

Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, TN15 0NY

(Planning Ref: TM/13/01912/FL)



Archaeological Watching Brief Report

PRO Archaeology Services

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Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, TN15 ONY

(Planning Ref: TM/13/01912/FL)

(NGR 558927 154738)

PAS Ref: 14/36

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On the request of

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Issue and Revision Record

Revision	Date	Originator	Checker	Approver	Description
<i>Rev0</i>	<i>28/04/2014</i>	<i>P. Riccoboni</i>	<i>M. Sutton</i>	<i>W. Rogers</i>	<i>Draft issue to Wendy Rogers Kent CC Senior Planning Archaeologist</i>
<i>Rev02</i>	<i>16/05/2014</i>	<i>P. Riccoboni</i>	<i>M. Sutton</i>	<i>W. Rogers</i>	<i>Final issue capturing comments from Wendy Rogers</i>

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Non-technical summary

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) were commissioned by Tom Norris of Selected Plants to undertake a post-planning determination archaeological watching brief at Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent during ground works for a new nursery managers dwelling (TM/13/01912/FL). Four site visits were made during March and April 2014. The monitored ground reduction across the footprint of the new build, wall footing and service trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to high water levels and flooding during the works.

1. Introduction

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) were commissioned by Tom Norris of Selected Plants to undertake a post-planning determination archaeological watching brief at Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent during ground works for a new nursery managers dwelling (TM/13/01912/FL). The watching brief follows a heritage statement (WA 2009) which outlined the archaeological potential of the site and accompanied and informed the original planning application for this new development.

2. Site location

The site is located within the north-western corner of the nursery known as Selected Plants. This area was previously occupied by polytunnels and was subsequently used as open storage.

The site is situated approximately 1km to the north east of the historic centre of Ivy Hatch and approximately 1.5km to the south of Igtham (NGR 558927 154738) and is bound by Brookside cottages to the north, New Cottages to the south, Back Lane to the north east and Ismays Road to the west.

2.1 Geology

The site lies on an area covered by superficial alluvial clays, silts, sands and gravels. The underlying base geology is Atherfield Clay Formation (Aptian Age) generally yellowish brown to pale grey sandy mudstone throughout most of its outcrop. In the Weald, the formation is 18m thick in West Sussex and Surrey and thins eastward to about 10m around Sevenoaks and Maidstone.

The Aptian is an age in the geologic timescale or a stage in the stratigraphic column. It is a subdivision of the Early or Lower Cretaceous epoch or series and encompasses the time from 125.0 ± 1.0 Ma to 112.0 ± 1.0 Ma (million years ago), approximately.

3. Planning background

The site has planning permission for the erection of a nursery managers dwelling with nursery office (Planning Ref: TM/13/01912/FL).

The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has placed the following condition on the planning consent:

11. 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.

The archaeological monitoring will involve the inspection of all initial ground reduction followed by the excavation of new footing trenches with the recording of any features revealed, by the on-site archaeologist.

4. Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was described in a heritage statement prepared in 2012 which formed part of a package of documents submitted with the planning application. In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 128 the Historic Environment Record was consulted and heritage assets appropriately assessed within a defined 1km study area (WA 2012).

There are no archaeological sites, monuments or artefacts recorded by English Heritage or Kent County Council within the boundary of the site.

Several flint artefact assemblages across the area have been recorded on the Kent HER, with five find spots dating to the Palaeolithic period (within a 1km study area), the closest find just 100m to the south west of the site (MKE411). Mesolithic and Neolithic flint implements have also been recorded within the study area, with some of the finds consisting of axeheads, scrapers, picks and arrowheads. The distribution of flint finds across the locality is significant and suggests at the very least transient seasonal human activity across the general area during the prehistoric period (WA 2012).

There are three Bronze Age tumuli (burial mounds) within the study area. Other findspots have been recorded from the Bronze Age including a cup (MKE388) 250m to the north-west of the site and a decorated early Bronze Age beaker (MKE251), discovered on Ightham

Common, 870m to the west of the site boundary. Further cist burials are thought to have existed on Ightham common before the ground was re-used for cultivation in 1857.

Two Romano-British finds have been recorded within the study area, a cremation urn 540m to the south west of the site (MKE 389) and a probable burial group 320m to the south of the site (MKE394).

At present there are no recorded locations of any Saxon or medieval archaeological remains within the site boundary. Two listed buildings or medieval date are known within the study area, the grade II listed Ivors (MKE36596) and the grade II listed Gibbon's Place (MKE36030), which are 930m to the north east.

Historic map regression has shown the site to have been in agricultural use from at least the tithe survey of 1839. The site was a green field until it became a Nursery as shown on the 1984-92 OS map (1: 10000).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

A small number of archaeological investigations have been undertaken within the study area (1km of the site), two of which were undertaken by PRO Archaeology Services (PAS). A watching Brief undertaken at Planet Plants 330m to the east of the site revealed no archaeological features or finds during excavation of 15 Stanchion base pits as part of a replacement agricultural building to provide a potting shed, office and storage areas (PAS 2010).

PAS also conducted a watching brief at Hidden Cottage, High Cross Road, Ivy Hatch (PAS 2009), but no significant archaeological remains were discovered.

PAS has undertaken an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation on land at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, St Mary's Platt which is c.3km to the east of the site. The excavations revealed remains of a structure, survived as gullies and postholes. The structure was probably associated with the known pottery Kiln located approximately 10m to the north of the site, excavated during the 1960's, and may have acted as a drying shed or for other storage purposes (PAS 2011). The site records and finds have been archived at Maidstone Museum.

5. Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological investigation are to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains destroyed or damaged as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks for this development.

Specific aims were to:

- To clarify the nature of deposits and assess the potential for prehistoric remains from the Palaeolithic to the end of the prehistoric period.

- To clarify the presence of Roman activity associated with possible settlement, and cremation burials.

6. Methodology

PRO Archaeology monitored the excavations for all new groundworks, including the initial ground reduction over the footprint of the new build and the service trenches. Excavation was undertaken using a flat bladed bucket in a single direction. Machine excavation ceased to allow the remains to be investigated further (where appropriate). Special regard was made to any buried deposits which may have contained Palaeolithic (or later) artefacts.

6.1 Recording

All recording points were accurately tied into the National Grid and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.

Plans indicating the location of all wall footing trenches were drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan. An overall site plan was maintained at a scale of 1:100.

Sections were drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

All encountered contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the stratigraphy was maintained as appropriate.

No features were encountered for excavation.

The site records will be professionally archiving with Maidstone museum.

7. Results

The general stratigraphy recorded within the trenches consisted of the following layers (earliest to latest). The natural substrate was encountered at the base of the trenches and was composed of firm mid orange clay silt with occasional grit throughout (04). Overlying this was 0.15m thick yellowish orange natural clay sand with fine grit (03). This was overlain by 0.20m thick mid blue grey sticky soft clay silt (02) with occasional debris from the garden centre included. The latest deposit was c.0.30m thick loosely compacted organic dark grey brown to black topsoil (01). This deposit had modern inclusions throughout such as modern tile and plant pot fragments.

There were no features of archaeological interest encountered during the ground works.

7.1 Reliability of Results

The watching brief was conducted during a period of wet weather. The site was saturated with water from a combination of burst overflow pipe coupled with heavy rain. This meant the trenches were unsafe to enter particularly as the sides of the trenches were often seen collapsing. All observations were made a safe distance from the top of the trenches.

8. The Finds

Seven fragments of flint were recovered from the topsoil (01) during the initial topsoil stripping but on closer inspection during post-excavation assessment they were considered to have not been worked. One fragment of post-medieval tile was also recovered from deposit (01) along with some fragments of transfer printed blue and white china (none retained for archive). Modern plant pot fragments were seen within (02), and were not retained.

9. Discussion

The watching brief do not reveal any archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to high water levels and the trenches were liable to collapse, making them unsafe to enter.

The stratigraphic sequence recorded in the trenches was simple consisting of subsoil and topsoil both with modern finds, overlying superficial clay, silt, sands and gravels with no finds.

The modern finds within both the subsoil and the topsoil suggests that both deposits have been reworked in the recent past, perhaps during planting and gardening activities at the nursery.

Although the groundworks did not reveal any archaeological features or finds, it is considered there is still potential for the recovery of prehistoric remains in the general area. Prehistoric flint tools from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic period have been found close to the site which suggests, at the very least, transient seasonal human activity during the prehistoric period.

10. References

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999 *Code of Conduct*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999a *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

United Kingdom Institute of Conservation 1990 *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) 2009 *An archaeological watching brief at Hidden Cottage, High Cross Road, Ightham, Kent* Unpub Doc. Author: Riccoboni, P 2009 Report No: 095001.

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) 2010 *An archaeological watching brief at Planet Plants, Back Lane, Ightham, Kent* Unpub Doc. Author Riccoboni, P 2010 Report No: 095002.

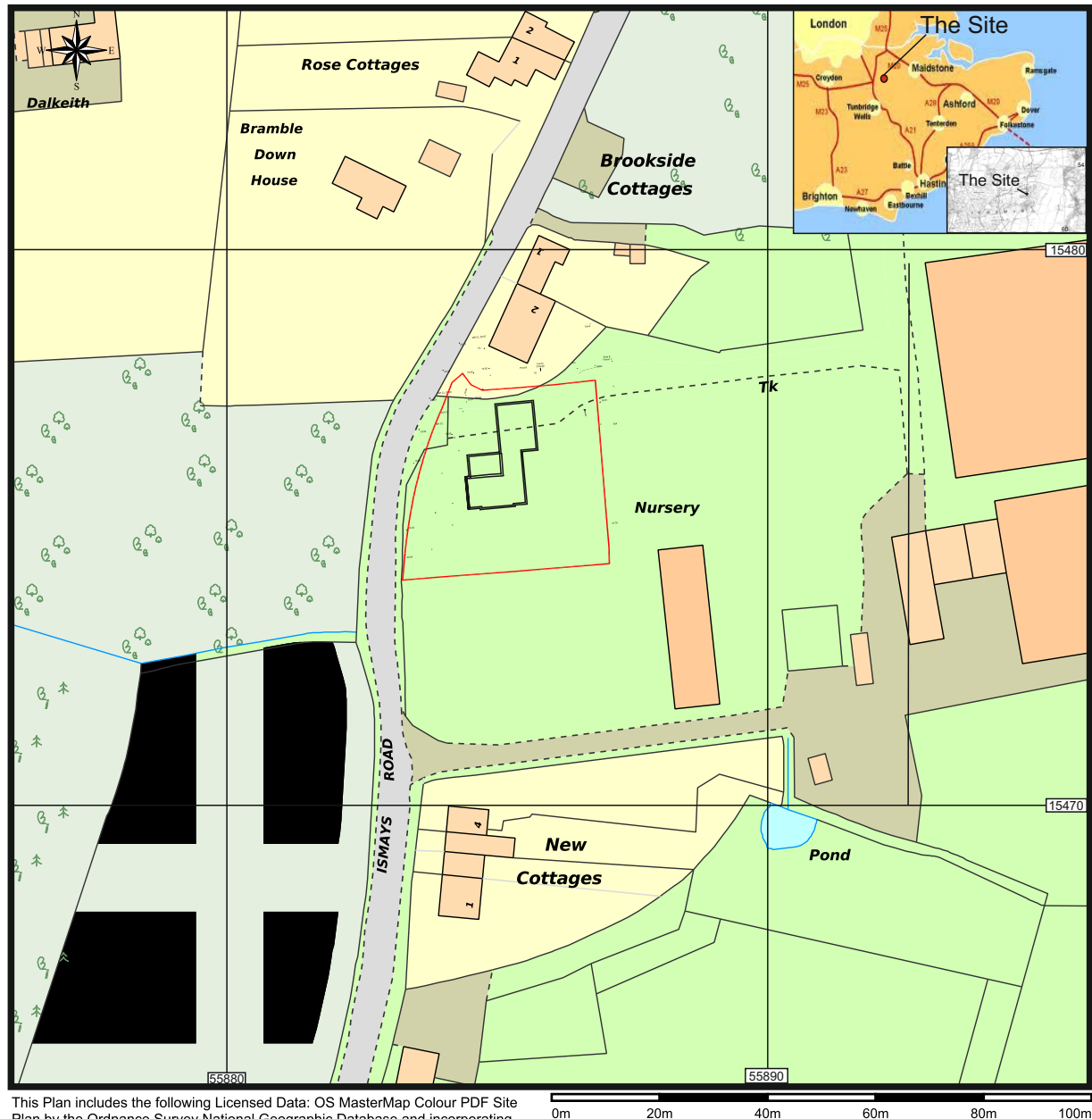
PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) 2010 *An archaeological evaluation at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent* Author Paul Riccoboni

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) 2011 *An archaeological watching brief at Tudor Barn, Long Mill Lane, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent* Author Paul Riccoboni

PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) 2014 *Selected Plants Nursery, Ismays Rd, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0NY; Intensive Watching Brief; Written Scheme of Investigation.* Unpub PAS Doc. 14/36. Author Paul Riccoboni

Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2012 *Selected Plants, Ismays Rd, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent: Heritage Statement.*

Selected Plants, Ismays Rd, Ivy Hatch, Kent

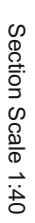
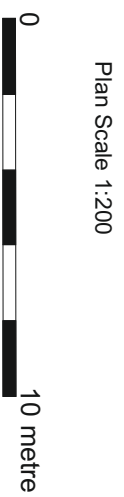


Scale: 1:1250, paper size: A4

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Site Location

Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Kent **PAS**®



Job Title:

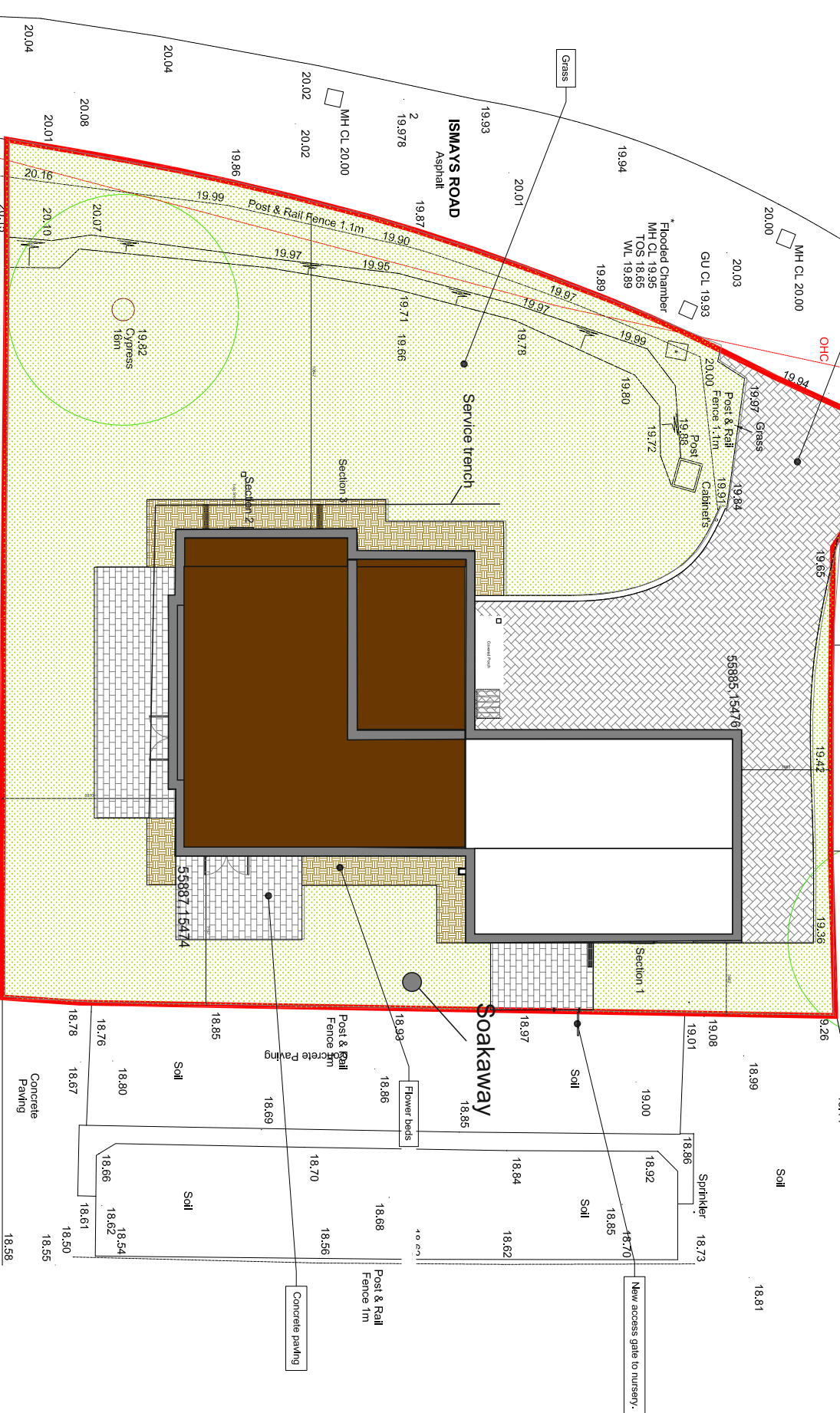
Mr Tom Norris

Drawing Title:
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

Scale: Date: Drawn:

Drawn Number:	Printed: 23.04.2013
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13-034(06)001 rev:-



Appendix A: Context Inventory

Context No	Type/deposit/cut/masonry	Description	Depth (m)	Interpretation	Height (m) AOD (top)
01	Deposit	Dark greyish brown to black silty clay occasional grit	0.25-0.30	Topsoil	149m
02	Deposit	mid blue grey sticky soft clay silt	0.20	Subsoil	148.80
03	Deposit	Mid yellow orange natural clay sand with fine grit.	0.15	Natural	148.65
04	Deposit	firm mid orange clay silt with occasional firm grit throughout	0.90m (minimum thickness)	Natural	148.35

Appendix B: Selected Site Photos



Photo 1: View east across site during initial topsoil stripping over foot print of new build



Photo 2: View west during excavation of footing trenches with saturated ground visible



Photo 3 View east across site showing areas affected by high water levels



Photo 4: east facing west section of N-S footing trench



Photo 5 View of N-S footing trench

Appendix C: OASIS Summary record

OASIS ID - proarcha1-177786

Versions					
View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date	
View 1	1	Paul Riccoboni	info@archaeologypro.com	27 April 2014	
Completed sections in current version					
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1	
Validated sections in current version					
Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications	
No	No	No	No	0/1	
File submission and form progress					
Grey literature report submitted?		No	Grey literature report filename/s		
Boundary file submitted?		No	Boundary filename		
HER signed off?			NMR signed off?		

Appendix D: Kent HER Summary Form

Site Name: Selected Plants, Ivy Hatch, Kent		
Site Address: Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Kent TN15 ONY		
Summary of discoveries: NONE		
District/Unitary: Tonbridge and Malling	Parish: Igtham	
Period(s): NONE		
NGR (centre of site to nearest 1m): 558856, 154757 (NB if large or linear site give multiple NGRs)		
Type of archaeological work (delete) Evaluation: Watching Brief Field Walking Documentary study Building recording Earthwork survey Excavation: Geophysical Survey Field Survey Geoarchaeological investigation		
Date of fieldwork (dd/mm/yy) From: 7th April 2014 To: 15th April 2014		
Unit/contractor undertaking recording: PRO Archaeology Services		
Geology: Alluvial Sands, silts, and gravels		
Title and author of accompanying report: Mr Paul M Riccoboni BA MIfA		
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate) <i>PRO Archaeology Services (PAS) were commissioned by Tom Norris of Selected Plants to undertake a post-planning determination archaeological watching brief at Selected Plants, Ismays Road, Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent during ground works for a new nursery managers dwelling (TM/13/01912/FL). Four site visits were made during March and April 2014. The monitored ground reduction across the footprint of the new build, wall footing and service trenches did not reveal any archaeological features or finds. The site was subject to high water levels and flooding during the works.</i> <div style="text-align: right;">(cont on attached sheet)</div>		
Location of archive/finds: Paper Archive to be deposited at Maidstone Museum		
Contact at Unit: Paul Riccoboni	Date: 27/04/2014	