

Archaeological Watching Brief Report Chartwell, Mapleton Road Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS

NGR: 45631 51776

Registered Park and Gardens Reference: 1000263 Planning Reference: SE/12/03200/LBCALT

**NATIONAL TRUST** 

ASE Project No: 6630 Site Code: WMC 14

ASE Report No: 2014080 OASIS id: archaeol6-174352



Kathryn Grant BA MSc AIFA

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March 2014

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Archaeology South-East WB: Chartwell, Westerham ASE Report No: 2014080

### **Abstract**

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring in the grounds of Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent (NGR 45631 51776) during the installation of a new water main for the estate cottages. The watching brief involved the recording of eight test-pit excavations on 26th February 2014. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the monitored groundwork.

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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, University College London, was commissioned by The National Trust (NT) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundwork associated with the installation of a new water pipe at Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent (NGR 45631 51776, Fig. 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

## 1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 All groundwork undertaken on National Trust properties are subject to assessment for the need for archaeological works by the relevant National Trust Territorial Archaeologist, Nathalie Cohen, in liaison with the appropriate local authorities and, where required, English Heritage (EH). Due to the location of the groundwork within the estate grounds and the potential for medieval and post-medieval remains to be uncovered during excavations, The Kent County Council (KCC) Archaeologist, Wendy Rodgers, recommended the following condition be placed:

AR4 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.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.2.2 The proposed work was therefore granted planning permission by Kent County Council (Ref: SE/12/03200/LBCALT) subject to an archaeological watching brief being implemented. The archaeological work was carried out to a specification for a watching brief (KCC 2014), which was prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group at KCC and in accordance with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2001).

## 1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The general aim of the archaeological watching brief were to monitor intrusive ground work in order to ensure that any exposed features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.3.2 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundwork.

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## 1.5 Scope of this Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief which was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist) on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation).

#### 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 Chartwell is located approximately 2 miles south-west of the village of Westerham in Kent and is positioned to the east of Mapleton Road. It is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The site is centered at TQ 454 513.
- 2.1.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS 2014) indicates that the site's underlying geology is Hythe (sandstone and limestone) Formation and Atherfield (mudstone) Formation.
- 2.1.3 The parks and gardens at Chartwell (c.23ha) were registered (EH listing ref: 1000263) in 1986 (<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>). The site occupies the steep east and west slopes at the head of an enclosed valley which opens southwards to give extensive, long-distance views over the Kentish Weald and to the plain of the River Eden beyond. The site is enclosed to the west, north-east, and southeast by wooded ridges, with a minor lane marking the boundary along the north-east side. To the north-west, a fenced narrow tree belt and a public footpath separate the site from the rising, wooded farmland beyond, while to the south, a track serving Chartwell Farm forms the boundary.

## 2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Chartwell is a Grade II listed building (HER ref.: TQ 45 SE 11) which is now owned by the National Trust. Further listing details can be seen in the appendix of this report.
- 2.2.2 The first known occupier of the site at Chartwell was William At-Well, in 1362. From the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century until the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the property belonged to the Potter family, then passed through marriage to Sir John Rivers Bt, at which time it was known as Well Street (<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>). A succession of owners followed until the Ellison family took possession in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and it became known as Foundling House. In 1848 they sold it to John Campbell Colquhoun who rebuilt the house, improved and developed its setting, and renamed it Chartwell. After Colquhoun's death in 1870, the property remained in the family until Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965) bought it from Sir Archibald John Campbell Colquhoun in 1922 (*ibid.*).
- 2.2.3 Chartwell is now most famous as it was formerly the family estate of Sir Winston Churchill from the 1920's until his death in 1965. The main house and estate cottages/outbuildings are set in a vast 18<sup>th</sup> century park landscape and estate cottages and outbuildings.
- 2.2.4 In 1946, a group of Churchill's friends and admirers bought Chartwell and presented it to the National Trust with the proviso that Winston and his wife, Clementine should remain there for their lifetimes (<a href="http://www.magic.gov.uk">http://www.magic.gov.uk</a>). Following his death in 1965 Clemetine presented the estate to the National Trust.

#### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 With the exception of moling for the water pipe all excavations were dug manually using hand tools and monitored by an archaeologist.
- 3.2 The archaeological watching brief was carried out following the excavation of 6 holes which had been hand-excavated at intervals along the route of a new water pipe crossing the Chartwell estate and adjacent to some of the estate cottages. Two further excavations were carried out in the presence of a monitoring archaeologist.
- 3.3 The impacted area lies to the south of the main house within the gardens of the estate. The route of the water pipe extended downslope from the east (at Garden Cottage adjacent to Mapleton Road) to west (at the Studio Cottage).
- 3.4 All revealed deposits were examined for archaeological features and artefacts. The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned, where necessary, in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The removed spoil was scanned for any stray, unstratified archaeological artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. The uncovered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IfA 2000 and 2001, EH 1991) using proforma context record sheets
- 3.5 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive.
- 3.6 The test pit locations were drawn onto a plan showing the route of the service pipe. This was tied into the Ordnance Survey 1:1250 scale map of the area.
- 3.7 The site archive will be submitted to The National Trust. The contents of the site archive are summarised below in Table 1.

Number of Contexts	6 contexts
Number of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 plan showing monitored groundwork
Photographs	33 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

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

4.1 Six contexts were recorded in eight excavated test-pits at Chartwell detailed in section 4.2-4.9 below from West to East. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

4.1.2	The monitored	areas are	illustrated on	Figure 2.
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Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Topsoil	200-300mm
002	Layer	Made ground/TP1 only	150mm
003	Layer	Natural geology	-
004	Layer	Subsoil	200-350mm+
005	Deposit	Redeposited natural/ TP5 only	100mm
006	Masonry	Brick wall foundations	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

#### 4.2 TP8

- 4.2.1 This test-pit was the westernmost of the excavations and was located in the garden adjacent (north of) to Garden Cottage and Mapleton Road. It measured 2m (E-W) by 1.5m (N-S) with a depth of 0.9m. Natural geology [003] was revealed 0.25m below ground level and was overlain by topsoil/garden soil [001].
- 4.2.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 4.3 TP1

- 4.3.1 This test-pit was located along the footpath adjacent to (north of) Garden Cottage (c.15m east of Mapleton Road). It measured 2m (E-W) by 0.5m (N-S) with a depth of 0.85m. Natural geology [003] was revealed 0.35m below ground level and was overlain by a thin lens of made ground with clinker inclusions [002] (0.15m thick), which was sealed by rooty topsoil/garden soil [001] (0.25m thick)
- 4.3.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 4.4 TP2

- 4.4.1 This test-pit was located at the eastern end of the footpath (c.20m east of TP1). It measured 1m² with a depth of 0.9m. Natural geology [003] was revealed 0.2m below ground level and was overlain by rooty topsoil/garden soil [001] (0.2m thick). A couple of large, unworked sandstone boulders (0.3mx0.4m) were located within the base of TP2.
- 4.4.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 4.5 TP3

- 4.5.1 This test-pit was located at the bottom of the slope of the grassed, orchard area (eastern end) adjacent to the wall boundary near Orchard Cottage. It measured 2.5m (E-W) by 0.5m with a depth of 0.6m. Natural geology was not reached in TP3. A sterile layer of mid brownish grey clayey silt subsoil [004] (0.3m+ thick) was recorded beneath a layer of topsoil/garden soil [001].
- 4.5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 4.6 TP4

- 4.6.1 This test-pit was located in the garden adjacent to Orchard Cottage to the north of TP3. It measured 1m (E-W) by 0.6m (N-S) with a depth of 1m. Natural geology [003] was revealed 0.4m below ground level and was overlain by a layer of subsoil (0.2m thick), which was sealed by topsoil/garden soil [001] (0.2m thick). Two existing service pipes were observed in TP4.
- 4.6.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 4.7 TP5

- 4.7.1 This test-pit was located *c*.10m west of NW corner of Orchard Cottage. It measured 2.5m (N-S) by 0.5m (E-W) with a depth of 0.65m. Natural geology was not reached in TP4. A sterile layer of mid brownish grey clayey silt subsoil [004] (0.35m thick) was recorded beneath a thin lens of redeposited natural [005] yellowish orange sandy clay (100mm thick). This was sealed by a layer of topsoil/garden soil [001] (0.2m thick).
- 4.7.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

## 4.8 TP6

- 4.8.1 This test-pit was located immediately adjacent to the west wall Orchard Cottage Studio. It measured 0.7m² with a depth of 0.65m. Natural geology was not reached within TP6. A layer of subsoil [004] (0.35m+ thick) was recorded 0.3m below ground level and was sealed beneath garden soil/topsoil [001]. The west facing elevation revealed the brick foundations of the cottage (*c*.1939, Soames 2001 p49) with light brownish red bricks measuring 22cm x 7cm arranged in stretcher bond.
- 4.8.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

### 4.9 TP7

- 4.9.1 This test-pit was dug as two small holes (A and B), each measuring 0.4m² with depths of 0.5m. They were positioned 0.6m out from the west wall of Orchard Cottage. The southernmost hole (B) was required as an addition due to the discovery of a recent, red-brick drain in the northern hole (A), which was blocking access for the new water pipe. Natural geology was not reached in TP7A or B. In each hole, there was a layer of subsoil [004] (0.2m+ thick) 0.3m below ground level, which was sealed beneath garden soil/topsoil [001].
- 4.9.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

#### 5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Natural geology consisting of light yellowish orange sandy clay [003] was only recorded in TP's 1, 2, 4 and 8 at depths of between 0.25m (at the top of the hill in the west TP8) and 0.4m (TP4) below ground level. The topography of the site is undulating, which explains the varied height of the natural horizon observed in the test-pits.
- 5.2 The overburden uncovered during the groundwork consists mainly of combinations of topsoil [001] and subsoil [004]. In addition, a thin lens of made ground [002] was found in TP1 and probably relates to recent work adjacent to Garden Cottage. A thin lens of redeposited natural found in TP5 is likely to be associated with landscaping/gardening in the area adjacent to Orchard Cottage.
- 5.3 No archaeological remains or deposits were encountered during the groundwork programme.
- 5.4 No archaeological finds were observed during the groundwork and no deposits were deemed suitable for environmental sampling.

#### **REFERENCES**

BGS 2014. British Geological Survey. Accessed 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014. http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html

English Heritage 1991. *The Management of Archaeological Projects*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, London: English Heritage

English Heritage 2014. The National Heritage List for England, Accessed 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 <a href="http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000263">http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000263</a>

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Soames, M. (ed.) 2001. Winston and Clementine: The Personal Letters of the Churchills. First Mariner Books Ltd.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance of Nathalie Cohen (The National Trust), Wendy Rodgers (Kent County Council) Andy Bennett (Chartwell Property Manager) and Alan Steelwell (AGS Moling) is gratefully acknowledged.

## **HER Summary**

Site Code	WMC 14					
Identification	Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham					
Name and						
Address						
County, District	Kent					,
and/or						
Borough						
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 4563	1 51776				
Geology	Hythe (san	dstone and	limestone) Form	nation and A	therfield (m	udstone)
	,	mation.			(	,
Arch. South-East	6630					
Project Number		-	_	_		
Type of Fieldwork			Watching			
			Brief			
Type of Site		Shallow				
		Urban				
Dates of			WB.			
Fieldwork			27-02-2014			
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Manager Neil Griffiin						
Project	Kathryn Grant		,			
Supervisor						
Period Summary						
			PM			
			Existing			
			foundations			
			only			

## Summary

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring in the grounds of Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent (NGR 45631 51776) during the installation of a new water main for the estate cottages. The watching brief involved the recording of eight test-pit excavations on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the monitored groundwork.

#### **OASIS Form**

#### OASIS ID: archaeol6-174352

**Project details** 

Project name Chartwell, Westerham

Short description of

the project

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring in the grounds of Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent (NGR 45631 51776) during the installation of a new water main for the estate cottages. The watching brief involved the recording of eight test-pit excavations on 26th February 2014. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the monitored groundwork.

Project dates Start: 26-02-2014 End: 26-02-2014

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference

codes

WMC14 - Sitecode

Site status English Heritage List of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic

Interest

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden

**NONE None** Monument type Significant Finds **NONE None** 

**Project location** 

Country **England** 

KENT SEVENOAKS WESTERHAM Chartwell, Mapleton Site location

Road

Postcode **TN16 1PS** 

Site coordinates TQ 45631 51776 51.2460049727 0.0867685189275 51 14 45

N 000 05 12 E Point

**Project creators** 

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project

director/manager

**Neil Griffin** 

Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

**National Trust** 

**Project archives** 

Physical Archive

No

Exists?

ASE Report No: 2014080

Digital Media available

"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet","Map","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook -

Excavation',' Research',' General Notes"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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## **APPENDIX: English Heritage Listing Details**

Source - The National Heritage List for England, English Heritage <a href="http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000263">http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1000263</a> accessed 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014

This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by English Heritage for its special historic interest.

Name: CHARTWELL

List entry Number: 1000263

Location

The garden or other land may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

CountyDistrictDistrict TypeParishKentSevenoaksDistrict AuthorityWesterham

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II\*

Date first registered: 01-May-1986

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: Parks and Gardens

**UID:** 1177

**Asset Groupings** 

This list entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List entry Description Summary of Garden

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Reasons for Designation

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

Details

An early to mid C20 garden, created by Sir Winston Churchill and his wife and later influenced by the garden designer, Lanning Roper, with a few surviving C19 features and surrounded by a park of C18 origin.

#### HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The first known occupier of the site at Chartwell was William At-Well, in 1362. From the second half of the C14 until the early C17, the property belonged to the Potter family, then passed through marriage to Sir John Rivers Bt, at which time it was known as Well Street. A succession of owners followed until the Ellison family took possession in the C18 and it became known as Foundling House. In 1848 they sold to John Campbell Colquhoun who rebuilt the house, improved and developed its setting, and renamed it Chartwell. After Colquhoun's death in 1870, the property remained in the family until Sir Winston Churchill (1874-1965) bought it from Sir Archibald John Campbell Colquhoun in 1922. In 1946, a group of Churchill's friends and admirers bought Chartwell and presented it to the National Trust with the proviso that Winston and Clementine should remain there for their lifetimes but on Sir Winston's death in 1965, Clementine relinquished it to the Trust, in whose ownership it remains (1997).

#### **DESCRIPTION**

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING Chartwell lies c 0.5km to the east of the B2026, 2.5km south-south-west of the village of Westerham. The registered site,

comprising 8ha of formal and ornamental gardens and c 23ha of parkland, occupies the steep east and west slopes at the head of an enclosed valley which opens southwards to give extensive, long-distance views over the Kentish Weald and to the plain of the River Eden beyond. The site is enclosed to the west, north-east, and south-east by wooded ridges, with a minor lane marking the boundary along the north-east side. To the north-west, a fenced narrow tree belt and a public footpath separate the site from the rising, wooded farmland beyond, while to the south, a track serving Chartwell Farm forms the boundary. The site is crossed from north to south by Mapleton Road which passes c 15m from the west front of the house.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The main formal approach to Chartwell is from Mapleton Road, which also forms the western boundary of the house and gardens. The short length of gravelled drive up to the principal, west front of the house enters and exits through oakboarded gates and frames an open, semicircular lawn, enclosed from the road by a high brick wall (listed grade II), built in the early 1920s to a design based on one at Quebec House (General Wolfe's birthplace at Westerham). The house was approached in the C19 by a single drive which followed the route of the present southern arm. A low hedge encloses a forecourt along the front of the house, designed, together with the lawn, in the early 1920s to replace the former Victorian shrubberies, from which the two mature lime trees survive. The present public entrance to the site is at the extreme north end, 200m down a serpentine drive and through the car park.

PRINCIPAL BUILDING Chartwell (listed grade I) lies towards the south-west corner of the site, on the upper slope of the west side of the valley and with the principal rooms looking south and south-eastwards over the lakes and the distant landscape. It is built of red brick with a high, pitched roof and a two-storey entrance front in an 'undecided style' (Newman 1969). Three buildings are shown on the site of the house in the mid C18 (Andrews and Dury, 1742). By 1836 the house was described in sale particulars as in a partial state of decay (Meehan 1988) and was largely rebuilt sometime after 1850, the principal front being created on the west side, away from the view. In 1922 Churchill engaged the architect Philip Tilden (1887-1956) to carry out radical alterations; these included adding the wing which extends eastwards at right angles from the house, the stepped gable on the south front, and the simplification of the west elevation with the imported C18 wooden doorcase framing the main entrance.

GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS The formal and ornamental gardens lie to the north, east, and south of the house. From 1965 until 1980, and as part of the agreement for Chartwell being passed to the Trust, Lanning Roper (1912-83) became Gardens Advisor under the direction of Churchill's daughter, Mary Soames, and, largely between 1965 and 1968, had considerable influence on the present appearance of the gardens.

The east front of the house opens onto a broad terraced lawn, which extends to both north and south beyond the house and which is raised several metres above the level of the lawn below by a ragstone wall built in 1950 to replace a former grass bank. A flight of steps runs down against the east face of the terrace wall to the lower lawn. In the furthest north-east corner and built up from the terrace walls is the ragstone Marlborough Pavilion, built as a summerhouse by Philip Tilden in the 1920s and decorated in 1949 by Churchill's nephew, John Spencer Churchill. A wide flagged path leads westwards from the pavilion under a vinecovered timber pergola into the Rose Garden. This may also be reached from the north side of the house, across a small paved terrace raised above the main terrace lawn by a low wall topped by a bank of shrubs (constructed 1984) and by a flight of C19 semicircular stone steps (shown on the OS 1st edition, surveyed 1869, rebuilt early 1990s). The Rose Garden is enclosed on its entire west and north sides and on part of its east side by high ragstone walls. A walled enclosure in approximately the position of the present rose garden is shown on Andrews and Dury's map of 1742 but by 1869 (OS) only the present west wall seems to be shown as standing. In 1922 Tilden extended the walls northwards. The garden layout, originally planned for Clementine Churchill by Venetia Montagu in c 1924, is quartered by flagstone paths with oblong beds of hybrid tea roses around a central feature of standard wisterias and with shrub borders and climbers against the walls.

Northwards from the Rose Garden a gravelled, serpentine path leads along the south-east side of the Chartwell and Goldfish Ponds which, with the Reservoir Pond c 8m to the south, form the main part of the Water Garden. The ponds are stone-edged and set within abundant planting of trees, shrubs and waterside plants, developed by Lanning Roper in the 1960s. Both the Chartwell and Goldfish Ponds, the former on the site of the 'Chart well' (recorded in 1742 on Andrews and Dury's map of Kent), are shown established by 1869 (OS) and surrounded by shrubs and coniferous trees. The Reservoir Pond was constructed in 1949 to give the ponds a greater head of water. Immediately north of these ponds, the path crosses a further west to east chain of tiny pools, connected by rockwork channels and waterfalls, which flows eastwards down into the oval swimming pool, 10m below the path to the east. These pools were constructed c 1928 and the swimming pool in c 1932 (Meehan 1988).

From the south front of the house, steps lead down to a straight, southward walk (paved in 1966), enclosed on the north side by a yew hedge and fringed with the grey and silver-foliaged borders suggested by Lanning Roper in 1967. At the north end of this so-called Butterfly House Walk, 10m from the house, is a small brick and tile-roofed summerhouse used by Churchill to breed butterflies; just to its south, a long flight of steps, known as Jacob's Ladder and completed in 1968, descends against the south wall of the terrace to the lawns below. On the west side of the Butterfly House Walk is a croquet lawn, partially enclosed by yew hedging and converted in 1949 from the tennis court laid out by the Churchills between 1929 and 1932 on the site of the Victorian kitchen garden. At the south-west corner of the croquet lawn, paths passing along its south and west sides (the latter installed in 1997) lead into the Urn Garden, a small, oval, yew-hedged enclosure created since 1987 and containing a central urn (formerly on the island in the lake) set in lawn. Immediately to its south, a flagged path leads onto a further north-east to south-west grassed terrace, edged with mixed borders and backed to the north-west by a high brick wall. Laid out from 1960 on the site of former 1920s and 30s greenhouses, the garden offers extensive views over the Kent Weald.

A serpentine stepped path leads southwards down from the terrace, turning eastwards at the foot of the slope into the Golden Rose Walk which is laid out along the central east/west axis of the Old Kitchen Garden. This 60m paved walk, flanked by parallel borders of gold and yellow roses enclosed by beech hedges was created in 1958 by Lanning Roper and Mary Soames for the Churchills' golden wedding. A central sundial, erected in 1936-7, may be that recorded as sited on the house terrace in 1896 (Meehan 1988). The high brick and tile-capped walls enclosing the kitchen garden (which measures c 90m x 55m) were largely built by Churchill himself between 1925 and 1932, the position of the garden requiring the re-routing southwards of the drive to the adjacent Chartwell Farm. Lying on a south-east-facing slope, the garden was used for vegetables until laid out to its present appearance of grass dotted with specimen trees and shrubs in 1965. The little summerhouse built by Churchill for his daughter and known as Marycot, sits in the south-east corner. An arch in the north-east corner of the garden leads into the Orchard, planted by Churchill in the mid 1920s on the site of Victorian glasshouses. It originally extended further northwards and eastwards around the Studio, a brick and tile-roofed building with a formal hedged garden on the north-west front, which Churchill converted in the 1930s from existing late C19 buildings.

North-east of the Studio and east of the house terrace, broad, open lawns, planted near the house from the mid C19 to the early C20 with serpentine beds and exotic conifers (Meehan 1988) sweep down the slope to the Upper and Lower Lakes. The lake edges are partly fringed with tree clumps or individual specimen trees and a timber bridge leads to an island in Lower Lake. A small lake on the site of Lower Lake existed by 1819 (OS). Its outline had been altered by 1896 and a boathouse added by 1909 (OS). The lakes in their present form were constructed by Churchill between 1929 and 1932 and the statue of Churchill and Clementine by Oscar Nemon on the south edge of Lower Lake was installed in 1990.

PARK The parkland, which is laid to pasture, extends up the north and east slopes of the valley beyond the lakes and is dotted with trees of mixed ages including a number planted since the storm in 1987. The park was created in the C18, the mature trees being largely former hedgerow trees, only one tree surviving from the five or six added in the mid C19

(Meehan 1988). The park is enclosed on the north-east side by a wide belt of woodland and on the south-east by a wood known as The Grove, both of which are shown established on Andrews and Dury's map of 1742 although likely to be of C13 or C14 origin (ibid). They have been extensively replanted since 1987 when The Grove suffered a 90% tree loss.

The narrow woodland belt along the north boundary is also likely to be of medieval origin, left to grow to high forest. The belt on the west side of Mapleton Road is the only woodland not shown on the OS drawing of 1799 where it is recorded as common land with occasional trees. This belt, of conifers mixed with oak and beech and shown on the OS 1st edition map surveyed 1869, was planted c 1850 by John Campbell Colquhoun who probably also introduced the present rhododendron cover.

The present National Trust car park in the north-west corner of the park was laid out and planted in 1965 and the restaurant, shop, and entrance buildings south of the car park added in 1971.

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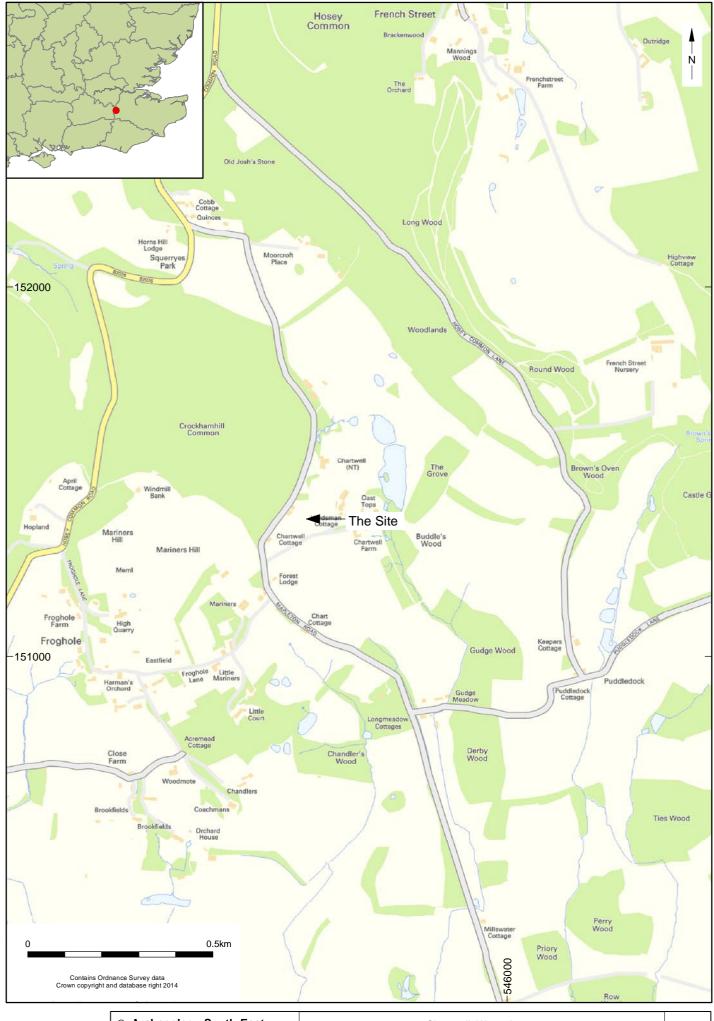
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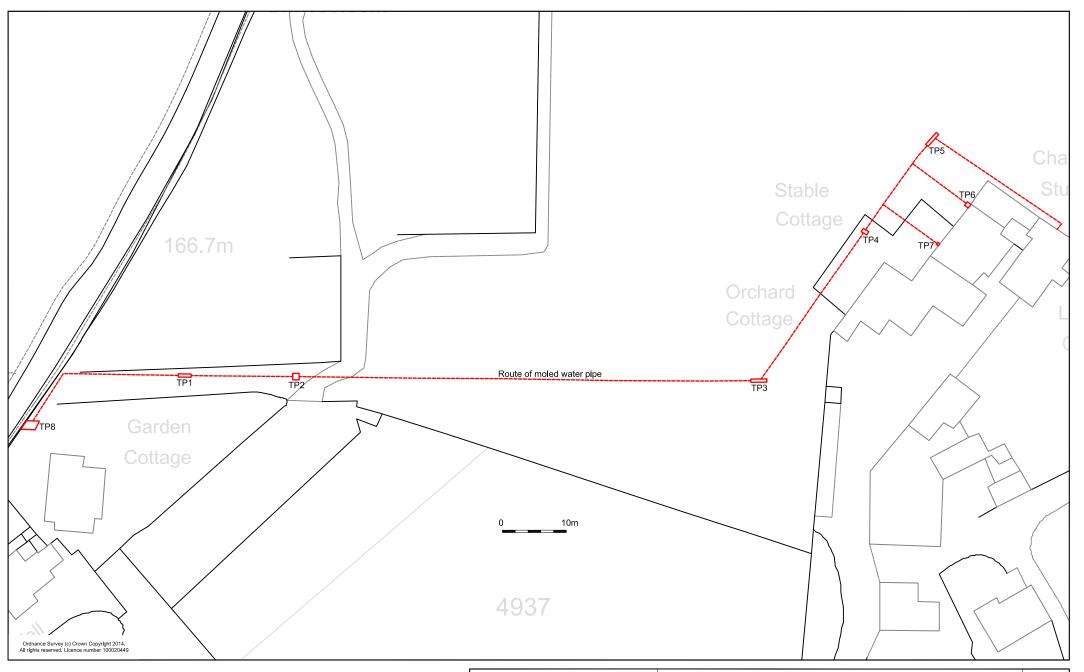
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Project Ref: 6630	March 2014	Site location	Fig. 1
Report Ref: 2014080	Drawn by: RHC	Site location	



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Project Ref. 6630	March 2014	Monitored groundwork	119.2
Report Ref: 2014080	Drawn by: RHC	Monitorea groundwork	1

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