

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge
Ashford, Kent TN25 6JT**

NGR: TR 610706 137472

Planning Ref: Y12/1013/SH

**ASE Project No: 6171
Site Code: BSA13**

**ASE Report No: 2013205
OASIS id: archaeol6-158422**



By Catherine Douglas and Diccon Hart

September 2013

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Paul Browne Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge, Kent. Five evaluation trenches, totalling 80m of trenching, were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural head deposits at a maximum elevation of 66.43m OD at the eastern end of the site, falling away to 63.54m OD to the east. This was sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the fieldwork.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project 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 by Paul Browne Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge, Kent. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 610706 137472 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of five detached two-storey dwellings on the site, with associated access and car parking (Planning reference: Y12/1013/SH). Due to the archaeological potential of the site Condition 20 of the decision notice states that:

“No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has or have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by, in writing, the Local Planning Authority. The programme of archaeological works shall be implemented in accordance with the approved specification and timetable.

Reason: In order to ensure that the archaeological interest of the site are safeguarded and that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with Government guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework.”

1.1.3 Consequently the Kent County Council (KCC) Heritage Conservation Group prepared a *Specification* (KCC 2013) which outlined the scope of the programme of archaeological works. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document and with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009).

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 According to current data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2013) the site lies on superficial deposits of undifferentiated clay and silt Head Deposits. The underlying solid geology of the site comprises interbedded limestone and sandstone of the Hythe Formation. Topographically, the site lies at around 65m OD and consists of a rectangular plot which currently forms the back garden of Bernhurst. The site is bounded to the south and north by residential properties and to the west by open agricultural land.

1.3 Aims and objectives

1.3.1 The aims and objectives of the archaeological works were set out in the *Specification* (KCC 2013) and are duly reproduced below with due acknowledgement

- The aim of the evaluation work is to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. Assessment of the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work. This specification sets out the requirements for trial trenching on the site only. Further mitigation measures will be subject to other documents or specifications which will need to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority.
- The evaluation is thus to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site, carried out on the 1st and 2nd August 2013, and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (KCC 2013). The archaeological work was carried out by Catherine Douglas and John Cook (Archaeologists) and Paola Ponce (Assistant Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin and the post-excavation work by Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The archaeological background of the site was outlined in the *Specification* (KCC 2013) and is herewith summarised below.
- 2.2** The site lies in an area with a recognised potential for prehistoric remains, related principally to a Bronze Age bowl barrow which lie some 150m to the south-east of the development site. At least one further barrow is known in the wider landscape and there was the potential for remains associated with further, now lost, barrows and associated features within the application site. Furthermore, the Head Deposits on which the site is situated have the potential to contain earlier Palaeolithic remains.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** Five evaluation trenches, totalling 80m of trenching, were excavated across the site as shown in Figure 2. These included 2 x 20m trenches (Trenches 1 and 3), 2 x 15m trenches (Trenches 2 and 4) and 1 x 10m trench (Trench 5).
- 3.2** The location of each of the trenches was scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner. The trenches were then excavated under the supervision of personnel from Archaeology South-East by a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a flat ditching bucket.
- 3.3** The mechanical excavation was taken down to the surface of geological deposits, or to the surface of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the 'natural' were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.4** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.5** 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 deposited at the English Heritage store at Dover Castle in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	15
Trench Record Forms	5
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	N/A
Photographs	8 digital images
Bulk finds	N/A

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 List of recorded contexts

Context no.	Trench no.	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Depth	Max height (m. OD)	Min. Height (m. OD)
1/001	1	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28	64.81 (SE end)	64.12 (NW end)
1/002	1	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.46	64.54 (SE end)	63.84 (NW end)
1/003	1	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	64.17 (SE end)	63.54 (NW end)
2/001	2	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33	64.71 (SW end)	64.16 (NE end)
2/002	2	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.46	64.39 (SW end)	63.83 (NE end)
2/003	2	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	63.98 (SW end)	63.62 (NE end)
3/001	3	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.49	65.68 (NW end)	65.56 (SE end)
3/002	3	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	65.23 (NW end)	65.20 (SE end)
3/003	3	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	65.03 (NW end)	65.06 (SE end)
4/001	4	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45	66.40 (E end)	65.93 (W end)
4/002	4	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22	66.04 (E end)	65.48 (W end)
4/003	4	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	65.82 (E end)	65.38 (W end)
5/001	5	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33	66.81 (E end)	66.78 (W end)
5/002	5	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.14	66.55 (E end)	66.48 (W end)
5/003	5	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	N/A	66.43 (E end)	66.34 (W end)

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Summary of results

(Figures 2 and 3)

- 4.2.1 No archaeological finds or features were observed in any of the trenches.
- 4.2.2 Natural head deposits, consisting of mottled dark brown sandy clay, were recorded at a maximum height of 66.43m OD at the eastern end of the site (Trench 5), falling away gradually to a minimum height of 63.54m OD to the west (Trench 1).
- 4.2.3 This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish brown sandy clay subsoil horizon, recorded between 66.55m OD (Trench 5) and 63.83m OD (Trench 2). This subsoil horizon varied in depth from a maximum of 0.46m at the western end of the site (Trenches 1 and 2), to 0.14m to the east (Trench 5).
- 4.2.4 This was in turn overlain by the topsoil horizon of the site, consisting of dark greyish brown sandy silt which varied in depth from 0.49m (Trench 3) to 0.28m (Trench 1).

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological work.
- 5.2** The presence of an intact subsoil horizon across the site demonstrates that the absence of archaeological evidence is not the result of site-wide truncation of archaeological horizons.
- 5.3** The fact that the subsoil horizon thickens considerably across the site, from 0.14m in the east of to 0.46m in the west is probably the result of colluvial action (the site lies on ground that slopes down to the west) rather than an indication of truncation in this instance.
- 5.4** The site does not, therefore, appear to have ever been the focus of any appreciable degree of past human activity.

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KCC 2013. *Specification for an archaeological evaluation at Bern hurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent. TN25 6JT*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Paul Browne Homes Ltd for commissioning the work Ben Found of KCC for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	BSA13					
Identification Name and Address	Archaeological evaluation report: Bernhurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6JT					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent, Shepway					
OS Grid Refs.	610706 137472					
Geology	Head Deposits over Hythe Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6171					
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. 1-2.08.13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Paul Browne Homes Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Cat Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Paul Browne Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge, Kent. Five evaluation trenches, totalling 80m of trenching, were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural head deposits at a maximum elevation of 66.43m OD at the eastern end of the site, falling away to 63.54m OD to the east. This was sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the fieldwork.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-158422

Project details

Project name Archaeological evaluation report: Bernhurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6JT

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Paul Browne Homes Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the rear of Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge, Kent. Five evaluation trenches, totalling 80m of trenching, were excavated across the site to reveal the underlying natural head deposits at a maximum elevation of 66.43m OD at the eastern end of the site, falling away to 63.54m OD to the east. This was sealed by a sequence of subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the fieldwork.

Project dates Start: 01-08-2013 End: 02-08-2013

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference BSA13 - Sitecode codes

Any associated project reference 6171 - Contracting Unit No. codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods techniques & "Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT SHEPWAY SELLINDGE Land to rear of Bernhurst, Barrow Hill rise, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent

Postcode TN25 6JT

Study area 2023.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 107 374 51 1 51 05 47 N 001 00 34 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 63.54m Max: 66.43m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project originator brief Kent County Council

Project originator design Kent County Council

Project director/manager Neil Griffin/Dan Swift

Project supervisor Catherine Douglas

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Name of sponsor/funding body Paul Browne Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital available Media "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper available Media "Context sheet", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological evaluation report: Bernhurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6JT

Author(s)/Editor(s) Douglas, C and Hart, D

Other bibliographic details 2013205

Date 2013

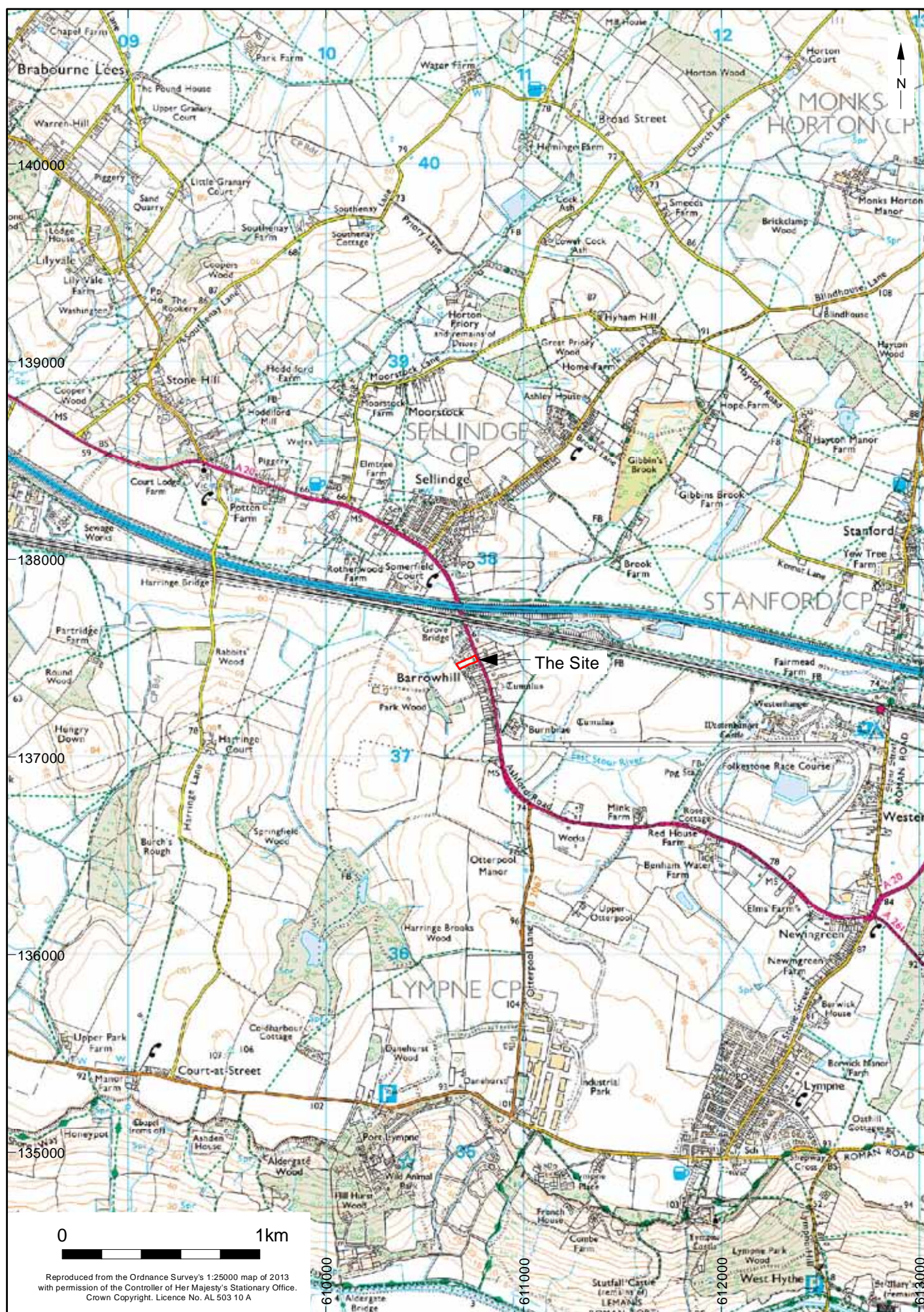
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© Archaeology South-East		Benhurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6171	Sept 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013205	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Bernhurst, Barrow Hill Rise, Sellindge		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6171	Sept 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013205	Drawn by: JLR			



Trench 1 looking north-west



Trench 2 looking north-east



Trench 3 looking south-east



Trench 4 looking west



Trench 5 looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Bernhurst, Barrow Hill, Sellindge	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6171	Sept 2013	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2013205	Drawn by: JLR		

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