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Archaeological Walkover Survey

For

south east water

Concerning

**Horne Farm to Cottage Hill
Mains Renewal Scheme
Rotherfield
East Sussex**

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Cover: View looking E across field to W of Milk Lodge Farm, with the spire of St Denys's Church Rotherfield in background

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1 Non-Technical Summary

This Report details the results of an Archaeological Walkover Survey undertaken by Border Archaeology Ltd on behalf of South East Water for the route of the Hourne Farm to Cottage Hill Mains Renewal Scheme, extending between Crowborough and Rotherfield (East Sussex).

The proposed scheme consists of approximately 2.4km of pipeline extending from a connection point at Palesgate Lane, Crowborough to the Cottage Hill Reservoir, located to the south of the village of Rotherfield.

A number of features of archaeological interest were noted along the proposed pipeline route, which may be summarised (proceeding from west to east) as follows:

1/ The pipeline route crosses a substantial tree-lined hedge boundary immediately east of Palesgate Lane which may represent the westernmost extent of the former medieval deer park of Rotherfield.

2/ Evidence of Second World War fortifications was noted in the vicinity of the pipeline route, represented by the remains of a hexagonal pillbox (constructed in 1940-41 as part of a military defence line) located about 50m north of the pipeline route where it enters a pasture field immediately east of woodland adjoining Palesgate Lane.

3/ A series of amorphous, roughly curvilinear features were noted in the southwest corner of the same pasture field, which may represent relict water channels or cultivation features of uncertain date.

4/ A discrete area of ground disturbance was also noted within the southeast corner of the field west of Old Forest Lane represented by a several low amorphous banks, areas of thick scrub and a possible trackway which may have been associated with the site of a demolished outfarm of 18th-19th century date. The outfarm is first marked on an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1789 and was demolished by the early 1970s

5/ The eastern half of the pipeline route crosses a number of hedge boundaries which appear to be of medieval or post-medieval date, of particular interest being a substantial curvilinear ditch which is depicted on historic mapping dating back to the late 18th century (marking the southeast boundary of a large field to the south of Rotherfield Road) and also runs close to the site of a disused marl pit of early post-medieval date at Marlpit Wood, north of Dewlands Manor, Rotherfield.

Conclusion: Relatively few features of archaeological interest were noted along the route. However, there remains potential for encountering evidence of archaeological remains along specific sections of the route, including 1/a long-established ridgeway of prehistoric or Roman origin, running to the north of the B2100 between Crowborough and Rotherfield, 2/a focus of medieval and post-medieval ironworking activity at Jarvis Brook and Maynard's Gate, close to the western terminus of the route, 3/ the site of a post-medieval marl pit and an associated limekiln site north of Dewlands Manor, 4/ the site of a demolished post-medieval farm complex W of Old Forest Lane and 5/ the buried line of a Second World War anti-tank ditch located to the east of Palesgate Lane.

2 Introduction

A non-intrusive Archaeological Walkover Survey was undertaken by Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) in response to an Instruction from South East Water (SEW) regarding the proposed route of the SEW Hourne Farm to Cottage Hill Mains Renewal Scheme, extending between Crowborough and Rotherfield (East Sussex) (*fig. 1*).

The aim of the survey (undertaken on 7th August 2017) was to characterize, quantify and locate known and 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 an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Volume 1) and Archaeological Walkover Survey (Volume 2).

2.1 Soils and Geology

The predominant soil type in the landscape crossed by the NW portion of the scheme consists of stagnogleyic argillic brown earths of the CURTISDEN Series (572i). These are characterized as silty soils over Cretaceous and Jurassic siltstone with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging. Some similar well drained soils and some well drained coarse loamy soils over sandstone are also present, as well as some localized slumping (SSEW, 1983).

Towards the SE end of the proposed pipeline the local soil type changes to the typical stagnogley soils of the WICKHAM 1 Series (711e). These are defined as slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged, fine silty over clayey, and fine loamy over clayey and clayey soils. The underlying geology consists of drift over Cretaceous clay or mudstone (SSEW 1983).

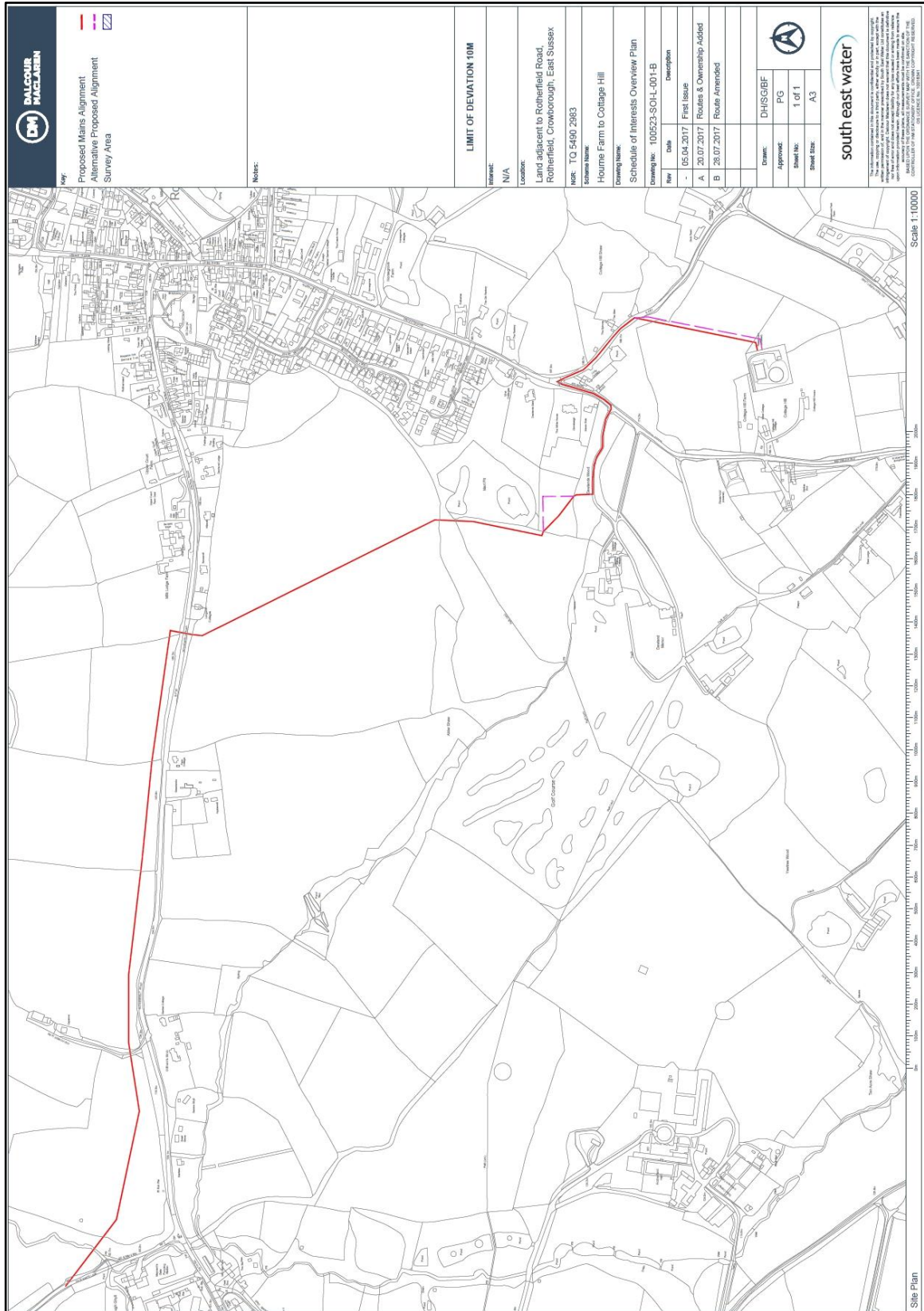


Fig. 1: Plan showing route of proposed Hourne Farm to Cottage Hill mains renewal scheme
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3 Methodology

BA obtained copies of revised engineering plans from SEW that show the pipeline route overlaid onto Ordnance Survey map data (*fig. 1*). Designated access points were identified prior to the commencement of the survey, as indicated on the supplied maps, and only these points were used to gain access onto the pipeline easement.

The easement was walked systematically in a single 20m transect by two senior BA 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. This included the recording of data using a handheld GPS system with an accuracy of 1-3m. A detailed photographic record of all fields entered 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 (VP). Results are presented in tabulated format listing field number and description, NGR, description of feature and photographic reference. Locations of photographs taken during the walkover survey are indicated on Ordnance Survey mapping (*fig. 2*).

4 Walkover Narrative

The route of the proposed water mains reinforcement scheme (approximately 2.4km in length) starts from a valve connection on the W side of Palesgate Lane, on the E fringes of the town of Crowborough at NGR TQ 54077 29924. From this point the pipeline extends SE, crossing the lane and a substantial tree-lined hedge bank marking the E boundary of Palesgate Lane (VP 1; NGR TQ 54093 29916); which also appears to have defined the westernmost extent of the medieval deer park of Rotherfield and later marked the boundary between Rotherfield parish and the parish of Crowborough, carved out of the former in 1905.

Having crossed the hedge boundary, the pipeline continues SE crossing a field currently used as an industrial yard (VP 2; TQ 54108 29908) and then enters a narrow belt of woodland flanking both sides of the Crowborough Ghyll stream (VP 3; TQ 54135 29879). This woodland appears to be a recent plantation as it is first indicated on an aerial photograph of 1944; historic mapping indicates that, prior to that date, the land immediately E of Palesgate Lane was much more open in character and was either under pasture or cultivation. At this point, the pipeline extends within the Jarvis Brook Archaeological Notification Area, associated with a focus of medieval and post-medieval ironworking activity which was identified during archaeological investigations in 1975-77 further along the Crowborough Ghyll to the SW of Palesgate Lane (Coombes, 1977; Bedwin, 1978). It should be noted this section of the pipeline will be installed trenchlessly beneath the Ghyll and woodland.

The pipeline continues SE across the stream and the narrow belt of woodland and then enters a large irregularly shaped pasture field (marked as Long Field on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1841) bounded to the S by the Rotherfield Road (B2100). Located approximately 50m NNE of the route, on slightly rising ground to the E of the woodland is a hexagonal concrete and brick pillbox bearing the identification number A121, constructed in 1940-41 as part of the Newhaven to Cliffe branch of the GHQ Defence Line (VP 4; NGR TQ 54181 29902). The pillbox

(which is recorded on the Defence of Britain database but does not appear to be listed in the East Sussex HER) is visible on aerial photographs dated 1944 and 1947 (US/7PH/GP/LOC165 Frame No.5061; RAF CPE/UK/1966, Frame No.2160). No trace was observed of the anti-tank ditch which is shown on the 1944 and 1947 APs as extending SW across the W half of this field, to the E of the pillbox.

Several curvilinear depressions were also noted where the pipeline route crosses the SW corner of this pasture field just to the E of the woodland (VP 5; TQ 54178 29828). These features are visible on the 1940s APs and may represent relict cultivation features or water channels associated with the nearby stream, of uncertain date. The pipeline continues on a roughly ESE alignment, climbing steeply upslope towards the SE corner of the field. A discrete area of ground disturbance was also noted within the SE corner of the field (centred on NGR TQ 54416 29818) represented by several low amorphous banks, areas of thick scrub and a possible trackway which may have been associated with the site of a demolished post-medieval outfarm which is first marked on an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1789 and was demolished by the early 1970s (VPs 6 & 7).

At NGR TQ 54444 29822 the scheme crosses 'Old Forest Lane', a long-established narrow holloway first marked on the OS surveyor's drawing of 1789 and flanked by steep tree lined hedges (VP 8) which branches off from the Rotherfield Road. The Rotherfield Road appears to have marked the southernmost extent of the medieval deer park of Rotherfield and this boundary appears to be evidenced by the substantial, tree-lined hedgebank which runs along the N side of the road (VP 10).

Having traversed a broad tree lined hedge on the E side of the Old Forest Lane (VP 9; TQ 54454 29814) the pipeline route continues roughly E across three large rectilinear pasture fields lying on a chalk ridge running parallel and to the N of the Rotherfield Road, the boundaries of which appear to have been established during the post-medieval period and are first shown on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1841 (VPs 11, 12 & 13). This ridge itself is presumed to have been used as a routeway during the prehistoric and Roman periods, although there was no visible evidence of deposits or features associated with the construction or maintenance of the routeway or for associated occupation or extractive sites.

At NGR TQ 55104 29746, about 100m W of Milk Lodge Farm, the pipeline route turns S and crosses a tree-lined hedge boundary (VP 14) which appears to represent a continuation of the S boundary of the former medieval deer park. The pipeline traverses the Rotherfield Road and another hedge boundary on the S side of the road (VP 15 TQ 55100 29727). At this point, the pipeline route lies about 30m W of the Archaeological Notification Area relating to the historic medieval settlement of Rotherfield.

The pipeline route then continues SE through a large field enclosure which is currently under rough pasture. This field is first marked as 'Demaines' on a plan of the manor of Rotherfield dated 1597 and had been subdivided into several rectilinear enclosures by the late 18th century. A roughly NNE-SSW aligned linear depression (possibly representing a relict field boundary) was noted within the S half of this field and is crossed by the pipeline at TQ 55232 29452 (VP 16). The pipeline route crosses a substantial curvilinear drainage ditch and tree-lined hedge marking SE boundary of this field at TQ 55280 29337 (VP 17); this is clearly a long-established feature as it is marked on historic mapping dating back to 1789. Remains of a metalled trackway (possibly identifiable with the 'landway' first recorded on the tithe map of 1841) were noted running parallel and immediately SE of this field boundary (VP 18).

Located immediately SE of this curvilinear field boundary (about 10m E of the pipeline route) at NGR TQ 55297 29315 is an irregularly shaped, heavily overgrown water-filled pond which is first marked on an OS 1:2500 map of 1971 and thus appears to be a modern feature (VP 19). The pipeline route continues southwards, to the E of the pond and extends along the E boundary of a large irregularly shaped pasture field, defined by a substantial tree-lined hedge (VP 20) which is first marked on the Rotherfield tithe map of 1841. To the E of this pasture field is a woodland enclosure, which first appears as 'Marlpit Wood' on the Rotherfield tithe map. Located within this wooded enclosure, about 15m E of the pipeline route is a large water-filled former marl pit (VP 21; TQ 55284 29220), which may possibly be of early post-medieval date, based on references in 16th-17th century manorial records of Rotherfield to a marl pit 'over against Dewlands Gate' (Pullein, 1928).

At NGR TQ 55262 29174, the pipeline route crosses the W boundary of a small rectangular pasture field S of Marlpit Wood, which is marked on the 1841 tithe map as forming part of a larger field called Kiln Field (VP 22). No evidence for a kiln or other features of archaeological interest was noted in this area. The pipeline runs SE across this pasture field and crosses its S boundary at TQ 55320 29126, which is defined by a linear tree-lined hedge (oriented E-W) and a low stony bank immediately to the S (VP 23). This hedge and bank also defined the N boundary of a woodland coppice called Dewlands Wood (first marked on an OS drawing of 1789) which formed part of the estate of Rotherfield Rectory (now Dewlands Manor Golf Club).

The pipeline crosses the woodland in an easterly direction, partly following the line of a long-established metalled trackway leading to the former Rectory which is first marked on the OS drawing of 1789 (VP 24) and then exits the Dewland Manor estate via an existing gateway flanked by rusticated stone piers which could be of late 19th or 20th century date (VP 25; TQ 55448 29067). From this point the pipeline route continues N along an existing roadway to reach the junction with the Mayfield Road (B2101) at TQ 55498 29151, adjacent to a detached house of late 19th century date first marked on the OS 1st edition map of 1878 (VP 26). From that point, the pipeline runs SE along the Mayfield Road before crossing a substantial tree-lined hedge boundary on the SW side of the road at TQ 55595 29030 (VP 27) and then continues SSW upslope across a large pasture field to reach its terminus at the modern covered reservoir at Cottage Hill (VP 28 NGR TQ 55545 28837).

5 Walkover Database

Viewpoint (VP) No.	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref.
1	TQ 54093 29916	Substantial tree-lined hedge bank on E side of Palesgate Lane, possible remnant of medieval park boundary	Hedge Boundary (Medieval?)	DSCO 0729
2	TQ 54108 29908	Field E of Palesgate Lane, currently used as storage yard for gravel	Industrial yard (Modern)	DSCO 0727
3	TQ 54135 29879	Wooded banks on either side of stream crossing (Crowborough Ghyll)	Woodland plantation (19 th -20 th century)	DSCO 0730
4	TQ 54181 29902	Hexagonal Type 24 pillbox in pasture field to E of woodland plantation	Pillbox (1940-41)	DSCO 0726
5	TQ 54178 29828	Curvilinear features (possible water channels) in field to E of woodland	Possible water channels (Medieval/Post-medieval?)	DSCO 0725

Viewpoint (VP) No.	NGR	Description	Features	Photo Ref.
6	TQ 54416 29818	Trackway and area of disturbed ground in field to NW of Old Forest Lane	Trackway (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0722-0724
7	TQ 54424 29820	Area of low amorphous banks in field NW of Old Forest Lane	Possible site of outfarm (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0721
8	TQ 54444 29822	Old Forest Lane, holloway to N of Rotherfield Road	Trackway (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0719
9	TQ 54454 29814	Tree-lined hedge boundary E of Old Forest Lane, marked on 1841 tithe map	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0718
10	TQ 54299 29777	Substantial tree lined hedge bank marking S boundary of field N of B2100	Field boundary (Medieval?)	DSCO 0715-0717
11	TQ 54728 29806	N-S aligned tree lined hedge marking E boundary of field to E of Old Forest Lane	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0713-0714
12	TQ 54901 29788	N-S aligned tree-lined hedge marking E boundary of pasture field to N of B2100	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0708-0709
13	TQ 55096 29761	N-S aligned tree-lined hedge boundary marking E extent of field 100m W of Milk Lodge Farm	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0706
14	TQ 55104 29746	E-W aligned hedge marking S boundary of field 100m W of Milk Lodge Farm	Field boundary (Medieval/Post-medieval)	DSCO 0704
15	TQ 55100 29727	E-W aligned hedge marking N boundary of field to S of B2100 (Rotherfield Road)	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0702-0703
16	TQ 55232 29452	NNE-SSW aligned linear depression in middle of field S of B2100	Relict field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0697-0698
17	TQ 55280 29337	Curvilinear hedge boundary and drainage ditch marking SE extent of large pasture field S of B2100	Field boundary (Medieval/early post-medieval)	DSCO 0695
18	TQ 55284 29335	Metalled trackway immediately to SE of curvilinear field boundary	Trackway (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0694
19	TQ 55297 29315	Pond feature to N of Marlpit Wood	Pond (20 th century)	DSCO 0693
20	TQ 55280 29257	N-S aligned tree-lined hedge marking E boundary of large pasture field to W of Marlpit Wood	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0687-0689
21	TQ 55284 29220	Large sub-ovoid water filled feature, former marl pit, in woodland	Marl pit (Early post-medieval)	DSCO 0685-0686
22	TQ 55262 29174	N-S aligned tree-lined hedge marking W boundary of pasture field (Kiln Field) S of Marlpit Wood	Field boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0684
23	TQ 55320 29126	E-W aligned, tree-lined hedge and low stony bank on N side of Dewlands Wood	Woodland boundary (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0680-0683
24	TQ 55431 29078	Curvilinear metalled trackway leading to Dewlands Manor	Trackway (18 th -19 th century)	DSCO 0673-0675
25	TQ 55448 29067	Gateway with rusticated stone piers at entrance to Dewlands Manor	Gateway (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0672
26	TQ 55498 29151	Mid to late 19 th century detached villa S of junction with South Street and Mayfield Road	Detached house (Post-medieval)	DSCO 0669
27	TQ 55595 29030	Substantial tree-lined hedge bank on SW side of Mayfield Road (B2101)	Hedge boundary (Early post-medieval)	DSCO 0665
28	TQ 55545 28837	Late 20 th century covered reservoir at Cottage Hill	Reservoir (Modern)	DSCO 0664

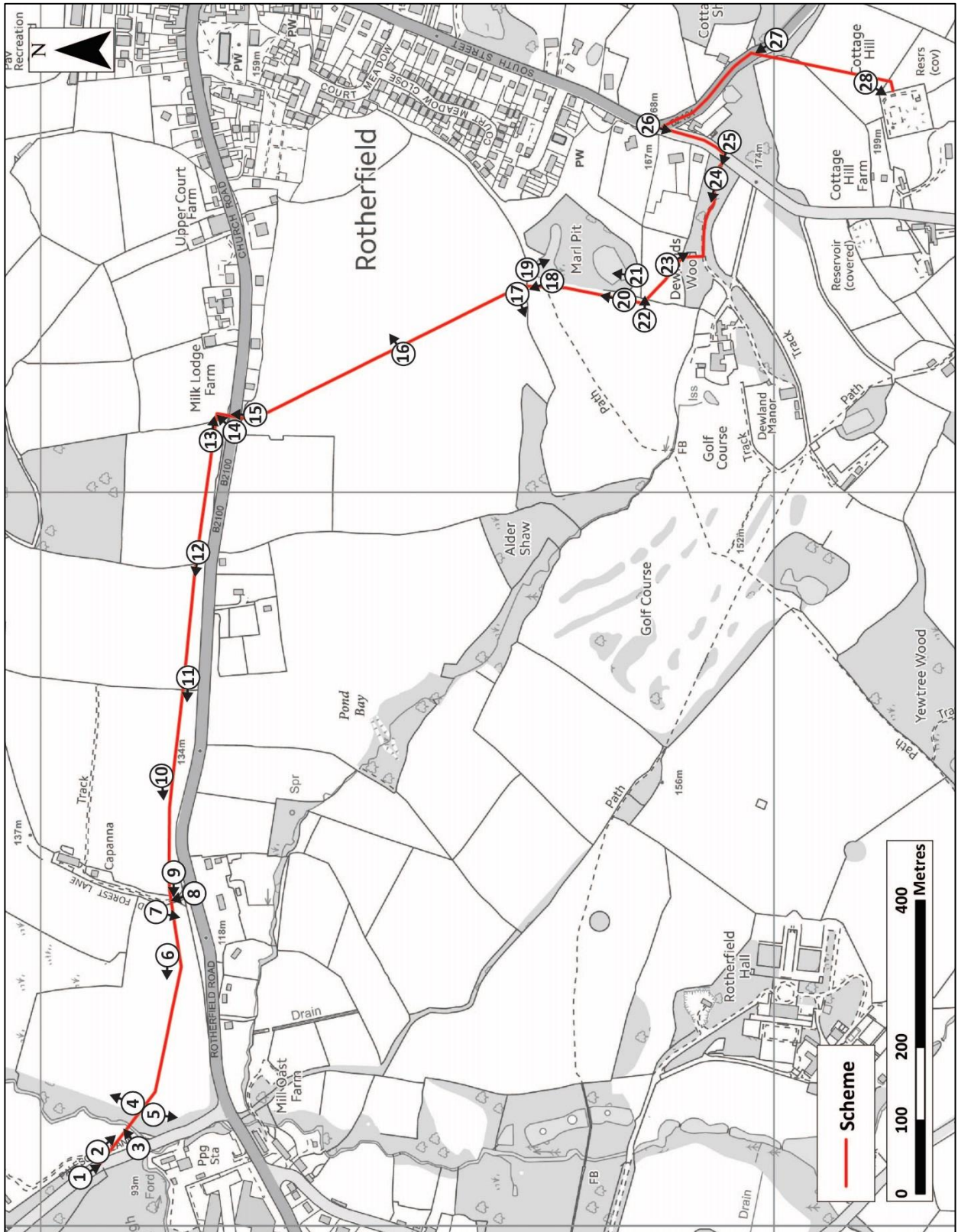


Fig. 2: Plan showing location of viewpoints recorded during walkover survey of pipeline route
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6 Conclusion

A small number of features of archaeological interest were noted during the walkover of the proposed Hourn Farm to Cottage Hill mains renewal scheme, which may be briefly described (proceeding from W to E) as follows:

1/ The pipeline route crosses a substantial tree-lined hedge boundary immediately east of Palesgate Lane which may represent the westernmost extent of the former medieval deer park of Rotherfield (based on documentary and cartographic evidence).

2/ Evidence of Second World War fortifications was noted in the vicinity of the pipeline route, including the remains of a hexagonal pillbox (constructed in 1940-41 as part of a military defence line) located at NGR TQ 54181 29902 about 50m north of the pipeline route where it enters a pasture field immediately east of woodland adjoining Palesgate Lane. No evidence was noted for the line of an associated anti-tank ditch to the SE of the pillbox site which is shown on aerial photographs dated 1944 and 1947 and appears to be crossed by the pipeline route.

3/ A series of amorphous, roughly curvilinear features were noted in the southwest corner of the same field, which are visible on 1940s aerial photographs of the study area and may represent relict water channels or cultivation features of uncertain, possibly medieval or post-medieval date.

4/ A discrete area of ground disturbance was also noted within the southeast corner of the field west of Old Forest Lane (centred on NGR TQ 54416 29818) represented by a several low amorphous banks, areas of thick scrub and a possible trackway which may have been associated with the site of a demolished outfarm of 18th-19th century date, which is first marked on an Ordnance Survey drawing of 1789 and was demolished by the early 1970s

5/ The eastern half of the pipeline route crosses a number of hedge boundaries which appear to be of medieval or post-medieval date, of particular interest being a substantial curvilinear ditch at NGR TQ 55280 29337. The route also runs close to the site of a disused marl pit of early post-medieval date at Marlpit Wood, north of Dewlands Manor, Rotherfield (NGR TQ 55284 29220)

Conclusion: Although relatively few features of archaeological interest were noted along the route, there remains potential for encountering evidence of multi-period archaeological remains, with particular reference to the sections of the route 1/running E from Palesgate Lane through the Archaeological Notification Area associated with the focus of medieval and post-medieval ironworking activity at Jarvis Brook and in the vicinity of a WWII defence line constructed in 1940, 2/extending across fields to the N of the Rotherfield Road along the course of an ancient ridgeway of prehistoric or Roman date and 3/ the section running just to the W of the post-medieval marl pit and possible limekiln site N of Dewlands Manor.

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9 Cartography

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

1597: Plan of the Manor of Rotherfield

1724: Richard Budgen's Map of the County of Sussex

1789: Thomas Budgen's Ordnance Survey Surveyor's Drawing of Crowborough and district

1825: Map of the County of Sussex by Christopher and John Greenwood

1841: Rotherfield Tithe Map (NA IR 30/35/222) and Tithe Apportionment of 1839 (NA IR29/35/222)

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

1932: Ordnance Survey 4th Edition 6-Inch Map of Sussex

1961: Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 National Survey

1971: Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 National Survey

1990: Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 National Survey

Oblique and vertical photographs of the study area dating back to 1944 were consulted at the East Sussex Record Office and the Historic England Archive, Swindon. LiDAR Imagery of the study area (DTM and DSM) was consulted using datasets held by the Environment Agency

10 Photographic Survey



Viewpoint 1: View looking SE along Palesgate Lane towards ford, showing tree lined hedgebank on E side of Palesgate Lane



Viewpoint 2: View looking SE across field used as industrial yard to E of Palesgate Lane



Viewpoint 3: View looking NE along Crowborough Ghyll stream in woodland to NE of ford at Palesgate Lane



Viewpoint 4: View looking NNE towards hexagonal concrete and brick pillbox (Type 24) situated in pasture field beyond stream and woodland to E of Palesgate Lane



Viewpoint 5: View looking SSW across W half of steeply sloping pasture field adjoining woodland to E of Palesgate Lane, showing low amorphous depressions (drainage channels?)



Viewpoint 6: View looking W (downslope) across upper part of pasture field beyond woodland to E of Palesgate Lane, showing areas of disturbed ground and possible trackway (in foreground) which may be associated with post-medieval outfarm



Viewpoint 7: View looking SW showing area of disturbed ground in SE corner of pasture field to W of Old Forest Lane (possibly relating to site of post-medieval outfarm)



Viewpoint 8: View looking NW along Old Forest Lane from junction with the B2100 (Rotherfield Road)



Viewpoint 9: View looking SE showing tree-lined hedge marking W boundary of field E of Old Forest Lane



Viewpoint 10: View looking WSW showing S boundary of pasture field N of B2100, marked by substantial hedgebank (possibly representing the S extent of the medieval deer park of Rotherfield)



Viewpoint 11: View looking W showing substantial hedge and ditch marking W boundary of pasture field N of B2100



Viewpoint 12: View looking E showing tree-lined ditch marking W boundary of field to N of the B2100



Viewpoint 13: View looking E towards tree-lined hedge marking boundary of pasture field about 100m W of Milk Lodge Farm, with spire of St Denys's church in background



Viewpoint 14: View looking NE across B2100 (Rotherfield Road), showing tree-lined hedge boundary marking S extent of field N of Rotherfield Road, to W of Milk Lodge Farm



Viewpoint 15: View looking N showing hedge marking boundary of field to S of Rotherfield Road (B2100)



Viewpoint 16: View looking ENE towards linear depression possibly marking line of relict post-medieval field boundary in field to S of Rotherfield Road, with tower of St Denys's Church in background



Viewpoint 17: View looking WSW showing substantial tree-lined hedge and ditch marking SE boundary of large field S of Rotherfield Road



Viewpoint 18: View looking NNW showing roughly metalled trackway to SE of curvilinear field boundary



Viewpoint 19: View looking SW showing overgrown pond feature of modern date to N of Marlpit Wood



Viewpoint 20: View looking N showing hedge boundary defining E extent of pasture field to W of Marlpit Wood



Viewpoint 21: View looking N towards disused water-filled marl pit of post-medieval date in Marlpit Wood



Viewpoint 22: View looking E showing tree-lined hedge marking W extent of pasture field S of Marlpit Wood (recorded as Kiln Field in the 1841 tithe award)



Viewpoint 23: View looking S towards tree-lined hedge marking N boundary of Dewlands Wood



Viewpoint 24: View looking W along metalled trackway leading to Dewlands Manor (formerly the Rectory)



Viewpoint 25: View looking W towards rusticated stone piers flanking gate to Dewlands Manor estate



Viewpoint 26: View looking N along South Street, Rotherfield at junction with Mayfield Road, with late 19th century detached villa to left of picture



Viewpoint 27: View looking NW along Mayfield Road (B2101) showing tree-lined hedge boundary on SW side of road



Viewpoint 28: View looking SSW towards modern covered reservoir on summit of Cottage Hill

Report Title		Report Ref	
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