

Ingress Park (Parklands East), Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

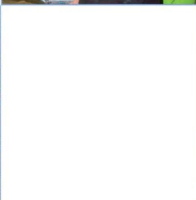
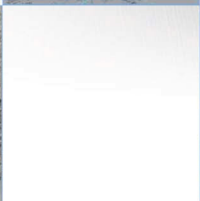
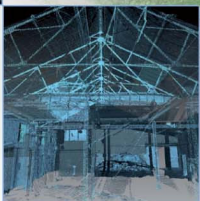
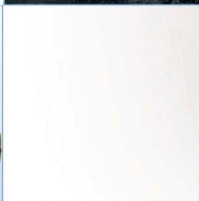
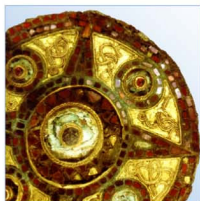
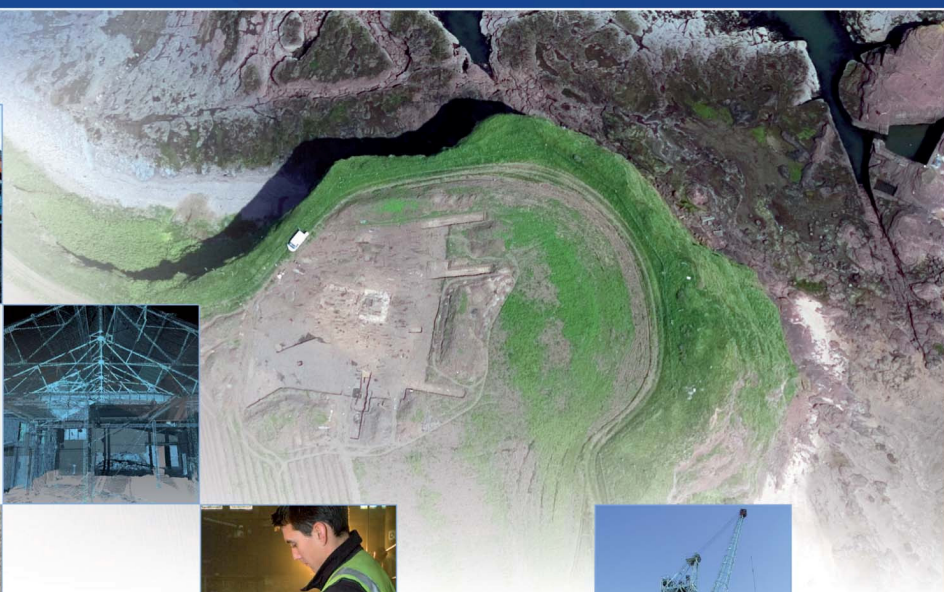
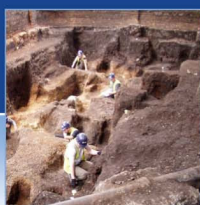
Planning Application Number: DA/98/00664 & 09/01427/FUL

National Grid Reference Number:

AOC Project Number: 30784

Site Code: ING 10

Date: September 2010



Ingress Park (Parklands East), Kent: An Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Circle 25 design & Planning 25 St John's Road Polegate East Sussex BN26 5BN
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AOC Project No.:	30784
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Date of Report:	September 2010

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Draft/ Final Report Stage: Draft

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Contents

	Page
1. Introduction.....	1
2 Planning Background	1
3 Geology and Topography	1
4 Archaeological and Historical Background	1
5 Aims of the Investigation.....	3
6 Methodology	4
7 Results	5
8 Conclusions	5
9 Bibliography.....	6
Appendix A – Oasis Form.....	10

List of Illustrations

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Detailed Site Location Plan

Non-Technical Summary

On the 9th September 2010, AOC Archaeology made a visit to Ingress Park (Parklands East) in order to assess the probability that the area of development had been rendered archaeologically sterile by previous landscaping and formation of made ground.

During the course of the visit it was clearly apparent that the area of development has been substantially reduced below the former ground level; which could still be seen in section against the eastern edge of the site. The observed reduction in level was c. 2m. Since this reduction, the site has been terraced to provide a flat surface for development. This terracing has entailed the addition of made ground; this made ground is c. 2m where observed in the central and southern section of the site but will be considerably more in the northern half of the site as the land falls away towards the River Thames.

No archaeological activity was observed during the visit and it is concluded that all surface archaeological remains have been removed by previous cut and fill of the area and that any alluvium is now buried beneath in excess of 3m of made ground.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document is a report on the results from an archaeological watching brief at Ingress Park (Parklands East), Kent (Figures 1).
- 1.2 The site is at National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 5950 7550 and forms the central eastern edge of the Ingress Park development. The area is roughly triangular in shape and c. 20,000 m² in area; the site is bounded to the north by Ingress Park Avenue and to the east by the land known as Blackduck Marsh/Swanscombe Peninsular West (Figure 2). Previous residential developments in Ingress Park form the southern and western boundaries.
- 1.3 The site is currently waste ground and has previously been within the area of paper mills that have been demolished. The natural topography was reduced in level to construct the paper mills and has subsequently been raised again by the addition of made ground.
- 1.4 The development comprises the erection of 50 new residential properties with a associated access, gardens and landscaping.

2 Planning Background

- 2.1 The local planning authority is Dartford Borough Council. Archaeological advice to the council is provided by Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council.
- 2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (AOC 2007) was undertaken for the entire Ingress Park Development Area, which includes Parklands East. The desk-based assessment identified that Ingress Park lies in an area which has potential for Palaeolithic remains being preserved within the Thames Gravels. The assessment also identified that the area lies in an area of former paper mills.
- 2.3 Planning permission to undertake this part of the Ingress Park Development was granted in June 2010 (Ref. No.: DA/98/006664). In line with the provisions of Planning Policy Statement (PPS5), Planning for the Historic Environment, an archaeological condition was attached to this planning permission requiring that a scheme of archaeological investigation was implemented.
- 2.4 This document records the result of a Watching Brief undertaken during the preparatory works undertaken on the site.

3 Geology and Topography

- 3.1 According to current geological mapping (British Geological Survey 1998) this area contains part of the Boyn Hill/ Orsett Heath Pleistocene formation. This formation is preserved on the south side of the Lower Thames as an intermittent east–west trending band from Dartford Heath through Dartford, Stone, Greenhithe and Swanscombe to Northfleet. The deposits in the formation consist of a sequence of predominantly fluvial loam, sand and gravel units laid down by the ancient Thames in the post-Anglian interglacial period between c. 430,000 and 350,000 years BP (Before Present). These are overlain in places by younger colluvial and solifluction deposits, cutting down through them and filling northward-trending dry valleys and minor tributaries, which sometimes also contain their own systems of post-Boyn Hill/ Orsett Heath fluvial deposits.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.0 The following archaeological and historical summary is taken from the Phase 4 Desk Based Assessment for Ingress Park (AOC 2007).
- 4.1 **The Prehistoric Period (c. 500,000 BC – AD 43)**

- 4.1.1 The Boyn Hill/Orsett Heath formation is rich in significant Palaeolithic archaeological remains, with quarrying activity at numerous locations having produced artefacts, faunal remains and other biological evidence relating to climate and environment. There are several major sites in the immediate vicinity of Ingress Abbey, the most important of which are Barnfield Pit, the Globe Pit and Dierden's Yard
- 4.1.2 Palaeolithic handaxe has been found at the Ingress Abbey site itself, by the collector Henry Stopes, whose collection is held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Stopes' catalogue (entry no. 751) records a find "in Embleton's garden at Ingress Abbey, Old Garden". This specimen is small, pointed and with a thick, crudely worked butt, typical of handaxes from the Swanscombe Middle gravels.

4.2 The Roman Period (AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.2.1 There have been surprisingly few Roman villas recorded in east Kent, considering the wealth of agricultural resources available in the area. There are a number of Roman sites within the vicinity of Ingress Abbey: Two parallel ditches were excavated in 1999 in advance of the development of Ingress Park for housing, and these are likely to have bound a settlement, either military or domestic in character. Roman building material from the ditches indicated that there had been a substantial building in the vicinity. Further Roman remains include a Roman burial found in the 19th century, probably in the quarry to the north of the Lodge at Ingress Abbey, and a deneshole or ritual shaft, found in the nineteenth century in the area to the south east of the application site. This contained large quantities of animal bone, Roman pottery and human skeletal remains. The remains of another Roman burial have been found immediately to the south.

4.3 The Early Medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066)

- 4.3.1 The name Swanscombe may relate to the medieval Viking origins; called 'Svinescamp' in Domesday meaning the camp of Sweyn Forkbeard, the Danish King, who ruled England for a short time at the end of 1013 AD. The Thames Estuary was a major invasion route for the Vikings and the Swanscombe peninsular would have been an attractive site for landing and settlement. By contrast, Wallenberg suggests the name derives from Old English "swan" (or "swineherd") and "camp" (or "field") (Wallenberg 1931).

4.4 Medieval (AD 1066 – AD 1536) Period

- 4.4.1 'Ingress' was first mentioned in 1363 when Edward III founded Dartford Priory and endowed it with a farm called 'Ingryce' and a ferry at Greenhithe. It remained with the priory until the suppression of religious houses in 1538. References to the farm, chalk quarrying and ferrying and lime firing exist for this period.
- 4.4.2 Also in 1363, chalk quarried from 'Greenhuth' was used for repairs to Hadleigh Castle in Essex, and in 1477 there is reference to chalk from Greenhithe being fired for lime to be used in the repairs to the London Wall between Aldgate, Cripplegate and Aldersgate.
- 4.4.3 By 1450 the nuns of Dartford Priory had given up farming at "Ingryce" and later let the farm, a ferry, and chalk cliffs known as Downe Cliffs to a Robert Meriel of Swanscombe for a yearly rental of £10).
- 4.4.4 Unfortunately, no more detailed information survives about activity of this date in the area, or how it may have manifest itself by way of buildings or structures. The export of chalk and lime from the immediate vicinity, however, would indicate the presence of wharves and jetties for the loading of the material, at the very least.

4.5 The Post-Medieval (AD 1536 – AD 1900) and Modern (AD 1900 – Present) Periods

- 4.5.1 After the Henrician suppression of the Monasteries, the estate came into the hands of the crown, and it was granted by the King to John Bere of Dartford, including the ferry which was still in operation. In 1562, Queen Elizabeth granted it jointly to John Bere and Sir Edward Darbyshire. A reference to a 'Mansion', in 1649, is the first indication of a building of any considerable size at Ingress, but no information regarding its exact location, construction or form has been found. This reference also mentions lime-kilns on the site, indicating that processing as well as quarrying of the chalk was taking place.
- 4.5.2 It is possible that the mansion also had some areas of elaborate grounds to complement the size and grandeur of the house at this time, as interest in the creation of formal gardens had spread to England during the reign of Henry VIII, and had continued to increase in popularity with fashionable landowners since that time. The surviving historic structures at Ingress Abbey largely date from the 18th century, except for the Abbey building, which was completed in 1833.
- 4.5.3 By 1763, the landscape gardener Lancelot (Capability) Brown was involved with the estate, and undertook works to the value of £1000 in two campaigns. These works involved the landscaping of the parkland to the northeast of the estate, approaches to the house through the grounds, and the sloping of the ground around the house itself.
- 4.5.4 The old house was partially demolished after 1815, but some elements remained, which were thought to have been used in the east wing of the new Ingress Abbey in 1833.
- 4.5.5 The structure known as the lime-kiln was also constructed by this date, and further chalk quarrying was undertaken, resulting in the creation of the eastern mound, now isolated from the cliff face. When Harmer died in 1853 the parkland fell into disrepair. By 1903 parts of the parkland began to be sold off, and the Wall Papers Manufacturers' Association purchased 23 acres of the estate for their factory in 1905.
- 4.5.6 The Empire Mills (originally known as the Ingress Abbey Paper Mills) were constructed in the north-east corner of Ingress Park between 1906 and 1908, and are shown on the OS map of 1909. The site had previously been partly improved marsh land and its wet nature necessitated the unusual use of a raft of Blue Gum tree piles as a foundation. The construction of the paper mills also led to the extension of the tramway system already serving the chalk quarry on either side of the London Road to the west of Ingress Park. A pier had also been built into the river to the north of the new paper mill and a large paper store was built to the south of the mill in c.1927 with a capacity of 10,000 tons. In the c.1954 a large extension was added to the south side of the original complex; this was itself extended in the late 1960s. The mill continued in operation until the early 1990s, although the jetty had fallen into disuse by 1986; the associated railway closed in 1988.

5 Aims of the Investigation

- 5.1 The aims of the watching brief were defined as being:
- To establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the site.
 - To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.

- To record and sample excavate any archaeological remains encountered.
- To assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- To determine the extent of previous truncations of any archaeological deposits.
- To enable Wendy Rogers, County Archaeologist for Kent County Council, to make an informed decision on the status of the condition, and any possible requirement for further work in order to satisfy that condition.
- To make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

5.2 The specific objectives of the investigation were to:

- Determine the potential presence of any remains from the Palaeolithic period
- Determine the potential presence of Thames Alluvium within the impact area area.
- Determine the potential for there being surviving remains associated with the Empire Paper Mills within the development area.

6 Methodology

6.1 Two visits were made to the site; the first in June 2010 before the commencement of groundworks and the second on September 9th 2010 following commencement of groundworks on September 9th 2010. The site visit was undertaken by Jonathan Moller and the project managed by Alan Ford. A unique site code, **ING 10**, has been used as the site identifier for all records produced.

6.2 During the site visit the nature of the local topography was recorded and record photographs made.

6.3 The recording and reporting conformed to current best archaeological practice and local and national standards and guidelines:

- English Heritage – Management of Archaeological Projects (EH 1991).
- English Heritage – Archaeological Guidance Paper 3: Standards and Practices in Archaeological Fieldwork (EH 1998).
- English Heritage – Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (EH 2002).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standards and Guidance and Guidelines for Finds Work (IfA 2008).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA 2008).
- Institute for Archaeologists – Code of Conduct (IfA 2010).
- Rescue/United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – First Aid for Finds (Second Edition) (CBA 1998).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Conservation Guidelines No.2 (UKIC 1983).
- United Kingdom Institute for Conservation – Guidance for Archaeological Conservation Practice (UKIC 1990).

7 Results

- 7.1 Observations made during the visits to the site indicated that the area of development has been substantially reduced below the former ground level; which could still be seen in section against the eastern edge of the site.



Plate 1: Looking south from eastern boundary of site.

- 7.2 The observed reduction in level was c. 2m. Since this reduction the site has been terraced to provide a flat surface for development. This terracing has entailed the addition of made ground; this made ground is c. 2m where observed in the central and southern section of the site but will be considerably more in the northern half of the site as the land falls away towards the River Thames.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 No archaeological activity was observed during the visit and it is concluded that all surface archaeological remains have been removed by previous cut and fill of the area and that any alluvium is now buried beneath in excess of 3m of made ground. There is no recommendation for further work.
- 8.2 A short summary of the results of the Watching Brief will be submitted to the Kent Archaeological review's fieldwork roundup. This report will be added to the grey literature available on the online ADS OASIS project.(Appendix C). The site archive will be lodged with Dartford Museum.

9 Bibliography

AOC Archaeology Group Ltd (2007). *An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Ingress park Waterfront – Phase 4*.

Wallenberg J. K. (1931) *Kentish Place Names*.



Based on the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 Landranger map of 2001
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Figure 1: Site Location



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Figure 2: Detailed Site Location



Appendices

Appendix A – Oasis Form

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-83305

Project details

Project name	Ingress Park - Parklands East
Short description of the project	Watching Brief on housing development on Boyne Hill gravels at Ingress Park, Swanscombe. Area judged to be sterile due to previous cut and fill landscaping.
Project dates	Start: 09-09-2010 End: 27-09-2010
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	30784 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE Ingress Park (Parklands east)
Study area	20000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5950 7550 51.4554574546 0.295971825394 51 27 19 N 000 17 45 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation AOC Archaeology

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator AOC Archaeology

Project director/manager Alan Ford

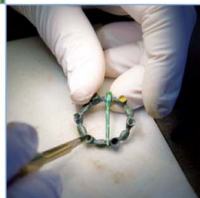
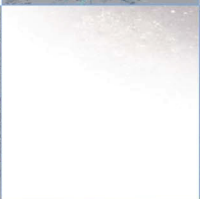
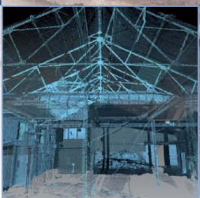
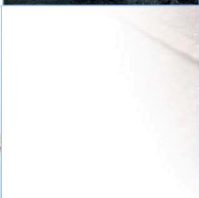
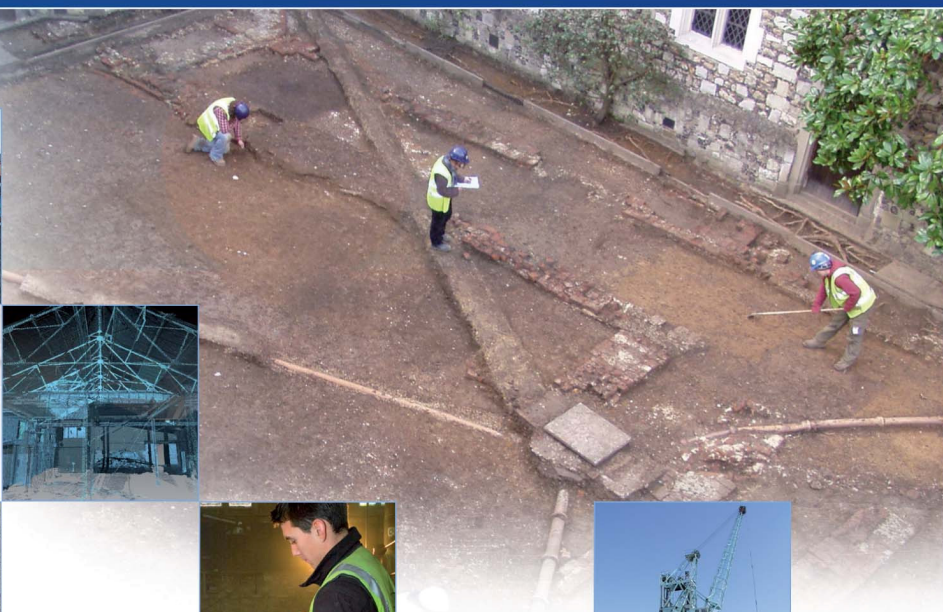
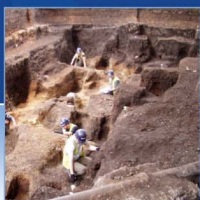
Project supervisor Jon Moller

Type of sponsor/funding
body Contractors

Name of Crest Nicholson
sponsor/funding body

Entered by Alan Ford (alan.ford@aocarchaeology.com)

Entered on 28 September 2010



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