

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Lullingstone Country Park
Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JF**

NGR: 552527,163887

ASE Project No: 170025

Site Code: LCU17

ASE Report No: 2017075

OASIS id: archaeol6-278722



By Chris Russel

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Revision:			

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent on the 2nd February 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Kent county Council in advance of the construction of a wooden shelter at Lullingstone Country Park. A total of nine hand-dug post holes were monitored, which only impacted on colluvial subsoil. No artefacts were recovered from the excavations and the geological substrate was not observed.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) to undertake a watching brief in advance of the construction of a wooden shelter on land at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent (NGR 552527,163887; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The watching brief took place in a small clearing within a narrow strip of woodland to the north-west of the visitor centre at Lullingstone Country Park. The monitored area is bounded to the north by arable land and to the east and west by woodland. To the south is open parkland.
- 1.2.2 According to the current data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015) the underlying natural solid geology comprises the New Pit Chalk Formation. Superficial geological mapping shows the site to be located on subaerial slope head deposits, bordering a zone of alluvial deposition. Previous investigations at the site in 2009 (ASE 2009a, ASE 2009b) added further resolution to the Quaternary sequence, identifying a sequence of periglacial head deposits including calcareous head, brickearth and sorted head, all sealed by a thin layer of colluvium.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

- 1.3.1 The aims of this work were outlined in the KCC Specification (KCC 2007) and are reproduced below with due acknowledgement.
- 1.3.2 The primary objective was to assess the potential for early prehistoric remains and the nature of Pleistocene deposits within the area of the proposed playground. The evaluation was thus to ascertain the nature, extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, condition and quality of the deposits, and of any Palaeolithic or later remains at the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report provides field observations made during the watching brief, which took place on the 2nd of February 2017. The watching brief was undertaken by Chris Russel. The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Outline

- 2.1.1 The following archaeological and historical background utilises information taken from a previous watching brief/ evaluation report on fieldwork carried out c.60m to the east of the current site (ASE 2015).

2.2 Introduction

- 2.2.1 The site lies within an area of high archaeological potential. Aerial photography and cropmarks show enclosures and trackways located within the park and there is also evidence for a number of Iron Age and Roman settlements. There is potential to identify evidence for the use of the site and its environs as a post-medieval landscape park and a partial geology of river terrace gravels may contain early prehistoric material. Recent investigations by Archaeology South-East have recovered significant evidence for late Pleistocene and early Holocene activity in the area around the visitor centre (e.g. ASE 2009a & ASE 2009b).

2.3 Palaeolithic

- 2.3.1 In a preliminary archaeological evaluation by ASE in March 2009 (ASE 2009a) to the south of the current site, three Late Upper Palaeolithic long blade technology flints were recovered from a layer of Head deposits beneath the colluvium. The thick Head deposit that contained the flintwork overlay a cut feature containing worked and burnt flint, as well as a deeper deposit containing a cattle-sized long bone fragment. Further long blade techno-complex pieces were identified from a second stage of evaluation (ASE 2009a) and during a further watching brief phase (ASE 2013) a long blade assemblage of approximately 270 pieces was recovered.

2.4 Mesolithic

- 2.4.1 The second stage evaluation and the watching brief (ASE 2009b; ASE 2013) recovered significant numbers (1000+) of worked Mesolithic flint from probable colluvial deposits overlying Brickearth. Recovery of 500+ pieces of unrolled worked flint from the Brickearth deposit led to the proposal of a possible extensive preserved Mesolithic land surface. A third phase of watching brief and geoarchaeological evaluation to the east of the current site (ASE 2015) identified residual flintwork, but concluded that it is unlikely that the concentration of Late Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flintwork recovered from the car park either extends into the area encompassing the current site, or has had a significant proportion transported downslope.

2.5 Later Prehistoric

- 2.5.1 During the 1st stage evaluation, a linear feature which may represent part of a later prehistoric driveway was encountered, although the only artefacts retrieved from it were worked flint (ASE 2009a).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The groundworks comprised the hand excavation of nine postholes measuring circa 0.30m in diameter and dug to 0.60-0.65m below ground level (BGL). This work was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for archaeological deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts. All work was carried out in accordance with the Kent County Council standard specification for watching briefs (KCC 2007) and with the relevant Standard and Guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b)

3.1.2 All deposits were recorded using ASE standard context sheets. Vertical sections were taken across features where necessary and a comprehensive photographic record maintained throughout the work.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at an appropriate local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 & 2).

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	35
Context register	1
Drawing register	-
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
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 A total of nine hand dug postholes were monitored during the watching brief (Figures 2 and 3). These post holes were approximately 0.30m in diameter and dug to between 0.60 and 0.65m below ground level.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25
02	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.40

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

4.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence remained consistent through all excavations. The deepest deposit observed was a red-brown fine silt colluvium/subsoil [02] with common chalk fleck inclusions. This was overlain by brown grey, fine clay silt topsoil [01]. No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 The excavations at Lullingstone Country Park were very limited indeed and will had no impact on potential archaeological deposits. The work only revealed colluvial subsoil which was overlain by topsoil. The deposit sequence appeared to be intact. The geological substrate was not revealed.

5.1.2 No finds were recovered during the watching brief. The excavations in this area were either too shallow to impact on archaeological deposits or the focus of prehistoric activity noted in the park is elsewhere.

5.2 Consideration of research aims

5.2.1 The objectives for the watching brief are set out in section 1.3 above and were as follows ;

- *The evaluation was thus to ascertain the nature, extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, condition and quality of the deposits, and of any Palaeolithic or later remains at the site.*

5.2.2 The excavations monitored at Lullingstone Country Park were limited in nature and only impacted on colluvial subsoil. This deposit was noted at 0.25m below ground level but the depth of the deposit was not fully revealed. No artefacts, prehistoric or otherwise, were recovered during the work

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Although early prehistoric activity has been recorded elsewhere within Lullingstone Country Park no archaeological evidence relating to this period was recovered during the watching brief. The post hole excavations associated with the construction of a wooden structure in the park were either too shallow to reveal archaeological deposits or the focus of activity is elsewhere in the park.

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ClfA 2014b *Standards and guidance. Archaeological watching brief*

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Kent County Council for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Wendy Rogers County Archaeologist Kent County Council for her guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.											
Site code	LCU 17										
Project code	170025										
Planning reference	N/A										
Site address	Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent. DA4 0JF										
District/Borough											
NGR (12 figures)	552527,163887										
Geology	New Pit Chalk Formation										
Fieldwork type	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WB <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>										
Date of fieldwork	02/02/2017										
Sponsor/client	Kent County Council										
Project manager	Paul Mason										
Project supervisor	Chris Russel										
Period summary	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>										
Project summary (100 word max)	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Kent County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent on the 2nd of February 2017. The work involved the excavation of a number post holes for the construction of a wooden shelter at Lullingstone Country Park. A total of nine hand dug post holes were monitored which only impacted on colluvial subsoil. No artefacts were recovered from the excavations and the geological substrate was not observed.										
Museum/Accession No.											

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
None	None	N/A	0

OASIS ID: archaeol6-278722

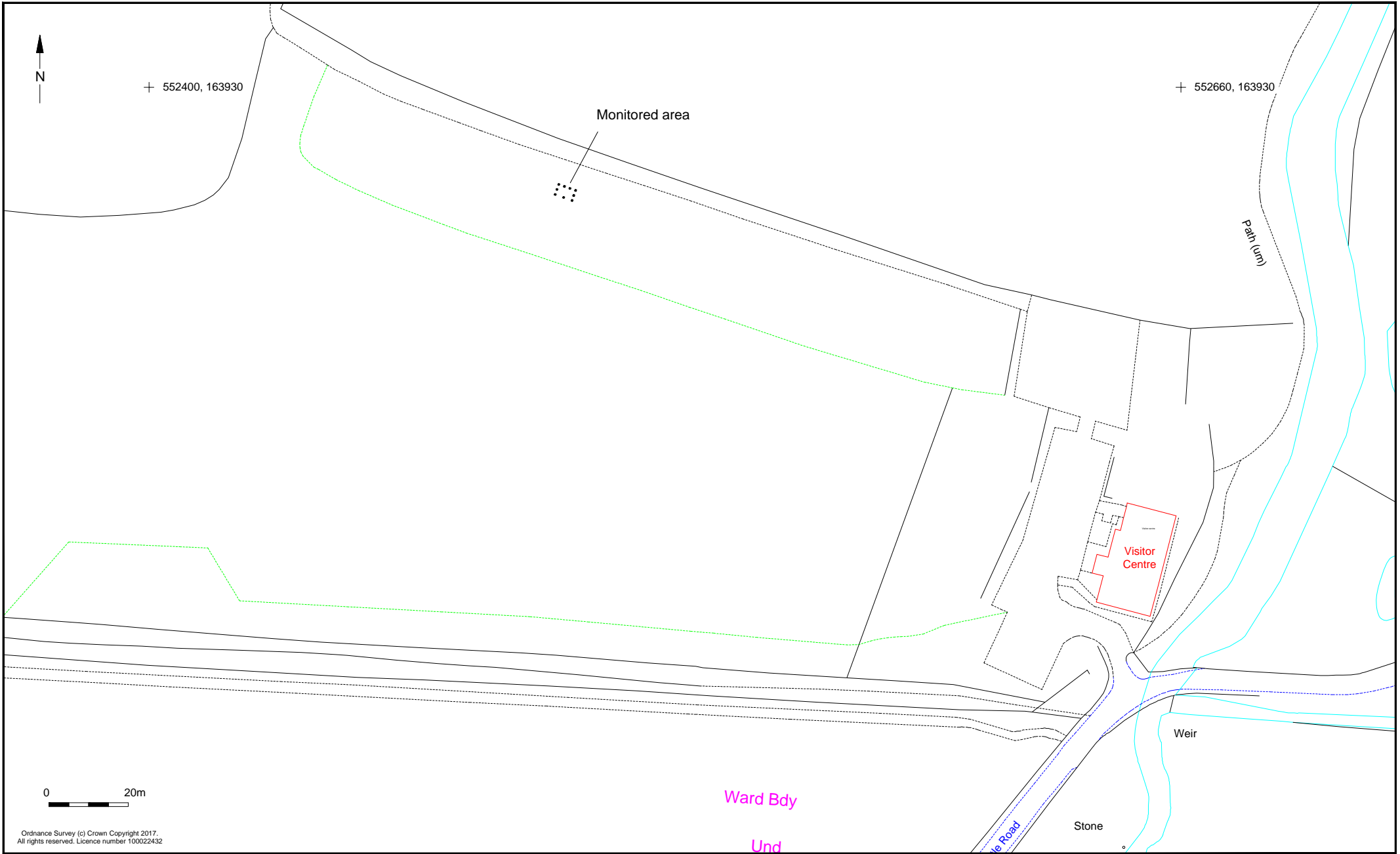
Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JF.
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Kent County Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent on the 2nd of February 2017. The work involved the excavation of a number post holes for the construction of a wooden shelter at Lullingstone Country Park. A total of nine hand dug post holes were monitored which only impacted on colluvial subsoil. No artefacts were recovered from the excavations and the geological substrate was not observed.
Project dates	Start: 02-02-2017 End: 02-02-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	LCU 17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	170025 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS SHOREHAM Lullingstone Country Park
Postcode	DA4 0JF
Study area	0.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 552561 163844 50.925417014748 0.209369895848 50 55 31 N 000 12 33 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Chris Russel

Type of sponsor/funding body	Kent County Council
Name of sponsor/funding body	KCC
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lullingstone Country Park, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JF.
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Other bibliographic details	Repoort No: 2017075
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
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Entered by	chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	9 March 2017

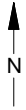


© Archaeology South-East		Lullingstone Country Park	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170025	March 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017075	Drawn by: JLR		



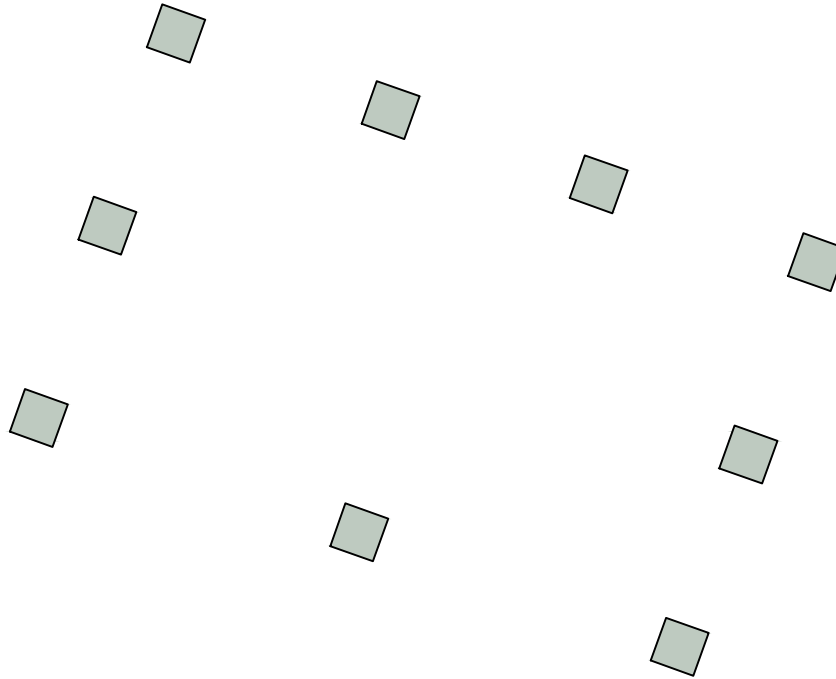
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© Archaeology South-East		Lullingstone Country Park		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170025	March 2017	Monitored area		
Report Ref: 2017075	Drawn by: JLR			



+ 552500, 163906

+ 552509, 163906



0 1m

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Monitored postholes looking east

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Drawn by: JLR

Lullingstone Country Park

Plan of monitored postholes

Fig. 3

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