

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Sadlers Farm Junction,
North Benfleet, Basildon, Essex**

**NGR 576280 188380
(TQ 76280 88380)**

**Project No: 3688
Site Code: BAZ 08**

ASE Report No: 2009082

OASIS id: archaeol6-59618



By Nick Garland

May 2009

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Sadlers Farm, Basildon, Essex on behalf of Mouchel, between 11th February and 28th April 2009.

Archaeology South East monitored the excavation of eight geotechnical test pits.

No archaeological remains or material was encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by Mouchel on behalf of Birse / ECC to undertake an archaeological watching brief on geotechnical trial pits at the Sadlers Farm Junction Improvement, North Benfleet, Basildon, Essex henceforth referred to as 'the site' (NGR 576280 188380; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The test pits were located on green fields used for animal pasture or areas of access to a small industrial estate. The site is bounded to the north by green field, to the west by residential housing and to the south and west by the A13 and A130 respectively.
- 1.2.2 The site lies on London Clay (British Geological Survey Sheet 258) with overlying sand and gravel head deposits.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 A scheme has been proposed for improvements to the A13 and A130, in the vicinity of Sadlers Farm Junction to alleviate congestion by diverting traffic away from the existing multi-roundabout system..
- 1.3.2 The scheme was subject to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that included an archaeological desk-based assessment of the study corridor. After consultation with Essex County Council (ECC) Historic Environment Branch (Richard Havis and Adrian Gascoyne), it was deemed necessary to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of geotechnical trial pits.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2008) and was approved by the ECC Archaeologist.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the monitoring was to 'ensure that any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest' that were exposed and affected by the excavations were 'recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards'.
- 1.4.2 The general aim of the investigation was to was 'to identify the date, character, significance, state of preservation and extent' of any archaeological deposits encountered.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Nick Garland between the 11th February and 28th April 2009. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the study corridor was previously outlined in a Desk-Based Assessment (Network Archaeology 2006).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 For the complete adopted methodology, the reader is referred to the WSI (ASE 2008), what is listed here is précis of the detail contained within that report.
- 3.2 Eight geotechnical test pits, measuring c. 3m by c. 2m, were excavated by JCB. The location of the test pits were agreed with Essex County Council (ECC) Historic Environment Branch (Richard Havis and Adrian Gascoyne), prior to the commencement of excavation (Figure 2).
- 3.3 The test pits were initially excavated to the top of the natural horizon. Revealed surfaces were manually cleaned to identify any archaeological deposits or features. The sections of the test pits were hand-cleaned to observe and record any stratigraphy. All spoil removed from the test pits was scanned visually and by metal detector for the presence of any, unstratified artefacts. Following this inspection, the test pits were further excavated to observe the geology.
- 3.4 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IFA) in accordance with the approved WSI using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections generally drawn at a scale of 1:10. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection.
- 3.5 A full photographic record of the test pits and associated deposits and features was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.

4.0 RESULTS

Eight test pits were excavated across the area of proposed development. Test pit 1 was located in present Allotments, Test pits 2, 3 and 4 were located in a horse paddock and Test pits 5, 6, 7 and 8 were located across Sadler's Farm Industrial Estate (Figure 2).

Number of Contexts	12 Contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 Folder
Plan and sections sheets	1 sheet
Photographs	85 Photographs

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.1 Test Pit 1 (TP1)

4.1.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
010	Layer	Topsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	30.85
011	Layer	Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	30.75
012	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	30.60

4.1.2 Summary

A layer of subsoil, a mid orangish brown silty clay [011], with moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath the topsoil [010]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a mid orange clay [012]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.2 Test Pit 2 (TP2)

4.2.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
010	Layer	Topsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	31.09
011	Layer	Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	30.99
012	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	30.84

4.2.2 Summary

A layer of subsoil, a mid orangish brown silty clay [011], with moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath the topsoil [010]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a mid orange clay [012]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.3 Test Pit 3 (TP3)

4.3.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
010	Layer	Topsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	32.20
011	Layer	Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	32.10
012	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	31.95

4.3.2 Summary

A layer of subsoil, a mid orangish brown silty clay [011], with moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath the topsoil [010]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a mid orange clay [012]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.4 Test Pit 4 (TP4)

4.4.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
010	Layer	Topsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	31.18
011	Layer	Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	31.08
012	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	30.98

4.4.2 Summary

A layer of subsoil, a mid orangish brown silty clay [011], with moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath the topsoil [010]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a mid orange clay [012]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.5 Test Pit 5 (TP5)

4.5.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
001	Layer	Topsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	33.45
002	Layer	Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	33.30
003	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	33.15

4.5.2 Summary

A layer of subsoil, a mid greyish brown silty clay [002], with occasional small sub-rounded stones, lay underneath the topsoil [001]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a light grey clay [003]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.6 Test Pit 6 (TP6)

4.6.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
004	Layer	Hardcore	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	34.24
005	Layer	Disturbed Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.1 m	34.09
003	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	33.99

4.6.2 Summary

A layer of disturbed subsoil, a mid grey silty sand [005], with occasional small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath a layer of hardcore [004]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a light grey clay [003]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.7 Test Pit 7 (TP7)

4.7.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
006	Layer	Hardcore	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	35.50
007	Layer	Disturbed Subsoil	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	35.35
003	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	35.20

4.7.2 Summary

A layer of disturbed subsoil, a mid brownish grey clayey silt [006], with moderate small and medium sub-rounded stones and modern inclusions of pottery and CBM, lay underneath a layer of hardcore [006]. The subsoil overlay the natural, a light grey clay [003]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

4.8 Test Pit 8 (TP8)

4.8.1 List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
008	Layer	Tarmac	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.05 m	35.45
009	Layer	Hardcore	Test Pit	Test Pit	0.15 m	35.40
003	Layer	Natural	Test Pit	Test Pit	N/A	35.25

4.8.2 Summary

A layer of hardcore [009], with frequent small and medium sub-rounded stones, lay underneath a thin layer of tarmac [008]. The hardcore directly overlay the natural, a light grey clay [003]. No archaeological deposits or remains were uncovered in this test pit.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Discussion

- 5.1.1 The monitoring of the excavation of the eight test pits at this site revealed no archaeological features, deposits or materials
- 5.1.2 The excavation of the test pits revealed that this area appears to have not been disturbed apart from the slight disturbance to the north of the site in the business park. Through the test pits it appears that this is minimal in nature and does not overtly affect the natural horizon.
- 5.1.3 Natural clay was encountered at between 0.20m and 0.30m below present ground level at between 30.60m AOD and 35.25m AOD.

5.2 Conclusions

- 5.2.1 There was little disturbance to the natural horizon, such as through ploughing, and no evidence of archaeological activity in the test pits.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archaeology South-East, 2008, '*Sadlers Farm Junction Improvement, North Benfleet, Basildon, Essex, A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*', unpublished developer report

Network Archaeology, 2006, A13/A130 Sadlers Farm Junction Improvement-Environmental Statement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The assistance of Kandee Arudshivam and Richard Woodward of Mouchel is gratefully acknowledged.

SMR Summary Form

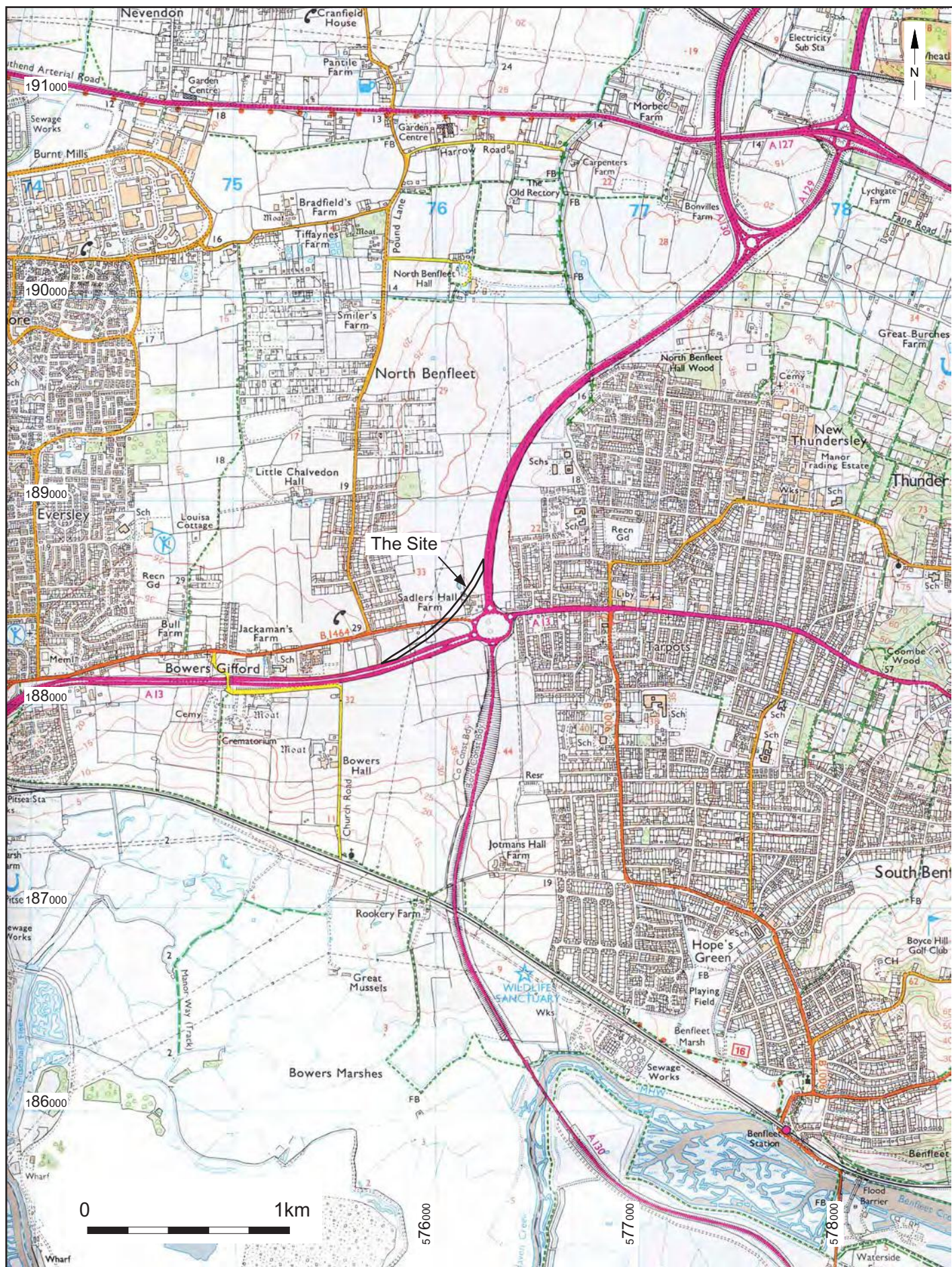
Site Code	BAZ 08					
Identification Name and Address	Sadler's Farm, Basildon, Essex					
County, District &/or Borough	Essex					
OS Grid Refs.	576280 188380					
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3688					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field X	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 11/2/09 to 28/4/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mouchel					
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern X		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Sadlers Farm, Basildon Essex on behalf of Mouchel, between the 11th February and the 28th April 2009.</p> <p>Archaeology South East monitored the excavation of eight test pits, each measuring 3 metres in length and 1 metre in width.</p> <p>No archaeological remains or material was encountered.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-59618	
Project details	
Project name	Sadler's Farm, Basildon, Essex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Sadlers Farm, Basildon Essex on behalf of Mouchel, between the 11th February and the 28th April 2009. Archaeology South East monitored the excavation of eight test pits, each measuring 3 metres in length and 1 metre in width. No archaeological remains or material was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2009 End: 28-04-2009
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	BAZ08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 1 - Allotment
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Current Land use	Other 14 - Recreational usage
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX BASILDON BASILDON Sadler's Farm, Basildon
Postcode	SS13 2
Study area	2000.00 Square metres

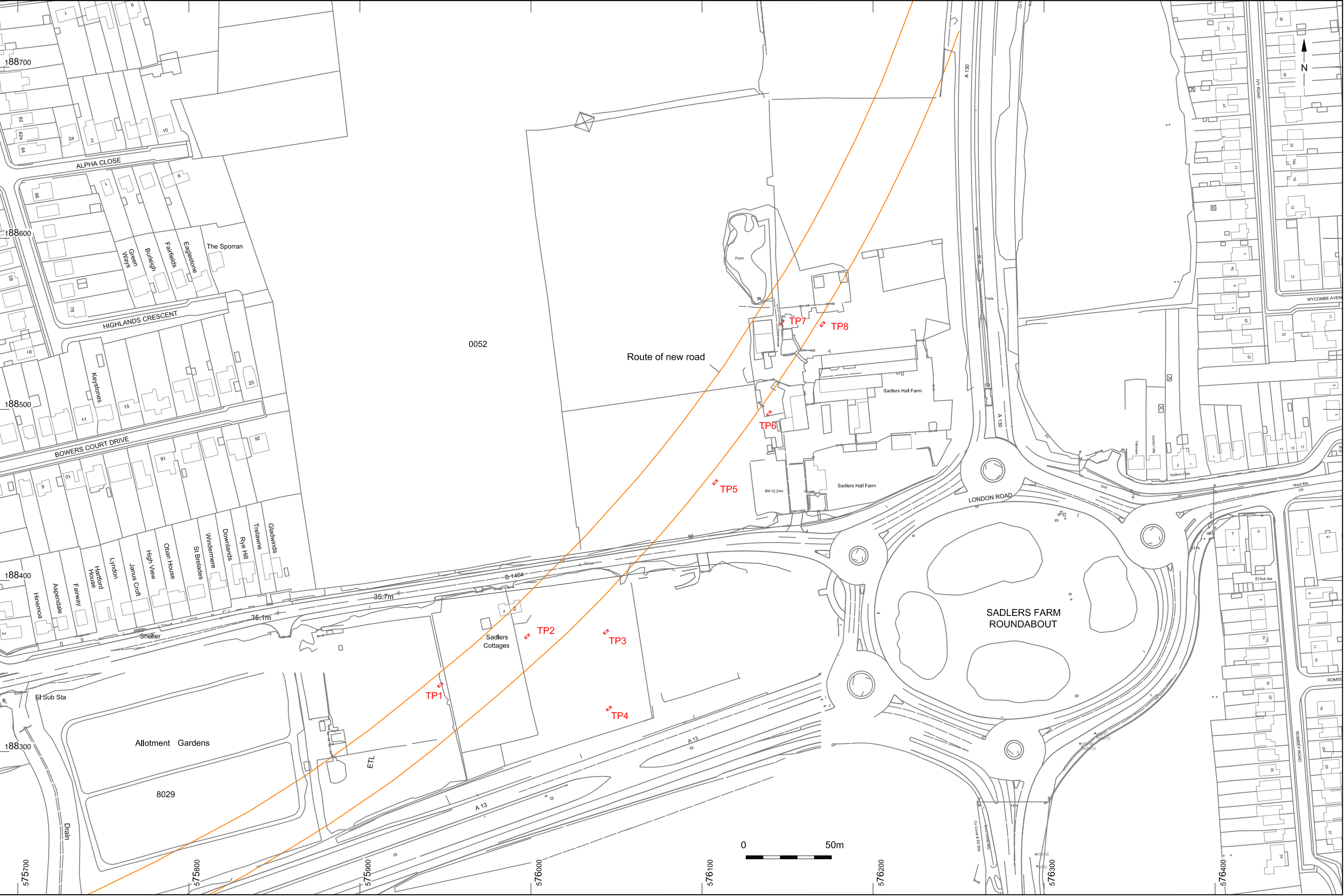
Site coordinates	TQ 76280 88380 51.5661737392 0.543713859986 51 33 58 N 000 32 37 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 30.60m Max: 35.25m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	HMPJV
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Nick Garland
Type of sponsor/funding body	HMPJV Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Plan','Report'
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Sadlers Farm Junction, North Benfleet, Basildon, Essex

Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garland, N
Other bibliographic details	2009082
Date	2009
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Nick Garland (n.garland@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	15 May 2009



© Archaeology South-East		Sadler's Farm, Basildon	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3688	May 2009	Site location plan	
Report Ref: 2009082	Drawn by: JLR		

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