

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Emmett's Gardens, Near Brasted  
Kent**

**Planning Reference: SE/10/02220**

**Centred NGR: 547930 152341**

**ASE Project No: 4773  
Site Code: SEG 11**

**ASE Report No: 2012003  
OASIS id: archaeol6-116737**

**Author Chris Russel  
with contributions from Luke Barber  
Karine Le Hégarat and Sarah Porteus**

**Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**January 2012**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the National Trust to conduct a watching brief during works associated with the construction of a new visitor centre at Emmett's Gardens, Kent.*

*No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks although a single flint flake as well as post-medieval pottery and CBM were recovered from the subsoil.*

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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) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Emmett's Gardens, Kent, hereafter referred to as 'the site', (Fig.1, centred on NGR 547930 152341). The watching brief was undertaken during works associated with the construction of a new visitor centre and associated car park improvements groundworks involved:

- Ground reduction for access to the new car park
- Ground reduction within the existing car park associated with the construction of a new visitor centre
- The excavation of 3 service trenches in the field to the south of the existing car park
- Excavations associated with a new sewage treatment facility in the field to the east of the existing car park
- Three geotechnical test pits

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2012) the site geology is comprised of Hythe Formation interbedded Sandstone and Limestone with head deposits to the west and Atherfield Clay to the east.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Sevenoaks Council imposed the following condition for an archaeological watching brief to be carried out on the planning consent for the development (Ref: SE/10/02220):

*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.*

1.3.2 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by KCC for the proposed archaeological works. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI and the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor all intrusive ground works in order to properly record and report on the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains exposed during groundworks.
- 1.4.2 The specific objective was to contribute to the knowledge of the post-medieval development of Emmetts as well as any earlier activity.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the site. The work was undertaken between the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2011 and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November by Chris Russel (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and post-excavation work managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 A full archaeological background for Emmett's Gardens is provided in the desk top assessment for the site (ASE:2010) and is summarised here.
- 2.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric or Romano-British activity on the site and there has been little formal archaeological investigation in the area in the past but Iron Age activity including a hill fort is known in the surrounding landscape and industrial features including limekilns are recorded nearby.
- 2.3 During the Saxon period it was part of a region known as The Chart (meaning rough or stony ground) and was probably used as common or woodland pasture.
- 2.4 Emmett's (Emiott's) is first recorded in 1622 but was probably created during the medieval period. It is recorded as a small enclosed farmstead on a map of 1769 and the existing house was built in 1860 by Sir Samuel Hancock. Formal gardens were set out at this time and subsequent owners initiated further schemes of planting and modification. The estate passed to the National Trust in 1965.

### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 An archaeologist was in constant attendance during all intrusive works. All ground reduction was undertaken by hand or by machine fitted with a toothless bucket.
- 3.2 The ground works on site consisted of;
- Ground reduction for access to the new car park
  - Ground reduction within the existing car park associated with the construction of a new visitor centre
  - The excavation of 3 service trenches in the field to the south of the existing car park
  - Excavations associated with a new sewage treatment facility in the field to the east of the existing car park
  - Three geotechnical test pits
- 3.3 Surfaces and spoil from the excavations were inspected for archaeological finds or features.

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	149 (digital)
Bulk finds	13
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

- 3.4 The site archive is currently held at ASE offices in Portslade and will be submitted to the National Trust South-East archive facility at the end of the project.



## **4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)**

### **4.1 The New Car Park**

- 4.1.1 Excavations in the northern part of the site for a new car park involved the ground reduction of a 5m wide strip to 0.30m below ground level (BGL) and ground reduction of a 3m wide turning circle excavated to 0.25m below ground level (BGL).
- 4.1.2 Three contexts were identified in this area, the lowest of which was a geological deposit [003] made up of light to mid- orange brown silty sand with localised outcrops of sub angular sandstone blocks. Above this was friable silt subsoil [002] with the sequence capped by shallow fine silt topsoil [001].
- 4.1.3 The southern part of the road strip revealed geological substrate [003] at 0.30m BGL, overlain by 0.23m of subsoil [002] and the whole capped by 0.07m of topsoil [001]. An identical sequence was noted at the midpoint of the road strip and at its northern extent. Wheel rutting was noted in the geological horizon consistent with this area being used as an overflow car park. No archaeological features were observed although some finds were recovered from the subsoil.
- 4.1.4 Excavation of the turning circle revealed the geological horizon [003] at 0.28m BGL in the south overlain by subsoil [002] to a depth of 0.22m and this in turn was overlain by topsoil [001] of 0.06m depth. Excavations in the north failed to reveal the geological horizon with subsoil [002] to the limit of excavation (LOE) overlain by approximately 0.06m of topsoil [001]. No archaeological finds or features were noted and the geological horizon was again heavily rutted by the passage of vehicles.
- 4.1.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### **4.2 The Geotechnical Pits**

- 4.2.1 Three geotechnical pits were dug in the existing car park area adjacent to the footprint of the new visitor centre.
- 4.2.2 Test Pit 1 was 2.5m long and 0.55m wide and revealed made ground [004] to a depth of 0.80m BGL directly overlaying the natural substrate [003]. This made ground consisted of alternating layers of tarmac, type 1 crush and re-deposited natural presumably forming the base for the existing car park.
- 4.2.3 Test Pit 2 was dug to similar dimensions and revealed 0.40m of made ground [003] directly overlying the geological substrate [003].
- 4.2.4 Test Pit 3 was dug and backfilled before measurements could be taken but given that it was dug in close proximity to Test Pit 2 as well as the visitor centre footprint it is safe to assume that the stratigraphy in this test pit was similar.

4.2.5 No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### **4.3 The Visitor Centre**

4.3.1 Ground reduction in the footprint of the new visitor centre revealed 0.15-0.40m of made ground directly overlying the geological substrate [003]. The geological horizon was observed to be heavily rutted and disturbed, presumably by activity associated with the construction of the existing car park.

4.3.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed.

### **4.4 The Septic Tank**

4.4.1 A small area measuring 2.0 x 3.5m was dug to accommodate a septic tank in the field to the east of the existing car park. This was stripped to the geological horizon under monitoring. Associated with this were three pipe trenches 100m long, 0.70m wide and dug to 0.9m deep. These were linked by two 6.0m returns.

4.4.2 The footprint of the septic tank showed the geological substrate [003] at 0.50m BGL overlain by 0.40m of subsoil [002] and 0.10m of topsoil [001]. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

4.4.3 Monitoring of the associated pipe trenches revealed identical stratigraphy with the geological substrate encountered at a maximum depth of 0.49m, the subsoil overlying it [002] seen to a maximum depth of 0.37m and a maximum depth of topsoil [001] of 0.15m. A selection finds were recovered from the subsoil. No archaeological features were observed.

### **4.5 The Service Trenches**

4.5.1 Three service trenches were excavated in the field to the south of the existing car park. Trenches 1 & 2 were roughly parallel and ran south west to north east. Trench three ran approximately east/west and connected Trench 2 with the existing ticket kiosk. Trench 1 was 0.60m wide and dug to 1.30m. Trenches 2 & 3 were 0.45m wide and dug to 0.40m in depth. No archaeological features were observed in any of these trenches although some finds were recovered from the subsoil

4.5.2 Trench 1 encountered the geological substrate at 0.23m BGL in the south west and at 0.33m BGL in the north east. This was overlain by 0.16-0.26m of subsoil [002] and 0.07m of topsoil [001]. A single flint flake was recovered from the subsoil during the excavation of this trench.

4.5.3 Trench 2 revealed geology [003] at 0.35m BGL in the south west and 0.28m BGL in the north east overlain by 0.20-0.25m of subsoil [002] and 0.08-0.10m of topsoil [001].

4.5.4 Trench 3 encountered the geological substrate [003] at 0.31m at both ends of its course. This was overlain by 0.22-0.25m of subsoil [002] and 0.06-0.09m of topsoil [001].

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Thickness
001	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.15m
002	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	0.37m
003	Deposit	Geology	-	-	-
004	Deposit	Made Ground	-	-	0.80m

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts

## 5.0 THE FINDS

- 5.1 A small selection of finds all emanating from the subsoil was recovered during the course of the watching brief.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)
002	5	46	7	202	1	4

Table 3: Quantification of the finds

## 5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring only recovered pottery from context [002] which produced a mixed group spanning the later 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. The earliest sherd consists of the abraded base (20g) from a fine high-fired earthenware jar with deliberately reduced surfaces and unintentional spots of metallic glaze on the underside of its base. Similar wares were being produced at Wrotham during the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and this is the probable source for the current sherd. There is also part of a rilled jug neck in London stoneware (18g) likely to be of late 17<sup>th</sup>- to 18<sup>th</sup>- century date. The remaining three sherds can be best placed in the mid/late 19<sup>th</sup> century. These consist of two sherds (10g) from unglazed earthenware flower pots and a 2g fragment from a side plate/saucer in transfer-printed ware with blue pattern decoration.

## 5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of seven fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 193g were recovered from context [002].
- 5.3.2 The assemblage has been examined with a X10 magnifier and recorded on pro forma record forms for archive. A provisional fabric series has been drawn up and samples of each fabric have been retained and the remainder of the assemblage, approximately 50%, has been discarded.
- 5.3.3 The assemblage consisted entirely of abraded and under-fired peg tile fragments in three fabrics. Fabric T2 is pale brownish orange with sparse fine to moderate rose quartz inclusions, the fabric is soft and potentially of later medieval to mid post-medieval date, 15th to 18th century. Fabric T1 is an orange fine sandy fabric with moderate fine quartz inclusions of probable 15th to 18th century date. Fabric T3 is a fine sandy fabric with sparse fine calcareous inclusions of 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date.

## 5.4 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.4.1 A single piece of flint weighing 4g was recovered from subsoil context [002] during archaeological work at the site. The raw material is an opaque flint, grey in colour. The artefact is in a poor condition and the edges exhibit moderate post-depositional damage that probably results from soil movement. It consists of a broken piece of flint debitage, the distal end of which is absent. This isolated re-deposited find is non-diagnostic.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6.1 No archaeological features were noted during the watching brief at Emmett's Gardens but a selection of finds was recovered from the subsoil [002] during monitoring of the septic tank and service trenches. The date range of the CBM is relatively wide (late 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century) but the pottery range is more fine grained with two sherds of late 17<sup>th</sup>/early 18<sup>th</sup> century date and three from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A single flint flake was recovered from Trench 2. Combined the finds represent two main periods of depositional activity on site; one in the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century (when the site was occupied by a farmstead) and another in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the current house was constructed. Presumably these finds were deposited by agricultural or horticultural activity on or near the site during these periods. The single flint flake suggests prehistoric activity on or near the site.
- 6.2 Previous ground reduction in the area of the existing car park appears to have truncated the geological horizon in this area making it likely that the potential for the survival of archaeological deposits here is low.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank The National Trust for commissioning the work and especially Peter Quirke for his help and guidance during the project.

## HER Summary Form

Site Code	SEG11					
Identification Name and Address	Emmett's Gardens Nr Brasted					
County, District &/or Borough	Sevenoaks, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	547930 152341					
Geology	Hythe Formation Sandstone & Limestone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4773					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> <b>18/10/2011</b> <b>-</b> <b>23/11/2011</b>	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Burpham Cricket Club					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	<b>PM</b>	Other		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by the National Trust to conduct a watching brief during works associated with the construction of a new visitor centre at Emmett's Gardens, Kent. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks although a single flint flake as well as Post-Medieval pottery and CBM were recovered from the subsoil.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-116737**

### Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Emmett's Gardens, Nr Brasted, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by the National Trust to conduct a watching brief during works associated with the construction of a new visitor centre at Emmett's Gardens, Kent. No archaeological features were observed during the groundworks although a single flint flake as well as post-medieval pottery and CBM recovered from the subsoil.
Project dates	Start: 18-10-2011 End: 23-11-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	4773 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SEG11 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CBM Post Medieval
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS BRASTED Emmett's Gardens
Postcode	TN14 6AY
Study area	6.80 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 547930 152341 50.9152043837 0.202296685530 50 54 54 N 000 12 08 E Point

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
----------------------	------------------------



Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Report'

#### **Project bibliography 1**

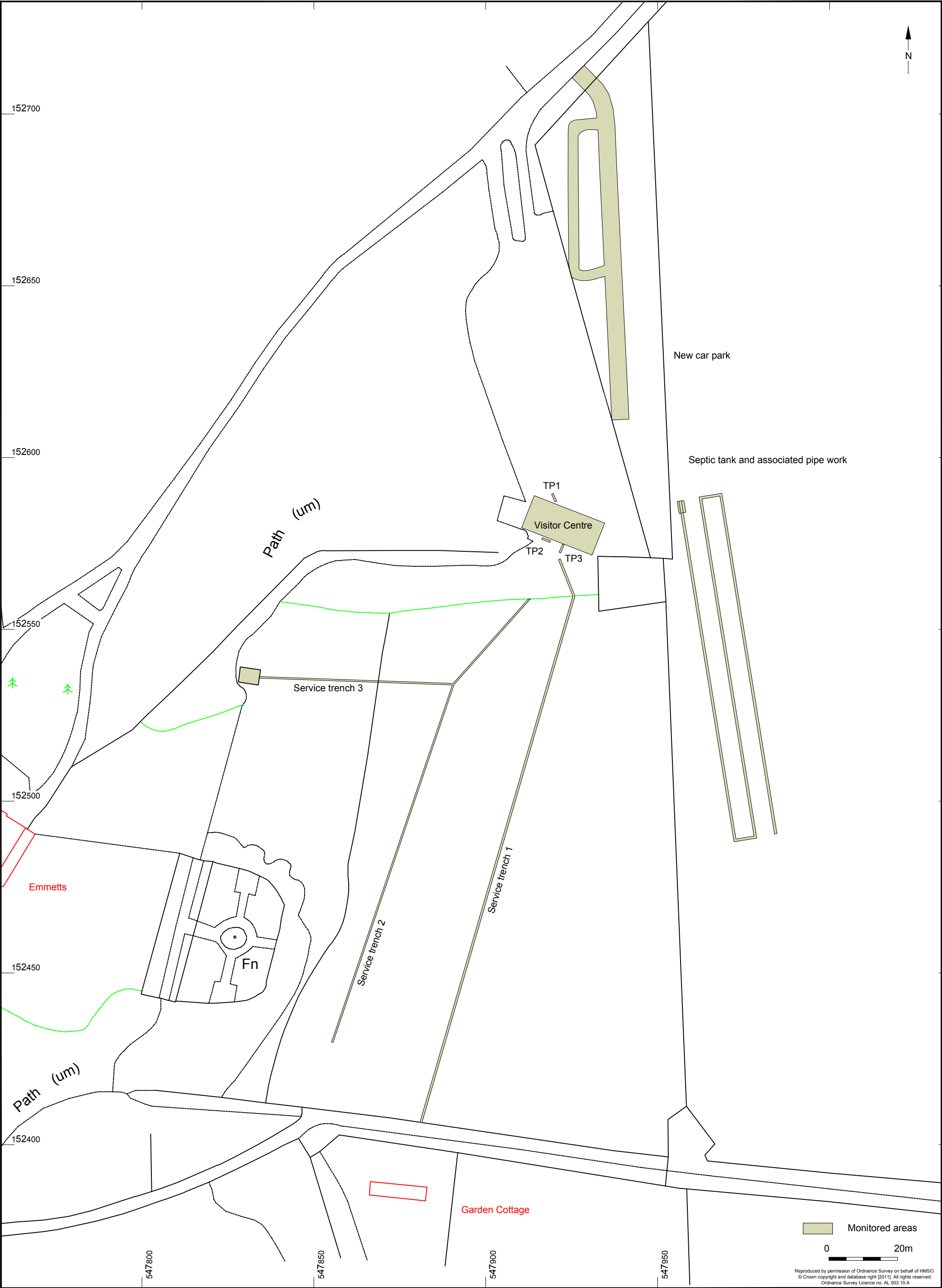
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological watching Brief at Emmett's Gardens, Nr Brasted, Kent
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Entered by	Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	5 January 2012





© Archaeology South-East		Emmetts Garden	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4773	Jan 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012003	Drawn by: JLR		







Trench 1, sample section looking east



Trench 2, sample section looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Emmetts Garden	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4773	Jan 2012	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2012003	Drawn by: JLR		





Trench 3, sample section looking south



Building footprint, sample section looking south

© Archaeology South-East		Emmetts Garden	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 4773	Jan 2012	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2012003	Drawn by: JLR		





Test pit 1, sample section looking west



Septic tank, sample section looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Emmetts Garden	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4773	Jan 2012	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2012003	Drawn by: JLR		





Septic tank associated pipe trench, sample section looking east



New car park, sample section looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Emmetts Garden	Fig. 6
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