

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land Adjacent to the
Former St Francis Hospital (Area X), Colwell Road, Haywards
Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4ES**

Planning Reference: 05/02279/COND

Centred NGR 533521 122542

**Project No. 2893
Site Code: SFH 07**

**ASE Report No: 2008139
OASIS id: archaeol6-47846**



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Abstract

Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Crest Nicholson South Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil translocation associated with the development at Land adjacent to St Francis Hospital, Colwell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The stripping of topsoil at Area X was consistently watched with the receptor site intermittently watched. Archaeological evidence was found of ornamental parkland previously identified though documentary evidence (SMR2840-MWS138). No archaeological evidence was found for earlier activity on site. Work was undertaken between the 3 March and 10 April 2008.

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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 at the University College London Institute of Archaeology was commissioned by Crest Nicholson South Limited to undertake a archaeological watching brief during topsoil translocation on land adjacent to the former St Francis Hospital, Colwell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex (Area X, centred NGR 533521 122542).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies upon moderately steep sloping south-facing ground. The underlying geology of the site is Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand, sandstone and clay (The British Geological Survey Sheet 302).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Outline planning permission had been granted by Mid Sussex District Council (Ref. 05/02279/COND) for the residential development of the site. A separate planning consent had been granted for the construction of and associated Haywards Heath Relief Road, Stage 6 of which curves the southern and eastern boundaries of the overall scheme.
- 1.3.2 Following discussions with John Mills, County Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council, in his capacity as advisor to Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) on archaeological planning matters, it was decided to maintain an archaeological watching brief during topsoil translocation until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological monitoring was produced by Neil Griffin of ASE in February 2008, outlining the methods to be used during the watching brief (ASE 2008; Griffin 2007). The methodology was agreed with John Mills, the County Archaeologist prior to the commencement of work at the site.
- 1.3.4 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on Area Y, to the east of Area X, comprising three parallel transects of ten 1m² test pits and twenty-eight 30m trenches. This evaluation is documented in a separate report (Whittaker 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work is to monitor the ground works in order to ensure that and artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The on-site monitoring was undertaken by Nick Garland and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologists) between 3 March and 10 April 2008. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager). This report represents the findings of the archaeological watching brief.

2.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The information below is summarised from a Written Scheme of Investigation carried out by ASE (2008) with due acknowledgement (see the original document for a more detailed background). A full desk-based assessment of the area is also available compiled by Thames Valley Archaeology (Ford 1999).

2.2 Overview

2.2.1 A total of 17 entries from the West Sussex County Council SMR are recorded from a 1km radius of the site in question (Table 1). Most known sites are post medieval in date with a single Roman pottery find, one Bronze Age flint object and two finds of Neolithic stone tools.

2.2.2 The assessment of maps from the last two hundred years has illuminated the usage of the land in question. A tithe map of 1842 indicates that the sites were both used as farmland. Details of permanent structures are shown in the first edition Ordnance Survey map, which indicate the presence of the hospital. This map shows that the western part of Area X is densely wooded and the northern part as parkland. Area Y is divided into square plots in the northern region, suggesting small scale horticultural activity. To the south of these, the map displays open ground which is presumed parkland. Ordnance Survey maps of 1899 display no change to that of 1842. The 1912 OS map shows the small presence of a building in the north of Area Y which does not alter in the following 1938 map.

2.2.3 Haywards Heath settlement is relatively modern in development. In 1841, the arrival of the railway led to its expansion and development including the construction of the Sussex County Lunatic Asylum (later called St Francis' Hospital) in 1859. Testament to the towns increase in size is shown by the Census data, which indicates that the town's population rose from 200 in the early 1850s to 22,800 (2001 census).

Site Name	SMR number	Site/find type	Period	Grid reference
Land south of Hurstwood Park Hospital, Haywards Heath	6794-MWS6823	Flint object	Bronze age (2350BC-701BC)	TQ34010 22800
St Francis' Hospital	2840 – MWS138	Park from documentary evidence, 1872 OS map	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ 33700 22850
Beechmont	2841 MWS139	Park from documentary evidence, 1872 OS map	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ3415 2292
Kiln Wood find spot	5854-MWS4607	Polished axe fragment	Neolithic (4000BC-2351BC)	TQ32650 22050
Brickfield (multiple SMR entries)	6261-MWS4919 6267-MWS4925 6268-MWS4926 6272-MWS4930	Brickworks from documentary evidence	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33300 23400 TQ33600 23300 TQ33200 23200 TQ33900 23300
Sandrocks	2839-MWS137	Park from	Post medieval	TQ32950 22410

Site Name	SMR number	Site/find type	Period	Grid reference
		documentary evidence	(1540AD-1900AD)	
Haywards Heath findspot	4210-MWS5502	Scraper and lithic implement	Neolithic (4000BC-2351BC)	TQ33400 23030
Furze Wood	4202-MWS980	Roman pottery	Roman (43AD-409AD)	TQ33210 21830
Davis House	7393-MWS464	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33182 22837
Pennies	7395-MWS7465	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33403 23020
Shoulders House	7394-MWS7466	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33451 22995
Nicholas Hardhams House	7396-MWS7467	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33088 23248
Wardens House and Lande	7397-MWS7468	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33871 23224
Farealls House and Lande	7398-MWS7470	House	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33404 23545
Water tower	4207-MWS784	Waterworks structure	Post medieval (1540AD-1900AD)	TQ33910 23070
Kiln wood find spot	4201-MWS5500	Axe	Neolithic (4000BC-2351BC)	TQ33070 21820

Table 1: Sites and Monuments data from within a kilometre radius from the site

2.3 Recent Archaeological Investigation

- 2.3.1 Land south of Hurstwood Park Hospital (approximately 400m to the north of Area X) was archaeologically evaluated with the excavation of 9 trenches (HER 6794) which yielded no archaeological features or remains but did provide a number of residual struck flints dating to the Bronze Age (2350 BC to 701 BC) (Elsden 2001).
- 2.3.3 Another evaluation at nearby Bolnore Village (Griffin 2004) revealed a 1st century AD ditch adjacent to Rocky Lane. A subsequent small open area excavation revealed that this ditch related to a hilltop enclosure formed by two roughly concentric ring ditches with pottery sherds possibly of Middle to Late Bronze Age ditch found within the inner ditch. A small amount of iron slag and worked flints were also recovered from the site.
- 2.3.4 An archaeological evaluation was carried out on Area Y, to the east of Area X, comprising three parallel transects of ten 1m² test pits and twenty-eight 30m trenches (Whittaker 2008). Deposits of 19th/20-century waste material were recorded together with several undated cuts.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The area was stripped using a tracked 13 tonne machine fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. The area was monitored until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reached undisturbed natural subsoils).
- 3.2** All topsoil stripping was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, the area stripped of topsoil was closely examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.3** Where excavations revealed archaeological deposits, the areas were cordoned off in order to permit safe investigation. The archaeological deposits and stratigraphy encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system, as modified for use by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.4** The County Archaeologist was notified in the event that any significant archaeological remains were encountered during the stripping. Any decision regarding the best way to proceed in this instance remained with the County Archaeologist, John Mills.

Number of Contexts	9
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	Digital and 1 Black and white film.
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 An area of approximately 1000 square metres was monitored during topsoil stripping. An archaeologist also monitored the topsoil stripping of the receptor site at regular intervals in order to assess its archaeological potential. No archaeological features or deposits were discovered underneath the topsoil.

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
1	Deposit	Topsoil	Covers area	Covers area	0.25-0.30m
2	Deposit	Natural Subsoil	Covers area	Covers area	Continues
3	Masonry	Brick Plinth	1.5m	1.2m	0.2m+
4	Masonry	Brick Plinth	1.5m	1.2m	0.2m+
5	Cut	Ditch/land drain	9.0m+	1.0m	0.25m
6	Fill	Ditch/land drain fill	0.90m+	1.0m	0.25m
7	Deposit	Black Coal and gravel spread	8.0m	8.0m	0.04m
8	Masonry	Brick Plinth	1.5m	1.2m	0.2m+
9	Masonry	Brick Plinth	1.5m	1.2m	0.2m+

Summary

Stratigraphy for Area X and the receptor site was the same. Yellow clay natural subsoil was present across the site. Overlying this was a dark-brown humic silty clay topsoil deposit of 0.25 to 0.30m in thickness. Four features were discovered once the topsoil was removed (Figs. 2, 4, and 5). All four features were small brick structures aligned in a north-west to south-east orientation and together formed a linear series at 20m intervals. Feature [1] ((3) in Fig. 2) measured 1.2m in both length and width, while Features [2] (No. 4) and [3] (No. 8) measured 1.6m in length and 1.2m in width. Feature [4] (No. 9) comprised only the remains of a brick structure measuring approximately 1.4m in length and 1.2m in width. Post-medieval pottery was noted as discovered at Feature [3] and [4] and the cement bonding of the brickwork suggest a modern date of construction. Each brick structure had a square gap in the centre filled with rubble and soil. A post medieval 'U' shaped ditch or field drain [5] was identified to the north east of the site measuring 9.0m in length and continuing beyond the limit of excavation with a width of 1.0m and a depth of 0.25m. The ditch was filled with a yellowish brown silty clay with occasional fragments of ceramic pipe [6] (Fig. 3). Modern features associated with the ornamental landscaping of the site and hospital were identified to the north east of the site including a number of metal and ceramic pipes. A deposit of loose black gravelly charcoal and ash [7] measuring 8m x 8m with a depth of 0.04m was identified between two ornamental pond features. No features earlier than the post medieval period were identified.

5.0 DISCUSSION

5.1 The Historic Landscaping

- 5.1.1 The series of identical square brick structures on site are most likely to be modern in date and run in a south-west to north-east direction (Fig 2). A collapsed ornamental feature found just outside the excavation area to the north-east and in line with the brick structures may indicate their use. The ornamental feature consists of a large circular mill stone mounted on an iron stand which has in turn been encased in block of concrete. Figure 5 shows the concrete block with a square concrete peg protruding from the base this is of similar size to the central holes observed within the brick structures. It is most likely that a series of these features, perhaps used as benches or picnic tables, continued.
- 5.1.2 To the north east of the site a patch of black coal and ash gravel was identified [7], this lay between two ornamental ponds. A top concrete lined pond had two pipes running down to a second lower pond feature bounded by sandstone blocks outside of the excavation area. The most likely reason for the coal and gravel deposit is to provide drainage for the area as a path or trackway would have crossed this area when the ornamental garden was in use. A field drain [5] in this area may also have been connected with drainage of the ornamental landscape.
- 5.1.3 The archaeological evidence supports the documentary evidence from the 1872 OS map for a parkscape at St Francis' hospital (SMR 2480-MWS138) with no evidence for landscaping being found to the west of the site and an apparently well-constructed ornamental park to the north-east of the site. It is likely that the landscaping work may have removed evidence of earlier activity on the eastern part of the site.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the topsoil stripping of area X, land to the south of St Francis' hospital, Haywards Heath, between the 3 March and 10 April 2008. A series of features were identified across the site connected with the historic ornamental landscaping of the area during Victorian times and provide archaeological evidence to support the documentary evidence listed in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR2840-MWS138). No archaeological evidence was found for earlier activity on the site.

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The information provided by the County Archaeologist John Mills, both prior to and during works is gratefully acknowledged, as is the co-operation of Crest Nicholson South Limited.

SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	SFH 07					
Identification Name and Address	Land Adjacent to the Former St Francis Hospital (Area X), Colwell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4ES					
County, District &/or Borough	Haywards Heath, West Sussex					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	Centred NGR 533521 122542					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2893					
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 Mar 08-Apr08	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Crest Nicholson South Limited					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Crest Nicholson South Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil translocation associated with the development at Land adjacent to St Francis Hospital, Colwell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The stripping of topsoil at Area X was consistently watched with the receptor site intermittently watched. Archaeological evidence was found of ornamental parkland previously identified though documentary evidence (SMR2840-MWS138). No archaeological evidence was found for earlier activity on site. Work was undertaken between the 3 March and 10 April 2008.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-47846

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at Land Adjacent to the Former St Francis Hospital (Area X),

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Crest Nicholson South Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the topsoil translocation associated with the development at Land adjacent to St Francis Hospital, Colwell Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The stripping of topsoil at Area X was consistently watched with the receptor site intermittently watched. Archaeological evidence was found of ornamental parkland previously identified though documentary evidence (SMR2840-MWS138). No archaeological evidence was found for earlier activity on site.

Project dates Start: 03-03-2008 End: 10-04-2008

Previous/future work Not known / No

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Woodland 1 - Deciduous native

Monument type PARK Post Medieval

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX MID SUSSEX HAYWARDS HEATH Land Adjacent to St Francis' Hospital

Postcode RH16 4ES

Study area 1000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 533521 122542 50.8888101377 0.180560575988 50 53 19 N
000 10 50 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	Crest Nicholson South Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Drawing','Notebook - Excavation',' Research','
General Notes','Photograph','Plan','Unpublished Text'

**Project
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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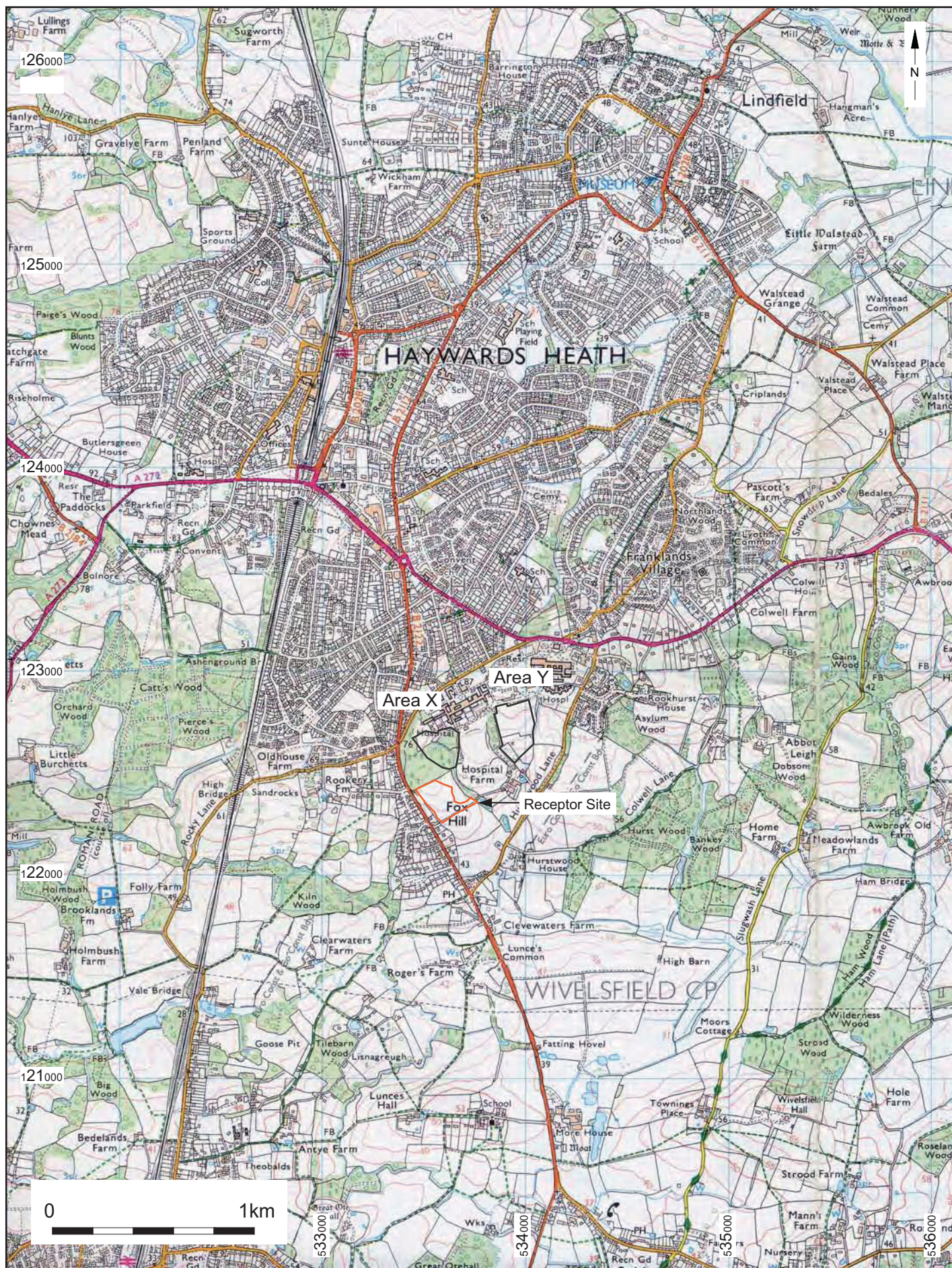
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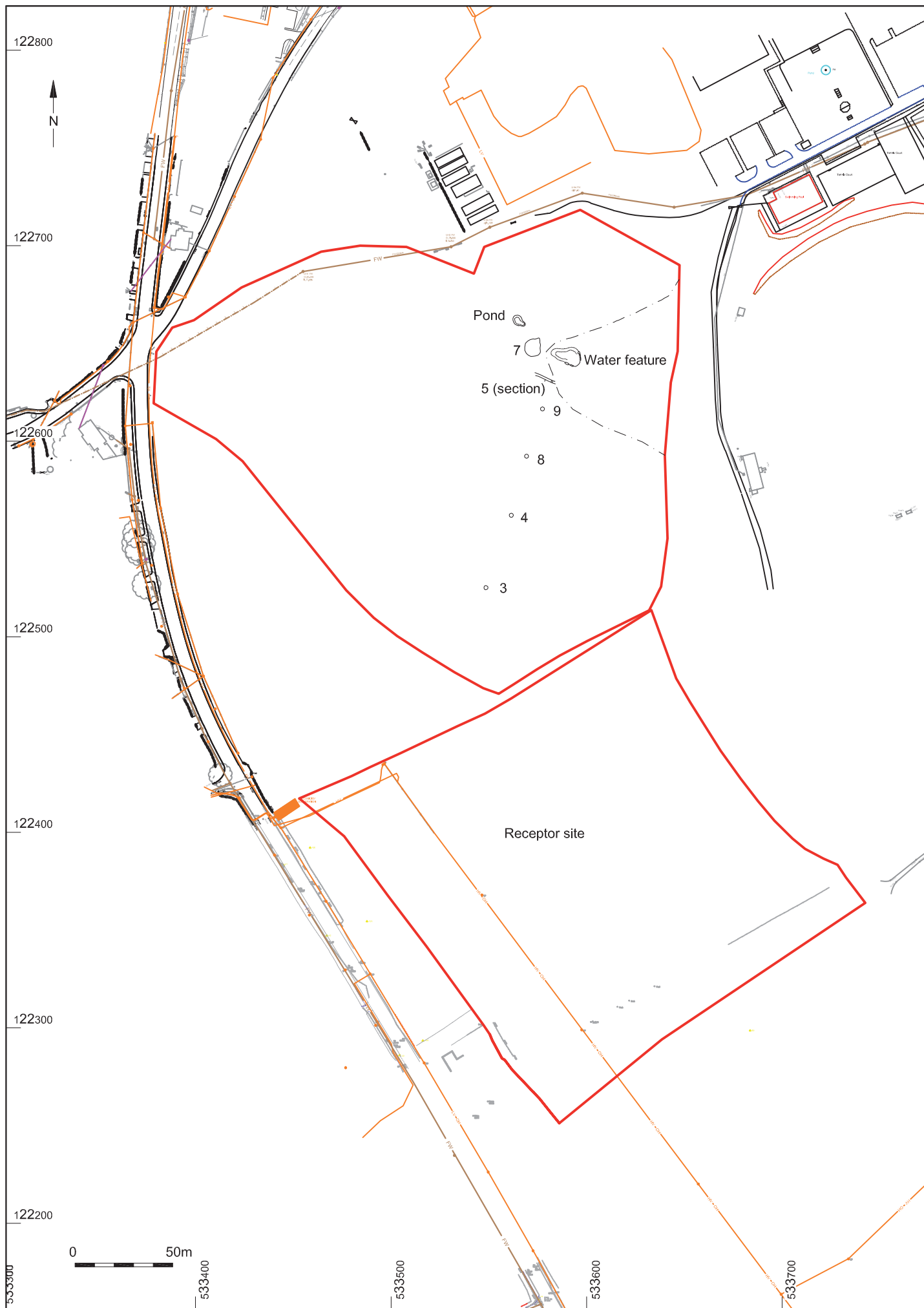
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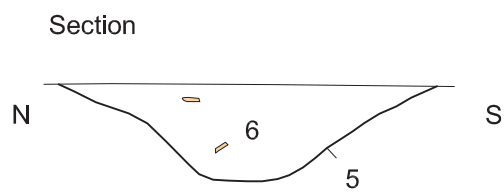


© Archaeology South-East		St. Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2893	Nov 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008139	Drawn by: JLR		

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© Archaeology South-East		St. Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	Fig. 2
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Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		



 Ceramic pipe

0 0.5m





Fig. 4: Brick structure 3



Fig. 5: Collapsed ornamental structure (outside of excavation area)

© Archaeology South-East		St. Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath	Figs. 4 & 5
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