

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Cable Trench at Tor Lane, St. George's Hill,  
Weybridge, Surrey**

**NGR 508520 161640**

**Scheduled Monument Consent No. S000556555**

**ASE Project No. 6001**

**ASE Report No. 2013105  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-151398**

**Simon Stevens  
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**May 2013**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Cable Trench at Tor Lane, St. George's Hill,  
Weybridge, Surrey**

**NGR 508520 161640**

**Scheduled Monument Consent No. S000556555**

**ASE Project No. 6001**

**ASE Report No. 2013105  
OASIS ID: archaeo16-151398**

**Simon Stevens  
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**May 2013**

**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](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)**

**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical and manual excavation of a cable trench at St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey (NGR 508520 161640).*

*The work is not subject to planning permission, but the new trench does lie within the scheduled area of a large multivallate hillfort on St George's Hill (SAM 23001).*

*Natural geology was encountered intermittently at approximately 0.75m below ground level. The majority of the trench was filled with made-ground/backfill associated with previous, modern service installations and disturbance. The made ground was covered with the tarmac road surface.*

*No archaeological features or finds were encountered.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary Sheet**  
**OASIS Form**

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location  
Figure 2: Location of monitored cable

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site archive  
Table 2: List of recorded contexts

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical and manual excavation of a cable trench within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey, a multivallate hillfort (SAM NO. 23001) (NGR 508520 161640, Fig. 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is located adjacent to the east side of Tor Lane in St George's Hill in Weybridge, between Ondine to the north and the electricity substation to the south of Ravenscourt. It lies at a height of approximately 78m above Ordnance Datum.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey, the site is located on Barton Beds.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The work is not subject to planning permission, being undertaken as permitted development. However, the new trench does lie within the scheduled area of a large multivallate hillfort on St George's Hill (SAM 23001).

1.3.2 A comprehensive *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for a watching brief was prepared by Archaeology South East (ASE 2013) and submitted to the English Heritage Inspector for Ancient Monuments in support of a Scheduled Monument Consent application.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to identify and record any archaeological remains uncovered during excavations associated with the works.

1.4.2 The more specific aims of the investigation are outlined below:

- *is there any evidence for remains of the hillfort or associated archaeology?*

1.4.3 Research aims to be considered in the event that archaeological remains of Iron Age date are present (as set out in the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework, 2006) include:

- *is there evidence for a late oppidum-like centre (a good location postulated by SARF as being to the west of St George's Hill)?*
- *is there any evidence for Holloway/s associated with the hillfort?*

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out between 26<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013.
- 1.5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1** With all due acknowledgement, the following archaeological background is drawn from an evaluation report on work undertaken at The Ramparts, Tor Lane, St George's Hill, just to the northeast of the site (TVAS 2012).
- 2.2** The site lies within the eastern part of a large multivallate hillfort on St George's Hill (SAM 23001). The hillfort encloses about 5.5ha area around the hilltop with the perimeter ramparts comprising an inner bank with an external ditch and an outer, counterscarp bank. Several archaeological interventions have been undertaken within the vicinity of the site; these have encountered Iron Age artefacts, including pottery and iron slag, as well as features including a shallow linear feature to the southwest of the hillfort.
- 2.3** The evaluation trenching undertaken in 2012 immediately northeast of this site comprised the excavation of four trenches directly within the hillfort. The only activity identified in the trenches related to gardening of recent origin. No evidence of earlier archaeological remains, be they artefacts or features, was uncovered during the work.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The works involved the excavation of a trench c.90m long, a maximum of 0.40m in width and 0.75m in depth that ran between the electricity substation at the end of Tor Lane and the entrance to *The Ramparts* (Fig. 2).
- 3.1.2 All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (ASE 21013) and the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Field Archaeologists (IfA 2008).
- 3.1.3 Machine excavations were undertaken using a flat-bladed ditching bucket in order to minimise damage to resources during monitoring works, and were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.1.4 Spoil from excavations and the base of excavations was regularly metal-detected by the monitoring archaeologist.
- 3.1.5 A full photographic record (colour slide and black & white) was maintained throughout the duration of the work. All features and deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by ASE.

#### **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 suitable local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	28
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



#### 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

4.1 The recorded contexts have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 2).

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Tarmac road surface	Tr	Tr	0.13
02	Layer	Made ground	Tr	Tr	0.71
03	Layer	Natural	0.13	3.50	0.13

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

- 4.2 The natural yellowish-orange gravelly sand [003] was located intermittently at the base of the trench at approximately 0.75 below ground level. Above this, and filling most of the trench was a highly mixed deposit of made ground consisting of brick rubble, builder's sand, angular and sub-angular finds and occasional modern debris in a mid-greyish brown or mid-brown clayey sand matrix [002]. This is thought to result from the backfilling of the numerous services encountered in the trench. For the vast majority of its length, the trench was excavated on the edge of the tarmac/bitumen surfacing of Tor Lane and consequently, the sequence was topped with a 0.13m thickness of tarmac.
- 4.3 Close to the substation, the made ground deposit [002] formed the surface layer, much disturbed/truncated by the laying of cables associated with the supply of power to the surrounding buildings.
- 4.4 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were observed in the trench.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION**

- 5.1 The archaeological watching brief can be seen to have fulfilled the aims and objectives set-out in the *WSI* in that the nature and extent of existing archaeology at the redevelopment site has been assessed.
- 5.2 Natural geology was encountered intermittently at approximately 0.75m below ground level. The majority of the trench was filled with made-ground/backfill associated with previous, modern service installations and disturbance. The made ground was covered with the tarmac road surface.
- 5.3 In consideration of the specific research aims for the work, there was no evidence of the remains of the hillfort, associated archaeology or Holloways or for a late oppidum-like centre. Whether such evidence did at one time exist in this location is uncertain, as the area appears to have been subjected to considerable recent activity, resulting in substantial mixing and truncation of deposits. This is likely to have occurred during the construction of Tor Lane and the laying of associated services.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2013 Land east of Tor Lane, St George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation, ASE project no. 6001

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008 *Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Briefs*

Surrey County Council 2006: Surrey Archaeological Research Framework

Thames Valley Archaeological Service, 2012 *The Ramparts, Tor Lane, St Georges Hill, Weybridge, Surrey*, Unpublished Archaeological Evaluation Report

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank UK Power Networks for commissioning the work and Paul Roberts of English Heritage for his guidance and monitoring.

### HER Summary Form

Site Code	PMV13					
Identification Name and Address	Tor Lane, St George's Hill, Weybridge					
County, District &/or Borough	Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 508520 161640					
Geology	London clay formation (Palaeogene)					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6001					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	<b>Other Lane/Road</b>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> 29/04/13 01/05/13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	UK Power Networks					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical and manual excavation of a cable trench at St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey (NGR 508520 161640).</i></p> <p><i>The work is not subject to planning permission, but the new trench does lie within the scheduled area of a large multivallate hillfort on St George's Hill (SAM 23001).</i></p> <p><i>Natural geology was encountered intermittently at approximately 0.75m below ground level. The majority of the trench was filled with made-ground/backfill associated with previous, modern service installations and disturbance. The made ground was covered with the tarmac road surface.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological features or finds were encountered.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-151398**

### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Cable Trench at Tor Lane, St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey
Short description of the project	<a href="#">Archaeology</a> South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University <a href="#">College London</a> (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the mechanical and manual excavation of a cable trench at St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey (NGR 508520 161640). The work is not subject to planning permission, but the new trench does lie within the scheduled area of a large multivallate hillfort on St George's Hill (SAM 23001). Natural geology was encountered intermittently at approximately 0.75m below ground level. The majority of the trench was filled with made-ground/backfill associated with previous, modern service installations and disturbance. The made ground was covered with the tarmac road surface. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 26-04-2013 End: 01-05-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6001 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	2013105 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Scheduled Monument (SM)
Current Land use	Other 11 - Thoroughfare
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Scheduled Monument Consent

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY ELMBRIDGE WEYBRIDGE St George's Hill
Postcode	KT13 0NS

Study area                    36.00 Square metres  
Site coordinates            TQ 08520 61640 51 0 51 20 34 N 000 26 30 W Point

---

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation            Archaeology South East  
Project brief originator            Archaeology South East  
Project design originator            Archaeology South-East  
Project director/manager            Neil Griffin  
Project supervisor            Simon Stevens  
Type of sponsor/funding body            UK Power Networks  
Name of sponsor/funding body            UK Power Networks

---

**Project archives**

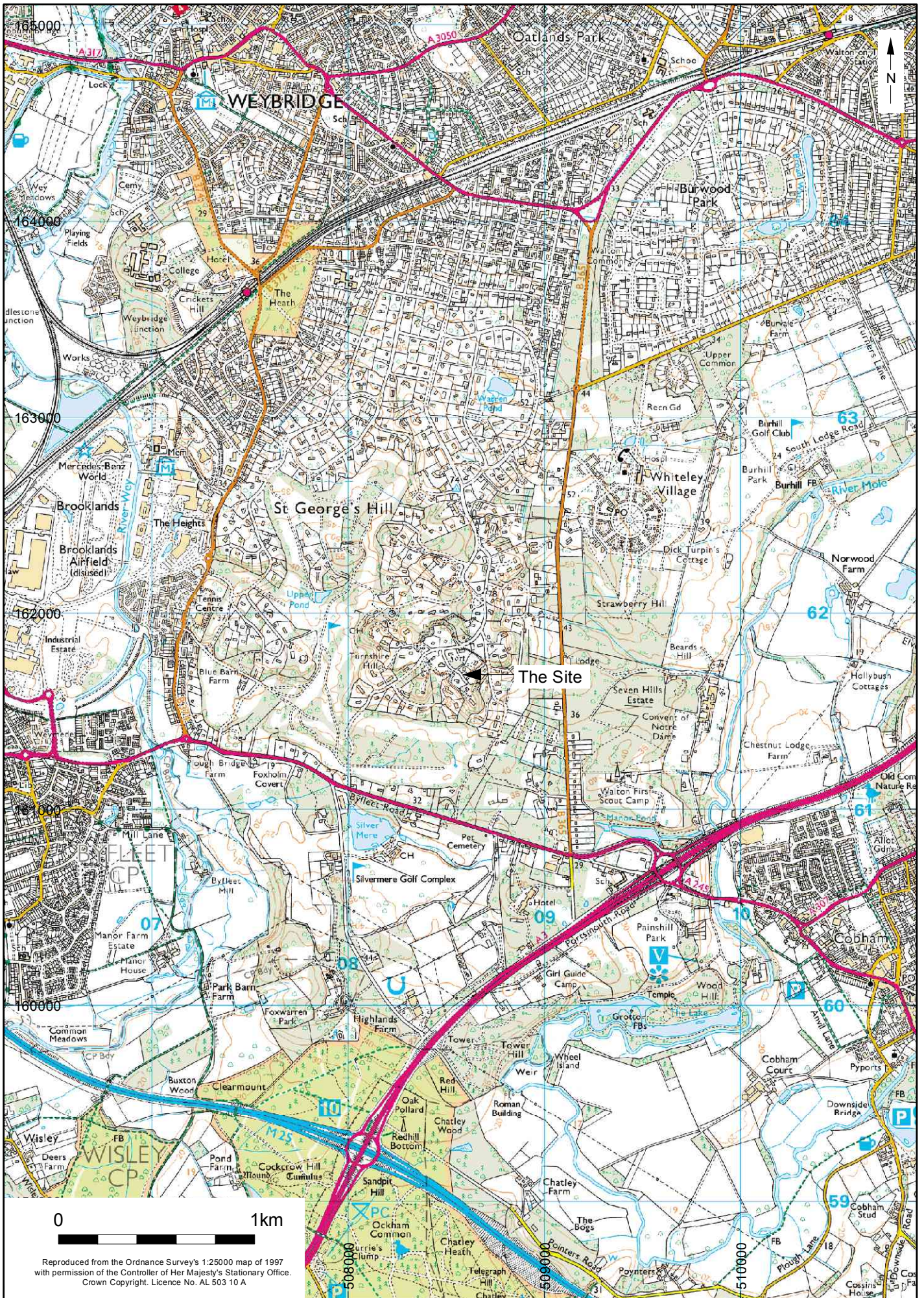
Physical Archive Exists?            No  
Digital Archive recipient            Local Museum  
Digital Media available            "Images raster / digital photography"  
Paper Archive recipient            Local Museum  
Paper Media available            "Context sheet", "Unpublished Text"

---

**Project bibliography 1**

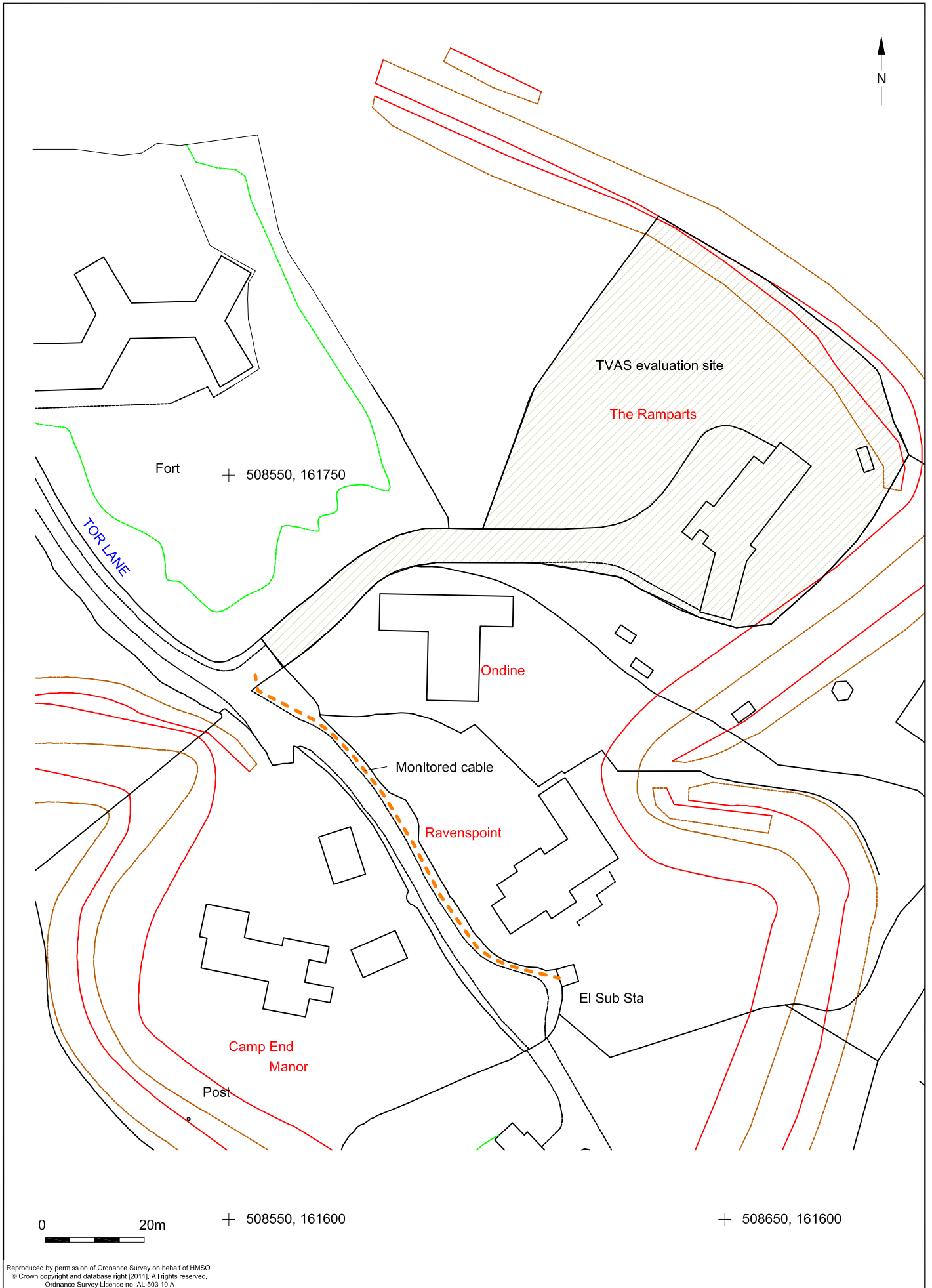
Publication type            Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Description            Grey literature report and figures





© Archaeology South-East		St. George's Hill, Tor Lane, Weybridge		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6001	March 2013	Site location		
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR			





Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.  
 © Crown copyright and database right [2011]. All rights reserved.  
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		St. George's Hill, Tor Lane, Weybridge	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6001	May 2013	Location of monitored cable	
Report Ref: 2013105	Drawn by: JLR		



**Sussex Office**

Units 1 & 2  
2 Chapel Place  
Portslade  
East Sussex BN41 1DR  
tel: +44(0)1273 426830  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk)

**Essex Office**

The Old Magistrates Court  
79 South Street  
Braintree  
Essex CM7 3QD  
tel: +44(0)1376 331470  
email: [fau@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.archaeologyse.co.uk](http://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](mailto:fau@ucl.ac.uk)  
web: [www.ucl.ac.uk/caa](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/caa)

