ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND ADJACENT TO KILNSIDE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD, MARK CROSS, EAST SUSSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' EXCAVATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski				
NGR: TQ 58290 31749	Report No: 5264			
District: Wealden	Site Code: AS 1860			
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6897			
MCIfA	Date: 9 December 2016			

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details		
Project name	Land adjacent to Kilnside, Tunbridge Wells Road, Mark	
	Cross, East Sussex	

In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological `strip, map & sample' excavation at land adjacent to Kilnside, Tunbridge Wells Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (NGR TQ 58290 31749). The excavation was commissioned by Magnum Opus Developments Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two semi-detached dwellings.

The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (No. 1121) recorded on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. The Area relates to the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Mark Cross. The principal archaeological interest of the site, however, is based on its location within a former brick and tile works of 18th/19th century date. Historic cartographic sources show kilns, drying sheds and other structures on the site of the proposed new dwellings. The brick works may have been established in the 18th century, and were expanded shortly before 1834.

The investigation revealed remains associated with brick manufacture, specifically linked to kiln working. It is possible that the evidence recorded represented a kiln shown on historic maps that was almost completely removed and the pit backfilled with brick and tile rubble. The lack of coherent structural remains and minimal burnt fabric found may also be explained if an adjacent kiln visible on historic maps was demolished and the rubble pushed over into the working floor. Evidence of a rectangular structure was recorded in the western part of the site, likely a drying shed, also depicted on the historic maps.

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Project dates (fieldwork)	21-23/11/20	16		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N	
P. number	6897	Site code	AS 1860	
Type of project	An Archaeological "Strip, Map & Sample" Excavation			
Site status	Within Archaeological Notification Area No. 1121			
Current land use	Side garden and parking area			
Planned development	Residential			
Main features (+dates)	Remains of	Remains of possibly 19 th C. kiln and outbuildings		
Significant finds (+dates)	-	-		
Project location				
County/ District/ Parish	East Sussex	Wealden	Mark Cross	
HER/ SMR for area	East Sussex	East Sussex HER		
Post code (if known)	TN6 3PP			
Area of site	c.1100m ²	c.1100m ²		
NGR	TQ 58290 3°	TQ 58290 31749		
Height AOD (min/max)	155.00/157.00m			
Project creators	_			
Brief issued by	HCC HEU	HCC HEU		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski			
Funded by	Magnum Opus Developments Ltd			
Full title	Kilnside and land adjacent, Tunbridge Wells Road, Mark			
	Cross, East Sussex: An Archaeological "Strip, Map &			
	Sample" Exc	cavation		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.			
Report no.	5264			
Date (of report)	December 2016			

LAND ADJACENT TO KILNSIDE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD, MARK CROSS, EAST SUSSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological `strip, map & sample' excavation at land adjacent to Kilnside, Tunbridge Wells Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (NGR TQ 58290 31749). The excavation was commissioned by AHP Architects & Surveyors Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two semi-detached dwellings.

The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (No. 1121) recorded on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record. The Area relates to the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Mark Cross. The principal archaeological interest of the site, however, is based on its location within a former brick and tile works of 18th/19th century date. Historic cartographic sources show kilns, drying sheds and other structures on the site of the proposed new dwellings. The brick works may have been established in the 18th century, and were expanded shortly before 1834.

The investigation revealed remains associated with brick manufacture, specifically linked to kiln working. It is possible that the evidence recorded represented a kiln shown on historic maps that was almost completely removed and the pit backfilled with brick and tile rubble. The lack of coherent structural remains and minimal burnt fabric found may also be explained if an adjacent kiln visible on historic maps was demolished and the rubble pushed over into the working floor. Evidence of a rectangular structure was recorded in the western part of the site, likely a drying shed, also depicted on the historic maps.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological 'strip, map & sample' excavation on land adjacent to Kilnside, Tunbridge Wells Road, Mark Cross, East Sussex (NGR TQ 58290 31749; Figs. 1 & 2). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two semi-detached dwellings (Wealden Planning Ref. WD/2015/2742/F).
- 1.2 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the East Sussex County Council Assistant County Archaeologist (ESCC ACA) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 07/11/2016), and approved by ESCC ACA. The project conformed to the

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation (2014), and the document Sussex Archaeological Standards (2015).

1.3 The main aim of the project was to identify, record and excavate any kilns or associated structures, and relate these to the known development of the brick industry in Sussex.

Planning policy context

- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.
- 1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Mark Cross lies *c*.8km south of Royal Tunbridge Wells in East Sussex. The site lies on the western side of Tunbridge Wells Road in the centre of the village of Mark Cross, to the immediate south of the junction with Brickyard Lane. It is adjacent to the semi-detached dwelling of Kilnside in the southern part of the site and an open garden with parking area and an access road in the northern part.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 3.1 The site is situated between 155 157m AOD on a land rising eastwards. The north-east corner of the site is separated form the rest of the site by an earthen bank, and the land directly to the west of the bank drops by 0.70-1.00m.
- 3.2 The solid geology of the area is mudstone of the Weald Clay Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). The soils on the site are those of the Curtisden association, described mainly as silty soils over siltstone, with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The site lies within an Archaeological Notification Area (No. 1121) recorded on the East Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER). The Area relates to the medieval and post-medieval hamlet of Mark Cross (HER MES21497). Place-name evidence suggests Mark Cross derives from the 'mark' or boundary of the three parishes of Rotherfield, Mayfield and Wadhurst, and is first documented as 'Markecross' in 1509 and possibly derived from the surname of 'Wm and Aylward ate Merke' recorded in 1296. A medieval and post-medieval farm complex is recorded at Towsers Lodge (HER MES19973) to the north-west and it incorporates a Grade II listed farmhouse. Catts Farmhouse, to the south, is also Grade II listed. The Old Cottage, located to the south of the site, is Grade II Listed and dates to the 18th century or earlier. The village also includes a post-medieval tower mill, now converted to a private dwelling (HERs 970524 & MES4792) and postmedieval windmill (HER MES4768). A 19th century brick and tiles works is marked on the 1st edition OS map at Frankham Wood to the west of the site (HER MES22523).
- 4.2 An early system of brick firing was in single use kilns known as 'clamps' and as the simplest of systems this practice continued into the 19th century. In its most basic form unfired bricks were left to dry for a period of time before these green bricks were stacked in a herringbone arrangement above simple tunnels, also of green brick, that held fuel. The pattern allowed the hot air to rise through the gaps and the whole clamp was often encased in turf or clay and left to burn, with the whole clamp being largely dismantled at the end, though the lower vitrified or outer unfired bricks may have been reused for subsequent clamps. An increase in the use of bricks in the 16th and 17th century led to the establishment of permanent brickyards where structural kilns were constructed to allow repeated use and reduction in waste. Kilns from this time and into the 19th century were typically intermittent kilns such as the updraught or horizontal-draught kiln (Scotch, Suffolk and Newcastle).
- 4.3 The simplest brick working arrangement might include only extraction pits and the single use clamp kilns with other ephemeral structures that do not

survive within the archaeological record. More permanent complexes of the 19th and 20th centuries might have had numerous structures and equipment associated with them. Typically such works can include clay extraction pits, kilns, drying sheds and hacks, settling ponds, moulding sheds, press shops, pug mills, wash mills, workshops and railways.

- 4.4 The site lies within a former industrial complex labelled on cartographic sources as a brick and tile works, and as with the rest of the country the brick and tile-making industry in Sussex expanded greatly in the 18th and 19th centuries. While, modest brickworks for local small-scale production were known and continued into the 19th century, there appears to have been a decline in their presence alongside an increase in the development of large industrial scale brick production in the later 19th century (Beswick 1993, Barber 2013). Tiles were often produced at the same site as bricks and historic cartographic sources of 19th century date show this to be the case at Mark Cross. The HER entry for the site notes two kilns, drying sheds and other structures (HERs MES26318 & MES26319). The date of the works as a whole is not known, but was possibly established in the in the 18th century, with expansion in the early 19th century. The deeds of Dapps Farm and other land at Mark Cross reveal that the site was associated with Dapps Farm until 1834, when it consisted of 3/4 acres of land 'with the brick-kiln, lodges and buildings lately erected, now fenced off from a larger piece of land formerly conveyed by the Trustees of the Turnpike Road' (ESRO Ref. ACC 8441/4/1). The deeds establish an early 19th century date for a principal phase of development, though does not preclude an earlier smaller complex replaced in the early 19th century. The associated release of 23rd December 1834 is endorsed with a memorandum of a sale off to Carey, wife of William Arnold of Frant (ibid.). Further information was gained from a search of historical directories. In 1866, a brick maker named Henry Callow was at Mark Cross, presumably at the assessment site (Post Office Directory 1866, p. 2110), while later in 1905 Thomas Pollington is listed as brick maker and farmer (Kelly's Directory of Sussex Part 2, p506), and again as a brick and tile maker in 1911 (Kelly's directory of Sussex 1911, p. 825).
- 4.5 Cartographic sources depict the site from 1842 when the site is shown with two buildings, possibly a single kiln and drying shed (Fig. 3), but by 1878 the site is shown in more detail (Fig. 4). In 1878, the site includes long narrow buildings along the western and southern site boundaries and in the main area there are two structures that correlate to the area investigated in the position of the proposed new house footprint. The site is labelled as a brick and tile works, while at least one building in the centre is marked as a kiln. It is possible that both structures shown here are individual kilns or that the second building is an associated structure, perhaps representing the working floor for a kiln. The 1898 map (Fig. 5) depicts the same building but with additional detail to the buildings within the site but also shows a pond to the south, perhaps a former extraction pit. The narrow buildings within the site appear to be depicted as open-sided which is typical of drying sheds. Later OS maps (Figs. 6-8) show a single kiln structure which correlates to the west example on the earlier maps, as well as the narrow ranges noted above.

4.6 Local history sources indicate that the brickyard in Mark Cross closed in 1937 and had been wood-fired producing handmade bricks, tiles and drain pipes (Website 1). This source is also useful in suggesting that the Mr Pollington noted above may have acquired the brickworks in 1878 and includes a photograph taken c.1900 of a pug mill with hacks and other buildings shown (Website 1). It is from a private collection and there is no indication that this comprises the brickworks at the assessment site, but it is likely.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The principal area of archaeological excavation encompassed the footprint of the proposed new dwellings (Fig. 2). It was a rectangular area measuring 12.50 x 9m and was mechanically excavated to the archaeological horizon using 360° tracked excavator fitted with toothless bucket.
- 5.2 The client advised that no other groundworks associated with the development would affect the archaeological remains, and the stripping of the western part of the site ceased.
- 5.3 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig.9

6.1 The excavation area contained the remains of a large feature possibly comprising remains of the former brick kiln. F1003 (12.50+ x 6.30 x 1.30m; DP 5 - 7) was a rectangular pit which traversed the excavation area from west to east. The excavated section of the pit (DP 7 - 12) revealed it had irregular sides and a flat base. The uppermost fill, L1004, was present in the central and southern part of the feature. It was a mid to dark grey, friable, silt with frequent small CBM fragments (0.10 – 0.20m thick). The principal fill, L1005, was a mid red, friable, clayey silt with modern CBM (brick, tile and drain pipe) and clay rubble (1.25m thick). Although on the surface L1005 appeared to have been located only along the northern side of the pit it was actually present throughout the feature. The western sector of the pit contained L1006, a reddish yellow and grey, mixed CBM rubble and clay with some sandy silt and debris. L1006 was partially overlain by L1004. On the northern side of the pit, L1007, was a mid grey, friable, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments (0.10 – 0.20m thick). On the opposite side a similar deposit, L1009, was present. At the base of the pit, L1008, was a dark grey, friable, clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks (0.08 – 0.15m thick).

6.2 On the western side of the excavated area was a rectangular structure (13+ x 5.50m+), part of a former row of small outbuildings. The latter were aligned along the western boundary of the site. Two perpendicular linear features (0.40m wide) were recorded, and three internal post holes. The feature appeared to contain no structural elements and was backfilled with similar material, mid grey, friable, clayey silt.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

- 8.1 The majority of the site was overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey, soft, sandy silt (0.10 0.30 m) thick). L1000 overlay Made Ground L1001, a mid brownish grey, compacted, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments (0.10 0.20 m) thick). The western part of the site contained modern concrete and tarmac (0.10 0.20 m) thick) overlying made ground.
- 8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.20 0.35m below existing ground level and comprised a light yellow and mid grey, compact, clay with occasional stones.

9 DISCUSSION

- 9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the remains of 18th/19th century kilns and other structures associated with the brick and tile works located within the site. At least one kiln is shown on historic cartographic sources and an earthen bank (not part of this investigation) in the eastern section of the site may form remains of a separate structure.
- 9.2 Within the excavation area Pit F1003 was the only feature present and may be consistent with the remains of a brick kiln that has been almost completely removed leaving only brick rubble and other backfill material, though an alterative scenario is suggested below. The presence of fired CBM rubble backfill and the alignment of the pit suggest the kiln consisted of a rectangular structure ($c.6 \times 5m$) roughly parallel to Brickyard Lane to the north. The earthen bank to the east may mark the eastern extent of the west structure or form part of the adjoining building visible on historic maps in 1878 and 1898.
- 9.3 The lack of any coherent structural remains might suggest the kiln formed a clamp kiln that was dismantled and rebuilt for each firing, and there was a basal layer of burnt fuel. However, continued rebuilding over the period of time it was visible on historic maps would normally result in additional

burning evidence or discolouration to the surrounding natural. An intermittent kiln, such as a Suffolk type kiln or Scotch is a possibility but structural remains such as fragments of arch from the fire tunnels might be expected unless all useable fabric was removed leaving only the demolition rubble consisting of fired clay and brick and tile rubble.

- 9.4 An alterative might be suggested. The kiln marked on historic maps between 1842 and 1898 lay to the east of the excavated area and seems to be represented by the earthen bank and irregular shallow depression currently visible in the lawn. When that kiln was demolished, it is possible that the demolition rubble was pushed over into the adjacent working floor resulting in the archaeological evidence recorded and may explain the lack of structural remains and the minimal *in situ* burning.
- 9.5 Investigation in the western part of the site revealed a rectangular building located along the site boundary. This structure was directly comparable to the cartographic evidence and almost certainly represents a structure visible on historic maps, likely drying sheds or storage. Marks visible on the surface of the garden associated with the modern Kilnside dwelling accord with the position of similar outbuildings visible on historic maps.
- 9.6 The 'strip, map & sample' investigation revealed kiln remains directly comparable to the historic map evidence. The site was cleared of standing structures in the mid 20th century once production had ceased in the late 1930s.
- 9.7 The research priorities for the region are set out in the South East Archaeological Research Frameworks, and a detailed survey into Sussex (Beswick 1993). For the brick and tile industry in the region, Barber (2013) notes important research issues which include further study or morphology of production sites from kiln technology to ancillary buildings, and further study in the spatial distribution of brickyards and kilns in relation to transport to intended markets, further study into the initial establishment of the Wealden brick and tile industry. The Sussex brickworks were established from the 16th and 17th centuries and expanded on the 18th and 19th centuries, and while numerous small brickworks continued into the 19th century they often declined once the larger industrial-scale production of brick took off in the later 19th century.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site, once a suitable local repository is available. It will be held by AS pending this. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Magnum Opus Developments Limited for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Phil Hiscocks and Mr Steve Hiscocks).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Greg Chuter, the East Sussex County Council Assistant County Archaeologist.

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Website 1: http://www.markcross.org.uk/memories.htm

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the east Sussex Historic Environment Record (HER).

HHER	NGR SP	Description
Prehistoric		•
MES4876	TQ 5714 3019	Oldham (Ightham) - Cross in Hand trackway, probable
		prehistoric trackway
Medieval		
MES21497	TQ 5834 3151	Medieval settlement of Mark Cross
Post-medieva	I	
MES26077	TQ 5831 3148	Catts Farm: 17th century building
MES16152	TQ 5815 3131	Post-medieval building - 1540 AD to 1900 AD
MES4768	TQ 585 316	Tower mill built in 1765 by Joseph Walter together with a mill house and later a brickyard in a field bordering Wadhurst Road, Mark Cross. It had four patent sails and two pairs of underdrift millstones. A fire in 1911 destroyed the cap, fantail and sweeps after which it was used as a warehouse and a bakery business was carried on in the oast house at the rear of the millhouse. In 1962 it was converted into a five storey house and was at one time the home of Sir Adrian and Lady Boult.
MES4792	TQ 5844 3145	Former tower mill now converted to a private dwelling. Tower mill built in 1845 with a five storey brick built tower with 2ft thick walls, half tiled with Kentish peg tiles. The hood was a Kentish smock painted white. It had a patented four sweep sail and large fantail. It drove two pairs of underdrift stones, an oat crusher and sifter. In July 1911 it was gutted by fire but continued to be used, powered by a gas engine. The cap was replaced with a castellated top which was removed in the 1930s. In 1962 work began to convert it to a private dwelling
MES26318	TQ 58286 31759	Brickyard Lane, Mark Cross: 19 th century kiln noted on historic mapping but no longer in existence
MES26319	TQ 58281 31752	Brickyard Lane, Mark Cross: Several 19 th century buildings (likely to be related to the brick and tile works/kiln) noted on historic mapping but no longer in existence
MES22523	TQ 5814 3172	Frankham Wood: Site of19th-20th century Brick and Tile works & Quarries
MES26054	TQ 5829 3155	Catts Farm: 19th century or earlier agricultural building
MES22522 MES30341	TQ 5876 3198	Frankham Wood: Quarries and minepits, unknown date. Forest Farm, Rotherfield. Partially extant 19th century farmstead. The farmstead is formed of a loose courtyard with four sides of the yard formed of agricultural buildings. The farmhouse is set away from the yard. The farmstead is in an isolated location. Large modern sheds are located to the side of the site, suggesting it may remain in agricultural use. There has been a partial loss (less than 50%) of traditional buildings.
MES30381	TQ 5829 3155	Catts Farm, Rotherfield. Extant 17th century farmstead. The farmstead is of a row plan. The farmhouse is set away from the yard. The farmstead is located within or in association to a hamlet. All the traditional buildings remain extant.
MES33247	TQ 5833 3153	20th Century Memorial Hall named Parish Rooms

APPENDIX 2 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Υ
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Drawing Sheet,
	Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	10
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	59

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Kiln site. Looking north-east.



DP 3. Kiln site. Looking west-south-west.



DP 5. Excavation area. Looking west-southwest.



DP 2. Kiln site. Looking east-north-east.



DP 4. Area of excavation on the kiln site. Looking north-north-east.



DP 6. Excavation area. Looking south-south-east.



DP 7. Section through Kiln Pit F1003. Looking north-east.



DP 9. North part of Pit F1003 section. Looking north-north-east.



DP 11. South part of Pit F1003 section. Looking east-north-east.



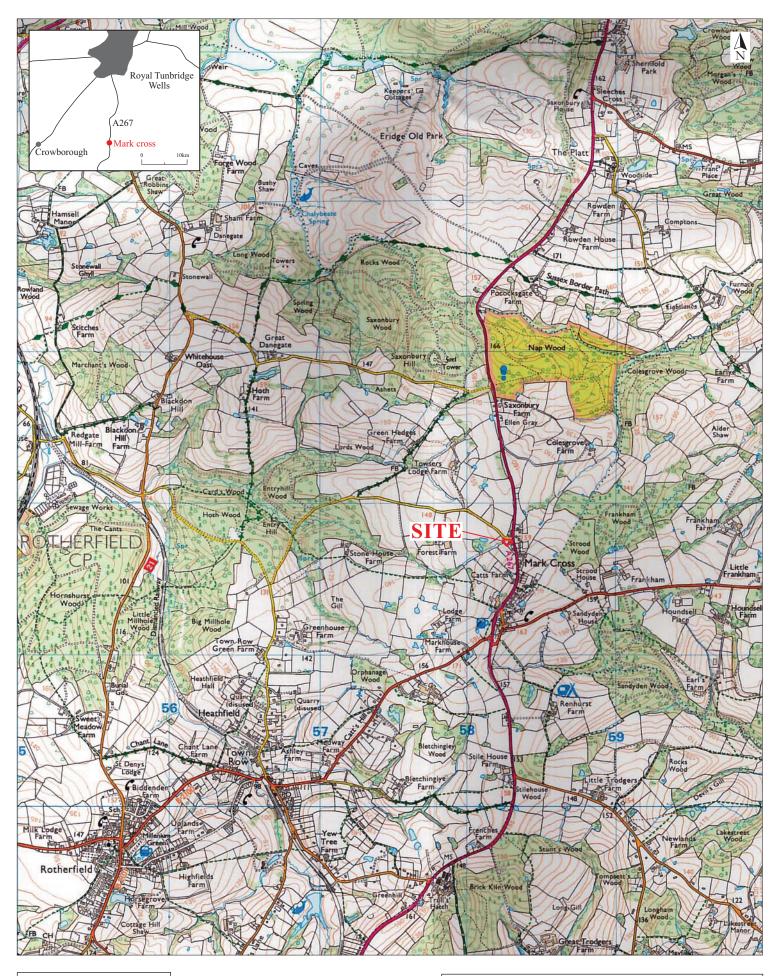
DP 8. Section through Kiln Pit F1003. Looking south-east.



DP 10. North part of Pit F1003 section. Looking east-north-east.



DP 12. Pit F1003 section. Looking northwest.



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Fig. 1 Site Scale 1:25,000 at A4 Site location plan

Mark Cross, East Sussex (P6897)

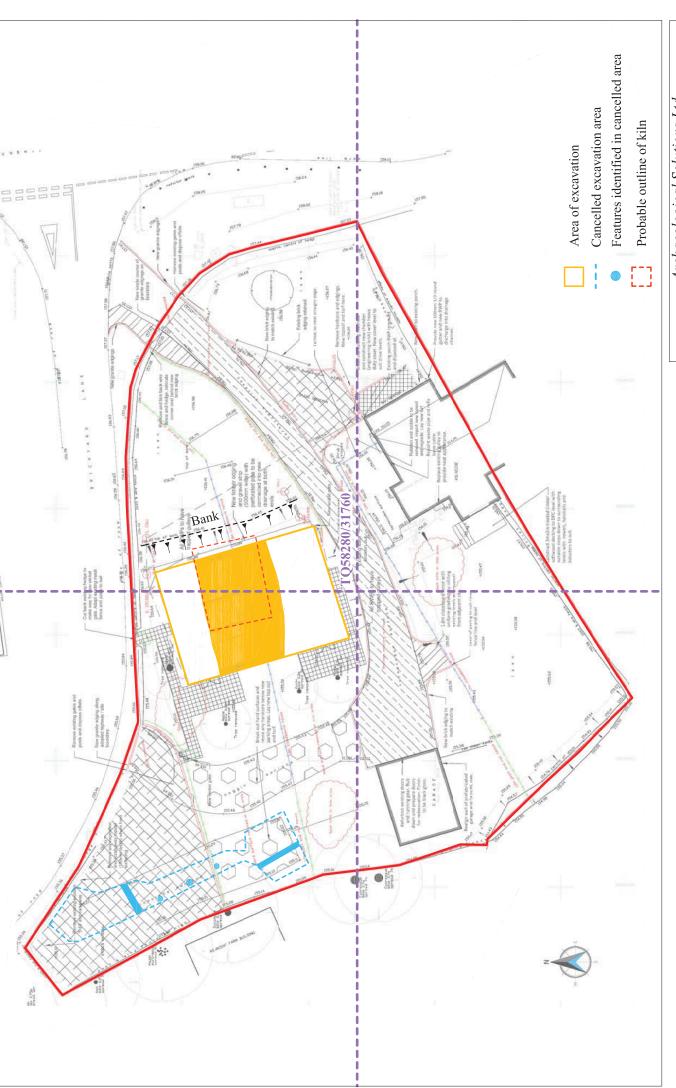
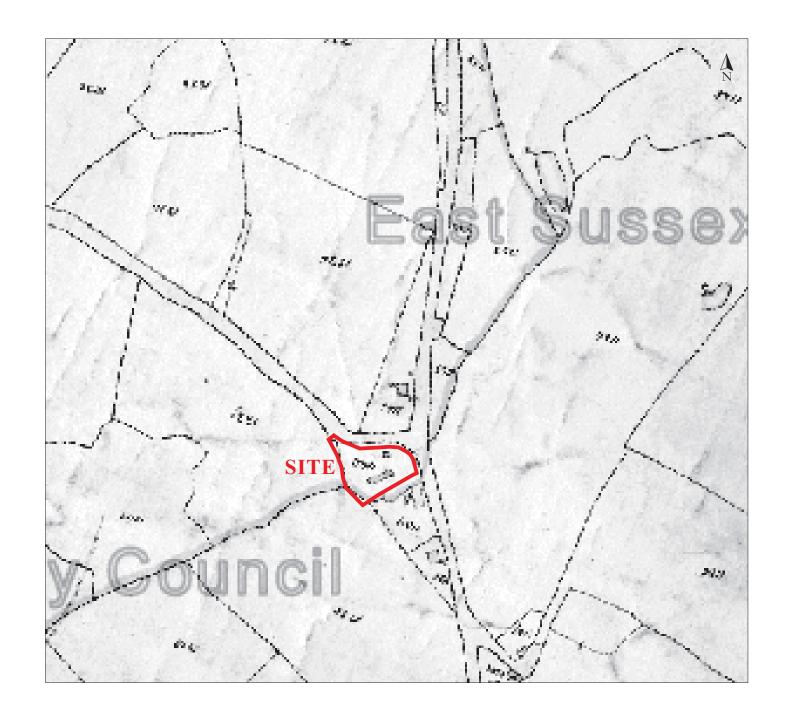
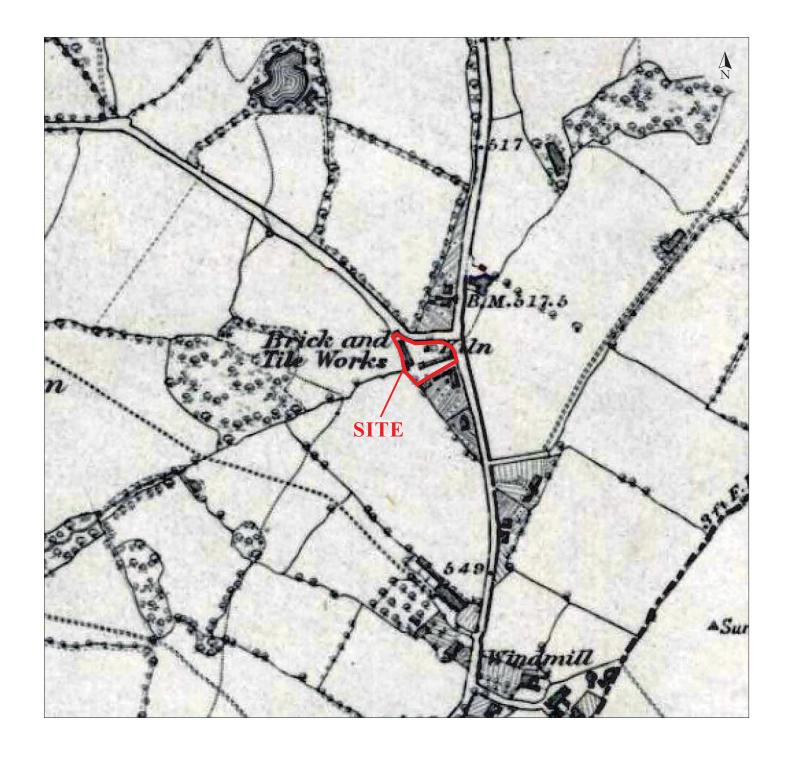


Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan Scale 1:300 at A4

Mark Cross, East Sussex (P6897)

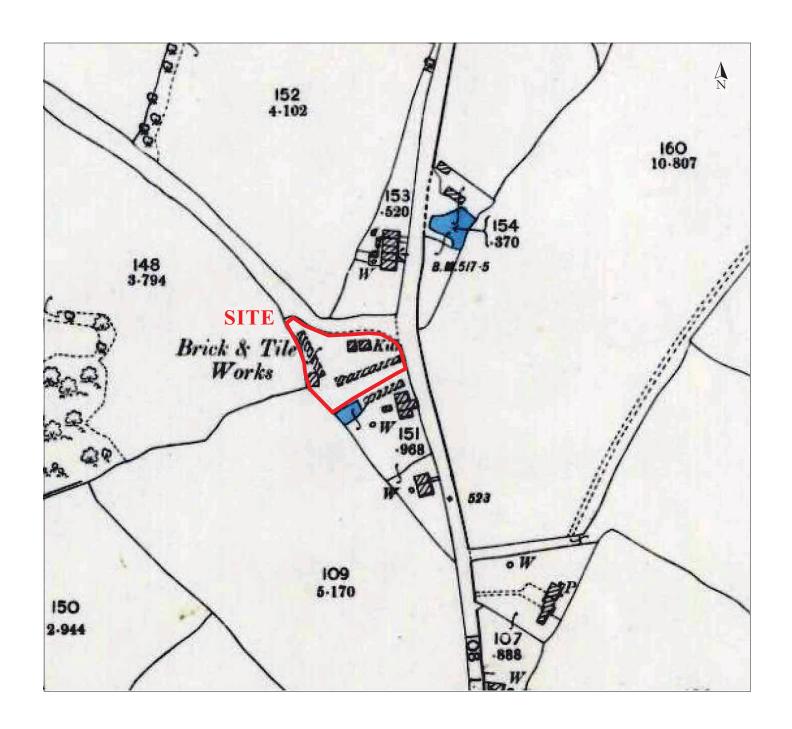


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Rotherfield tithe map, 1842 Fig. 3 Rotherfield
Not to scale
Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897)



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Fig. 4 OS map, 18
Not to scale
Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897) OS map, 1878

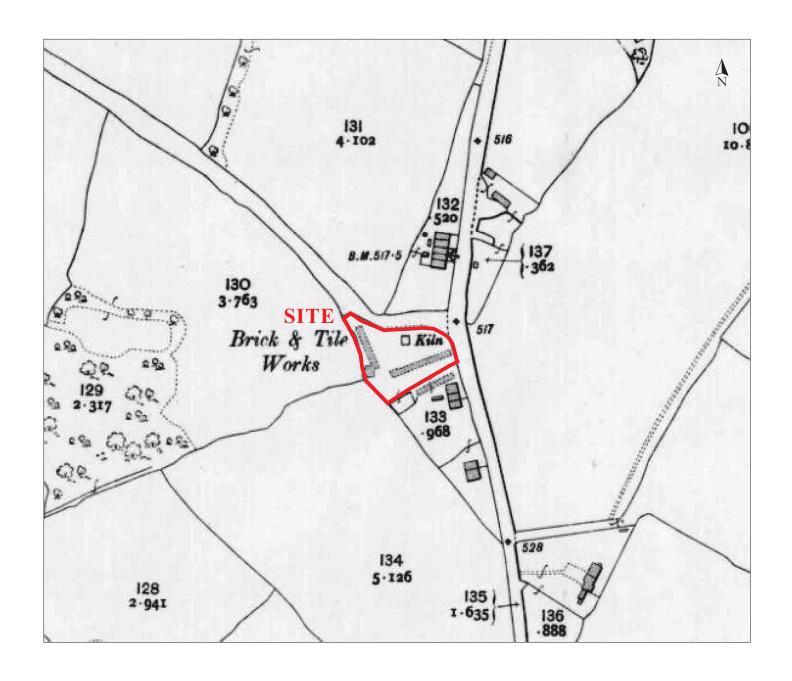


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Fig. 5 OS map, 1898

Not to scale

Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897)

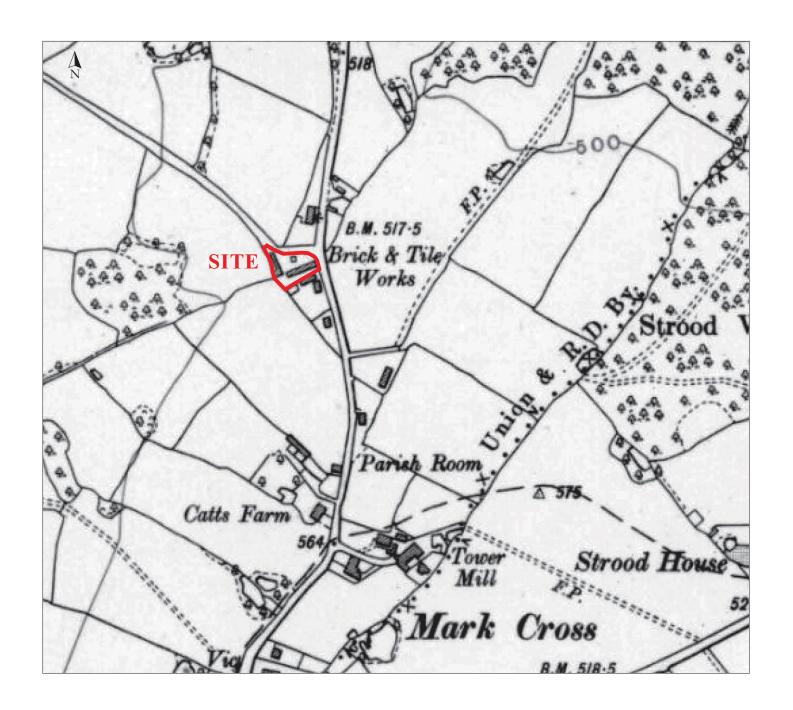


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Fig. 6 OS map, 1910

Not to scale

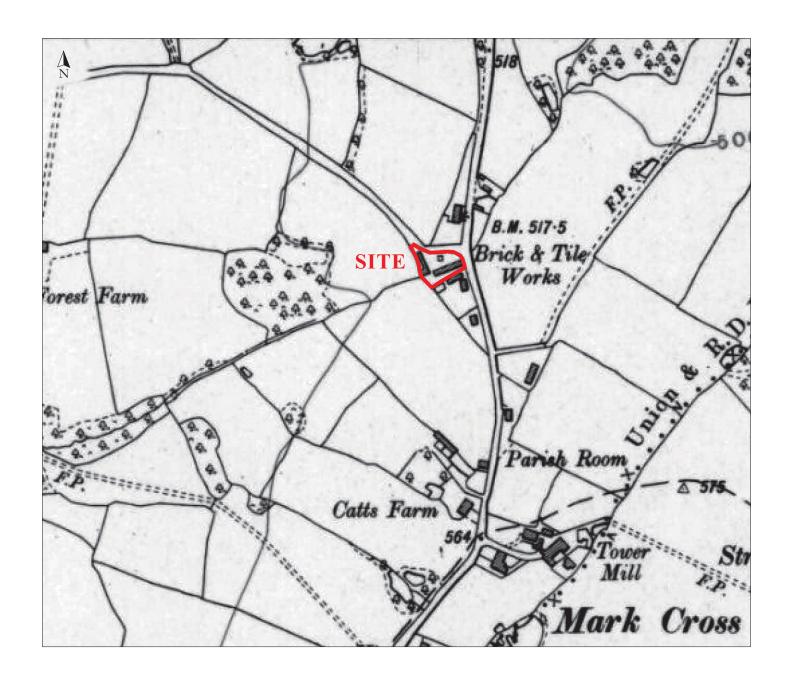
Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 7
Not to scale OS map, 1933

Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897)



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Fig. 8 OS map, 19
Not to scale
Marks Cross, East Sussex (P6897) OS map, 1939

