

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road,
Southfleet, Dartford, Kent**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Muddin and David Platt

Site Code: HPF13/35

(TQ 6125 7050)

**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road,
Southfleet, Dartford, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millwood Designer Homes Ltd**

by Andrew Mundin and David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HPF 13/35

July 2014

Summary

Site name: Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 6125 7050

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd June to 4th July 2014

Project manager: Sean Wallis, Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: HPF 13/35

Area of site: c.2.4ha

Summary of results: In total, fifteen trenches were excavated. Modern disturbance was noted in several areas across the site, from drainage or service trenches. An area of dumped made ground infilled an area to the south. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a suitable local museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.07.14 Steve Preston✓ 10.07.14

Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Munding and David Platt

Report 13/35b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford, Kent DA13 9NH (TQ6125 7050) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ray Pearson, of Millwood Designer Homes Limited, Borden End, East Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1HA.

Planning permission (app 13/00399/FUL) has been gained from Dartford Borough Council to redevelop the light industrial site to residential use. The site was included in the English Heritage Farmstead Survey (2012) and so the consent is subject to a condition (AR1) relating to archaeology, which requires a scheme of archaeological works to be carried out to ensure features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded. A desk-based assessment for the site noted that little buried archaeological remains are known in the immediate area, but has identified through mapping resources that the site has been occupied by a farm since the 19th century, and the fact that any development could affect the setting of several nearby Listed buildings (Ford 2013).

This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer of Heritage, Planning and Environment of Kent County Council and was monitored by her. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray, David Platt, Kyle Beaverstock and Sophie Frampton, between 23rd June and 4th July 2014. The site code is HPF13/35. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a suitable local museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is an irregular plot of land, covering an area of c.2.4ha. It lies in the southern part of Southfleet in the hamlet of Hook Green, some 500m south of the historic core of Southfleet. It is bounded to the west by a track aligned north-south, and to the east and south by open fields, and residences on Hook Green Road to the north (Fig.1). The site is currently covered with light industrial units for processing and packing vegetables. A large modern industrial unit lies in the centre of the site with other smaller units to the east and south (Fig.2). A man-

made pond is also located at the site, in the north-east, surrounded by a bund. A brick-built oast house stands to the west of the large industrial unit in the centre of the site, and in the south is a large grassed mound. The site lies at a height of *c.* 32m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and is relatively flat overall. According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1977), the underlying geology consists of Upper Chalk. The geology observed on site varied from silty sand to flinty clay, possibly from the Thanet Beds overlying the chalk.

Archaeological background

A desk-based assessment (Ford 2013) concluded that a farm has existed at the site since the middle of the 19th century. No heritage assets exist in the site itself, though several Listed buildings are close to or adjacent to the site, such as Weavers Cottage to the north, Hook Place to the west, and a walled garden and gazebo to the south. Friary Court, a 14th century Vicarage and Grade II* Listed Building, is further afield in Southfleet itself, to the north of the site. The parish church lies on the north edge of Southfleet.

The site lies in a subsidiary area of Medieval settlement in an area occupied by late medieval and early post-medieval buildings. A collection of stray prehistoric flint finds and metal-detector finds are known, including Roman coins and Medieval horse fittings.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if there is any Medieval or Post-Medieval occupation present.

It was proposed that fifteen trenches, all 1.8m wide and thirteen being 25m long and two 12m long, were to be excavated to investigate the site but located to avoid existing buildings. A contingency for a further 50m length of trenching was allowed if required to elucidate the initial results.

Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a 360°-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, but without comprising the

integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All trenches were excavated close to their proposed locations, though some of the trenches were modified in length (Trenches 5 and 12) or orientation (Trenches 2, 3, 7 and 14) (Fig. 3). All trenches were 1.8m wide, except Trench 14 which was 1.6m wide, and excavated by a mechanical back-acting excavator fitted with a bladed ditching bucket. All trench spoilheaps were inspected for finds and a metal detector was used.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned N - S and was 24.4m long and 0.9m deep. It was located to the west of the large industrial unit in the centre of the site. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of reinforced concrete over a dark grey silty clay modern made ground which contained frequent brick fragments, and under this was more concrete. This reached a depth of 0.55m. More made ground was underneath, in this instance a black gravelly silt, to a depth of 0.75m. Under this was a 0.15m layer of chalk, over the natural geology, a light brown silty sand, at a depth of 0.9m. A test pit was dug into the natural geology at the southern trench extent to a maximum depth of 1.1m to confirm this interpretation. A concrete footing cut the natural at the 9m from the northern end of the trench, running perpendicular to the trench, as did the oblique line of a pipe trench at 8m from the southern end. No archaeological deposits were encountered in this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Pl. 1)

This trench was 12m long and 0.58m deep, aligned W - E. This was covered by reinforced concrete to a depth of 0.2m. Underlying this was made ground and crushed brick rubble to a depth of 0.58m. No archaeological deposits were uncovered in this trench, and nothing disturbed the natural geology lower than the excavated base of the trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

This trench was separated into two sections, creating one portion 11m long and then 13.2m long, to avoid a large drain running between the pond and the tank. Both were aligned W - E. Similar stratigraphy was observed in both. Concrete 0.12m thick overlay dark brown grey sandy clay made ground which contained frequent brick fragments. The maximum depth of the western portion of this trench was 0.4m, and the eastern portion was a

maximum of 0.65m deep. No archaeological deposits were encountered and two further drainage pipes uncovered running perpendicular to the trench with the eastern portion.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was 20.6m long and 0.8m deep, aligned NW - SE. This was covered by reinforced concrete that reached a depth of 0.12m. Underlying this was made ground and crushed brick rubble to a depth of 0.35m. This in turn, overlay a grey brown silty clay to a depth of 0.65m. This layer was thought to be an undisturbed subsoil horizon. No archaeological deposits were uncovered in this trench, and nothing disturbed the natural geology lower than the excavated base of the trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

This trench was 6m long and 0.73m deep, aligned roughly N - S. Its length was curtailed due to asbestos being located within the northern section of the made ground of this trench. The made ground reached a depth of 0.67m. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl.2)

This trench was 25m long and 0.5m deep, aligned NW - SE. The top of the concrete was recorded at 32.5m above OD. Underlying concrete, which was 0.1m thick, was hardcore to a depth of 0.3m. The underlying made ground reached a depth of 0.45m deep. A large modern pit was recorded at 12.1m from the from the NW end. It was 1.5m in diameter and contained plastic and metal fragments. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was 25m long and 0.8m deep, aligned ENE - WSW. Underlying concrete, which was 0.1m thick, was hardcore and rubble, 0.35m deep. Under the hardcore, was subsoil to a depth of 0.6m. At the western end, were two thin metal water pipes, and the edge of a small modern pit. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned ENE - WSW, was 24.6m long and 0.65m deep. Under 0.2m of gravel for hardstanding was hardcore to 0.4m deep. This overlay a buried topsoil, which was a dark brown-grey clayey silt, which reached a depth of 0.6m. This overlay natural geology. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

This trench was 25m in length and 0.5m deep, aligned W - E. Under 0.15m of concrete was brick rubble to a depth of 0.25m. A similar buried topsoil as noted in Trench 8 was recorded here to a depth of 0.44m. This overlay natural geology. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3; Pl.3)

This trench was 25.2m long and 0.96m deep, aligned NE–SW. Under 0.15m of concrete was a brown silty clay layer with frequent chalk, thought to be a dump deposit. This overlay 0.2m of buried topsoil and 0.28 of subsoil. Nothing disturbed the natural geology within this trench, and nothing disturbed the subsoil from a depth of 0.6m to the top of the natural at 0.88m. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 11 was 21.2m in length and 0.92m deep, aligned ENE - WSW. Loose Tarmac covered gravel hardcore to a depth of 0.26m, which in turn overlay rubble to a depth of 0.5m. This overlay 0.2m of buried topsoil above 0.28 of subsoil. A drain cut the buried topsoil, and two modern truncations cut the subsoil at a depth of 0.6m and on into the natural. The top of the natural was at 0.88m deep. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

This trench was 25m in length, aligned NE - SW, and a maximum depth 1.3m deep at the southern end. Under 0.1m of concrete, was 0.45m of made ground over 0.1m of brick rubble. At 0.65m was a layer of subsoil to 1m deep. Two drains cut the natural running obliquely within the trench on a SW–NE alignment. The top of the natural was at 0.88m deep. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

Trench 13 (Fig.3)

This trench was 25m in length, aligned NE - SW, and a depth 0.37m deep at the southern end. Under 0.1m of concrete was 0.14m of rubble. The top of the natural was at 0.24m. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

Trench 14 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

The location of this trench was altered from the proposed location, but was still used to investigate the soil mound at the southern end of the site. This trench was 21.5m long, aligned NE - SW and a maximum depth of 1.8m in the SW extent. Under 0.3m of topsoil and turf was 0.18m of dark brown grey clayey silt with pieces of

large flint nodules. At a depth of 0.48m there was made ground to a depth of 1.2m, probably used to infill a hollow. Under this was 0.5m of buried topsoil. Natural geology was recorded at 1.7m, with the top of the trench at 32.8m aOD. No archaeological features were recorded.

Trench 15 (Fig.3; Pl. 6)

Trench 15, at the southern end of the site, was 21.2m long and 0.95m deep, aligned NE - SW. Under 0.1m of concrete and 0.2m of hardcore, was buried topsoil and subsoil. These layers were at 0.55m deep and 0.9m respectively. A drainage pipe cut the subsoil at in the eastern end of the trench, aligned WNW-ESE. No archaeological features were uncovered within this trench.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Conclusion

Though the previous desk-based assessment suggested this site was in an area of potential for late medieval or early post-medieval farmstead activity, little remains above ground or buried since relatively recent modification of the existing factory farm. No archaeological deposits were encountered, and it is concluded that the site has no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 271, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 2013, 'Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Kent: a desk-based heritage assessment',
Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **13/35**, Reading
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24.4	1.8	0.9 Test pit 1.1m	0-0.15m reinforced concrete; 0.15-0.45m dark grey silty clay modern made ground; 0.45-0.55m concrete; 0.55-0.75m black gravelly silt made ground; 0.75-0.9m chalk; 0.9m+natural geology (reddish brown silty sand with chalk marl flecks).
2	12	1.8		0-0.2m reinforced concrete; 0.2-0.58m dark grey silty clay modern made ground; 0.58m+ natural geology. [PI. 1]
3	11 (A=west) 13.2 (B=east)	1.8 1.8	0.4m in west 0.65m in east	0-0.12m reinforced concrete; 0.12-0.4m dark brownish-grey sandy clay with frequent brick rubble; 0.4m+ natural geology in west; 0.65m+ natural geology in east.
4	20.6	1.8	0.8	0-0.12m reinforced concrete; 0.12-0.35m made ground with rubble; 0.35-0.65m grey brown silty clay (subsoil); 0.65m+ natural geology with large flints.
5	6	1.8	0.73	0-0.12m reinforced concrete; 0.12-0.67m made ground; 0.67m+ natural geology with large flints.
6	25	1.8	0.5	0-0.1m reinforced concrete; 0.1-0.3m hardcore; 0.3-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ natural geology. [PI. 2]
7	25	1.8	0.8	0-0.1m reinforced concrete; 0.1-0.35m hardcore and brick rubble; 0.35-0.6m grey brown clayey silt (buried topsoil); 0.6m+ natural geology
8	24.6	1.8	0.65	0-0.2m gravel; 0.2-0.4m hardcore; 0.4-0.6m buried topsoil; 0.6m+ natural geology.
9	25	1.8	0.5	0-0.15m reinforced concrete; 0.15-0.25m rubble; 0.25-0.44m buried topsoil; 0.44m+ natural geology.
10	25.2	1.8	0.96	0-0.15m reinforced concrete; 0.15-0.4m brown silty clay (dump); 0.4-0.6m buried topsoil; 0.6-0.88 subsoil; 0.88m+ natural geology. [PI. 3]
11	21.2	1.8	0.92	0-0.26 loose tarmac; 0.26-0.5m hardcore; 0.5-0.7m buried topsoil; 0.7-0.88m subsoil; 0.88m+ natural with large flints. [PI. 4]
12	25	1.8	1.3	0-0.1m reinforced concrete; 0.1-0.55m made ground; 0.55-0.65m brick rubble; 0.65-1m subsoil; 1-1.2m buried topsoil; 1.2m+ natural geology.
13	25	1.8	0.37	0-0.1m reinforced concrete; 0.1-0.24m hardcore and brick rubble; 0.24m+ natural geology.
14	21.5	1.6	1.8	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.48m dark brownish grey clayey silt with flints; 0.48-1.2m made ground; 1.2-1.7m subsoil; 1.7m+ natural geology. [PI. 5]
15	21.2	1.8	0.95	0-0.1m reinforced concrete; 0.1-0.3m hardcore; 0.3-0.55m buried topsoil; 0.55-0.9m subsoil; 0.9m+ natural geology. [PI. 6]

Kent County Council SMR summary form

Site Name: Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford, Kent

Site address: Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Hook Green, Southfleet

Summary: Modern disturbance was noted in several areas across the site, from drainage or service trenches. An area of dumped made ground infilled an area to the south. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

District/Unitary: Dartford

Parish: Southfleet

Periods: Nil

NGR: TQ6125 7054

Type of archaeological work: Evaluation

Date of Recording: 23rd June to 4th July 2014

Unit undertaking recording: TVAS South

Geology: mapped as Upper Chalk but silty sand and flinty clay were observed (possibly Thanet beds).

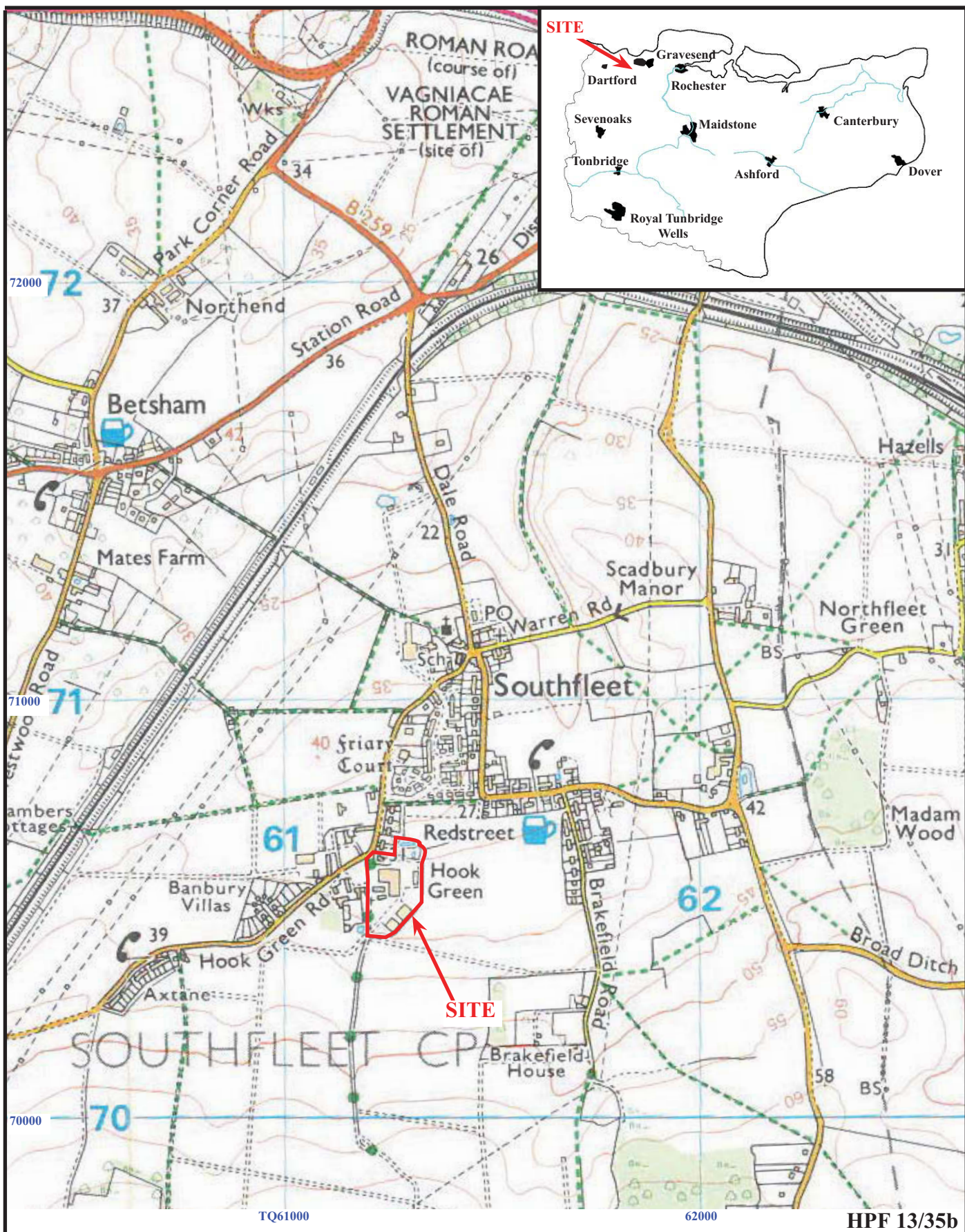
Title and author of report: Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford, Kent
An Archaeological Evaluation by Andrew Munding and David Platt

Summary of results by period. Modern disturbance was noted in several areas across the site, from drainage or service trenches. An area of dumped made ground infilled an area to the south. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

Location of archive and finds: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

Contact at Unit: Sean Wallis

Date: 10/07/2014



**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford,
Kent, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Southfleet and Kent.

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HPS13/35b

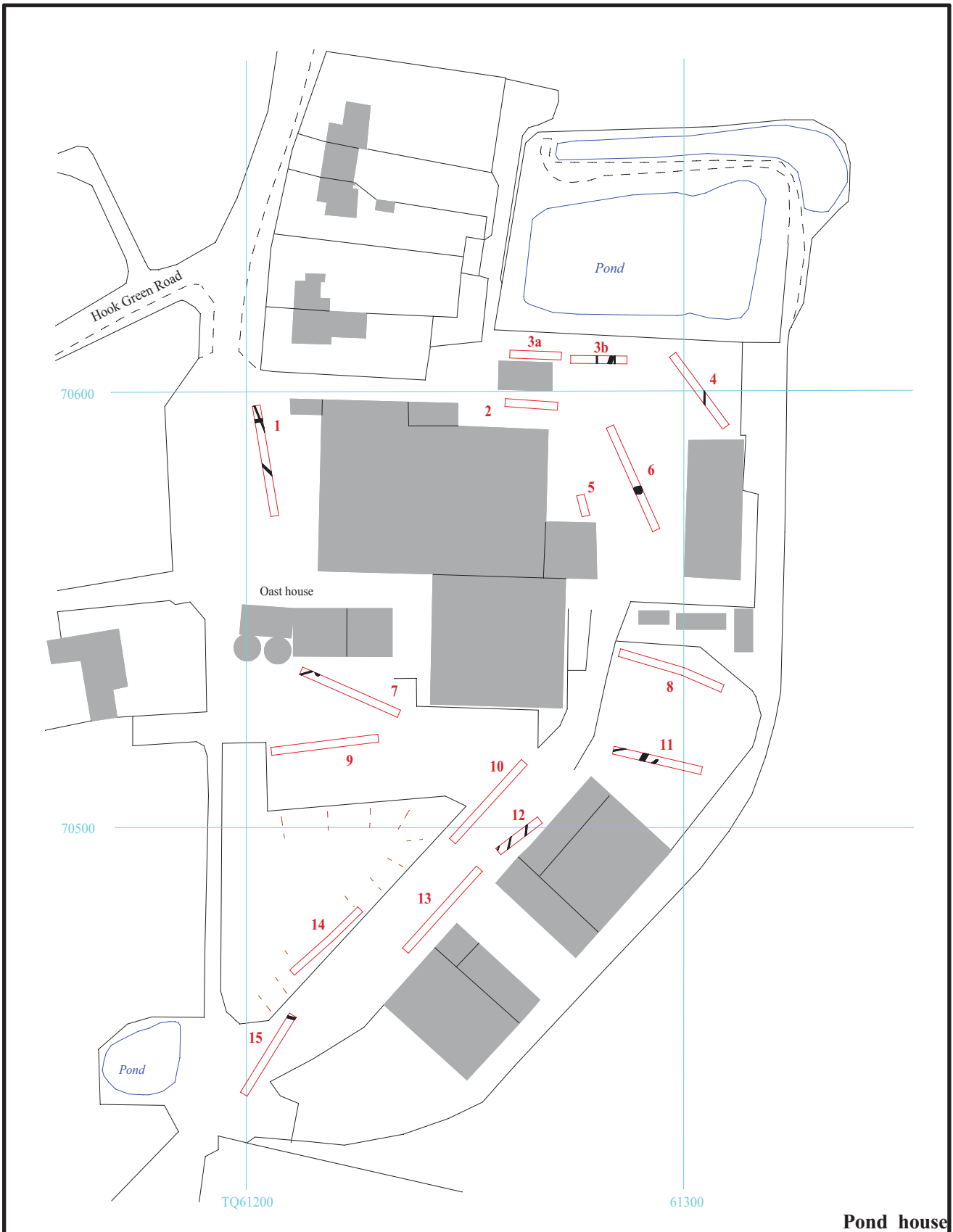


**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford,
Kent, 2014**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Current site layout**

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Pond house

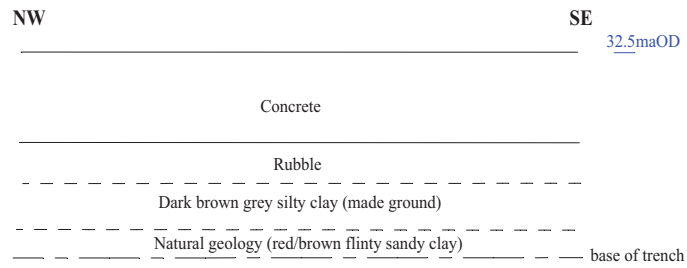
**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet,
Dartford, Kent, 2014
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

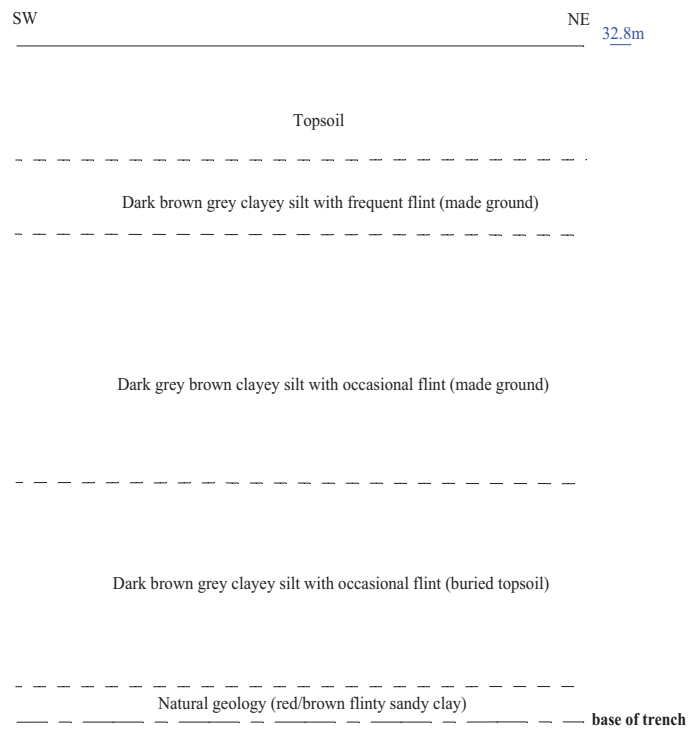


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Trench 6



Trench 14 (South west end)



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 6, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 10, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 14, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 6. Trench 15, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

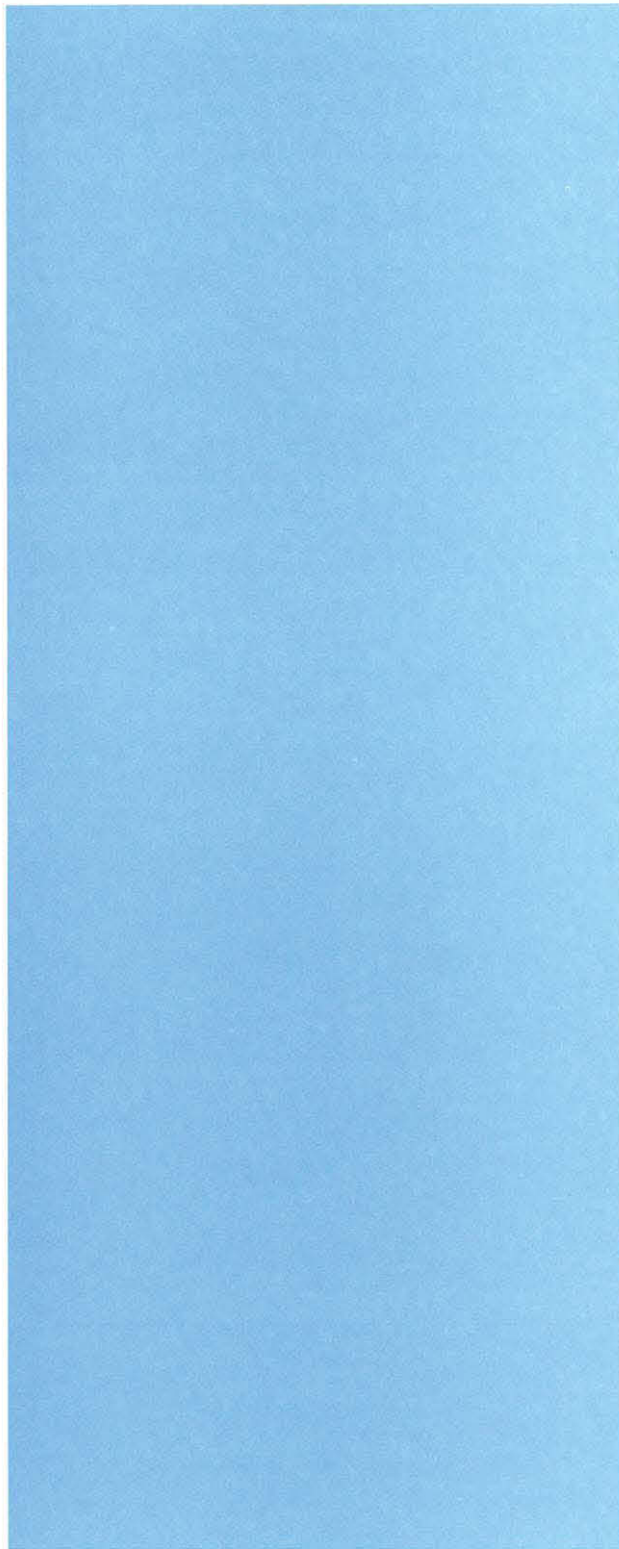
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**Hook Place Farm, Hook Green Road, Southfleet, Dartford,
Kent, 2014**
Archaeological Evaluation
 Plates 5 - 6.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC
↓	↓



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