An Archaeological Watching Brief at Brushings Farmhouse, Broad Street, Hollingbourne, Kent

Kent: Maidstone Borough Council

Planning Reference MA/05/1807 Listed Building Consent MA/05/1816

NGR 582852 156809 (Centred)



ASE Project No. 2439 Site Code: BFH07

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Brushings Farmhouse, Broad Street, Hollingboure, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 30th March and 3rd April 2007 on behalf of Simon Griffith. The groundworks monitored were associated with the construction of two extensions on the site and comprised footings trenches and soakaways. Footings for a replacement boundary wall and garage were also monitored.

The underlying natural was encountered at varied heights across the site, in Trench 3 occurring at a maximum height of 91.18m OD falling to 90.98m OD.

A few ephemeral features were observed in section (Trenches 1, 2 and 5); these mainly had diffuse edges and post-medieval to modern metalwork was recovered from the feature in Trench 2. These features were not considered to be of archaeological significance.

A well was uncovered during landscaping associated with the excavation of foundation footing Trench 3. This was recorded in plan and variously photographed. The position of Trench 3 was adjusted to allow for the total preservation of the stone structure of the well, and the well was to be lined with geotextile across the base and sides, and across the top of the stone structure and outer edge before infilling with a weak concrete mix prior to building works on the site.

No other archaeological features or deposits of archaeological importance were observed and it is likely that modern usage of the site, substantial terracing and the construction of extensions in c.1960 has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by Simon Griffith to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Brushings Farmhouse on the Pilgrims Way at Broad Street, near Hollingbourne, Kent (NGR 582852 156809 centred) in advance of the construction of two new extensions.
- 1.2 The site is located at the foot of the North Downs between Thurnham and Hollingbourne within residential land associated with Brushings Farmhouse, situated along Pilgrims Way in Broad Street, Kent (Figure 1). The underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk Glauconitic Marl.
- 1.3 Planning permission for the addition of two new extensions and the demolition of two older extensions has been granted, Local Planning Authority (LPA) reference MA/05/1807 and Listed Building Consent has been similarly granted MA/05/1816.
- 1.4 A Specification for An Archaeological Watching Brief outlining the requirements of the archaeological work was prepared by Kent County Council (KCC). This was duly followed during the watching brief and this the specification is referred to here with due acknowledgement.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Clive Meaton on the 30th March 2007 and by Michelle Collings from the 2nd April to the 3rd April 2007.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within land associated with Brushings Farmhouse, a grade II listed building (HER Ref Dke 7491) situated along the historic trackway, Pilgrims Way (Figure 1). The farmhouse, a Wealden house, dates to the early 16th century possibly1500-1532 or earlier, (HER Ref Dke 7491). It is timber framed with four timber framed bays with exposed studding and plaster infilling. It has a brick stack with flint base and brick dressings. Two extensions were built to the property in the c.1960's, demolished prior to the archaeological works.
- 2.2 The archaeological potential of the site is based on its proximity to archaeological remains recorded in the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) and recent findings noted by the Finds Liaison Officer as detailed within the Specification prepared by KCC and reproduced here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.3 The sites lies close to a likely Saxon burial ground, this has been identified through numerous metal detector finds of Saxon grave goods centred approximately 250m away. The extent of the cemetery is

uncertain and no associated settlement in known. The probable inhumation cemetery at Broad Street is recorded in the Portable Antiquities Records, identified from artefact scatters, indicating the possible presence of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, disturbed by ploughing. The finds comprise of a number of metalwork finds dating from the mid-5th to 7th centuries, including a fragment from a Saxon equal-armed brooch and an Aquitanian buckle and plate, recorded by metal detectorists from the Mid-Kent Search and Recovery Club and latterly the Mid-Kent Metal Detector Club. The finds were recovered across the top of the spur; either side of the Pilgrims Way, immediately west of Broad Street itself (roughly centred TQ 826570).

- 2.4 Wide Linear cropmarks, an undated Lynchet (HER ref TQ 85 NW35 ME2903) and undated linear earthworks (HER ref TQ 85 NW 36 MKE2904) have been recorded in surrounding fields. These probably represent field boundaries.
- 2.5 A Romano-British box tile fragment was recovered c.350yards to the south-west of the Oast House situated further to the south-east of the site along the Pilgrims Way (HER ref TQ 85 NW 25 MKE2893).
- 2.6 A watching brief was undertaken to the south-west of the site at Ripple Manor (HER Ref TQ 85 NW 2 MKE2870), formerly a medieval manor dating to c1570 with post-medieval farmstead. It is associated with Jack Cade and probably dates from the reign of Henry VI.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Foundation-footing trenches were monitored for an extension to the existing house, a new garage and replacement boundary wall, as well as two soakaways (Figure 2). The primary aim and objective of the watching brief, as laid out in the *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (KCC 2007) was to record any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.
- 3.2 The footings trenches and soakaways were excavated under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were cut by a tracked excavator, fitted with a 0.60m wide bucket.
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.25m until archaeological deposits were encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.

- 3.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the KCC written specification using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive (including the finds) is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.
- 3.6 A site Temporary Benchmark (TBM) was set up using an OS benchmark on the western corner of the outer wall of the Oast House a residential property situated along Pilgrims Way to the southeast of the site, the value of this was 99.99m
- 3.7 No contexts were suitable for environmental sampling.

4.0 RESULTS (Fig 2)

4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 Foundation footings Trench 1 were situated to the south of Brushings Farmhouse, within the rear garden area. The uppermost layer in Trench 1 (1 /001) was a greyish brown silty coarse gravely sand with moderate small stones and occasional Ceramic Building Material (CBM) inclusions. This was directly overlying natural (1/002)
- 4.1.2 Two features were observed and recorded in section. The first is a possible posthole [1/003] with a shallow 'u' shaped profile, the northern edge of which was diffuse. It contained a greyish brown sandy silt fill (1/004) with frequent flecks and lumps of charcoal. This feature was very ephemeral and produced no dating evidence. The second feature was a possible pit or linear feature [1/005], 'u' shaped in profile and containing a light greyish brown sand silt fill with flecks of CBM (1/006). It is considered likely that both feature related to modern activity and previous 20th century extensions associated with Brushings Farmhouse. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.
- 4.1.3 Three fragments of pottery were recovered from the topsoil (1/001) including a fragment of 18th-19th century brown glazed refined white earthenware and a fragment of 17th century tin glazed earthenware. The topsoil (1/001) also produced several fragments of late post-medieval period CBM, post-medieval to modern metalwork and the body of a 19th

century pale green glass 'codd' bottle bearing the inscription 'This bottle is lent by Jackson Milton Sitt[ingbou]rne'.

List of recorded contexts

| Number | Туре | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. |
|--------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| | | | | | Depth |
| 1/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.30m |
| 1/002 | Deposit | Natural | Tr. | Tr. | N/A |
| 1/003 | Cut | Cut of possible | N/A recorded in | 0.27m | 0.20m |
| | | posthole | section only | | |
| 1/004 | Fill | Fill of [1/003] | N/A recorded in | 0.27m | 0.20m |
| | | | section only | | |
| 1/005 | Cut | | N/A recorded in | 0.50m width | 0.25m |
| | | | section only | | |
| 1/006 | Fill | Fill of [1/005] | N/A recorded in | 0.50m width | 0.25m |
| | | | section only | | |

4.2 Soakaway Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Located to the south of the property, the uppermost layer in Trench 2 (2/001) was identical to that in Trench 1. This was directly above a mixed made ground layer (2/002), a greyish brown silty coarse sandy gravel with fairly frequent flecks of chalk, occasional flecks of charcoal and moderate small stones overlying natural (2/003).
- 4.2.2 One feature was observed and recorded in section. This was a possible pit or linear feature [2/004] with a shallow irregular profile and diffuse edges containing a dark greyish brown sandy silt fill (2/005) with occasional small stones, moderate flecks of chalk and charcoal and occasional lumps of chalk containing a large door hinge with the remains of five nail shafts protruding from it, together with two corroded plate fragments of unknown function. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.
- 4.2.3 Made ground (2/002) contained a fragment of late post-medieval period wall tile and four large circular headed nails, all of circular section of post-medieval to modern date.

List of recorded contexts

| Number | Туре | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth |
|--------|---------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| 2/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Tr. | Tr. | 0.30m |
| 2/002 | Layer | Mixed Made Ground | Tr. | Tr. | 0.38m |
| 2/003 | Deposit | Natural | Tr. | Tr. | N/A |
| 2/004 | Cut | Cut of possible pit/linear | N/A recorded in section only | 1.10m | 0.30m |

| 2/005 | Fill | Fill of [2/004] | N/A | recorded | in | 1.10m | 0.30m |
|-------|------|-----------------|--------------|----------|----|-------|-------|
| | | | section only | | | | |

4.3 Trench **3** (Fig. 3)

- 4.3.1 Foundation footings Trench 3 were situated to the west of the property, directly where a c1960's extension 'The Well House' had previously stood. The stratigraphy in Trench 3 comprised of a concrete slab surface and make up deposit (3/001) overlying mixed topsoil/ made ground (3/002). This was a greyish brown mixed with blackish brown slightly silty coarse sandy gravel with moderate small stones and flecks of CBM and other building materials above natural (3/003). There was a lower layer of made ground (3/007) underlying (3/002) above natural (3/003) to the southern extent of the trench. This was a very light greyish brown clayey silt with occasional small stones and occasional CBM inclusions and flecks of charcoal and chalk.
- 4.3.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within Trench 3 however a well was encountered during landscaping associated with the excavation of Trench 3. This was situated to the immediate north of Trench 3 indeed the position of Trench 3 was adjusted slightly to allow for the total preservation of the stone structure of the well. The well [3/004] measured 1.19- 1.23m across in diameter inside the stone structure (3/006) and was over 5.50m deep from the surface. The full profile was not visible; the sides sloped sharply appearing to taper slightly towards the base [3/004]. Some infilling was evident from observations made from the surface. This material (3/005) was not examined and could represent intentional infilling after the well had gone out of use or natural infilling over a period of time or most likely a combination of the two processes. The stone wall structure of the well (3/006) comprised of flints bonded with mortar and there was evidence of various repairs to this structure overtime. The top of the well wall had been damaged by the c.1960's construction of an extension to the side of the farmhouse and part of the structure had been altered with modern brickwork. The diameter across the outer edge of the stone wall was 1.60m-1.80m and the wall was up to 0.50m thick.
- 4.3.3 Seven fragments of pottery were recovered from made ground (3/002) including an enigmatic fragment, probably a high fired earthenware of 15th-16th century date along with 19th century pottery comprising blue transfer printed wares and two fragments of glazed redware. CBM dating to the late post-medieval period was also collected from (3/002) including four peg tile fragments, three circular headed nails with square sections of post-medieval to modern date and three glass fragments of late post-medieval or modern date.



Plate 1: The well 3/006

List of recorded contexts

| Number | Туре | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth |
|--------|-----------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 3/001 | Layer | Concrete Slab Surface | Tr. | Tr. | 50mm |
| 3/002 | Layer | Mixed topsoil/ Made Ground | Tr. | Tr. | 0.30m |
| 3/003 | Deposit | Natural | Tr. | Tr. | N/A |
| 3/004 | Cut | Cut of Well | 1.23m Diameter inside stone structure of well | | 5.50m+ |
| 3/005 | Fill | Fill of [3/004] | N/A not excavated | N/A not excavated | Occurring at 5.50m from surface |
| 3/006 | Structure | Stone Structure of 3/004 | 1.80m Diameter across well to outside edge of stone structure. | Actual thickness of stone structure wall 0.50m | 1.16m |
| 3/007 | Layer | Layer under 3/002 to southern extent of Trench 3 | 4.00m | Tr. | 0.20m |

4.4 Soakaway Trench 4

- 4.4.1 Soakaway Trench 4 was also located to the west of the property. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil/ made ground (4/001) which was the same as (3/002) directly overlying natural (4/002). The natural across the site was a weathered discoloured chalk.
- 4.4.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

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List of recorded contexts

| Number | Туре | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth |
|--------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 4/001 | Layer | Topsoil | Tr. | Tr. | |
| 4/002 | Deposit | Natural | Tr. | Tr. | N/A |

4.5 Trench 5 (Replacement boundary wall and garage footings)

- 4.5.1 The replacement wall garage footings were situated in the north-west corner of the site. Stepped trenches (to accommodate the natural slope of the site) were excavated through made ground and topsoil deposits, (5/001) to depths of between 400mm and 600mm. These deposits consisted of a greyish brown coarse sandy gravel with flecks of CBM and other building materials. At this depth natural chalk was encountered, the surface of which was loose and disturbed through rooting. The excavation of trenches then continued into the chalk to a total depth of between 0.5m and 1.15m.
- 4.5.2 A single feature was recorded in the wall footing trench (5/003), cutting through the chalk. This was a possible pit, only visible in one side of the trench, measuring approximately 0.70m in diameter and 0.60m in depth. It contained a single fill of redeposited natural chalk (5/004) and is likely to be modern in origin. No features or finds of archaeological significance were present.
- 4.5.3 It was evident from the excavations that this area of the site had undergone substantial terracing prior to the construction of the garage which previously occupied this location. This terracing was of sufficient depth to have destroyed any archaeological remains had they been present.

List of Recorded Contexts

| Number | Туре | Description | Max. Length | Max. Width | Max. Depth |
|--------|---------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| 5/001 | Layer | Mixed Topsoil/ Made Ground | Tr. | Tr. | 0.4-0.6m |
| 5/002 | Deposit | Natural | Tr. | Tr. | N/A |
| 5/003 | Cut | Cut of possible pit | N/A | 0.70m | 0.60m |
| 5/004 | Fill | Fill of 5/003 | N/A | 0.70m | 0.60m |

5.0 THE FINDS

by Trista Clifford

5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Brushings Farmhouse, Hollingbourne, Kent, summarised below in the table below:

| | | weight | | weight | | weight | | weight | | Weight | | weight | | weight |
|---------|---------|--------|-----|--------|------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|------|--------|-------|--------|
| Context | Pottery | (g) | CBM | (g) | Bone | (g) | Shell | (g) | Flint | (g) | Iron | (g) | Glass | (g) |
| 1/001 | 3 | 18 | 14 | 468 | | | | | 1 | 16 | 2 | 44 | 1 | 490 |
| 2/002 | | | 1 | 18 | | | | | | | 4 | 40 | | |
| 2/005 | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 448 | | |
| 3/002 | 7 | 98 | 9 | 294 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 12 | | | 4 | 26 | 3 | 10 |

Table 1: Quantification of finds

5.2 **Pottery**

The majority of the pottery assemblage is 18th-19th century date, and includes a fragment of brown glazed refined white earthenware from the topsoil (1/001). 19th century pottery from made ground (3/002) includes blue transfer printed wares and two fragments of glazed redware. The topsoil (1/001) also contained a fragment of 17th century tin glazed earthenware. An enigmatic fragment from context (3/002) is probably a high fired earthenware of 15th-16th century date.

5.3 **Ceramic building material**

- 5.3.1 The topsoil (1/001) contained several peg tile fragments, including one with a square perforation. All are of a similar fabric, well fired fine sand temper with sparse clay pellet and ?chalk inclusions <1mm. A well fired medium sand tempered red brick fragment was also recovered from this context.
- 5.3.2 Four peg tile fragments of a similar fabric to those of context (1/001) were recovered from made ground (3/002) including one with the remains of a circular perforation. Two well fired, coarse sandy tile fragments of a different clay source, with large ?calcined flint inclusions were also recovered from this context, along with three red brick fragments of a coarse sandy fabric.
- 5.3.3 Made ground (2/002) contained a fragment from a wall tile, exhibiting a curved edge. The fabric is high fired with occasional iron oxide and quartz type inclusions<1mm. All the CBM can be dated to the late post-medieval period.

5.4 **Flint**

5.4.1 A single end struck flake with no evidence of retouch was recovered from the topsoil (1/001). The flake is crude and thick in section, possibly

debitage from cobble facing.

5.5 **Iron**

5.5.1 Four large circular headed nails, all of circular section were recovered from made ground (2/002). In addition to this, context (3/002) produced three circular headed nails with square sections. A large door hinge with the remains of five nail shafts protruding from it was recovered from the fill of a pit/ linear (2/005), together with two corroded plate fragments of unknown function. Two rod fragments, one circular in section, the other rectangular in section, were recovered from the topsoil (1/001). All the metalwork is post-medieval to modern in date.

5.6 **Glass**

5.6.1 The topsoil (1/001) produced the body of a 19th century pale green glass 'codd' bottle bearing the inscription 'This bottle is lent by Jackson Milton Sitt[ingbou]rne'. The bottle is broken at the neck, possibly in order to remove the marble stopper. Context (3/002) produced three glass fragments: a rim fragment from a clear glass bottle, a small piece of translucent window glass and a decoratively etched cranberry glass fragment. All are late post-medieval or modern in date.

5.7 Shell and bone

- 5.7.1 A single upper valve from an edible oyster, *Ostrea Edulis*, was recovered from context (3/002). This context also produced a single fragment of sheep sized longbone.
- 5.8 The assemblage holds limited potential for further analysis, however the pot, CBM, flint and glass should be retained pending further investigation of the site; the remaining finds may be discarded.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 A few ephemeral features were observed in section (Trenches 1 and 2). These mainly had diffuse edges and were not considered to be of archaeological significance, particularly as post-medieval to modern metalwork was recovered from the feature in Trench 2.
- 6.2 The well, uncovered during landscaping associated with the excavation of Trench 3 possibly dates to the construction of Brushings Farmhouse as suggested by its location close to the house. The well was recorded in plan and variously photographed prior to it's preservation in situ. The position of Trench 3 was adjusted to allow for the total preservation of the stone structure of the well and the well was to be lined with geotextile across the base and sides, across the top of the stone structure and

- outer edge, before infilling with a weak concrete mix prior to building works on the site.
- 6.3 No other archaeological features or deposits of archaeological importance were observed and it is likely that modern usage of the site and the construction of extensions during the c.1960's has had a detrimental effect on the survival of archaeological remains.

REFERENCES

Kent County Council (KCC). 2007. Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Brushings Farmhouse, Broad Street, Hollingbourne In Kent during the demolition of two existing extensions and the erection of replacements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Adam Single of Kent County Council is gratefully acknowledged, as is the co-operation of Mr and Mrs Griffith.

HER Summary Form

| Site Code | BFH 07 | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|--|--|----------|------------------|------|----|-------|--|
| Identification Name and Address | Brush | Brushings Farmhouse, Broad Street, Hollingbourne, Kent | | | | | | | |
| County, District &/or Borough | Maids | Maidstone Borough Council | | | | | | | |
| OS Grid Refs. | NGR | 582852 15 | 6809 (Cent | red) | | | | | |
| Geology | Lowe | r Chalk Gla | auconitic Ma | arl | | | | | |
| Arch. South-East Project Number | 2439 | | | | | | | | |
| Type of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | Watching Brief ✓ | | anding ucture | | ey | Other | |
| Type of Site | Gree Field | Shallow Urban | Deep Urban | Oth | Other | | | | |
| Dates of Fieldwork | Eval. | Excav. | WB. 30 th March, 2 ^d April–3 rd April 200 | nd | Other | | | | |
| Sponsor/Client | Simo | n Griffith | • | , | | | | | |
| Project Manager(s) | | n Hart | | | | | | | |
| Project Supervisors | Clive | Meaton ar | d Michelle | Collings | 3 | | | | |
| Period Summary | Pal | Meso. | Neo. | BA | A IA | | RE | 3 | |
| | AS | MED | PM | Other | Victo | rian | | | |

100 word summary

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-38710

Project details

A Watching Brief at Brushings Farmhouse, Hollingbourne, Kent Project name

Short description of the project

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Start: 30-03-2007 End: 03-10-2007 Project dates

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes

2439 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference

codes

BFH07 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Listed Building

Current Land use Other 5 - Garden Monument type WELL Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT, CBM, GLASS Post Medieval

Significant Finds POT, CBM, GLASS Modern

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Listed Building Consent

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT MAIDSTONE HOLLINGBOURNE Brushings Farmhouse,

Hollingbourne, Kent

Postcode ME17 1RB

Study area 35.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 829 567 51.2794733617 0.622781700863 51 16 46 N 000 37 22 E

Point

Height OD Min: 90.98m Max: 91.18m

Project creators

Name of Organisation

Archaeology South East

Project brief originator

Kent County Council

Project design originator

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

Project

Neil Griffin

director/manager

Project supervisor Michelle Collings

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Landowner

Name of

sponsor/funding

body

MR SIMON GRIFFITH

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Physical Contents 'Ceramics','Glass','Metal','Worked stone/lithics'

Digital Archive recipient

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

Digital Contents 'Ceramics', 'Metal', 'Worked stone/lithics'

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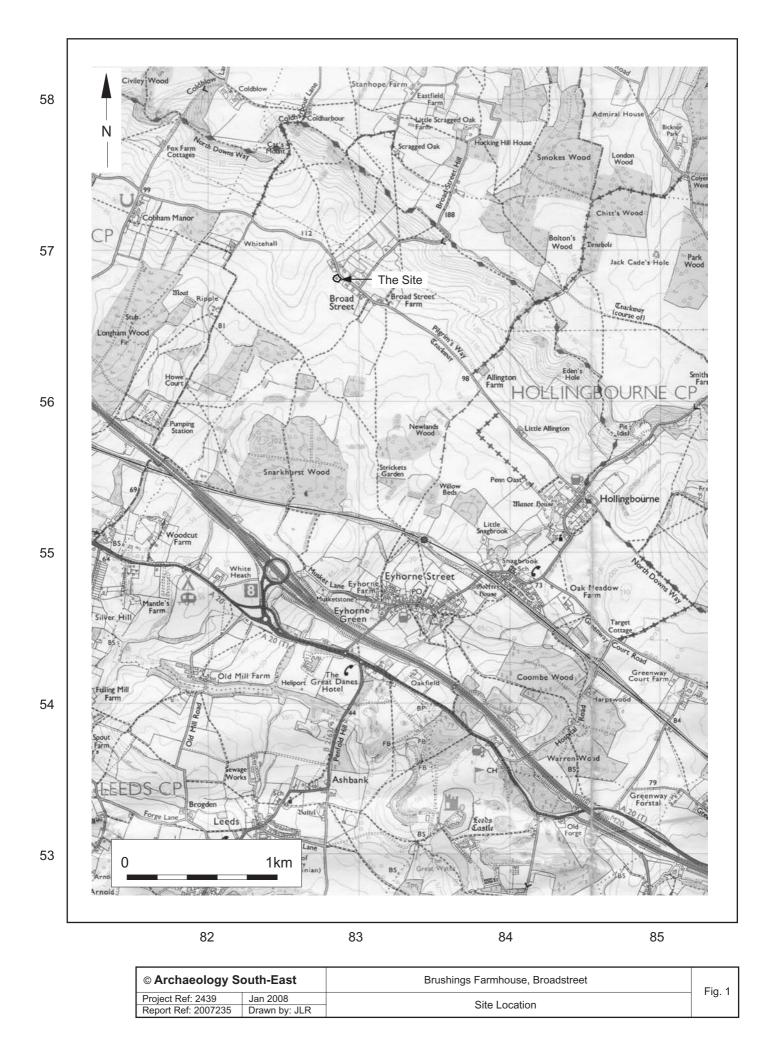
Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic'

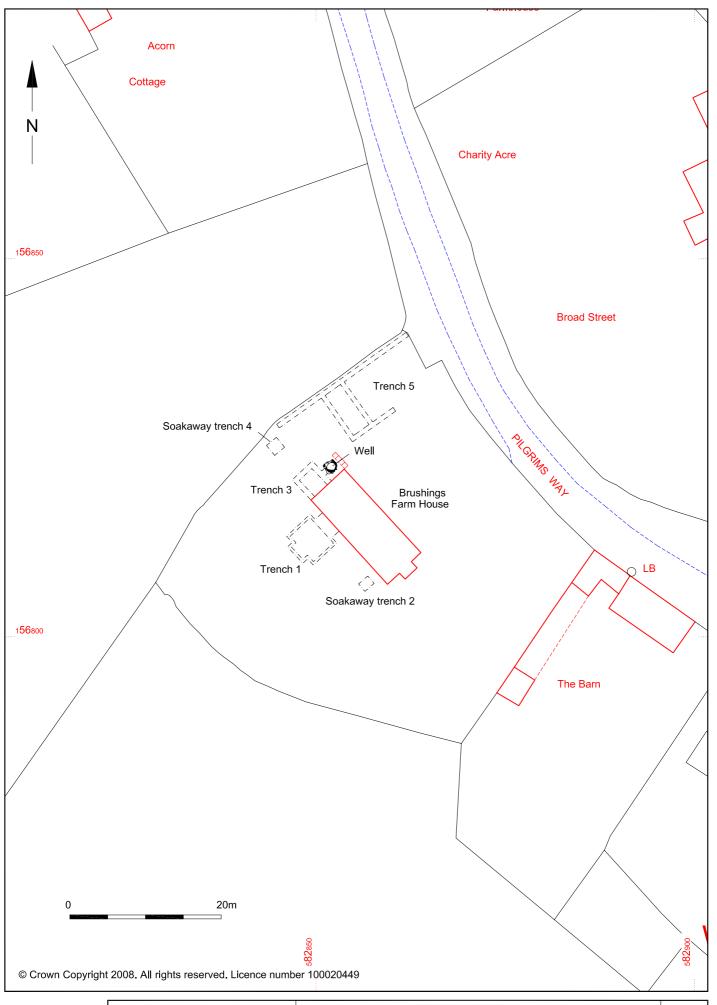
Paper Media available

'Correspondence', 'Drawing', 'Plan', 'Context sheet'

Entered by LUCY SIBUN (I.sibun@btinternet.com)

Entered on 4 March 2008





| © Archaeology South-Ea | st | Brushings Farmhouse, Broadstreet | Fig. 2 |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Project Ref: 2439 Jan 200 | | Site plan showing monitored areas | |
| Report Ref: 2007235 Drawn b | : JLR | Site plan snowing monitored areas | |

