

**Archaeological Evaluation Report  
Land at Newick Hill  
Newick, East Sussex**

**NGR 541623 121686  
(TQ 41623 21686)**

**Lewes District Council Planning Reference LW/14/0924  
ASE Project No: 160172  
Site Code: NEW 16  
ASE Report No: 2016328  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-259871**



**By Simon Stevens BA (Hons) MCIfA**


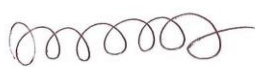
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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by ACD Environmental on behalf of their client Thakeham Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Newick Hill, Newick, East Sussex. Eight trenches were recorded*

*No archaeological deposits or features were encountered. A limited artefactual assemblage recovered from topsoil consists of very occasional residual undiagnostic worked flint debitage, probably modern CBM fragments, fire-cracked flint and a modern metal fitting. The evaluation suggests that no significant archaeological deposits exist at the site.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by ACD Environmental on behalf of their client Thakeham Homes, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Newick Hill, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 541623 121686 Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The c.1.5ha site is located in the Weald of East Sussex, to the north of the A272, and consisted of two fields. The site lies to the east of Newick Hill, and is bounded to the north by a public footpath and to the south by the rear fences of properties fronting onto Cricketfield. There is a bridleway to the east. There are extensive views across the High Weald to the north.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site consists of the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2016).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Permission was granted by Lewes District Council for the erection of 31 dwellings with associated access and landscaping in November 2015 (planning ref. LW/14/0924). Following consultation between Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council (Lewes District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (No. 13) was attached to the permission requiring that:

*'No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Archaeological Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'*

*Reason : To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.'*

1.3.2 Subsequently a magnetometer survey was undertaken by GSB Prospection Ltd. which revealed a limited number of linear/curvilinear anomalies in the easternmost field (GSB Prospection Ltd. 2016; Figure 2).

1.3.3 Following discussions between ASE, East Sussex County Council and ACD Environmental (acting on behalf of their client, Thakeham Homes) a *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Evaluation* (ASE 2016) was produced and approved by all parties. Procedures to be used in recording, reporting and archiving of results were provided.

## 1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The research aims given in the WSI (*ibid.*) were:

- *To test/corroborate the results of the geophysical survey*
- *To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits*
- *To assess how these remains might be affected by development of the site*
- *To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site.*

*Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities in alignment with the draft South East Research Framework:*

- *An understanding of the multi-faceted landscape.*

## 1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation of the site by trial trenching undertaken during August 2016. The archaeological work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Gemma Ward, Pippa Postgate (Assistant Archaeologists) and by John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Managers).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 This archaeological background has been prepared with reference to data supplied by the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER) to ACD Environmental, under search ref. 234/16.
- 2.2 Only two HER records refer to the site itself. HER MES24706 notes a cricket pitch which extended into the site and has been built over to the south (the Cricketfield development). HER MES24707 relates to the use of Newick Common, of which the site formed part, for military manoeuvres in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Most other records for the general area relate to listed or undesignated buildings and the site of farms, quarries and woodland boundaries which are mainly likely to be post-medieval.
- 2.3 The Cricketfield development was begun in 1925 and completed after the Second World War (Mayes, 2002, 121). The only local building of historic interest is the Grade II listed *Cuttings*, the former village workhouse, which lies on the north-eastern corner of Cricketfield. Thought to be 16<sup>th</sup> century in origin, the 'L'-shaped building is now a private residence (*op. cit.*, 136-7).
- 2.4 Both Fletching Common to the north, and Newick Green area to the south are suggested as *foci* of medieval settlement and designated as archaeological notification areas, but the current site lies between them (HERs 7837 & 1817). The only local pre-medieval record is to the find of two Bronze Age palstaves by metal detectorists some distance to the south-east of Newick (HER 6904). In terms of known historic land use, the site area lies within an area of enclosed (Newick) common.
- 2.5 Information on past archaeological events mainly relates to building surveys and desk-based assessments. HER EES14871 does record a negative watching brief and EES 17394 a geophysical survey which found pit type anomalies. However, both lie approximately a kilometre from the current site, and are of limited relevance.
- 2.6 A geophysical survey (GPB 2016) recently completed across all suitable parts of the site identified a small number of anomalies (Figure 2).



### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)**

- 3.1.1 Eight trenches were located to investigate identified geophysical anomalies as well as 'blank' areas in the two fields. Trenches 1 to 4 were located in the western field with 5 to 8 located in the eastern field. Owing to a range of on-site obstacles, the original planned locations of the majority of the trenches were inaccessible, but a pattern of trenches offering coverage of the available areas was devised and instigated.
- 3.1.2 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 the 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 was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were collected, sampled and recorded to accepted professional standards (ClfA 2014a, ClfA 2014b and *Sussex Archaeological Standards* 2015) using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.4 The trench locations were planned using digital survey technology. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and of the site in general.

### 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Lewes Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	24
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	8

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1/2 box
Registered finds (number of)	1
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The site was divided into two separate fields, totalling c.1.5ha in area. The most obvious on-site obstacle was an overhead cable which ran broadly east to west across the site, with an associated clearly marked exclusion zone, but there were also ecological constraints.

### 4.2 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.15 - 0.16	
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10 - 0.12	
1/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 1 was excavated to a length of 6m, sited as close as possible to the planned location of the trench, placed to avoid known buried services and to allow site access for other contractors.

4.2.2 The overburden consisted of a layer of mid-brown silty clay topsoil, context [1/001], which overlay a layer of a greyish brown sandy clay subsoil, context [1/002], which in turn directly overlay the greyish yellow/yellowish grey sandy clay 'natural deposit, context [1/003].

4.2.3 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.



### 4.3 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.12 - 0.20	
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11 - 0.20	
2/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Trench 2 was excavated to a length of 30m, shortened to avoid the exclusion zone for the overhead services and to allow site access for other contractors. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.3.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but modern CBM and a piece of fire-cracked flint were recovered from the topsoil.



#### 4.4 Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17 - 0.35	
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11 - 0.20	
3/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 3 was excavated to a length of 30m, shortened and reoriented to avoid the exclusion zone for the overhead services. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.4.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.



#### 4.5 Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10 - 0.20	
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11 - 0.17	
4/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 4 was excavated to a length of 40m, in the planned position. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.5.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but a modern fitting RF<1>, a CBM fragment, fire cracked flint and 2 pieces of undiagnostic flint debitage were recovered from the topsoil.





#### 4.6 Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.14 - 0.18	
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08 - 0.23	
5/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 was excavated to a length of 35m, shortened by 5m at the request on the on-site ecologist to avoid an area of undergrowth. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and ‘natural’ were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.6.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but a shell and a piece of undiagnostic flint debitage were recovered from the topsoil.



#### 4.7 Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.19 - 0.28	
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17 - 0.22	
6/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 8: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

- 4.6.1 Trench 6 was excavated to a length of 35m, shortened by 5m and slightly reoriented at the request on the on-site ecologist to avoid an area of undergrowth. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.6.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but a piece of fire-cracked flint and a piece of undiagnostic flint debitage were recovered from the topsoil.



## 4.8 Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.16 - 0.30	
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.14 - 0.28	
7/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 9: Trench 7 list of recorded contexts

- 4.8.1 Trench 7 was excavated to a length of 40m, with a break in the middle to avoid the alignment of an unrecorded buried service clearly visible on the surface of the field. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.
- 4.8.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but 3 fragments of CBM, a piece of fire-cracked flint and 3 pieces of undiagnostic flint debitage were recovered from the topsoil.



## 4.9 Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height mAOD
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11 - 0.13	
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.16 - 0.18	
8/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	

Table 10: Trench 8 list of recorded contexts

4.9.1 Trench 8 was excavated to a length of 20m, shortened and reoriented to avoid the exclusion zone for the overhead services. The layers of ploughsoil, subsoil and 'natural' were similar in character to those found in Trench 1.

4.9.2 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered, but 3 pieces of undiagnostic flint debitage were recovered from the topsoil.



## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Flint

5.1.1 A very small assemblage (11 pieces) of undiagnostic flint debitage was collected from the topsoil in Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. A very small assemblage (6 pieces) of fire-cracked flint was collected from the topsoil in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

### 5.2 Ceramic Building Material (CBM)

5.2.1 A very small assemblage of modern and undiagnostic CBM was recovered from Trench 2 (1 x fragment of modern CBM), Trench 4 (1 x fragment of undiagnostic CBM) and Trench 7 (3 x fragments of undiagnostic CBM).

### 5.3 The Shell by Susan Chandler

5.3.1 A single fragment of oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis*) was recovered during the works on site from context [5/001]. It weighs a total of 9g and is incomplete, being much worn.

### 5.4 The Registered Finds by Susan Chandler

5.4.1 The single registered find was given registered find numbers RF <0> and recorded on *pro forma sheets*, as per standard practice.

RF No	Context	Object	Material	Period
1	[4/001]	fitting	Copper alloy	Post medieval/ modern

Table 11: The registered find

5.4.2 RF <1> is a copper alloy fitting most likely of late 19<sup>th</sup>/ early 20<sup>th</sup> century date. It is comprised of a strip in an incomplete D shaped section with a ridged face and nail holes at each end; one end has the remains of a corroded iron nail. Its function is unclear.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Overview**

- 7.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the archaeological evaluation of the site. The artefactual assemblage recovered from the topsoil is limited and consists of residual undiagnostic worked flint debitage, probably modern CBM fragments, fire-cracked flint and a modern metal fitting RF<1>.

### **7.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts**

- 7.2.1 The presence of an *in situ* subsoil layer across the entire site suggests there has been no recent widescale truncation. There was little discernible plough damage to the surface of the 'natural' suggested little impact from agricultural practises, in keeping with the known history of the site as part of Newick Common (see Section 2.0 above).

### **7.3 Consideration of Research Aims**

- 7.3.1 Given the negative results of the evaluation, none of the research aims could be satisfactorily addressed. Arguably the evaluation did corroborate the results of the magnetometer survey, which showed few convincing anomalies.

### **7.4 Conclusions**

- 7.4.1 The evaluation suggests that no significant archaeological deposits exist at the site.

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**HER Summary**

Site Code	NEW 16					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Newick Hill, Newick					
County, District &/or Borough	Lewes District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	541623 121686					
Geology	Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160172					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	9/8-11/8/16					
Sponsor/Client	ACD Environmental on behalf of Thakeham Homes					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary						
<p><i>Summary</i></p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by ACD Environmental on behalf of their client Thakeham Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Newick Hill, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 541623 121686).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation suggests that no significant archaeological deposits exist at the site.</i></p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-259871**

### Project details

Project name Land at Newick Hill, Newick, East Sussex

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by ACD Environmental on behalf of their client Thakeham Homes to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Newick Hill, Newick, East Sussex (NGR 541623 121686). The evaluation suggests that no significant archaeological deposits exist at the site.

Project dates Start: 09-08-2016 End: 11-08-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 160172 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes NEW 16 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes LW/14/0924 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds FLINTWORK Late Prehistoric

Methods & techniques ""Targeted Trenches""

Development type Rural residential

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES NEWICK Land at Newick Hill
Postcode	BN8 4QR
Study area	1.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 41623 21666 50.976404006684 0.017553652949 50 58 35 N 000 01 03 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	ACD Environmental
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	ACD Environmental
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Lewes Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive	Lewes Museum

recipient

Paper Contents "other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Report","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography  
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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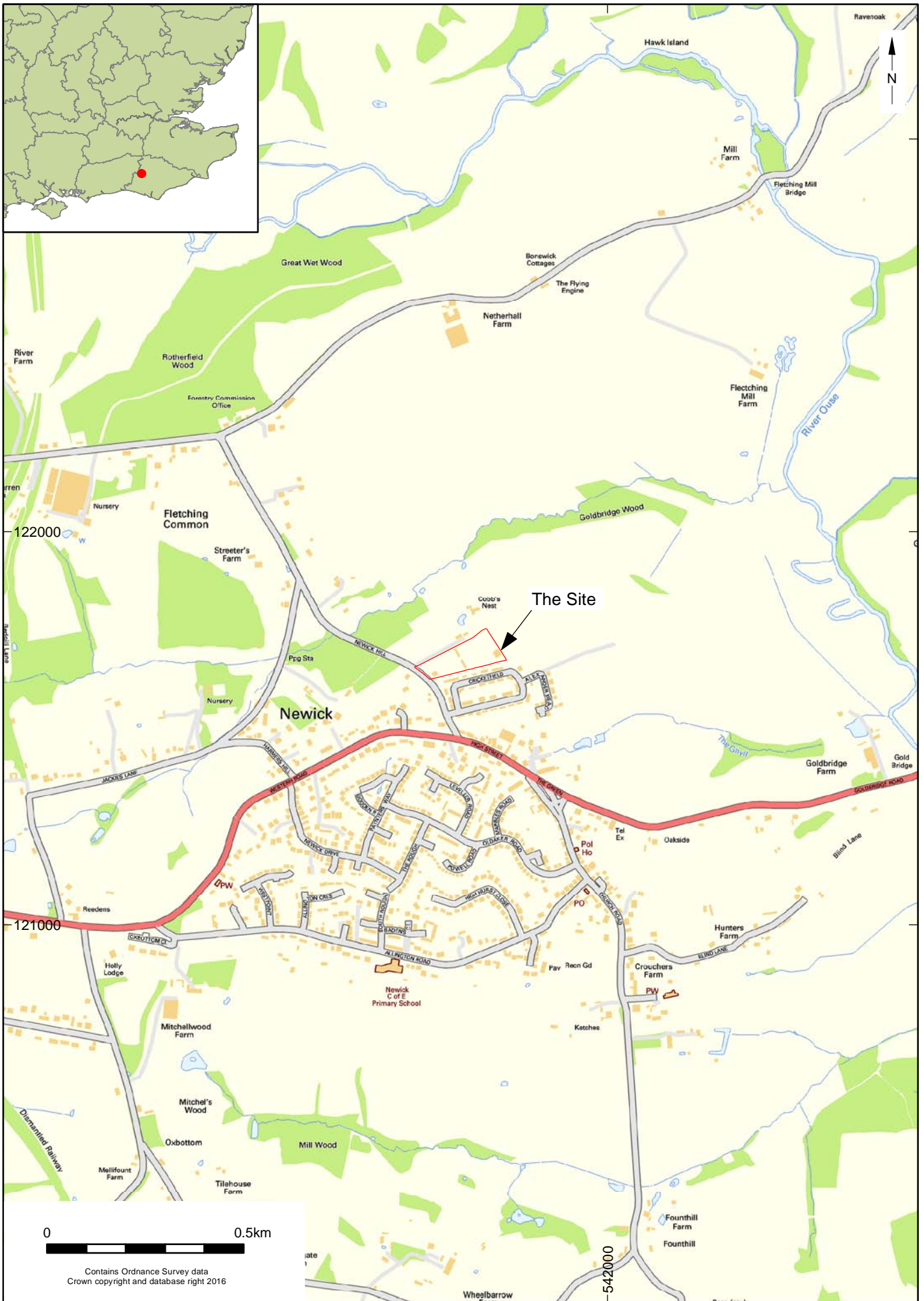
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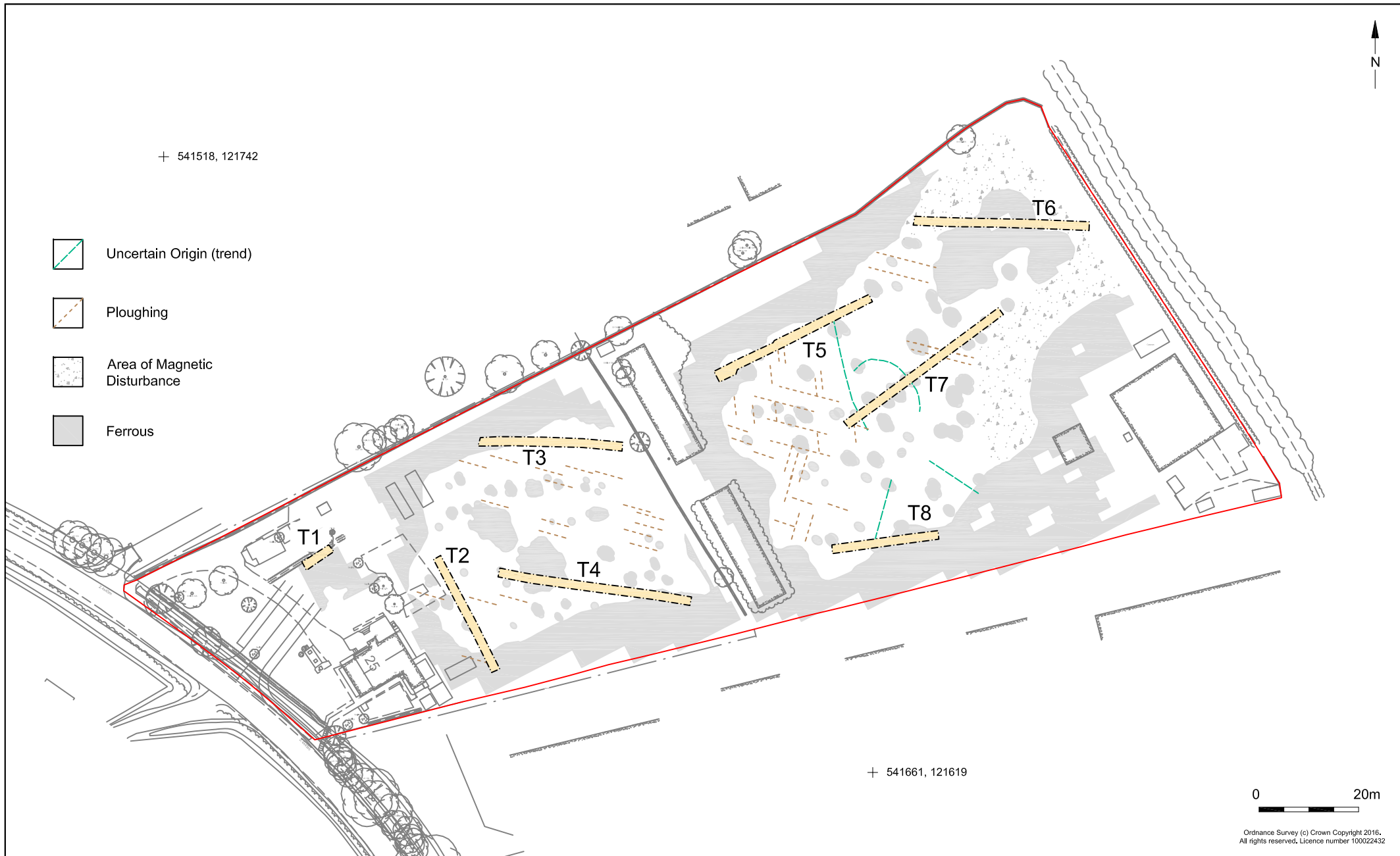
Description Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos

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Entered on 11 August 2016



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Newick Hill, Newick	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160172	August 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016328	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Land at Newick Hill, Newick	Fig.2
Project Ref: 160172	August 2016	Trench Location and Geophysical Data	
Report Ref: 2016328	Drawn by: AR		

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