

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Horton Kirby Cricket Club,
Franks Lane, Horton Kirby, Dartford**

**NGR TQ 55843 67697
NGR 555843 167697**

**Project No: 4574
Site Code: HKC 11**

**ASE Report No: 2011251
Oasis ID: archaeol6-115095**

Dylan Hopkinson MA

With contributions by Karine Le Hégarat and Dr Matt Pope

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford (NGR 555843,167697). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluation trenches. A localised deposit which contained burnt flint was recorded during further geoarchaeological monitoring of a cable trench.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by UK Power Networks (hereafter referred to as the client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford (NGR 555843,167697, Figures 1 and 2) prior to the earthworks related to moving electrical cables from a pylon and burying them underground.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey BGS (2011), the site lies on areas of varying geology. The solid geology throughout is undifferentiated Chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven Formations; however the south-eastern part of the site has superficial Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel whilst on the north-western part, sand and gravel of the Taplow Gravel Formation has been recorded.

1.2.2 The site is between Horton Kirby village and Farningham, around 650m north of the M20 motorway bridge over Eglantine Lane. Horton Kirby Cricket Club is located on the southern side of Franks Lane, to the southwest of Horton Kirby.

1.2.3 The site comprises an open playing-field of professionally maintained grass; which was formerly two fields of pasture land set in an agricultural landscape and on a gently undulating slope from higher ground in the southeast down to lower flatter levels in the northwest.

1.2.4 The site covers an area of 2.5 hectares of which 215 meters squared represents land that will be affected by sub surface impact of the development, the remainder of the site of the cricket ground is unaffected.

1.3 Background to the Fieldwork

1.3.1 The proposed development lies approximately 80m of a high voltage electricity cable between two existing points on the electricity network at a depth of 1m. A two metre wide easement will be created for the works to take place. A second, low voltage cable spur is also planned to serve the cricket pavilion.

1.3.2 These proposals are permitted works and are exempt from the formal planning application procedure; however, in accordance with the client's operating procedures of best practice, advice was sought from the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council. They advised that the proposals to lay an underground cable at the site would likely have an impact on heritage assets requiring an evaluation. A Specification for this work was prepared by KCC (2010) in advance of the evaluation

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to record, interpret and

report on any archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks to appropriate archaeological standards.

1.4.2 Specifically the aims of the evaluation, as set out in the Specification (KCC 2010), were:

- Assessing the likely impact of the proposed development on the archaeological remains within the evaluated parts of the route, using the results of the fieldwork.
- Assessing the geoarchaeological potential of the route.
- Assessing the impact of past development on the route's archaeological potential based on the fieldwork results.
- Assessing the potential of the site to contain nationally important remains.
- Establishing the degree of mediaeval and post-mediaeval activity on the site.
- Establishing the degree of prehistoric and Roman activity on the site.
- Contributing to the environmental, geoarchaeological and landscape history of the area.

1.5 Scope of the Report

1.5.1 This report provides an account of the archaeological evaluation undertaken over two days between 4th October and 5th October 2011 by Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologist).

1.5.2 The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Palaeolithic

- 2.1.1 The river terrace deposits of the Darent Valley are becoming increasingly recognised for their potential to contain significant evidence of early prehistoric activity and environment (e.g. Wenban-Smith & Bates 2011).
- 2.1.2 The surface of the Pleistocene gravels offers potential for late glacial/early Holocene landsurface and in-situ archaeology where preserved by later colluvial slope wash. This was demonstrated by investigations at Lullingstone Country Park to the south of the site where Final Upper Palaeolithic flint work was recovered in such a context.

2.2 Roman and Saxon

- 2.2.1 The Scheduled site of Franks Hall Roman villa is around 450m to the south east. A Saxon cemetery was found at Saxon Place 350m east of the east end of the route. The HER also indicates that a ditch, containing third century AD rubbish and a Saxon sunken hut were found in the 1970's '100m east of Franks Roman villa'.
- 2.2.2 Find-spots of Roman and Saxon metalwork have been recorded to the north of the site, on the Portable Antiquities Scheme database www.finds.org.uk

2.3 Medieval and Early Post-Medieval

- 2.3.2 The Scheduled Monument of Franks Hall moated manor is around 150m west of the west end of the cable route. An original manor house of 13th century date was located on the opposite side of the river Darent (EH 2007). Other evidence of medieval activity in the environs of the site includes a finger ring recorded by the PAS, within 100m of the cable route.
- 2.3.2 The current Franks Hall manor building was first constructed in 1591 and the site lies entirely within the Grade II English Heritage Registered Historic Park of Franks Hall. The seventeenth century listed building 'Little Franks' is just to the north of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the Specification prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council (KCC 2010) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA 2008).

3.2 Trial Trenches

3.2.1 The development site was evaluated through the machine excavation of 3 trial trenches each measuring 2m by 10m spread along the length of the pylon route and directly under the live cable.

3.2.2 The open trenches were cleaned and inspected for features and were left open for 48 hours to allow features time to weather out and become more visible.

3.3 Geoarchaeological Monitoring

3.3.1 The project allowed scope for contingency test pitting consisting of up to three machine test pits, measuring 1.8m by 3m, excavated under specialist geoarchaeological supervision. However, inspection of the evaluation trenches suggested low potential and it was decided in consultation with the KCC Archaeological Officer, that instead, a further monitoring visit by a geoarchaeologist should take place when the groundworks were underway by UK Power Network. This visit, which involved the monitoring of a 400mm wide service trench, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m, took place on the 8th November 2011. The location of the monitored area is shown on Figure 2 and the results of this work are incorporated into Section 4 below.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 All archaeological deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.

3.4.2 Section drawings of the excavated profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10, sample section drawings of the overlying deposits were also drawn at 1:10 scale on plastic drafting film, and a full photographic record was made recording all features and contexts.

3.5 Site Archive

3.5 The site is within the collection area of Sevenoaks Museum which is not at present accepting any archives. The site archive is therefore currently held at ASE offices in Portslade, East Sussex. . The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Photographic Record Sheets	1
Photographs	14
Trial Trench Record Sheets	3
No. of contexts	11
No. of files/paper record	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section presents the results of the evaluation by Trench as well as the findings of the geoarchaeological watching brief. A list of contexts with thickness and heights AOD is provided in tabulated form (Tables 2-5).

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 A deposit, [1/002], was identified, comprising a mid orangeish brown sandy silt matrix containing frequent inclusions of flint and chalk pieces and with occasional zones of pale yellowy brown degraded chalk. On the slope comprising the eastern extent of this site (Trenches 2 and 3), this deposit was interpreted as a solifluction Head deposit, however at Trench 1, it appears to have been reworked across the floodplain as a thin colluvial layer. This is evident from the results of the watching brief stage of the work (see 4.5).

4.2.2 Layer [1/002] was directly overlain by topsoil, [1/001], a light greyish brown sandy silt which ranged between 0.20 and 0.30m in depth

4.2.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed.

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Height AOD (m)
1	1/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.25 - 0.30m	27.23
1	1/002	Deposit	Colluvium	-	26.93

Table 2: List of contexts in Trench 1

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 In Trench 2, intact Head deposit [2/002], which was indistinguishable from layer [1/002], in Trench 1, overlay topsoil [2/001], which was also identical to that observed in Trench 1. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Height AOD (m)
2	2/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20 - 0.25m	28.03
2	2/002	Deposit	Natural Head	-	27.78

Table 3: List of contexts in Trench 2

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 The composition of deposits in Trench 3 proved to be similar to those observed in Trench 2. Intact Head deposit, [3/002], was overlain by topsoil, [3/001]. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were present.

Trench Number	Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Height AOD (m)
3	3/001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.20m	34.16
3	3/002	Deposit	Natural Head	-	33.96

Table 4: List of contexts in Trench 3

4.5 Further Geoarchaeological Monitoring

4.5.1 Monitoring of a 400mm wide service trench, excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m was subsequently undertaken (located on Figure 2). The following stratigraphic sequence was recorded.

4.5.2 The earliest layer, [004], was identified in the south-eastern half of the trench. It consists of a mid reddish brown gravel, heavily flinted with medium sized rounded flints that are frequently reddish in colour; it is identified as a possible fluvial gravel.

4.5.3 On the north-western half of the trench, layer [004] was overlain by layer [003]; however, the upper surface of both layers was encountered at roughly the same height. Layer [003] is a mid greyish brown flinty gravel, consisting of a flinty clayey silt with medium sized angular flints with a chalk cortex. This deposit was identified as possible solifluction gravel.

4.5.4 Above layer [003], a thin deposit, [005], was identified, consisting of dark greyish black clayey silt with chalk flecks. An environmental sample <1>, taken from this layer produced burnt flint. This layer probably represents a localised fine grained deposit of possible prehistoric age underlying the colluvium.

4.5.5 Above [003] was a layer of colluvium, [002], consisting of a mid orangey brown sandy silt deposit with frequent small flints.

4.5.6 The upper deposit was topsoil, [001], consisting of a light greyish brown fine silt.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness (m)	Height AOD (m)
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.27	27.25
002	Deposit	Colluvium	0.35	26.98
003	Deposit	Layer	0.5 to L.O.E	26.74
004	Deposit	Layer	0.5 to L.O.E	26.74
005	Deposit	Layer	0.12	26.86

Table 5: List of contexts identified during geoaerchaeological monitoring

5.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLE by Karine Le Hégarat**5.1 Introduction and Methodology**

5.1.1 A single 6L bulk soil sample was extracted from a thin dark layer of clayey silt [005] underlying colluvium [002] to establish evidence for environmental remains such as charcoal, charred macroplant remains, fauna and mollusca. The sample was then processed in a flotation tank and the residue and flot were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and air dried. The residue was passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains. The flot were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications. An overview of the sample contents is presented in Table 6.

5.2 Results

5.2.1 Sampling produced a very small flot (<2mm) which contained a high proportion of uncharred material consisting mainly of small fine roots and sediments. A single uncharred elder (*Sambucus nigra*) seed was also present in the flot. Charred botanical remains were relatively scarce, consisting of infrequent wood charcoal fragments mainly <4mm in size, although larger pieces were also recorded. These were moderately preserved and several pieces were percolated by iron/sediments. No identifications have been provided for the wood charcoal fragments as this isolated assemblage is too small to examine fuel use or local woody vegetation. No other classes of biological remains were present in the sample.

5.2.3 The residue consisted almost entirely of burnt unworked flint (2510g). All the burnt flintwork has been heavily calcined to a light grey and white colour. Although burnt flint is not inherently datable, it often indicates prehistoric activities.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 The bulk environmental sample taken during the evaluation work has confirmed the presence of a small assemblage of charcoal. The assemblage is too limited to provide significant information regarding woody vegetation or fuel use.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Flot							Residue				
					Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
1	5	Layer	6	6	^2	^2	^2	80	20	* <i>Sambucus nigra</i> (1)	* ^2	** ^2	^2	* ^2	^2	FCF **** / 2510 g

Table 6: Environmental sample quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 Evaluation trenching

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were revealed during the evaluation trenching.

6.2 Geoarchaeological watching brief

- 6.2.1 The geoarchaeological observations made during the cutting of the cable trench offered a chance to look at sedimentary process on the floodplain. In the vicinity of Trench 1 colluvium was observed to cover flood plain deposits. At the interface, a localised fine grained deposit was detected, [005]. The pipe trench excavation offered the opportunity to check for artefacts associated with this thin horizon, and a bulk sample was taken. Although no artefacts were recovered, the position of the sediment beneath colluvium might be suggestive of a prehistoric date. Local human activity either relating to or predating the fine grained deposit is suggested by the presence of burnt flint and fragmentary charcoal in the environmental sample.

6.3 Conclusions

- 6.3.1 While definitive evidence for human occupation at the site was not found, the discrete fine grained deposit containing burnt flint does indicate the proximity of human activity of possible prehistoric age in the vicinity of the pipe trench.
- 6.3.2 The results have wider relevance for further research in the Darent Valley as it clearly demonstrates the potential on the floodplain for fine grained depositional environments and possible evidence for associated human occupation.

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Acknowledgements

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Rogers of Kent County Council for her guidance throughout the project.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	HKC 11					
Identification Name and Address	Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Horton Kirby, Dartford, DA4 9JJ					
County, District &/or Borough	Dartford					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 555843 167697					
Geology	Undivided Floodplain Gravels and possible Alluvium connected with the River Darent which flows around 200m to the west. In the east of the site, the geology may involve a simpler sequence with topsoil directly sealing the Upper Chalk.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4574					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching brief.	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 4-10-11 to 5-10-11	Excav.	W.B.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	UK Power Network					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Dylan Hopkinson					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		None ✓
100 Word Summary.	<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford (NGR 555843,167697). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluation trenches. A localised deposit which contained burnt flint was recorded during further geoarchaeological monitoring of a cable trench.</i></p>					

OASIS ID: archaeol6-115095

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford
Short description of the project	<i>Archaeology South-East (ASE) (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford (NGR 555843,167697). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluation trenches. A localised deposit which contained burnt flint was recorded during further geoaerchaeological monitoring of a cable trench.</i>
Project dates	Start: 04-10-2011 End: 05-10-2011
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	HKC11 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4574 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DARTFORD DARENTH Horton Kirby Cricket Ground
Postcode	DA4 9JL
Study area	750.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 55843 67697 51.3863635203 0.239942033084 51 23 10 N 000
14 23 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0m Max: 33.96m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Kent County Council

Project design originator The Heritage Conservation Group Kent County Council

Project director/manager Jon Sygrave

Project supervisor Dylan Hopkinson

Type of sponsor/funding body UK Power Networks

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient n/a

Digital Archive recipient n/a

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient n/a

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Section'

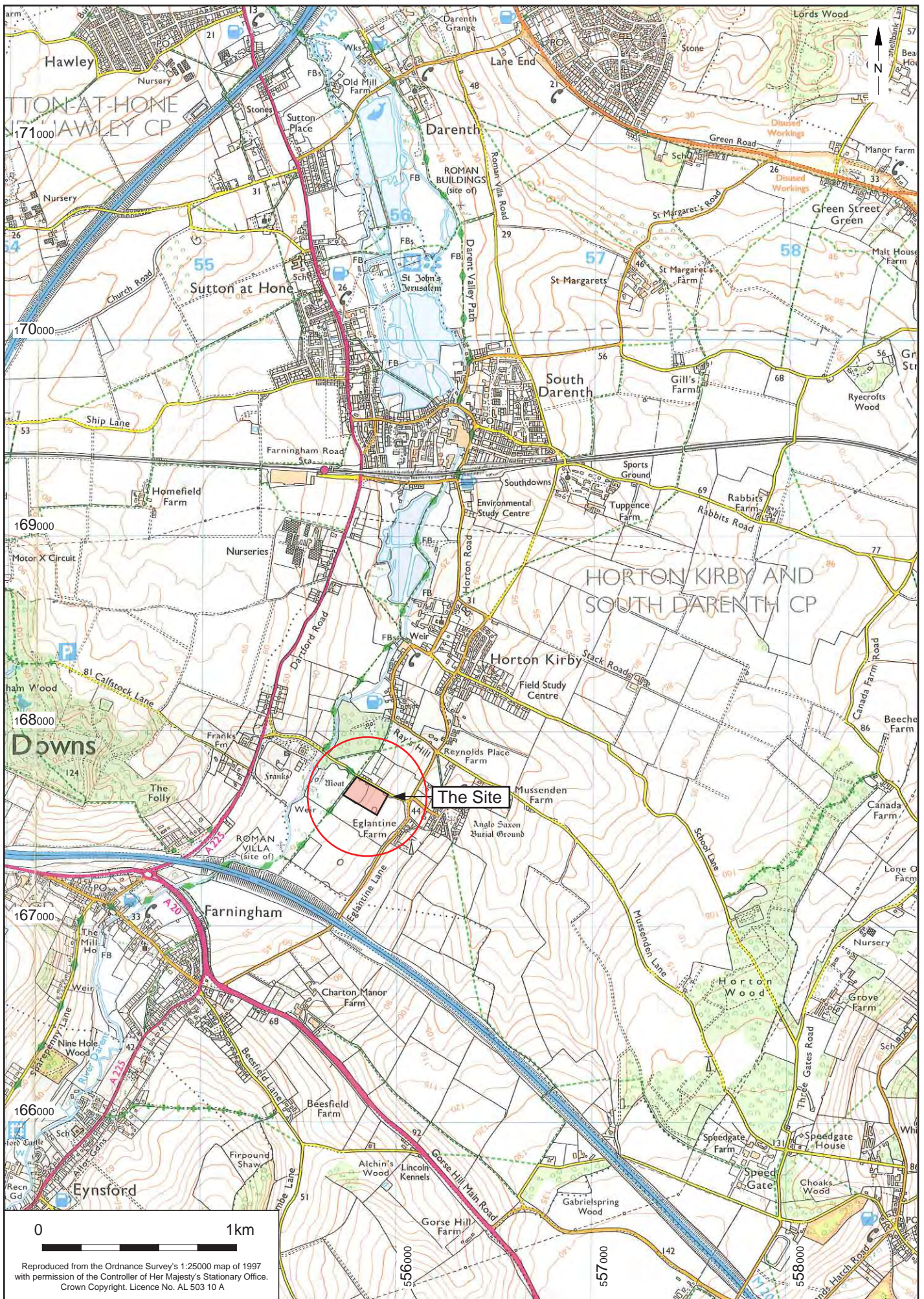
Paper Archive notes Archive offered to but not accepted by Sevenoaks museum, owing to full capacity. Temporarily stored at ASE offices, Portslade

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

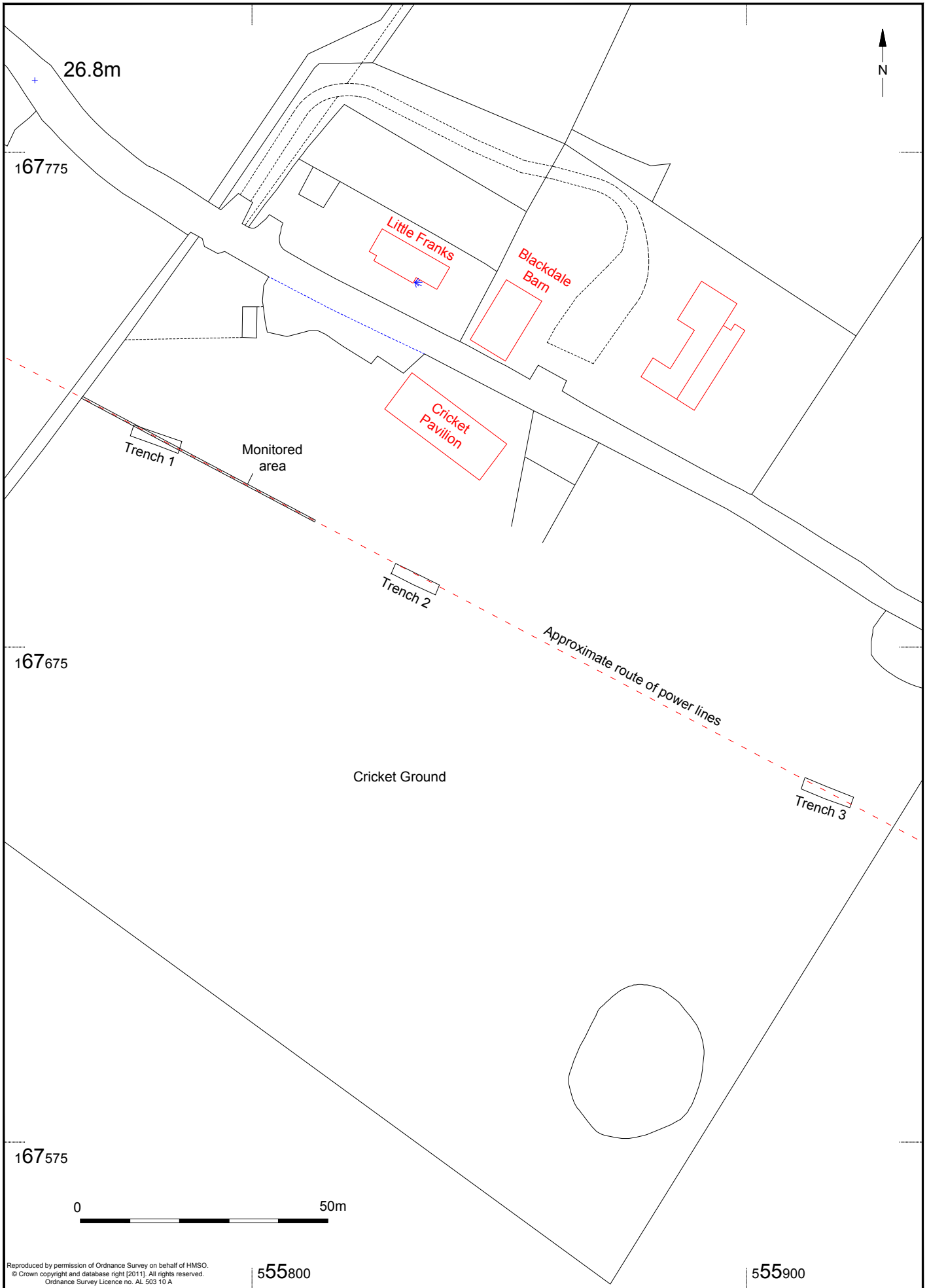
Title An Archaeological Evaluation at Horton Kirby Cricket Club,

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© Archaeology South-East		Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4574	October 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011251	Drawn by: DJH			



© Archaeology South-East		Horton Kirby Cricket Club, Franks Lane, Dartford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4574	October 2011	Detailed site plan	
Report Ref: 2011251	Drawn by: DJH		

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