

BROOKWORTH HOMES LTD

THE PADDOCK, BASTED LANE, CROUCH, SEVENOAKS, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

MAY 2016



Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

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BROOKWORTH HOMES LTD

The Paddock, Crouch, Kent

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHIC AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) was commissioned by Brookworth Homes Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Paddock, Basted Lane, Crouch, Sevenoaks, Kent, (NGR: TQ 6171 5560). The watching brief was required as a fulfilment of a condition of planning consent for the demolition of the existing property followed by the construction of new properties, landscaping and associated services.

The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases with phase 1 being carried out to watch the removal of the foundations of an annexe, garage and a Bungalow. Phase 2 of the watching brief monitored the excavation of four plots in preparation for the construction of new houses. The archaeological monitoring recorded that no features predating modern disturbance associated with the demolished structures was seen and the area was devoid of any features or deposits of potential archaeological origin.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) thanks Brookworth Homes Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work. Also, WAA thank Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, at Kent Council for her timely help and assistance throughout.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thanks the site manager (Dean Noakes, and Trinity Civil Engineering Limited), for their help during this project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Mark Lawson who also wrote this report assisted by Ruby Neale and the finds assessment was undertaken by Sue Thompson. The project was managed by Jonathan Webster, who also edited this report and was responsible for the quality of the archaeological work undertaken.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 In April, 2016, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at The Paddock, Basted Lane, Crouch, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR: TQ 6171 5560) It was commissioned by Brookworth Homes Ltd who intends to build four new detached houses with associated services and access, for which a planning consent has been granted by Kent Council (planning reference: APP/H2265/W/15/3008864).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development lies within an area in which little archaeological work has been undertaken previously and as such it was considered that there was potential for hitherto unknown buried archaeological remains to be present. As a result of this, a condition was placed requiring an archaeological watching brief to take place during the intrusive works undertaken as part of the development.
- 1.1.3 A watching brief is defined as a programme of 'monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' (CIFA 2014a).

1.2 **Project Documentation**

- 1.2.1 The project conforms to advice provided by the archaeological planning advisor, Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, acting as the archaeological planning advisor on behalf of Kent County Council (Email: dated 07th December 2015). A WSI (WAA 2015) was then produced to provide a specific methodology based on the advice for a programme of archaeological mitigation implemented via a watching brief. This was approved by the archaeological planning advisor prior to the fieldwork taking place. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.2.2 This report outlines the work undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork assessment, and the results of this watching brief.



2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Standards and guidance

- 2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014a), the Specification for an archaeological watching brief at a site situated on Geoarchaeological deposits of Interest (KCC 2015), and in accordance with the WAA fieldwork manual (2012).
- 2.1.2 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014a) and the Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (CIfA 2014b).

2.2 **Documentary Research**

2.2.1 A rapid archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken as part of this scheme of works, the results of which are included in this report. This aims to set out the archaeological and historical background of the site, and provide a summary of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets in the area.

2.3 The Watching Brief

2.3.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with the current development, this comprised the excavation of three trenches covering the four building plots.

The general aims of these investigations were:

- allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find has been made before it is destroyed
- to provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find cannot be dealt with under the watching brief remit
- to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the proposed development site
- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance
- determine levels of disturbance to any archaeological deposits from plough damage/agricultural drainage/past building activities (or later building activities)



- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest within the areas to be disturbed by the current development
- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from the proposed development
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting.
- And specifically to:
- To investigate the potential Palaeolithic remains within the development area.
- 2.3.2 Deposits considered not to be significant were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of archaeological remains should they be present. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. Where potential archaeological remains were present the groundworks were subsequently cleaned by hand. All possible features were inspected but no archaeological remains were noted. All finds encountered were retained on site and returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WAA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site.
- 2.3.3 On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (WAA 2012). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):
 - unstratified material;
 - modern pottery;
 - material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.



- 2.3.4 All deposits and potential features were inspected for their palaeoenvironmental potential, however, none were deemed suitable and no environmental samples were taken.
- 2.3.5 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project specification, and the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited in a suitable repository.
- 2.3.6 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WAA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardela2-245408.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 The site is located at (TQ 6171 5560) and lies within a landscape of well dispersed detached houses with large gardens to the west of the centre of Crouch village. The development site is bounded to the south by the back fences of the houses to the north of Basted Lane. The site is also surrounded to north, east and west by residential residences, which are themselves bounded by farmland. The village of Crouch lies to the east of Sevenoaks and south of the M26. The ground is relatively flat on the eastern half of the site and gently slopes to the west on the western side and is approximately *c*.118m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum).
- 3.1.2 The site is approximately (6,980 m²) in size and is shaped like a large equilateral triangle centred around the current Paddock property with an access route entering the site from Basted Lane to the southwest. The site comprised of a single domestic property with a later annexe that has now been demolished along with a separate garage next to a second domestic property which has been retained allowing access to the proposed development site.
- 3.1.3 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as Sandstone with interbedded Limestone associated with the Hythe Formation, formed approximately 112 to 125 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period in an environment dominated by warm shallow seas. No overlying superficial geology has been mapped (BGS 2015). The natural substrate observed during the current phase



of works comprised of an orange sandy clay which is not consistent with the mapped geologies above.

3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1.4 A rapid desk-based assessment was produced as part of this project to summarise the known historical and archaeological background of the site and the surrounding landscape to a distance of 500m. The gazetteer of known archaeological events is provided in Appendix 2.
- 3.1.5 This report identified that there were no designated heritage assets within the site boundary, however there are a further 18 within the wider search area of 500km.
- 3.1.6 No heritage assets designated as scheduled ancient monuments are recorded within the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 3.1.7 No previous archaeological works have been undertaken within the development area.
- 3.1.8 **Prehistoric**: the recorded evidence for the prehistoric period in the area consists of two find spots containing Palaeolithic flints (assets 5 and 6). These are located to the south of the excavation area, one in the grounds of Crouch House and one in a field further south.
- 3.1.9 **Roman:** there is no known evidence for Roman activity in the vicinity.
- 3.1.10 **Medieval:** the presence of three 15th century farm houses suggests the hamlet was in existence by this period. Two of these houses, Clakkers Hall (asset 1) and Claygate House (asset4), are examples of Hall Houses typical of rural settlements in this period. All of these farmhouses lie to the south of Basted Lane with no archaeological evidence of any activity closer to the development area.
- 3.1.11 **Post-Medieval:** the growth of the village of Crouch appeared to be a slow process, with no more than a scattering of farmhouses appearing through the 17th and 18th centuries. The historic maps suggest that the post-medieval settlement was restricted to the area south of the development site, south of Basted Lane. There is no archaeological evidence of industrial activity in the area. The land north of Basted Lane, including the development area, appears to have been fields until the 20th century. Maps from 1930s show the beginnings of housing development to the east



of the Paddock, and by the 1960s a number of houses had been constructed to the north of Basted Lane just to the south of the Paddock.

4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently between the 07th March and 29th April 2016 in two main phases. Phase 1 monitored the removal of the foundations of an annexe, garage and bungalow whilst phase 2 monitored the excavations of the four plots required for the foundation bases of the new properties. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.1.2 The development groundworks required the excavation of three trenches covering the four building plots, the excavations largely consisted of the removal of topsoil and subsoil to a depth of up to 0.50m, exposing the natural substrate. No archaeological features were encountered in any trench, but some archaeological finds were recovered from the subsoil deposits.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 **Trench 1** was excavated 49.50m in length, 17.60m wide with topsoil (100) descending to a depth of 0.11m below the present ground level. Below the topsoil was a primary subsoil (101) that had a depth of 0.20m and may be a man-made layer brought in to the site to level the ground perhaps during an event of landscape gardening. The secondary subsoil (102) was 0.18m deep and sealed the natural substrate (103) which was excavated to a depth of 0.01m. Trench 1 was devoid of any modern or archaeological features.
- 4.2.2 Trench 2 measured 31.0m in length by 16.10m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.37m. The topsoil (200) measured 0.12m in depth and overlay a silty clay subsoil (201) that was 0.17m thick. The natural substrate (202) was excavated to a minimum depth of 0.01m and a maximum depth of 0.08m. Trench 2 was devoid of archaeological remains but did contain a number of modern features relating to the demolished residence, such as the footings for the Bungalow (203), a water pipe and the road (205) leading to the Bungalow, annexe and garage. The road (205) was excavated to a depth of 0.44m and a width of 3.10m. Context (205) comprised a Tarmacadam layer that sealed (206), a band of hard-core used as a foundation base for (205), this overlay (207) a bedding sand for the road construction that itself



- covered **(208)**, a clay layer below above the natural substrate **(202)**. The edge of the road had been packed by a clayey silt **(209)** on its north-eastern side, while the south western edge of the road was unexcavated.
- 4.2.3 **Trench 3** was 21.0m in length by 16.30m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.33m. The topsoil **(300)** was 0.12m in depth which overlay subsoil **(301)** that measured 0.20m thick, this directly covered the natural substrate **(302)** which was devoid of any archaeological or modern features.

5 FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A total of 12 artefacts, weighing 193g, were recovered from three trenches during the course of the watching brief at The Paddock, Crouch, Kent. All finds were recovered from subsoil deposits.
- 5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014), and Kent Museums.
- 5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Sue Thompson.
- 5.1.5 Quantification of finds is provided in Table 1.



Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Date	Comments
101	1	CBM	1	2	Post Med	
102	1	CBM	3	80	Post Med	
102	1	Ceramic	1	13	Medieval?	Unglazed body/base sherd
102	1	Ceramic	1	12	Medieval	Unglazed body sherd
102	1	Ceramic	1	1	Post Med	
201	2	Ceramic	1	45	Modern	White glazed earthernware
201	2	Ceramic	1	5	Modern	Glazed Tile
301	3	CBM	2	29	Post Med	
301	3	Ceramic	1	7	Post Med	Brown glazed

Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context

5.2 **Ceramic Building Material**

- 5.2.1 Six fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 111g, were recovered from subsoil deposits within the three trenches (Table 1). The larger fragments are generally in good condition with little signs of post depositional damage.
- 5.2.2 The largest fragments of CBM are of a hard sandy fabric and represent roof tiles. A minimum of three fabrics are present, all of which are likely to be post medieval in date.
- 5.2.3 No further analysis is necessary.

5.3 **Ceramics**

- 5.3.1 In total, six sherds of ceramics were recovered from the watching brief, weighing 83g (Table 1). The sherds were in good condition.
- 5.3.2 Three pottery sherds were collected from subsoil deposit **(102)**. Of these, one was a refined white earthernware of 19th/ 20th century date.
- 5.3.3 The remaining two sherds from **(102)** are potentially of medieval date (www.kentarchaeology.org.uk, McCarthy and Brooks 1988). Neither is glazed or decorated. One body sherd is a wheel thrown sandy fabric, oxidised to a light orange externally and internally, with a light grey core. The second is a handmade dark buff sandy fabric, possibly representing the sagging base of a vessel.
- 5.3.4 The two ceramic sherds recovered from **(201)** consist of one white glazed tile, and a curved fragment of a bathroom sink or bath. Both date to the late 20th century.
- 5.3.5 A single pottery sherd was recovered from **(301)** comprising red earthenware, glazed internally, probably from a large dish or platter. These wares were manufactured in



several areas of the country over a long period, and could date from the $17^{th} - 20^{th}$ century (Poole 1995).

5.3.6 No further analysis is warranted on the ceramic assemblage.

5.4 Statement of Potential

- 5.4.1 All of the finds recovered during the watching brief were collected from subsoil deposits. While the potential medieval pottery sherds of local interest, they are of limited archaeological significance. The post medieval material is of low potential significance.
- 5.4.2 No further work is considered necessary on this assemblage.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 **Interpretation**

6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the demolition of a dwelling, annexe and garage and the construction of four new detached houses. No archaeological features were present although a small quantity of artefactual material were recovered from the subsoil deposits. Whilst no features of archaeological origin were revealed the recovery of two possible medieval fragments does help to demonstrate that activity was present within the landscape as a whole. The fragments were relatively unbraided and it is not believed that they had been subjected to substantial post-depositional processes. As noted in the historic research, three 15th century houses are known within 500m to the south of the site and as such at present it is thought that these finds may represent stray fragments of refuse as opposed to deliberate manuring or deposition.



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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE PHASE 1

Context Number	Context Type	Area	Description
100	Deposit	Throughout site	Demolition layer
101	Deposit	Throughout site	Natural clay substrata
102	Deposit	Throughout site	Redeposited topsoil
103	Cut	Area 1	Cut for the garage and annexe wall foundation
104	Structure	Area 1	Concrete foundation for the garage and annexe
200	Deposit	Area 2	Topsoil
201	Deposit	Area 2	Silty sand
202	Deposit	Area 2	Subsoil
203	Structure	Area 2	Concrete foundation
204	Deposit	Area 2	Demolition debris

CONTEXT TABLE PHASE 2

Context Number	Context Type	Area	rea Description	
100	Deposit	Trench 1	Topsoil	
101	Deposit	Trench 1	Primary subsoil	
102	Deposit	Trench 1	Secondary subsoil	
103	Deposit	Trench 1	Natural clay substrata	
200	Deposit	Trench 2	Topsoil	
201	Deposit	Trench 2	Subsoil	
202	Deposit	Trench 2	Natural clay substrata	
203	Cut	Trench 2	Cut for the Bungalow footing	
204	Deposit	Trench 2	Demolition debris	
205	Deposit	Trench 2	Tarmacadam	
206	Deposit	Trench 2	Hard core	
207	Deposit	Trench 2	Layer of sand	
208	Deposit	Trench 2	Clay layer	
209	Deposit	Trench 2	Packing clay for the edge of the road	
300	Deposit	Trench 3	Topsoil	
301	Deposit	Trench 3	Subsoil	
302	Deposit	Trench 3	Natural clay substrata	



8 APPENDIX 2: GAZETTER OF HERITAGE ASSETS

Asset No.	Reference	Asset	Period	Grid Reference
1	HER TQ 65 NW	Clakkers Hall, a grade II* Listed hall-house	late 15 th / early 16 th	561252,155495
1	192	farmstead	century	301232,133493
2	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed Oast Houses, 30 yards south of	Post Medieval	561908,155177
_	193	Winfield farmhouse	1 ost Wedlevan	301300,133177
3	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed pair of cottages, 2 and 4 Platt	Early 19 th century	561827,155591
	166	Basted Lane		
4	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed Claygate House, a hall-house	15 th century	561222,155371
	231	farmhouse		
5	HER TQ 65 NW	Site of Palaeolithic flake finds	Palaeolithic	561448,155380
	58			
6	HER TQ 65 NW	Site of Palaeolithic flake finds	Palaeolithic	561612,155570
	57			
7	HER TQ NW	Grade II listed Crouch farmhouse, 18 th century	18 th century	561837,155830
	163	elevation to earlier framed structure		
8	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed farmhouse, Moorlands Cottage	15 th century	561860,155470
	160	C. I. III. I.	NA: LL A Oth	E64040 4EE246
9	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed Winfield Farmhouse, mid-late 18 th	Mid-late 18 th	561910,155216
10	222	Grade II listed Walnut Tree Cottage, 17 th century	century 17 th century	FC10F0 1FF310
10	HER TQ 65 NW 177	origins	17" century	561950,155210
11	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed High Crouch house, 1721	1721	561750,155550
11	208	Grade it listed High Crodell House, 1721	1/21	301730,133330
12	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed Winfield House, c. 1830-40	1830-40	561550,155580
	167	Grade ii iistea Wiiiileia Hoase, et 1650 To	1030 10	301330,133300
13	HER TQ 65 NW	Grade II listed Landway Farmhouse	18 th century	561280,155540
	198	,	,	,
14	HER MKE	Winfield Farm, a farmstead with a covered yard	18 th century	561900,155210
	84055	block		
15	HER MKE	Landway Farm, a farmstead with a covered yard	18 th century	561260,155530
	84057	block		
16	HER MKE	Claygate Cross Farm, a regular L-plan farmstead	19 th century	561220,155350
	88825			
17	HER TQ 65 NW	Oasthouse north of Crouch Farmhouse, shown on	Late 19 th century	561850,155940
	272	2 nd ed OS		
18	HER MKE	Outfarm south-west of Napps Farm, consisting of	19 th century	562050,155740
	88557	a field barn and no yard		



9 APPENDIX 3: PLATES



Plate 1; General shot of Trench 1. Two 1 metre scales. Looking north-north-east.



Plate 2; General shot of Trench 2, two 1 metre scales. Looking east.





Plate 3; Trench 2, section through road (205) with a 1 metre scale. Looking southeast.



Plate 4; General shot of Trench 3 looking north with two 1 metre scales.



10 FIGURES

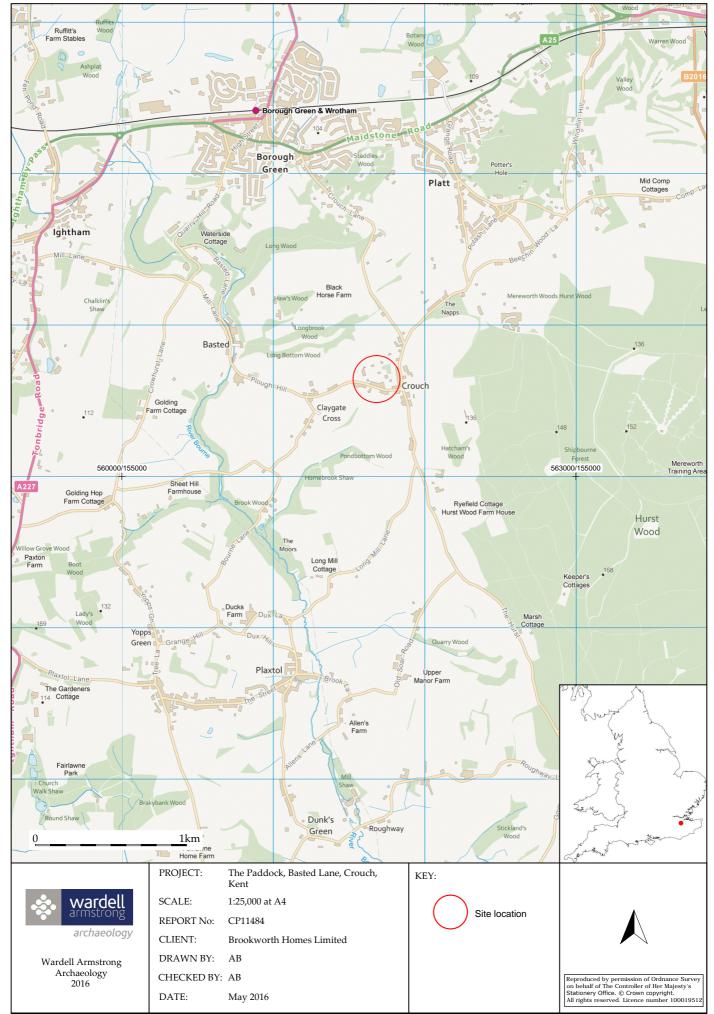


Figure 1: Site location.

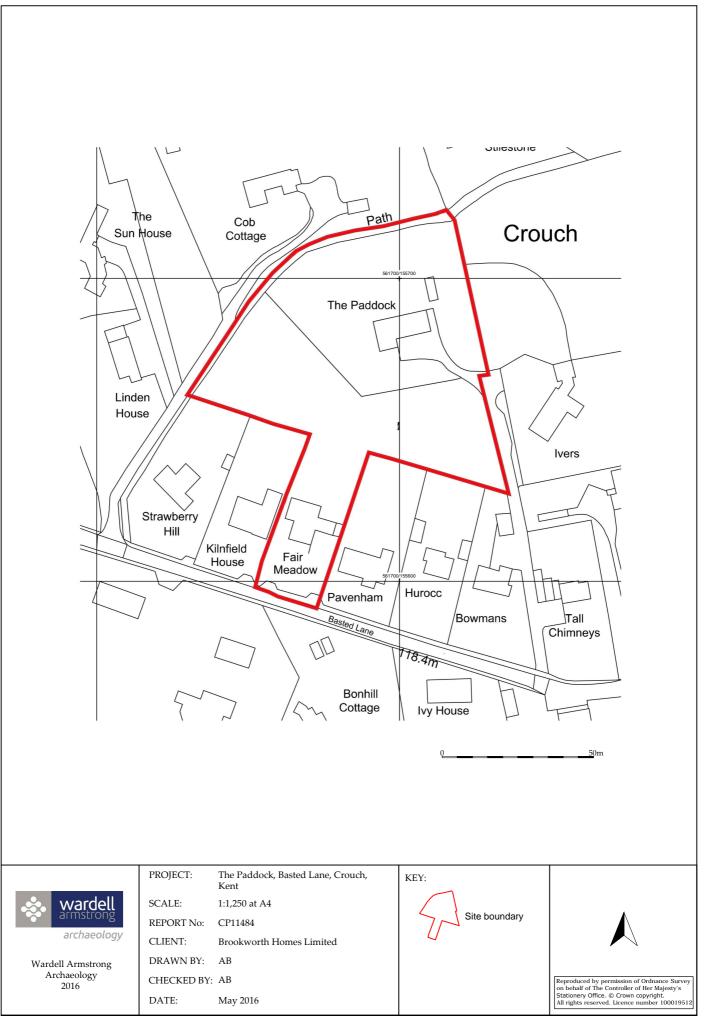


Figure 2: Detailed site location.

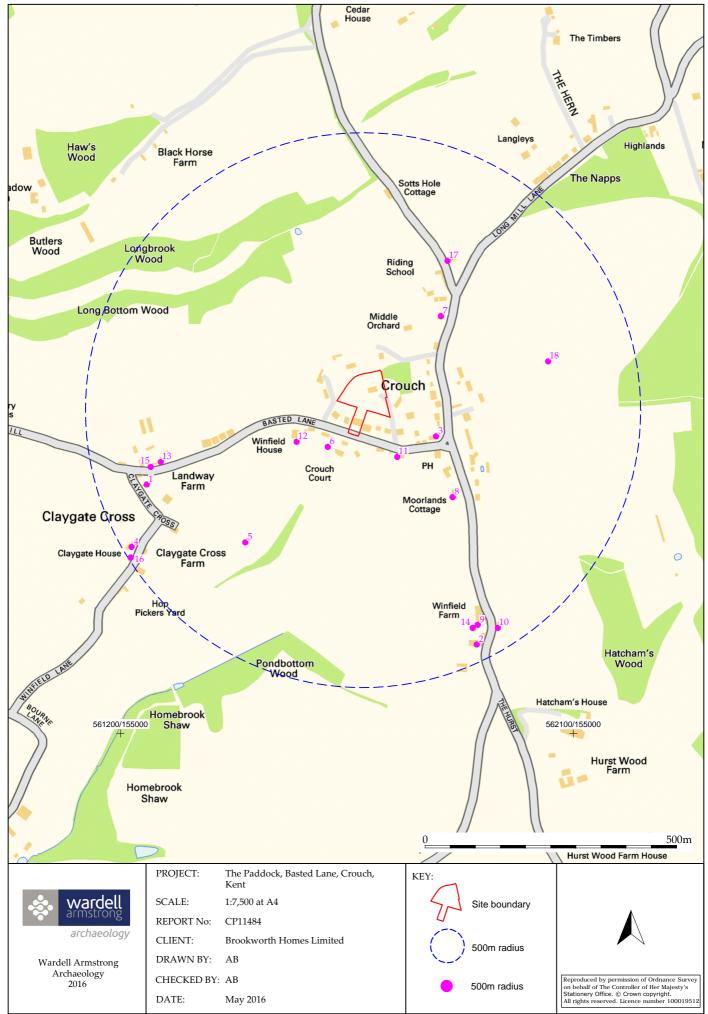


Figure 3: Location of heritage assets within a 500m radius of the site.

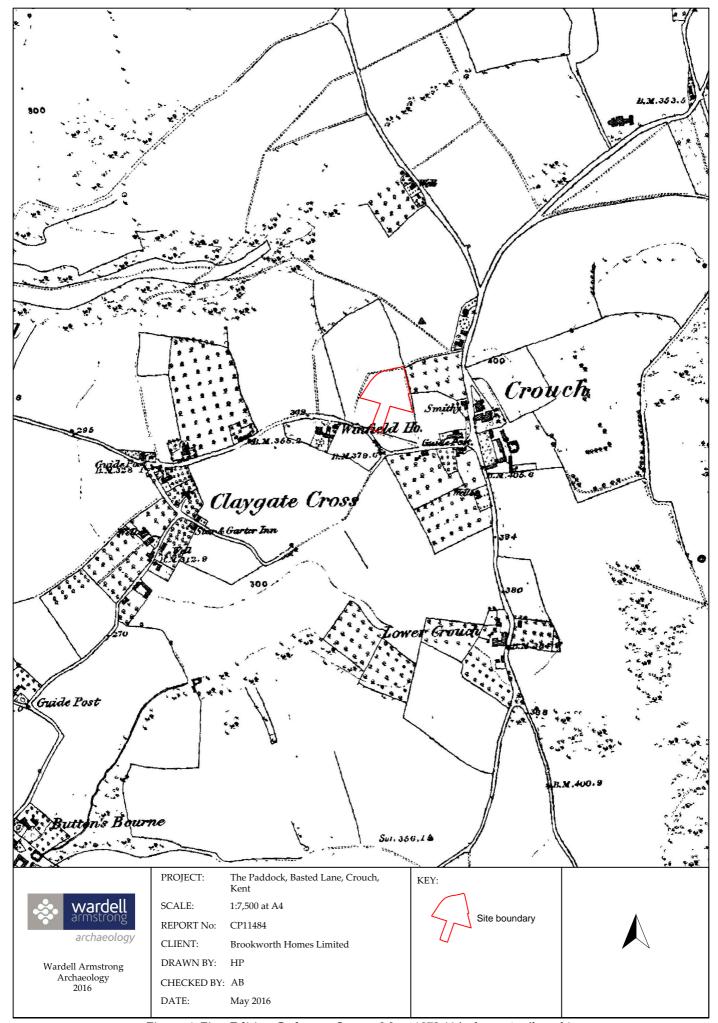


Figure 4: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1872 (6 inches to 1 mile scale).

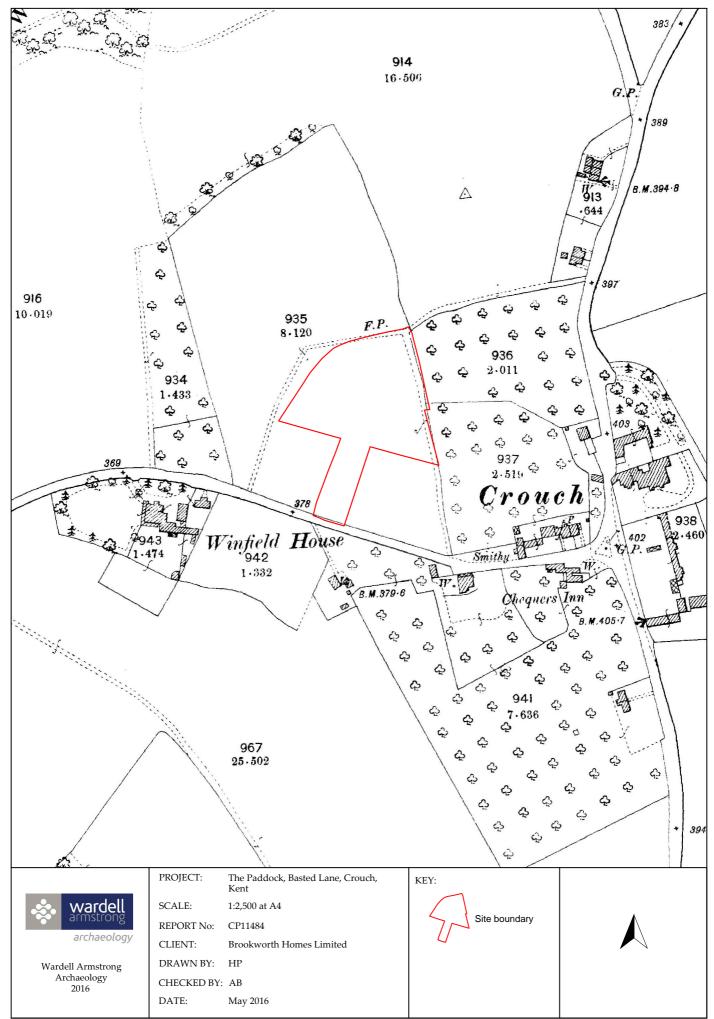


Figure 5: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).

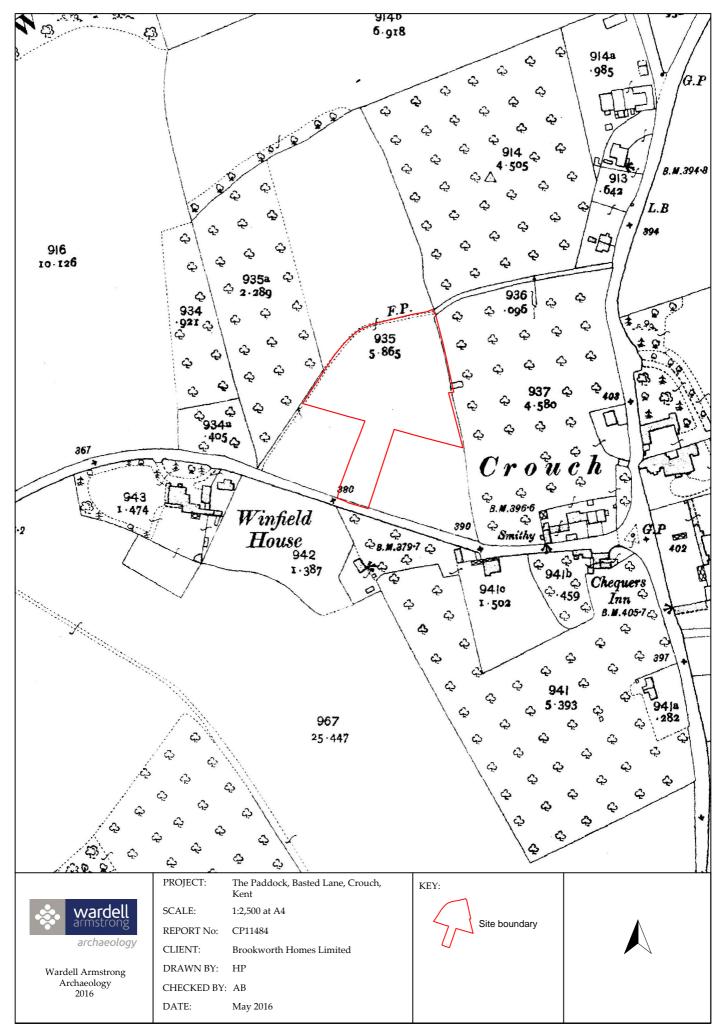


Figure 6: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1908 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).

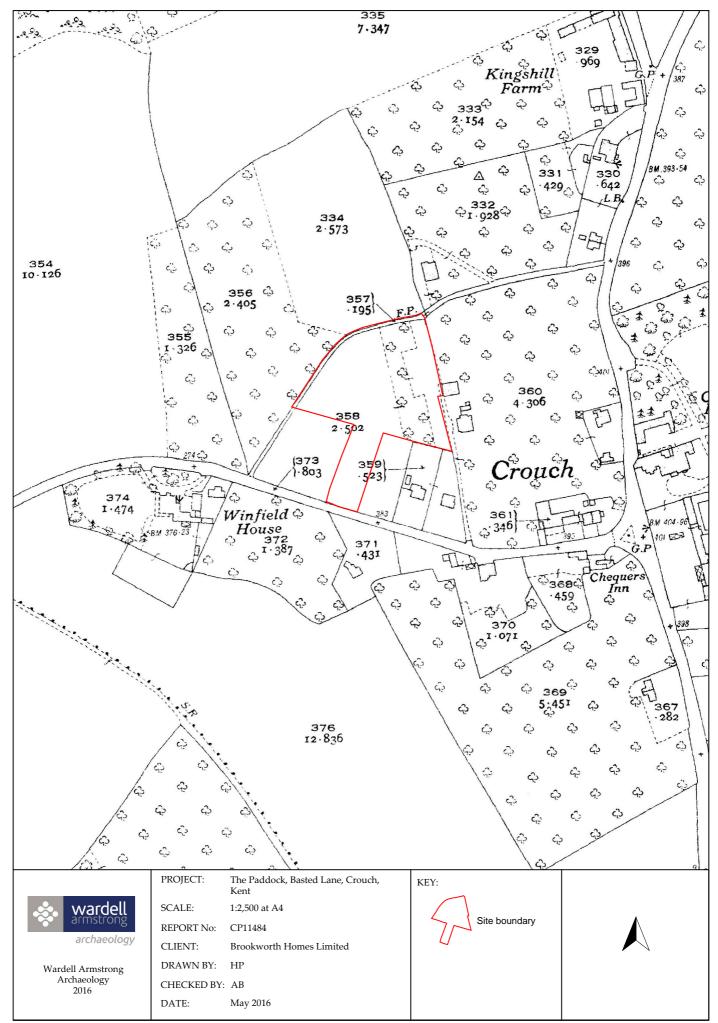


Figure 7: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1937 (25 inches to 1 mile scale).

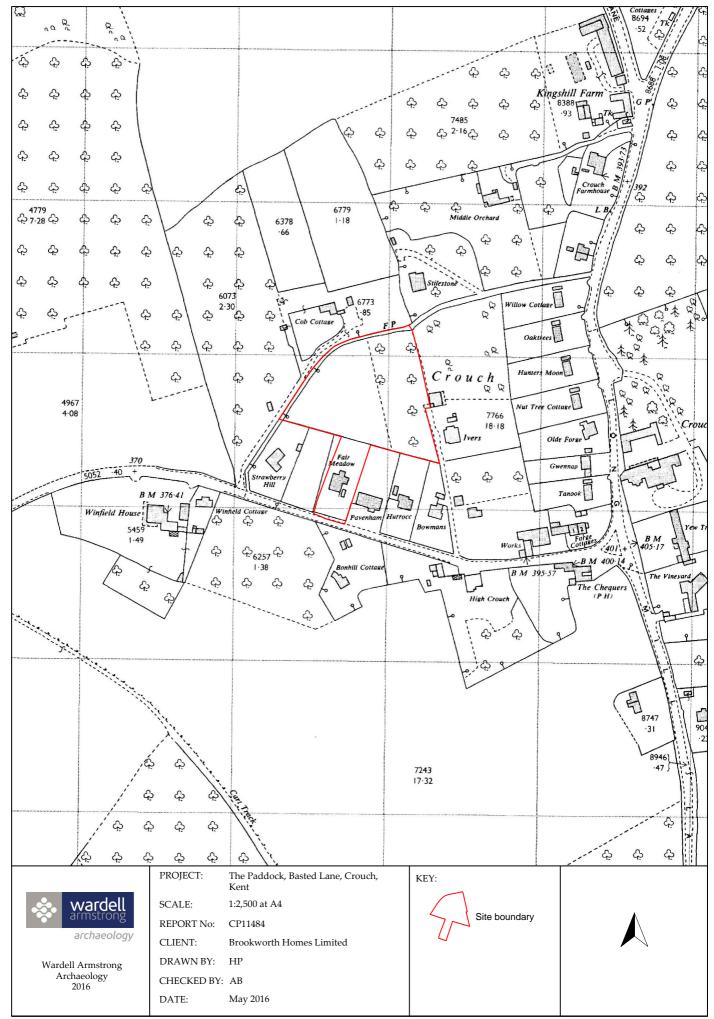


Figure 8: Ordnance Survey Map, 1963 (1:2500 scale).

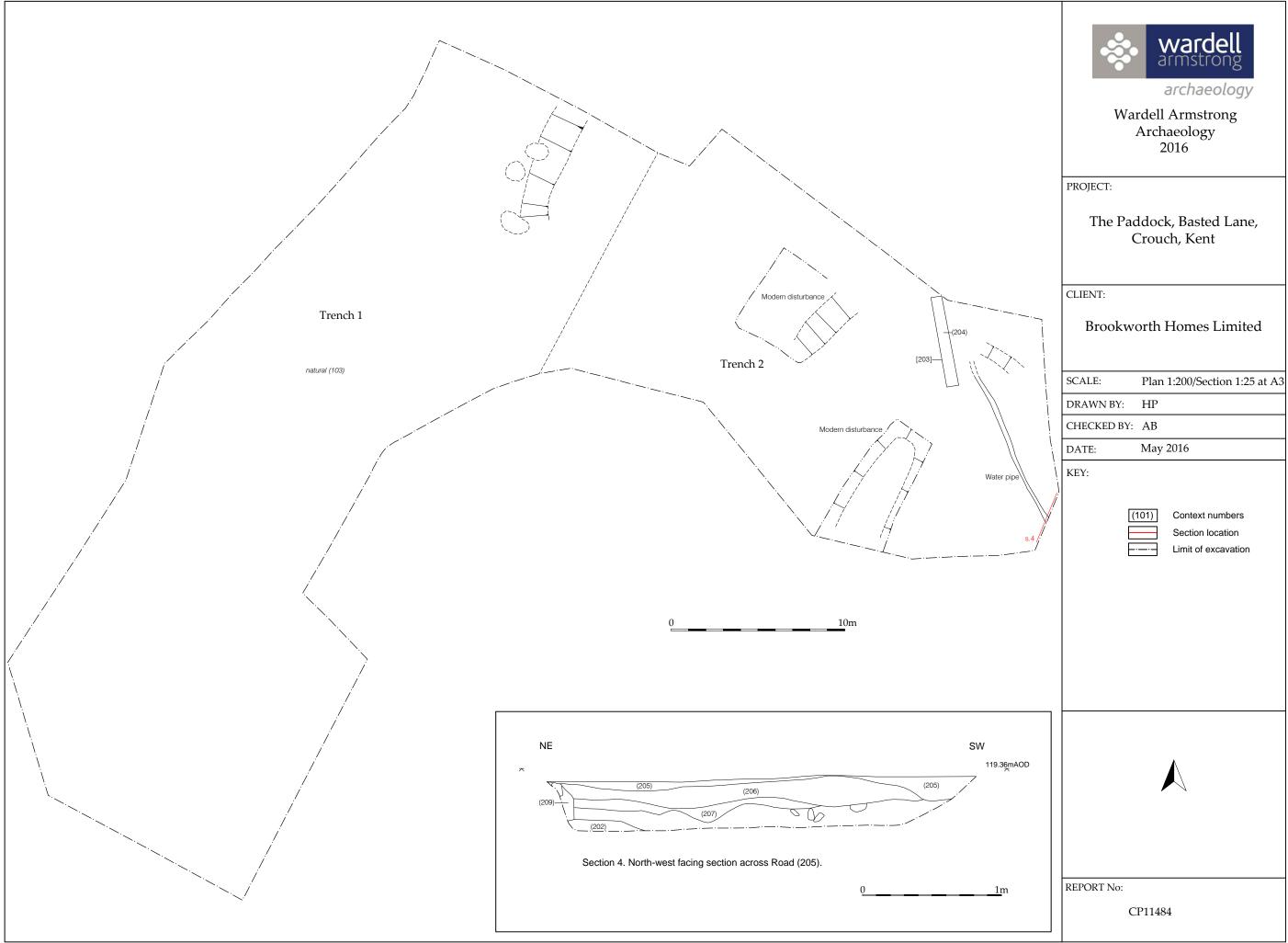


Figure 9: Trenches 1 and 2 plan, with Trench 2 section.

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