

Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of 71 Lustralls Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex

Site Code LUS/WB/13



Date of Report: 11/07/2013
Revise 17/07/2013

Report for John Sheehan

SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company
The Office, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road
Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP
Tel; 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112
info@swatarchaeology.co.uk www.swatarchaeology.co.uk

Contents

1.0 SUMMARY.....	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND.....	4
3.0 SCHEDULE OF VISITS.....	5
4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	5
4.1 PROPOSED GROUNDWORKS.....	5
4.2 CONFIDENCE RATING.....	5
5.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
6.0 METHODOLOGY.....	6
7.0 RESULTS.....	7
7.1 GENERAL.....	7
8.0 FINDS.....	7
9.0 DISCUSSION.....	7
10.0 CONCLUSION.....	7
11.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	7
REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX 1 - ESSC HER Summary Form.....	8

Plate 1. Aerial Photograph of site (Google 2007)

Plate 2. Piling in progress

Plate 3. Showing machine reduction

Plate 4. General view of site

Plate 5. View of the site showing ground level

Plate 6. View of the site showing area strip

Plate 7. Showing piling underway

Plate 8. Areas of piling and ground reduction

List of Figures

Figure 1. Site plan

Figure 2. Proposed development

Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of 71 Lustrells Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex

Site Code LUS/WB/13



Plate 1. Aerial view of site showing the site prior to development. Eye altitude 275m.

(GoogleEarth 2007).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From 17th April to 8th May 2013 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the development works at land to the rear of 71 Lustrells Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex (Fig. 1 & Plate 1).

1.2. The works were carried out on behalf of the owner and instructions received from John Sheehan, Shellbank Lodge, Bean, Dartford, Kent.



Plate 2. Piling in progress

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the piling and reduction of the site prior to construction (Plates 2, 8). The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases.

Phase 1: Excavating an access and piling (Plate 7).

Phase 2: Reduction of parts of the site with a toothless ditching bucket in closely monitored spits to enable construction to take place (Plate 3).

Piling was undertaken on the north and north-east sides of the site (Plate 2) by screw auger (left). The auger contents were inspected periodically to ensure no archaeological features had been impacted on.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is: BH2012/02168.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was low to medium the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

SWAT Archaeology (Swale & Thames Survey Company) had been commissioned to carry out an Archaeological Watching Brief during all phases of groundworks.

Condition (13) attached to the Planning Permission says:

Condition 13. No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an on-site watching brief by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during construction work in accordance with written details which have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event of important archaeological features or remains being discovered which are beyond the scope of the watching brief to excavate and record and which require a fuller rescue excavation, then construction work shall cease until the applicant has secured the implementation of a further programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to provide a reasonable opportunity to record the history of the site and to comply with policy HE12 of the Brighton & Hove Local Plan.

Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeologist listed a programme of archaeological works that will be required to fulfil the obligations of the Condition and these included:

Produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for:

1. maintain a watching brief during all intrusive ground works on site, including the controlled excavation of the foundation trenches and platform and service trenches. The building contractor will need to be aware that delays in his work schedule may occur due to sampling and recording of archaeological deposits
2. carry out post-excavation analysis and produce a report of the findings

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist attended the site and monitored the excavation works from 17th April to 8th May 2013.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

“Contribute to knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the ground works. Particular attention will be paid to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.”

4.2. The archaeological attendance is to enable the possible archaeological remains of Anglo-Saxon burials which may be in the vicinity to be excavated and recorded prior to damage by the proposed groundworks. The initial ground works will be undertaken by a 360 machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place (Fig. 2).

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology at the site according to the British Geological Survey shows that the geology of the site and its surrounds consists of Newhaven Chalk Formation (BSG website 1: 50,000). The geology revealed on site was chalk.

5.2. The application site is located on land situated on the corner of Saxon Close and Lustrells Crescent, Brighton (Plate 1). Research has highlighted a lynchet which crosses the site which may have been utilised for burial by cremation or inhumation. A burial licence had been requested and provided on the proviso that burials may be encountered on site. If burials were revealed they will be excavated in their entirety to IFA and SWAT Archaeology guidelines and standards.

5.3. The site lies within an area of known archaeological potential associated with archaeological remains presently recorded in the ESCC HER. The Archaeological record within the area around the development site is diverse and comprises possible activity dating from one of the earliest human period in Britain (the Neolithic) through to the post-medieval period. Of particular importance is an Anglo-Saxon burial found in December 1950 in a rabbit hole dug into a lynchet at TQ 3829 0298 by G A Holleyman and N E S Norris along with an associated pot. This find (ME S246) is close to the proposed development site and pre-development research confirmed that the lynchet in question did or had passed through the development site (Fig. 00).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief was conducted in accordance with the Archaeological Specification compiled by SWAT Archaeology (2012) and it also complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008).

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in a number of phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 17th April to 8th May 2013.

6.4. Excavation of areas of development was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a toothless and toothed bucket (Plates 3, 4).

6.5. All excavation was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of ground reduction to the natural geology of the chalk were subsequently cleaned by spade with the intention of revealing any observed archaeological features in plan and section. No archaeological features were exposed.



Plate 3. Showing machine reduction of topsoil and chalk on the north and north-east area of the site (see Plate 8). No archaeological features were exposed.

6.7. If found archaeological features under threat were to be excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary.

6.8. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and generic methodology discussed with the Archaeological Officer ESCC.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. The subsoil encountered across the site was of chalk overlaid by garden soil and demolition debris with no archaeological features revealed in the natural geology (Plate 3). The site is situated on a steep slope (Plate 4). On the north side the topsoil and demolition rubble was about 0.35m deep and to the south about 1.20m deep. To the north a badger sett had been removed by machine some years ago and a concrete retaining wall built. The disturbance of this event completely destroyed any historic lynchet or indeed stratification across most of the site. Piling and site reduction were closely watched and no archaeological features were exposed.

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of low to medium potential and the archaeological team were somewhat disappointed that no archaeology was revealed on the development site. Topsoil and rubble clearance in all areas enabled the archaeological team to assess the chalk subsoil for any archaeological features (Plate 3). It seems that the earlier development of removing a badger sett by machine and the subsequent build of a concrete retaining wall for a new build property up slope from the present development completely destroyed any potential archaeological features above the chalk.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank John Sheeham for commissioning the project and the invaluable advice of Greg Chuter, Senior Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The letters are dark and the background is a light, textured grey.

Dr Paul Wilkinson, FRSA., MIfA.

References

HER data (ESCC 2012-13)

IFA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

SWAT Archaeological Watching Brief Specification (2012)

Appendix 1

East Sussex County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at Land to the rear of 71 Lustrells Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex

SWAT Site Code: LUS/WB/13

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for a new detached house whereby East Sussex County Council (ESCC) requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits and close monitoring of ground reduction which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Seaton

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) 5492 098909

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: April/May 2013

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is chalk.

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2013) Archaeological Monitoring at Land to the rear of 71 Lustrells Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

See above

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 11/07/2013

Plates



Plate 4. General view of site, facing east



Plate 5. The site showing levels of topsoil /rubble prior to piling. Piling took place where indicated by the red line, view is facing north-west



Plate 6. Area strip of topsoil and chalk showing site piling exposed to the east (facing east)



Plate 7. Showing piling underway

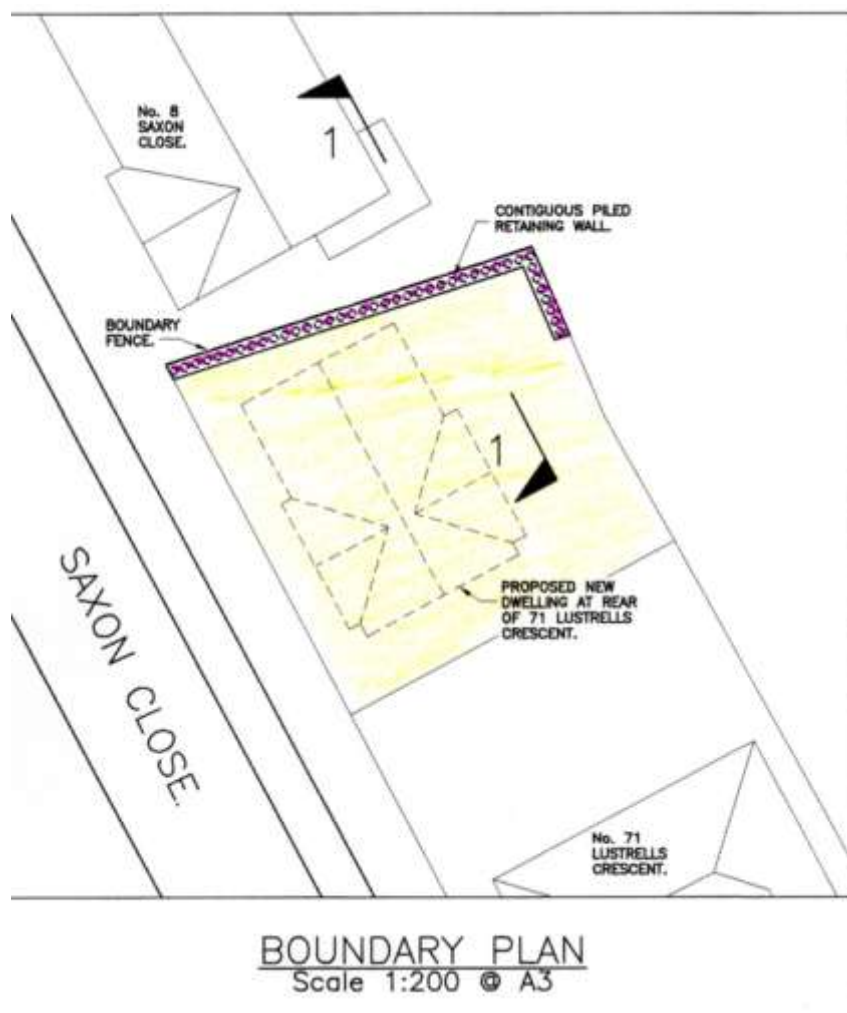
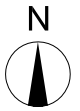
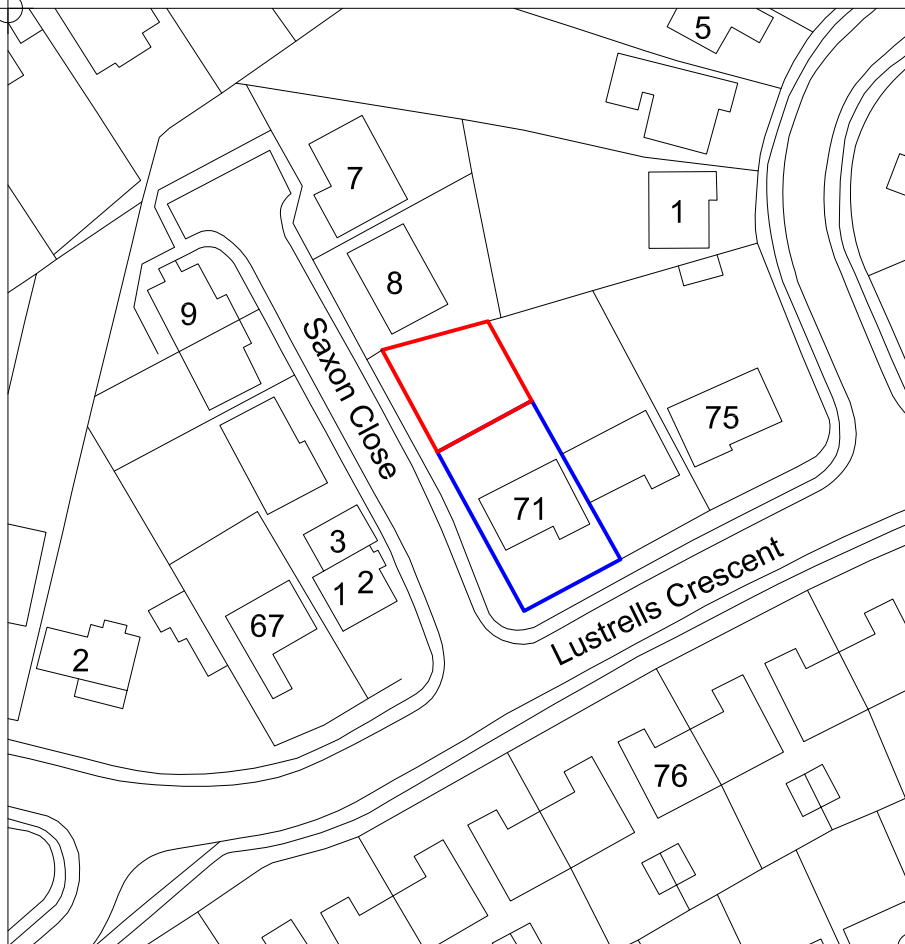


Plate 8. Showing areas of piling watched (pink) and ground reduction (yellow)



538136.321mE
102994.820mN



538255.928mE
102870.588mN

1:1000@A4



Figure 1: Site Location

0m

100m



view 01 - perspective looking north east



view 02 - perspective looking north west



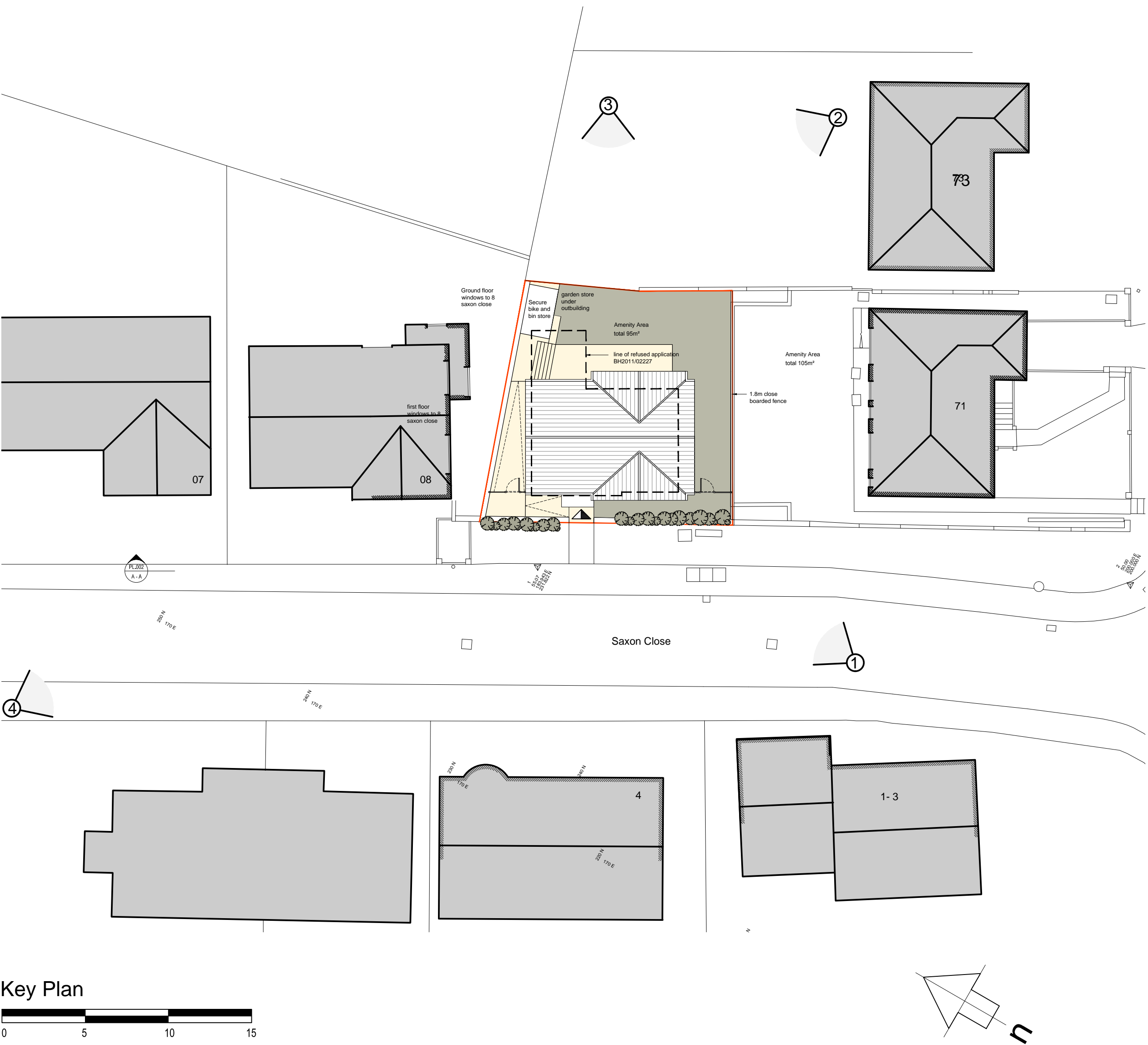
view 03 - perspective looking west



view 04 - existing photograph of Saxon Close



view 04 - proposed photomontage of Saxon Close



amendments				auth.	chkd.
rev.	date	comment			
-	-	-			

client		drawing number		revision	
Mr P Sheehan		0143.PL.013		A	
project		drawing title			
Land to rear 71 Lustrells Crescent		Proposed 3D visuals			
Saltdean					
East Sussex		Planning			
drawn by	checked by	ribs work stage	date	scale/original sheet size	
M.B	S.A	D	May '12	1:100 @ A1	
a : b :: 1 : r architects ltd 1 beta house st johns road hove bn3 2lx tel : +44 (0)1273 724384 email : studio@abrarchitects.co.uk www : www.abrarchitects.co.uk					
Do not scale off drawing Check all dimensions on site before work is undertaken All goods materials workmanship to conform with current building regulations BSS and COPs © copyright atkins blair ings richardson architects					
atkins blair ings richardson chartered architects					