

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Kings Cross Lane
South Nutfield, Surrey**

**NGR 530440 148500
(TQ 30440 48500)**

Tandridge District Council Planning Reference: TA/2014/1977

ASE Project No: 170970

Site Code: SNU 17

ASE Report No: 2017505

OASIS ID: archaeol6-302457



By Simon Stevens

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southgold Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, Surrey.

The north-western and south-eastern parts of the site were untruncated and trenches here did not result in the identification of any archaeological features or deposits, or finds. Significant truncation in the central part of the site had removed the topsoil and subsoil horizons and extensive modern dumping was noted in this area. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Southgold Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, Surrey (NGR 530440 148500; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies in a rural location on the south side of Kings Cross Lane to the south of the centre of the village of South Nutfield, Surrey. There is open land to the west, north and east, with boundaries consisting of mature trees and bushes.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site consists of Weald Clay. There are no recorded superficial deposits at the site (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Tandridge District Council for the erection of sixteen dwellings consisting of 2x1 bedroom flats, 8x2 bedroom houses and 6x3 bedroom houses at the site with associated parking, refuse areas, cycle parking provisions and landscaping (planning reference TA/2014/1977).

1.3.2 Following consultation between Tandridge District Council and Surrey Borough Council (Tandridge District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), and based on the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (CgMs 2014), a condition (No. 6) was attached to the planning permission stating that:

'No development shall start until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the District Planning Authority. Reason: To safeguard the archaeological interests of the site in accordance with Policy DP20 of the Tandridge Local Plan: Part 2 – Detailed Policies 2014'

1.3.3 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (MoLA 2016) was produced and approved by Nigel Randall, Archaeological Officer, Surrey County Council before the commencement of work on site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken on the 28th November 2017.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following background information and research aims are taken directly from the WSI (MOLA 2017) which largely derive from the DBA (CgMs 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic date have been recorded in the direct vicinity of the site, however Surrey has produced many finds of Mesolithic material, usually worked flints, especially on the Greensand which runs in an east/west band well to the north of the site. Approximately 3km to the north-west of the site a collection of microliths were found near Redhill Station between 1847 and 1860. Mr John Shelley, of Redhill, collected several thousand flint flakes together with some flint cores and saws and a leaf-shaped arrow head from the local sandy soil (Historic England Monument no. 400358).

2.2.2 Further afield, c.4.5kms to the north-east, an important Mesolithic site at North Park Farm was revealed at a quarry near Bletchingley. Evidence for *in situ* Mesolithic features survived and numerous struck flint and microliths recovered indicate use of the location throughout the Mesolithic period. This included a series of pits, some in clusters and a buried soil containing only material of Mesolithic date. The excavations recovered thousands of flint artefacts typical of the earlier Mesolithic period (c.11,500 to c.11,000 years before present), along with high concentrations of flint debitage. Neolithic and Bronze Age pitting was also evident on this site.

2.2.3 Archaeological evaluation of land at Mercers Farm, near Nutfield to the north of the site, recorded late Bronze Age to early Iron Age material. In addition, occasional flint artefacts dating from the Mesolithic to early Neolithic periods were found as residual finds in some of the features. The features of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age date were found largely in the eastern part of the site. Possible settlement sites were identified in the south-east corner and close to a palaeochannel in the north of the site (Oxford Archaeology South 2014).

2.2.4 In addition, two polished flint axes of probable Neolithic date are recorded c.620m south-west of the site. An early Bronze Age flat axe was discovered c.960m north-west of the site in a field in Paddock Farm. This is recorded as having been found in ploughsoil (Cotton and Williams 1997, 181).

2.3 Romano-British and Medieval

2.3.1 During the Romano-British and possibly the early medieval period the site, most probably lay in woodland or agricultural land. The HER lists the possible site of a medieval moat c.670m to the west of the site although it is likely that the later medieval settlement was situated c.2km to the north in the area of Nutfield village and its parish church of St Peter and St Paul, parts of which date to the 12th century.

2.4 Post-Medieval

- 2.4.1 Rocque's mid-18th-century map shows the site in a field to the west of the small hamlet of Ridge Green and the 1840 Nutfield Tithe map and its award indicates the site as occupying a garden attached to Hale Farm. Later 19th-century Ordnance Survey mapping and mapping into the second half of the 20th century show little change to the site. During the 1930s the Redhill Aerodrome was developed at Hamme Farm c.400m to the south-west of the site. The HER also records several WWII air crashes in the area, the closest being 650m to the south.
- 2.4.2 Later 20th-century mapping shows the outline of a tennis court on the site, the remains of which are still present on the site at the time of the evaluation, utilised as the site compound.

2.5 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.5.1 The overarching research aim of the evaluation given in the WSI (MOLA 2016) was:

'to confirm the extent, nature and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits or structures on the site.... in the context of the wider archaeological research priorities set out in the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (Bird 2006).'

- 2.5.2 Other more site specific objectives (*ibid.*) were:

- *What is the nature and level of natural topography?*
- *What are the earliest deposits identified?*
- *Is there any evidence of prehistoric activity on the site?*
- *Is there any evidence of medieval activity on the site?*
- *When was the site first developed?*
- *Are any boundary divisions evident on the site?*
- *What are the latest deposits identified?*
- *What is the extent of modern disturbance?*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Five trenches, each measuring 20m by 1.8m, were excavated. The locations of Trenches 2 and 5 were moved from the locations shown in the WSI (MoLA 2016; Figure 2) due to on-site constraints; the other three trenches were in the planned positions.
- 3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (ibid) and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2017).
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, by tracked excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket, was undertaken under archaeological supervision in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits. 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.
- 3.1.4 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.5 Exact 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 East Surrey Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	14
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	21 images
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	5

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 (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated on the 28th November 2017. Weather conditions consisted of bright, low sunshine, with occasional thin cloud, offering generally good visibility for the identification of archaeological deposits, features and finds.

4.2 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Made Ground	>5.0	>1.80	0.32 - 0.91	68.28 - 69.36
1/002	Layer	Topsoil	>15.0	>1.80	0.32 - 0.33	-
1/003	Layer	Subsoil	>15.0	>1.80	0.11 - 0.12	-
1/004	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	67.45 - 68.85

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence in the trench was straightforward. At the eastern end of the trench natural greyish yellow Weald Clay [1/004] was directly overlain by a thick deposit of highly mixed made ground [1/001], consisting of a mixture of topsoil and clay containing brick, concrete, tarmac and chalk rubble, and timber, rusty metal and plastic; clearly of recent origin.

4.2.2 Approximately 5m from the east end of the trench this made ground deposit petered-out and for the remainder of the trench the Weald Clay [1/004] was directly overlain by a thin layer of yellowish brown silty clay subsoil [1/003] and mid-brown humic silty clay topsoil [1/002]. There was considerable mixing of the topsoil and subsoil from substantial roots.

4.2.3 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.3 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Made Ground	Trench	Trench	0.54 - 0.81	69.17 - 69.42
2/002	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	68.61 - 68.88

Table 4: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 Weald Clay, [2/002], was directly overlain by a thick layer of modern made ground, [2/001], similar to that seen in Trench 1.

4.3.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.4 Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Made Ground	Trench	Trench	0.48 - 0.64	68.23 - 69.21
3/002	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	67.75 - 68.57

Table 5: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 The deposits recorded in Trench 3 were the same as those seen in Trench 2.

4.4.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.5 Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.51 - 0.69	69.42 - 69.42
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11 - 0.30	-
4/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	68.44 - 68.70

Table 6: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Weald Clay [4/003] was overlain by subsoil [4/002] and topsoil [4/001]. A backfilled (geotechnical?) machine-cut test hole was noted towards the centre of the trench.

4.5.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.5 Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.51 - 0.69	69.47 - 69.71
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.18 - 0.28	-
5/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	68.81 - 69.36

Table 7: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 The deposits recorded in Trench 5 were the same as those seen in Trench 4.

4.5.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the evaluation. Significant modern truncation and dumping was noted in the central part of the site.

5.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts

5.2.1 Significant modern truncation has resulted in the removal of natural topsoil and subsoil horizons at the eastern end of Trench 1 and across the whole of Trenches 2 and 3. In place, a layer of modern made ground between c. 0.50 and c. 1m thick had been dumped directly over the natural Weald Clay.

5.2.2 In the area of Trenches 4 and 5, and the westernmost 15m of Trench 1, intact subsoil and topsoil horizons were recorded.

5.3 Consideration of Research Aims

5.3.1 Although no archaeological deposits or features were encountered, some of the research aims have been addressed insofar as the thickness of natural overburden and areas, and levels, of truncation at the site have been established.

5.3.2 The surface of natural topsoil was observed in the north-western and south-eastern parts of the site at between c. 69.20-69.70m AOD.

5.3.3 There was no evidence of prehistoric or medieval activity and no boundary divisions were seen.

5.3.4 According to Ordnance Survey mapping, the site remained undeveloped until c. 1970 -79 when a tennis court and pavilion was constructed on the eastern part of the site. The rest of the site remained apparently undeveloped to the present day.

5.3.5 The latest deposits seen were of modern made ground in the central part of the site which had been dumped in an area covering Trenches 2 and 3 and the eastern part of Trench 1 where topsoil and subsoil had been removed.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 The north-western and south-eastern parts of the site were untruncated and trenches here did not result in the identification of any archaeological features or deposits, or finds. Significant truncation in the central part of the site had removed the topsoil and subsoil horizons and extensive modern dumping was noted in this area. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

Site code	SNU 17					
Project code	170970					
Planning reference	TA/2014/1977					
Site address	Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield					
District/Borough	Tandridge District					
NGR (12 figures)	530440 148500					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Fieldwork type	Eval ✓	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	28 th November 2017					
Sponsor/client	Southgold Ltd.					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period summary						
Project summary	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southgold Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, Surrey</i></p> <p><i>The north-western and south-eastern parts of the site were untruncated and trenches here did not result in the identification of any archaeological features or deposits, or finds. Significant truncation in the central part of the site had removed the topsoil and subsoil horizons and extensive modern dumping was noted in this area. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.</i></p>					

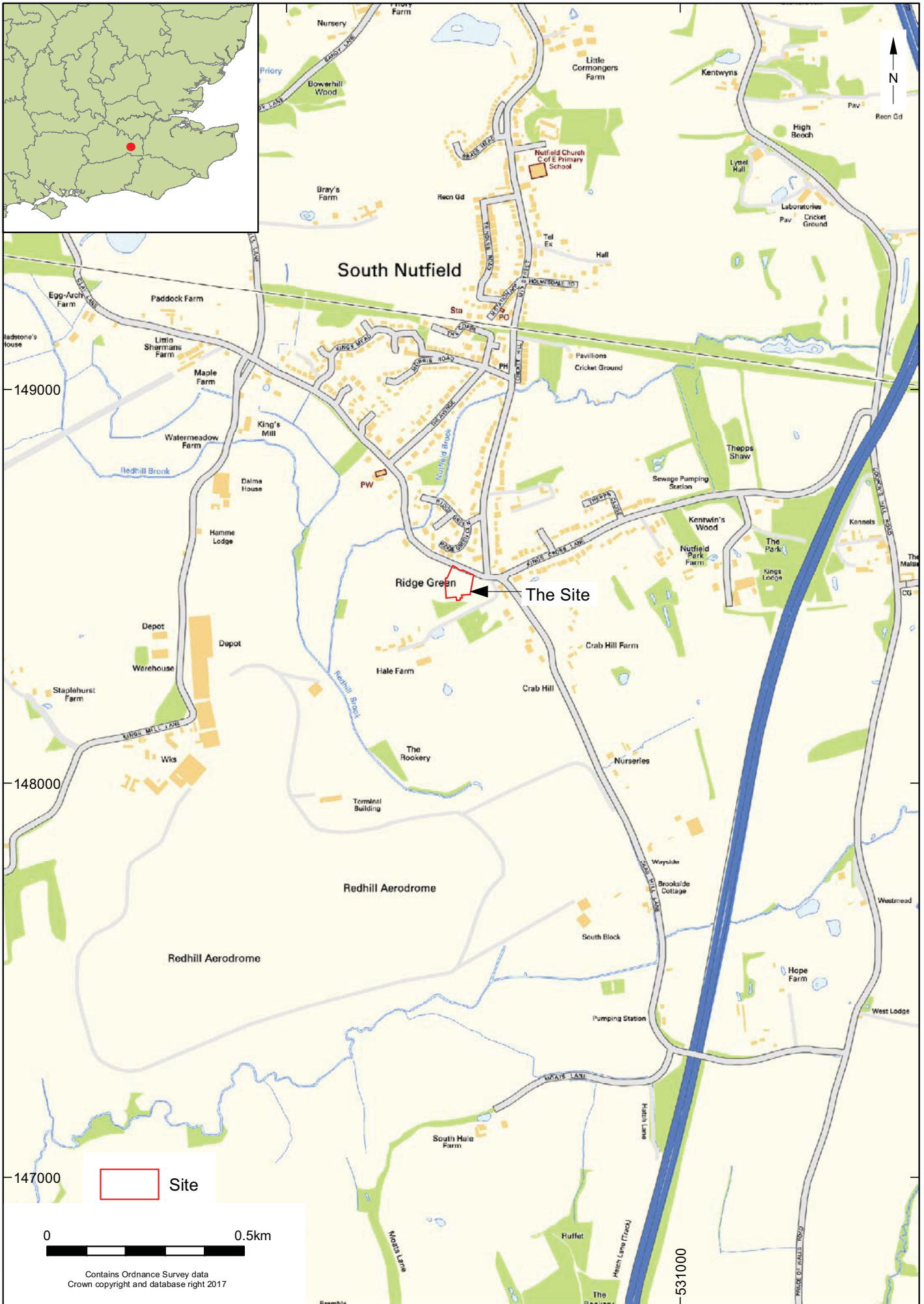
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-302457

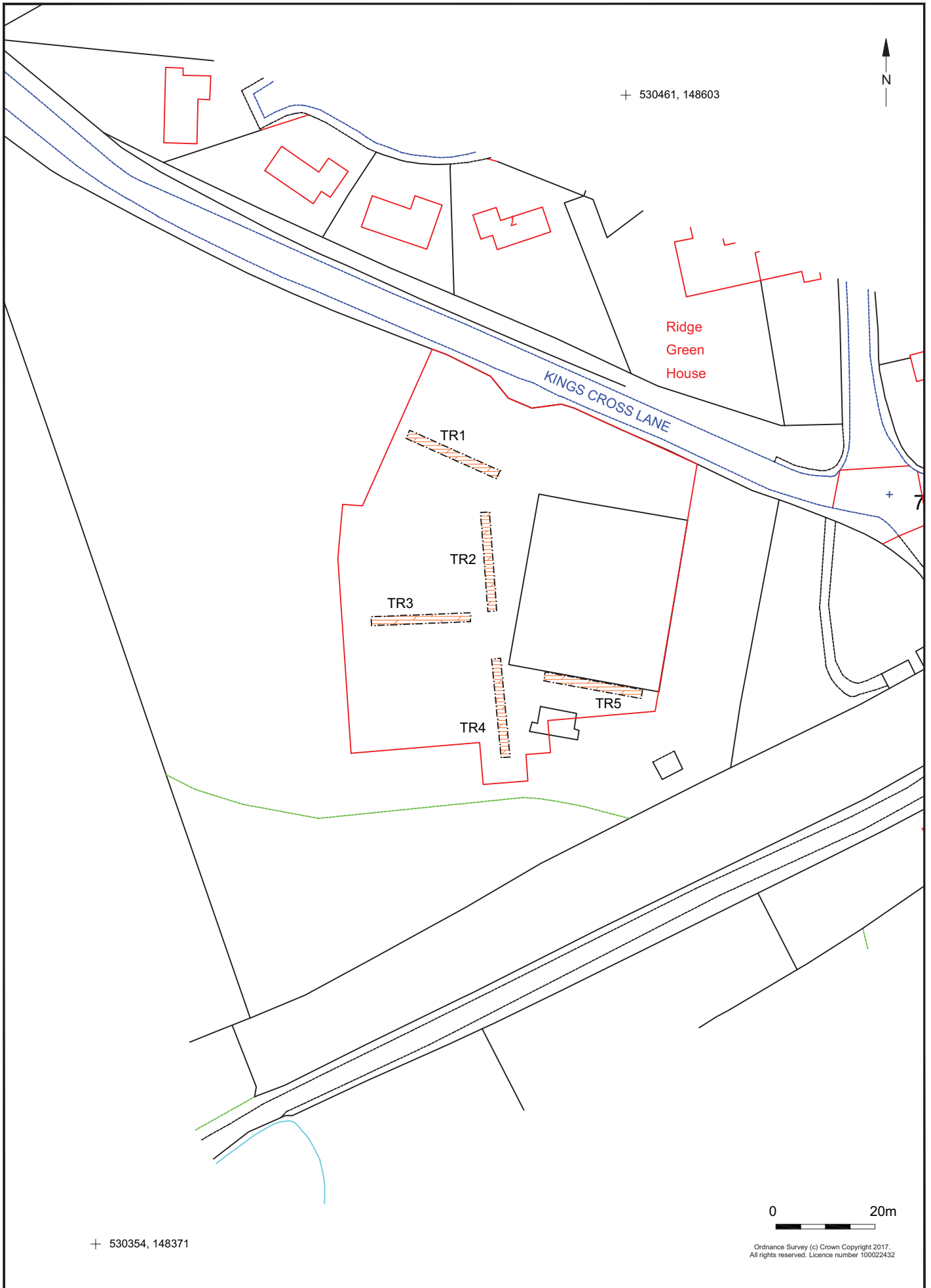
Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation Report - Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southgold Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield, Surrey. The north-western and south-eastern parts of the site were untruncated and trenches here did not result in the identification of any archaeological features or deposits, or finds. Significant truncation in the central part of the site had removed the topsoil and subsoil horizons and extensive modern dumping was noted in this area. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 28-11-2017 End: 28-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	170970 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	SNU17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	TA/2014/1977 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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	SURREY TANDRIDGE NUTFIELD Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 30440 48500 51.220245161452 -0.131967411576 51 13 12 N 000 07 55 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	MOLA
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project	Paul Mason

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southgold Ltd.
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Digital Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	East Surrey Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Notebook - Excavation", "Research", "General Notes", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170970	Dec 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017505	Drawn by: AR		



• • Archaeology South-East		Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170970	Dec 2017	Trench Plan	
Report Ref: 2017505	Drawn by: AR		



Trench 1, looking south east



Trench 2, looking south



Trench 3, looking east



Trench 4, looking north



Trench 5, looking west

• Archaeology South-East		Kings Cross Lane, South Nutfield	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170970	Dec 2017	Trench Photographs	
Report Ref: 2017505	Drawn by: AR		

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