

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
on Land at Frith Farm, Park Lane,
Hawkhurst,
Kent.**

**NGR: 573640, 132783
(TQ 73640 32783)**

Planning Ref: 13/02764/TW

**ASE Project No: 7127
Site Code: HAF 16**

**ASE Report No: 2016391
OASIS id: archaeol6-266185**

By Garrett Sheehan


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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Frith farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent between the 10th and 11th of October 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by DHA Planning Ltd in advance of the construction of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping and services.

The evaluation identified a number of features of later 18th to 19th century date, including a metalled farmyard surface, brick pathways and garden features such as planting beds and drains. Residual finds of blast furnace slag found incorporated into the metalled farmyard surface reflect reused 16th – 17th century material from a nearby Wealden blast furnace.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by DHA Planning Ltd to carry out an archaeological field evaluation of land at Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent, hereafter 'the site'. The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 573640, 132783 and its location is shown on Figure 1.
- 1.1.2 The site is located east of Bedgebury and is accessed off a track leading off Park Lane. The site is part of a farm complex, which includes extensive lake and cleared ground within open farmland and remnant semi-natural ancient woodland. Springs lie to the west, which feed down to fill the lake (former pond bay) and continues through to Tanyard Gill.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies on Tunbridge Wells Sand (BGS 2016) but it is situated within an area of springs and gylls, with Tanyard Gill to the south. To the south of the main building complex is a large lake, former pond bay associated with a historic furnace industrial site. There are earthworks around the complex too, some of which may be associated with the post-medieval industrial activity.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 There are proposals for a replacement dwelling and garaging with associated landscaping, lake enhancements and landscape and ecological management. Further details are set out in planning application 13/02764/TW. On the basis of present archaeological information, the Archaeological Officer for Tunbridge Wells Borough Council recommended that the site should be subject to a programme of archaeological work in order to clarify the historical and archaeological elements within the site. The results can then guide appropriate mitigation measures for the future development.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report summarises the results of first stage of archaeological works, which comprised an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the site. A Manual of Specifications, which outlined the scope of an initial phase of archaeological evaluation was prepared by the Heritage conservation group, Kent Council Archaeological (KCC 2014).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following background information is largely paraphrased from the historic buildings and historic landscape assessment report prepared by ASE for DHA Planning Ltd (Shapland and James 2013).

2.2 Early Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 Prehistoric settlement focussed on the fertile soils of the Greensand and the Chalk uplands. The Weald was covered in dense forest throughout this period, and much of the known settlement pattern concentrates around the rim of the Weald, where the Chalk and Greensand produce better soils. Mesolithic communities resettled the area as the climate began to improve at the end of the Ice Age. Expanding woodland provided a rich resource base for transient hunting groups, who also exploited the river valleys of the region. A belt of Mesolithic settlement or activity sites are known along the Greensand ridge to the north.
- 2.2.2 The early farming communities of the Neolithic saw a major phase of woodland clearance take place, opening up land for crops and the domestication of animals. Much of the evidence for this period is found in the north of the county. Neolithic finds in the Low Weald tend to be axes and flint scatters, indicative perhaps of a reliance on hunting in these less favourable locales.

2.3 Bronze Age

- 2.3.1 The Bronze Age is characterised by the introduction of metals and, initially, the construction of a distinctive burial tradition under round earthen barrows. The later Bronze Age period saw a change in emphasis away from the ritual landscape towards a more utilitarian landscape of agricultural settlement, albeit with spirituality as an integral part of the fabric. Recent studies of Late Bronze Age settlement have identified a bias towards the better soils and improved trading links of the coastal plain and estuaries, but settlement elsewhere in Kent is becoming clearer. Settlement foci are known along the Greensand ridge, although evidence from the Weald is scarcer.

2.4 Iron Age

- 2.4.1 The Iron Age saw a general continuation of trends from the preceding period, with increasing numbers of open settlements and defended enclosures evident. The known Early Iron Age settlement pattern is largely concentrated in the north-east of the county, although several small settlements are known along the Greensand, probably associated with the ancient trackway running along the North Downs. Later Iron Age settlement is much more evident across the county, with many sites along the Greensand, and a concentration of activity on the Weald Clay itself around Ashford.
- 2.4.2 There is one site recorded in the HER within the 1km study area around the site that dates to the prehistoric period; Bedgebury Forest contains a substantial linear earthwork, suggested as pre-Roman in date, running southwest/ northeast between Flimwell and Louisa Lodge. This was likely a route linking the iron

producing areas of the Weald to communities in the North Downs and North Kent Coast, and appears to have served as a long-standing territorial boundary

2.5 Romano-British

- 2.5.1 As the nearest part of Britain to the Continent, Kent experienced contact with Rome from an early date. Following the Roman invasion of AD43, the region became heavily settled, particularly along the principal route, Watling Street, which linked Richborough with the major urban centres of Canterbury, Rochester and London. Stone Street was subsequently constructed southwards from Rochester, to access the iron resources of the Weald. Much of Kent was characterised by pre-Roman native type farmsteads, although the distribution of other Roman sites and finds are widespread, with all the main river valleys being well populated.
- 2.5.2 Hawkhurst was located at the centre of the Wealden iron industry from Roman times. The Weald produced over a third of all iron in Britain. Ironstone was taken from clay beds and then heated with charcoal from the abundant woods in the area. Many of the Roman roads in the area were built in order to transport the iron.

2.6 Saxon

- 2.6.1 The site is located in the Weald, derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Andredswald*, 'the forest of Andret (Pevensey)', first recorded in 893 but likely to preserve a much older toponym (Mawer and Stenton 1929-30, 1). The soils are relatively poor and early farming was restricted to grazing and pasture. The major roads through Hawkhurst, A229 and A268, were once old drove routes used to drive livestock from the North Downs into the wooded Weald for 'pannage', or a right to forage for autumnal nuts and mast.
- 2.6.2 Hawkhurst appears in the 11th century *Domesday Monacorum* as *Hawkashyrst*, and in the Taxatio of 1291 as *Hauekherst*, ('the wooded hawk hill'). During the Anglo Saxon period it lay in the Royal Manor of Wye. After the Norman conquest, King William gave land in Hawkhurst as endowment to monks at Battle Abbey.
- 2.6.3 Bedgebury Forest would have been wooded throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. First recorded in a charter 814 being granted by King Coenwulf of Mercia to his companion Swithnoth (Sawyer 1968, no. 173), it would have had a varied use from at least the 6th century as heathland, enclosures, rabbit warrens, swine pasture and parkland (summarised in the Bedgebury Forest Archaeological Survey).

2.7 Medieval

- 2.7.1 Medieval settlement in the Weald is typified by a dispersed pattern of farmsteads with associated open field systems (often enclosed at an early stage producing irregular field patterns), hamlets and moated sites. Isolated churches served these settlements. Much of this settlement is preserved by the location of modern farmsteads, potentially including those in the study area. Higher status features of medieval settlement such as manor-houses are less evident, and there are none such in the study area.
- 2.7.2 Frith Farm and the adjacent Frith Wood derive from the Anglo-Saxon *Fyrhþ*, 'woodland': '*atte ffride*' – probably referring to the wood – is first mentioned in the

Kent Subsidy Rolls in 1346 (Wallenberg 1934, 339). They lay within the estates of Battle Abbey until the Dissolution, after which they passed through the hands of various lay lords including Sir John Baker of Sissinghurst, who is known to have operated an iron furnace nearby in the 1570s and 1580s (Bannister and Bartlett 2009, 298; see below).

- 2.7.3 Bedgebury Forest continued to be exploited throughout the medieval period, increasingly for the production of charcoal for the iron industry through the coppicing of its trees. Sir Alexander Culpepper of the adjacent Bedgebury estate (c.1470-1541) is known to have encouraged the industry, which William Camden described the effect of on the Weald in his *Britannia* of 1526: '*an abundance of wood is yearly spent; many streams are drawn into one channel, and a great deal of meadow ground is turned into ponds and pools for the driving of mills by the flashes which, with the beating with hammers upon iron, fill the neighbourhood round about night and day, with continued noise.*'
- 2.7.4 Physical evidence for the iron industry within the study area is ostensibly post-medieval in date, but is likely to have developed from the medieval system. A brick furnace and the remains of a pond bay (a form of reservoir) is recorded at Frith Farm, which is likely to have also exploited Lake Louisa as a penstock (Bedgebury Forest Archaeological Survey).

2.8 Post medieval and Modern

- 2.8.1 Frith Furnace has limited and somewhat ambiguous historical references, beginning with the leasing of the site together with Mitchell Park forge in the early 17th century by the Yaldwin, or Yalden, family who built Blackdown House near Haslemere on the proceeds (Hodgkinson 2008, 100). According to the short entry in the Wealden Iron Research Group Database¹, which largely repeats information from published sources (Cleere and Crossley 1995, 332), the works are mentioned in 1574 in a document (held at the Staffordshire Record Office) ascribing ownership of a furnace at 'Hernden' to Sir Richard Baker – this has been ascribed to Hawkhurst as Baker's other forge site at Sissinghurst specifically had no furnace. His will of 1591 also mentioned the furnace. An old furnace at Hernden in Hawkhurst was mentioned in a lease of 1628 (between Peter Courthope of Cranbrook and Alexander Sharpie of Hawkhurst), and also mentioned a 'little house' near the old furnace, a barn, stall, close and 21 pieces of land (ESRO DAN/1697). Although no firm evidence for the relationship between Hernden and Frith has been found, a 16th century deed relating to woodlands around Hawkhurst lists Hernden as lying to the west of Sopers Lane (ESRO DAN/1509-1536), which would put it broadly in the Frith area; possibly it was an earlier or alternative name.
- 2.8.2 The furnace appears to have been relatively short-lived, with its operational life largely restricted to the 16th and early 17th centuries; the iron industry in the Weald was at its height from the end of the 15th century until the middle of the 18th century. Several individuals have been identified in association with the works: owners (Richard Baker c.1574-1594; John Baker 1594-1596; Henry Baker 1596-1623; John Baker 1623-c.1628); ironfounders (John Webbe 1588; Charles Tyler c.1617-c.1628/9); and a clerk (Richard Willie 1588).

¹ <http://www.wirgdata.org/searchsites2.cgi>, accessed 27/11/2013

- 2.8.3 Following the cessation of ironworking on the site, Frith Farm became a small tenanted farmstead, which is how it is visible in the first map of the site, of 1797. In 1836 it was subsumed into the expanding Bedgebury estate of the Norman de Bedgebury family which centred on a 13th century house now inundated by the Great Lake to the northeast of the present manor house (Batchelor 1996). Viscount Lord Beresford is listed as the landlord of Frith Farm in the 1840 Hawkhurst tithe award,² his tenant at this time being a William Christmas; thereafter the families of Andrew Staples, Chares Neve and subsequently Richard Parrett in the years either side of the Census of 1881 (information courtesy of Alex Masters).
- 2.8.4 The Bedgebury estate endured in various hands until it was broken up and sold by the Government after the First World War following their exploitation of the forest for the war effort. During its heyday the estate comprised of thirty farms including those within the study area, although Frith Farm itself was put up for sale to the estate's fragmentation on June 7th 1892 (TNA SC00512). By the early 1900s it was owned by the Forestry Commission. It appears in the 1911 Census with the bailiff Richard Playfoot and his family, and a deaf labourer named William Day, in residence. The farm had declined by the 1930s with a seizure of livestock in lieu of rent recorded (information from Cranbrook Museum supplied by Alex Masters); it is described as derelict and abandoned in a publication of 1931 (Straker 1931, 320). The Forestry Commission built the existing farmhouse in 1949.

2.9 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.9.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as set out in the KCC Manual of specifications (2014), were to:
- Determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate.
 - Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

² <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Maps/HAW/02a.htm>, consulted 28th November 2013.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The Kent County Council Manual of Specifications (KCC 2014) provided for the excavation of three trenches measuring 10m long and 1.80m wide) within the area of the proposed new dwelling (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The trial trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket and under constant supervision by ASE. Machine excavation proceeded to a depth at which the top of archaeological levels, or the top of natural deposits, were exposed, whichever was the higher.
- 3.1.3 Trenches were completed to the satisfaction of Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCC, and were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated. The trenches were left level upon completion of the works. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.
- 3.1.4 Excavation and recording strategy was in accordance with the Manual of Specifications (KCC 2014) and with ClfA *Standards and Guidance* (ClfA 2014a).

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with the local museum in due course. The archive will be prepared according to the requirements of the recipient museum. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	15
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
BandW photos	0
Digital photos	24
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	3

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.40
1/002	Layer	Made ground	3.50	1.00	0.06
1/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	-

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 Trench 1 was located at the western side of the site, between the hollow-way and the remains of the timber shed, was north – south aligned and measured between 0.25m and 0.40m in depth (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 The surface of the geological substrate [1/003] (Tunbridge Wells Sand) was encountered at between 81.10m and 81.31m AOD.
- 4.1.3 The substrate was overlain on the eastern side of the trench by a deposit of heavily rooted clay silt [1/002] containing occasional brick fragments. This deposit was shallow (0.06m) and was not contained within a formal cut feature. It was likely related to tree planting in this part of the site.
- 4.1.4 An asbestos pipe was observed extending across the southern end of the trench in a northwest to southeast direction.
- 4.1.5 No features or deposits of archaeological importance were encountered within the trench.

4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.08-0.09
2/002	Layer	Made ground	5.00	trench	0.20
2/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	-
2/004	Masonry or other construction	Brick pathway	2.80	0.50	0.10
2/005	Masonry or other construction	Brick pathway (?)	1.68	0.62	0.10
2/006	Masonry or other construction	Brick lintel over drain 2/010	1.40	0.24	0.06
2/007	Masonry or other construction	Low brick wall or planting bed border	1.20	0.70	0.10
2/008	Fill	Deposit within possible planting bed cut 2/012	1.12	0.56	0.10
2/009	Layer	Metalling	6.40	1.70	0.05
2/010	Cut	Drain	1.40	0.40	0.14
2/011	Fill	Drain silt fill	1.40	0.14	0.15
2/012	Cut	Possible planting bed	1.30	0.80	0.13

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
2/013	Masonry or other construction	Brick lining of drain 2/010	1.40	0.24	0.15

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was located between the remains of the wooden shed and the western side of the extant farmhouse, was east-west aligned and measured between 0.09m and 0.40m in depth (Figure 3).
- 4.2.2 The surface of the geological substrate (Tunbridge Wells Sand) was encountered at between 81.10m and 81.27m AOD and was overlain and impacted upon by a number of deposits and structural features.
- 4.2.3 A rough metalled surface [2/009] extended across most of the central and western part of the trench and extended beyond the western limit of excavation. This surface was composed, for the most part, of small angular sandstone fragments with occasional pieces of CBM and clinker distributed randomly throughout. Finds including a number of iron nails, an iron strap hinge (of likely post-18th century date), several pieces of blast furnace slag and a piece of lead dross. Further fragments of metal-working waste were clearly intended to form part of the metalled surface itself.
- 4.2.4 Surface [2/009] was crossed, mid-trench, by a northwest to southeast oriented pathway [2/004], constructed primarily of red brick laid on bed, end to end, with a chamfered kerb on each side. While this pathway had clearly originally extended beyond the limits of the area encompassed by the trench, its southeastern end had been truncated. The metalled surface [2/009] extended up to either side of the pathway, but did not continue beneath. The geological substrate was exposed where the brick had been removed at the truncated end of the pathway. This suggests that the pathway and metalled surface were of contemporary date.
- 4.2.5 A second possible pathway, or decorative planting bed border, [2/005] was encountered east of [2/004]. This structure extended across the width of the trench in an arc, with a south to northeast orientation, and was constructed of red brick laid on bed, end to end, with a kerb on either side of laid on edge.
- 4.2.6 A brick drain [2/010] extended from below this pathway or border, beyond the trench limit in a north-easterly direction.
- 4.2.7 The corner of a brick structure [2/007] formed by the intersection of two low walls constructed tight against the edges of a rectangular or square cut [2/012], was identified at the eastern end of the trench. The wall was constructed of un-mortared red brick and had likely originally been built of two courses. Only a single brick survived of the second course within the trench. A layer of well-compacted sandy clay silt [2/008], containing frequent amounts of small chalk fragments and moderate amounts of lime mortar and brick fragments throughout. This was deposited against the inner face of this brickwork. The feature likely comprised a formal flower bed.
- 4.2.8 Overlying the metalled surface and brick structures was a layer of well-compacted garden soil [2/002], which increased in thickness from west to east,

and from which a range of metal, glass and ceramic artefacts of later 19th and 20th century date were recovered.

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.07-0.12
3/002	Layer	Made ground	trench	trench	0.20
3/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	-
3/004	Masonry or other construction	Brick drain lining	0.50	0.40	0.12
3/005	Cut	Drain	0.60	0.50	0.12
3/006	Fill	Drain fill	0.60	0.13	0.12

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was located to the immediate north of the extant farmhouse. It was excavated on a north-south alignment and measured between 0.23m and 0.46m in depth (Figure 4).
- 4.3.2 The surface of the superficial geological substrate (Tunbridge Wells Sand) was encountered at between 81.26m and 81.31m AOD. It was cut, towards the southern end of the trench, by an east–west aligned brick drain [3/005], similar in construction to the drain exposed in Trench 2. This drain was truncated to the east by the trench for a modern oil pipe, and was possibly truncated to the south by a later land-drain, although this land-drain itself survived in a fragmentary condition.
- 4.3.3 Overlying these drainage features and the underlying geology was a well-compacted garden soil deposit [3/002], likely identical to that recorded in Trench 2.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 6). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014b).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Iron	Weight (g)	Metal	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
2/002	49	424	3	40	1	12	4	95	19	241	1	18	5	34	1	4	6	73
2/004			2	3029														
2/005			1	2395														
2/006			1	2815														
2/007			1	2664														
2/009							1	3647	10	1476								
3/004			1	1797														
Total	49	424	9	12740	1	12	5	3742	29	1717	1	18	5	34	1	4	6	7

Table 6: Finds quantification

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 39 sherds of pottery, weighing 424g, from a single context. The material has been fully listed in Table 7 as part of the visible archive.
- 5.2.2 The range of pottery recovered is fairly typical for a domestic household of the late 19th to early 20th centuries. There is nothing to suggest anything other than a low ranking social status. The sherds, although quite fragmented, are not particularly abraded, suggesting that the material has not been subjected to extensive reworking.
- 5.2.3 The pottery assemblage is small and of industrialised types well known of in Kent. It is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that undertaken for this report and has been discarded.

Context	Fabric	No	Weight (g)	Comments
2/002	Glazed red earthenware (late)	1	8	Uncertain form x1 (Internal clear glaze)
2/002	Yellow ware	3	12	Bowl x1 (simple rim, blue mocha decoration)
2/002	English stoneware	10	282	Large spirit bottle x1 (tan top, Bristol glaze, black transfer with illegible merchant's name), preserve jars x2 (plain with a horizontal row of beading below rim and close-set vertical ribs. Both grey Bristol glaze)
2/002	Blue transfer-printed whiteware	13	46	Plates x4 (willow pattern x2, sheet pattern x1, pale/late floral x1), bowl x1 (floral sheet pattern)
2/002	Black transfer-printed whiteware	1	22	Mug x1 (black Chinese design)
2/002	Refined whiteware	8	38	Bowl x1 (beaded rim, blue sponged with red rim edge line), preserve jar x1 (string groove), cup x1 (green horizontal line), saucer x1, pot lid x1
2/002	Refined whiteware (yellow glazed)	2	4	Coffee cup x1 (yellow glaze all over)
2/002	English porcelain	1	2	Bowl x1

Table 7: The late post-medieval pottery assemblage

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Nine pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) weighing 12,378g were recovered from six evaluation contexts: [2/002], [2/004], [2/005], [2/006], [2/007] and [3/004]. The majority of the assemblage was comprised of whole or large brick pieces, the only exception to this being three lateral splinters of the same post-medieval tile collected from [2/002], in a dense pinkish fabric with few apparent inclusions. The bricks were all formed from the same well-fired fabric (dense red clay with sparse cream and white marbling and moderate burnt oxides up to 3mm). All six bricks/brick pieces were of generally similar dimensions (230-240 x 100-112 x 52-65mm). The level of firing combined with the dimensions and sharp arises are indicative of a mid-later 18th or 19th century date.

5.3.2 The bricks from [2/004] and [2/005] showed particular wear along the stretchers, with the brick from [2/004] being worn to a chamfer, and the brick from [2/005] having both stretchers abraded smooth. Neither condition is particularly diagnostic although the chamfering may be deliberate.

Context	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt (g)	L (mm)	Br (mm)	Th (mm)	Condition	Comments	Period
2/002	T1	TILE	3	40					3x fragments of same roof tile.	
2/004	B1	BRICK	2	3006	??; 240	??; 110	57; 64		Unfrogged, weel fired bricks. 1x whole brick. 1x partial brick. Whole brick has abraded/chamfered edge.	18th cent after tax? Or 19th century
2/005	B1	BRICK	1	2262	230	100	~60	A	Abraded stretchers.	?19th century
2/006	B1	BRICK	1	2751	230	110	65			?19th century
2/007	B1	BRICK	1	2553	231	112	52	M	hard, fine lime mortar	18th-19th century
3/004	B1	BRICK	1	1766		107	65		Unfrogged but well formed with sharp arises.	early 19th century / 18th century
Total			9	12378						

Table 8: Ceramic building material data

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 Context [2/002] produced a 4g stem/lower bowl fragment from a notably stained but marked clay pipe of the middle of the 19th century. The stem is stamped 'J. PHI...// ...FORD' which almost certainly relates to J. Phillips of Ashford who died in 1851.
- 5.4.2 The clay pipe is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis currently but will be retained for long-term curation for future county-wide studies on maker-marked pipes.

5.5 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 Context [2/002] produced five pieces of quite fresh glass all in keeping with the associated pottery. These consist of two pieces of aqua glass from cylindrical bottles of unknown function (22g), part of an aqua glass disc lid from a Kilner-type preserve jar (32g), part of an aqua glass stopper from a probable sauce bottle (8g) with 27mm diameter top and a 6g fragment from a colourless glass bottle with external screw closure (again of uncertain function).
- 5.5.1 The glass assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [2/002] produced a 12g fragment of Welsh roofing slate and a 6g fragment of coal. A 19th- to early 20th- century date would be in keeping with this material.
- 5.6.2 The stone assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.7 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.7.1 Context [2/002] produced four quite fresh pieces (92g) of blast furnace slag from early Post-medieval iron smelting. Such waste material was widely put to use in the Weald for road and track metalling right up until the 19th century. Its presence here is therefore not unexpected. Context [2/009] produced a 168mm diameter, 28mm thick plano-convex disc of solidified lead (3652g) that must have solidified in the base of a pan during casting works. Although undatable a post-medieval date is suspected.
- 5.7.2 The slag assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.8 The Bulk Metalwork by Susan Chandler

- 5.8.1 A single copper alloy tea spoon was collected from context [2/002]. It is embossed with OXO on the top of the handle, suggesting it was a promotional item for the OXO brand. On the reverse it is hallmarked T and W and a bird symbol, the makers mark, and NS for Nickle Silver, a type of silver plaiting. The spoon is mid-century, probably dating to between the 1920's and 1950's.

- 5.8.2 A total of 29 iron objects were recovered during the works on site, weighing a total of 1717g from two contexts. [2/002] contained 19 nails or nail fragments of both handmade and machine made types and most likely post-medieval in date. Context [2/009] contained 8 nails or nail stem fragments, an undiagnostic strip fragment and a largely complete strap hinge which terminates in a round end. It has two screws attached which would have affixed it to a gate or similar and a partial staple in the pivot end which would have attached to the post. It is most likely late post-medieval in date; the form of the hinge is seen from the 1700's but the screws for attachment are later in date.

5.9 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.9.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing just five fragments and weighing 34g was recovered from the archaeological evaluation. The bones were hand-collected from a single context [2/002]. The remains are in a moderate state of preservation and show signs of surface erosion, no complete bones are present.
- 5.9.2 Context [2/002] contains two medium mammal long bone fragments, the diaphysis of a pig tibia and a medium mammal scapula fragment, heavily gnawed by a canid. A single loose fourth deciduous cattle premolar, showing signs of wear, was also present within the assemblage.
- 5.9.3 No evidence of butchery, burning or pathology has been noted.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

Natural Geology

- 6.1.1 Only the superficial underlying geology was exposed in the evaluation trenches; this conformed to the British Geological Survey data for the site and comprised of Tunbridge Wells Sand deposits of yellow/orange, sandy silt clay. This geological deposit was exposed at a depth of between 81.10m and 81.31m AOD.

Archaeological features

- 6.1.2 Archaeological deposits and structures of mid/ late 18th century to 19th century date were exposed in the central part of the site, all of which were associated with a former farmyard and garden.
- 6.1.3 Residual evidence for earlier post medieval activity was represented by finds of slag and metal – working waste incorporated into a metalled surface. This metal working- waste relates to known iron working activity in the vicinity of the site, which may have begun in the Tudor period, if not earlier.

Made Ground

- 6.1.4 Across the central and eastern part of the site was a layer of well-compacted sandy clay silt containing fragments of CBM, pottery and other debris of late 19th to 20th century date. This layer measured 0.20m in average thickness, being thickest to the east of the metalled surface.

Topsoil

- 6.1.5 A layer of very loose poorly humified, sandy clay silt overlay the made ground layer in the central and eastern part of the site, and directly overlay the geological substrate to the west. This deposit measured between 0.07m-0.40m in thickness, being thickest to the west. It occurred at a height of between 80.602m – 82.50m AOD.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 With the exception of the modern oil pipe recorded in Trench 3, in the eastern part of the site, there appears to have been relatively little recent impact upon the historical deposits identified.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Early Prehistoric - Medieval

- 6.3.1 The evaluation produced no evidence for archaeological activity from these periods.

Post Medieval

- 6.3.2 The features identified during the evaluation comprised a metallised surface, brick pathway, planting beds and drains, all dated on the basis of ceramic building material evidence to the later 18th to 19th centuries. These features are consistent with the description of the site in the 1840 Tithe apportionments as a 'house, yards and gardens' and clearly date from the cessation of use of the site for ironworking.
- 6.3.3 The blast furnace slag and lead disc found incorporated into the metallised farmyard surface represent residual evidence of metalworking. It is very likely that the blast furnace slag is derived from the nearby Frith/Hernden furnace, however, it is not within its primary context and has been re-used at a later date as a convenient source of material for hardstanding. The nearby furnace was not in contemporary operation with the archaeological features found at the site. The furnace's operational life appears to have been largely restricted to the 16th and early 17th centuries (Shapland and James 2013).

6.4 Consideration of research aims

- 6.4.1 The evaluation has largely succeeded in addressing the general aims of the evaluation as outlined in the Manual of Specifications (KCC 2014):
- The presence of archaeological deposits has been confirmed within the site
 - The identified archaeological deposits appear to date to the later post-medieval period and relate to the use of this part of the site as a farmhouse with associated yard and garden
 - The evaluation has identified evidence for earlier post-medieval activity in the form of residual metal-working waste incorporated into the surface of the farmhouse yard
 - The evaluation has established the presence, extent and date of archaeological deposits on site, which will enable an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

6.5 Conclusions

- 6.5.1 The evaluation has succeeded in confirming the presence of archaeological deposits of later post-medieval date, relating to the use of this part of the site as a farmyard with associated garden, as well as identifying evidence for earlier post-medieval activity in the form of residual metalworking waste incorporated into the surface of the farmhouse yard.
- 6.5.2 No *in situ* evidence of human activity prior to the 18th century was uncovered within the sampled locations. The later post-medieval remains relating to the farmyard are of limited archaeological significance.

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Historical Documents

East Sussex Record Office

ESRO DAN/1697: 1628, The Danny Archives, lease

ESRO DAN/1509-1536: 1509-1536, The Danny Archives, deed

The National Archives

TNA SC00512: 1892, The Bedgebury Estate, sale particulars, held at Historic England

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Appendix 1: HER Summary

Site code	HAF16					
Project code	7127					
Planning reference	13/02764/TW					
Site address	Land at Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent.					
District/Borough	Tunbridge Wells					
NGR (12 figures)	NGR: 573640, 132783					
Geology	Bedrock geology: Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation-sandstone and siltstone, interbedded. Superficial geology					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	10/10/2016 – 11/ 10/2016					
Sponsor/client	DHA Planning Ltd					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Garrett Sheehan					
Period summary						
				Post-Medieval	Modern	
Project summary	<p><i>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Frith farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent between the 10th and 11th of October 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by DHA Planning Ltd in advance of the construction of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping and services.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation identified a number of features of later 18th to 19th century date, including a metalled farmyard surface, brick pathways and garden features such as planting beds and drains. Residual finds of blast furnace slag found incorporated into the metalled farmyard surface reflect reused 16th – 17th century material from a nearby Wealden blast furnace.</i></p>					

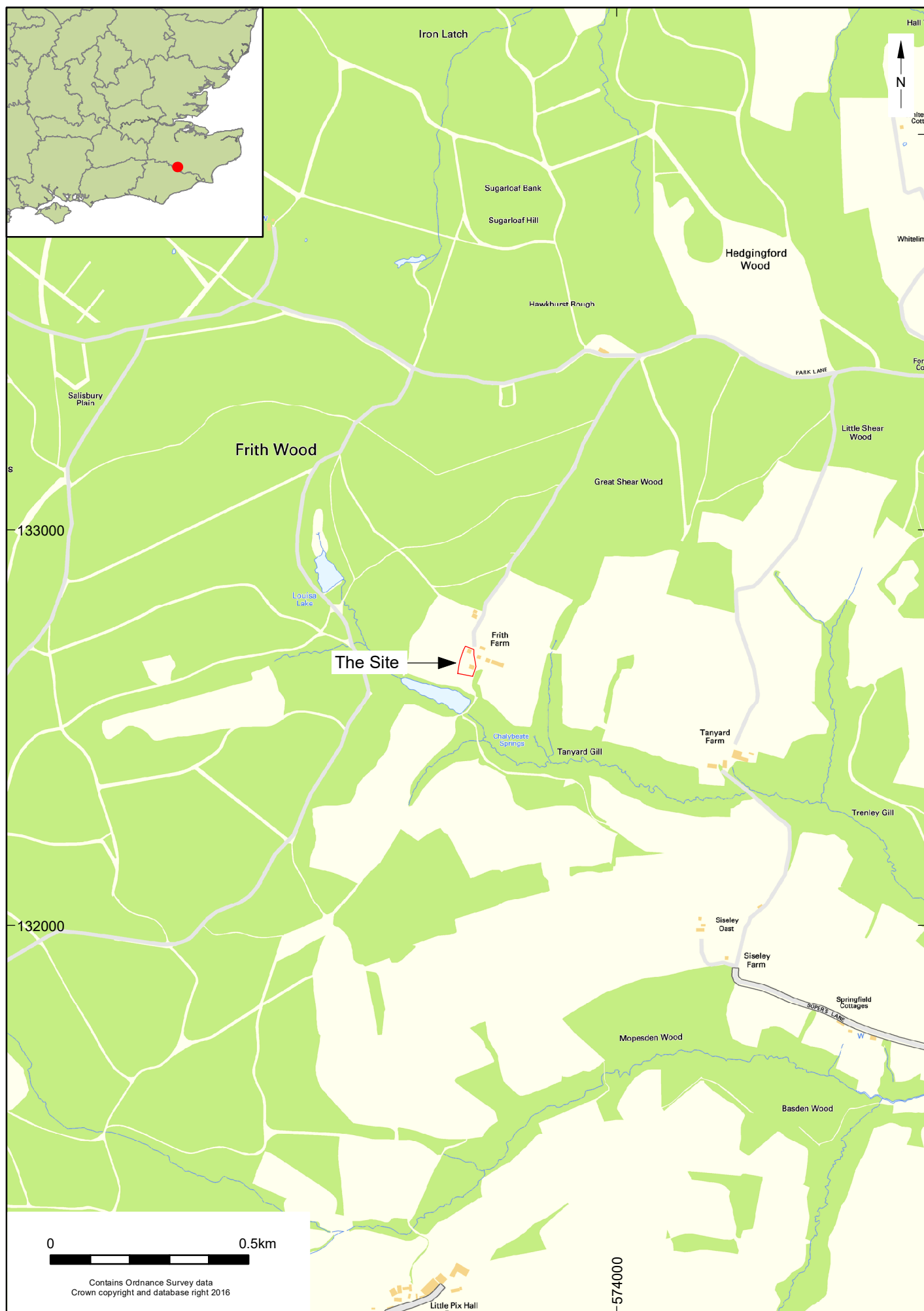
Appendix 2: OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-266185

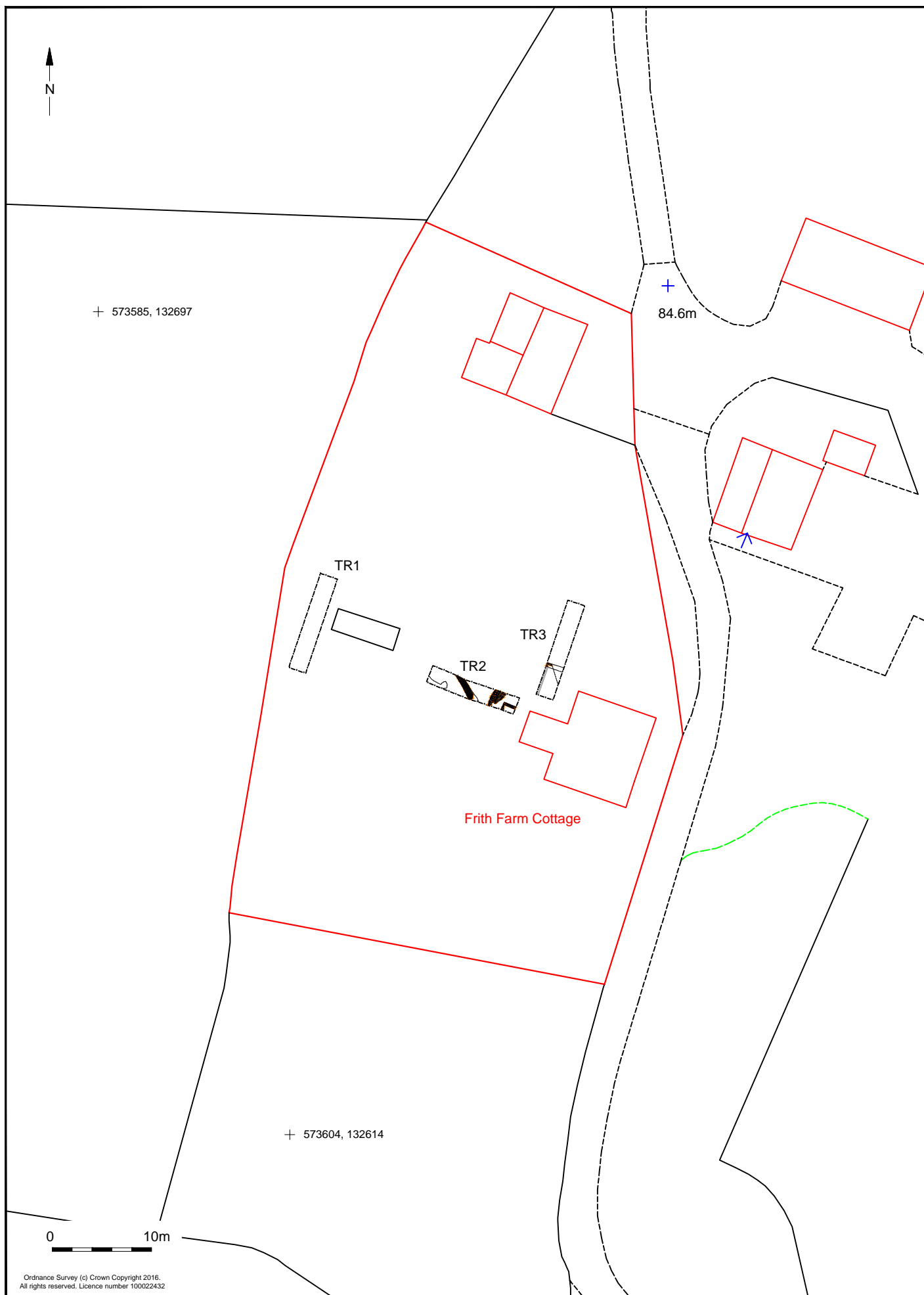
Project details

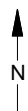
Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent.
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Frith farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent between the 10th and 11th of October 2016, in advance of the construction of a dwelling and garage with associated landscaping and services. The evaluation identified a number of features of later 18th to 19th century date, including a metalled farmyard surface, brick pathways and garden features such as planting beds and drains. Residual finds of fragments of blast furnace slag and a lead disc found incorporated into the metalled farmyard surface reflect the 16th - 17th centuries use of the site for ironworking.
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2016 End: 11-10-2016
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HAF16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	GARDEN Post Medieval
Monument type	FARMYARD Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SLAG Post Medieval
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS HAWKHURST Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst, Kent.
Postcode	TN18 5HA
Study area	0.14 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 573640 132783 50.896931243428 0.238002386728 50 53 48 N 000 14 16 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 80.6m Max: 82.5m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	DHA Planning Ltd
Project design originator	Kent County Council

Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Garrett Sheehan
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr and Mrs A. Masters
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Glass", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Map", "Matrices", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Garrett Sheehan (g.sheehan@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 October 2016

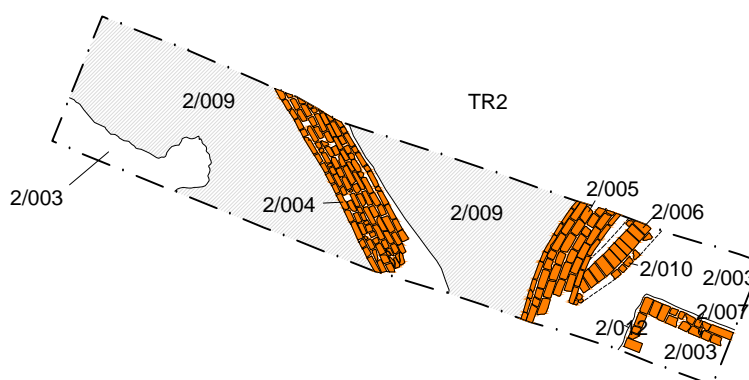


© Archaeology South-East		Frith Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7127	Oct 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016391	Drawn by: AR		

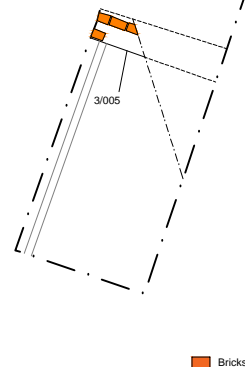




Metalling
Bricks



TR3



+ 573616, 132655

0 2m



Trench 2, looking north east



Trench 2, looking south east



Trench 2 - 2/004, looking north east



Trench 2 - 2/005, looking west



Trench 2 - 2/007, looking north east

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Project Ref: 7127

Oct 2016

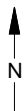
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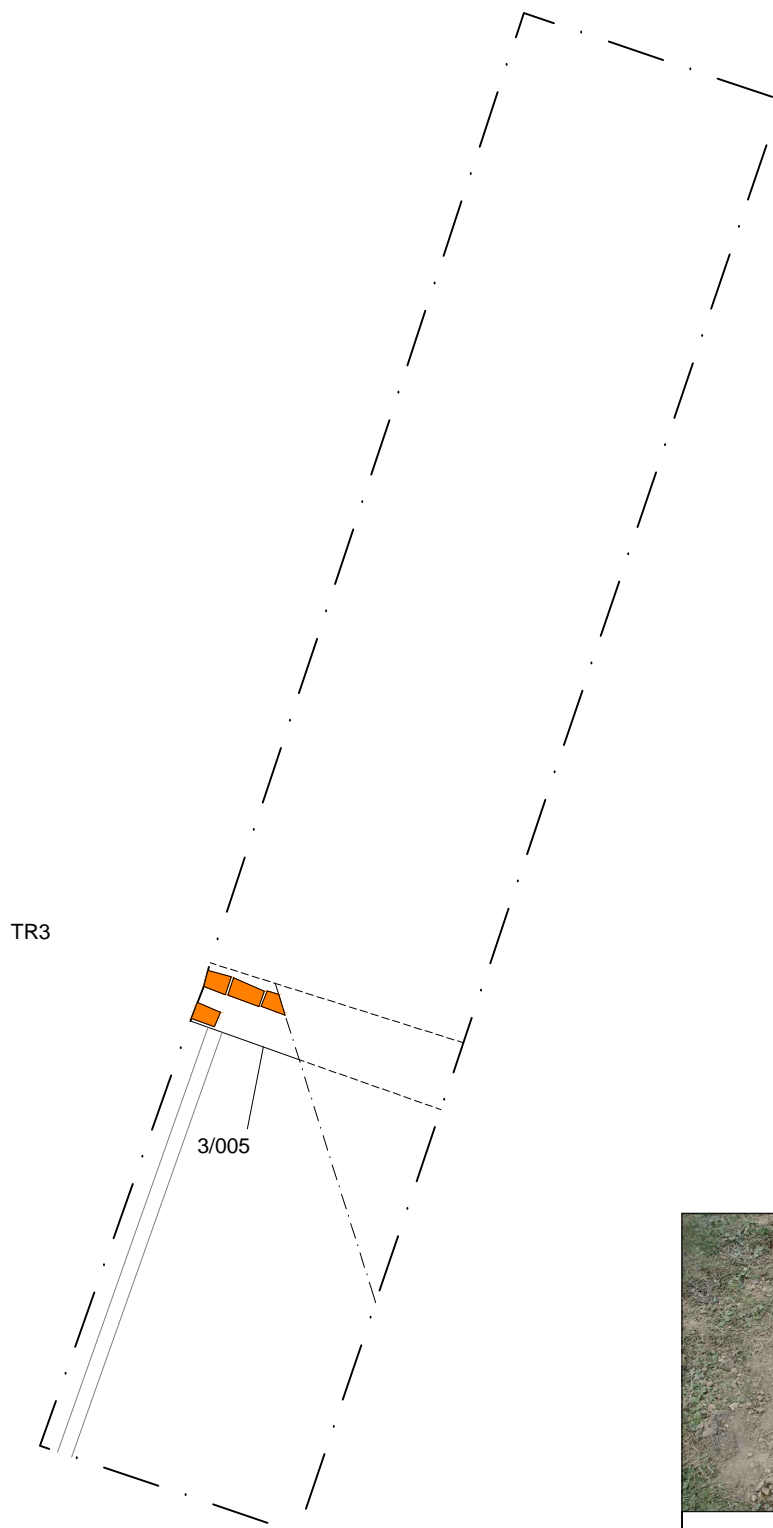
Firth Farm, Park Lane, Hawkhurst

Trench 2, plan and photographs

Fig. 3



+ 573634, 132669



Trench 3, looking north



Trench 3- 3/005, looking north

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