

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land off Ark Lane
Deal, Kent**

NGR: 637560 153330

ASE Project No: 180260

Site Code: DAL18

ASE Report No: 2018139

OASIS id: archaeol6-315551



By Steve Price

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Prepared by:	Steve Price	Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

Archaeology South-East carried out a site evaluation at Land off Ark Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 6DD, between 16th – 18th April 2018. Five trenches were excavated measuring 10m x 1.80m. The work was commissioned by Orion Heritage.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered. It was clear that previous groundworks had caused substantial truncation of the natural head deposits and had resulted in the deposition of extensive quantities of modern made ground. Four deeper test pits revealed that the head deposits overlay natural Greensand.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Ark Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 6DD (centred on NGR 637560 153330; Figure 1). Five trenches were excavated.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies in a residential area to the north of the centre of Deal, 200m inland from the coast. It is bounded by Ark Lane to the south and residential properties to the north, east and west.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records the geology of the site as Chalk overlain by Raised Marine Deposits (BGS 2018).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the development of the site. Planning Condition 9 states:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority.

1.3.2 Dialogue between Orion Heritage and the KCC Archaeological Advisor established that a trial trench evaluation was required and a Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2018) was submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between the 16th – 18th April 2018.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is summarised from a Desk-Based Assessment for the site (CgMs 2016) and the consultation response from KCC.

2.2 Palaeolithic & Mesolithic

2.2.1 There is no evidence recorded on the Kent HER for Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity in the vicinity of the site.

2.2.2 Observations at the end of the 19th century suggest some complexity to the deposit sequence in the immediate area of the site, with alluvial deposits, including a thick layer of peat containing 'bog oak' observed at the adjacent Deal Gasworks site.

2.3 Neolithic

2.3.1 The sole record on the KHER for the Neolithic period is for a barbed arrowhead found in West Street, c. 500m south of the site.

2.4 Bronze Age

2.4.1 The KHER records a Bronze Age spearhead which may have come from a sandpit c. 500m to the west. This sandpit also contained fragments of Iron Age pottery.

2.5 Iron Age

2.5.1 Two isolated Iron Age coins have been found in separate locations c. 900m to the north of the site.

2.6 Roman

2.6.1 The Kent HER records finds of Roman material including a quern stone, tile and samian ware from Deal Gas Works, c. 150m west of the site, in the late 19th / early 20th century. Eighteen sherds of Roman pottery were found to the west of Golf Road c. 450m north-west and a Roman patera was found c. 750m south. An isolated Roman coin was recovered c. 200m to the south-west of the site. Three ditches dating to the 2nd/3rd century were recorded c. 400m north-west. Further ditches were also found c. 300m south-west at North Deal playing field.

2.7 Medieval

2.7.1 No Anglo-Saxon or late medieval evidence is recorded within the vicinity of the site. Deal is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086, where it is called Addelam. In the 13th century it was counted as part of the Liberty of the Cinque Ports. The settlement was focussed close to the sea, along 3 parallel roads (Beach Street, Middle Street & High Street), the northern limit of which is thought to have been defined by Ark Lane.

2.7.2 The site appears to have been located just beyond the limit of the late medieval settlement at Deal. During the post-medieval period, the site continued to lie in open ground within the immediate hinterland of the settlement at Deal.

2.8 Project Aims and Objectives

2.8.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects, are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/ or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

2.8.2 The site has the potential to address the following South-East Research Framework (SERF) research aims:

- Fluctuations of the region's coastline (SERF: Environment theme)
- Settlement evidence (SERF: Roman period)

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 Trenches 2, 4 and 5 were located as per the WSI except for Trench 1, which was relocated due to drilling machinery already present on site, and Trench 3 which was relocated due to a large heap of demolition rubble overlying its proposed location. Trench 6 could not be excavated, as the ground was found to be heavily contaminated upon opening the trench.
- 3.2 The evaluation, therefore, comprised the excavation of five trenches measuring 10m x 1.8m each. Trench locations were checked prior to excavation with a CAT scanner.
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator through modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m until the top of the underlying natural sediment were reached. The excavator was fitted with a smooth grading bucket and care was taken that archaeological deposits were not damaged due to over machining.
- 3.4 Deeper test pits were excavated through the bases of four of the trenches to investigate the potential for deeper archaeological deposits, and also to see if SERF research question regarding fluctuations of the region's coastline could be addressed.
- 3.5 All recording was undertaken in accordance with Section 5 of the WSI (ASE 2018).

3.3 Archive

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

Context sheets	24
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22
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

4.0.1 All trenches were archaeologically negative and consisted of various modern made ground layers that directly overlay natural head deposits. There were no archaeological finds or deposits.

4.1 Trenches 1 and 2

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Made ground			0.09-0.26	2.67-2.74
1/002	Layer	Made ground			0.05	
1/003	Layer	Made ground			0.20	
1/004	Layer	Made ground			0.80-0.86	1.77-1.82
2/001	Layer	Made ground			0.10-0.18	2.70-2.77
2/002	Layer	Made ground			0.11	
2/003	Layer	Made ground			0.19-0.32	
2/004	Layer	Made ground			0.15-0.21	
2/005	Layer	Head deposit			0.09-0.50	2.02
2/006	Layer	Natural Greensand			>1.00	

Table 3: Trenches 1 and 2 list of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The made ground deposits present in Trenches 1 and 2 were found to be generally the same and thus these Trenches are presented together.

4.1.2 It was not possible to reach natural geology in Trench 1, or to excavate a deeper test pit to do so. Trench 1 was excavated to 1.20m, but then it began to quickly fill with water so could not be stepped or excavated further. Modern made ground layer [1/004] consisted of mottled mid reddish-orange/ light yellow sand which appeared to be very contaminated, and contained moderate pieces of tarmac, concrete, and occasional frogged brick. The sand was likely to have been re-deposited. It was excavated to a maximum thickness of 0.86m. It was overlain by a modern made ground layer [1/003], only present at the west end of the trench. It consisted of firmly compacted mid greyish-green sand, with frequent rounded, sub-rounded and angular stones c.10-70mm, and moderate gravel. It measured 0.20m thick. This was overlain by a layer of Type 1 gravel [1/002] measuring 0.05m thick, also only present at the west end of trench 1. A layer of crush [1/001] overlay [1/002], measuring between 0.09-0.26m thick across the trench.

4.1.3 A horizon of natural head deposit [2/005] was reached at 2.02m OD and consisted of mottled light orange/ mid brownish-red/ light greenish-yellow firmly compacted sand. It was overlain by made ground layers [2/004], [2/003], [2/002] and [2/001], which correspond to [1/004], [1/003], [1/002] and [1/001]. The redeposited contaminated sand [2/004] was considerably less thick in Trench 2, measuring between 0.15-0.21m. The compacted mid greyish-green sand [2/003] and Type 1 gravel [2/002] were present throughout Trench 2. The layer of crush [2/001] measured between 0.10-0.18m.

4.1.4 A deeper test pit, to 2m, was excavated at the south end of Trench 2, to

examine the deeper geology. Head deposit [2/005] was found to be a maximum of 0.50m thick, and may well have been truncated during on-site activities relating to the overlying made ground deposits. A layer of greensand [2/006] was noted underlying [2/005], visible for 1m in thickness.

4.2 Trenches 3 and 5

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
3/001	Layer	Made ground			0.07-0.09	2.50-2.85
3/002	Layer	Made ground			0.80-0.87	
3/003	Layer	Head deposit			0.06-0.35	1.64-1.85
3/004	Layer	Natural			>0.76	
5/001	Layer	Made ground			0.40-0.67	2.63-2.76
5/002	Layer	Made ground			0.30-0.34	
5/003	Layer	Head deposit			0.08-0.50	1.85
5/004	Layer	Natural Greensand			>0.80	

Table 4: Trenches 3 and 5 list of recorded contexts.

- 4.2.1 The deposits in Trenches 3 and 5 was the same and thus the trenches are presented together.
- 4.2.2 Head deposit [3/003]/[5/003] was the same as [2/005] described in 4.1.3 and was overlain by a modern made ground layer [3/002]/[5/002], consisting of the same contaminated sand with inclusions of frogged brick, rubble and concrete as described in 4.1.3 for [1/004]. Layer [3/002] measured between 0.80-.0.87m thick, and [5/002] was found to be much less thick, measuring between 0.30-0.34m. These contexts were overlain by [3/001]/[5/001], a layer of dark grey sand and crush, measuring only 0.07-0.09m thick in Trench 3, but between 0.40-0.67m in Trench 5.
- 4.2.3 Test pits were excavated at the south-west end of Trench 3 and the north end of Trench 5, down to a depth of 2m. Head deposit [3/003] was found to measure 0.35m thick, [5/003] measuring 0.50m thick. The Greensand [3/004]/[5/004] found underlying [3/003]/[5/003] was the same as that described in 4.1.5. In Trench 3 it was visible for 0.76m in thickness, and in Trench 5 for 0.80m.

4.3 Trench 4

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Depth m	Height m AOD
4/001	Layer	Made ground			0.40-0.55	2.83-2.89
4/002	Void					
4/003	Layer	Made ground			0.65-0.70	
4/004	Cut	Modern refuse pit	3.80	1.80	1.20	
4/005	Fill	Backfill	3.80	1.80	1.20	
4/006	Layer	Head deposit			0.50	1.81-1.82
4/007	Layer	Natural Greensand			>0.80	

Table 5: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 Head deposit [4/006] was the same as that described in 4.1.4 for [2/005]. It was overlain by a layer of modern made ground [4/003], which was the same as that described in 4.1.3 for [1/004]. It measured 0.65-0.70m thick. Layer [4/003] was overlain by a substantial layer of crush, concrete pieces and frogged brick rubble measuring 0.40-0.55m thick. A modern rubbish pit [4/004] was noted towards the south-east end of the trench and was found to be cutting through [4/001], [4/003] and [4/006]. It was backfilled with [4/005], consisting of frogged brick, rubble and glass. This pit measured 3.80m long, 1.80m wide and 1.20m deep.
- 4.3.2 A test pit was excavated in Trench 4 to assess the extent of the truncation due to pit [4004]. It was found to be cut right through head deposit [4/006] to the top of the Greensand [4/007].

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence consisted of modern made ground layers overlying a sandy head deposit. The excavation of test pits in trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 revealed the head deposit to be overlying natural Greensand.

5.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 It was clear that previous groundworks had caused substantial truncation into the natural head deposits and had resulted in the deposition of extensive quantities of modern made ground.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

5.3.1 Almost none of the project research aims can be addressed due to the lack of archaeological evidence. However, a brief response may be made to the SERF research question relating to fluctuations of the region's coastline. Two distinct natural sandy layers, a mottled light orange/ mid brownish-red/ light greenish-yellow sand head deposit overlying Greensand were noted. Greensand is a marine sediment, which may be suggestive of some sort of coastline fluctuation, though it is difficult to suggest much more beyond this.

5.4 Conclusions

5.4.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered. It was clear that previous groundworks had caused substantial truncation of the natural head deposits and had resulted in the deposition of extensive quantities of modern made ground. Four deeper test pits revealed that the head deposits overlay natural Greensand.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	
Site code	DAL18
Project code	180260
Planning reference	
Site address	Ark Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 6DD
District/Borough	
NGR (12 figures)	637560 153330
Geology	Chalk overlain by Raised Marine Deposits
Fieldwork type	Eval
Date of fieldwork	16 th – 18 th April 2018
Sponsor/client	Orion Heritage
Project manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Steve Price
Period summary	
Project summary	<p>Archaeology South-East carried out a site evaluation at Land off Ark Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 6DD, between 16th – 18th April 2018. Five trenches were excavated measuring 10m x 1.80m.</p> <p>No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered. It was clear that previous groundworks had caused substantial truncation of the natural head deposits and had resulted in the deposition of extensive quantities of modern made ground. Four deeper test pits revealed that the head deposits overlay natural Greensand.</p>
Museum/Accession No.	

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-315551

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Ark Lane, Deal, Kent

Archaeology South-East carried out a site evaluation at Land off Ark Lane, Deal, Kent, CT14 6DD, between 16th – 18th April 2018. Five trenches were excavated measuring 10m x 1.80m.

Short description of the project No archaeological features, deposits or finds were uncovered. It was clear that previous groundworks had caused substantial truncation of the natural head deposits and had resulted in the deposition of extensive quantities of modern made ground. Four deeper test pits revealed that the head deposits overlay natural Greensand.

Project dates Start: 16-04-2018 End: 18-04-2018

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT DOVER DEAL Land off Ark Lane, Deal, Kent

Postcode CT14 6DD

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TR 637560 153330 50.876402702945 1.749811299502 50 52
35 N 001 44 59 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator Orion Heritage Ltd

Project design originator Archaeology South-East

Project director/manager Paul Mason

Project supervisor Steve Price

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

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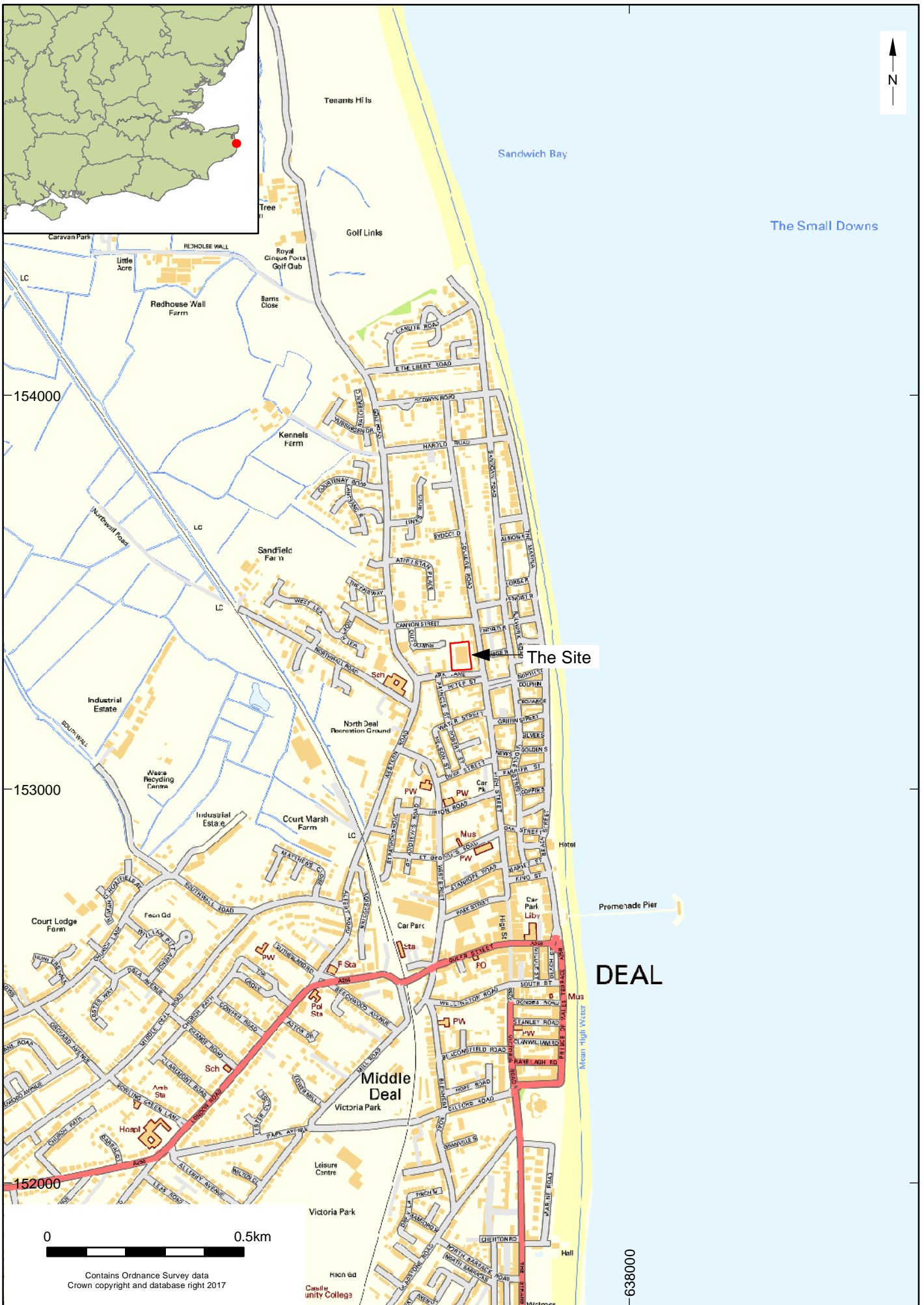
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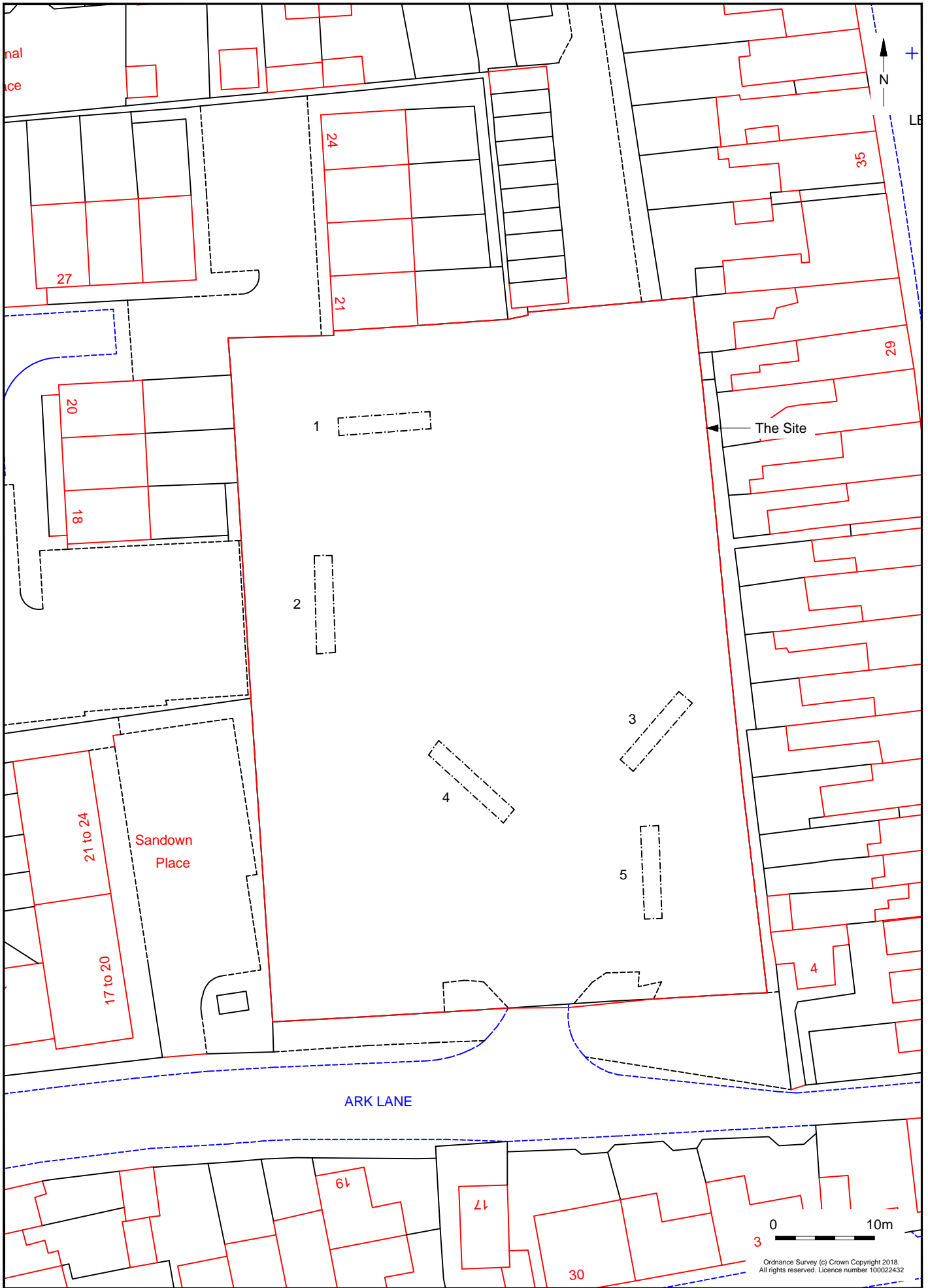
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© Archaeology South-East		Ark Lane, Deal	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 180260	March 2018	Site location	
Report Ref: 2018139	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Ark Lane, Deal	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 180260	March 2018	Trench location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: RK		



Trench 1 looking East



Trench 2 looking South



Trench 2 test pit looking West



Trench 3 looking South-West



Trench 3 test pit looking East



Trench 4 looking East



Trench 4 test pit looking South-West



Trench 5 looking North



Trench 5 test pit looking West

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

