Archaeology South-East

ASE

Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land South of Moat Road
Headcorn, Kent

NGR: 582862 144365

ASE Project No: 170072
Site Code: AMR17
ASE Report No: 2017219

By Naomi Humphreys

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Prepared by:	**Naomi Humphreys**	**Archaeologist**	
Reviewed and approved by:	**Dan Swift**	**Project Manager**	
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Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land South of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent between 24th and 25th April 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Southern Water in advance of proposals to install and update a section of sewer between Moat Road, to the north of the site, and a water pumping station to the south.

Four trenches measuring 15m in length were excavated following a geophysical survey across the same area. A total of four archaeological features were revealed, all of which were located within the same trench. The remaining three trenches were archaeologically negative. Three features have been determined as Late Iron Age/Roman in date, comprising of one linear ditch containing a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, one curvi-linear gully containing a single rim-sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot and gully which (although absent from dateable finds) was cut by the former. One further gully containing no dateable evidence was found within close proximity to the aforementioned features.

The discovery of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery within two linear features, coupled with the presence of metal artefacts recovered from nearby find spots suggest that activity of this approximate date was taking place locally. The absence of discrete features such as pits and post-holes, as well as the minimal amount of pottery recovered might indicate that the intensity of occupation at this location was low. However, the potential for uncovering further evidence of more intense occupation cannot be ruled out.

There was no apparent correlation between the geophysical survey and the uncovered archaeological remains however, this may be due to the mixed nature of the underlying geology, or the small (narrow) nature of the archaeological features identified, or a combination of the two.

Pleistocene deposits were identified comprising a river terrace unit revealed in scour features cut into the Weald Clay. The fine component in the river terrace unit may be a reworked brickearth. No lithics were identified and the Pleistocene sediments at the site are considered to be of low potential.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation with geoarchaeological test pits on land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR 582862 144365) as shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the online British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the northern third of the site lies within the Weald Clay Formation with river terrace deposits present within the remainder of the site to the south.

1.2.2 The site comprises a roughly rectangular strip of land (c.122m x c.30m) which is bounded by Moat Road on the north and a water pumping station to the south (Figure 2). A trackway extends along the eastern boundary of the site. The site gently slopes downwards from south to north.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Southern Water are proposing to install approximately 350m of new 300mm diameter sewer and upgrade several sections of the existing sewer network. Consultation between Southern Water and ASE established that the majority of the scheme involves the on-line replacement of an existing sewer beneath roads (King Road, and Mill Bank) where archaeological potential is negligible due to previous disturbance. However, a 120m section of this new sewer will cross the site from Moat Road at the north boundary of the site and head south-southwest to connect to the water pumping station (WPS). In order to test the archaeological potential, ASE recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation be undertaken comprising geophysical survey followed by a trial trench evaluation, the latter incorporating geoarchaeological test pits. The results of the geophysical survey, which found weak positive-anomalies which may be the result of underlying archaeological features, are presented in ASE 2017b.

1.3.2 Construction of the sewer pipe will be open dig and auger bore for siphon section under the river. It is also proposed to upgrade the storm pumps at the WPS. An upgrade to the storm pump delivery rising mains within the WPS compound may also be required.

1.3.3 This scheme falls within the necessary parameters of the General Permitted Development Order benefitting from Southern Water's Permitted Development rights as a Statutory Undertaker. It is understood that no element of the scheme is subject to planning consent.

1.4 Scope of the Report

1.4.1 This report details the archaeological and geoarchaeological evaluation undertaken on the 24th and 25th April 2017.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 A 500m radius search of Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCC HER) was undertaken, centred on the site (NGR 583075 144280). A summary of these results as discussed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) are briefly presented below.

2.2 Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

2.2.1 Within 5km of the site, four separate records on the Kent HER point to Palaeolithic and Mesolithic activity, at Little Polar Farm, Ulcombe (TQ 84 NW 53; TQ 84 NW 54; TQ 84 NW 55) including a Mesolithic pick, an ovate handaxe and a chordiform biface, and at Smarden Burial Ground (TQ 84 SE 35) from where possible Mesolithic flintwork was recovered.

2.3 Neolithic

2.3.1 A polished Neolithic flint axe (TQ 84 SW 7) was recovered from a stream in Headcorn Parish in 1935 but the precise location from where it was recovered is not known.

2.4 Iron Age and Roman

2.4.1 Evidence of a probable farmstead which dates from the Iron Age/early Roman period was discovered by fieldwork undertaken by the Kent Archaeological Society between 1993–95 at Little New House Farm on New House Lane, approximately 775m directly south of the site. Evidence for iron smelting, in the form of iron slag, and a small cemetery with three Roman cremations in pottery vessels was recovered, as well as a number of ditches and part of a roundhouse dated to the Iron Age (Aldridge 2010).

2.4.2 A Roman silver ring (MKE79692), incomplete Roman copper seal box (MKE79691) and Roman copper alloy key handle in the form of a lion (MKE79693) were all found whilst metal detecting 400m northwest of the site.

2.5 Medieval and Post- Medieval

2.5.1 Most entries within the Kent HER records relate to Listed Buildings which are generally focused in and around the historic core of Headcorn (High Street and North Street) and includes the Grade I Listed St Peter and St Paul's Church (earliest elements are 13th century) in addition to four tables tombs.

2.5.2 The site is located adjacent to the boundary of a Grade II* Listed Building - Headcorn Manor (constructed c. 1516), which is located c. 50m west of the St. Peter and St Pauls *Church* (GILB). *The Moat* (Grade II Listed) (TQ 84 SW 5) lies immediately north of the site (north side of Moat Road) and comprises an early to mid-16th century house (former farmhouse) with later additions and alterations. The current dwelling may have replaced an earlier structure within the moated enclosure and a small amount of 15th to mid-16th century pottery was recovered during a watching brief in 2009 (ASE 2009). A tithe map of 1843 shows the moat encircling the site with a causeway in the northeast corner

facing east. Small enclosures or structures are shown to the north and the east of the house. The first edition OS map shows the eastern and northern arms of the moat but the southern boundary appears to have been filled by this date. The eastern arm was filled by the time of the second edition OS map, late in the 19th century.

2.6 Geoarchaeological Background

2.6.1 The site is situated at c. 20m AOD although correlation with the well-studied terraces of the River Thames, or even the lower Medway is recognised as difficult (Bridgland 2003). The right bank tributaries of the Medway (the Beult and the Teise) are noted by Bridgland (ibid) to have little in the way of terrace preservation and those that do survive comprise only Wealden rocks.

2.6.2 River terrace gravels at the site are presumed to conform to the BGS-mapped River Terrace, although an assignation to Terrace 1 should be regarded with caution. Wenban-Smith et al (2010) noted that 'abundant terrace gravel patches associated with the valley of the Beult are almost entirely lacking in Palaeolithic remains' though the degree to which research biases have created this lacuna is unclear and local findspots at Marden, Hurst Green and Smarsden buck the trend. The Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project (Wenban-Smith et al 2007) did not extend as far as Headcorn and Wymer (1999) records no findspots in the area.

2.6.3 The South-East Research Framework (Wenban-Smith et al 2010) notes that the extent of Brickearth in the Beult valley is unusually common, although extents are not mapped by the BGS 1:50,000 data. These units probably derive from the last glacial period, although some may be older. Where these units are found, there is therefore potential to preserve the latest Neanderthal occupation of Britain and colonisation activity of modern humans. If any remains are found to be present, they are likely to be of high importance.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

2.7.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the nature, significance date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains.
- To define what, if any, archaeological mitigation should be considered in advance of or during construction of the new pipeline.
- To determine the nature of any archaeological deposits
- To establish if the River Terrace Deposits hold any potential for Palaeolithic remains

2.7.2 The site specific research aims were:

- To establish, in so far as is practical within the limitations of the fieldwork, whether the southern arm of the infilled moat associated with *Moat Farm* is likely to be impacted by the scheme and, if this cannot be ruled out, whether appropriate mitigation should be implemented prior to or during construction.
- To establish whether the Roman artefacts retrieved in close proximity to the site relate to settlement activity that might be impacted by the scheme.
- To establish whether the medieval core of Headcorn was more extensive (continuing westwards beyond St Peter and St Paul's Church) but has contracted eastwards in antiquity.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology (Evaluation Trenches)

3.1.1 The archaeological methodology was initially set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017a). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and in line with the relevant professional standards and guidelines of the Charted Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and complies with Kent County Council's standard specifications (Kent County Council, 2007).

3.1.2 Four trenches measuring 15m by 1.80m were excavated in the locations specified by the WSI (ASE 2017a) with the exception of Trench 1, which was relocated c.2m towards the south to ensure that excavation did not encroach within the 2m protection buffer of a hedgerow present along the north boundary of the site. The trench locations were accurately established and recorded using a Leica Viva CS15 RTK GNSS and are illustrated in Figure 2. All trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision.

3.1.3 A Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) was used to scan all trench locations to check for underlying services prior to excavation.

3.1.4 All trenches were excavated, under archaeological supervision, using a 13-tonne 360º mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Each trench was excavated in spits of c.100mm until the top of the underlying natural substrate was revealed.

3.1.5 All exposed potential archaeological features were investigated by hand and subsequently excavated, photographed, recorded and drawn as appropriate. All sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:10.

3.1.6 All trenches and exposed archaeological features were accurately planned and surveyed using a Leica CS15 RTK GNSS.

3.1.7 Spoil heaps were examined to recover and collect any unstratified finds

3.2 Methodology (Geoarchaeological Test Pits)

3.2.1 Following the completion of archaeological recording within the trial trenches, four geoarchaeological test pits were excavated within the footprint of the already excavated evaluation trenches. One test pit was excavated at one end of each evaluation trench. Test pits were positioned at the southern ends of trenches 1 and 2, and at the northern ends of trenches 3 and 4.

3.2.2 The excavation of all pits was undertaken with the mechanical excavator and supervised by Dr. Ed Blinkhorn (Geoarchaeologist).

3.2.3 Within each trial pit, sediment was removed by machine in spits up to 250mm thick and followed the interfaces between sedimentary units wherever possible. The recording of each test pit took place from the side of the trench – no test pit was entered. Each sedimentary unit was recorded and is described in the results section below.

3.2.4 No sieving took place as the exposed deposits were too cohesive for effective

results. However, care was taken to closely inspect the spoil and no lithics were identified within the test pits.

3.2.5 All of the test pits were backfilled on the same day and the remainder of the evaluation trenches were backfilled and re-instated by Southern Water at a later date.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive has been assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (HE 2015) and in accordance with the guidelines published in Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).

3.3.2 The archive is currently held at the Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	20
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	8
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench record forms	4

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 bag
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

(Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.24-0.37
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.11-0.18
3/003	Layer	Natural	-	-	N/A
3/004	Cut	Ditch	1.80+	0.90	0.30
3/005	Fill	Fill of 3/004	-	-	0.30
3/006	Cut	Gully	1.80+	0.41	0.25
3/007	Fill	Fill of 3/006	-	-	0.25
3/008	Cut	Gully	1.80+	0.26	0.12
3/009	Fill	Fill of 3/008	-	-	0.12
3/010	Cut	Gully	1.80+	0.32	0.11
3/011	Fill	Fill of 3/010	-	-	0.11

Table 3: Trench 3, list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Trench 3 was located to the south of the site on the west side of the track and orientated NW-SE. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.57m. Four linear features were recorded within this trench and are illustrated.

4.1.2 Ditch [3/004] was located at the south-east end of the trench and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. It contained a single light blue-grey silty-clay fill [3/005] from which 2 sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot were recovered.

4.1.3 Gullies [3/008] and [3/010] intersect one another broadly at a right-angle. Gully [3/008] was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment and contained a light blue-grey silty-clay fill [3/009]. Gully [3/010] was slightly curved and orientated north-west to south-east and similarly contained a light blue-grey silty-clay fill [3/011]. A relationship-slot was excavated to try and determine the phasing between these two features. With both fills near identical in character, the relationship was difficult to see, however, it was tentatively determined that gully [3/010] was cut into gully [3/008], suggesting that gully [3/008] is the earlier of the two features. A single rim sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery was recovered from [3/011] (the fill of gully [3/010]). No finds were recovered from [3/009].

4.1.4 Gully [3/006] was located at the north end of Trench 3 and was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. It contained a single fill of mid-blue-grey silty-clay [3/007]. No finds were recovered from this feature.

4.2 Trenches 1-2 and 4

4.2.1 Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were archaeologically negative and a list of all recorded contexts from each trench is provided in Appendix 1. All three trenches had a similar stratigraphy of subsoil capping the natural, and topsoil above subsoil. The northernmost end of Trench 1 presented the only exception. Here, the natural was overlain with a thin layer of heavily mineralised hill-washed material which thickened towards the northern end of the trench with a maximum recorded thickness of 0.15m.

4.2.2 A 13-14th century pot sherd was recovered from the topsoil layer of Trench 2 [2/001] and a mixed assemblage of finds were located within the subsoil layer of Trench 4 all of which date from the late 19th to early 20th century.

4.3 Geoarchaeology by Ed Blinkhorn

4.3.1 The Pleistocene deposits exposed at the site comprise between 0.20 m and 1.10m of mineralised clays, silts and sands, and fragmentary sandstone. The river terrace unit was revealed in scour features cut into the Weald Clay, representing small scale relatively high energy deposition. The fine component in the river terrace unit may be a reworked brickearth. Deposits were too cohesive to sieve although no lithics were identified through close inspection during and after excavation. The Pleistocene sediments at the site can be considered to be of low potential.

4.3.2 The results of the geoarchaeological test pits are tabulated below:

GTP1: Trench 1, south end:

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Friable Brownish-grey very fine sandy clayey-silt. Very occasional subangular to subrounded <50mm larger clasts, some of which unworked nodular flint.	0.00-0.45	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Sharp			
2	Admixed orange / brown / grey mineralised slightly silty clay sand. Some fine (<30mm) subangular rotted sandstone gravel concentrations in stiff matrix. Very clayey in places.	0.45-0.70	River Terrace Gravel / admixed brickearth
Sharp			
3	Stiff light blue-grey clay. Top 0.2 m weathered light brownish-orange. Root stains throughout.	0.70-1.75	Weald Clay

Table 4: Trench 1 list of recorded geoarchaeological units.

GTP2: Trench 2, south end:

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Friable Brownish-grey very fine sandy clayey-silt. Very occasional subangular to subrounded <50mm larger clasts, some of which unworked nodular flint.	0.00-0.40	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Sharp			
2	Admixed orange / brown / grey mineralised slightly silty clay sand. Some fine (<30mm) subangular rotted sandstone gravel concentrations in stiff matrix. Very clayey in places. Scour to the north.	0.40-1.10	River Terrace Gravel / admixed brickearth
Sharp			
3	Stiff light blue-grey clay. Top 0.2 m weathered light brownish-orange. Root stains throughout.	1.10-1.30+	Weald Clay

Table 5: Trench 2 list of geoarchaeological units.

GTP3: Trench 3, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Friable Brownish-grey very fine sandy clayey-silt. Very occasional subangular to subrounded <50mm larger clasts, some of which unworked nodular flint.	0.00-0.35	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Sharp			
2	Admixed orange / brown / grey mineralised slightly silty clay sand. Some fine (<30mm) subangular rotted sandstone gravel concentrations in stiff matrix. Very clayey in places. Slight water ingress at base of scour	0.35-0.55 @ South 1.45 @ North	River Terrace Gravel / admixed brickearth
Sharp			
3	Stiff light blue-grey clay. Top 0.2 m weathered light brownish-orange. Root stains throughout.	0.55/ 1.45-1.55+	Weald Clay

Table 6: Trench 3 list of geoarchaeological units.

GTP4: Trench 4, north end

Unit	Sediment description	Depth (m)	Interpretation
1	Friable Brownish-grey very fine sandy clayey-silt. Very occasional subangular to subrounded <50mm larger clasts, some of which unworked nodular flint.	0.00-0.30	Modern topsoil and subsoil
Sharp			
2	Admixed orange / brown / grey mineralised slightly silty clay sand. Some fine (<30mm) subangular rotted sandstone gravel concentrations in stiff matrix. Very clayey in places.	0.30-0.80	River Terrace Gravel / admixed brickearth
Sharp			
3	Stiff light blue-grey clay. Top 0.2 m weathered light brownish-orange. Root stains throughout.	0.80-1.35+	Weald Clay

Table 7: Trench 4 list of geoarchaeological units.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered and 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 8). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Clay Tobacco Pipe	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
2/001	1	7						
3/005	2	8						
3/011	1	8						
4/002	1	21	2	31	2	3	1	18
Total	**5**	**44**	**2**	**31**	**2**	**3**	**1**	

Table 8: Finds quantification

5.2 **The Late Iron Age/ Roman Pottery** by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Three sherds of Late Iron Age/ Roman pottery were recovered during the evaluation, from contexts in Trench 3. Two conjoining grog-tempered bodysherds were recovered from context [3/005]. The grog-tempering tradition was particularly common and long-lived in the Weald and these sherds could be of any date from the mid-1st century BC to the end of the Roman period. In context [3/011] a small rim sherd was recorded, in a coarse glauconitic fabric. The form is jar with a simple necked profile which appears to be wheel-thrown. This combination of fabric and form is more certainly attributable to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

5.3 **The Post-Roman Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Just two sherds of post-Roman pottery were recovered from the evaluation. By far the earliest was recovered from context [2/001]. This consists of a fairly fresh 6g fragment from an oxidized cooking pot with developed wide flat-topped rim in Ashford-type sandy ware with rare shell inclusions (Canterbury Archaeological Trust fabric M40A). The form would suggest a date late in the range, perhaps between c. 1250/75 and 1325. The other sherd was recovered from context [4/002] and consists of a 22g body fragment from a late English stoneware bottle. The vessel, which has a light brown iron wash externally under a salt glaze with an interior Bristol glaze, is best placed between c. 1840 and 1900.

5.4 **The Ceramic Building Material** by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.4.1 Two fragments of roof tile weighing 31g were collected from [4/002]. The smaller fragment was heavily chipped; the other was larger with abraded surfaces and no distinguishing features present. Both tile pieces were generally undateable, although a later post-medieval date is likely.

5.5 **The Glass** by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 An aqua glass fragment (weight 18g) from a cylindrical mineral water bottle was recovered from [4/002]. The fragment retains a small fragment of embossing: "[…]NHIL[…]". The fragment is of mid-19th to early-20th century date.

5.6 **The Clay Tobacco Pipe** by Elke Raemen

5.6.1 A small bowl fragment (weight 2g) was recovered from [4/002]. It contains maker's initials "IJ" moulded in relief on the heel sides. The bowl dates to c. 1840-80.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of Stratigraphic Sequence

6.1.1 All trenches revealed a similar sequence of natural river terrace deposits admixed in places with brickearth, overlain by subsoil and topsoil layers.

6.1.2 The natural geology was encountered at a maximum elevation of 19.62m AOD at the southern end of the site in Trench 4, gently sloping down to 19.00m AOD at the northern end of the site in Trench 1. A layer of mineralised hill-washed material was exposed at the northern end of Trench 1 which gently thickened to 0.15m at the northernmost end of the trench. This layer capped the underlying natural and was overlain by subsoil and topsoil layers.

6.1.3 A total of four archaeological features were observed, all of which were located within Trench 3, the remaining trenches were archaeologically negative. The four features comprised of a ditch containing a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, two gullies containing no finds, and one curvi-linear gully containing a single rim-sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot. All four features were cut into the underlying natural geology.

6.1.4 A single piece of 13th-14th century pot was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 2 and a mixed assemblage of finds were located within the subsoil layer of Trench 4 all of which date from the late 19th to early 20th century.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

6.2.1 The archaeological features were well-preserved. The shallow nature of the ditch and gullies investigated indicates that the upper parts of these features may have been truncated by ploughing.

6.2.2 The depth of overburden generally varied between 0.24m and 0.48m across the site with the exception of the northern end of Trench 1 at the north end of the site where 0.60m of overburden was present.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Late Iron Age/Roman

6.3.1 Two of the four identified archaeological features can be confidently dated to the Late Iron Age/Roman period. Ditch [3/004] contained 2 sherds of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery. Gully [3/010] containing a piece of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery and appears to cut into gully [3/008] which indicates that [3/008] is older. It is therefore likely that gully [3/008] can be attributed to the Late Iron Age/Roman time period as well, or indeed earlier. The fourth recorded linear feature, by proximity, could be interpreted as a similar date, however this cannot be certain.

Medieval

6.3.2 The medieval period is represented only by one piece of pottery (13th-14th century) recovered from the topsoil layer in Trench 2. No medieval features were revealed during the evaluation.

Post-Medieval

6.3.3 The post-medieval period is represented by mixed assemblage of finds located within the subsoil layer of Trench 4. All of these finds date from the late 19th to early 20th century. No post-medieval features were revealed.

Undated

6.3.4 Two of the four recorded features did not contain any dating evidence. As discussed above, gully [3/008] likely pre-dates gully [3/010] and is therefore attributed a date of no later than Late Iron-Age/Early Roman. The date of gully [3/006] located at the north end of Trench 3 remains uncertain.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

6.4.1 The general aims of the evaluation were set out within the WSI (ASE, 2017) and are listed above in section 2.

6.4.2 The evaluation was mostly successful in identifying as far as possible, the nature, date and character of the archaeological features found on site. The geoarchaeological test pits established the nature and extent of the river terrace deposits and both phases of the evaluation identified the stratigraphic sequence of the site.

6.4.3 The extent of further potential archaeological mitigation is considered below:

6.4.4 The site specific research aims were:

- *To establish, in so far as is practical within the limitations of the fieldwork, whether the southern arm of the infilled moat associated with Moat Farm is likely to be impacted by the scheme and, if this cannot be ruled out, whether appropriate mitigation should be implemented prior to or during construction.*

  No evidence of a moat was revealed within the confinements of the evaluation trenches. It is unlikely that the moat encroaches within the boundary of the site and does not extend south of Moat Road.

- *To establish whether the Roman artefacts retrieved in close proximity to the site relate to settlement activity that might be impacted by the scheme.*

  The discovery of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery within two linear features in Trench 3, coupled with the presence of metal artefacts recovered from local find spots (as detailed in section 2.4.2) does suggest that activity of this approximate date was taking place locally. The absence of discrete features such as pits and post-holes, as well as the minimal amount of pottery recovered might indicate that the intensity of occupation at this location was low. However, with two further linear features in very close proximity (one of which appears to be cut by a Late Iron Age/Early Roman gully) the potential for uncovering further evidence of more intense occupation cannot be ruled out. It is almost certain that groundworks relating to the scheme will impact upon Late Iron Age/Early Roman archaeological features.

Details of further mitigation, if any, are pending further discussion between Southern Water, Archaeology South-East and Wendy Rogers (Kent County Council).

- *To establish whether the medieval core of Headcorn was more extensive (continuing westwards beyond St Peter and St Paul's Church) but has contracted eastwards in antiquity.*

  There were no archaeological features which could be definitively attributed to this time period to suggest that the medieval settlement activity extended into the site. One sherd of pottery dating to between c.1250/75 and 1325 was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 2 [2/001] which likely relates to activity taking place in the village of Headcorn's earliest medieval phase. The construction of the Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul began in the 13th century and is located just 150m southeast of the site. No evidence was found to suggest that the medieval core of Headcorn extended this far west.

6.5 Conclusions

6.5.1 The evaluation was successful in addressing the research aims of the project and identified four archaeological features within one of the four trenches excavated.

6.5.2 One ditch and one gully contained Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery sherds and a second gully can be comfortably assigned at least a similar date, if not earlier. A third undated gully was also present in close proximity to the aforementioned features.

6.5.3 Evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity was present in the form of finds recovered from the overburden.

6.5.4 There was no apparent correlation between the geophysical survey and the uncovered archaeological remains however, this may be due to the mixed nature of the underlying geology, or the small (narrow) nature of the archaeological features identified, or a combination of the two.

6.5.5 The Pleistocene sediments at the site can be considered to be of low potential.

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HER Summary

Site code	AMR17					
Project code	170072					
Planning reference	N/A					
Site address	Land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent					
District/Borough	Ashford					
NGR (12 figures)	582862 144365					
Geology	Weald Clay formation and river terrace deposits					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork						
Sponsor/client	Southern Water					
Project manager	Neil Griffin					
Project supervisor	Naomi Humphreys					
Period summary					Iron Age	
	Roman		Medieval	Post-Medieval		
Project summary	An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent between the 24th and 25th April 2017. Four trenches measuring up to 15m in length were excavated. Evidence of a Late Iron Age/Roman phase of activity, represented by a ditch and two gullies was present. Medieval activity was represented only by the recovery of a single 13th-14th century pottery sherd within the overburden. Similarly, an assemblage of late-19th to early-20th century finds were recovered from within subsoil deposits. There was no apparent correlation between the geophysical survey and the uncovered archaeological remains however, this may be due to the mixed nature of the underlying geology, or the small (narrow) nature of the archaeological features identified, or a combination of the two.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	?Late Iron Age-/Roman	3
Pottery	Ceramic	Medieval (13th-14th century)	1
Pottery	Ceramic	Post-Medieval	1
Roof tile	CBM	Post-Medieval	1
Clay pipe stem	Clay pipe	Post-Medieval	1
Glass	Glass	Post-Medieval	1

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-284907

Project details	
Project name	Eval: Land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent
Short description of the project	Four trenches measuring 15m in length were excavated. A total of four archaeological features were revealed, all of which were located within the same trench. The remaining three trenches were archaeologically negative. Three features have been determined as Late Iron Age/Roman in date, comprising of one linear ditch containing a single sherd of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery, one curvi-linear gully containing a single rim-sherd of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pot and gully which (although absent from dateable finds) was cut by the former. One further gully containing no dateable evidence was found within close proximity to the aforementioned features. The discovery of Late Iron Age/Roman pottery within two linear features, coupled with the presence of metal artefacts recovered from nearby find spots suggest that activity of this approximate date was taking place locally. The absence of discrete features such as pits and post-holes, as well as the minimal amount of pottery recovered might indicate that the intensity of occupation at this location was low. However, the potential for uncovering further evidence of more intense occupation cannot be ruled out. There was no apparent correlation between the geophysical survey and the uncovered archaeological remains however, this may be due to the mixed nature of the underlying geology, or the small (narrow) nature of the archaeological features identified, or a combination of the two.
Project dates	Start: 24-04-2017 End: 25-04-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	AMR17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Monument type	DITCHES Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches","Test Pits"
Development type	permitted development
Prompt	permitted development
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MAIDSTONE HEADCORN Land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent
Postcode	TN27 9NU

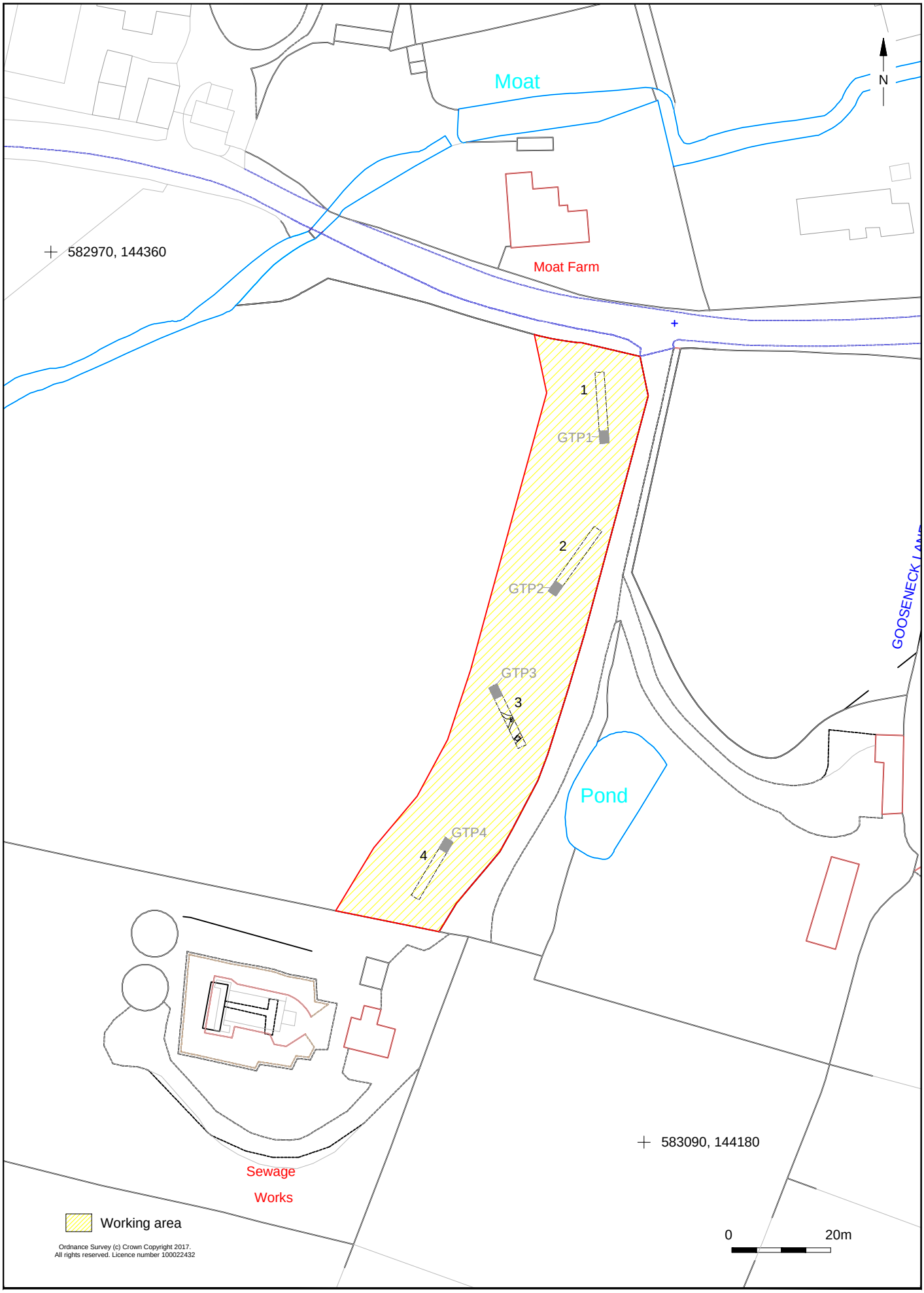
Study area	3500 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 8286 4436 51.168630179931 0.615912904046 51 10 07 N 000 36 57 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.5m Max: 19.5m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Naomi Humphreys
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Archive ID	AMR17
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive ID	AMR17
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Archive ID	AMR17
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Eval report Land south of Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Humphreys, N
Other bibliographic	ASE Report No: 2017219

details	
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	grey lit rep
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	12 May 2017

Appendix: List of recorded contexts in archaeologically negative trenches

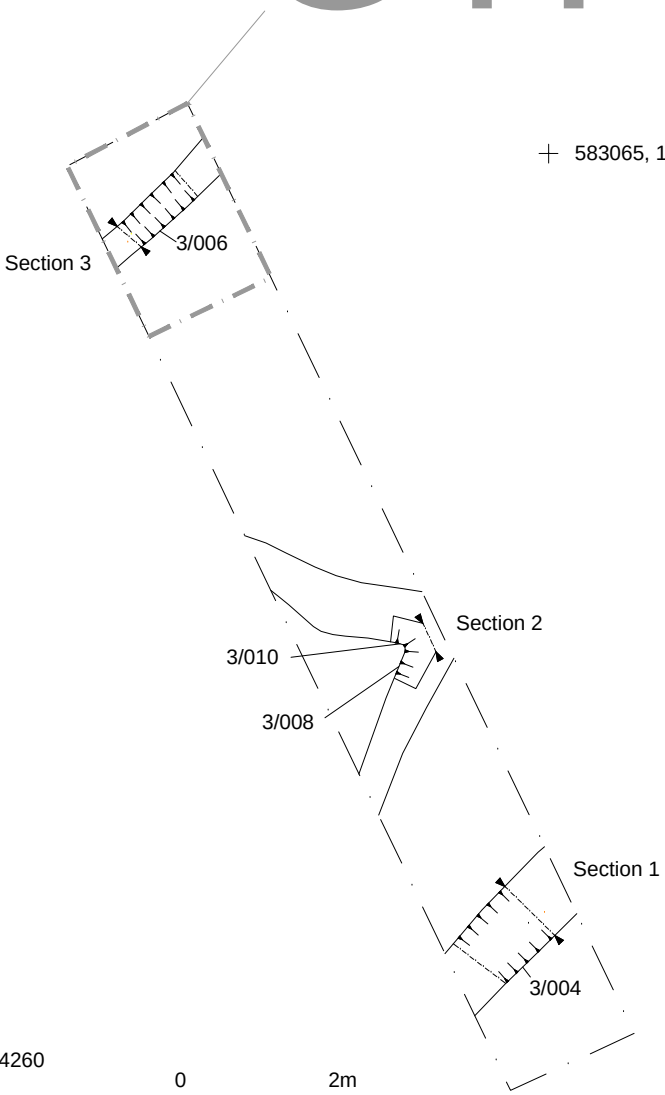
Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)
1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.27-0.29
1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.19
1	1/003	Layer	Hill-wash	0.03-0.15
1	1/004	Layer	Natural	0.09+
2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.20
2	2/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.13
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	0.05+
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.24-0.37
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.18
3	3/003	Layer	Natural	0.06+
4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.18
4	4/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.13-0.15
4	4/003	Layer	Natural	0.10+

© Archaeology South-East		Moat Road, Headcorn	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170072	May 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017219	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170072	May 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017219	Drawn by: AR		

GTP3

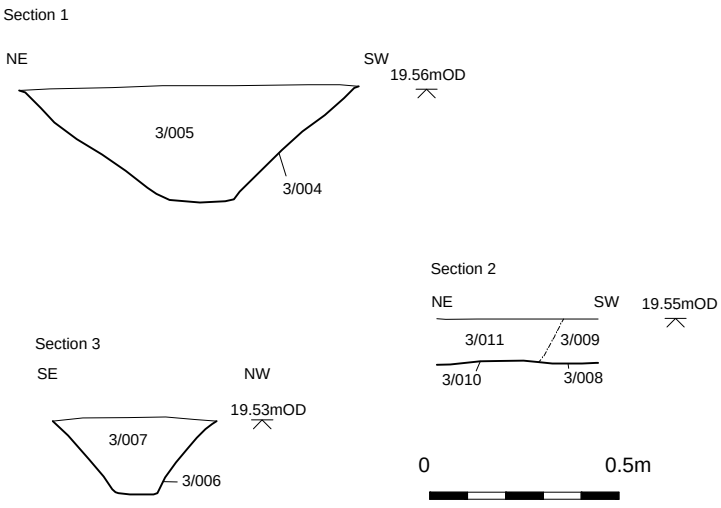


Trench 3, looking northwest

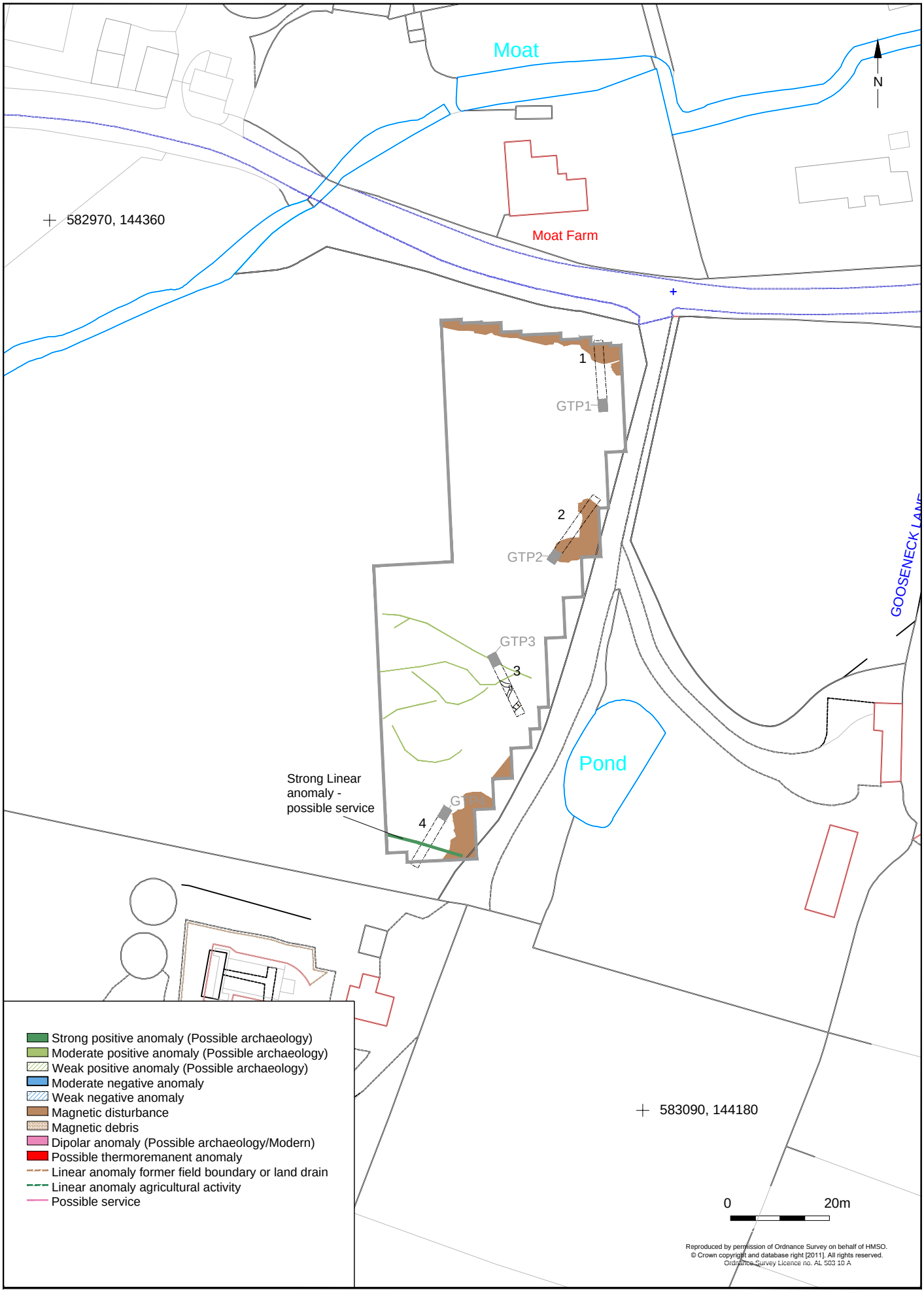
3/008, 3/010, looking northeast

3/004, looking northeast

3/006, looking southeast



© **Archaeology South-East**		Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170072	May 2017	Trench 3 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017219	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Moat Road, Headcorn, Kent	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 170072	March 2017	Evaluation result with geophysical interpretation plan	
Report Ref: 2017219	Drawn by: NH		

Sussex Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa