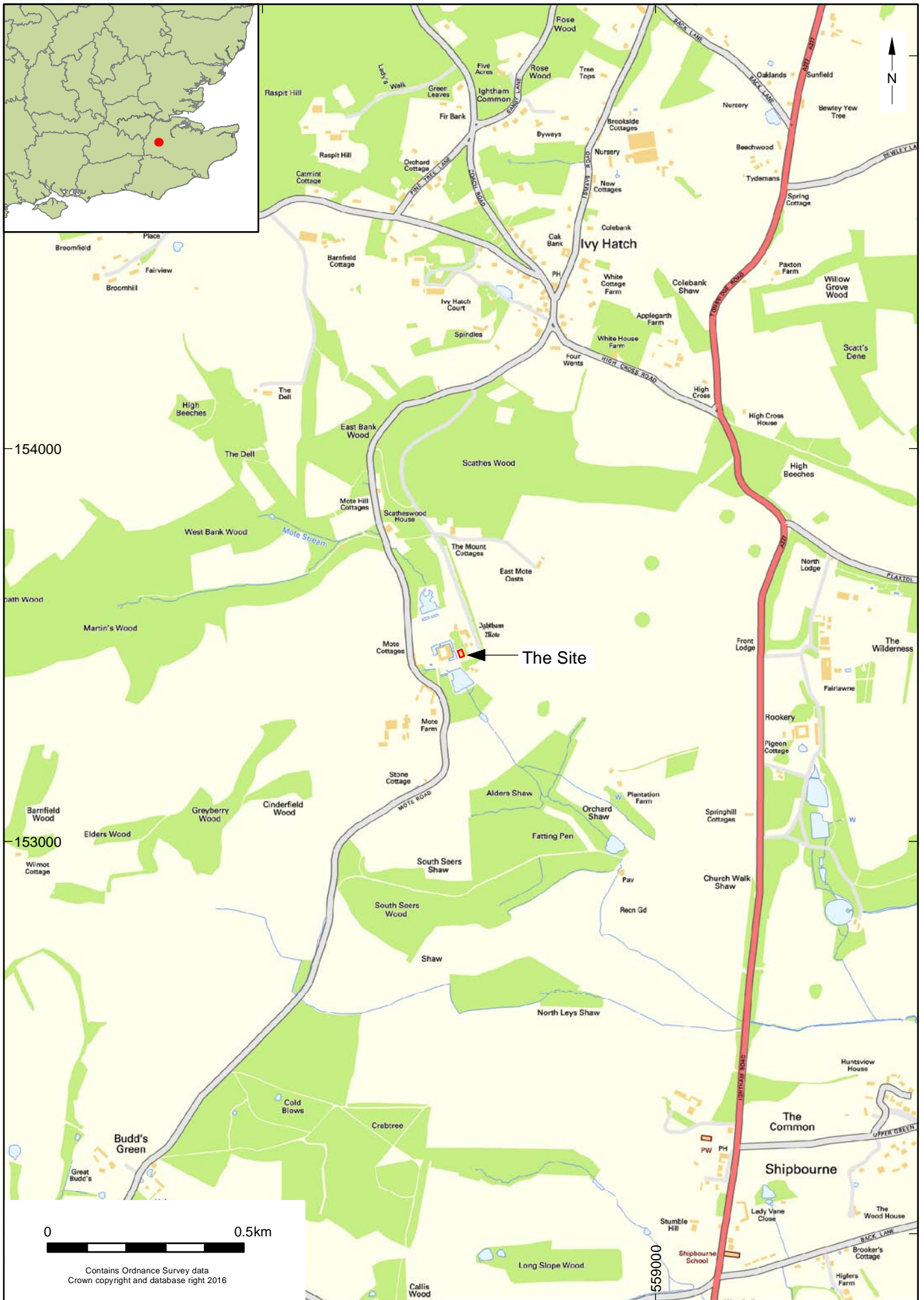
Project design originator	Sturat Page Architects
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Unpublished Text"

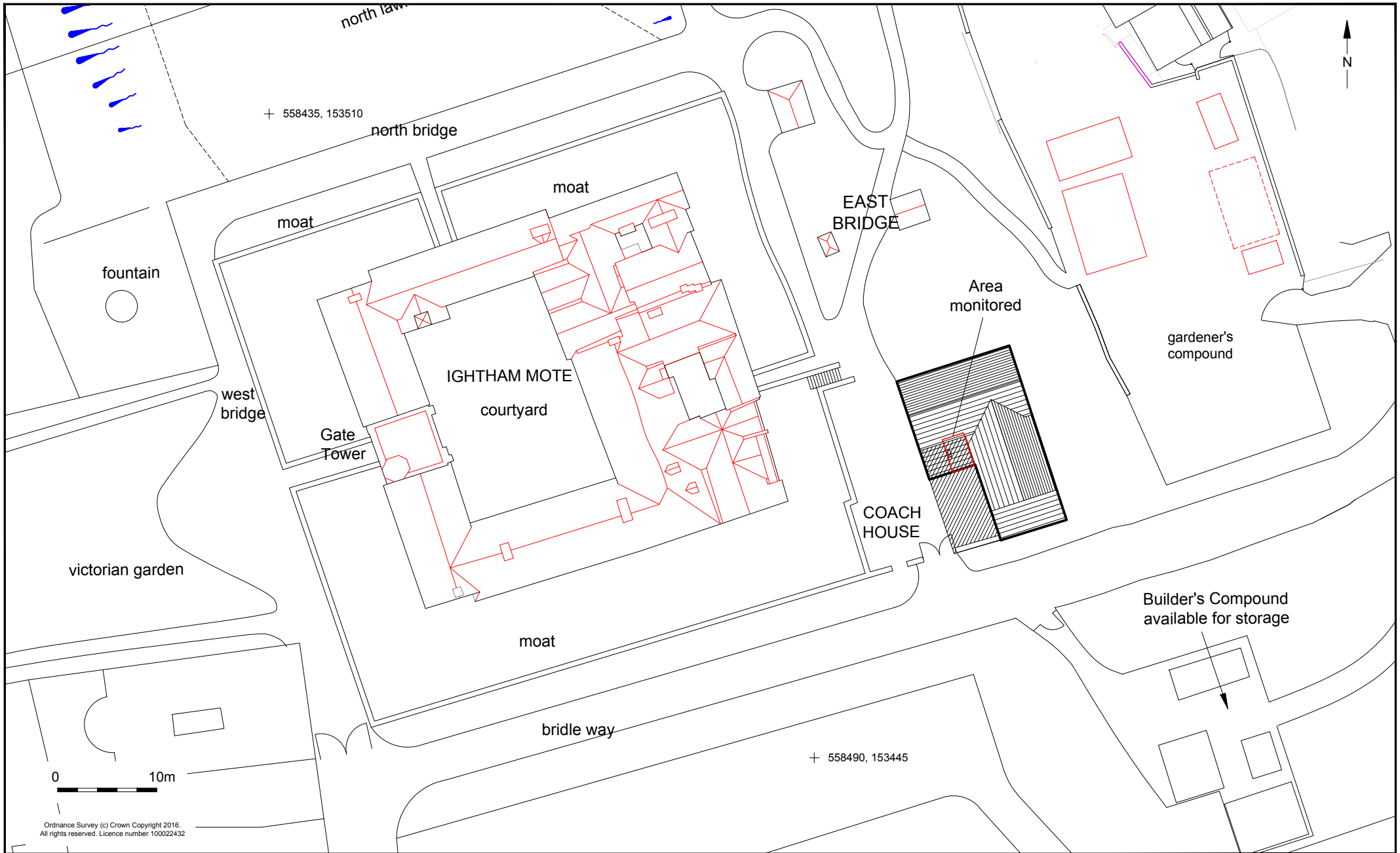
Project bibliography 1

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Project Ref: 7449	03 - 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016091	Drawn by: NG			



© Archaeology South-East		The Coach House, Ightham Mote		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7449	03 - 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016091	Drawn by: NG			



Feature 005, looking west

© Archaeology South-East		The Coach House, Ightham Mote	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7449	03 - 2016	Area monitored	
Report Ref: 2016091	Drawn by: NG		

Sussex Office

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

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
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
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

