

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Furnace Mill
Hook Green, Lamberhurst
Kent, TN3 8LH**

NGR: 566407 135464

**ASE Project No: 6935
Site Code: LAM 14**

**ASE Report No: 2014291
OASIS id: archaeol6-188236**



By Kathryn Grant, MSc, AIFA

August 2014

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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8LH on 22nd August 2014 for Stephen Langer Architects on behalf of their client. One 5m archaeological trial-trench was excavated on a north-south orientation in the side garden of an existing dwelling prior to a proposed extension.

The archaeological trial-trench was found to be without archaeological features or finds. No truncation of the geological horizon was present and the subsoil horizon was intact. The evaluation revealed natural geology at depths of between 0.65m and 1m below ground level. The evaluation therefore suggests that the rest of extension area has low archaeological potential and the development is unlikely to impact the archaeological resource.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Stephen Langer Architects on behalf of the client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8LH (NGR: 566407 135464, Figure 1), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase of work in which one machine-excavated trench was investigated in the rear garden of a residential dwelling prior to a proposed extension (Figure 2).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning permission for a two storey side extension and other internal alterations was granted by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council on 19th June 2014 with an attached condition (3) which states that:

'No works or development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and a watching brief, to be undertaken by an archaeologist 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: In the interests of the archaeological environment and to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.2.2 Following communications between Wendy Rodgers (Kent County Council Archaeological Officer) and ASE, it was agreed that archaeological evaluation by trial-trench would be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the site. If required, a subsequent watching brief would be required to mitigate the impact of the proposed development on any potential archaeological remains present.

1.2.3 The evaluation was conducted following a KCC Specification (KCC 2014) and the archaeological work conformed to the relevant *Standards and Guidance* of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The purpose of the archaeological investigation was to ascertain the character, quality and degree of survival of any archaeological remains on the site and to record any such archaeological features that may be impacted by the scheme. The findings from the archaeological evaluation have been considered within this document with a view to assessing the potential impact of development upon any revealed archaeological remains.

1.4 Scope of the Report

- 1.4.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation which was carried out on 22nd August 2014.
- 1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant (Archaeologist/Field Officer). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Location, Geology and Topography

- 2.1.1 Lamberhurst is located in the beautiful Teise Valley on the Kent and Sussex borders in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The picturesque Village sits in the gently undulating land at the north western edge of Bewl Water.
- 2.1.2 The site, known as Furnace Mill is located in the rear garden of a dwelling which forms part of a farm/residential building complex situated at the end of a very long private driveway.
- 2.1.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping available online, the natural geology of the site consists of Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation.

2.2 Furnace Mill

- 2.2.1 The following background information has been summarised from the listed building entry details recorded by English Heritage (<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>). Further details can be seen in the appendix of this report.
- 2.2.2 The mill, wall and outbuildings were Grade II listed in 1989. Originally constructed in the 18th century, they were extended in the early 19th century. The mill itself is a two storey garret mill building with half-hipped gambrel roof in timber framed construction with weather boarding and red brick on ground floor and with plain tiled roof. There is a red brick extension. There is a lean-to outshot to right. Projecting from low in the left return side is the wheel axle, now in a dry wheel pit. The internal flooring and fittings for machinery survive, as do some elements of the machinery itself. Attached to right a single storey stable block with 3 strap hinged half-doors, and beyond that a red brick wall, about 6 feet in height and extending some 30 metres with a gateway, and linking to a red brick and tiled outhouse to the north of the main house.
- 2.2.3 The site is one of great historical and archaeological importance. Before the Industrial Revolution, Lamberhurst was a centre for the Wealden Iron Industry which had been set up during Roman times. Furnace Mill Estate was once part of the Gloucester Furnace where they made the railings for St Paul's Cathedral (<http://www.hammerpond.org.uk>). The Gloucester Furnace was the largest iron working furnace and mill in the Weald during the 17th and 18th century. There are also earthwork remains in the vicinity and extending down the valley to Peppermills (<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methods Employed

- 3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Specification (KCC 2014), and complies with the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists, (IfA 2008). A summary of the methodology is given below. A Risk Assessment of the fieldwork to be carried out was produced prior to any work on site.
- 3.1.2 The evaluation work comprised a single machine-excavated trench measuring 5m north-south. The trench was positioned across the proposed development area so as to ensure that an optimum sample of the area was uncovered (Figure 2).
- 3.1.3 The trench was excavated using a 5T 360° mechanical-tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits. The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology. Where necessary, revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features and trench sections were cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.1.4 The trench was fully recorded on trial trench record sheets and ASE context sheets. The trench was planned and sample trench sections were recorded. A photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation. Each uncovered deposit was assigned its own unique context number system prefixed with the trench number. No environmental samples were collected during the evaluation as the deposits were not suitable and held little environmental potential.
- 3.1.5 On completion of all excavation and recording the trench was backfilled.

3.2 The Project Archive

- 3.2.1 The project archive is currently held at offices of ASE and will be deposited at the local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below for reference in this report (Table 1).

3.2.2

Number of Trenches	1
Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Photographs	17 photographs

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3) was 5m long and was positioned on a north-south alignment. The trench was 1.8m wide and was between 650mm and 1.0m deep. The trench was positioned across the proposed extension (c. 4m to the west of the existing house) so as to ensure that an optimum sample of the area was uncovered (Figure 2).
- 4.2 Four contexts were revealed within this trench. These have been tabulated below (Table 2) and summarised in 4.5.
- 4.3 No archaeological features were encountered during the archaeological evaluation. No artefacts were recovered from the trench.

Context Number	Context Type	Context Description	Deposit Thickness (mm)
1/001	Deposit	Patio surface and make-up	150
1/002	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	400-600
1/003	Deposit	Subsoil	200-250
1/004	Deposit	Natural Geology	-

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.4 Summary of contexts

- 4.4.1 No archaeological features or deposits were revealed within the trench and no artefacts were recovered from any of the deposits. The deposits observed within the trench were very sterile with few natural inclusions.
- 4.4.2 Natural light yellowish orange sandy clay geology [1/004] was encountered at depths of between 0.65m and 1m below ground level. No archaeological features were observed cutting into the natural horizon. Directly overlying natural [1/004] across the entire trench was a layer of mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil with mid grey mottling [1/003]. This was overlain by a buried layer of dark grey clayey silt topsoil [1/002] with occasional roots and rare charcoal flecks. Sealing the topsoil was a layer of sandy make-up and stone slabs used to form a patio surface [1/001]. The patio area covered approximately 4 metres of the trench but the topsoil at the northern extent of the trench was the uppermost deposit.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological trial-trench was found to be negative of archaeological features and finds. No obvious truncation of the geological horizon was present and the subsoil horizon was intact.
- 5.2 The evaluation revealed natural geology at depths of between 0.65m and 1.0m below ground level.
- 5.3 The evaluation therefore suggests that the rest of the extension area has low archaeological potential. It is unlikely that the archaeological resource will be impacted by this development.

Bibliography

English Heritage 2014 <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk> (accessed 26th August 2014)

Hammer and Furnace Ponds: Relics of the Wealden Iron Industry 2014 (Helen Pearce)- <http://www.hammerpond.org.uk/> (accessed 26th August 2014)

IfA 2008. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*

KCC 2014. Specification for an Evaluation – Trial Trenching Requirements

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank Andy Peters for commissioning the work and Wendy Rodgers of KCC for her guidance throughout the project.

APPENDIX: Listed Building Details for Furnace Mill

<http://list.english-heritage.org.uk> (accessed 26th August 2014)

List entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: FURNACE MILL, WALLS AND OUTBUILDINGS

List entry Number: 1336941

Location

FURNACE MILL, WALLS AND OUTBUILDINGS, FURNACE LANE

The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County	District	District Type	Parish
Kent	Tunbridge Wells	District Authority	Lamberhurst

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 10-Oct-1989

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: LBS

UID: 169996

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 Building

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

LAMBERHURST FURNACE LANE TQ 6636-6736 (north side) 8/159 Furnace Mill,
walls and outbuildings attached GV II

Mill, wall and outbuildings. C18, extended early C19. Timber framed and weather boarded with red brick on ground floor and with plain tiled roof, and extended with red brick. Two storey and garret mill building with half-hipped gambrel roof. Two 3 light wooden casements on first floor and central boarded loft door and 3 light casement to left on ground floor and 2 doubled cart doors to centre and to right. Lean-to outshot to right. Projecting from low in the left return side is the wheel axle, now in a dry wheel pit. The internal flooring and fittings for machinery survive, as

do some elements of the machinery itself. Attached to right a single storey stable block with 3 strap hinged half-doors, and beyond that a red brick wall, about 6 feet in height and extending some 30 metres with a gateway, and linking to a red brick and tiled outhouse to the north of the main house. The site is one of great historical and archaeological importance, the Gloucester Furnace, the largest iron working furnace and mill in the Weald C17/C18 was located here; there are also earthwork remains in the vicinity and extending down the valley to Peppermills.

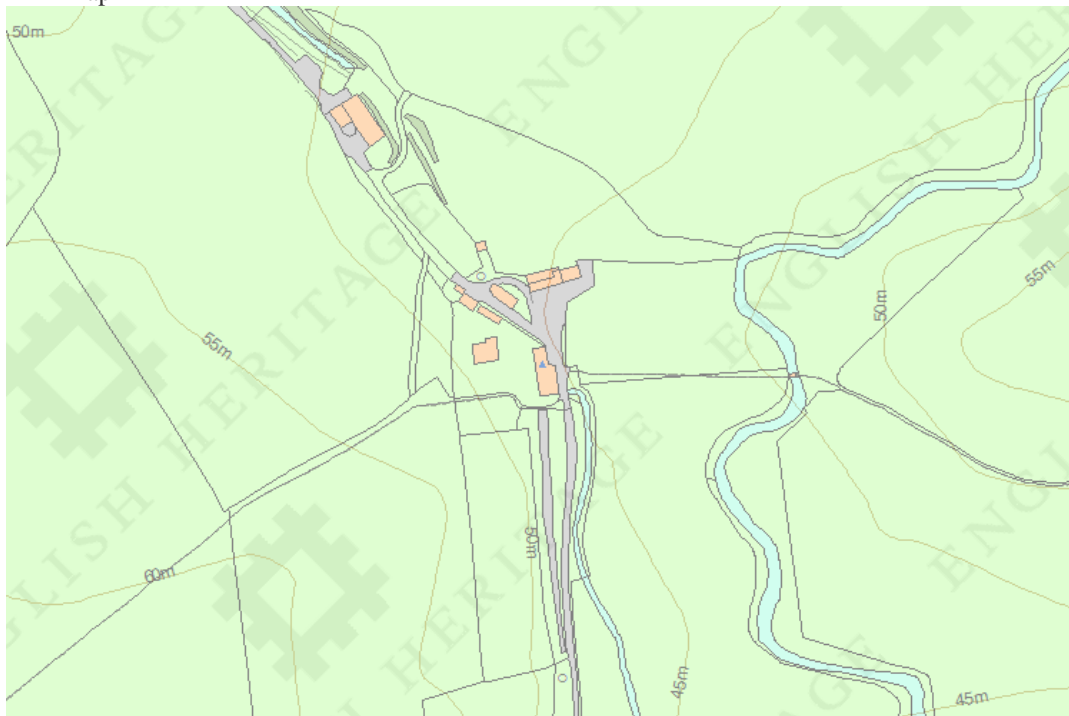
Listing NGR: TQ6614536131

Selected Sources

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

National Grid Reference: TQ6614736138

Map



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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF - [1336941.pdf](#) - **The pdf will be generated from our live systems and may take a few minutes to download depending on how busy our servers are. We apologise for this delay.**

This copy shows the entry on 26-Aug-2014 at 03:18:36.

HER Summary

Site Code	LAM 14					
Identification Name and Address	Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent TN3 8LH					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: 566407 135464					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6935					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban				
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 22/08/2014					
Sponsor/Client	Stephen Langer Architects					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8LH on 22nd August 2014 for Stephen Langer Architects on behalf of their client. One 5m archaeological trial-trench was excavated on a north-south orientation in the side garden of an existing dwelling prior to a proposed extension.</p> <p>The archaeological trial-trench was found to be without archaeological features or finds. No truncation of the geological horizon was present and the subsoil horizon was intact. The evaluation revealed natural geology at depths of between 0.65m and 1m below ground level. The evaluation therefore suggests that the rest of extension area has low archaeological potential and the development is unlikely to impact the archaeological resource.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-188236

Project details

Project name	Furnace Mill, Lamberhurst
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8LH on 22nd August 2014 for Stephen Langer Architects on behalf of their client. One 5m archaeological trial-trench was excavated on a north-south orientation in the side garden of an existing dwelling prior to a proposed extension. The archaeological trial-trench was found to be without archaeological features or finds. No truncation of the geological horizon was present and the subsoil horizon was intact. The evaluation revealed natural geology at depths of between 0.65m and 1m below ground level. The evaluation therefore suggests that the rest of extension area has low archaeological potential and the development is unlikely to impact the archaeological resource.
Project dates	Start: 22-08-2014 End: 22-08-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LAM 14 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Small-scale extensions (e.g. garages, porches, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS LAMBERHURST Furnace Mill
Postcode	TN3 8LH
Site coordinates	TQ 66407 35464 51.0937391097 0.376662806953 51 05 37 N 000 22 35 E Point

Project creators

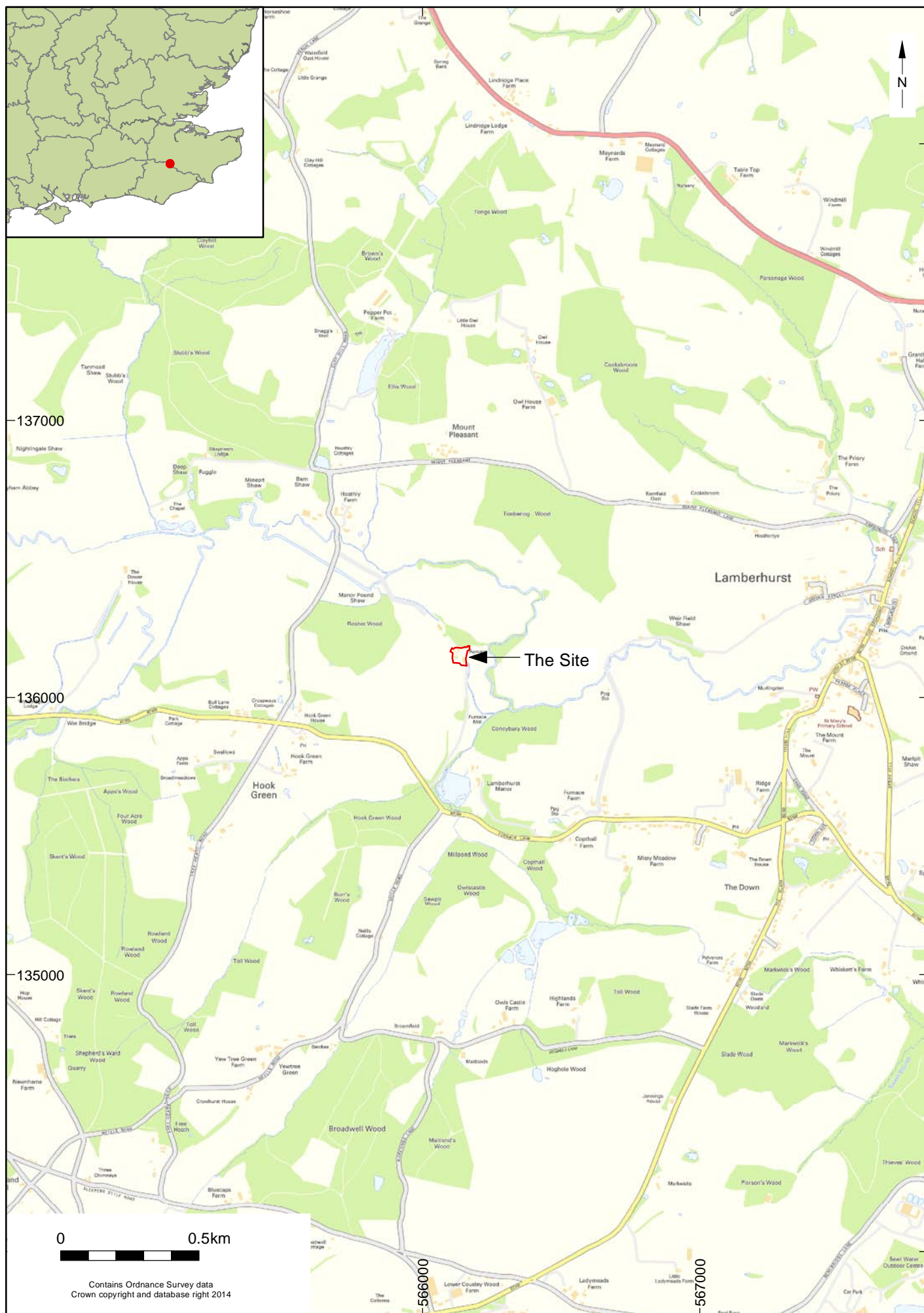
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Paul Mason

Project supervisor	Kathryn Grant
Type of sponsor/funding body	Architects
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stephen Langer Architects

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst, Kent, TN3 8LH
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Grant, K.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2014291
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade

Entered by	Kathryn Grant (kathryn.grant@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	27 August 2014



© Archaeology South-East		Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6935	August 2014	Site location	
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Machine excavation of Trench 1



Trench 1 looking south



Trench 1 section

© Archaeology South-East		Furnace Mill, Hook Green, Lamberhurst	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6935	August 2014	Selected site photographs	
Report Ref: 2014291	Drawn by: RHC		

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