

Archaeological Walkover Survey

On behalf of

South East Water

Concerning the

Groombridge to Hourne Farm
Tank Mains Reinforcement
Scheme

Crowborough
East Sussex

January 2017



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Cover: View looking SW towards possible quarry earthworks on edge of woodland NE of Hourne Farm pumping station

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1 Executive Summary

A non-intrusive Archaeological Walkover Survey (AWS) of the proposed route of the Groombridge to Hourne Farm Tank Mains Reinforcement Scheme was undertaken by Border Archaeology Limited (BAL) on behalf of South East Water (SEW). The aim of the survey was to characterize, quantify and locate known and hitherto unknown heritage assets likely to be affected by the engineering groundworks and associated vehicular movements and thus to identify areas requiring archaeological mitigation.

The walkover survey identified a number of features of archaeological interest along the route:

1/ Towards the southern end of the route, on the N edge of a woodland plantation lying about 200m NE of the Hourne Farm Water Treatment Works, several features were observed including an area of building debris possibly representing the site of a post-medieval outbuilding at NGR TQ 52261 31854 (VP 4), located about 30m NW of the pipeline route, and a series of amorphous depressions and linear features which may relate to quarrying activity of medieval or early post-medieval date (VP 5 & 6). It is possible that these features may be associated with a larger area of industrial extractive features identified further to the E, in the vicinity of Hourne Farm, which has been designated as an Archaeological Notification Area.

2/ At NGR TQ 52525 32562, a stony spread of unknown date was noted on the N edge of a woodland plantation at Hodges Wood, which may relate to quarrying activity of unknown date. This feature is located about 40m W of an Archaeological Notification Area relating to the previous discovery of ironworking sites and quarry features of Romano-British and medieval date in this area.

3/ A surface find of a flint thumbnail scraper of unspecified prehistoric date was made within an arable field about 130m SE of Little Wigsell at NGR TQ 53129 34194.

While the results of this AWS identified relatively few features in the immediate vicinity of the route, there remains significant potential for buried archaeological assets to be identified during the pipeline works, particularly deposits and features associated with ironworking and associated industrial extractive activities, potentially ranging in date from the late prehistoric/Romano-British period through to the post-medieval period.

Conclusion: An appropriate mitigation strategy will be agreed in consultation with South East Water and the Archaeological Officer for East Sussex County Council, with particular reference to the sections of the route extending close to the Archaeological Notification Areas at Hourne Wood and Hodges Wood.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) undertook a non-intrusive Archaeological Walkover Survey (AWS) on behalf of South East Water (SEW) of the Groombridge to Hourne Farm Tank Mains Reinforcement Scheme, extending to the N of Crowborough (East Sussex).

SEW is proposing to undertake works to install approximately 3.2km of 450mm diameter mains pipeline extending NE from the Hourne Farm Tank WTWs Site, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2SY (Grid Ref: TQ 52205 31687) to a connection onto the existing network located on an access track at Kentdale, Rotherfield, East Sussex, TN3 9LH (Grid Ref: TQ 53076 34413).

The survey was undertaken on September 28th 2016. The aim of the survey was to characterize, quantify and locate known and hitherto unknown heritage assets likely to be affected by the engineering groundworks and associated vehicular movements and thus to identify areas of archaeological mitigation. This Report represents part of a two-volume submission comprising Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 1) and Archaeological Walkover Survey (Volume 2).

3 Methodology

BAL obtained copies of revised engineering plans from South East Water (SEW) which show the pipeline route overlaid onto Ordnance Survey map data (*fig. 1*).

A detailed photographic record was made of all fields to which access had been agreed in advance by SEW, and locations were logged using a handheld GPS system with an accuracy of 1-3m.

The easement was walked systematically in a single 20m transect by two senior BAL staff members. Access between adjacent fields was via established field-openings, such as stiles and gateways; where no such access was possible, the next designated access point was sought via public roads and footpaths.

A standard dataset describing each feature identified was captured in the field. A detailed photographic record of the route was created using a high-resolution digital camera (20 MPX) and a photographic register compiled detailing subject, direction of view and National Grid Reference (NGR) of the viewpoint. Results are presented in a tabulated database listing field number and description, NGR, description of feature and photographic reference (*Table 1*), with an annotated plan showing the location of photographs taken and the direction of view (*fig. 2*).

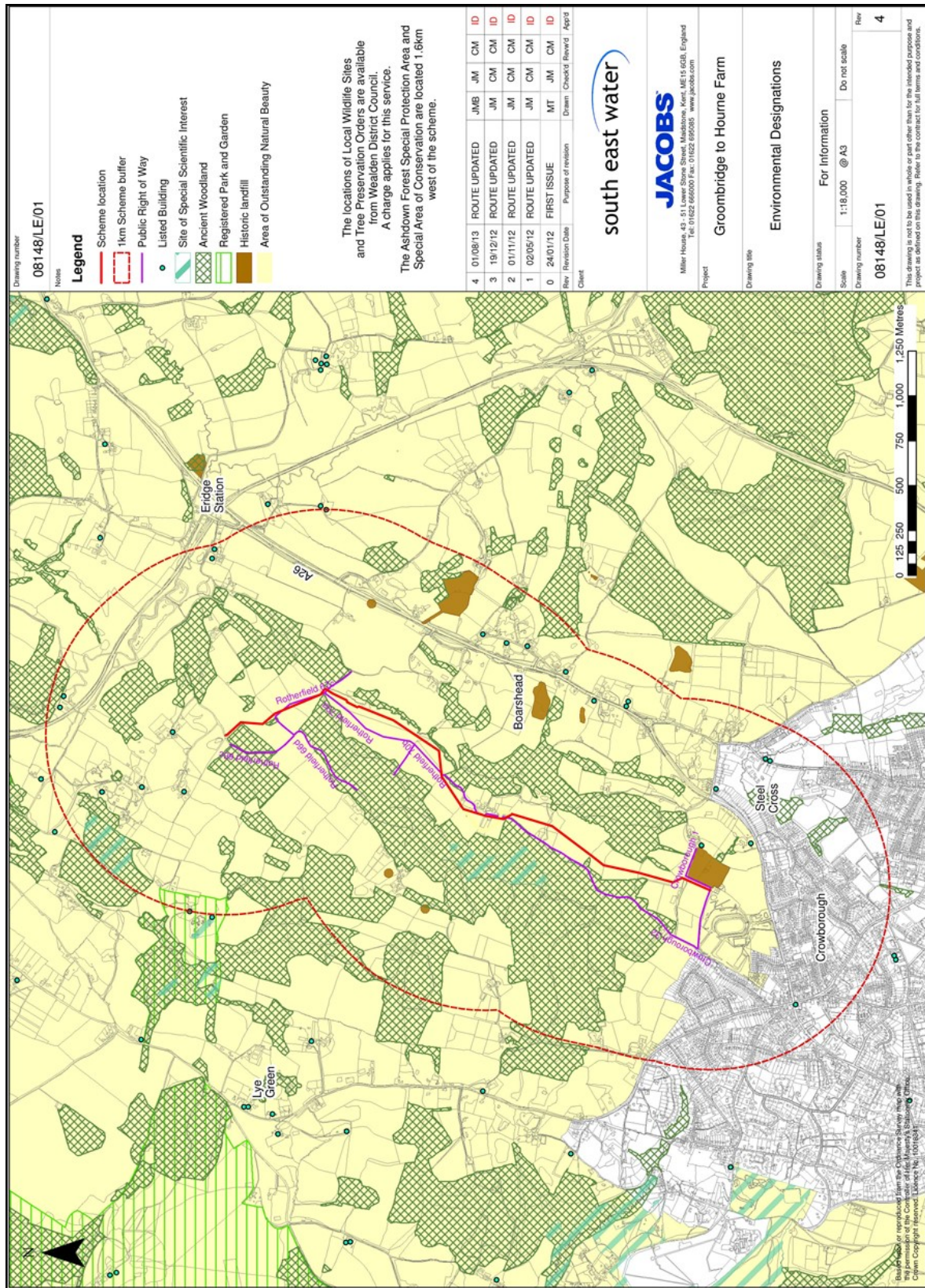


Fig. 1: Outline plan based on information supplied by South East Water showing the route of the proposed route of the scheme (indicated in red)

4 Walkover Narrative

For reasons of clarity, the route of the proposed water pipeline has been described from S to N, commencing at the Hourne Farm Tank Water Treatment Works site (VP1; NGR TQ 52205 31687) and then proceeds NE for about 150m through a modern woodland plantation to the N of the treatment works, running in close proximity to a series of modern corrugated iron sheds which appear to have been used for pheasant shoots (VP2; NGR TQ 52242 31846).

At NGR TQ 52245 31863, the pipeline route crosses a substantial tree-lined hedgebank oriented WNW-ESE with a shallow ditch on its N side (VP 3). This appears to be a long-established boundary as it is shown on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1839, marking the N boundary of a field named 'Stone Field' (Plot No. 2086). The pipeline continues NE, crossing this field boundary and also crossing a trackway which leads gradually WNW (upslope) towards an area of thick scrub and disturbed ground (with evidence of brick and rubble masonry debris) about 25m from the pipeline route (VP 4). The tithe map marks the site of a 'lodge and yard' in this location (Plot No. 2088) which is still shown as intact on later OS mapping.

The pipeline route crosses this trackway and enters a rough pasture field, gradually sloping from S to N, the southernmost part of which displays evidence of considerable disturbance, with several amorphous depressions and linear features visible within this field, possibly resulting from quarrying activity (VPs 5 & 6). This field is marked as 'Little Rocky Field' on the 1839 tithe map but no evidence of quarrying is marked on later 19th century OS mapping, suggesting that any extractive activity had probably ceased prior to c.1840. This series of features lies just to the W of a larger group of industrial extractive features of uncertain date situated to the N of Hourne Farm, which is designated as an Archaeological Notification Area. The pipeline crosses a shallow linear feature oriented WNE-ESE at TQ 52265 31880 which appears to represent a relict field boundary (marking the N extent of the area of disturbed ground) which is indicated on the 1839 tithe map and the OS 1st-2nd edition maps and then continues NNE (gently downslope) through the central and northern parts of this pasture field; no evidence of disturbance was noted in these areas.

The pipeline route crosses a substantial tree-lined hedge boundary oriented WNW-ESE at the N end of this field at NGR TQ 52302 32109 (VP 7) and then continues NNE through a trapezoidal shaped pasture field, the boundaries of which appear to have already been established by the mid-19th century (it is marked as Plot No. 2085 on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1839). No features were noted in this field. The pipeline route crosses a tree-lined hedge bank and ditch at the N end of this pasture field (VP 8; TQ 52341 32299) and then continues NE for about 100m across a roughly rectangular pasture field, where again no visible features of interest were identified.

At NGR TQ 52398 32381 (VP 9), the pipeline route reaches the S edge of a woodland plantation of fairly recent (post-1990) origin which lies between two larger tracts of ancient woodland (Cage Wood to the E and Beechen Wood to the W). The Rotherfield tithe map marks this field as being an arable field (Church Field) in 1839 and later OS maps show that it remained as an enclosed field until the late 1980s. Situated approximately 30m W of the pipeline is a large ovoid pond surrounded by trees which appears to be a long-established feature; it is marked on the Rotherfield tithe map (as 'Church Field Shaw') together with a small pocket of woodland

immediately surrounding the pond. The pipeline continues NE through the middle of the plantation, a number of faint linear depressions oriented NE-SW were noted which may be cultivation features (VP 11). Just within the boundary at the N end of the plantation (VP 12; TQ 52525 32562) an amorphous stone spread of uncertain date and function was noted, it is possible that it could represent evidence of quarrying activity. It should be noted that a series of ironworking and quarrying features of Romano-British and medieval date were previously investigated by the Wealden Iron Research Group to the E of this woodland (and are now designated as the Hodges Wood Archaeological Notification Area).

After exiting the woodland plantation, the pipeline continues NE through another pasture field before crossing a trackway at TQ 52556 32625 (VP 13) and continuing NNE (upslope) through a field which is currently under rough pasture and scrub; no features of interest were noted. At NGR TQ 52623 32838, the pipeline exits the NW corner of the field and crosses an embanked trackway leading N to Stonehouse Farm, a farmstead of 19th century origin which is marked on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1839 (VP 14). The trackway appears to be a long-established feature as it is marked on the tithe map. The pipeline runs N through a pasture field parallel to the trackway and to the W of the Stonehouse Farm (VP 15) and then continues NNE through a pasture orchard lying to the NW of the farm (VP 16); no visible features of interest were noted.

The pipeline route continues NE and sharply downslope to a WNW-ESE aligned hedge boundary (marking the N extent of the pasture orchard) at NGR TQ 52675 33095 (VP 17). After crossing this hedge boundary, the route continues downslope through a large rectangular pasture field (VP 18) before crossing a partially tree-lined boundary at NGR TQ 52845 33199 to enter a steeply sloping arable field which lies to the W of a meandering stream running roughly NNE-SSW. The pipeline route sharply descends eastwards across this arable field to reach the stream (VP 19) and then continues NE along the W bank of the stream, about 90m NW of Leggs Wood.

At NGR TQ 53051 33335, the pipeline route crosses a NW-SE aligned boundary bank and trackway (VP 20) which is marked on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1839 and originally led to an outfarm marked as Plot No. 376 in the corresponding tithe award. The pipeline route continues NNE along the W bank of the stream before reaching a substantial NW-SE aligned hedge boundary and ditch at the confluence of this stream with another watercourse extending NE from a nearby tract of woodland at Pocket Birches (VP 22; TQ 53301 33849). Evidence of possible lynchet features oriented NE-SW was noted on the E side of the watercourse (VP 21).

Having crossed this hedge boundary and ditch, the route turns sharply NW, crossing a narrow strip of arable land and then continuing upslope across several ploughed arable fields for about 500m to the NE corner of a woodland coppice at Little Wigsell (TQ 53136 34313). No visible earthworks were noted in these fields, although a single thumbnail scraper of unspecified prehistoric date was recovered from the surface of one of the ploughed fields at NGR TQ 53129 34194 (VP 26).

From TQ 53136 34313, the pipeline route continues NW for about 110m across an arable field bordering the W edge of the coppice at Little Wigsell (VP 27) before reaching its terminus at a connection to the existing water mains network, which is located on an access track about 290m S of Mott's Farm (VP 28; NGR TQ 53076 34413).

5 Walkover Database

Viewpoint	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref
1	TQ 52213 31701	Hourne Farm Water Treatment Works	Water Works (Modern)	DSCO5818
2	TQ 52242 31846	Corrugated iron shed in woodland plantation NE of Hourne Farm Water Treatment Works	Pheasant Shoot (Modern)	DSCO5820
3	TQ 52245 31863	Substantial tree-lined hedgebank and ditch oriented WNW-ESE	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5823-5826
4	TQ 52261 31854	Trackway and overgrown area of building debris on N edge of woodland	Trackway/building site (post-medieval)	DSCO5827
5	TQ 52249 31890	Area of disturbed ground to N of woodland represented by amorphous depressions	Possible quarry site (Medieval/Post-medieval?)	DSCO5829-5833
6	TQ 52265 31880	Linear feature oriented WNW-ESE defining N edge of area of possible quarrying activity	Possible quarry site (Medieval/Post-medieval?)	DSCO5836-5837
7	TQ 52302 32109	Tree-lined hedge boundary oriented WNW-ESE marking N edge of pasture field	Hedge boundary (post-medieval)	DSCO5838-5840
8	TQ 52341 32299	Substantial tree-lined hedge boundary and ditch oriented WNW-ESE marking N edge of pasture field	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5841-5843
9	TQ 52398 32381	N boundary of field adjacent to S edge of woodland plantation	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5845
10	TQ 52379 32399	Oval pond feature in SW corner of woodland plantation	Pond feature (Post-medieval)	DSCO5846
11	TQ 52461 32455	Linear depressions oriented NE-SW in woodland plantation (cultivation features?)	Linear features (Post-medieval?)	DSCO5847-5848
12	TQ 52525 32562	Amorphous stone spread at N edge of woodland plantation	Possible quarry feature	DSCO5850-5851
13	TQ 52556 32625	Trackway oriented WNW-ESE to N of woodland plantation	Trackway (Post-medieval)	DSCO5852
14	TQ 52604 32922	Embanked trackway oriented NE-SW to S of Stonehouse Farm	Trackway (Post-medieval)	DSCO5853-5854
15	TQ 52652 33066	Pasture field to W of Stonehouse Farm	No features observed	DSCO5855-5856
16	TQ 52641 33045	Pasture orchard to NW of Stonehouse Farm	No features observed	DSCO5857-5858
17	TQ 52675 33095	Hedge boundary marking N edge of pasture orchard NW of Stonehouse Farm	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5859
18	TQ 52845 33199	Tree-lined hedge boundary marking N edge of field about 250m NE of Stonehouse Farm	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5860
19	TQ 52982 33223	NNE-SSW aligned watercourse in arable field about 250m NW of Boarshead	Watercourse	DSCO5862-5863

Viewpoint	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref
20	TQ 53051 33335	Substantial WNW-ESE aligned boundary bank and trackway in arable field to W of stream	Boundary bank and trackway (Medieval/ Post-medieval)	DSCO5866
21	TQ 53214 33611	NE-SW aligned terracing (possible lynchets) noted in pasture field E of stream	Possible lynchets (Medieval?)	DSCO5874-5875
22	TQ 53301 33849	NW-SE aligned hedge boundary and drainage ditch to NE of Pocket Birches	Boundary ditch (Post-medieval)	DSCO5876-5877
23	TQ 53305 33869	Hedge boundary oriented NE-SW on NW edge of arable strip to N of Pocket Birches	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5878-5879
24	TQ 53240 34048	Field boundary oriented NE-SW in arable field about 125m NE of Pocket Birches	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5880-5881
25	TQ 53173 34131	Field boundary oriented NE-SW about 200m SE of Little Wigsell	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5883
26	TQ 53129 34194	Findspot of flint thumbnail scraper (prehistoric) in arable field about 130m SE of Little Wigsell	Findspot (prehistoric)	DSCO5884
27	TQ 53136 34313	Woodland coppice (Little Wigsell)	Woodland coppice (Post-medieval)	DSCO5885
28	TQ 53067 34406	Hedge boundary on S side of trackway about 290m S of Mott's Farm	Hedge boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO5886

Table 1: Database detailing results of archaeological walkover survey

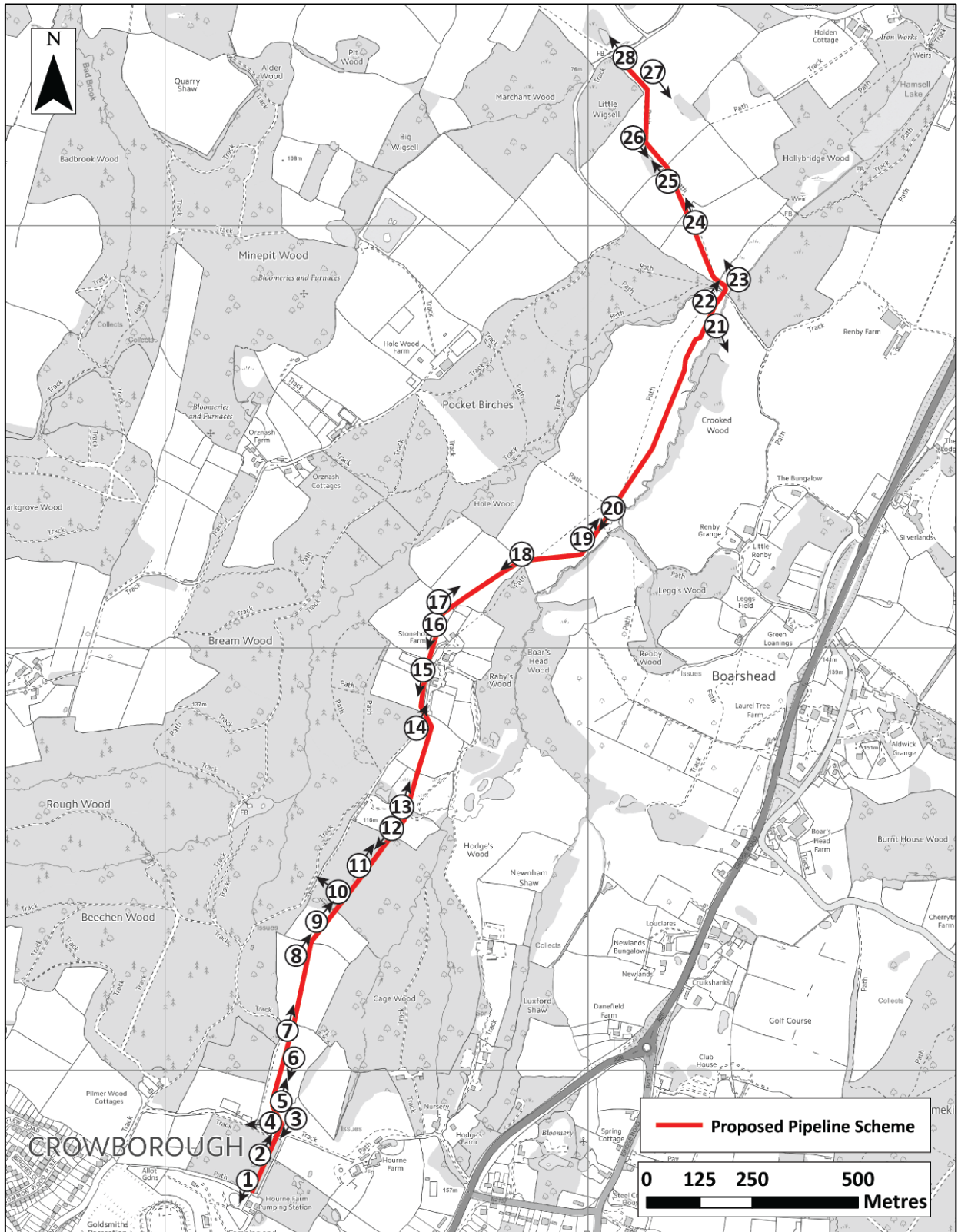


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of photos taken during walkover survey of pipeline route

6 Conclusions

The walkover of the route of the proposed Groombridge to Hourne Farm Tank Mains Reinforcement Scheme, extending to the N of the historic settlement of Crowborough (East Sussex), has identified relatively few visible features of archaeological interest along the route.

The significant features identified can be summarised briefly thus:

1/ Towards the southern end of the route, on the N edge of a woodland plantation lying about 200m NE of the Hourne Farm Water Treatment Works, several features were observed including an area of building debris possibly representing the site of a post-medieval outbuilding at NGR TQ 52261 31854 (VP 4), located about 30m NW of the pipeline route, and a series of amorphous depressions and linear features which may relate to quarrying activity of medieval or early post-medieval date (VP 5 & 6). It is possible that these features may be associated with a larger area of industrial extractive features identified further to the E, in the vicinity of Hourne Farm, which has been designated as an Archaeological Notification Area.

2/ At NGR TQ 52525 32562, a stony spread of unknown date was noted on the N edge of a woodland plantation at Hodges Wood, which may relate to quarrying activity of unknown date. This feature is located about 40m W of an Archaeological Notification Area relating to the previous discovery of ironworking sites and quarry features of Romano-British and medieval date in this area.

3/ A surface find of a flint thumbnail scraper of unspecified prehistoric date was made within an arable field about 130m SE of Little Wigsell at NGR TQ 53129 34194.

While the results of this AWS identified relatively few features in the immediate vicinity of the route, there remains significant potential for buried archaeological assets to be identified during the pipeline works, particularly deposits and features associated with ironworking and associated industrial extractive activities, potentially ranging in date from the late prehistoric/Romano-British period through to the post-medieval period.

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8.1.1 National Archives

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8.2 Secondary Sources

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Wealden Iron Research Group, 1979, 'Inventory of Iron Sites visited by WIRG', *Wealden Iron, Bulletin of the Wealden Iron Research Group - 1st series* Vol. 15, 8-44

9 Cartography and Aerial Photography

(All maps were obtained from the East Sussex Record Office unless otherwise stated)

1778 Yeakell and Gardner's map of Sussex

1792 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Crowborough

1797 Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Tunbridge Wells

1839 Rotherfield Tithe Survey (NA IR 30/35/222)

1879 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1899 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1910 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1963 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 National Survey

1990 Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 National Survey

10 Photographic Survey



Viewpoint 1: View looking SW towards Hourn Farm Water Treatment Works compound



Viewpoint 2: View looking NE towards modern corrugated iron shed in woodland plantation to NE of Water Treatment Works



Viewpoint 3: View looking SW towards WNW-ESE aligned, tree-lined hedgebank and ditch to NE of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 4: View looking WNW along trackway leading upslope to area of heavily overgrown ground (with building debris) to NE of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 5: View looking NE across area of amorphous depressions (possible quarrying activity) in pasture field to NE of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 6: View looking SW across area of disturbed ground (represented by amorphous depressions and linear features) bounded by a WNW-ESE aligned linear boundary



Viewpoint 7: View looking NNE towards WNW-ESE tree-lined hedge boundary at N end of pasture field



Viewpoint 8: View looking NE towards substantial tree-lined hedge boundary and ditch oriented WNW-ESE marking N edge of pasture field



Viewpoint 9: View looking NE towards southern edge of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 10: View looking WNW towards oval pond feature in SW corner of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 11: View looking NE showing shallow linear features oriented NW-SE in modern woodland plantation



Viewpoint 12: View looking SW showing amorphous stone spread (possible quarry feature) on N edge of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 13: View looking NE showing trackway to NE of woodland plantation



Viewpoint 14: View looking NE showing embanked trackway oriented NE-SW to S of Stonehouse Farm



Viewpoint 15: View looking SW across pasture field to W of Stonehouse Farm



Viewpoint 16: View looking NE across pasture orchard to NW of Stonehouse Farm



Viewpoint 17: View looking NE (downslope) towards hedge boundary NW of Stonehouse Farm



Viewpoint 18: View looking SW towards substantial tree-lined hedge boundary oriented NW-SE about 200m NE of Stonehouse Farm



Viewpoint 19: View looking NE across arable field to W of meandering stream NW of Boarshead



Viewpoint 20: View looking SW towards NW-SE oriented boundary bank and trackway to W of stream



Viewpoint 21: View looking SSE towards terraced features in field to E of stream near Crooked Wood



Viewpoint 22: View looking NE towards hedge boundary and drainage ditch oriented NW-SE, to NE of Pocket Birches



Viewpoint 23: View looking NW towards hedge boundary in arable field NE of Pocket Birches



Viewpoint 24: View NW towards tree-lined field boundary oriented NE-SW in arable field about 125m NE of Pocket Birches



Viewpoint 25: View looking NW towards tree-lined field boundary oriented NE-SW in arable field about 200m SE of Little Wigsell



Viewpoint 26: View looking SE towards findspot of flint thumbnail scraper (indicated by scale) in arable field about 130m SE of Little Wigsell



Viewpoint 27: View looking SE across arable field adjacent to NW boundary of coppice at Little Wisell



Viewpoint 28: View looking NW towards tree-lined hedge boundary on S side of trackway about 290m S of Mott's Farm

Report Title		Report Ref	
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