

**An Archaeological Evaluation
at Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road,
Thundersley,
Essex**

NGR: TQ 79870 87960

**Planning Ref: 14/0602/FUL
ASE Project No: 7744
Site Code: KRT15**

**ASE Report No: 2015426
OASIS id: archaeol6-230218**



By Paulo Clemente and Diccon Hart

Illustrations by Nathalie Gonzalez

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley, Essex between 10th and 11th November 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in advance of the development of the site

Existing site constraints meant that only six out of 18 proposed trenches could be excavated. These revealed the underlying natural Head Deposits between 65.3m and 64.02m OD, sealed by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work and the only features recorded comprised modern land drains in the north-east of the site.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East, the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College of London was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley, Essex SS7 3XR. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 7987 8796 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site comprises a broadly rectangular parcel of land measuring around 2.6 hectares in extent, situated to the south-east of Thundersley town centre. The site lies at around 69.2m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and occupies It is currently heavily wooded and measures around 2.6 hectares in extent.

1.2.2 According to a prior *Desk Based Assessment* for the site (CgMs 2014) the underlying geology of the site comprises sand of the Bagshot Formation, overlain by Head Deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning consent has been granted for construction of 71 residential dwellings with associated new access and open space (Planning ref: 14/0602/FUL). Due to the archaeological potential of the site, as outlined in the *Desk Based Assessment* prepared in support of the planning application (CgMs 2014), Conditions 29 and 30 of the Decision Notice are as follows:

Condition 29

“No development or preliminary groundworks of any kind shall take place until an archaeology field assessment has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority. Such assessment shall include recommendations for the mitigation measures required as a result of any archaeological remains found as part of the assessment.”

Condition 30

“The mitigation measures identified as part of the approved archaeology field assessment shall be implemented in their entirety”.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the scope of the field assessment, in the form of a trial trench evaluation, was subsequently prepared by Archaeology South-East in accordance with the condition (ASE 2015). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b) and the Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site,

carried out on 10th and 11th November 2015. The fieldwork was carried out by Paolo Clemente. The project was managed in the field by Paul Mason and in post-excavation by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is drawn from the Desk-Based Assessment of the site with due acknowledgement (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A Mesolithic flint assemblage is recorded from Hadleigh in 1947. A further Mesolithic flint assemblage is recorded from Badger Hall, South Benfleet. A poorly provenanced Mesolithic or Neolithic axehead is recorded from "Thundersley", as is a poorly provenanced assemblage of Mesolithic to Neolithic flint tools. A Neolithic flint chisel and plane are recorded from Bridges Farm, Hadleigh in 1921.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 A number of Roman finds are recorded within a 1km radius of the site. A 1st century clay lamp is recorded from 'South Benfleet', while a Bronze figurine is recorded from Thundersley. A coin of Commodus is recorded from 28 Meadow Road.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon and early medieval

2.4.1 A single find of this period is recorded within a 1km radius of the site, consisting of a find of early medieval pottery from 'Thundersley'.

2.5 Medieval and post-medieval

2.5.1 During the late medieval period, the site lay within Thundersley Deer Park. The extreme southern edge of the site lay on the boundary of the Deer Park.

2.5.2 Chapman and Andre's map of 1777 indicates the site to be located in woodland relatively remote from nearby settlement. This is also how the site is shown in the 1798 Ordnance Survey. The Thundersley Tithe map of 1838 records the site as part of plots 274 and 275, consisting of agricultural land forming part of the property of Thundersley Lodge. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1863 and 1896 also record the site as agricultural land.

2.5.5 By 1921 the existing property on the south of the site had been constructed and many of the existing site boundaries had been established. By 1947 all the existing site boundaries had been established.

2.6 Project Aims and Objectives

2.6.1 The aim and objectives of the work were set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation and are reproduced in full below.

- The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological remains and to establish their character,

location, extent, date, quality and significance. Any archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation will be assessed against the wider background of previous fieldwork in the area.

- In the event that significant discoveries are made the resulting report will seek to identify appropriate research objectives for any future work, in line with those laid out in *Research and Archaeology: a framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research agenda and strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The project was to originally comprise the excavation of 18 trenches each measuring 30m by 2m, representing 5 per cent sample of the 2.6ha site area, as shown in Figure 2. A number of existing site constraints, however, necessitated a significant reduction in the amount of trenching which could be undertaken. These included the presence of existing services, active badger setts and existing and felled trees. In the event, only six trenches were opened, as shown in Figure 2. All alterations to the trench design were agreed in advance with CgMs.

3.1.6 Mechanical excavation, under archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was taken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil and trench bases were scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.

3.1.71 The trenches were located using digital survey technology. Feature plans and sections were hand-drawn at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10 respectively. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and excavated features and of the site in general.

3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	25
No. of files/paper record	9
Plan and sections sheets	1
Digital photos	35
Permatrace sheets	1
Trench Record Forms	6

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 As stated above, only six trenches were excavated on the site. The only archaeological feature observed within the trenches comprised a single modern gully in Trench 8; all other trenches proved entirely devoid of archaeological remains.

4.2 Trench 8 (Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
[8/001]	Layer	Topsoil	Full-ext.	Full-ext.	0.13-0.2	63.39-63.81
[8/002]	Layer	Subsoil	Full-ext.	Full-ext.	0.12-0.17	-
[8/003]	Layer	Natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	63.17-63.37
[8/004]	Fill	Single fill	>3	0.44	0.09	-
[8/005]	Cut	Gully	>3	0.44	0.09	-
[8/006]	Fill	Single fill	>3	0.24	0.16	-
[8/007]	Cut	Field drain	>3	0.24	0.16	-

Table 2: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 8 measured 30m by 2m, on an east-west orientation. The underlying natural Head Deposits, which consisted of mid yellowish-brown silty clay [8/003], was recorded at a maximum height of 63.37m OD.

4.2.2 Two linears features on similar north-west/south-east orientations were uncovered at the east of the trench. The westernmost of these features, [8/007], consisted of a modern field drain with a fill of dark grey silty gravel and brick rubble [8/006].

4.2.3 Gully [8/005] was located at the east end of the trench and consisted of a shallow ditch with rounded profile, with a naturally silted fill of brownish-grey silty-clay [8/004]. Finds recovered from the feature includes a fragment of brick and length of iron barbed wire (not retained), which suggests a 19th-20th century date for the feature. Given the similarity in orientation to drain [8/006] it is probable that the feature also represents land drainage.

4.2.4 The gully was sealed by a greyish-brown silty clay subsoil horizon [8/002], capped by topsoil [8/001], comprising dark grey organic and soft loamy silt.

4.3 Trenches 3, 5, 6, 7 and 11 (Figure 4)

4.3.1 The remaining five trenches proved entirely devoid of any archaeological finds or features, although further modern land drains on a north-west/south-east orientation were noted in Trenches 5 and 6. The underlying natural Head Deposits were recorded in these trenches between 65.3m OD in the north of the site (Trench 3) and 64.39m OD to the south (Trench 11). In Trenches 3, 5 and 7, an interface of weathered natural clay was noted at the boundary between clean natural clay and the overlying subsoil horizon. The subsoil horizon varying in depth from 0.08m in the north of the site (Trench 3) and

0.36m to the south (Trench 11), in turn capped by a topsoil horizon measuring between 0.07m and 0.20m in depth.

Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth m	Height m AOD
3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.17	64.75-65.3
3	3/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.15	
3	3/003	Layer	Eroded natural	0.05-0.08	
3	3/004	Layer	Natural soil	N/A	64.47-65.04
5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.08	65.19-64.51
5	5/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14-0.19	
5	5/003	Layer	Eroded natural	0.06-0.08	
5	5/004	Layer	Natural soil	N/A	64.84-64.15
7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.07-0.14	64.21-64.61
7	7/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.11-0.16	
7	7/003	Layer	Eroded natural	0.07-0.13	
7	7/004	Layer	Natural soil	N/A	64.11
11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.07-0.17	64.39-63.98
11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.16-0.36	
11	11/003	Layer	Natural soil	N/A	64.02-63.56

Table 3: Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Natural Head Deposits were recorded between 65.3m AOD to the north of the investigated area (Trench 3) and 64.02m AOD in the south (Trench 11) showing a gentle slope of the terrain from north to south. This was sealed by a sequence of subsoil measuring 0.08m in the north of the site (Trench 3) but gradually thickening to the south to a maximum depth of 0.36m in Trench 11. Topsoil sealed the sequence.

5.1.2 The only features observe during the work consisted of two modern field drains recorded in Trench 8.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 With the exception of the modern land drains observed in Trench 8, the excavated trenches proved entirely devoid of archaeological evidence. It is possible that any such evidence has been truncated by past agricultural practices such as ploughing. However, the presence of an intact subsoil horizon in all five excavated trenches suggests only minimal disturbance of any potential archaeological horizon. The absence of any archaeological remains in the excavated trenches would, therefore, appear to be genuine, rather than simply a consequence of survival.

5.2.2 Available cartographic evidence shows the site to have lain in woodland during the later 18th century, though the site comprised agricultural and by the time of the 1838 Tithe map, comprising two adjoining fields. It is not until the Ordnance Survey map of 1921 that the southern half of the site is subdivided, with development along the southern boundary, fronting Kiln road to the south.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

5.3.1 On the basis of the results of work carried out to date, it is unlikely that the proposed development of the site will have an adverse archaeological impact on the area of the site so far investigated, although the limited scope of the evaluation work so far carried out should be borne in mind. In this respect, it is very difficult to gauge the impact of the proposed development on currently unevaluated areas of the site, including the far south of the site, where the park pale of Thundersley Deer Park is considered to be located (CgMs 2014, 8).

5.4 Consideration of research aims

5.4.1 The results of work carried out to date suggest that no significant archaeological remains are present within the northern half of the site, so far subject to evaluation trenching. However, it is not possible ascertain the presence or absence of archaeological remains in currently unevaluated areas of the site, nor is it possible to establish their character, location, extent, date, quality and significance. On the basis of findings to date it is not possible develop further research aims for future work.

5.5 Conclusions

- 5.5.1 It can be concluded, following the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out to date, that the proposed development is unlikely to adversely impact archaeological remains within the areas that have been subject to evaluation trenching. However, the impact of the proposed development on other, currently unevaluated, areas of the site is more difficult to judge.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	KRT15				
Project code	7744				
Planning reference	14/0602/FUL				
Site address	Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road				
District/Borough	Thundersley, Essex				
NGR (12 figures)	TQ 79870 87960				
Geology	Bagshot Formation Sand capped by Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	10/11 November 2015				
Sponsor/client	CgMs Consulting				
Project manager	Andy Leonard				
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente				
Period summary					
					Modern
Project summary (100 word max)	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley, Essex between 10th and 11th November 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in advance of the development of the site</p> <p>Existing site constraints meant that only six out of 18 proposed trenches could be excavated. These revealed the underlying natural Head Deposits between 65.3m and 64.02m OD, sealed by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work and the only features recorded comprised modern land drains in the north-east of the site.</p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-230218

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley, Essex
Short description of the project	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley, Essex between 10th and 11th November 2015. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in advance of the development of the site</p> <p>Existing site constraints meant that only six out of 18 proposed trenches could be excavated. These revealed the underlying natural Head Deposits between 65.3m and 64.02m OD, sealed by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work and the only features recorded comprised modern land drains in the north-east of the site.</p>
Project dates	Start: 10-11-2015 End: 11-11-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	7744 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	KRT15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 1 - Deciduous native
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Monument type	GULLY Modern
Significant Finds	CBM Modern
Significant Finds	METAL WIRE Modern

Project location

Country	England
Site location	ESSEX CASTLE POINT THUNDERSLEY Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road
Postcode	SS7 3XR
Study area	2.6 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 579870 187960 50.946345127678 0.249245953966 50 56 46 N 000 14 57 E Point
Height OD /	Min: 64.02m Max: 65.04m

Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	ASE/CgMs
Project director/manager	Andrew Leonard
Project supervisor	Paulo Clemente
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal"
Digital Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	evaluation report
Paper Contents	"Ceramics", "Metal", "Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

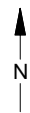
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Entered on 13 November 2015

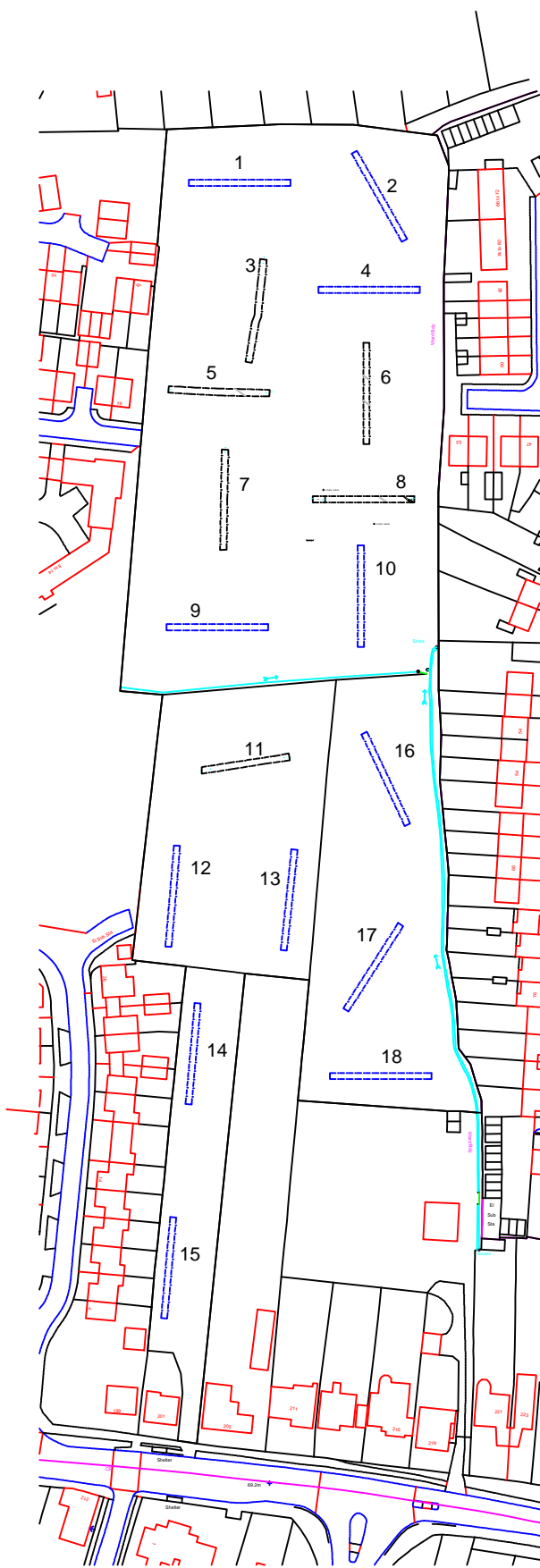


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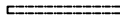

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley	
Project Ref: 7744	11 - 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015426	Drawn by: NG	Fig. 1	



+ 579730, 188120



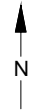
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-  Excavated trench
-  Proposed trench

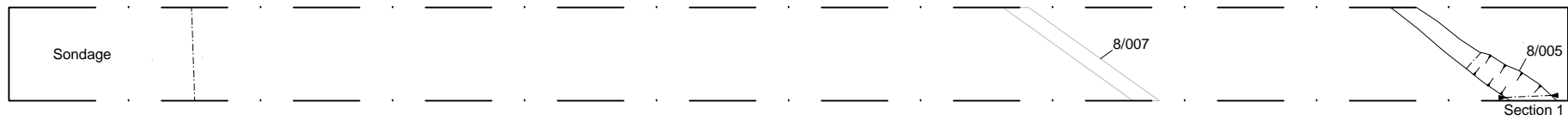


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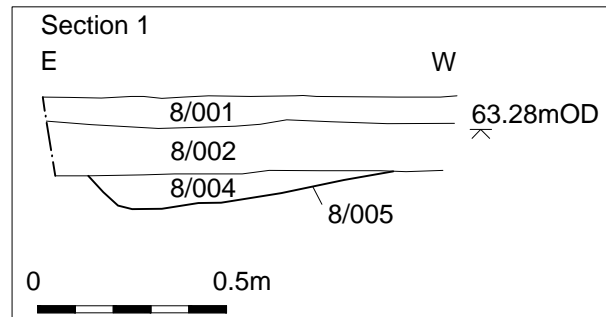
© Archaeology South-East		Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7744	11 - 2015	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2015426	Drawn by: NG		



+ 579885, 188075



+ 579900, 188065



Trench 8, looking west



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7744	11 - 2015	Trench 8: Plan, section and photograph	
Report Ref: 2015426	Drawn by: NG		



Trench 3 looking north



Trench 5 looking east



Trench 6 looking north



Trench 7 looking south



Trench 11 looking west

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of 201-219 Kiln Road, Thundersley	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 7744	11 - 2015	Photographs of negative trenches	
Report Ref: 2015426	Drawn by: DAH		

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