

T V A S



SOUTH

**Crown Point Nursery Sevenoaks Road,
Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jim Webster

Site Code: CPK17/34

(TQ 5769 5528)

**Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Crown Point Nursery**

by Jim Webster
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code CPK17/34

April 2017

Summary

Site name: Crown Point Nursery Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent

Grid reference: TQ 5769 5528

Planning reference: TM/13/01382/FUL

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th April 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Jim Webster

Site code: CPK17/34

Summary of results: The watching brief investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new building. However, the area where the new building was to be erected had been significantly disturbed by previous landscaping work and the subsequent removal of Japanese Knotweed. Given the amount of truncation on the site, it was not surprising that no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Sevenoaks Museum in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 26.04.17

Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jim Webster

Report 17/34

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent (TQ 5769 5528) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Claire Price of The Facility Architects and Consultants, The Studio, 55 Leroy Street, London, SE1 4SN, on behalf of Crown Point Nursery.

Planning permission (TM/13/01382/FUL) had been gained from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council to construct a new house on the site, following the demolition of existing structures (Fig. 1). The permission was subject to a planning condition (11) which required that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during groundworks, as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits which might be present. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2012, para 141) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was to take place in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer who advises the Borough Council on archaeological matters (Ms Wendy Rogers). The work was carried out to comply with the Kent County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork, and in accordance with the generic specification for watching briefs prepared by the Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group (KCC 2016).

The fieldwork was undertaken by Jim Webster on the 4th April 2017, and the site code is CPK17/34. The archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited at Sevenoaks Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, near Sevenoaks, Kent (Figs. 1 and 2). Prior to the watching brief commencing, the area around the new building had been disturbed by the demolition of an existing structure, and by groundworks associated with the removal of Japanese Knotweed. Previously this part of the site had been located on an east facing slope, which varied between approximately 57m and 60m in height above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of the Folkestone Beds of the Lower Greensand Formation (BGS 1990). This was confirmed during the watching brief,

with a light orange brown sand being recorded in all the footing trenches, with varying amounts of sandstone inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a brief prepared by the Kent County Council Archaeological Officer. In summary, there are relatively few entries within the Kent Historic Environment Record (HER) for the surrounding area. A number of stray finds of Iron Age date have been recorded nearby, and possible fish ponds (usually thought to be of medieval date) have been noted to the east, presumably serving a manorial complex. A number of buildings are marked on early Ordnance Survey maps to the west of the site, which may have earlier, late medieval origins.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any significant ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the building, and any related service runs. Where archaeological deposits which do not warrant preservation *in situ* were encountered, the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their 'preservation by record'.

Results

It was clear at the start of the archaeological watching brief that the site had been significantly disturbed by previous landscaping work, which had created a terraced area around an earlier building (now demolished). Further ground reduction had occurred more recently, in the southern and western parts of the site, to remove an infestation of Japanese Knotweed. This had required the removal of up to 1.4m of 'contaminated' material from the site. As a result, the original soil horizon had only survived outside of the area where the new building was to be constructed.

Despite the obvious truncation which had taken place, excavation of the new footing trenches was still monitored, to see whether there were any areas where the original soil horizon and undisturbed natural sand had survived. The footing trenches were all 0.60m wide and between 0.80m and 1m deep, and were dug using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision (Fig. 3). In the southern and western areas, the footings were dug straight through the natural sand, which had been exposed

following the removal of Japanese Knotweed, and there were no overlying deposits recorded (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). Elsewhere the earlier landscaping work was clearly visible in the footings, with made ground deposits being recorded immediately above the truncated natural geology. The landscaping work had obviously involved a "cut and fill" episode, and the original slope of the area could be seen in places beneath the made ground. The made ground deposits generally consisted of re-deposited sand, overlain with dark grey soil which contained modern material including plastic (Pl. 1 and 3). In places, a dark brown humic layer, up to 0.20m thick, was recorded between the dark grey soil and the re-deposited natural (Fig. 4).

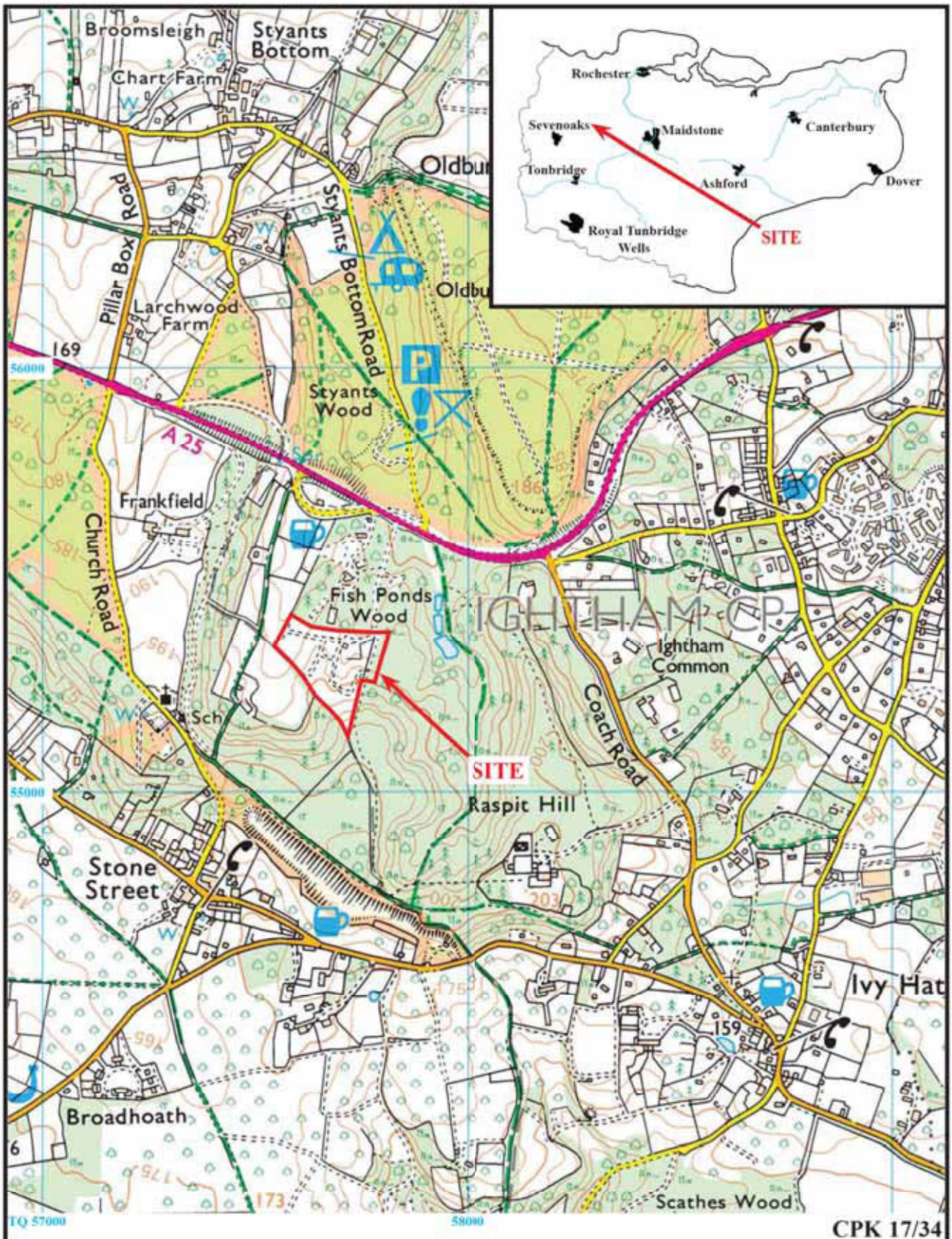
Given the amount of disturbance on the site, it was not surprising that no archaeological finds or features were recorded in the footing trenches. The original stratigraphy was only visible to the south of the new building, where the area had been reduced (Pl. 4).

Conclusion

The watching brief investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the construction of a new building. However, it became apparent early on in the project that the area where the new building was to be built had been significantly disturbed by previous landscaping work. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

References

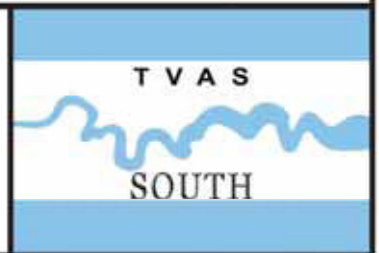
- BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 287, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth (2nd edn).
- KCC, 2016, 'Specification for an archaeological watching brief in Kent', Kent Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, Maidstone.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO).

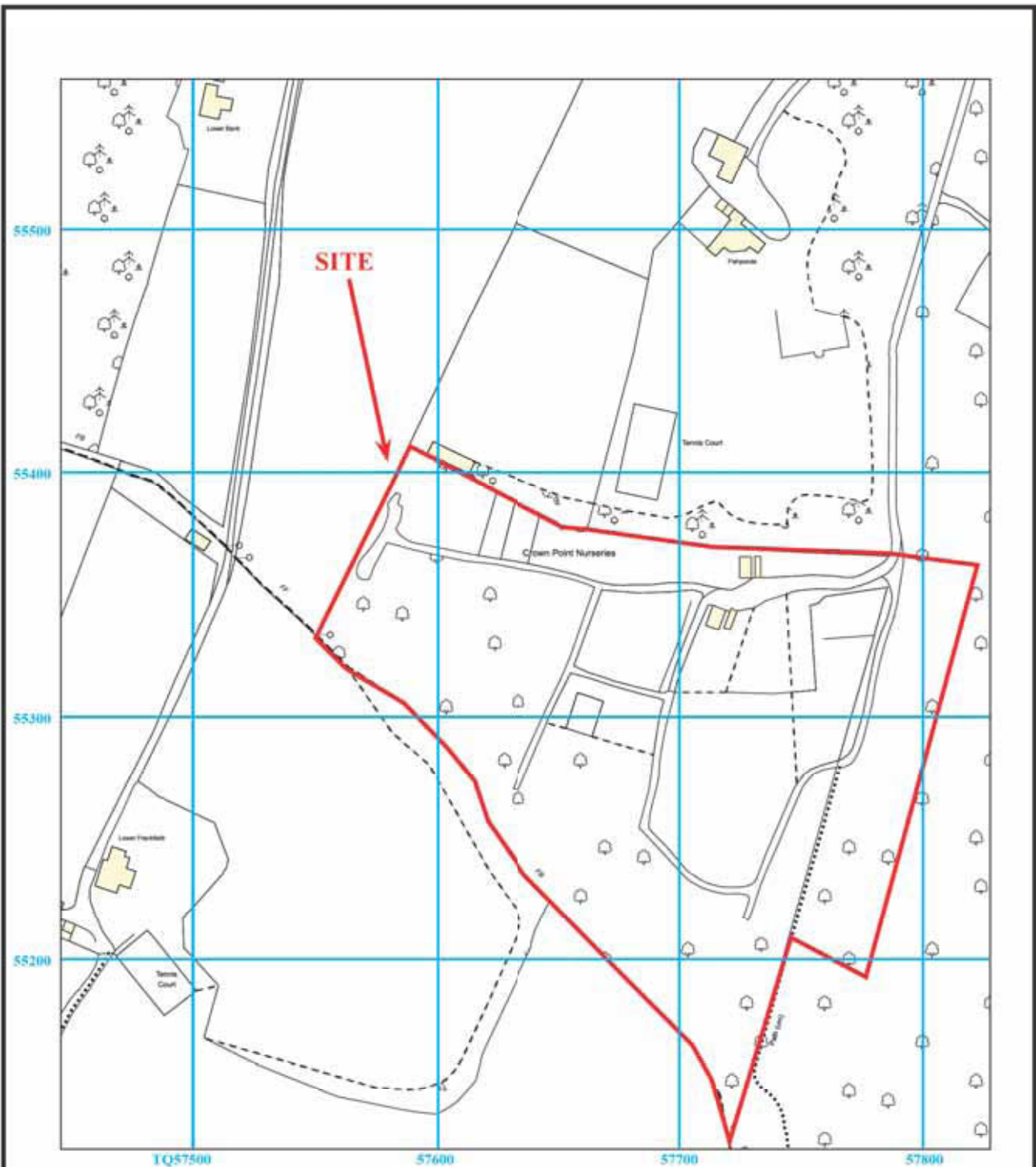


**Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent, 2017
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Ightham and Kent.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved





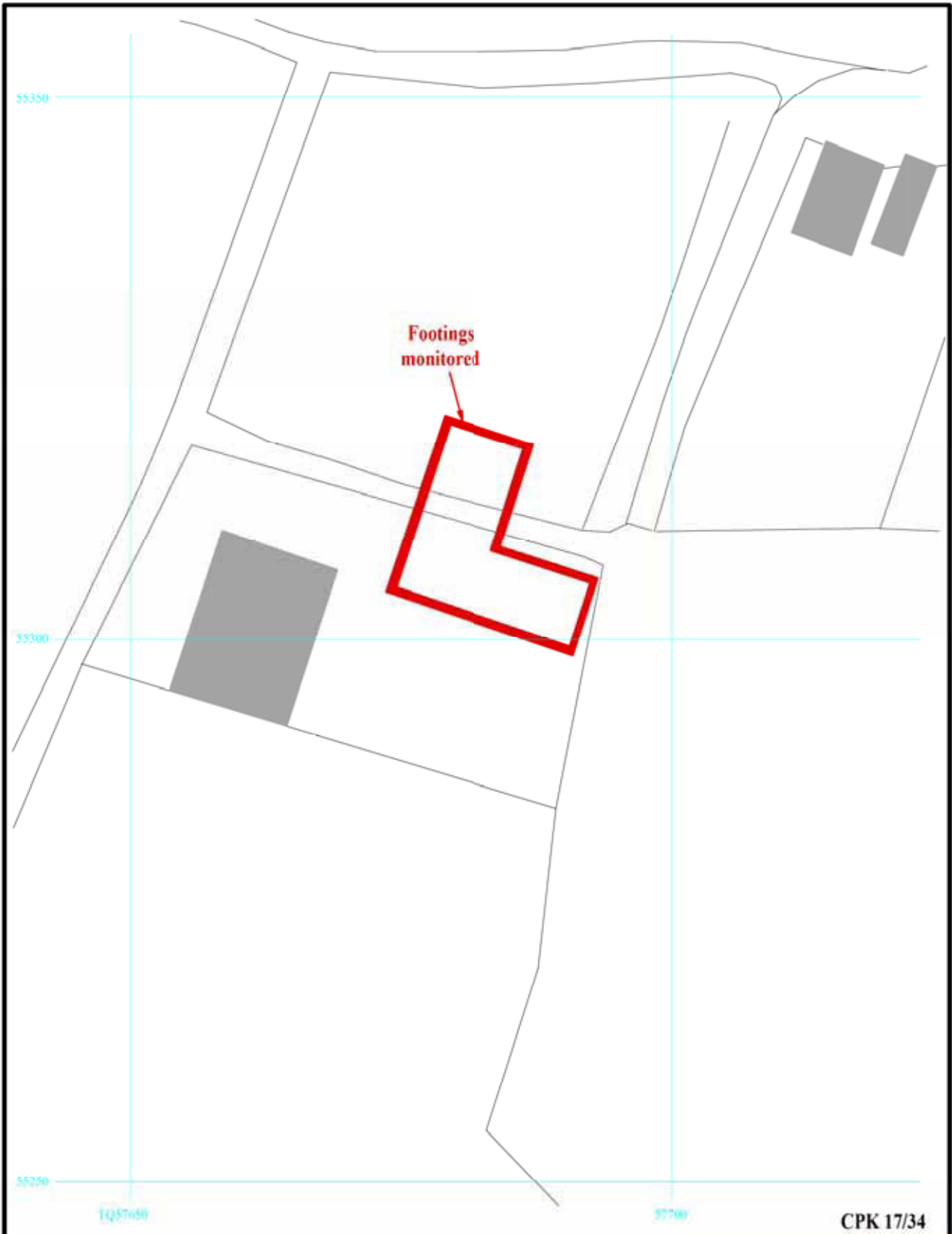
CPK 17/34



**Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent 2017**
Archaeological Watching Brief
 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

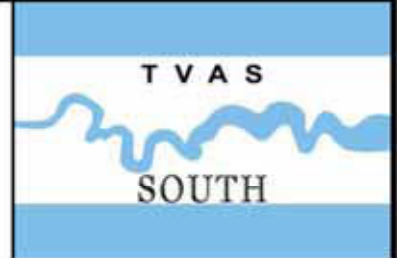
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
 Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:2500





**Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road,
Ightham, Kent, 2017
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Site plan showing areas monitored.



Footing trench (South-west corner)

NNE _____ SSW 58.10m AOD

Natural geology (sand)

_____ Base of trench

Footing trench (Northern end)

WNW _____ ESE 57.50m

Made ground (soil with modern inclusions)

Hummic made ground

Redeposited natural (sand)

Natural geology (sand)

_____ Base of trench

CPK17/34

**Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent, 2017
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative sections.

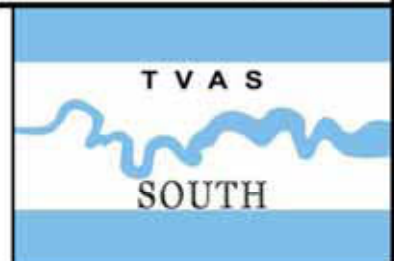




Plate 1. Western footing trench, looking South.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Southern footing trench, looking East.
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Section of northern footing trench, looking North.



Plate 4. Section in South-east corner of site following removal of Japanese Knotweed, looking South.
Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

CPK 17/34

Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham,
Sevenoaks, Kent, 2017
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 4.

T V A S
SOUTH

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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





**TVAS (South),
77a Hollingdean Terrace
Brighton, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198
Email: south@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/south**

*Offices in:
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)*