

An Archaeological Evaluation on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent

Planning Ref: SE/07/0277/FUL

**NGR 55320 15920
Project No. 3324
Site Code: WRO 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008065
OASIS id: 42714**

**Kathryn Grant, MSc
With contributions by
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Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent, (NGR: 55320 15920,) between the 21st and 24th April for CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Fourteen trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 195.0m in advance of a new residential construction. No archaeological cut features were present in any of the trenches. However, many of the trenches uncovered datable finds (potsherds, ceramic building material, flint and glass) from the topsoil and subsoil deposits.

The underlying natural geology, comprising chalk bedrock, was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD in the north-east of the site, falling away to 73.27m OD in the south-west. Within all the trenches, above the natural, was subsoil overlain by topsoil and turf.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent (NGR 55320 15920) (Fig. 1).

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Planning permission was obtained for residential development subject to an archaeological planning condition (SE/07/02776/FUL Condition 5).

1.2.2 Due to the archaeological potential of the site and following discussions with the County Archaeological Officer, (A. Single), an archaeological strategy was agreed in the form of evaluation by trial trench.

1.2.3 A Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation was prepared by CgMs Consulting Ltd (Hawkins 2008). This outlined the strategy for the fieldwork and was followed throughout the evaluation programme.

1.3 Location and Geology

1.3.1 The site is situated approximately 800m to the east of the River Darent and west of Otford Mount (183m OD) (Sadarangani 2005). According to the British Geological Survey (Sheet 287, Solid and Drift Edition, 1:50,000 scale) the underlying geology comprises Lower Chalk bedrock.

1.3.2 Prior to the commencement of the archaeological evaluation, two dwellings remained on the site awaiting demolition (Figs 5 and 13). The area, which was originally covered with trees, had been mostly cleared with the exception of some tree-trunks, piles of sawdust, general dumps of rubbish/debris and some small standing disused buildings (Fig. 14).

1.4 Scope of the Report

1.4.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent.

1.4.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Kathryn Grant with the assistance of Richard Krason. The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A comprehensive account of the history and archaeology of the site is detailed in the Specification (Hawkins 2008), as well as in the report for an archaeological evaluation at Station Approach, Otford (Sadarangani 2005). A summary of this background information is given below with due acknowledgement. A table comprising all of the Sites and Monuments Records within a 1km radius of the site can be seen in the Appendix. This information was collated from data from the Specification (Hawkins 2008).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 A single Palaeolithic find (a small Achulian flint ovate handaxe) and a number of Mesolithic worked flints are recorded on the Kent SMR from within 1km of the site.

2.2.2 Several finds and features dating to the Bronze Age are recorded near to the site, including a barbed and tanged arrowhead, a burial mound and a ring ditch. Mid Bronze Age activity and possible settlement was revealed during an archaeological investigation at 46, Greenhill Road. There is also evidence for Iron Age activity, in the form of a scatter of pot sherds, revealed at the, Greenhill Road investigation, however, there are no records of Iron Age material/activity on the Sites and Monuments Record near to the site.

2.2.3 It is thought that Station Road now partly represents the major prehistoric track way, the Pilgrims Way which may have continued in use throughout the Roman Period.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Some 300m east of the site, just south of the Pilgrims Way, a Roman villa is recorded. A further possible villa site which revealed large quantities of Roman building material, pottery, glass and oyster shells, is recorded c.150m west of the site within close proximity to 'St Thomas a Becket's Well'. Evidence of Roman activity from Otford Palace is also recorded immediately to the north-west of site.

2.3.2 Roman occupation evidence was also recorded at the archaeological investigation at 46, Greenhill Road and a Roman farmstead/agricultural building was recorded at The Charne.

2.4 Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval

2.4.1 In 1954, an Anglo-Saxon cremation burial was recorded at 19, The Charne. The church at St Bartholomew's, Otford may contain late Saxon elements and may have been built shortly after 791 when Otford was granted to the Archbishop of Canterbury (Hawkins 2008, 5). Two Anglo-Saxon battles took place in Otford, between Offa King of Mercia and Aldric King of Kent in 773 and between the forces of Edmund Ironside and Canute in 1016. It is possible that burial pits recorded at Shoreham Road were related to these events.

2.5 Late Medieval/Post-Medieval

- 2.5.1 In the fourteenth century, Otford Palace, originally a Norman Manor House located west of the site, was enlarged and fortified. This went through a further stage of substantial redevelopment when it was enlarged into a palace by Archbishop Warham in c.1518. The pond immediately north-west of the site and 'St Thomas a Becket's Well' to the south form a part of this manorial and palace complex (Scheduled Ancient Monument: Kent No. 9) (Hawkins 2008; 5).
- 2.5.2 The Pilgrims Way (now represented in part by Station Road) was in use during the Late Medieval period as a major pilgrim and packhorse route.

2.6 Recent Archaeological Work

- 2.6.1 An archaeological evaluation and excavation was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in October 2004 in advance of development on land at Station Road, Otford (just north of the study site). During the evaluation medieval ditches and one prehistoric pit were identified (Sadarangani 2005). The excavation identified pits from the Late Neolithic or Mesolithic/Neolithic period, Iron Age settlement activity evidenced in pits, postholes and stake holes, a tentatively dated Medieval ditch and a post-medieval bank cut.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** A total of fourteen trenches were excavated to an accumulative length of 195.0m using a JCB 3CX machine fitted with a 1.80m wide flat-bladed bucket to minimise damage to deposits (Fig. 6). The machining was monitored under constant supervision by an archaeologist and excavation from the surface was taken down in spits of no more than 100mm thickness to ensure that deposits and features were not over-excavated.
- 3.2** Although the trenches were proposed to be 15.0m long and 2.0m wide, some of the trenches were cut short either to ease machine access and manoeuvring or to avoid difficult areas (tree trunks and heavy rooting). Trench 15, although not originally proposed, was excavated to mitigate against this loss in sample size (Figs 2 and 3). Similarly, Trench 11 was extended by 11.0m to 26.0m. The proposed Trench 14 was not excavated as it was located in the driveway of one of the remaining houses (Figs 2 and 3).
- 3.3** The trenches were located approximately according to the proposed trench location plan (Fig. 2), but flexibility for the trench locations was allowed due to on-site constraints (concrete slabs, large piles of debris and large roots/tree trunks). These amendments were agreed by the County Archaeological Officer in advance of the work being undertaken. Due to the relocation/resizing of some trenches it was necessary to re-plan their new locations (Fig. 3) using a Total Station equipped with a Global Positioning System (GPS).
- 3.4** The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology or to the surface of any significant archaeological deposit; whichever was higher. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned in an attempt to identify individual archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts which were recovered and bagged for dating and analysis.
- 3.5** A day-to-day digital photographic record was maintained throughout the evaluation in addition to a full black and white (monochrome) and colour (35mm transparency) SLR photographic record of all trenches.
- 3.6** Levels were taken at each end of all the trenches (top and base) and at the maximum height of each deposit in respect of Ordnance Datum (OD). As no existing bench marks were on site it was necessary to establish some temporary bench marks, the heights for which were established using the GPS Total Station.
- 3.7** As only simple stratigraphic sequences were revealed, representative sections (c.1.0m wide) at the end of each trench were drawn. Due to their simplicity these sections will be kept as part of the archive for the site but have not been included within this report. Each trench was planned at 1:50 scale and fully recorded on trial trench record sheets and ASE context sheets.
- 3.8** On the completion of all excavation and recording, the County Archaeological Officer, Adam Single, was informed by CgMs prior to the backfilling of any

trenches.

3.9 The aims of the investigation, as outlined in the specification, were to establish whether any significant archaeological deposits at the site may be affected by the proposed development. Specifically, the objectives to fulfil this aim were:

- a) To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.
- b) Establish the extent to which previous development and or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site.
- c) Establish the likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development.

Number of Contexts	42
Number of Files/Paper Record	1 File
Plan and Section Sheets	7 1:50 Plans; 1:10 section
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	45 Digital; 14 Colour; 14 Monochrome
Bulk Finds	50: 7 potsherds; 7 CBM; 24 bone; 7 Fe; 3 glass; 2 fired clay
Registered Finds	0
Environmental Flots/Residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 7)

This trench measured 10.50m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located in the north-west corner of the site and was cut short by 4.50m to maintain a recommended distance from a tree canopy.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
1/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	74.54
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	74.29
1/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	73.89

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in Trench 1

4.1.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [1/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.54m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. Several potsherds of 19th-20th century date, including fragments of white china, were recovered from this context for dating.

Underlying this was fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [1/002], with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.29m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.45m. Four fragments of CBM were recovered.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [1/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 73.89m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.79m OD at the south end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 15.0m east (NEE) to west (SWW) and was 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the northern part of site.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
2/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	75.34
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.29m	75.14

2/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.85
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Table 3: List of recorded contexts in Trench 2

4.2.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [2/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 75.34m OD and a maximum thickness of 0.20m. Several potsherds including fragments of white china were recovered from this context for dating. Five small potsherds of mid 18th-19th century date and two fragments of CBM were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [2/002], with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 75.14m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.29m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [2/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD at the east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.22m OD at the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 15.0m east to west and was 2.0m wide. It was located on the western side of the northern part of the site but was relocated slightly to the south from its proposed location to avoid a large pile of debris on the site.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
3/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	74.76
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.45m	74.51
3/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.16

Table 4: List of recorded contexts in Trench 3

4.3.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [3/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded

stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.76m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. Some CBM fragments and potsherds of 18th-19th century date were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [3/002], with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.51m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.45m. Some CBM fragments were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [3/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.16m OD at the east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.83m OD at the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 15.0m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the north part of the site but was relocated slightly to the north from its proposed location to avoid a large pile of debris on site and for machine access. Three small possible features were exposed within the natural chalk in this trench, but hand excavation proved that they were all very shallow, irregular, natural silty-hollows and void of archaeological material. A plan of this trench forms part of the site archive, but since no archaeological features were present, it was not included within this report.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
4/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	74.98
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.73
4/002	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.49

Table 5: List of recorded contexts in Trench 4

4.4.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [4/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.98m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. Several sherds and 18th-19th century tile were recovered from this context .

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [4/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.73m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [4/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.49m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.39m OD at the south end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 15.0m east (NEE) to west (SWW) and was 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the northern half of site but relocated slightly to the east from its proposed location to avoid a fenced-off area to the west.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
5/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.40m	74.91
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	74.51
5/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.28

Table 6: List of recorded contexts in Trench 5

4.5.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [5/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.91m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.40m. Some CBM, glass fragments, flint and potsherds, of later 19th-20th century date, were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [1/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.51m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [5/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.28m OD at the south end of trench, sloping down gradually to the 73.91m OD at the north end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 12.0m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located on the eastern side in the centre of the site but was

relocated slightly to the north and west from its proposed location to avoid a large pile of debris to the east and was cut short by 3.0m by a large concrete surface to the south.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
6/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m	74.96
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.37m	74.71
6/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.34

Table 7: List of recorded contexts in Trench 6

4.6. Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [6/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.96m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [6/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.71m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.37m. Four fragments of CBM were recovered.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [6/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.34m OD at the south end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.31m OD at the north end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 12.0m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located on the west side in the centre of the site but was relocated slightly to the north and east from its proposed location to avoid abundant tree-rooting to the west and it was cut short by 3.0m to allow machine access to the south. Two modern service cables were seen crossing the northern end of the trench.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
7/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	74.68
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.48
7/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	c.74.18

Table 8: List of recorded contexts in Trench 7

4.7.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [7/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.68m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m. This trench was sited in an area that was covered with trees so much disturbance from rooting was observed. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [7/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.48m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [7/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.24m OD at the north end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.11m OD at the south end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.8 Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 12.0m east (NEE) to west (SWW) and was 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the southern half of the site but was cut short by 3.0m to allow machine access.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
8/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	75.02
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.67
8/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.37

Table 9: List of recorded contexts in Trench 8

4.8.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [8/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 75.02m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.35m. Some CBM of 18th-19th century date and potsherds including fragments of white china were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [8/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.67m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. One potsherd and two fragments of CBM, of 18th-19th century date, were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [8/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.37m OD at the east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.08m OD at the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

This trench measured 15.0m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located on the eastern side in the southern half of the site but was relocated slightly to the west from its proposed location due to its close proximity to the hedge line and to maintain a distance from tree canopies.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
9/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	75.05
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.33m	74.85
9/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.52

Table 10: List of recorded contexts in Trench 9

4.9.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [9/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 75.05m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [9/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.85m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.33m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [9/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at 74.52m OD across the trench from north to south.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.10 Trench 10 (Figs 3 and 9)

This trench measured 10.0m east to west and was 2.0m wide. It was located in the northern part of the back garden of house no. 64 on the western part of site but was cut short by 5.0m to allow for machine access. A modern service pipe ran across the centre of the trench from north to south.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
10/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.15.	74.13
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	73.98
10/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	73.72

Table 11: List of recorded contexts in Trench 10

4.10.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [10/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.13m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.15m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was a fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [10/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 73.98m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.28m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [10/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 73.72m OD at the east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.58m OD at the west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.11 Trench 11 (Figs 3 and 10)

This trench measured 26.0m north (NNW) to south (SSE) and was 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the southern half of the site but it was extended by 11.0m to increase the sample percentage. A possible curvilinear feature was revealed within the natural chalk in the south end of this trench, but further excavation by hand proved that it was a very shallow, irregular natural silty hollow and void of archaeological material. A plan of this is held as part of the site archive, but since no archaeological features were present, it was not included within this report.

Number	Type	Description	Max.	Max.	Deposit Depth	Height
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			Length	Width	(max)	Max m AOD
11/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.85
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.55
11/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	73.79

Table 12: List of recorded contexts in Trench 11

4.11.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [11/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. Some potsherds, flint and fragments of 20th century glass were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [11/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.55m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [11/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 73.79m OD at the south end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 74.23m OD at the north end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.12 Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 11)

This trench measured 13.0m north-east to south-west and 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the southernmost part of the site but was relocated slightly to the north to avoid a concrete path and was cut short by 2.0m to allow machine access.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
12/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	74.62
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20m	74.32
12/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.16

Table 13: List of recorded contexts in Trench 12

4.12.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [12/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.62m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. A small glass inkwell jar, several flints and a few potsherds including fragments of white china were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [12/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.13m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [12/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.16m OD at the north-east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.72m OD at the south-west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.13 Trench 13 (Figs 3 and 13)

This trench measured 12.5m north-west to south-east and 2.0m wide. It was located centrally in the back garden of house no. 64 on the west part of the site. The trench was relocated slightly to the north to avoid a pond and concrete slabs and was cut short by 2.50m to allow machine access. Two modern service pipes were uncovered towards the south-east end of this trench.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
13/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.15m	73.76
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	73.61
13/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	73.31

Table 14: List of recorded contexts in Trench 13

4.13.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [13/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 73.76m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.15m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [13/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 73.61m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.30m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [1/3003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 73.31m OD at the south-east end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.27m OD at the north-west end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.14 Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

Not excavated – see section 3.0

4.15 Trench 15 (Figs 3 and 12)

This trench measured 12.50m north-east to south-west and 2.0m wide. It was located on the western side in the southern half of the site. This trench was not originally proposed but was excavated to increase the sample size to 5%.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth (max)	Height Max m AOD
15/001	Deposit	Topsoil/turf	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m	74.51
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.22m	74.16
15/003	Deposit	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	74.10

Table 15: List of recorded contexts in Trench 15

4.15.1 Summary

Three contexts were identified within this trench, revealing the following stratigraphic sequence:

Topsoil and turf, [15/001], comprising soft/friable dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional small to medium sized roots and rare small angular/sub-rounded stones was encountered at a maximum height of 74.51m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.35m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying this was fairly light grey-brown silty clay subsoil, [15/002] with occasional small roots and chalk flecks. This context was revealed at a maximum height of 74.16m OD and had a maximum thickness of 0.22m. No finds were recovered from this context.

Underlying the subsoil was the natural geology, [15/003], comprising greyish-white chalk bedrock. This chalk was encountered at a maximum height of 74.10m OD at the north-east (NNE) end of the trench, sloping down gradually to 73.79m OD at the south-west (SSW) end of the trench.

No archaeological features were present within this trench.

4.16 Synopsis of Stratigraphic Sequence

A topsoil/turf layer [001] comprising soft/friable dark grey-brown clay-silt was recorded in all of the trenches.

Underlying [001], a soft, light grey-brown silty-clay subsoil (002) was recorded in all of the trenches. This deposit was much thicker in the northern part of site and became thinner with increased topsoil covering towards the south of the site. It is interesting that the sites natural topography is consistent with that observed at the archaeological evaluation/excavation at Station Road to the north (Sadarangani 2005, 18). Similarly, a variety of residual finds, including pottery and flints were also recovered from the site at Station Road.

Underlying [002] is natural Chalk Bedrock geology, [003], which was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD in the north-east of the site falling away to 73.27m OD in the south-west.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The archaeological evaluation at Well Road, Otford, produced a small assemblage of finds, a summary of which is given in Table 16. All bulk finds were washed and dried by context. Materials were bagged by type and pottery marked with site code and context. Since no archaeological cut features were present on the site, all of the finds were recovered from the topsoil (001) and subsoil deposit (002) underlying this.

Context	Pottery	wt (g)	CB M	wt (g)	Flint	wt (g)	FC F	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Glass	wt (g)
1/001	1	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1/002	-	-	4	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2/001	5	68	2	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3/001	1	6	7	208	-	-	1	24	-	-	-	-
3/002	-	-	2	34	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	-
4/001	-	-	4	98	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4/002	1	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5/001	-	-	1	20	1	22	-	-	-	-	4	38
8/001	-	-	1	32	-	-	-	-	1	196	-	-
8/002	1	<2	2	58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11/001	1	8	1	22	1	6	-	-	-	-	1	12
12/001	1	2	13	332	2	34	-	-	-	-	2	20
Total	11	152	37	898	4	62	1	26	11	196	7	70

Table 16: Quantification of finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 A small assemblage of pottery was recovered. Generally sherds are of a small/medium size (up to 70mm across) and show only limited signs of abrasion though this is likely to be the result of the hard-fired nature of the material. The most common type consists of plain white china [1/001], [8/002] and [12/001] from cups/saucers which can be placed in a mid 19th- to mid 20th- century date bracket. A sherd from an unglazed earthenware flower pot was recovered from [11/001] and a base sherd from a large storage jar in glazed red earthenware was located in [4/002]. The only other sherd consists of the rim from an English stoneware bowl, probably from Nottingham. It is quite probable that the last two sherds are earlier than the plain china and can be placed in a later 18th- to mid 19th- century date range.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Luke Barber

5.3.1 A low background scatter of ceramic building material was recovered from the different trenches. The earliest material comes from [1/002] where one small abraded peg tile fragment tempered with moderate medium sand with rare iron oxide and chalk inclusions to 2mm was recovered. This piece may well be of 14th- to 15th- century date. The same context produced a medium fired abraded tile fragment tempered with sparse/moderate fine sand which could be of 15th-/16th- century date as well as well-fired peg tile tempered with moderate fine sand. The latter is almost certainly of 18th- to 19th- century date and is by far the most common tile type from the site. Some small pieces of

residual 15/16th- century tile were also recovered from [2/001]. With the exception of a very hard-fired later 19th- to 20th- century sparse fine sand tempered tile from [3/001] the remaining tile from the site is of 18th- to 19th- century date.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

5.4.1 A small assemblage of glass is present, all of which can be dated to the later 19th to mid 20th centuries. Fragments of green beer bottles were recovered from [5/001] and [11/001] and a complete aqua mould blown bottle with sheer-top rim for a cork stopper was recovered from [12/001]. This piece, embossed No 10? on its base measures 30mm in diameter by 31mm tall and is of mid/late 19th- century date. A number of pieces of opaque coloured glass (white, pink and blue) were also recovered. Most were from [5/001] where one piece was clearly from a small bottle with external screw cap fitting indicative of a very late 19th-, or more likely 20th- century date.

5.5 Other Finds by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The only other material from the site consists of some coal from [3/002] and a piece of medium-grained siliceous mid grey Tertiary sandstone from [8/001].

5.6 The Flint by Chris Butler

5.6.1 A small assemblage of four flakes weighing 62g was recovered during the work. All of the flakes are patinated a white colour, with a buff coloured cortex, and are typical of Downland flint. Three of the flakes are soft hammer-struck (possibly using a soft stone hammer rather than antler), and two of these have evidence for platform preparation. The fourth flake is hard hammer-struck. The attributes of these pieces suggest an earlier Neolithic date.

5.7 Potential by Luke Barber

5.7.1 All in all the assemblage shows some indication of light background activity, possibly from manuring, in the 15th to 16th centuries with nothing else until perhaps a general spread of material from the mid/late 18th century onward. The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis.

5.7.2 This small assemblage has little potential for further study. It is recommended that no further work be undertaken on this assemblage, although the flintwork should be retained for possible further study in the future.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1** Considering the sites location within an area thought to have archaeological potential due to the many findspots and sites and monuments within its environs (see Section 2.0 and Table 17 in the Appendix), the results of the evaluation indicated only sparse activity at the site.
- 7.2** The evaluation has provided no evidence of archaeological cut features and only a small quantity of artefacts were recovered. The few pieces of struck flint recovered indicates some fairly limited, possibly Neolithic, activity. The several pieces of Late Medieval and early post medieval tile fragments present are consistent with a normal background scatter possibly deposited as waste material through agricultural manuring, and are not suggestive of, for example, a building in the immediate vicinity.
- 7.3** It is interesting that the site's topography is consistent with that observed at the archaeological evaluation/excavation at Station Road to the north (Sadarangani 2005, 18). At Well Road the deposit probably equivalent to context [002] is thicker in the north and becomes thinner towards the south with a thicker covering of topsoil, whilst at the Station Road site, the same deposit becomes thicker towards the south side of the site indicating a crest between the two sites. Similarly, a variety of residual finds, including pottery and struck flints (Mesolithic and Neolithic) were also recovered from the site at Station Road. Furthermore, Sadarangani (2005, 32) points out that the significant amount of burnt flint (with signs consistent of having been hearth burnt) recovered from the site at Station Road indicate the possibility of Neolithic activity within the area, which is in keeping with the small flint assemblage recovered during the current works.
- 7.4** Regarding the objectives as set out in the Specification (Hawkins 2008), the evaluation has proved that there is only limited, local, truncation by services of the natural substrate, demonstrated by the largely intact subsoil deposit, [002]. It can be assumed, therefore, that if any archaeological features or deposits were present within the development area they would have survived and been detected during the evaluation process. As the evaluation was entirely negative (apart from some, fairly limited, unstratified artefacts recovered), the proposed development will have no impact on the archaeological resource.

REFERENCES

Hawkins, D. 2008. Specification for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Well Road, Otford, Kent. CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Sadarangani, F. 2005. *Assessment of an Archaeological Excavation of Land Off Station Approach, Otford, Kent*. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Duncan Hawkins (CgMs Ltd.) and Clifford Ward (Otford & District Archaeological Group) is gratefully acknowledged,

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	WRO08					
Identification Name and Address	Well Road, Otford, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Sevenoaks					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 55320 15920					
Geology	Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3324					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. √	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart / Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Grant					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM √	Other Modern √		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent, (NGR: 55320 15920,) between the 21st and 24th April for CgMs Consulting Ltd.</i></p> <p><i>Fourteen trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 195.0m in advance of a new residential construction. No archaeological cut features were present in any of the trenches. However, many of the trenches uncovered datable finds (potsherds, ceramic building material, flint and glass) from the topsoil and subsoil deposits.</i></p> <p><i>The underlying natural geology, comprising chalk bedrock, was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD in the north-east of the site, falling away to 73.27m OD in the south-west. Within all the trenches, above the natural, was subsoil overlain by topsoil and turf.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-42714

Project details

Project name Well Road, Otford, Kent

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on land at Well Road, Otford, Kent, (NGR: 55320 15920,) between the 21st and 24th April for CgMs Consulting Ltd.

Fourteen trenches were excavated to a cumulative length of 195.0m in advance of a new residential construction. No archaeological cut features were present in any of the trenches. However, many of the trenches uncovered datable finds (potsherds, ceramic building material, flint and glass) from the topsoil and subsoil deposits.

The underlying natural geology, comprising chalk bedrock, was encountered at a maximum height of 74.85m OD in the north-east of the site, falling away to 73.27m OD in the south-west. Within all the trenches, above the natural, was subsoil overlain by topsoil and turf.

Project dates Start: 21-04-2008 End: 24-04-2008

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes WRO 08 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 3324 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Significant Finds	FLINT Early Neolithic
Significant Finds	CBM Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY, GLASS AND CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS OTFORD Well Road, Otford
Postcode	TN14 5
Study area	150.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 5532 1592 50.9212263559 0.210080668189 50 55 16 N 000 12 36 E Point
Height OD	Min: 73.27m Max: 74.85m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Diccon Hart

Project supervisor Kathryn Grant

Entered by Kathryn Grant (kathy2grant@hotmail.com)

Entered on 21 May 2008

APPENDIX

HER Summary Table

PALAEOLITHIC			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Achulian Flint Ovate Handaxe	TQ 55 NW 35	KE 332	TQ 5360 5961
MESOLITHIC			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Flint Pick	TQ 55 NW 68	KE 365	TQ 525 593
Flint Scraper	TQ 56 SW 44	KE 710	TQ 5302 6010
Flint Scraper	TQ 56 NW 66	KE 732	TQ 5297 6010
Flint Flake	TQ 56 SW 67	KE 733	TQ 5305 6016
Flint Assemblage	TQ 56 SW 21	KE 687	TQ 5337 6028
Microlith	TQ 55 NW 26	KE 323	TQ 5396 5975
Flint Assemblage	TQ 55 NW 24	KE 321	TQ 5378 5981
Flint Assemblage	TQ 55 NW 25	KE 322	TQ 5382 5938
NEOLITHIC			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Poss. Flint Spindle Whorl	TQ 55 NW 80	KE 14010	TQ 529 589
BRONZE AGE			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Barbed and Tanged Arrowhead	TQ 55 NW 29	KE 326	TQ 5331 5891
Burial Mound	TQ 55 NW 5	KE 302	TQ 5384 5966
Ring Ditch	TQ 55 NW 70	KE 367	TQ 5226 5958
Middle BA Settlement & Finds at 46, Greenhill Road	TQ 56 SW 27	KE 693	TQ 5355 6005
IRON AGE – No SMR Data			
ROMAN			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Roman Villa	TQ 55 NW 3	KE 300	TQ 5362 5922
Roman Find Cluster (CBM, pot, glass, oyster shells)	TQ 55 NW 7	KE 304	TQ 5355 5925
Roman Activity at Otford Palace	TQ 55 NW 18	KE 315	TQ 5281 5920
Roman Occupation at 46 Greenhill Road	TQ 56 SW 27	KE -	TQ 5355 6005
Roman Farmstead/Agricultural Building	TQ 55 NW 2	KE 299	TQ 5224 5905
Coin: Constantine II	TQ 55 NW 30	KE 327	TQ 5317 5852
ANGLO SAXON/EARLY MEDIEVAL			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Cremation Burial – 19, The Charne 1954	TQ 55 NW 28	KE 325	TQ 5221 5897
Church at St Bartholomew's	TQ 55 NW 1	KE 298	TQ 5284 5930
LATE MEDIEVAL/POST MEDIEVAL			
Find/Monument/Site Description	SMR Ref.	Kent Ref.	NGR
Manor House – SAM Kent No.9	TQ 55 NW 18	KE 315	TQ 5281 5920
Pond – SAM Kent No.9	TQ 55 NW 17	KE 314	TQ 5315 5920
St Thomas a Becket's Well – SAM Kent No.9	TQ 55 NW 42	KE 339	TQ 5283 5920

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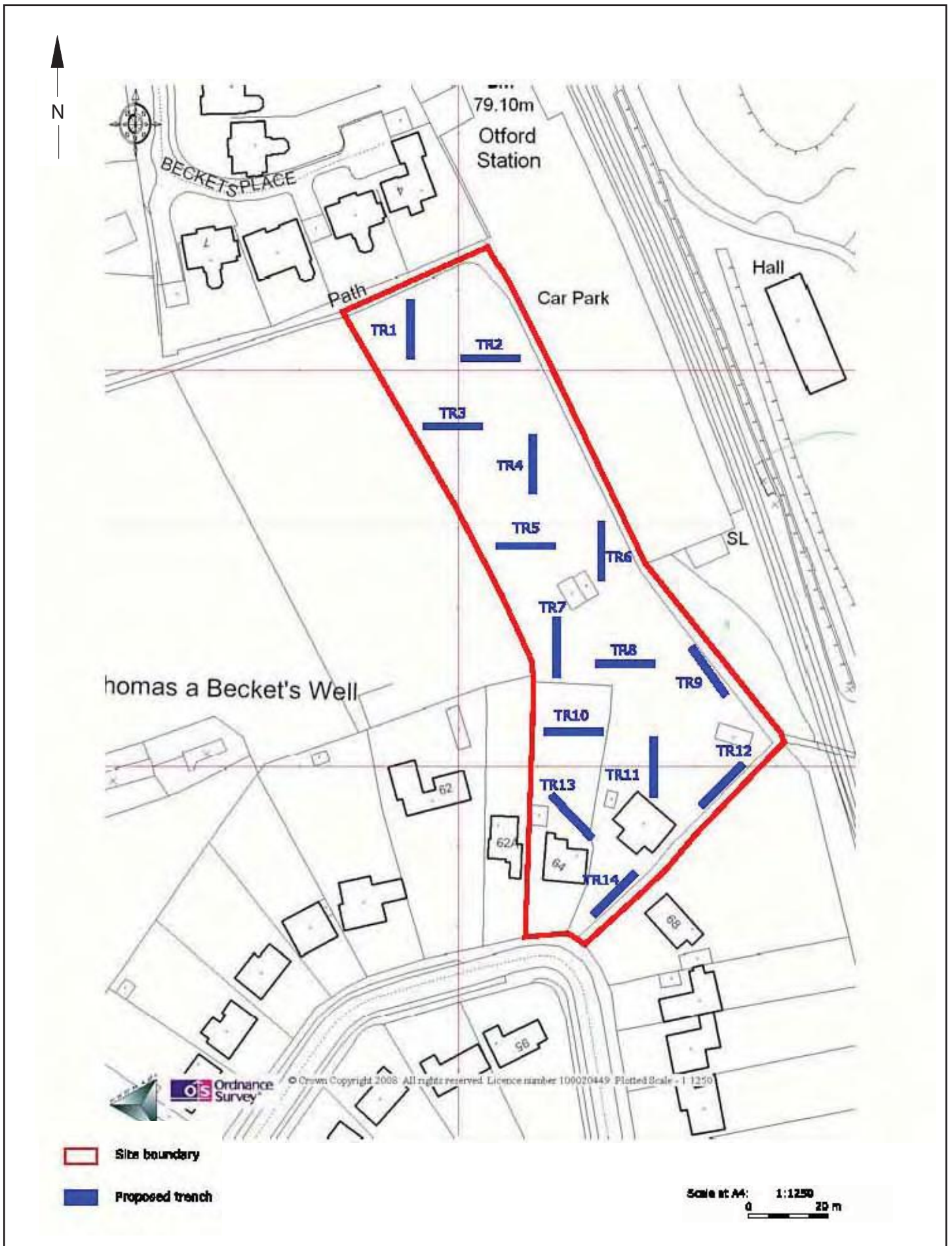
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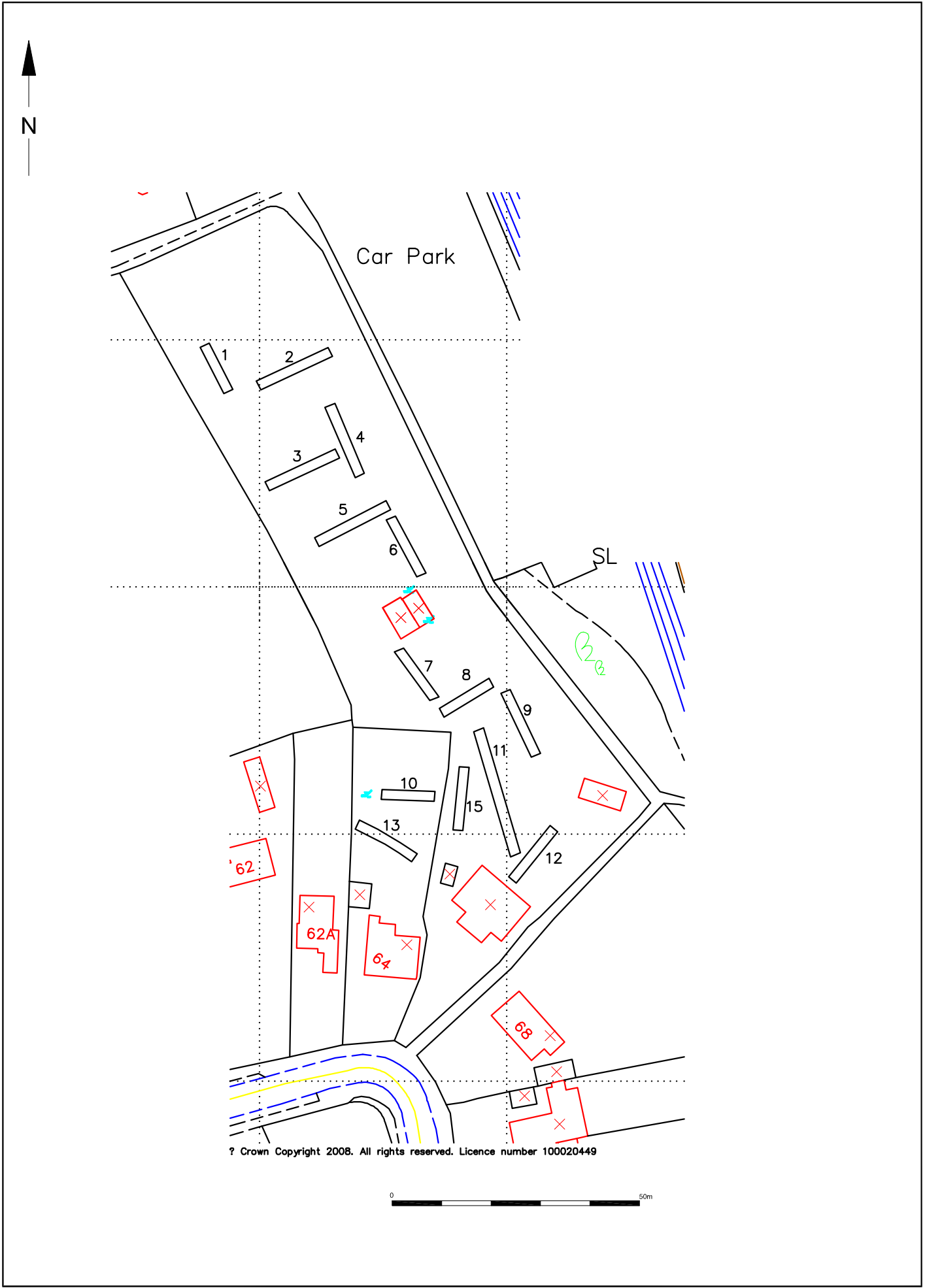
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© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Proposed trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Actual trench location plan	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	The Site (looking north)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	The Site (looking South)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Excavating Trenches	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 1 (south facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 1 (east facing section)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 10 (west facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 11 (north facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



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Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 12 (north-east facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 12
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 15 (South-south-west facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 13
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	Trench 13 in no. 64 back garden (south facing)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 14
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	On site debris and constraints	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		



© Archaeology South-East		Well Road, Otford	Fig. 15
Project Ref: 3324	June 2008	The South part of site after backfilling (looking south)	
Report Ref: 2008065	Drawn by: SM		

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