

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land at Graveney Road,
Faversham,
Kent.**

NGR: 602867 161099

Planning Ref: 16/508643/FULL

**ASE Project No: 180063
Site Code: GRV18**

**ASE Report No: 2018069
OASIS id: archaeol6-309712**

Jake Wilson

Illustrations by Antonio Reis

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Prepared by:	Jake Wilson	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Lucy Sibun	Senior Archaeologist	
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Version:			

**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

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent.

The evaluation consisted of five trenches; three 30m in length and two 20m in length. The area in which the evaluation took place has been impacted significantly by modern groundworks. This involved removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural geological horizon (Thanet Sand Formation) and the deposition of up to three layers of modern made ground. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on Land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (Figure 1 centred on NGR 602867 161099).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is a roughly triangular plot of land, with an area of c. 2.9ha, lying to the north of Graveney Road on the eastern periphery of Faversham. Its northern boundary is defined by the railway line, with agricultural fields to the east. It was formerly occupied by industrial buildings.
- 1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is Thanet Sand Formation – Sand, Silt and Clay with overlying superficial deposits of brickearth (BGS 2018). Ground investigation has recorded made ground (up to 2.7m) overlying head deposits and chalk. The made ground is described as clay/sand with bricks and concrete, ceramic fragments, clinker and occasional glass fragments (Merebrook 2016). It is clear from the geotechnical logs that the modern ground slab lies directly over the geology in a number of locations, suggesting widespread truncation.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Swale Borough Council for residential development of the site, subject to conditions (16/508643/FULL). A Geoenvironmental Assessment of the site was completed as part of the planning process (Merebrook 2016) and an archaeological condition was also attached to the consent as follows:

(6) No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3.2 In accordance with this, a Specification for Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by ASE (2018) detailing the methodology to be undertaken during the works. This was seen and approved by all parties prior to excavation.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological evaluation carried out on 05/02/2018. The archaeological work was undertaken by Jake Wilson (Archaeologist), with survey provided by Robert Kaleta. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is summarised from a desk-based assessment prepared by CgMs (2016), with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 The earliest artefact recorded within the study area is a Palaeolithic handaxe, found c.150m northwest of the site boundary (TR 06 SW 322, TR 0307 6136).
- 2.2.2 A Mesolithic scraper was found in a garden on Preston Avenue, c.750m to the southwest of the site (TR 06 SW 70, TR 0207 6054), while a poorly provenanced tranche axe has also been recovered from the vicinity of Faversham (TR 06 SW 72, TR 02 61).
- 2.2.3 An assemblage of Late Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flintwork, interpreted as a concentrated area of in-situ occupation, was found during an evaluation at Abbey Fields, found c.200m to the north of the site (TR 06 SW 239, TR 02955 61440).
- 2.2.4 An assemblage of Neolithic worked flint was found during excavations at Blacklands, located c.800m to the northeast of the site (TR 06 SW 312, TR 0374 6148).
- 2.2.5 Several ditches containing late Neolithic or early Bronze Age artefacts, thought to be potentially associated with a contemporary field system, were found during the evaluation at Abbey Fields c.200m to the east of the site (TR 06 SW 240, TR 03155 61295).
- 2.2.6 An isolated Bronze Age pit was also found during excavations at the Blacklands site to the east of the site (TR 06 SW 313, TR 0374 6147).
- 2.2.7 Late Bronze Age to early Iron Age activity has been identified in several locations in proximity to the site. A curvilinear gully associated with pottery attributed to these periods, interpreted as part of a possible roundhouse was excavated c.250m to the north of the site (TR 06 SW 242, TR 02926 61478). A cluster of isolated features consisting of a ditch, gully and pit, containing late Bronze Age/early Iron Age worked flint was found during the same phase of works c.350m to the east of the site (TR 06 SW 238, TR 03319 61060). Several isolated pottery sherds associated with this period were found in Abbey Fields c.850m to the north of the site (TR 06 SW 223, TR 026 619). A late Bronze Age to Iron Age flint scraper blade was found during field walking c.525m north-east of the site (MKE96856, TR 03501 61358).

- 2.2.8 Significant evidence for Iron Age settlement was found during excavations at Queen Elizabeth's School, predating the later Roman villa on the site. This evidence consisted of a series of ditches and postholes containing large quantities of pottery (TR 06 SW 270, TR 0204 6171). An Iron Age coin has also been recorded deriving from these investigations (MKE73663, TR 0210 6170). These remains fall into the Scheduled Area associated with St. Saviour's Abbey (DKE19070).
- 2.2.9 A late Iron Age to early Roman ditch and pit was found during an evaluation a short distance to the south of the scheduled area (TR 06 SW 317, TR 0203 6157; TR 06 SW 318, TR 0197 6156).
- 2.2.10 A small number of isolated Iron Age artefacts have been recovered from the Faversham area during the course of the late 19th and 20th century, although the exact location of the discovery is not known (TR 06 SW 34, TR 06 SW 39, TR 06 SW 69, TR 02 61).
- 2.2.11 A concentrated area of finds and features, consisting of gullies, enclosures, ditches and chalk foundations, were identified during the Abbey Fields evaluation to the north of the site, indicating multiple phase occupation from the late Iron Age into the Roman period (TR 06 SW 243, TR 02965 61423).
- 2.2.12 Several isolated finds and features attributed to the later Prehistoric period in general have been identified in the northwest part of the study area (TR 06 SW 274, TR 01960 61265; TR 06 SW 306, TR 0246 6181; TR 06 SW 236, TR 025 618).

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 Antiquarian records from the 19th century indicate that a chalk surface associated with Roman building material was found in the vicinity of the railway line that forms the northern site boundary. The precise location of this discovery was never fully recorded, with the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) suggesting the find spot maybe located to the north of the railway line, a short distance from the northern site boundary (TR 06 SW 246, TR 0297 6124). Modern reinterpretation of this evidence associates the building remains with a cropmark identified approximately 150m to the east of the site (TR 06 SW 23, TR 0311 6115). An Area of Archaeological Potential surrounding the theorised site of the building remains covers the north-eastern part of the site.
- 2.3.2 Two Roman villas have been excavated within the study area, one at Blacklands, c.850m to the northeast (TR 06 SW 212, TR 0373 6150), with the second villa complex located in Faversham c.900m to the northwest (TR 06 SW 41, TR 0208 6173). Faversham Roman villa falls into the Scheduled Area associated with St. Saviour's Abbey (DKE19070). A pair of silver finger rings of the 1st century AD were found close to the Scheduled Monument, c.800m north-west of the site (MKE96978, TR 022 617).
- 2.3.3 A cropmark identified 120m east of Faversham villa suggests further Roman buildings maybe present (TR 06 SW 75, TR 0222 6172).

- 2.3.4 The alignment of the Roman Road (Watling Street) from London to Canterbury runs on an approximate northwest-southeast direction in the southern part of the study area, c.850m from the site (TQ 86 SW 132, TQ 8047 6107). Despite the presence of the Roman road, the KHER does not contain any records relating to Roman finds or other evidence suggesting possible road side activity within the study area. An Area of Archaeological Potential covers the line of a possible Roman thoroughfare leading north from Watling Street and passing through the western tip of the site. However, there is no firm archaeological evidence for this road on the KHER.
- 2.3.5 A large pit containing Roman pottery was excavated c.400m to the northeast of the site (TR 06 SW 244, TR 0334 6144).
- 2.3.6 The KHER records multiple discoveries of isolated Roman building material and pottery within the study area to the northwest of the site (TR 06 SW 228, TR 022 615; TR 06 SW 1468, TR 02670 61629; TR 06 SW 211, TR 0271 6140; TR 06 SW 221, TR 027 614).

2.4 Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

- 2.4.1 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity within the study area is limited to the isolated recovery of a bridle fitting (MKE73137, TR 02170 61090) and poorly provenanced brooch (TR 06 SW 125, TR 02 61) in the western part of the study area.
- 2.4.2 Records contained within the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Open Domesday, 2016) indicated that at the time of the Conquest the settlement at Faversham contained 75 households, 30 villagers, 40 smallholders and 26 plough teams. The settlement held over 3000 acres of arable land, meadow, woodland, a mill and salthouses. Judging by later cartographic evidence, the focus of the settlement is likely to be present along the line of East Street/West Street, c.1km to the west of the site.
- 2.4.3 Evidence for a late medieval field system was found during an evaluation at Abbey Fields located approximately 150m east of the site (TR 06 SW 241, TR 03132 61235), with features associated with a possible contemporary farmstead found a further 250m to the east (TR 06 SW 237, TR 03307 61111).
- 2.4.4 The Benedictine Abbey of St Saviour's, located c.900m to the northwest of the site, was founded in 1148 by King Stephen. It was dissolved in 1538 and largely demolished soon after. Excavations in 1965 revealed extensive medieval building remains, including the chalk foundations associated with the abbey church, cloisters and other attached buildings (DKE19070, TR 06 SW 9, TR 02018 61715). Limited elements of the complex, such as the gatehouse, are still extant and located in proximity to Abbey Street. The scheduling details associated with the site primarily refer to the Medieval Abbey remains, although remains of a Late Iron Age settlement and Roman villa have been identified within the scheduled area.
- 2.4.5 The Abbey would have originally been located on the edge of the settlement with a significant number of buildings located within a sizable precinct. It is

likely that the Abbey complex would have dominated the eastern part of the town with extensive views over the agricultural landscape to the east. The modern setting of the monument has been significantly altered with the majority of the Abbey remains now below ground, with modern development surrounding the area on three sides. Due to the intervening topography and urban development, there is no intervisibility between St. Saviour's Scheduled Area and the site. The site itself does not contribute in any way to the significance of the scheduled monument.

- 2.4.6 Metal detecting in the eastern part of the study area has identified several late medieval pendants and a finger ring (MKE73361, TR 03500 61300; MKE73081, TR 03300 60800; MKE73157, TR 03300 60800).

2.5 Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 During the post-medieval period, the area of the site continued to lie within the agricultural hinterland of the village of Faversham.
- 2.5.2 In the early 1930s the site was purchased by the company British Fruit Limited who constructed a canning factory within the site boundary by 1932. The original buildings associated with the factory are identified as non-designated heritage assets on the KHER (TR 06 SW 208, TR 0276 6106). The factory complex ultimately became known as the Lady Dane Works, with the canning factory subsequently closing in the late 1970s and ownership passing to a furniture company.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.6.1 The general aims of the evaluation were:
- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site
 - To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
 - To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
 - To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits

2.7 Specific Aims of the Archaeological Work:

- 2.7.1 With reference to the South-East Research Framework, the archaeological works have the potential to address the following research priorities:
- Investigation of Iron Age settlement
 - Investigation of the late Iron Age/Roman transition
 - The relationship of villa and non-villa settlements in the Roman period
 - The investigation of monastic complexes and their hinterlands in the medieval period.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The evaluation involved the excavation of three 30m x 1.8m trenches and two 20m x 1.8m trenches as shown on Figure 2. Trenches were targeted in areas that would be impacted by the proposed development. They were also located away from the footprints of former buildings and taking the locations of live services into account (Figures 2 and 3).
- 3.1.2 Trench locations were scanned prior to the excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel. The trenches were located and levelled using a GPS and tied into the Ordnance Survey.
- 3.1.3 The demolition layer and subsequent modern made grounds were removed with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision, grading in spits of no more than 100mm at a time until the first geological horizon was reached.
- 3.1.4 All spoil was placed at least 0.5m away from the trench edges and separated between the upper demolition layer and further modern made ground.
- 3.1.5 All layers were recorded using standard ASE context sheets with colours recorded by visual inspection only. A digital photographic record was made of the trenches.
- 3.1.6 All recording and planning was conducted according to the methodology set out in the Specification (ASE 2018) and in accordance with the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a, b) and Kent County Council (KCC 2007).
- 3.1.7 Three sondages were excavated in trenches 1, 2 and 3 to a depth of between 1.8-2.2m to accurately confirm the natural geology and overlying layers of modern made ground.

3.2 The Site Archive

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

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	32
Context register	0
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	5

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
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 (Figure 3)

4.1 Trench 1

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
01/001	Layer	Destruction debris	0.3m	14.08-14.26
01/002	Layer	Modern Made Ground	0.2-0.22m	-
01/003	Layer	Natural (Thanet Sand Formation)	1.3m+	15.54-13.90

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 Trench 1 was excavated on a northwest-southeast alignment and measured 20m in length. A sondage was excavated in the northeast end of the trench to a depth of 2.2m.

4.1.2 The natural Thanet Sand Formation [1/003] was overlain by a modern made ground [1/002] comprising a dark brown clay with building debris throughout. The trench was sealed by destruction debris [1/001].

4.2 Trench 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
02/001	Layer	Destruction debris	0.22-0.3m	11.37-12.01
02/002	Layer	Modern Made Ground	0.09-0.13	-
02/003	Layer	Natural (Thanet Sand Formation)	1.5m+	10.00-11.4

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 2 was excavated on a north-south alignment and measured 30m in length. A sondage was excavated in the north end of the trench to a depth of 1.8m.

4.2.2 Natural Thanet Sand Formation [2/003] was recorded beneath a modern made ground [02/002], comprising a dark brown clay with building debris throughout. The trench was sealed by destruction debris [02/001].

4.3 Trench 3

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
03/001	Layer	Destruction debris	0.4-0.45m	13.35-11.04
03/002	Layer	Modern Made Ground	0.6-0.8m	-
03/003	Layer	Natural (Thanet Sand Formation)	1.2m+	10.35-11.83

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Trench 3 was excavated on an east-west alignment and measured 30m in

length. A sondage was excavated in the west end of the trench to a depth of 1.8m.

- 4.3.2 Natural Thanet Sand Formation [3/003] was recorded at the base of the trench. A small modern concrete footing was observed truncating the natural within the centre of the trench. Overlying the natural was a modern made ground [03/002], comprising a dark brown clay with building debris throughout. The trench was sealed by destruction debris [02/001].

4.4 Trench 4

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
04/001	Layer	Destruction debris	0.22-0.5m	10.23-10.25
04/002	Layer	Modern Made Ground	0.02-0.2m	-
04/003	Layer	Natural (Thanet Sand Formation)	0.01m+	9.70-10.04

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 Trench 4 was excavated on a north-south alignment and measured 20m in length.
- 4.4.2 The natural [4/003] was located at the base of the trench, truncated by a small modern concrete footing towards the centre. Overlying the natural was modern made ground [4/002] comprising a dark brown clay with building debris throughout. The trench was sealed by destruction debris [04/001].

4.5 Trench 5

Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
05/001	Layer	Destruction debris	0.6-1.05m	8.47-8.57
05/002	Layer	Modern Made Ground	0.22-0.33m	-
05/003	Layer	Builders sand	0.05m	-
05/004	Layer	Natural (Thanet Sand Formation)	0.01m+	7.31-7.89

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 Trench 5 was excavated northeast-southwest alignment and measured 30m in length.
- 4.5.2 Natural Thanet Sand Formation [5/004] was overlain by a thin layer of green-yellow sand [05/003] at the southwestern end of the trench. This was beneath a modern made ground [05/002], comprising dark brown clay with building debris throughout. The trench was sealed by destruction debris [05/001].

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 The trenches exhibited the same stratigraphic sequence throughout with natural directly overlaid by between 0.1m and 0.8m of modern made ground beneath 0.3m to 1.0m of demolition debris.
- 5.1.2 The natural geology consisted of a Thanet Sand Formation and was encountered at a maximum elevation of AOD 13.90m and at a maximum depth of AOD 7.31m.
- 5.1.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were uncovered during the work.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 Despite the fact that the trenches were targeted in areas away from former buildings, the evaluated areas had also been significantly impacted by modern groundworks which involved the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural geological layer (Thanet Sand Formation) and the deposition of modern made ground.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

- 5.3.1 The methodology, as set out in the Specification (ASE 2018) was successfully employed during the evaluation. The conditions on site were conducive to the confident and efficient identification and recording of the levels of truncation and subsequent layers of modern made ground. As such, it is considered that this archaeological evaluation successfully achieved its objective.
- 5.3.2 Due to the negative results of the evaluation, none of the specific research aims could be addressed.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 Disturbance was evident in all trenches, involving removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural and the deposition of up to three layers of modern made ground. Consequently, natural deposits were located directly beneath 0.4 and 1.3m of modern overburden. However, as might be expected the level of truncation was less in these areas than in other areas across site, beneath former buildings, where the Geoenvironmental Assessment recorded made ground to depths of 2.7m (Merebrook 2016).
- 5.4.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered but any archaeological remains that had been present on site would have been severely impacted by previous development.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Bellway Homes Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Archaeologist Simon Mason for his guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	-				
Site code	GRV18				
Project code	180063				
Planning reference	16/508643/FULL				
Site address	Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent				
District/Borough	Kent/Swale				
NGR (12 figures)	16/508643/FULL				
Geology	Thanet Sand Formation				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	05/02/2018				
Sponsor/client	Bellway Homes Ltd				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson				
Period summary					
					Modern
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent.</p> <p>The evaluation consisted of five trenches; three 30m in length and two 20m in length. The area in which the evaluation took place has been impacted significantly by modern groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural geological horizon (Thanet Sand Formation) and the deposition of up to three layers of modern made ground. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.</p>				
Museum/Accession No.	-				

OASIS ID: archaeol6-309712

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent.
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by MGJV to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent. The evaluation consisted of five trenches; three 30m in length and two 20m in length. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluation. The area in which the evaluation took place has been impacted significantly by modern groundworks resulting in the removal of any subsoil and topsoil, truncation of the natural geological horizon (Thanet Sand Formation) and the deposition of up to three layers of modern made ground.
Project dates	Start: 05-02-2018 End: 05-02-2018
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GRV18 - Sitecode
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	- None
Significant Finds	- None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SWALE FAVERSHAM An Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent
Postcode	ME13 8UJ
Study area	24721.6 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 268 6112 51.312551 0.908534 51 18 45 N 000 54 30 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 0m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	ASE
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Jake Wilson
Type of sponsor/funding body	client

Name of
sponsor/funding
body

Bellway Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists?

No

Digital Archive
recipient

Local Museum

Digital Media
available

"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive
recipient

Local Museum

Paper Media
available

"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Report"

Entered by

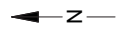
Jake Wilson (Tcrnjrw@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on

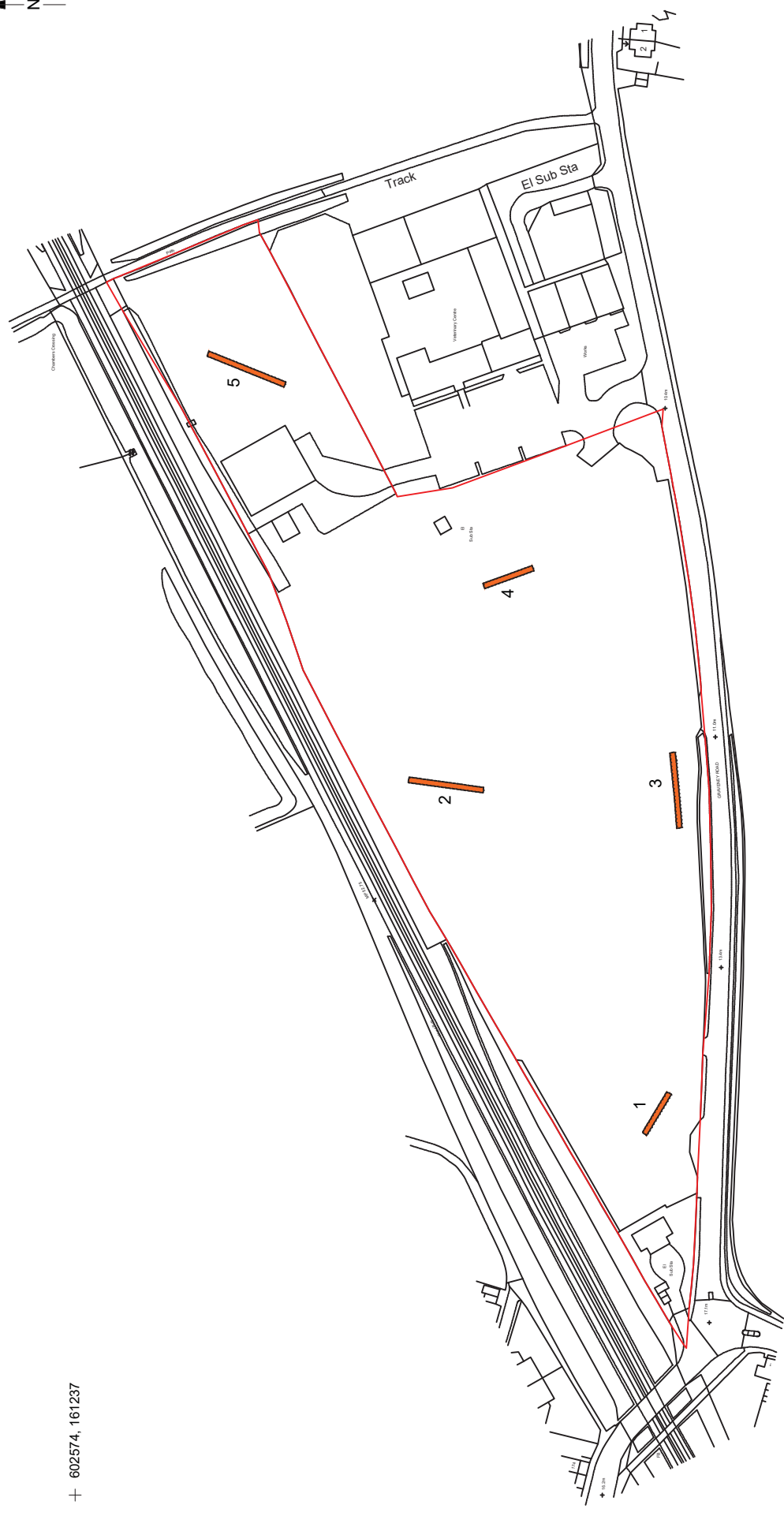
20 February 2018



© Archaeology South-East		Graveney Road, Faversham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160063	Feb 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2018069	Drawn by: AR		



+ 602574, 161237



+ 602892, 160982

Trench
The site

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© Archaeology South-East		Graveney Road, Faversham		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180063	Feb 2018	Trench plan		
Report Ref: 2018069	Drawn by: AR			



Trench 1, looking north west



Trench 1, looking north east



Trench 2, looking south



Trench 3, looking west



Trench 4, looking north



Trench 5, looking north east

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

