

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
At Rocky Lane,  
Haywards Heath.**

**NGR: TQ 3294 2216**

**Planning Ref: 12/00535/OUT**

**ASE Project No: 5826  
Site Code: RLH 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013251  
OASIS id: archaeol6-160890**



**By Catherine Douglas  
Illustrations by Justin Russell**

**October 2013**

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**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 CgMs consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex; (NGR TQ 3294 2216).*

*Natural sand geology was encountered at 0.45m below the topsoil surface level across the site. The sand was 3m thick and overlay Cuckfield Stone Bed sandstone. There was no evidence for the continuation of a Middle Iron Age-Romano-British double-ditched enclosure which is known to be present in the west of the site. No evidence of medieval roadside activity or, in fact, any artefacts or archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 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 CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex; centred on NGR TQ 3294 2216 (Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site is bounded by Rocky Lane to the north, the London Brighton Railway to the west, and a modern housing estate to the east.

1.2.2 The site was formerly greenfield and was cleared of all vegetation before the archaeological fieldwork was undertaken.

1.2.3 According to the British Geological survey 1:50,000 map (BGS 2013) the bedrock geology of the site is Cuckfield Stone Bed, calcereous sandstone.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning consent for the construction of part of Stage 5 Haywards Heath Relief Road (formation of a new roundabout and residential development comprising 96 dwellings with associated garage space, car parking, open space and landscaping) was granted by Mid Sussex District Council (Ref.: 12/00535/OUT).

1.3.2 Condition 12 of the planning condition stated:

*“No development shall be carried out on the land until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.”*

1.3.3 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation for an archaeological investigation was prepared by ASE in May 2013, (ASE 2013a) and submitted to and approved by John Mills, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) Senior Archaeologist, prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.3.4 An archaeological evaluation comprising 11 trenches was carried out by ASE archaeologists in June 2013 (ASE 2013b). A hedgerow possibly dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age and a small post-hole sized feature were identified during the evaluation, along with a further Middle/Late Bronze Age sherd of pottery.

1.3.5 Following on from the evaluation, an archaeological watching brief, detailed in this report, was carried out by ASE during the excavation of 11 soakaways and the initial ground reduction across the main access area in the north-east of the site.

## **1.4 Research Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The general aim of the watching brief was identify and record any archaeological remains that may have been exposed during the groundworks.

1.4.2 More specific aims of the watching brief sought to establish:

- Whether there was any evidence for the continuation of the Middle Iron Age-Romano-British double-ditched enclosure known to be present in the west of the site. If so, are whether there were any other features associated with it;
- Whether there was any evidence for medieval roadside activity associated with the possible roadside ditch found to the west of the site;
- Whether a general spread of unstratified artefacts found during a 2004 investigation could be attributed to any features;
- Whether there were any further features relating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age features encountered during the evaluation undertaken in June 2013;

## **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report presents the findings from the archaeological watching brief carried out between 15<sup>th</sup> July - 5<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The fieldwork was undertaken by Catherine Douglas, Simon Stevens and Guy Hopkinson. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and by Dan Swift (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

2.0.1 The following background section is taken from the WSI and summarises the conclusions of a Desk-Based Assessment of the site (DBA; ASE 2008).

### **2.1 Prehistoric**

2.1.1 The potential for the early prehistoric periods is generally considered to be low. No Palaeolithic remains have been found within the vicinity of the site but a number of Mesolithic flints have been found in and around Haywards Heath, the closest being on a hill-top to the west, on the far side of the railway track. The Neolithic period is slightly better represented, with two fragments of a polished flint axe found at the south of the site and an assemblage of flint implements at the northeast fringe. There is, however, no indication for settlement from this period.

2.1.2 While archaeological remains dating to the Bronze Age for this area continue to be sparse (a single sherd of pottery found on the hill on the far side of the railway track), the Iron Age is represented by a Middle Iron Age – Early Romano British double ditched enclosure, again located on the hilltop to the west. The full size of this feature is not known and it is possible it could extend into the investigation area.

### **2.2 Roman**

2.2.1 Aside from the aforementioned enclosure, the only other Roman find in the vicinity of the site is a pottery assemblage found at the southeast edge of the wood at the south of the site. Although there is a Roman road running north-south to the west of the site, it is not considered close enough to increase the potential for remains of this period within the site boundary.

### **2.3 Medieval**

2.3.1 There is scant information about the site from the Saxon period and only two Listed Buildings are attributed to the medieval period. Aside from these the only features listed on the HER include a possible truncated roadside ditch on the hill to the west, and some unstratified pottery from the northwest corner of the site.

### **2.4 Post-medieval**

2.4.1 Most post-medieval sites within proximity of the site are Listed Buildings. The west side of the site was once a 19<sup>th</sup> century parkscape. Unstratified pottery was found within the northwest corner of the site and two Ancient Woodlands stand within the east side of the site.

## **2.5 Previous Fieldwork**

- 2.5.1 In 2004 an evaluation by trenching was undertaken at the south edge of a large development on the west side of Haywards Heath (ASE 2004), which partially overlaps the proposed development site. Of the 16 excavated trenches only one located a feature; a small irregular feature containing two sherds of 1<sup>st</sup> century AD pottery and a flint flake.
- 2.5.2 A small assemblage of pottery (spanning the Middle Bronze Age to the post-medieval period), post-medieval tile, worked flint (including Mesolithic blades) and burnt flint was also recovered unstratified within the majority of the trenches.
- 2.5.3 An archaeological evaluation was carried out by ASE archaeologists in June 2013 (ASE 2013b). 11 trenches were excavated. A hedgerow possibly dating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age and a small post-hole sized feature were identified during the evaluation, along with a further Middle/Late Bronze Age sherd of pottery.



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 All intrusive ground works were monitored by an archaeologist to the level of the natural sand geology. A mechanical tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil. All hand and machine excavations undertaken by the ground work contractor were undertaken with due regard for the potential to encounter archaeological remains.

3.1.2 An area at the north east end of the site measuring a length of 20m by a width of 6m (Area A) was machine stripped to a depth of 0.45m below the ground surface level (Figure 2). This area was later extended by a length of 18m and a width of 7m, which was monitored by an archaeologist down to the level of the sand geology. Similarly, an area at the west end of the site measuring a length of 18m by a width of 6m (Area B) was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70m below ground surface.

3.1.3 The excavation of nine soakaways (labelled on Figure 2 as: 1A, 1B, 1C, B and, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E and 2F) all measuring a length of 6m by a width of 1.50m was monitored by an ASE archaeologist.

3.1.4 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

3.1.5 All contexts encountered were recorded on standard ASE context sheets and a full digital photographic record was maintained throughout the watching brief.

#### **3.2 The Site Archive**

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes museum in due course. Lewes Museum does not give out archive accession numbers. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	24
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

4.1 A similar stratigraphic sequence of natural geology either directly overlain by made ground or overlain by subsoil and topsoil. All contexts encountered during the archaeological watching brief have been summarised in Table 2 below and are described below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	>300	>100	0.25-0.35
02	Layer	Subsoil	>20	>6	0.30-0.45
03	Layer	Natural sand	-	-	-
04	Layer	Made Ground	12	4	0.40

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

- 4.2 Natural sand geology [03] was encountered at 0.45m below the topsoil surface level across the site. In the soakaways, the sand measured a thickness of 3m and overlay the underlying Cuckfield Stone Bed sandstone.
- 4.3 Overlying the sand geology in Area A at the north-east end of the site was a layer of made ground [04] comprised of silt with frequent modern brick rubble inclusions overlain by a layer of tarmac. This measured a length of 12m by a width of 4m with a thickness of 0.40m.
- 4.4 Throughout the rest of the site the natural sand was overlain by a layer of mid-grey brown silty clay subsoil [02] which varied in thickness from 0.23m in the north-east end of the site to 0.50m in Area B in the south-west end of the site.
- 4.5 Overlying the subsoil was a layer of topsoil which covered the entire length and width of the site (approximately 300m by 100m). This had a varying thickness of 0.15m -0.35m.
- 4.6 No archaeological features or finds were encountered in any of the areas monitored.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

5.1 A reminder of the main aims of the archaeological watching brief as set out in the WSI (ASE 2013a) is given below, along with the following results:

- *Was there any evidence for the continuation of the Middle Iron Age-Romano-British double-ditched enclosure known to be present in the west of the site. If so, are there any other features associated with it?*
  - There was no evidence for the continuation of the double-ditched enclosure or any other Middle Iron Age-Romano-British features.
  
- *Is there any evidence for medieval roadside activity associated with the possible roadside ditch found to the west of the site?*
  - No activity of medieval roadside activity was encountered in any part of the site.
  
- *Can the general spread of unstratified artefacts found during the 2004 investigation be attributed to any features? If not is there evidence for the destruction of archaeological evidence by previous ploughing events?*
  - No features were encountered. There was also no evidence of ploughing in any of the areas monitored.
  
- *Are there any further features relating to the Middle/Late Bronze Age features encountered during the evaluation undertaken in June 2013?*
  - No further features were encountered of any date of period.

5.2 No deposits, structures or features of any date were encountered during the watching brief. This is not out of keeping with the results of the evaluation which indicated that although there was some limited prehistoric activity on the site, it was low level and ephemeral in nature.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE, 2004 An Archaeological Evaluation on the Phase 3 Amenity Areas of the Bolnore Village Development and Stage 5 Relief Road, South of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex

ASE 2008 An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment of Land at Sandrocks, Haywards Heath District, West Sussex

ASE 2013a A Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Rocky Lane (Phase 1, Part 1), Haywards Heath, West Sussex

ASE 2013b An archaeological watching brief on land south of Rocky Lane, (Phase 1, Part 1) Haywards Heath

BGS 2013 Geology of Britain Viewer  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, Accessed October 2013

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Duncan Hawkins of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for his assistance throughout the project, and John Mills of West Sussex County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	RLH13					
Identification Name and Address	Land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 3294 2216					
Geology	Fine sand overlying Cuckfield Stone Bed sandstone bedrock					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5826					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. July 2013	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> 15/07/13- 05/09/13	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	<b>BA</b>	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>Summary</p> <p>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 CgMs consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex; (NGR TQ 3294 2216).</p> <p>Natural sand geology was encountered at 0.45m below the topsoil surface level across the site. The sand was 3m thick and overlay Cuckfield Stone Bed sandstone. There was no evidence for the continuation of a Middle Iron Age-Romano-British double-ditched enclosure which is known to be present in the west of the site. No evidence of medieval roadside activity or, in fact, any artefacts or archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief.</p>						

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-160890**

**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex
Short description of the project	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 CgMs consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex; (NGR TQ 3294 2216).  Natural sand geology was encountered at 0.45m below the topsoil surface level across the site. The sand was 3m thick and overlay Cuckfield Stone Bed sandstone. There was no evidence for the continuation of a Middle Iron Age-Romano-British double-ditched enclosure which is known to be present in the west of the site. No evidence of medieval roadside activity or, in fact, any artefacts or archaeological features were encountered during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 15-07-2013 End: 05-09-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 6 - Parkland
Monument type	DOUBLE-DITCHED ENCLOSURE Middle Iron Age
Significant Finds	POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE Roman
Significant Finds	POLISHED FLINT AXE FRAGMENTS Neolithic
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HAYWARDS HEATH Land south of Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath
Study area	300.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3294 5826 51 0 51 18 26 N 000 05 33 W Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

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**Project archives**

Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"

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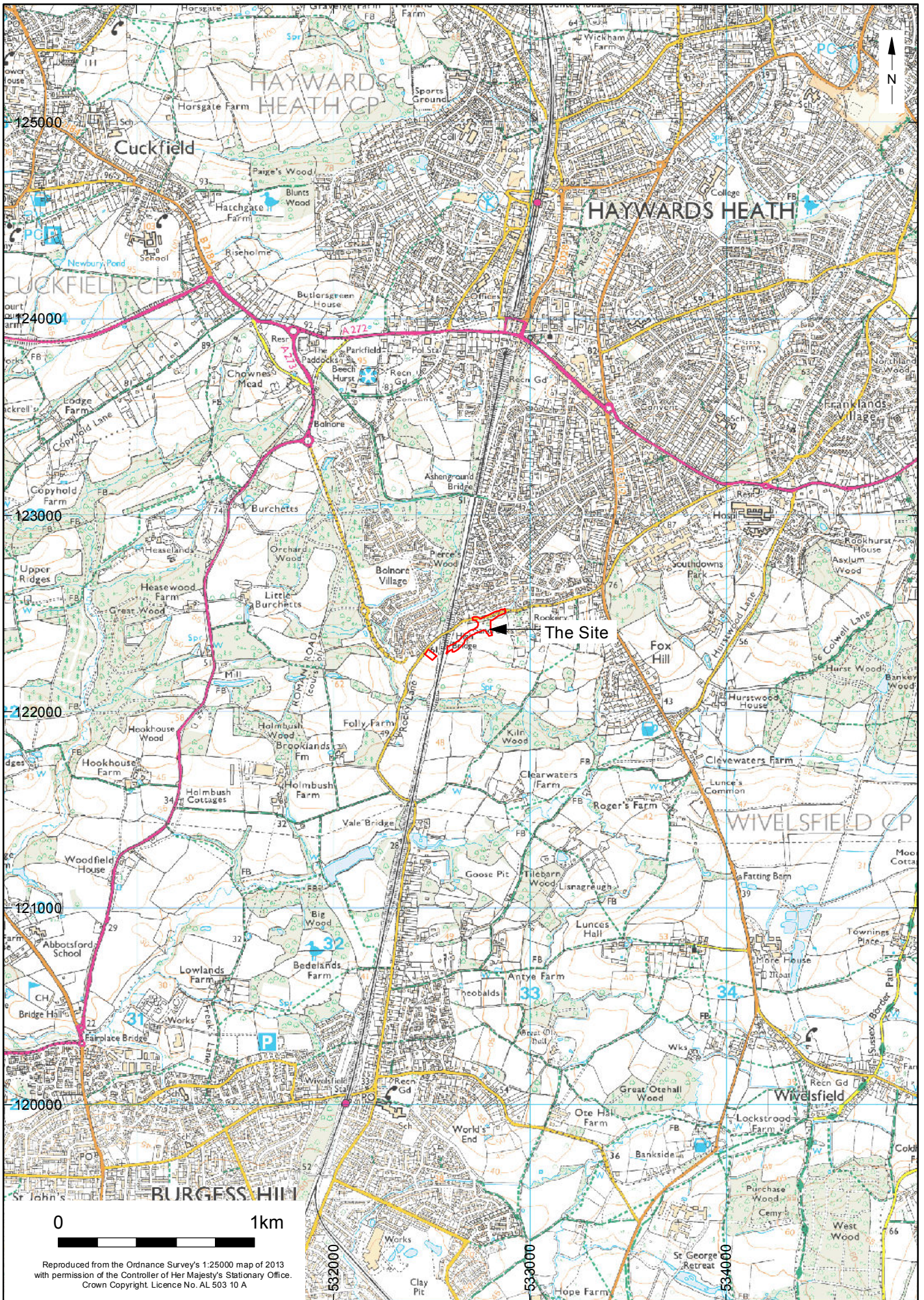
**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report: Land South of Rocky Lane
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cruse, R.
Other bibliographic details	ASE report number: 2013151
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Archaeology South-East

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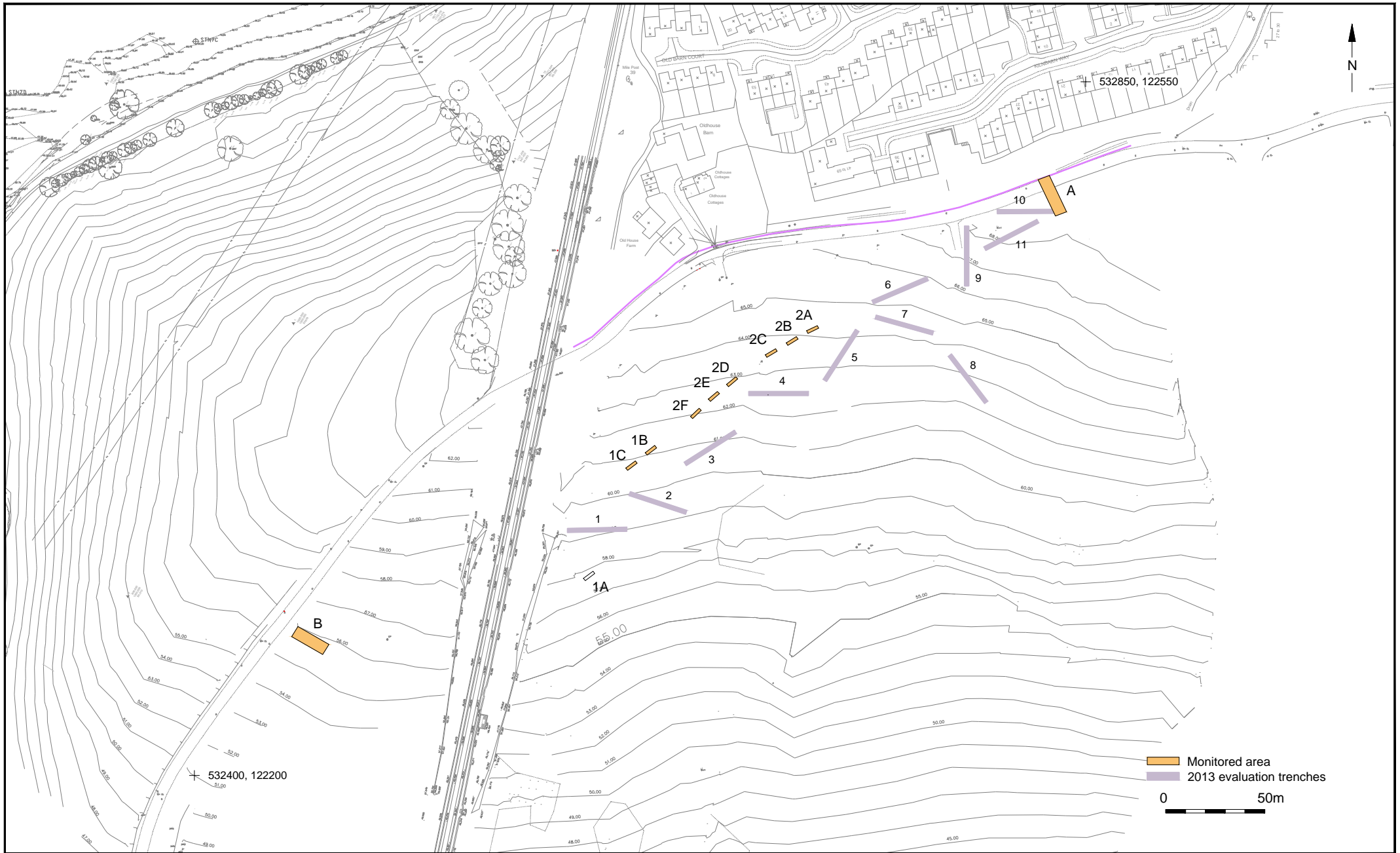
Entered by	Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 October 2013





© Archaeology South-East		Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5826	October 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013251	Drawn by: RHC		





© Archaeology South-East		Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5826	October 2013	Plan of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2013251	Drawn by: RHC		



Fig. 3.1 Excavation area B looking south



Fig. 3.2 Soakaway area 2D facing east



Fig. 3.3 Soakaway area 1B facing north west

© Archaeology South-East		Rocky Lane, Haywards Heath	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5826	October 2013	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2013251	Drawn by: RHC		

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