

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate
West Sussex**

**NGR: 493387 104644
SU 93387 04644**

**ASE Project No: 180887
Site Code: HOK18
ASE Report No: 2019007
OASIS id: archaeol6-338630**



By Teresa Vieira

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West Sussex**

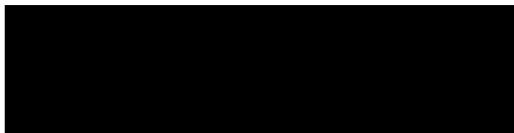
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a proposal for a residential development at Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex. The fieldwork was carried out between the 18th and 19th December 2018. This report details the results of the evaluation that comprised a total of 7 trenches.

No archaeological finds or features were encountered. Evidence of modern activity was present in the form of finds from made-ground deposits within the overburden of 3 trenches.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land west of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex (NGR 493374 104652, Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Southern Water propose to install new apparatus within the existing WTW in addition to minor improvements to the existing access track and creation of a temporary construction compound on land to the southeast of the WTW. The current development proposal supersedes a previous design which involved extending the existing WTW to north of the WTW (Wealden District Council Planning reference WD/2018/0459/CC).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online (BGS 2019) the natural bedrock geology of the site comprises London Clay: clay, silt, sand and gravel overlain by sand and gravel. No superficial deposits are recorded.
- 1.2.2 The site is relatively flat and comprises a single pasture field lying to the west of Hook Lane on the western periphery of Westergate. It is bounded by residential plots to the north, a field and a reservoir to the south, Hook Lane to the east and agricultural fields to the west. A number of shed-like buildings are located in the northern part of the site and a pond is present in the south-west corner.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The current site has been subject to proposals for development.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken on the 18th and 19th December 2018 by Teresa Vieira (Archaeologist) and Vasilis Tsamis (Surveyor).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following summary has been drawn from reports resulting from recent archaeological investigations in the immediate vicinity of the site, c.100m away to the east of Hook Lane (ASE 2016, ASE 2017).
- 2.1.2 An assemblage of Mesolithic flint artefacts including scrapers, cores, core rejuvenation flakes, waste flakes and blades has been recorded 400m to the north of the site (MWS6802). The assemblage has been interpreted as representing a flint-working site. An assemblage of Neolithic flints including three scrapers and 26 waste flake flint flakes have been recorded c. 500m to the north of the site (MWS7795). An undated, but probable Mesolithic or Neolithic flint artefact scatter, has also been recorded in close proximity (MWS6803).
- 2.1.3 Archaeological work to the east of Hook Lane revealed evidence of prehistoric, residual finds of Mesolithic to Late Bronze Age date, with the majority dating to the Middle Neolithic/Late Bronze Age. The earliest activity was represented by a single gully and pit of Middle /Late Bronze Age date. There was considerable evidence for the occupation of the site during the Middle and Late Iron Age. Two areas of apparently unenclosed settlement were identified. One comprised a single heavily truncated ring gully, interpreted as the eaves-drip gully of a roundhouse. The second area, to the north of the first, comprised three structures; an intact ring gully, highly likely to represent a roundhouse; a 6-post structure and a small rectangular enclosure or pen, with a potentially curated polished Neolithic axe deposited in the south-east corner. At least four episodes of land-division have been associated with the settlement. From the Late Iron Age-Early Roman period, it appears that the settlement had shifted and a system of regular, larger fields was laid-out across the site.
- 2.1.4 A single cremation burial and Roman pottery has been recorded c.700m to the north of the site, immediately to the south of Nyton (MWS1283). At least two further graves, Roman pottery and a wall have also been recorded in a back garden of a house c.1km to the north of the site (MWS7081). Little is known about the context of these finds but there is a clear indication that there could be Roman occupation and burial activity to the north of the site.
- 2.1.5 No mention is made in the WSCC Historic Environment Records (HER) of any excavated evidence for Saxon or early medieval occupation in proximity to the site and it must be assumed that the site was part of the local agricultural regime throughout the Saxon and medieval periods.

2.2 Project Aims and Objectives

2.2.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological and/or geoarchaeological deposits.
- To be sufficiently enable the ESCC Archaeologist to provide further advice to the WDC and to make an informed decision on the requirement for any mitigation work that may be required.
- To make public the results of the work, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

2.2.2 The site-specific research aims of the evaluation derived from the South East Research Framework (SERF) were to address the following research questions:

- Can the investigation advance the study of the evolution of settlement (SERF, Middle Bronze Age/ Iron Age)
- Is there any evidence for the transition to the Late Iron Age (SERF, Middle Bronze Age/ Iron Age)
- Is there evidence for the transition from Iron Age to Roman land use and /or settlement (SERF, Roman Period).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological methodology for the trial trench evaluation was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and complies with West Sussex County Council's Archaeological Standards (WSCC 2017).
- 3.1.2 Seven trenches, measuring between c.16m and c.30m in length, by 1.80m in width, were excavated (Figure 2). Trenches 5, 6 and 7 were at the locations specified in the WSI (ASE 2018). Trench 1, 2, 3 and 4 were relocated to avoid areas of thick bramble, but they still targeted the footprints of the proposed development (Figure 3). The trench locations were accurately established and recorded using a Leica Viva CS15 RTK GNSS.
- 3.1.3 A Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) was used to scan all trench locations to check for underlying services prior to excavation.
- 3.1.4 All trenches were excavated, under archaeological supervision, using a 13-tonne 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Each trench was excavated in spits of c.100mm until the top of the underlying natural substrate was revealed.
- 3.1.5 All exposed potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and subsequently excavated, photographed, recorded and drawn as appropriate. Sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.1.6 All trenches and exposed archaeological features were accurately planned and surveyed using a Leica CS15 RTK GNSS.
- 3.1.7 Spoil heaps were examined to recover and collect any unstratified finds.

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive has been assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) and in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).
- 3.2.2 The archive is currently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 2 and 3).

Context sheets	22
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	30
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	7

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 Bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Overburden and Geology

- 4.1.1 The topsoil across the site comprised a loose, dark greyish brown silty clay, measuring between 0.05m and 0.38m in thickness. Except for Trenches 1, 2 and 3 where it overlay a made-ground deposit, it overlay directly a subsoil horizon.
- 4.1.2 The subsoil comprised a moderately firm light greyish brown silty clay and measured between 0.09m and 0.20m in thickness. It overlay directly the natural clay.
- 4.1.3 The natural substrate comprised a firm mid orange-brown clay and was encountered between 9.82m AOD and 10.28m AOD.
- 4.1.4 In Trenches 1, 2 and 3 a made-ground deposit was encountered. It was overlaid by a significant low in thickness topsoil and it overlay directly the natural clay. This made-ground deposit comprised construction debris, including brick, concrete, and tile, wood, metal and plastic. A brick was retained for dating and it suggests a post-medieval, likely 19th century date.
- 4.1.5 Modern land drains were encountered in all trenches.

4.2 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

- 4.2.1 All trenches were devoid of archaeology.

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.05-0.07	10.36-10.44
1	1/002	Layer	Made-ground	0.30-0.43	10.31-10.39
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	NA	10.01
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.05-0.25	10.46-10.58
2	2/002	Layer	Made-ground	0.25	10.21-10.53
2	2/003	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.10	10.20
2	2/004	Layer	Natural	NA	10.11-10.28
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.05-0.10	10.46-10.60
3	3/002	Layer	Made-ground	0.20-0.38	10.34-10.50
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	NA	10.20-10.21
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.28	10.32-10.39
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.19	10.07-10.13
4	4/003	Layer	Natural	NA	9.82 - 9.94
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.25-0.27	10.32-11.22
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.12-0.19	9.96-10.05
5	5/003	Layer	Natural	NA	9.84 - 9.86
6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.30-0.38	10.45-10.52
6	6/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.20	10.07-10.22
6	6/003	Layer	Natural	NA	9.87- 10.07
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.29	10.39-10.42
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.17	10.13-10.15
7	7/003	Layer	Natural	NA	9.98 - 10.04

Table 3: Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 list of recorded contexts.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 5). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b).

Context	CBM	Weight (g)
3/002	1	3205
Total	1	3205

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.2.1 A single brick weighing 3205g was collected from [3/002]. It is fairly substantial brick, measuring 235 x 112 x 70mm, and the general form and approximately rectangular impressed frog suggest a later post-medieval date. A 19th century date is most probable based on the cement mortar present in small patches on several surfaces. The frog contains the impression 'R C' or 'R G', which could not be linked to any brickworks local to Westergate.
- 5.2.2 The brick has been retained for the time being but is recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Natural geology was encountered between 10.28m AOD (Trench 2) at the northeast of the site, slopping down to 9.82m AOD (Trench 4) towards the southwest. A topsoil and subsoil was recorded in most trenches, except for Trenches 1 and 3 where a made-ground deposit immediately overlay the natural clay.
- 6.1.2 The made-ground deposits were interpreted as demolition debris from pre-existing buildings. These deposits contained modern materials, including plastic, concrete, tile, and brick. The brick was sampled and indicates a modern date, likely 19th century.
- 6.1.3 No archaeological finds or features were identified.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The stratigraphy shows the site has been generally undisturbed in the past, except for the north and southeast part, where modern truncation was observed in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. There was c.0.40m – 0.50m of overburden in each trench. The presence of a subsoil may indicate a low level of ploughing on the site.

6.3 Consideration of research aims

- 6.3.1 The general aims of the evaluation were set out within the WSI (ASE 2018) and are listed above in Section 2.
- 6.3.2 The evaluation was successful in identifying as far as possible, the nature, date and character of the deposits found on site. The evaluation succeeded in proving the absence of archaeological remains within the footprints of the proposed development, although it could not address specific research questions for the project.

6.4 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The archaeological evaluation at Land West of Hook Lane, successfully investigated the areas of the site most likely to be disturbed by the proposed development. No archaeological finds or features were encountered. Truncation was noted in the northernmost part of the site.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and James Kenny, Archaeologist Advisor for West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring. Paul Mason managed the excavations, Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	HOK18					
Project code	180887					
Planning reference	N/A					
Site address	Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex					
District/Borough	Arun					
NGR (12 figures)	493374 104652					
Geology	London Clay Formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	18th and 19th of December 2018					
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Teresa Vieira					
Period summary						
						Modern
Project summary	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex NGR 569458 110252 on the 18th and 19th December 2018. Seven trenches measuring between c.16m and c.30m in length were excavated. Modern made-ground deposits were identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. No further archaeological finds or features were identified.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Brick	CBM	Modern	1

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-338630

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land West of Hook Lane
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to a proposal for a residential development at Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex. The fieldwork was carried out between the 18th and 19th December 2018. This report details the results of the evaluation that comprised a total of 7 trenches. No archaeological finds or features were encountered. Evidence of modern activity was present in the form of finds from made-ground deposits within the overburden of 3 trenches.
Project dates	Start: 18-12-2018 End: 19-12-2018
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ARUN ALDINGBOURNE Land West of Hook Lane
Postcode	PO203TB
Study area	0.95 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 93387 04644 50.83322164451 -0.673721739018 50 49 59 N 000 40 25 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.82m Max: 10.28m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Teresa Vieira
Type of sponsor/funding body	Archaeological Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Archive ID HOK18

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID HOK18

Digital Media available "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID HOK18

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s) Vieira, T.

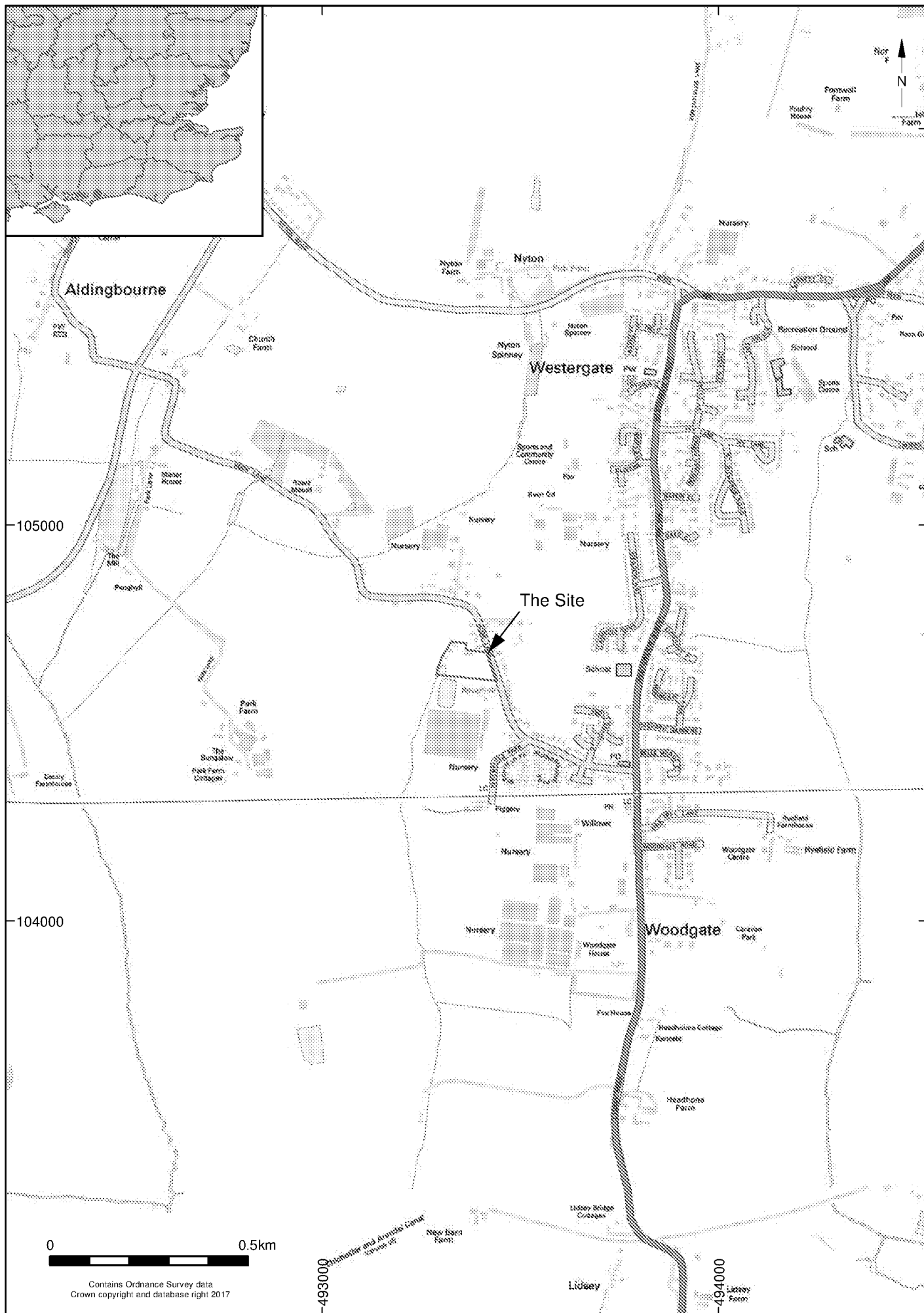
Date 2019

Issuer or publisher ASE

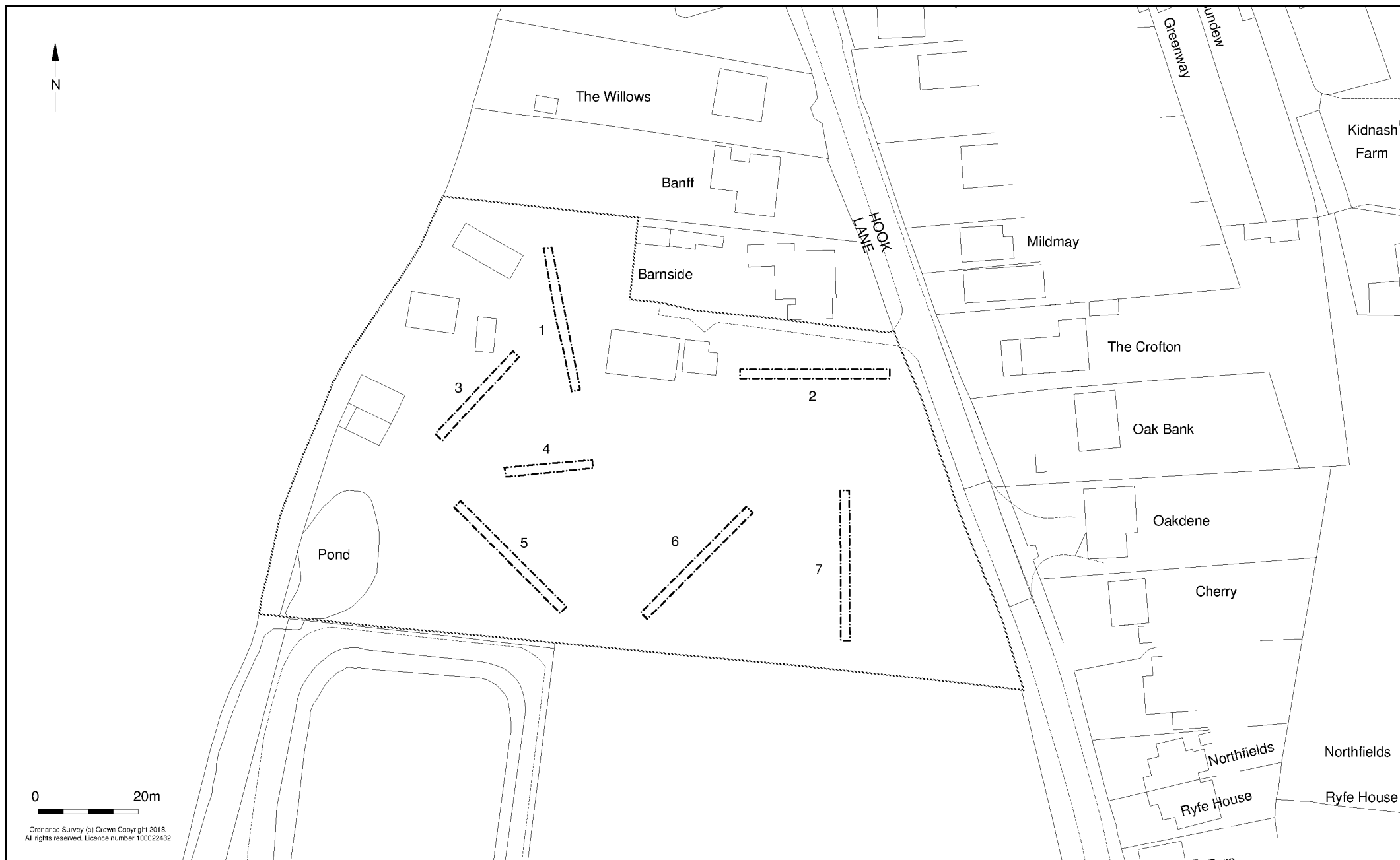
Place of issue or publication Portslade

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Entered on 9 January 2019



© Archaeology South-East		Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180887	January 2019	Site location	
Report Ref: 2019007	Drawn by: NH		



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Project Ref: 180887

January 2019

Report Ref: 2019007

Drawn by: NH

Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate. West Sussex

Site plan

Fig. 2



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Project Ref: 180887

January 2019

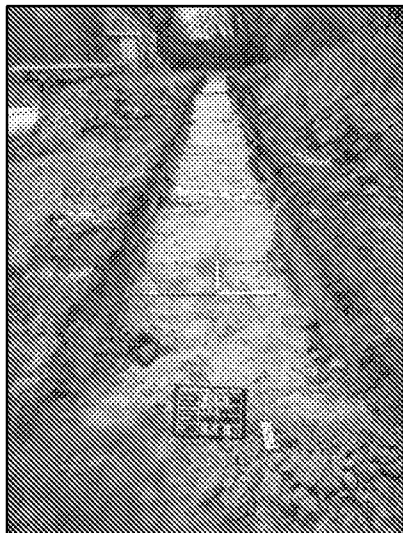
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Drawn by: NH

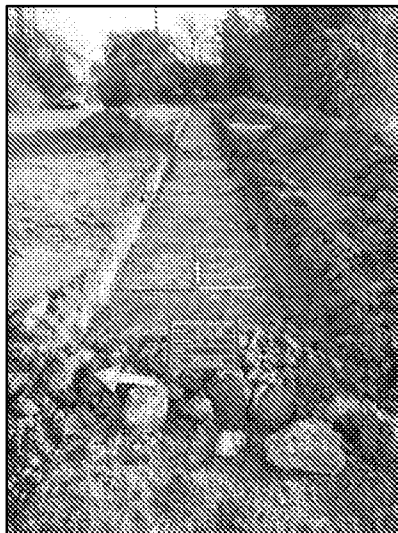
Land West of Hook Lane, Westergate, West Sussex

Site plan with proposed development

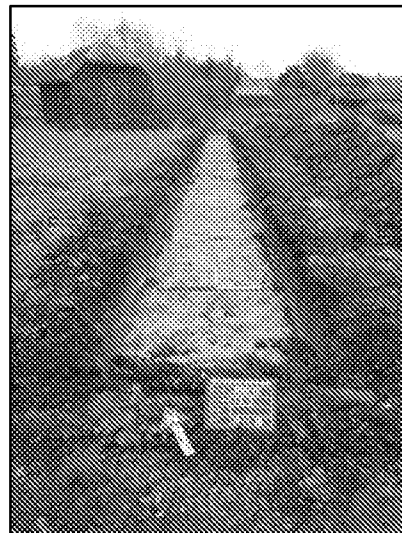
Fig. 3



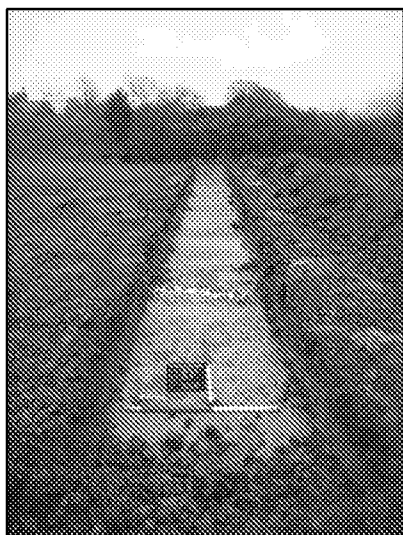
Trench 1, looking north



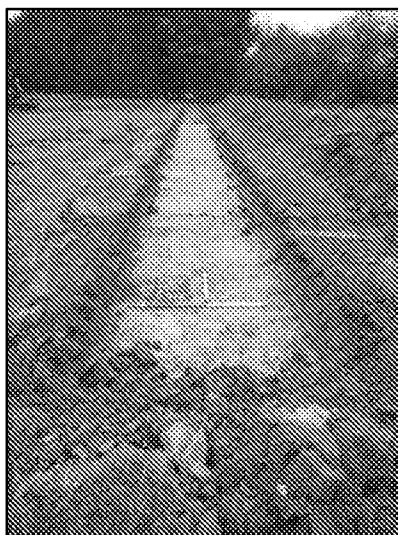
Trench 2, looking east



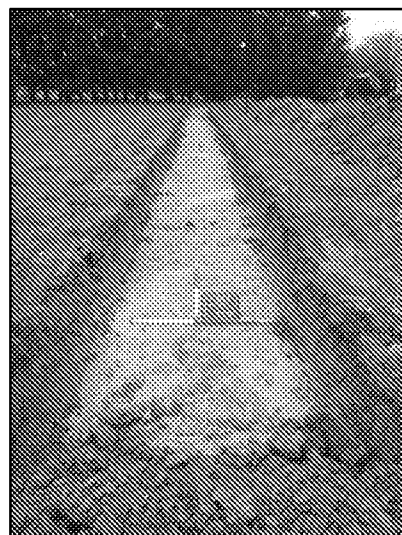
Trench 3, looking northeast



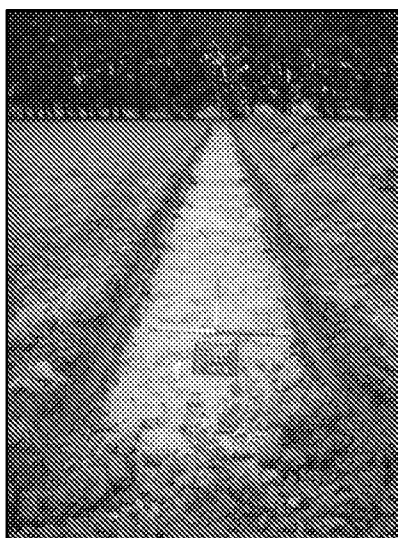
Trench 4, looking east



Trench 5, looking southeast



Trench 6, looking southwest



Trench 7, looking south

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