

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

**Land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road,
Hawkhurst, Kent**

**NGR: 576426 130314
(TQ 76426 30314)**



Simon Stevens BA MCIfA

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Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Planning Reference
16/500797/FULL

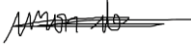
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake a watching brief during a development on land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent (NGR 576426 130314).

The groundworks involved the excavation of footings trenches, soakaways and roads and revealed three pits; one of probable Iron Age/Romano British date, one of modern date and one undated. Disturbance and truncation of the natural deposits was evident at the northern end of the site, associated with the construction of Woodham Hall and its recent demolition.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake a watching brief during a development on land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent (NGR 576426 130314; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the southern side of Rye Road to the east of the centre of Hawkhurst. It is bound to the south by open land, and to the east and west by domestic residences. There are extensive views across the Weald to the south.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of the sandstones and siltstones of the Tunbridge Wells Sand Formation. There are no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Tunbridge Wells District Council on 1st March 2017 for residential development of the site (16/500797/FULL). Following consultation between Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues), and based on information contained in a desk-based assessment (DBA) of the site's archaeological potential (CgMs 2015), a condition was attached to the planning permission requiring that:

'prior to the commencement of development the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, will secure and implement:

- i. Archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a specification and written timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- ii. Further archaeological investigation, recording and reporting, determined by the results of the evaluation, in accordance with a specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.*

Reason: This is required prior to the commencement of development in order to ensure that historic building features are properly examined and recorded once the development is commenced.'

- 1.3.2 Following further dialogue between all interested parties, it was agreed that the implementation of an archaeological watching brief was actually a more appropriate approach. Subsequently a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of the groundworks (ASE 2017a).

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site undertaken in October and November 2017 by Gary Webster (Archaeologist) and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following information is taken directly from the DBA (CgMs 2015) with all due acknowledgement, and includes data taken from a 1km radius of the site held on the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)

2.2 Palaeolithic

- 2.2.1 No finds of Palaeolithic material have been identified within a 1km radius of the site. Although the presence of finds of early prehistoric date can be notoriously difficult to predict, the potential of the site for the recovery of Palaeolithic material was identified as low/nil.

2.3 Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age

- 2.3.1 A Prehistoric Ridgeway, from Newenden to Wadhurst passes through Hawkhurst though not in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 2.3.2 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the Mesolithic period was defined as low.
- 2.3.3 From around 4000 BC the mobile hunter-gathering economy of the Mesolithic gradually gave way to a more settled agriculture-based subsistence. The pace of woodland clearance to create arable and pasture-based agricultural land varied regionally and locally, depending on a wide variety of climatic, topographic, social and other factors. The trend was one of a slow, but gradually increasing pace of forest clearance.
- 2.3.4 No archaeological assets of Neolithic date are recorded either within the study site or the 1km radius of the study area.
- 2.3.5 By the 1st millennium, i.e. 1000 BC, the landscape was probably a mix of extensive tracts of open farmland, punctuated by earthwork burial and ceremonial monuments from distant generations, with settlements, ritual areas and defended locations reflecting an increasingly hierarchical society.
- 2.3.6 During the Bronze Age the study site would have lain in a highly developed agrarian and ritual landscape, with numerous villages and farmsteads located within complex field systems. A middle Bronze Age spear and axe are recorded from Duvals Farm in Hawkhurst as metal detecting finds).
- 2.3.7 An Iron Age coin is recorded as a metal detecting find from Duralls Farm, while a further coin, attributed to the British tribal ruler Verica is recorded from Hawkhurst, though the precise findspot of this coin is now unknown
- 2.3.8 Overall in view of the underlying geology and steeply sloping topography, the archaeological potential for these periods was defined as low.

2.4 Romano-British

2.4.1 Although the Weald was the centre of intensive iron working in the Roman period, the sites underlying geology and its topography suggests it is unlikely to have been a focus of iron working activity in the Roman period. The Roman Road from Maidstone to Hastings passes close to the site. A small number of Roman finds are recorded from Hawkhurst as metal detecting finds, but overall the archaeological potential of the site for this period was defined as low.

2.5 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.5.1 Hawkhurst is unusual as the settlement developed with two distinct centres, The Moor forms the southern and larger centre, High Gate forms the smaller northern centre. Principle buildings that may date to the medieval period are located in The Moor, which is original settlement centre. High Gate is considered to be the gate leading onto common land with permanent settlement occurring slightly later in the medieval period.

2.5.2 The site is located on the eastern edge of High Gate and during these periods would have been open land. No Anglo-Saxon or medieval finds are recorded within a 1km radius of the site.

2.5.3 Overall the archaeological potential of the study site for the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods can probably be defined as low.

2.6 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.6.1 Although there are a small number of HER entries of these periods within a 1km radius of the study site, none of these actually have any relevance for the sites archaeological potential.

2.6.2 Andrews, Dury and Herbert's map of 1769 shows the area of the study site south-east of the built up area of High Gate. The scale is too large to determine whether a building is present on the site or whether ornamental gardens extend into the northern part of the site. The site remains unchanged in the Ordnance Survey Drawing of 1797 but a building is depicted adjacent to Rye Road

2.6.3 The Hawkhurst Tithe Map and Award of 1838 record the site as extending across six plots. Plot 300 is annotated as *Tuckness Farmhouse* with a barnyard and garden. Plot 301 is a hop garden, Plot 302 is described as pond and garden (pasture). A smaller subdivision (Plot 302a) is shown as woodland. Plots 298 and 299 are described as coppice (Shaws) and clay pits (partly in arable use) respectively. Plot 297 is annotated Cane Field (arable).

2.6.4 The 1871 Ordnance Survey map shows the site largely unchanged. However, clay pits and ponds in the south of the site are annotated. *Tuckness Farmhouse* has been renamed as *Copt Hall*.

2.6.5 By 1898 a building marked as *Aviary* had been built to the north-west corner of the study site. The area of woodland in the south of the site is also annotated as aviary, however no buildings are shown in this area. By 1908 site a large octagonal structure, annotated as *aviary* had been constructed in that area.

- 2.6.6 By 1938 *Copt Hall* appears to have been divided in two with a new property boundary separating the two halves of the estate. All the aviaries had been dismantled, although the ponds remain.
- 2.6.7 No further significant changes occurred on the site between 1938 and 1977. The current Google Earth Image, shows considerable encroachment by the woodland areas across the landscaped gardens in the south and a large tennis court in the northern part of the site.
- 2.6.8 The site was considered to have a low archaeological potential for the post medieval and modern periods due to past post depositional impacts, in particular as a result of the landscaping for the former estate.
- 2.6.9 An Historic Building Record (HBR) survey was completed prior to the demolition of the existing building at the site (ASE 2017b). It concluded that:

'Woodham Hall originated in the late 19th century as Copt Hall, a modest country house. It occupied the site of an earlier dwelling, known from the tithe apportionment as Tuckness Farm House, although whether any of this structure was incorporated within Copt Hall is unknown. It was greatly expanded between 1872 and 1898 to become a substantial dwelling, incorporating an earlier building that originated as an ancillary, probably agricultural building to Tuckness Farm House. The original Copt Hall was demolished in the early 20th century leaving only its late 19th century extension behind. The remaining buildings were converted to a hotel in the 1970s'

2.7 Recent Archaeological Work in Hawkhurst

- 2.7.1 A recent archaeological evaluation on the opposite side of the road resulted in the identification of a single, late post-medieval feature, reinforcing evidence from the cartographic sources that the site has been given over to parkland for an extended period (ASE 2017c)
- 2.7.2 An archaeological watching brief undertaken at the former bus station, c.200m north-west of the site, identified no archaeological features or artefacts (AOC 2011).

2.8 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.8.1 The site specific aim of the archaeological watching brief given in the WSI (ASE 2017) was to:

'monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any deposits and features, artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards'

- 2.8.2 The project also sought to provide data on the following areas of research from the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

'better understanding of the land use of sites on the periphery of post-medieval towns'

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Mechanical ground reduction and trench excavation were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Sections were examined for archaeological deposits and spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. A full photographic record of the monitoring was maintained.
- 3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the preceding WSI (ASE 2017a) the ClfA *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2014a) and *Standards, and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (ClfA 2014b).

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 There were no physical constraints to the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks; machining was closely observed, sections were examined and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

3.3 The Site Archive

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

Context sheets	18
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	155
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	11
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)	1 small box
Registered finds (number of)	
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

- 3.3.2 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 2-4)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was carried out intermittently during October and November 2017. Remains of post-medieval structures were revealed and recorded, as well as three pits containing artefacts dating to the Late Iron Age/Romano-British, medieval, post-medieval and modern periods.

4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Thickness (m)
001	Layer	Made ground	0.60
002	Layer	Natural	-
003	Masonry	Footing	Unknown
004	Layer	Rubble	Unknown
005	Layer	Topsoil	0.25
006	Layer	Rubble	Unknown
007	Masonry	Footing	Unknown
008	Masonry	Footing	Unknown
009	Layer	Rubble	Unknown
010	Masonry	Wall	Unknown
011	Layer	Subsoil	0.26
012	Cut	Pit	-
013	Fill	Fill, single	0.15
014	Layer	Topsoil	0.25
015	Cut	Pit	-
016	Fill	Fill, single	0.15
017	Cut	Pit	-
018	Fill	Fill, single	0.33

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

Overburden and Natural

4.2.1 At the base of excavations was the natural greyish-yellow clay [002]. Close to the street frontage this was directly overlain by a mixture of made ground containing brick rubble [001]. Further south the natural was overlain by a greyish brown silty clay subsoil, context [011], which was in turn beneath a mid-brown humic silty clay topsoil, recorded as contexts [005] and [014].

Remains of Structures

4.2.2 Brick footings, recorded as context [003] were revealing during mechanical excavation of strip footings near the street frontage. Their extent was unclear, but they were associated with an area of brick rubble, context [004] and are clearly remains of the recently demolished *Woodham Hall*.

4.2.3 The mechanical excavation of two soakaways revealed stretches of brick masonry ([007], [008], [010]), again with associated demolition rubble ([006],

[009]). These remains could not be recorded in detail, as they were only seen in section during mechanical excavation.

4.2.4 All the *in situ* masonry and related rubble deposits clearly relate to buildings that occupied the site until recently and are of no archaeological significance.

Pits

4.2.5 Three small pits were identified.

4.2.6 Pit [012] was 0.65m in diameter and 0.50m in depth. The single fill was a mid-greyish brown clayey silt, context [013] that produced a small quantity of Late Iron Age/Romano-British pottery, a fragment of quern stone, fired clay and iron smelting slag. An environmental sample taken from the fill produced a small assemblage of charred macro plant remains and wood charcoal.

4.2.7 Pit [015] was 0.30m wide, 0.37m long and 0.15m deep. It contained a single mid brown-grey silty clay fill [016] with reddish patches that contained pieces of burnt ironstone. Charred hazel nut shells were recovered from the environmental sample along with very small quantities of charcoal.

4.2.8 The third pit, [017] was sub-rectangular in shape and measured 0.52m wide, 0.65m long and 0.33m deep. The pale grey, silty clay fill [018] produced a single sherd of 14th to 15th century pottery, a fragment of post-medieval glass and a modern (early 20th century) bullet.

4.2.9 No other archaeological deposits, features or finds were seen in the monitored areas.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Woodham Hall, Hawkhurst. 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. Bulk finds are quantified in Table 4, whilst two objects, assigned unique registered finds numbers, are described separately in section 5.8. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	Stone	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
13	4	6			3	1066	2	7		
16			1	31						
18	1	24							1	9
Total	5	30	1	31			2	7	1	9

Table 4: Quantification of bulk finds

5.2 The Late Iron Age/Roman Pottery by Anna Doherty

5.2.1 Four bodysherds of grog-tempered pottery, which are non-conjoining but likely from the same vessel, were recovered from context [13]. Grog-tempering was a particularly long-lived ceramic tradition in the Weald, spanning a period of nearly 500 years from the Late Iron Age to the end of the Roman period. Having said this, the relatively dense, low-fired matrix and dark-surfaced firing colour of these sherds are more characteristic of the Late Iron Age/early Roman period.

5.3 The Post-Medieval Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered a single sherd of post-Roman pottery from the site (24g). This consists of a fresh oxidised body sherd in Late Rye-type hard-fired sandy ware from context [18]. In isolation only a c. 1350-1500 date range can be suggested.

5.4 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

5.4.1 Two fragments of fired clay weighing 7g were hand collected during the excavation from context [13], alongside pottery dated to the Late Iron Age/early Roman period. A further 237g of material was retrieved from environmental bulk soil samples <1> and <2> taken from contexts [13] and [16] respectively. The assemblage is produced in a single low fired, moderately fine sand tempered fabric and is predominantly undiagnostic, consisting almost entirely of amorphous pieces. One fragment from context [13] <1> exhibits a flat, smoothed surface and the thickness of this piece is suggestive of structural fired clay but is not otherwise diagnostic.

5.5 The Glass by Trista Clifford

- 5.5.1 The excavations produced a single wall fragment from a green glass wine bottle of post medieval date, weighing 9g. The same context, [18], also contained pottery dating to the mid-14th to 15th centuries.

5.6 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 Context [13] produced three large fresh pieces of dense iron smelting slag (1066g). The material is dark grey with slight aeration and some signs of slightly viscous 'flow'. The material is undoubtedly from the bloomery process suggesting the material predates c. 1500. An environmental residue from the same deposit produced 24g of material in the magnetic fraction. However, no slag was present in this material – just granules of ferruginous siltstones, sandstones and burnt clay that have had their magnetic properties enhanced by heating. It is quite possible this modification was as a result of smelting activity but other sources of heat could also be responsible. The magnetic fraction from the residue from context [16] produced similar burnt stone and clay granules (102g) but again, no actual slag.

5.7 The Geological Material by Trista Clifford

- 5.7.1 Context [16] produced a single piece of ferruginous medium grained sandstone (wt 31g). The fragment shows no evidence of human alteration and is naturally occurring in the Weald.

5.8 The Registered Finds by Luke Barber and Justin Russell

- 5.8.1 A single British Mk VII .303 bullet was recovered from context [18] (RF<1>). The bullet is cupro-nickel jacketed with a lead core and is of a type used from 1911 to the Second World War. It is unfired and there is differential discolouration of the cupro-nickel where the neck of the case was crimped, implying that it was originally discarded while still fixed in its case and removal of the bullet would seem to be a fairly recent event. Remains of the wax sealant used to prevent moisture ingress into the case can be seen in the single cannellure. There is considerable deformation to the base of the bullet, suggesting that recent ground works have caused the present condition.
- 5.8.2 Context [13] produced a fragment of rotary quern, weighing 1068g (RF <2>). This is from an upper stone, measuring 45mm thick with gently tapering outside edge. The upper surface is somewhat weathered/smoothed but the grinding surface is notable flat and heavily worn. The quern is made of quite a distinctive Ashdown sandstone: a very fine grained quartz sandstone with brown speckles created by granular aggregates of oxidised and opacified iron carbonate (siderite). A suspected source is likely to be the cliffs between Hastings and Fairlight. Similar querns have been noted in Late Saxon and Saxo-Norman deposits at Bishopstone and Lewes (Barber forthcoming), although a wider date range is possible.

6.0 The Environmental Samples by Lucy Allott

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two samples, <1> [013] from pit [012] and <2> [016] from pit [015], were taken during the archaeological watching brief at Woodham Hall, Hawkhurst for recovery of environmental remains such as plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, fauna and mollusca as well as to assist finds retrieval.

6.2 Methods

6.2.1 The samples were processed in their entirety in a flotation tank with the flot and heavy residue retained on 250µm and 500µm meshes, respectively, before being air dried. The residues were passed through graded sieves of 8, 4 and 2mm and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefactual remains (Table 1). Artefacts recovered from the samples are incorporated in the relevant sections of this report where they add further information to the existing finds assemblages. The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications and the contents recorded in Table 5. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997).

6.2.2 Ten charcoal fragments were extracted from sample <1> and fractured along three planes to reveal transverse, radial and tangential surfaces according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000, Leney and Casteel 1975). Specimens were viewed under a stereozoom microscope for initial grouping, and an incident light microscope at magnifications up to 500x to facilitate identification of the woody taxa present. Taxonomic identifications were assigned by comparing suites of anatomical characteristics visible with those documented in reference atlases (Hather, 2000; Schoch *et al.*, 2004; Schweingruber, 1990). Genera, family or group names have been given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit more detailed identification. Quantification and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 6 and nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

6.3 Results

6.3.1 During excavation burnt material including charcoal fragments were observed in these small pit features. Pit [012] also contained a quern stone fragment (see find report), some slag, burnt clay and magnetic material. Further burnt clay and magnetic material was also recovered from pit [015] and these remains have been incorporated into the finds report. The flots were dominated by modern uncharred botanical remains such as roots, rootlets and occasional seeds while environmental remains were comparatively scarce, comprising wood charcoal and occasional charred macro plant remains. No fauna or mollusca were present.

6.3.2 Sample <1> [013] contained a small quantity of charred cereal caryopses including barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and oat (*Avena* sp.) with occasional weed/wild taxa represented. The assemblage includes an immature lime (*Tilia* sp.) fruit, grass (Poaceae) caryopses, sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet and seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) and buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.). Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) roundwood and fragments of oak (*Quercus* sp.) and birch (*Betula* sp.) were recorded in the wood charcoal assemblage. There is moderate evidence for

infiltration of sediment which may be associated with fluctuations in ground water.

6.3.3 Charred remains were less abundant in sample <2> [016]. Hazel nut shell fragments were the only charred plant macrofossils recorded and as wood charcoal fragments were small and infrequent no identification work was undertaken.

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Both samples originate from pit features, which appear to contain amalgams of material that could have been deliberately discarded or even placed in the features. The small macro plant remains assemblages are distinctly different suggesting different origins. Sample <1> provides a primarily agricultural signature with occasional crop remains and their associated weeds while the hazel nut shell fragments in sample <2> are likely to represent nuts gathered as wild food.

6.4.2 There is no direct evidence for in situ fuel using activities, however the wood charcoal remains in sample <1> may be associated with either the industrial activities as represented by slag or with food production or other food or perhaps crop processing activities as hinted at by the quern stone. Taxa identified imply access to deciduous woodland in which oak and ash may have been a significant component. Although fuel wood is likely to have been sourced from several different habitats the presence of birch, which prefers light, acidic soil conditions, suggests that at least some fuel was gathered from woodland local to the site on the sand and siltstone geology. It is interesting to note that each of the ash fragments were from small round wood, while the oak and birch are from larger original pieces. The round wood assemblage is however too small to characterise whether this is a result of fuel selection.

Table 5: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams.
Key: PDS = post-depositional sediment, RC = radial cracks, V = vitrification.

Sample Number	Context	Context / Deposit Type	Sample Volume (L)	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal 2-4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal Identifications	Charred Botanicals (other than charcoal)	Weight (g)	Other (eg. pot, cbm, etc.) (quantity/ weight)
1	013	Pit	20	**	6	***	3	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> rw (3), <i>Quercus</i> sp. (6), <i>Betula</i> sp. (1)	* cerealia indet	<1	Slag (**/1076g) B.Clay (**/167g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (****/15g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (****/8g)
2	016	Pit	10			*	<1		** (47 frags <i>Corylus avellana</i> nut shell)	1	B.Clay (**/70g) Mag.Mat. >2mm (****/66g) Mag.Mat. <2mm (****/39g)

Table 6: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good). Key: rw = roundwood, cpr = charred plant remains

Sample Number	Context	Weight (g)	Flot volume (ml)	Volume Scanned (ml)	Uncharred (%)	Sediment (%)	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal 2-4mm	Charcoal <2mm	Crop Seeds Charred	Identifications	Preservation	Weed Seeds Charred & other charred plant remains	Identifications	Preservation
1	013	9	80	80	90	<5	* (rw)	**	***	*	<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (1), <i>Avena</i> sp. (1)	++	*	cf. <i>Tilia</i> sp., Poaceae, <i>Avena/Bromus</i> sp., cf. <i>Carex</i> sp., <i>Chenopodium</i> sp., cf. <i>Ranunculus</i> sp. & Indet cpr	+ / ++
2	016	1.5	30	30	95	<5			**				*	<i>Corylus avellana</i> nut shell frag (1)	++

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 7.1.1 The natural on site comprised greyish-yellow clay. Towards the north of the site this was located beneath approximately 0.60m of made ground. Further south the natural was overlain by approximately 0.25m of subsoil, beneath 0.25m of topsoil.
- 7.1.2 Foundations and demolition rubble associated with the recently demolished Woodham Hall were recorded at the north of the site. Three small pits were also recorded cut into the natural, two towards the southern end of the site and one towards the north.

7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 7.2.1 Disturbance and truncation of the natural deposits was visible at the northern end of the site associated with the construction and subsequent demolition of Woodham Hall, which started life as Copt Hall in the 19th century. The associated landscaping of the estate is also thought to have impacted on the site (CgMs 2015). However, an undisturbed stratigraphic sequence comprising natural, subsoil and topsoil was recorded intermittently.
- 7.2.2 In addition to foundations and demolition deposits associated with the building, three small features were recorded during the monitoring, overlain by subsoil and topsoil deposits.

7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British

- 7.3.1 A single feature (pit [012]) produced pottery of this date, found in association with fired clay, a quern stone fragment and iron smelting slag. Previously, the only evidence for activity dating to the Iron Age/ Roman period in the vicinity was individual find spots. This feature provides evidence that activity of this date spread into less favourable geological and topographical areas and may be associated with the ironworking activity, known to have been extensive in the Weald during the Roman period (CgMs 2015).

Modern

- 7.3.2 Pit [017] contained a single sherd of medieval pottery, post-medieval glass as well as an early 20th century bullet. This feature could result from garden activity.

Undated

- 7.3.3 One of the features recorded, pit [015] did not produce any dating evidence but the fill produced a small assemblage of burnt hazel nut shell as well as granules of fired clay and burnt stone. Given its proximity to pit [012] it may be contemporary, but the nature of the fills suggests that each pit served a different function.

7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 With regards to the aims of the watching brief, three features were successfully located and recorded during the monitoring along with foundations and deposits associated with the recently demolished Woodham Hall.

7.4.2 Unfortunately, given the sparse nature of the archaeology recorded, the results cannot be used address the more specific aim which was:

better understanding of the land use of sites on the periphery of post-medieval towns' (SERF)

7.4.3 However, the survival of undisturbed natural deposits at the southern end of the site supports the historical evidence that, with the exception of the buildings in the north, the site was undeveloped, comprising open land during the medieval period and surrounded by farmland, woodland and landscaped gardens from at least the 18th century (CgMs 2015).

7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 The archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at Woodham Hall resulted in the identification of three pits, one of probable Iron Age/Romano-British date, one modern and one undated. The presence of iron smelting slag in the Iron Age/Romano British pit suggests that iron working was taking place in the vicinity of the site.

7.5.2 The development sequence at the northern end of the site associated with 17th century Tuckness Farmhouse, 19th century Copt Hall and 20th century Woodham Hall has truncated the natural deposits. However, undisturbed deposits survive intermittently across the area, particularly towards the southern end of the site where two of the three features were identified.

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HER Summary

Site code	WOD 17					
Project code	170268					
Planning reference	16/500797/FULL					
Site address	Land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst					
District/Borough	Tunbridge Wells Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	576426 130314					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB ✓	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	10.10.2017 - 23.11.2017					
Sponsor/client	Bellway Homes					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Gary Webster and Simon Stevens					
Period summary					Iron Age	
	Roman					
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Bellway Homes to undertake a watching brief during a development on land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent (NGR 576426 130314).</i></p> <p><i>The groundworks involved the excavation of footings trenches, soakaways and roads and revealed three pits; one of probable Iron Age/Romano British date, one of modern date and one undated. Disturbance and truncation of the natural deposits was evident at the northern end of the site, associated with the construction of Woodham Hall and it's recent demolition.</i></p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-304064

Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent
Project dates	Start: 10-10-2017 End: 23-11-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	170268 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WOD 17 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	16/500797/FULL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS HAWKHURST Land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 76426 30314 51.044464414861 0.517100133335 51 02 40 N 000 31 01 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Heritage Conservation Group at Kent County Council
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	Bellway Homes

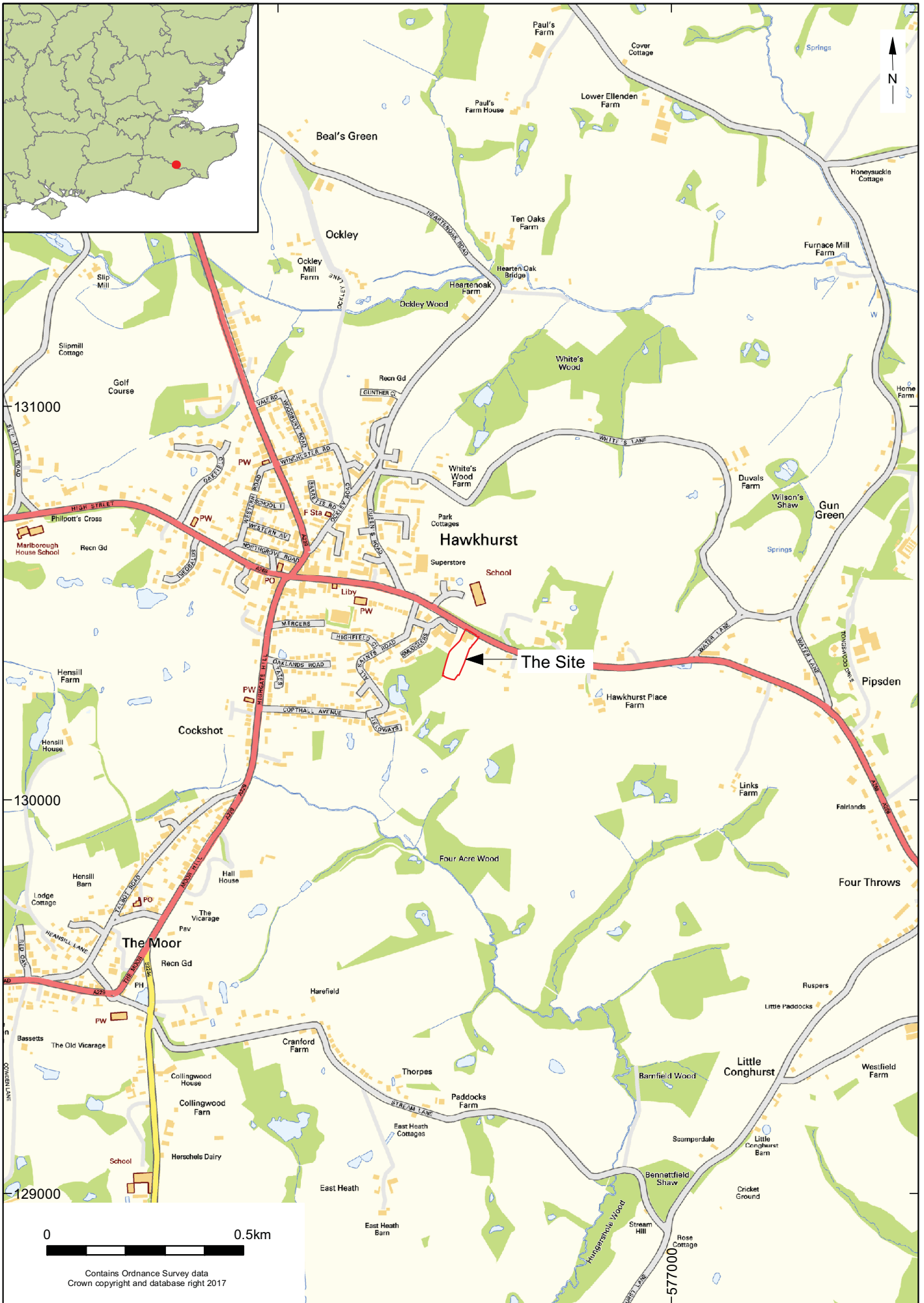
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Tunbridge Wells
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Environmental"
Digital Archive recipient	Tunbridge Wells
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Tunbridge Wells
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Land at Woodham Hall, Rye Road, Hawkhurst, Kent
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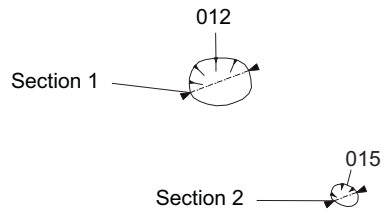
© Archaeology South-East		Woodham Hall, Hawkhurst	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170268	Feb 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017533	Drawn by: AR		



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Project Ref: 170268	Feb 2018	Proposed development	
Report Ref: 2017533	Drawn by: AR		



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012, looking south east

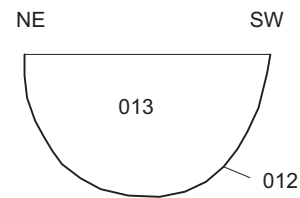


015, looking south east

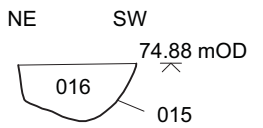
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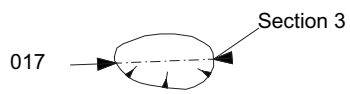
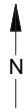
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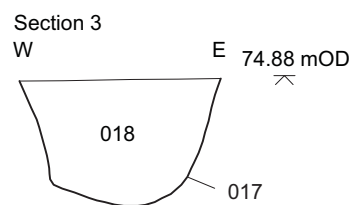
Section 2



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