

**Archaeological and Geoarchaeological
Evaluation Report
Land at Hook Lane and West Street
Harrietsham
Kent**

NGR: 586276 152656

Planning Ref: MA/11/0592

**ASE Project No: 5788
Site Code: HWH 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012231
OASIS id: archaeol6-137440**

**By Ian Hogg
With contributions by
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation in advance of development of land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham, Kent.

Twenty-one archaeological trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m, were excavated. Natural sands were overlain in most cases by head deposits and/or colluvium. Two small undated ditches on a broadly similar alignment to West Street were recorded. No finds or other archaeological features were encountered.

Eight geoarchaeological test pits were also undertaken. Folkstone Beds sands were overlain by Pleistocene solifluction and fluvial sedimentary deposits. These deposits were overlain by colluvial/cover sand deposits; it was not possible to determine whether these were Holocene or Pleistocene.

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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 CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation in advance of development of land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 586276 152656 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the west of Maidstone, at the foot of the North Downs; it is a triangular parcel of land measuring 3.4ha in size. It is bounded to the north by West Street, to the east by Hook Lane and to the south by the A20. The site comprises three fields surrounded by vegetation.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the site as Folkstone Beds, with an outcrop of 4th River Terrace Gravels to the east of the site (BGS Solid and Drift Edition 288, 1:50,000).
- 1.2.3 The site lies on a relatively flat parcel of land which slopes slightly from 86m AOD in the east to 79m AOD in the west. The floodplain of the River Len lies approximately 150m south of the site.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning consent was granted by Maidstone Borough Council (Planning Ref: MA/11/0592) for the erection of 80 dwellings, areas of public open space, the construction of a children's play area and associated landscaping, as well as a new access route from West Street. Condition 7 of the planning permission required the undertaking of a programme of archaeological work to be conducted under approved specifications laid out in a Written Scheme of Investigation.
- 1.3.2 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation was prepared by CgMs (CgMs 2012) and approved by Wendy Rogers, County Archaeological Officer at the Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with this document at with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) and English Heritage (English Heritage 2006).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The Aims and Objectives of the archaeological work were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012) and are reproduced below.

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by the development.*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains with the site.*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.*

1.4.2 The specific aims of the evaluation were to:

- *Establish the potential for significant palaeo-environmental deposits to be present across the site.*
- *Determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains (should they be present), by means of artefactual or other evidence.*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 29th October and the 2nd November 2012 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist) and Rob Cole (Archaeologist) and was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment of the site (CgMs 2010).

Mesolithic

- 2.2 Extensive fieldwalking to the south-west of Harrietsham in the late 1960's, revealed an area of Mesolithic activity (SMR Ref: TQ 85 SE12- KE 2921). Scrapers, microliths and waste flakes were recorded, with concentrations at Wood Park Chicken Farm (TQ 8607 5273), the garden of Red House (TQ 8627 5730) and Harrison's Nursery (TQ 8623 5250).
- 2.3 A subsequent evaluation (OAU 1997) undertaken prior to the CTRL works to the west of the site did not produce the lithic concentration consistent with the earlier flint scatters. The majority of flints were Neolithic in date (see below).
- 2.4 Immediately to the north of the site at Harrietsham School, an archaeological evaluation (ASE 2002) and subsequent excavation (ASE 2006) identified an Early Mesolithic to Late Neolithic flint assemblage.

Neolithic and Bronze Age.

- 2.5 The evaluation (OAU 1997) south of Harrietsham (SMR Ref: TQ 85 SE134 - MKE 17526) recovered a small assemblage of Late Neolithic flint work in topsoil/ploughsoil and colluvium although no *in situ* deposits were identified.
- 2.6 A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was recorded during the 1997 evaluation and no features of Bronze Age date were identified.

Iron Age and Romano-British

- 2.7 The work at Harrietsham School (ASE 2002, 2006) identified late Iron Age to Romano-British activity. A north-east to southwest aligned ditch contained pottery dating to the 1st century AD suggesting nearby domestic activity.
- 2.8 In 1927 an assemblage of coins of Constantine I were found at 'Woodlands' Harrietsham (SMR Ref: TQ 85 SE5 - MKE 2914, TQ 8710 5295), though the precise context of the find is unknown.

Saxon and medieval

- 2.9 There are no findspots of Saxon date recorded within 1km of the site. A medieval ditch and pottery were recorded during evaluation works to the east of the site (OAU 1997).

Later medieval and post-medieval

- 2.10 The site lay beyond the western extent of Harrietsham. A former trackway was recorded during the fieldwork at Harrietsham School (*ibid.*) to the north and is likely to relate to 19th century sand quarrying.
- 2.11 A number of listed and historic buildings of late medieval and later date are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 Twenty-one trial trenches were mechanically excavated. Originally it was expected that 22 trenches each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m would be excavated, however, due to heavy undergrowth and access constraints some trenches were shortened and five of the trenches were also relocated to avoid the undergrowth; Trench 14 was not excavated.
- 3.2 Eight geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within selected trenches, these test pits measured 3.00m x 1.80m in plan.
- 3.3 All trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation. Excavation was undertaken in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate, or to the top of archaeological deposits, whichever was higher.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. Test pits were recorded on plastic drawing film at appropriate scales.
- 3.5 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey using a GPS unit.
- 3.6 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.
- 3.7 All archaeological remains and deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only. All archaeological remains were recorded on plastic drawing film at appropriate scales.

3.8 Archive Quantification

- 3.9 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable archive repository in due course.

Number of Contexts	75
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	4
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	88 digital photographs
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site; it was aligned north-south and measured 20.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 0.57m deep at the northern end and 0.75m deep at the southern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural head deposits.

4.1.2 The earliest deposits observed in Trench 1 were the head deposits [1/03], they consisted of mid orangey brown silty sand at least 0.10m thick. The head deposits were sealed by an orangey brown sandy silt deposit identified as subsoil [1/02], it was between 0.32m and 0.46m thick. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil [1/01], this deposit consisted of dark brownish grey clayey silt between 0.15m and 0.25m in thickness.

4.1.3 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 1.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.25	79.54- 80.74
1	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.32-0.46	79.29-80.59
1	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.10m	78.97-80.19

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2 Trenches 3, 4, 13, 16

4.2.1 No archaeological features were identified in Trenches 3, 4, 13 and 16; these trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were all located in the south and west of the site.

4.2.2 Natural pale yellow sand [04] identified as Folkstone Beds was observed in all four trenches; it was overlain by a band of brownish orange silty gravel head deposits [03] between 0.13m and 0.46m thick. The head deposits were overlain by a mid brown sandy silt subsoil [02] between 0.10m and 0.40m thick. This deposit was sealed by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], which measured between 0.20m and 0.35m in thickness.

4.2.3 Trench 3 was located in the southwest of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.75m and 0.86m deep and was excavated to the top of the Folkstone Beds.

4.2.4 Trench 4 was located in the west of the site; it measured 23.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was between 0.65m and 0.77m deep and was excavated to the top of the Folkstone Beds.

4.2.5 Trench 13 was located in the south of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.60m and 0.85m deep and was excavated to the top of the Folkstone Beds.

4.2.6 Trench 16 was located in the south of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was between 0.81m and 1.20m deep and was excavated to the top of the Folkstone Beds.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.24	79.95-80.48
3	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.07-0.32	79.75-80.24-
3	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.25-0.45	79.39-80.02
3	04	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.10	79.77
4	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.25	82.14-82.36
4	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.25	81.88-82.11
4	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.13-0.20	81.63-81.94
4	04	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.10-0.13	81.50-81.74
13	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.35	82.96-84.13
13	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.25	82.76-83.78
13	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.15-0.25	82.56-83.53
13	04	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.05	82.31-83.38
16	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.33	83.45-84.31
16	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.15-0.40	83.15-84.10
16	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.35-0.46	82.75-83.95
16	04	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.05-0.15	82.29-83.60

Table 3: Trenches 3, 4, 13 and 16 list of recorded contexts

4.3 Trench 19

4.3.1 Trench 19 was located in the south-east of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was 0.67m deep at the south-western end and 0.88m deep at the north-eastern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural sand at the south-western end of the trench and the natural head deposits at the north-eastern end.

4.3.2 Natural pale yellow Folkstone Beds sand [19/03] was observed in the western half of the trench, it was between 0.08m and 0.11m thick. The natural sand was overlain by head deposits [19/02] of brownish orange silty gravel, between 0.46m and 0.56m thick. The head deposits were sealed by a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [19/01], between 0.21m and 0.23m thick.

4.3.3 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
19	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.21-0.23	84.42-84.55
19	02	Layer	Head Deposits	0.46-0.56	84.21-84.34
19	03	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.07-0.11	83.75-83.78

Table 4: Trench 19 list of recorded contexts

4.4 Trench 6

4.4.1 Trench 6 was located in the north of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was 0.52m deep at the western end of the trench and 0.74m deep at the eastern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural sand.

4.4.2 Natural pale yellow Folkstone Beds sand [6/03] was observed throughout the trench, it was between 0.02m and 0.10m thick. The natural sand was sealed by subsoil [6/02], a dark orangey brown sandy silt between 0.36m and 0.44m thick. The subsoil was sealed by a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [6/01], between 0.20m and 0.22m thick.

4.4.3 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
6	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.22	82.37-82.58
6	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.36-0.44	82.17-82.36
6	03	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.02-0.10	81.73-81.98

Table 5: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.5 Trench 18

4.5.1 Trench 18 was located in the east of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned south-west to north-east. The trench was 0.61m deep at the south-western end of the trench and 0.66m deep at the north-eastern end; excavation ceased at the top of the head deposits.

4.5.2 Natural brownish orange silty gravel head deposits [18/03] was observed throughout the trench between 0.10m and 0.17m thick. The head deposits were sealed by subsoil [18/02], a dark orangey brown clayey silt between 0.28m and 0.30m thick. The subsoil was sealed by a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [18/01], between 0.20m and 0.23m thick.

4.5.3 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
18	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.23	84.79-85.20
18	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.28-0.30	84.56-85.00
18	03	Layer	Head Deposits	0.10-0.17	84.28-84.71

Table 6: Trench 18 list of recorded contexts

4.6 Trench 20

4.6.1 Trench 20 was located in the east of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-south. The trench was 0.65m deep at the northern end of the trench and 0.68m deep at the southern end; excavation ceased at the top of the natural sand.

4.6.2 Natural pale yellow Folkstone Beds sand [20/03] was observed throughout the trench, it was 0.15m thick. The natural sand was sealed by subsoil [20/02], a dark orangey brown sandy silt between 0.31m and 0.35m thick. The subsoil was sealed by a dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [20/01], between 0.18m and 0.20m thick.

4.6.3 No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
20	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.18-0.20	85.35-85.43
20	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.31-0.35	85.17-85.22
20	03	Layer	Folkstone Beds	0.15m	84.82-84.91

Table 7: Trench 20 list of recorded contexts

4.7 Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8

4.7.1 No archaeological features were identified with Trenches 2, 5, 7 and 8; these trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were all located in the western half of the site.

4.7.2 The earliest deposit recorded in these trenches was firm, pale, yellowish brown clayey sand [03], identified as colluvium. The colluvium was overlain by a mid brown sandy clay subsoil [02] between 0.37m and 0.52m thick. This deposit was sealed by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], which measured between 0.17m and 0.28m in thickness.

4.7.3 Trench 2 was located in the west of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was 0.68m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

4.7.4 Trench 5 was located in the west of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was 0.84m

deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

- 4.7.5 Trench 7 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was between 0.77m and 0.95m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.
- 4.7.6 Trench 8 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.73m and 0.87m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.17-0.28	80.68-81.29
2	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.27-0.36	80.40-81.12
2	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.10-0.15	80.10-80.76
5	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20	80.26-80.82
5	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.50	79.76-80.32
5	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.14-0.16	79.62-80.16
7	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.25	81.51-81.57
7	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.36-0.42	81.26-81.32
7	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.15-18	79.90
8	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.23	81.09-82.32
8	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.43-0.52	80.89-82.12
8	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.10-0.15	80.46-81.60

Table 8: Trenches 2, 5, 7 and 8 list of recorded contexts

4.8 Trenches 12, 15, 17, 21, 22

- 4.8.1 No archaeological features were identified with Trenches 12, 15, 17, 21 and 22; these trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were all located in the centre and east of the site. The sequence in these trenches was similar to that seen in Trenches 2, 5, 7 and 8, in the west of the site.
- 4.8.2 The earliest deposit recorded in these trenches was firm, pale, yellowish brown clayey sand [03], identified as colluvium. The colluvium was overlain by a mid brown sandy clay subsoil [02] between 0.15m and 0.59m thick. This deposit was sealed by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], which measured between 0.15m and 0.26m in thickness.
- 4.8.3 Trench 12 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 30.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east-west. The trench was between 0.77m and 0.82m deep, it was excavated to the top of the colluvium.
- 4.8.4 Trench 15 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 25.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.86m and 0.96m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.
- 4.8.5 Trench 17 was located in the east of the site; it measured 20.00m x

2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.75m and 1.00m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

4.8.6 Trench 21 was located in the east of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was between 0.46m and 0.51m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

4.8.7 Trench 22 was located in the east of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned east to west. The trench was between 0.63m and 0.72m deep and was excavated to the top of the colluvial deposit.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
12	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.24	82.55-83.36
12	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.44-0.48	82.39-83.21
12	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.15-0.25	81.91-82.73
15	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.26	83.47-83.80
15	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.47-0.59	83.21-83.60
15	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.12-0.15	82.74-83.08
17	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.20-0.26	84.34-84.71
17	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.30-0.40	84.14-84.51
17	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.15-0.35	83.84-84.11
21	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.19	84.98-85.38
21	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.25	84.79-85.23
21	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.06-0.15	84.62-84.98
22	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.24	85.44-86.06
22	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.28-0.38	85.28-85.82
22	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.10-0.15	84.93-85.44

Table 9: Trenches 12, 15, 17, 21 and 22 list of recorded contexts

4.9 Trenches 9 and 10

4.9.1 No archaeological features were identified with Trenches 9 and 10; these trenches displayed a similar stratigraphic sequence and were located in the south and centre of the site.

4.9.2 Natural mid brownish yellow gravelly clay [04] identified as head deposits was observed in both trenches; it was overlain a pale greyish brown silty clay colluvium [03] between 0.15m and 0.33m thick. The colluvium was overlain by a mid brown clayey silt subsoil [02] between 0.25m and 0.50m thick. This deposit was sealed by the dark greyish brown clayey silt topsoil [01], which measured between 0.22m and 0.25m in thickness.

4.9.3 Trench 9 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 25.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north to south. The trench was between 0.85m and 0.90m deep and was excavated to the top of the head deposits.

4.9.4 Trench 10 was located in the south of the site; it measured 20.00m x 2.00m and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was between

0.81m and 0.90m deep and was excavated to the top of the head deposits.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
9	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.25	82.01-82.36
9	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.27-0.50	81.86-82.13
9	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.23-0.33	81.59-81.83
9	04	Layer	Head Deposits	0.02-0.05	81.26-81.53
10	01	Layer	Topsoil	0.22-0.25	82.52-83.02
10	02	Layer	Subsoil	0.25-0.40	82.30-82.77
10	03	Layer	Colluvium	0.15-0.20	81.90-82.52
10	04	Layer	Head Deposits	0.20	82.32

Table 10: Trenches 9 and 10 list of recorded contexts

4.10 Trench 11

(Figure 3)

- 4.10.1 Trench 11 was located in the centre of the site, it was aligned north-south and measured 25.00m x 2.00m. The trench was 1.10m deep at the northern end and 1.05m deep at the southern end; excavation ceased at the top of the head deposits.
- 4.10.2 The earliest deposits observed in Trench 1 were the head deposits [11/04], encountered at 81.40m aOD, they consisted of mid orangey brown silty sand at least 0.10m thick. The head deposits were sealed by a mid brown sandy clay deposit identified as colluvium [11/03], it was between 0.12m and 0.20m thick.
- 4.10.3 The colluvium was cut by two linear features, one at either end of the trench [11/06] and [11/08]. Both ditches were on approximately the same north-east to south-west alignment; ditch [11/06] was steep sided with a v-shaped profile, it measured 2.00m in length, 0.95m in width and 0.40m in depth. The ditch fill [11/05] consisted of pale blueish grey silty clay, no finds were retrieved from the fill. Ditch [11/08] was also steep sided; it had a concave base and was 2.00m long, 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep. The ditch fill [11/07], a firm, mid brownish grey silty clay, again contained no finds.
- 4.10.4 The two ditches are on a similar alignment to West Street, to the north, this may indicate that they were boundary ditches.
- 4.10.5 The features were overlain by orangey brown clayey silt subsoil [11/02] between 0.46 and 0.80m thick. The subsoil was sealed by dark brownish grey clayey silt topsoil [11/01], between 0.15 and 0.19m thick.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
11/01	Layer	Topsoil	25.00	2.00	0.15-0.19
11/02	Layer	Subsoil	25.00	2.00	0.46-0.80
11/03	Layer	Colluvium	25.00	2.00	0.12-0.20
11/04	Layer	Head Deposits	25.00	2.00	0.05-0.08
11/05	Fill	Ditch Fill	2.00m	0.95m	0.40
11/06	Cut	Ditch Cut	2.00m	0.95m	0.40
11/07	Fill	Ditch Fill	2.00m	0.85m	0.35
11/08	Cut	Ditch Cut	2.00m	0.85m	0.35

Table 11: Trench 11 list of recorded contexts

4.11 The Geoarchaeological Test Pits By Dr Matt Pope

(Figure 2)

- 4.11.1 Eight geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within archaeological trenches. Each measured 2.00m x 3.00m in plan and each was excavated to the surface of the underlying solid geology. The test pits were undertaken in order to determine the depth, distribution and nature of Quaternary sedimentology across the site in order to characterise the deposits in terms of their broad archaeological and geoarchaeological potential.
- 4.11.2 Each test pit showed some degree of Quaternary sediment cover between the Holocene topsoil/subsoil surface and an underlying bedrock comprising Folkstone Beds of the Cretaceous Lower Greensand. The eastern and western fringes of the site showed superficial accumulations of colluvial cover sand, it was however impossible to determine if this sand was of Holocene or Pleistocene age, however across the centre of the site it attained a thickness of up to 1m.
- 4.11.3 Underneath the sand/colluvium deposits relating to Pleistocene solifluction and fluvial sedimentary environments were encountered, these reached a maximum depth of c.2.5m across the central portion of the site appearing to fill a braided channel system at least 50m wide. The precise course, extent and overall geometry of this fluvial system could not be determined, but it might correspond with a topographic low which crosses the site from north-east to south-west.
- 4.11.4 The channel sedimentary sequence was complex, comprising a wide range of high and low energy depositional environments. Fine grained calcareous and organic horizons were identified in the deepest parts of the sequences, calcareous sands were located on the channel margins.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The stratigraphic sequence appeared undisturbed.
- 5.2 Only two archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation; these two ditches were on broadly similar alignments to West Street to the north. While they are small ditches, their alignments suggest that they possibly functioned as boundary ditches. The lack of dating evidence and the sterility of the ditch fills suggests they may have been some distance from any settlement.
- 5.3 Within the archaeological trenches, eight geoarchaeological test pits revealed possible evidence of Pleistocene channels running across the site probably running from north-east to south-west.
- 5.4 No lithic material was recovered from either the archaeological trial trenches or the geoarchaeological test pits.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	HWH12					
Identification Name and Address	West Street, Hook Lane, Harrietsham, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Maidstone, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.						
Geology	Sand overlain by Head Deposits					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5788					
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. 29-10-12 to 2-11-12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS Consulting					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Unknown Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation in advance of development of land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham, Kent. Twenty-one archaeological trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m, were excavated. Natural sands were overlain in most cases by head deposits and/or colluvium. Two small undated ditches on a broadly similar alignment to West Street were recorded. No finds or any other archaeological features other than these were encountered. Eight geoarchaeological test pits were also undertaken. Folkstone Beds sands were overlain by Pleistocene solifluction and fluvial sedimentary deposits. These deposits were overlain by colluvial/cover sand deposits; it was not possible to determine whether these were Holocene or Pleistocene.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-137440

Project details

Project name	West Street, Hook Lane, Harrietsham
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation in advance of development of land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham, Kent. Twenty-one archaeological trenches, measuring between 30.00m and 20.00m x 2.00m, were excavated. Natural sands were overlain in most cases by head deposits and/or colluvium. Two small undated ditches on a broadly similar alignment to West Street were recorded. No finds or other archaeological features were encountered. Eight geoarchaeological test pits were also undertaken. Folkstone Beds sands were overlain by Pleistocene solifluction and fluvial sedimentary deposits. These deposits were overlain by colluvial/cover sand deposits; it was not possible to determine whether these were Holocene or Pleistocene.
Project dates	Start: 29-10-2012 End: 02-11-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HWH12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	5788 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE HARRIETSHAM West Street, Hook Lane
Postcode	ME17 1JZ
Study area	3.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	586276 152656 586276 00 00 N 152656 00 00 E Point

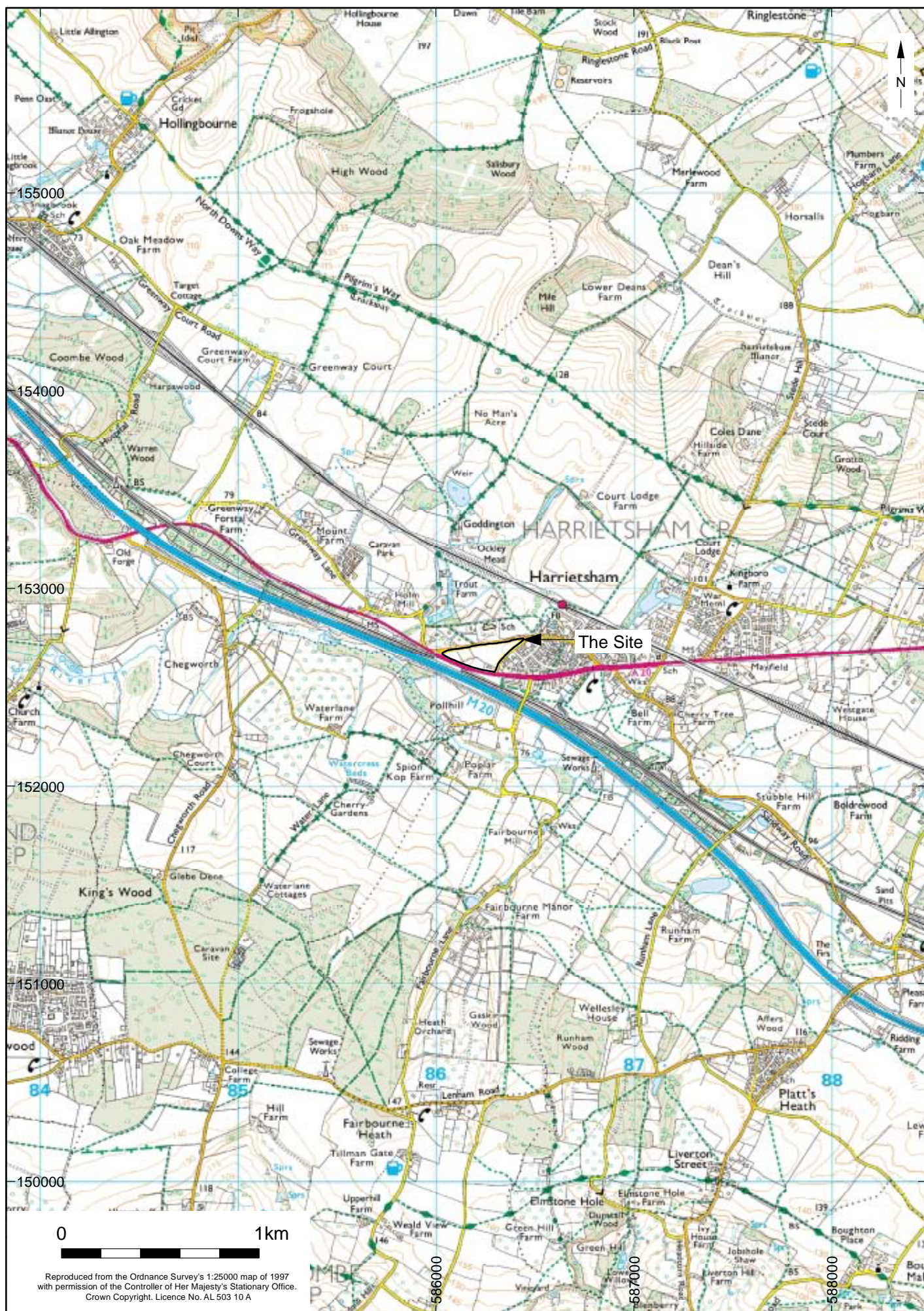
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

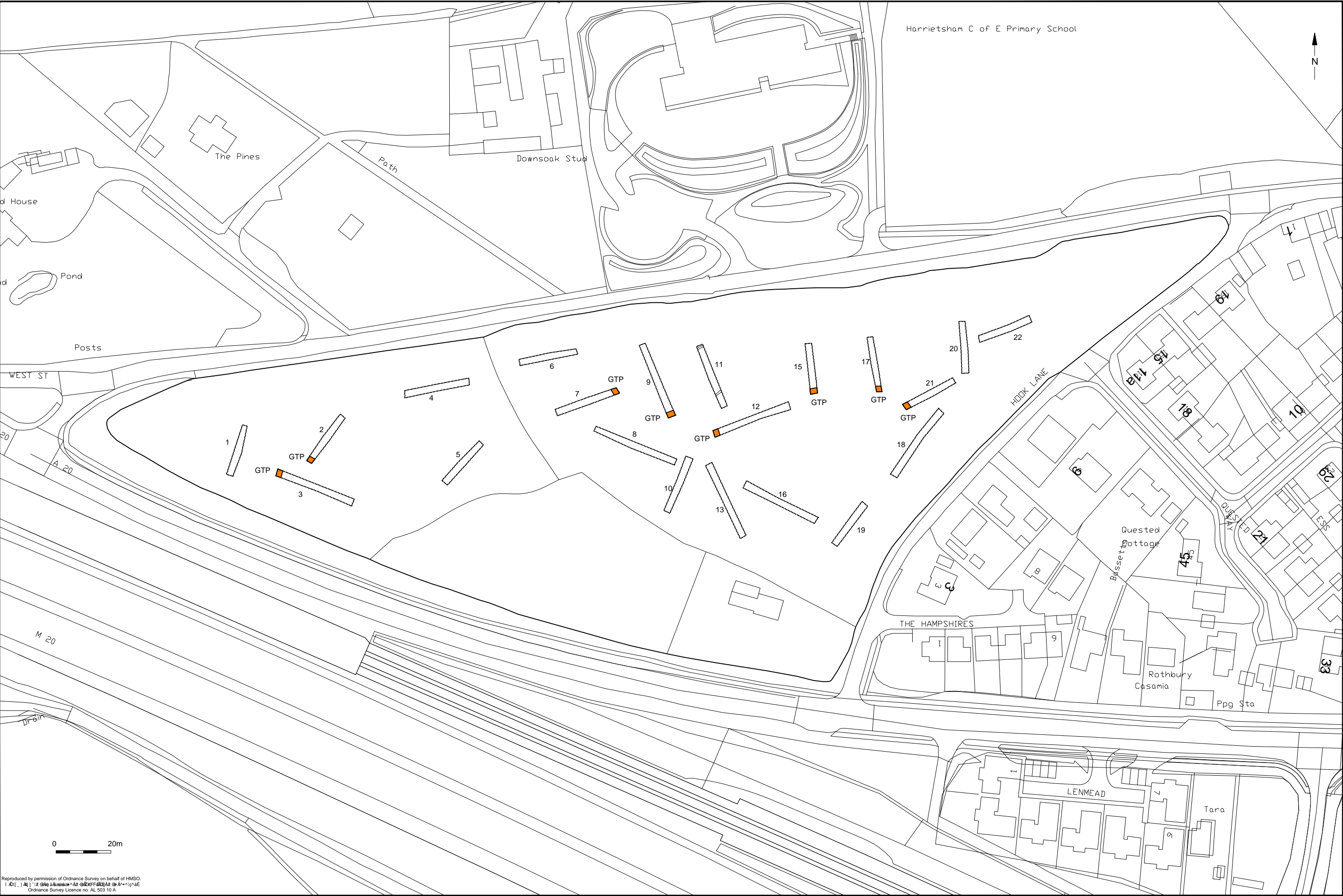
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

Entered by	Ian Hogg (stavroshogg@hotmail.com)
Entered on	13 November 2012

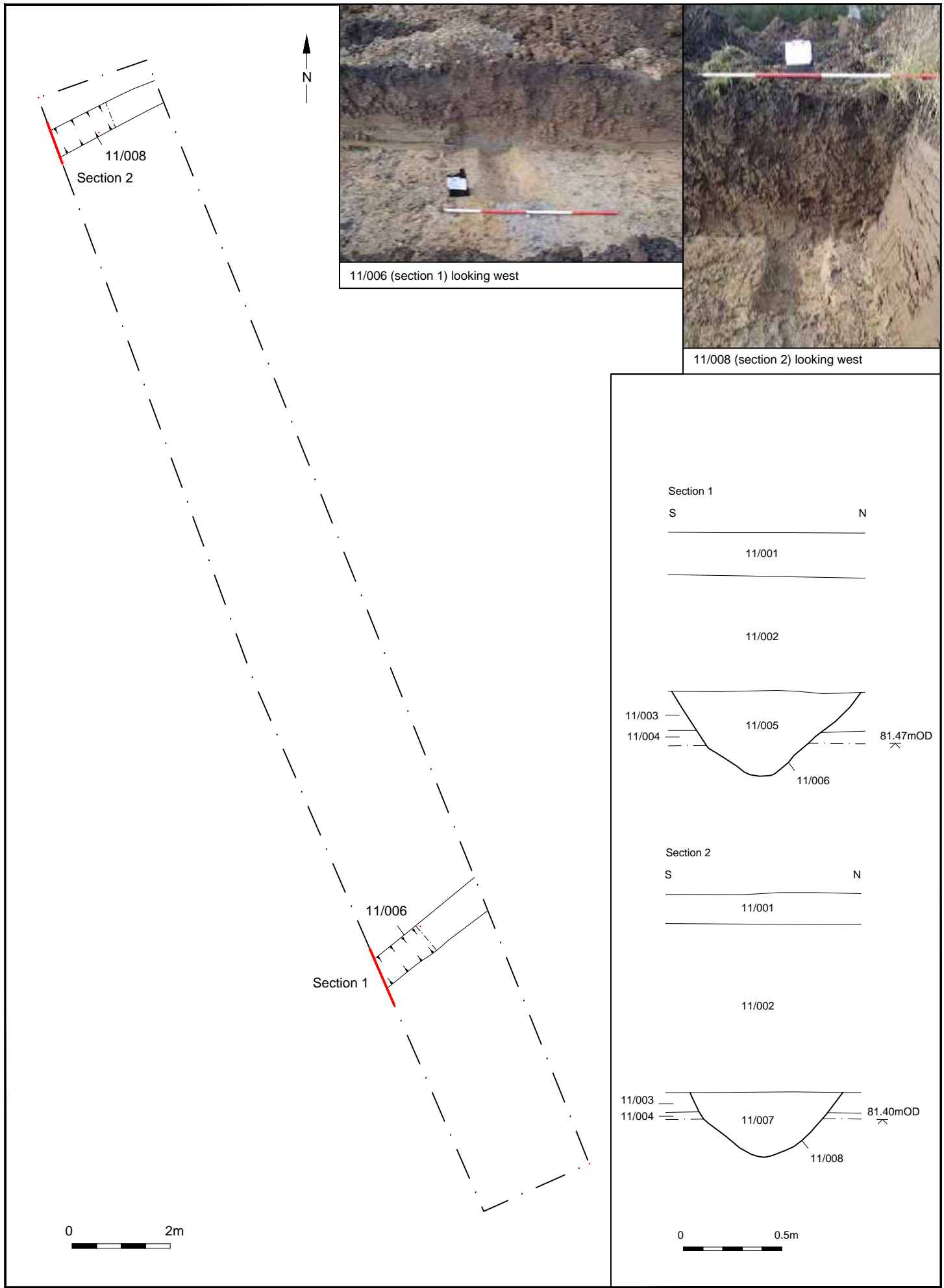


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5788	Nov 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012231	Drawn by: JLR		



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Archaeology South-East		Land at Hook Lane and West Street, Harrietsham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5788	Nov 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012231	Drawn by: JLR		



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