

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex**

**NGR: 497096 122199
(SU 97096 22199)**

**ASE Project No: 171035
Site Code: PBO17**

**ASE Report No: 2017515
OASIS id: archaeol6-302955**

By Gary Webster


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**By Gary Webster
With contributions by Luke Barber, Isa Benedetti-Whitton and
Elke Raemen
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex on the 30th and 31st October 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust for the recording of archaeology identified during groundworks.

A probably 16th century kiln, probably for producing ceramic building material, was recorded in the vicinity of the Boat House. It possibly serviced the expansion of the park in the late 1500's, or possibly the village of Tillington, and was extant until the 1700's, appearing on a map of the grounds. Part of the kiln was well worn as it saw reuse as a brick path on the way to the Boat House. Other masonry, including a wall associated with the Boat House, and two worked stone blocks were also identified. Apart from brick samples and a few artefacts retrieved from the site everything else remains in situ.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by the National Trust (NT) to record archaeological remains uncovered during structural works to Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex (NGR 497096 122199; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The area of the watching brief was in the direct vicinity of the Boat House, which is located just to the north of the Upper Pond in Petworth Park. The area sloped downwards from the north toward the edge of the pond.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Atherfield Clay formation and the Hythe formation, a sandstone. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Archaeology South-East was contacted by Tom Dommett, regional archaeologist for The National Trust, to record archaeology exposed during the structural works to the existing Boat House. The brief was "...to record any archaeological deposits, artefacts or structural elements exposed by work associated with the Boat House. The location of the watching brief can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

1.3.2 There have been several excavations in the grounds of Petworth House. These include a community excavation project in association with the Festival of British Archaeology to explore the remains of the North Wing (ASE 2013), and the Hunting Lodge (Cruse and Klemenic 2015).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The objective of the watching brief was to;

- Investigate and record all archaeological contexts, significant structural elements and artefacts disturbed or exposed, including written descriptions and plan/section drawings at an appropriate scale.
- Recovery, identification (where possible), cataloguing and storage of artefacts discovered in the process of excavation.
- Photography to record detail, context and setting.
- Phased analysis/interpretation of the archaeological evidence revealed by the excavation where appropriate.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the watching brief carried out on the 30th and 31st of October 2017. It was conducted by Gary Webster (Archaeologist), working under the overall supervision of the National Trust Regional Archaeologist, Tom Dommett. It was project managed by Neil Griffin (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 This background is taken from a previous phase of work conducted by ASE (ASE 2013) which itself contained information received from the National Trust with all due acknowledgement (NT 2013). A comprehensive history can be found in *Petworth Park's Hidden Past* (Dommett 2015).

2.2 Overview

2.2.1 The earliest evidence for a House within the Park comes from Henry Percy's application for a licence to crenellate the manor at Petworth (and two others in Yorkshire) in 1293. Otherwise, it is more generally acknowledged that the first substantive evidence for a manorial house at Petworth comes from the granting of a licence in 1309 (Turner 1862, 5; Aldsworth 1980, 374; Jordan 1987, 5; Jerrome 2006, 29). Whether this act of crenellation referred to the current House or an earlier separate structure it is not clear.

2.2.2 Waters (1997) proposes the sequence of development of the house from the 13th-18th century. Archaeological survey of Petworth House suggests that the ground plan of the Carved Room constitutes the earliest structural unit on the site, a simple three-bayed hall dating to the late 13th century (Waters 1997, 25) - the East Wing. This was augmented with a fortified tower, chapel and new, larger hall in the 14th century which created the North Wing (*ibid.*, 26).

2.2.3 Extensive renovations were undertaken in the late 16th century. According to the parochial registers '*Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland began in 1577 to repair the [mansion house] of Petworth... and brought the water into every office of the said house*', at a cost of nearly £7,000 over the next five years (Turner 1862, 7).

2.2.4 Following the demolition of the North Wing, the area was turned into a '*very formal*' garden in the early 18th century, incorporating the so-called *Iron Court* and a parterre, before a wholesale clearance of the area by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown between 1755 and 1765 (Aldsworth 1980, 375). A ha-ha was added in the 19th century (*ibid.*).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Archaeology South East were informed after the area had been excavated. The remains were cleaned before the archaeological record was made. No additional excavation was required by the archaeologist attending site, with the exception of cleaning for photographs/recording.
- 3.1.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. All trenches were tied in using Global Positioning System technology.
- 3.1.3 A small amount of bricks were removed for sampling purposes, but the vast majority of the identified masonry remains *in situ*.
- 3.1.4 All work was carried out in accordance with the ClfA *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014a) the *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014b) and the *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (WSCC 2017).

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Petworth House in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	42
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
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)	2 bags
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

- 3.2.2 The finds and environmental samples ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements.

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 3 and 4)

4.1 Archaeology recorded on the 30th and 31st October.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length	Width	Depth
001	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.05-0.20
002	Layer	Redeposited natural	-	-	0.10-0.45
003	Masonry	Kiln	5.90	1.00	0.10
004	Masonry	Stones	0.30	0.27	0.80
005	Masonry	Wall	2.04	0.62	0.14
006	Masonry	Kiln/Surface	1.33	0.94	0.07

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 The natural geology was not clearly identified during the excavation. The masonry encountered [003] was at the base of the sequence and apart from the extraction of brick samples was left *in situ*. A redeposited natural [002], a soft mottled yellow and orangey brown sandy clay, was directly overlying this masonry. It was overlain by topsoil [001].
- 4.1.2 A brick structure [003] most likely a kiln was identified. It was formed of red bricks, the majority of which were laid out as stretchers. They were roughly bonded with a soft, gritty brownish grey mortar. It is likely that it extends significantly further than that exposed during the groundworks. As indicated by the brick samples the kilns origins probably date to the 16th century at the latest, however, some later material may indicate continued use/reuse of the structure. It is also possible that the kiln represents a structure created predominantly from re-used 16th century bricks, however, there was little within the small sample of Ceramic Building Material to suggest this. It is interesting to note, however, that the fabrics are consistent with the nearby Lodge site which was demolished at the end of the 16th century, and that some of the brickwork present in the kiln exhibits possible decorative 'diaper work', which might not be associated with such a functional feature.
- 4.1.3 Just to the south of [003] was [006]. It was also formed of red bricks, but they were significantly more worn than those seen in [003]. They are likely part of the same kiln as [003]. They had significantly less overburden covering them, and as such this part of the structure seems to have been reused as a solid step into the Boat House, or down to the waterfront of Upper Pond.
- 4.1.4 Two worked stone blocks [004] were identified directly below the topsoil. They were of separate sizes, one was 295mm x 210mm and 80mm deep and one was 210mm x 190mm with an unknown depth. There was no sign of bonding material. It is likely that this stone is not in the original situation. It could be associated with the construction of the Boat House, or perhaps represent further makeshift steps.
- 4.1.5 A brick wall [005] was identified on the other side of the Boat house, just below the topsoil. The bricks measured 215mm x 105mm x 70mm. They were very flatly cut, and bonded with a yellowish, hard sandy mortar. It was on a

north-south alignment, with a right angle corner to the east. The southernmost part of the wall butted against the wall of the Boat House. It is probably contemporary with the Boat House, but could also be a later addition.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Petworth Boat House. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
003			2	3533				
006			2	2065				
us	1	24	1	1119	1	712	1	768
Total	1	24	5	6717	1	712	1	768

Table 4: Quantification of finds from Petworth Boat House

5.2 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A single unstratified sherd was recovered during the archaeological monitoring (24g). This consists of a refined whiteware body sherd from a jar or teapot with octagonal-shaped body. The piece is decorated with blue marbled sheet transfer-printing and can best be placed between c. 1830 and 1900.

5.2.2 The sherd has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

5.3.1 Five brick pieces weighing 6669g were collected from site; four from two standing structures [003] and [006], and a further unstratified brick. All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on standard recording forms. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabrics were identified with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and catalogued using both Museum of London Archaeology's (MOLA) fabric reference codes and site specific fabric codes, descriptions for which are provided below in Table 5. These fabric types were also compared with the CBM archive from a previous phase of archaeological investigation to assess whether they are likely to be coeval.

5.3.2 The complete brick sampled from [003] and two co-joining brick pieces from [006] were both in London fabric 3065, which is the equivalent of fabrics B1a and B1b as described in the CBM report for previous stages of work at the BHP14 site (Cruse and Klemenic 2015). The low fired quality of the bricks, their slightly irregular form with sunken margins and the surviving dimensions (220-225 x 110 x 45-50mm) strongly suggest an early post-medieval date of no later than the 16th century. The brick from [003] had localised reduction along one stretcher, which may have originally been intended for decorative purposes ('diaper work').

5.3.3 The other brick pieces, one sampled from [003] the other unstratified, were clearly both of more recent date with sharp arrises and more even general

form. The fabric of the B1 brick piece from [003] was close to vitrification and the surviving section of stretcher had been heated to the point of becoming green glaze, although whether this was intentional or as a result of vitrified mortar is not clear. The B1 bricks were of differing size (?? X 101-110 x 58-65mm), and are clearly hand-made so are probably earlier than 19th century in date, although the sample is too limited for more precise dating. There was no equivalent fabric type amongst the BHP14 archive.

Fabric	Description
3065	Fine red-orange fabric with common quartz (up to 1.0mm), occasional calcium carbonate and black iron oxide (up to 1.5mm). Occasional flint fragments and small pebbles (up to 7mm).
B1	Red-orange fabric with cream marbling and black ferrous inclusions.

Table 5: Fabric descriptions for ceramic building material

5.4 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.4.1 A single piece of stone was recovered from the site (unstratified). This consists of a 15mm thick fragment from a Horsham stone roofing slab. The piece essentially has the typical light grey colouration of the stone, but does have a decalcified brown bed/rind along one face. Such roofing became quite common from the 15th century and can still be seen on many houses in Sussex today.

5.4.2 The stone has no potential for further analysis and has been discarded.

5.5 The Linen Smoother by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Work at the Boat house uncovered an unstratified glass linen smoother (weight 768g). The object has a convex face, very worn through use, and is in dark green potash glass. It would have had an integral central handle which is now missing. Linen smoothers were warmed and subsequently rubbed across the fabric to create a glossy finish. They may also have been used to smooth seams (e.g. Margeson 1993, 138). This type is of probable 18th-century date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The natural geology was not clearly identified. What appeared to be a redeposited natural was overlaying the archaeologically significant kiln, and was itself overlain by topsoil. The kiln was identified at a height of 57.55m AOD. The redeposited natural [002] is probably the result of later post-medieval landscaping (see section 6.3.10).

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The creation of the Upper Pond, and the construction of the Boat house have obviously had a negative effect on the preservation of the kiln. Part of the kiln had lost so much protective overburden, that it was likely exposed and used as a makeshift footpath, which has worn the top of the bricks significantly.
- 6.2.2 As the area was not excavated down to the natural geology, the impact on archaeological stratigraphy lower than the possibly 16th century kiln is unknown.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

?16th Century

- 6.3.1 The probable kiln identified is likely to be for the creation of ceramic building material. The bricks identified put the construction of the kiln in the 16th century at the latest, however, some of the brick may be of later date (see section 5.3.3). The later brick possibly indicates continued use/reuse of the kiln prior to the 19th century and it is interesting to note that the structure survived as late as the mid-18th century as it appears to be shown on contemporary maps (Figure 5; WSRO PHA 6623, 1). It is also possible that the kiln represents a structure created predominantly from re-used 16th century bricks, however, there was little within the small sample of Ceramic Building Material to suggest this. It is interesting to note, however, that the fabrics are consistent with the nearby Lodge site which was demolished at the end of the 16th century, and that some of the brickwork present in the kiln exhibits possible decorative 'diaper work', which might not be associated with such a functional feature. From what has been identified, the remains of the kiln are fairly large, and thus would have a significant output. It does not appear that the base has been reached, and there could be a substantial amount to expose below ground in the area already uncovered. The eastern part of the kiln, where the brick stretchers were on a roughly east-west alignment probably relates to part of the fire or flue tunnel, with the fuel being added and raked out further to the east. The north-south aligned bricks are the shelving with intervening vents for the bricks being fired. The bricks at the far west of [003] could be another part of the shelving, or the wall of the firing chamber, along with the bricks identified to the south [006].
- 6.3.2 The kiln could have been created expressly for the construction and maintenance of buildings directly associated with Petworth House, especially as the late 1500's saw some expansion (Dommert 2015), or it could be associated with the nearby village of Tillington. It is possible that some later

use of the structure is indicated by the presence of later brick (see section 5.3.3) or that the kiln was predominately built of re-used bricks from a demolished earlier structure such as the Lodge site.

- 6.3.3 The remains of the kiln may relate to a discrete area of magnetic disturbance encountered close to Upper Pond and the Boat House during an earlier Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015).
- 6.3.4 A possibly similar kiln has been excavated on the Wormingford Hall Estate, Colchester (<http://caguk.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Wormingford-Brick-Kiln.pdf>; White and Marriott 2014). This was of a type known as a “Suffolk” kiln, which would have been built into a bank or hillside. The fire and much the firing chamber would have been below ground level, providing better insulation for retaining the heat. Without further exposure, the similarities between this type of kiln and that possibly found in Petworth Park are merely a tentative suggestion.

18th Century

- 6.3.5 Part of the kiln has seen limited re-use, probably in the 18th century, as it was exposed by the creation of the Upper Pond, and subsequently utilised as a surface.
- 6.3.6 The brick wall identified abutting the Boat House is likely to be contemporary with its construction during the early 19th century (AD 1807). It remains in situ.
- 6.3.7 The date of two stones [004] are unknown. They are probably either from the construction of the Boat House, or Petworth House itself, and are no longer in their original context. They remain in-situ as they were found.
- 6.3.8 An unstratified glass linen smoother of 18th century date was recovered during the fieldwork.

19th Century

- 6.3.9 An unstratified sherd of a whiteware jar or teapot was recovered.
- 6.3.10 The redeposited clay [002] likely derives from landscaping by Lancelot Brown during the creation of Upper Pond.

6.4 Conclusions

- 6.4.1 The discovery of the kiln is significant for the understanding of the archaeology in the grounds of Petworth House, particularly as a part of the narrative of expansion at the end of the 16th century. As only a small amount of it was exposed, there is undoubtedly more to learn from this feature from future excavation. This remains a possibility as it exists *in situ*.
- 6.4.2 Any further work associated with the structure would have the potential to aid research agendas identified as part of the *South-East Research Framework* (SERF 2008). These are:

- The further study of the morphology of brick production sites, from kiln technology to ancillary buildings
- The study of the spatial distribution of brickyards/kilns in relation to available transport and intended markets
- Study of the relationship between local building materials and social status

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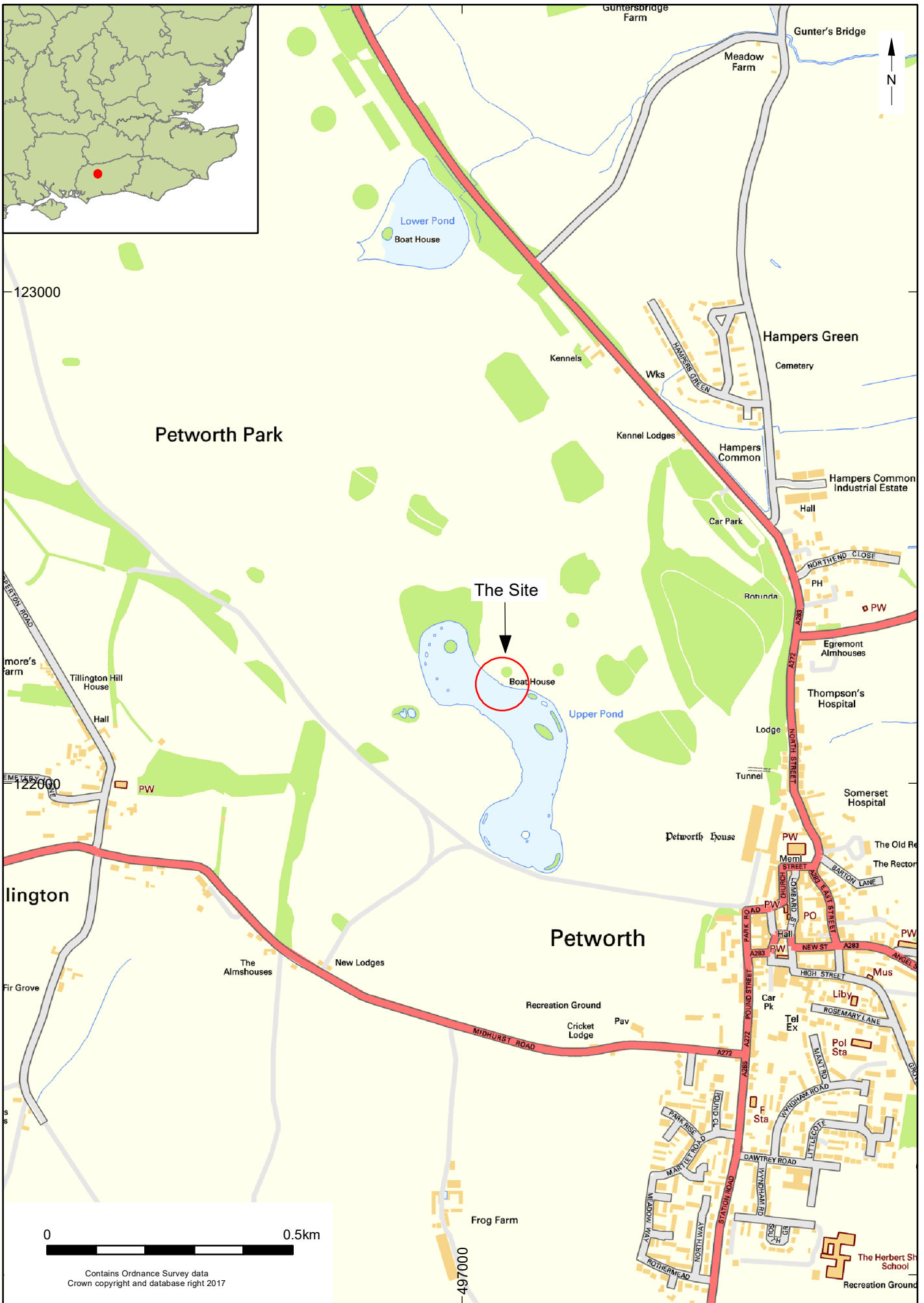
Websites Used:

<http://caguk.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Wormingford-Brick-Kiln.pdf>[accessed 12.12.2017]

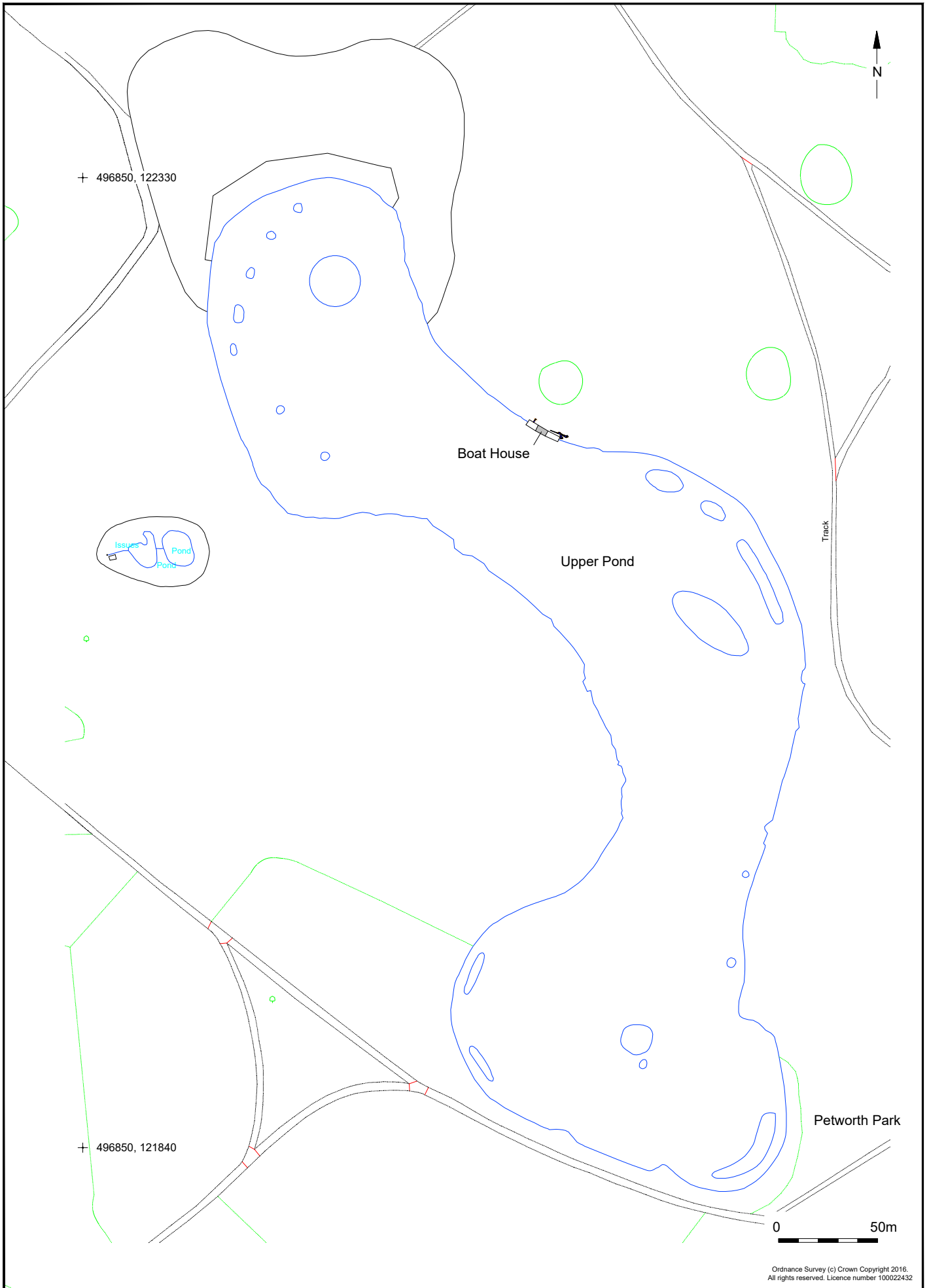
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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HER Summary

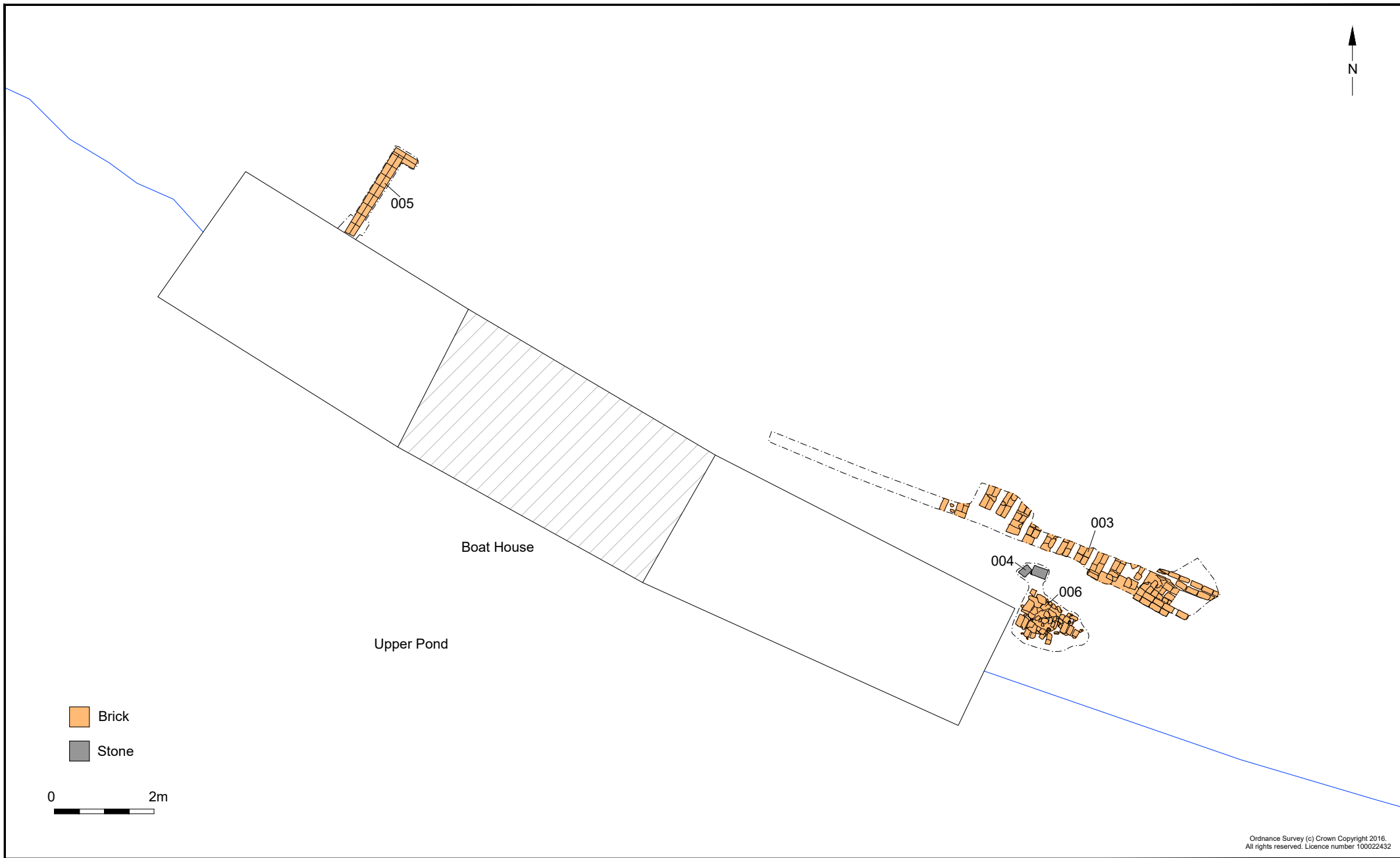


© Archaeology South-East		Petworth Boathouse, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171035	December 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017515	Drawn by: NH		



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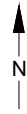
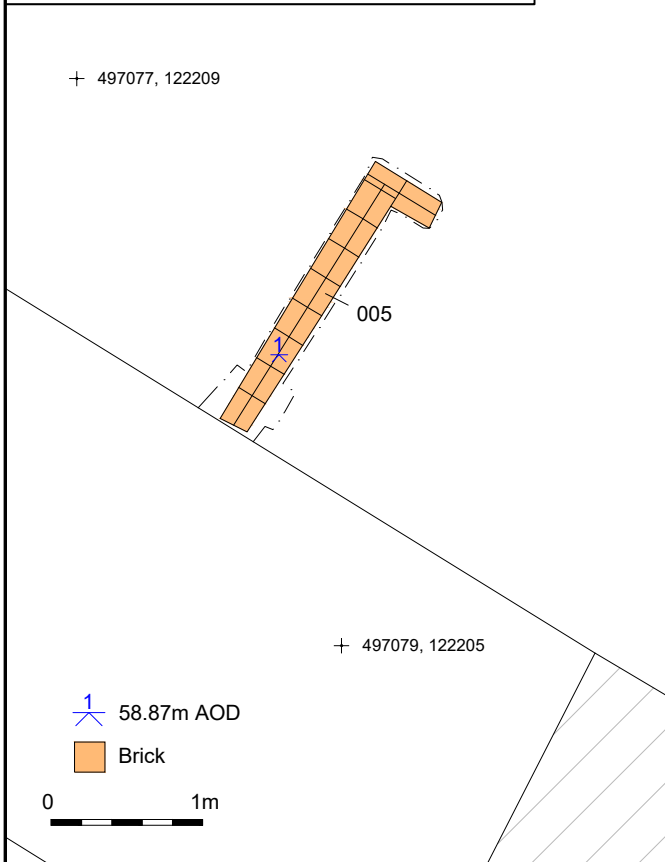
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Project Ref: 171035	December 2017	Location of watching brief	
Report Ref: 2017515	Drawn by: NH		



© Archaeology South-East		Petworth Boathouse, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 171035	December 2017	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2017515	Drawn by: NH		



Wall [005], looking northeast



- 2 57.64m AOD
- 3 57.55m AOD
- 4 57.46m AOD
- 5 57.70m AOD



Kiln [003] looking west



Part of kiln [006], looking north



Worked stone blocks [004], looking north



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© Archaeology South-East		Petworth Boathouse, Petworth Park, Petworth, West Sussex	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 171035	December 2017	Boathouse location overlain on an extract of 1706 map by John Hutchinson, Lands of the Duke of Somerset between Petworth and Tillington (PHA 3580)	
Report Ref: 2017515	Drawn by: NH		

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.					
Site code	PBO 17				
Project code	171035				
Planning reference					
Site address	Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex. GU28 0DU				
District/Borough	Chichester				
NGR (12 figures)	497096 122199				
Geology	Atherfield Clay formation and the Hythe formation				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	30 th and 31 st October 2017				
Sponsor/client	National Trust				
Project manager	Neil Griffin				
Project supervisor	Gary Webster				
Period summary					
			Medieval	Post-Medieval	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>An archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex on the 30th and 31st October 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust for the recording of archaeology identified during groundworks.</i></p> <p><i>A probably 16th century kiln was recorded in the vicinity of the Boat House. It possibly serviced the expansion of the park in the late 1500's, and was extant until the 1700's, where it appears on a map of the grounds. Other masonry, including a wall associated with the Boat House, and two worked stone blocks were also identified.</i></p>				
Museum/Accession No.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
CBM	Brick	Med/Post - Med	2 bags
Glass	Glass	Post-Med	1 piece
Pot	Ceramic	Post-Med	1 sherd

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-302955

Project details

Project name	Ab archaeological Watching Brief at Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth, West Sussex on the 30th and 31st October 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by The National Trust for the recording of archaeology identified during groundworks. A probably 16th Century kiln was recorded in the vicinity of the Boat House. It possibly serviced the expansion of the park in the late 1500's, or possibly the village of Tillerton. Part of the kiln was well worn as it saw reuse as a brick path on the way to the Boat House. Other masonry, including a wall associated with the Boat House, and two worked stone blocks were also identified. Everything was left in situ.
Project dates	Start: 30-10-2017 End: 31-10-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PBO17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 8 - Land dedicated to the display of a monument
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Trust
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CHICHESTER PETWORTH Petworth Boat House, Petworth House, Petworth
Postcode	GU28 0DU
Site coordinates	SU 497096 122199 50.906754799265 -1.292923920006 50 54 24 N 001 17 34 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 57.55m Max: 57.55m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin

Project supervisor	Gary Webster
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust

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