



E DF FINCHCOCKS HOUSE TO LITTLE SCOTNEY FARM
AONB UNDERGROUNDING

Goudhurst

Kent

Watching brief report

September 2010

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National Grid Reference: 570168136704

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EDF FINCHCOCKS HOUSE TO SCOTNEY CASTLE AONB
Goudhurst
County of Kent

A report on the watching brief

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Summary (non-technical)

This report has been commissioned by The Freedom Group, on behalf of EDF Energy Networks, in order to record and assess the results of a watching brief carried out for a new 2400m cable route between Finchcocks House and Little Scotney Farm including part of the garden of Finchcocks and Scotney Castle estate, land listed in the Inventory of the Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent.

Open cut trenches, excavated with a chain digger, were monitored along the route as part of a watching brief between 26-07-2010 and 3-9-2010. Archaeological deposits were recorded in section in four areas. Natural ground varied in height between 25-45m OD.

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of a small collection of worked flint and burnt stone, and occasional pottery sherds, was recovered from below the modern ploughsoil at Little Scotney Farm. A small flint blade was also recovered on the hilltop where the route passed close to Rookery Wood and worked flint also observed in the edge of a ploughed field in the River Teise valley south of Spelmonden.

Evidence for Prehistoric activity was also recorded in two fields lying either side of a small watercourse; the field to the east of the quarry at Finchcocks Farm and the field north of Sandfield Wood. In both cases, truncated buried soil horizons containing charcoal flecks were recorded below at least 0.5m of more recent topsoil/ploughsoil deposits.

In the field east of the quarry, below a gravel terrace, a small pit containing a charcoal-rich fill was recorded in section as the trench crossed a slight plateau. Occasional iron slag and a sherd of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the buried soil layer close to the feature indicating a potential prehistoric iron working site. A flint core was also recovered from spoil suggesting earlier prehistoric activity.

In Sandfield, a possible buried soil was recorded at the base of the hill within 20m of the roadside where a piece of burnt flint and a degraded fragment of pottery were recovered from a directional drill pit. A fragment of burnt flint, pot and daub were recovered from deposits 0.55m- 0.7m below the surface further up the hillside, indicating the possibility of a buried soil or colluvial deposits. Two pieces of undiagnostic worked flint were recovered from the hilltop ploughsoil.

A Post-Medieval cobbled surface was recorded as the route passed to the west of Finchcocks house.

Table Of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Site background	1
1.2	The planning and legislative framework	1
1.3	Planning background	1
1.4	Origin and scope of the report	1
1.5	Aims and objectives	1
2	Topographical and historical background	4
2.1	Topography	4
2.1.1	<i>Geology</i>	4
2.1.2	<i>Overview of past archaeological investigations</i>	4
2.2	Historical background	5
3	The watching brief	8
3.1	Methodology	8
3.2	Results of the watching brief	9
3.2.1	<i>Results Area 1; Eastern section to stream</i>	9
3.2.2	<i>Area 2; Stream to quarry at Finchcocks Farm</i>	11
3.2.3	<i>Area 3 Hop-Gardens</i>	13
3.2.4	<i>Area 4 NW facing slope from Finchcocks Farm to Little Scotney Farm</i>	15
3.2.5	<i>Area 5 Excavations in Little Scotney Farm</i>	18
3.2.6	<i>Area 6; Spelmonden to River Bewl</i>	20
4	Potential of archaeology	21
4.1	Original research aims	21
4.2	New research aims	22
4.3	Significance of the data	22
5	Publication and archiving	22
6	Acknowledgements	23
7	Bibliography	23
8	NMR OASIS archaeological report form	24

List Of Illustrations

Front cover: Trench to the rear of Finchcocks House

Fig 1 Site location plan

Fig 2 Trench locations

Fig 3 North facing section in DD pt 1B, Sandfield

Fig 4 North facing section in Joint bay 2C

Fig 5 North facing section, 100m west of Joint bay 2C

Fig 6 North facing section of pit 108m west of Joint bay 1C

Fig 7 Two brick drains in NW facing section in hop-garden Area 3

Fig 8 West facing section 21m south of route 4A start, showing end of clinker surface and edge of cobbled surface

Fig 9 East facing section in DDpit 5B and trench extension in Little Scotney Farm

1 Introduction

1.1 Site background

The watching brief took place along a route between Finchcocks House and Little Scotney Farm, near Goudhurst, Kent, hereafter called 'the site' (see Fig 1). The centre of the route is at OS National Grid Reference 570168 136704. Modern ground level along the route varied between 25m and 30m OD. The site code is KT-FSE10.

A desk top *Archaeological (impact) assessment* was previously prepared by MOLA, which covers the whole area of the site (MOLA, 2008). This document should be referred to for information on the natural geology, archaeological and historical background of the site, and the initial assessment of its archaeological potential.

This document, and the method statement, *EDF Cable and Small Substation Installations: Standard Method Statement for Archaeological Investigations* (MOLA, 2009), informed the design for the watching brief, designated 'A basic observation and recording watching brief', which was eventually carried out between July and September 2010.

1.2 The planning and legislative framework

The legislative and planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological desk based assessment and Method Statement* which formed the project design for the watching brief (see DBA Section 3, MOLA, 2008)

1.3 Planning background

Statutory undertakings, such as cable laying works are exempt from the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and are therefore not subject to planning application. The full planning framework in which the archaeological exercise took place was summarised in the *Archaeological desk-based assessment* (MoLAS, 2009).

1.4 Origin and scope of the report

This report was commissioned by Savills on behalf of EDF Energy Networks Ltd and produced by the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MOL Archaeology). The report has been prepared within the terms of the relevant Standard specified by the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA, 2001).

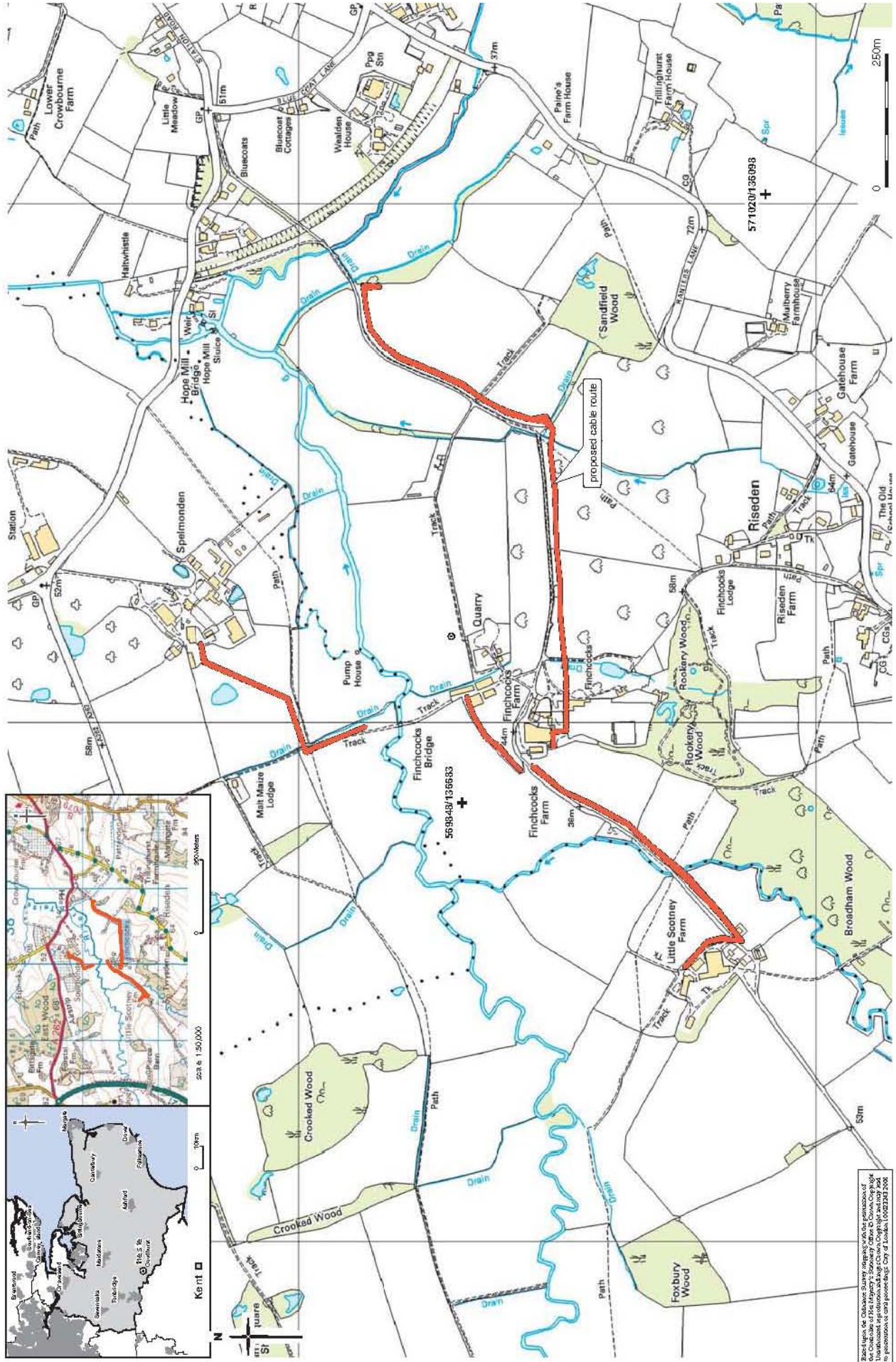
The purpose of the watching brief was to determine whether archaeological remains or features were present on the site and, if so, to record the nature and extent of such remains. The purpose of the present report is to analyse the results of the excavation against the original research aims, and to suggest what further work, including analysis or publication (if any), should now take

1.5 Aims and objectives

The following research aims and objectives were established in the *Method Statement* for the watching brief (Section 2;2, MOLA09):

The limited extent and linear character of cable laying works, where routes may pass through areas of widely differing archaeological character, makes it unreasonable to establish any detailed archaeological research objectives. The archaeological brief is essentially limited to establishing where, if at all, archaeological deposits may survive (presence/absence), recording where necessary, and to ensuring that the proposed groundworks do not involve the destruction of any archaeological deposits of major regional or national significance. However, beyond these generalised aims the following broad research questions will always be relevant:

- What are the earliest and latest deposits identified?
- What is the nature and significance of any surviving archaeological remains?
- Can evidence from the watching brief add further information to existing evidence, gained through field walking and previous excavation?



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Fig 1. Site location

2 Topographical and historical background

A brief resume of the topographical, archaeological and historical background is provided below, but the *Desk-based Assessment* (section 4, MOLA 2009) should be referred to for fuller detail.

2.1 Topography

The area lies in the High Weald, a ridge of clay-covered sandstone hills located between the North and South Downs in East Sussex and Kent. Characteristic features of the High Weald landscape are the rolling hills, studded with sandstone outcrops and cut by streams to form steep-sided ravines; small irregular-shaped fields, abundant woodlands, patches of heathland, scattered farmsteads and sunken lanes and paths.

The route is located on gently undulating land, rising on either side of the Teise valley. The route does not cross the River Teise itself, but does cross three other watercourses, flowing northwards into the Teise, one of these is the River Bewl. The Teise valley is located at c 35m OD. Surrounding the river valley, the land rises steeply to heights of over 100m OD at the settlements of Goudhurst and Kildown.

The northern section of the route rises from a height of c 35m OD, close to the River Teise, northwards to a height of c 45m OD to the immediate west of Spelmonden Farm.

The eastern section of the route falls gradually from a height of c 44m OD at Finchcocks House, through undulating former parkland, which is crossed by two small streams, to a height of c 35m OD close to the confluence of the River Teise and a small un-named stream.

The western section of the route descends from a height of c 40m OD, to the north of Finchcocks House, into the River Bewl valley, to a height of c 35m OD, then rises to a height of c 45m OD at Little Scotney Farm.

2.1.1 Geology

The route is located on the Hastings Group; a Cretaceous series of clay and sand beds, comprising Ashdown Beds, Tunbridge Wells Sand and Wadhurst Clay and containing layers of ironstone. There is alluvium present along the line of the River Teise. There are also localised islands of gravel, as indicated by gravel quarrying close to Finchcocks House.

2.1.2 Overview of past archaeological investigations

In 2001, the National Trust undertook an extensive historic landscape survey of Scotney Castle estate. The area covered by this survey includes the western section of the route. The survey used historic maps and accounts and field walkover surveys to identify features such as saw pits, oast houses and hop pickers huts, as well as undated landscape features that may pre-date the estate, such as field systems, earthwork boundaries, and hollow-ways (sunken medieval roads). Other than this non-intrusive survey, no archaeological evaluations or excavations have been carried out within the area of the route. Consequently, current understanding of the nature and distribution of human activity within the area crossed by the route is very limited, in particular for the prehistoric and Roman periods.

2.2 Historical background

The route crosses two areas of land listed in the Inventory of the Historic Parks and Gardens of Kent, prepared by the Kent Gardens Trust. These are the garden of 'Finchcocks', an 18th century Grade I listed house and the estate of Scotney Castle, a later medieval fortified house. The route lies within three historic parishes. Lamberhurst, Horsmonden and Goudhurst. The route lies in the administrative Borough of Tunbridge Wells in the County of Kent.

2.2.1.1 Prehistoric

There are no known Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age sites in the study corridor. One Bronze Age site is recorded in the National Monuments Record. This was a hoard of bronze palstaves found in Goudhurst, c 1.6km north-east of the route. The current understanding of the later prehistoric period in the study corridor is limited due to the lack of past investigation, and the distribution of known sites and finds dated to this period as recorded by the Kent SMR reflects this. The location of the route in the Teise Valley, close to the confluence of several watercourses, indicates a good potential location for later prehistoric settlement, due to the predictable natural resources and transport and communication routes.

The exploitation of the Weald for iron ore is known to have begun in the Iron Age; however, only a few ironworking sites dating to this period have been found, none of which are within the study corridor. Ironstone was extracted from the clay, where it was exposed in areas of cleared woodland and where streams cut through soft overlying clay to ironstone deposits. The readily accessible wood resource was used to make charcoal for fuelling furnaces and smelting the iron ore.

2.2.1.2 Roman

There is no evidence of any ironworking or other Roman activity in the study corridor. As stated previously the lack of previous archaeological investigation means the current understanding of Roman period activity in the study area is limited.

2.2.1.3 Medieval

By the end of the early medieval period, this area of Kent was yet to be organised into hundreds, indicating the population of the area was particularly low. Place names mainly relate to landscape features and woodland. The place name element 'hurst', in Lamberhurst and Goudhurst comes from the Old English 'hyrst' meaning a wooded hill; and the 'den' element in Spelmonden and Horsmonden derives from the Old English 'denn' meaning woodland pasture. Dens originated as seasonal settlements, where farmers camped whilst tending to livestock brought to the area for seasonal grazing. Over time these settlements became more permanent and some grew into villages, for example Horsmonden. Others, for example Spelmonden, remained as single farmsteads. The manors of Finchcocks and Spelmonden were documented in the 13th century (Glover 1976, 167, 178) and manor houses are thought to have existed on both manors. The barn and oast house at Little Scotney Farm date to the 16th century and the farm possibly originated as a lodge on the Scotney Castle estate. Finchcocks and Scotney both get their names from the families who owned the manors from the 13th century. A family named Finchcocks, or Finchcox, is recorded as living in the area in 1256 and it is thought that at this time the manor house was located some way to the east of the present building. No evidence for archaeological activity has been recorded within the study

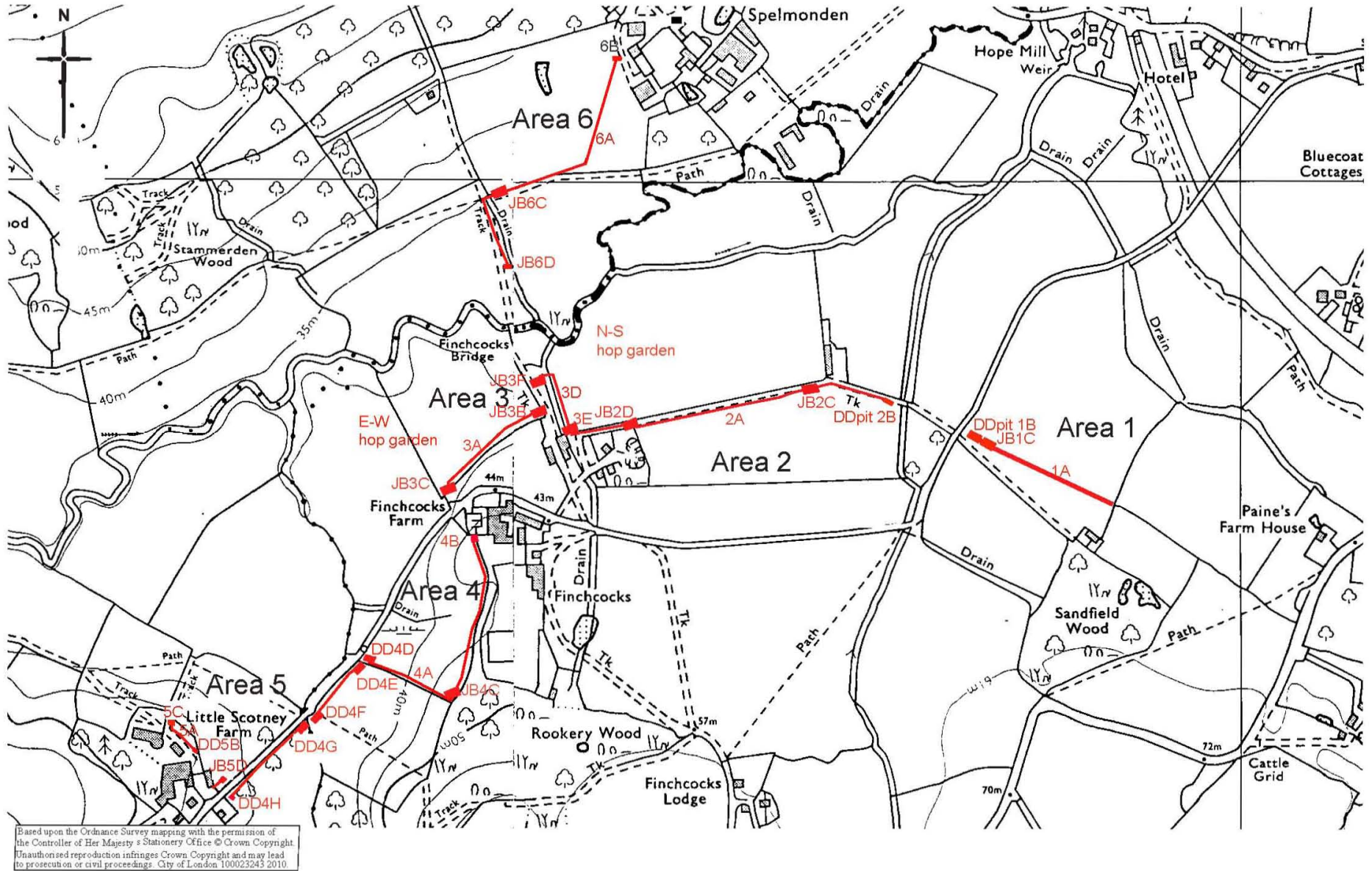
area along the route, but this may be due in part to the lack of previous archaeological investigations carried out in the High Weald area as a whole.

2.2.1.4 Post-Medieval

The present Finchcocks House was constructed in 1725 by Edward Bathurst (1680–1772), a London barrister and Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple, who inherited the manor from an uncle in 1718. Bathurst moved to the manor from London and, after marrying a local heiress, Elizabeth Stringer of Triggs, rebuilt Finchcocks at great expense. Finchcocks was sold in 1860 to Edward Hussey of Scotney Castle. In 1918 it was sold to Captain A W J Cecil, however the home farm and most of the land remained the property of the Husseys. In 1935, Finchcocks was bought by Mr F M Lycett Green, who shared the house with twenty-four evacuated schoolboys during World War II, and later Finchcocks was requisitioned by the army. After the war Finchcocks was threatened by the possibility of being divided into flats, however this was prevented, and in 1960 it found a new role as the home for the Legat Ballet School, under the leadership of Madame Nicolaeva-Legat. In 1971, the house was bought by its present owner, the pianist and collector, Richard Burnett. It is now home to collection of over 100 historical keyboard instruments.

The landscape of the study corridor remained largely the same throughout the Post-Medieval period. Hop growing and orchards became more prolific, and many farmsteads had their own oast houses, used for drying hops. The settlement pattern over the route had been fully established by this period and has not altered.

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Fig 2 Areas of excavation (based on Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map of 1976 not to scale).

3 The watching brief

3.1 Methodology

All archaeological excavation and recording during the watching brief was done in accordance with the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2009) and the *Archaeological Site Manual* (MoLAS, 1994). All sections of the route were monitored by Museum of London staff.

Contractors excavated a 0.3m wide cable trench using a chain-digger, excavating to 1.2m depth below the ground surface.

Joint bays, 2m x1m x1.2m depth were excavated to join cables at 250m intervals along the route.

Directional drilling was used in 3 areas. For each drilled section, 2m x1m x 1,2m depth send and receive pits were excavated by machine.

The excavated route was recorded by EDF surveying team offsetting from adjacent standing walls and field boundaries and plotted on to a Survey (Drg. No. xx, xx Associates). This information was then plotted onto the OS grid.

The heights of observations and/or archaeological remains were recorded relative to ground level, but where archaeological features were noted, OD levels were provided by EDF for relevant ground surface levels using GPS.

Where relevant, sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20; numbered contexts were allocated where appropriate.

The site has produced: 9 trench location plans; 48 context records; 61 section drawings; 61 photographs. In addition 1/2 box of finds were recovered from the site.

The site finds and records can be found under the site code KT-FSY10 in the MoL archive.

3.2 Results of the watching brief

The results have been recorded in 6 sections. For all trench locations see Fig 2
For each section, a brief description of the geological/archaeological deposits seen during excavation has been included.

3.2.1 Results Area 1; Eastern section to stream

3.2.1.1 Methodology

The route, 1A, was excavated by chain-digger for 260m westwards, uphill across a grass field (Greater Sandfield), to pole number 245873 situated just below the brow of a hill.

The route was excavated, from a directional drill pit [1B] located 5m NE of the junction where the track to Sandfield wood joins the road to Finchcocks House, 8m east of the field boundary at the road, Excavations included Joint bay 1C, located 20m along the trench from the start of DDpit1B.

3.2.1.2 Geology as seen

The land sloped down from both the north and east with DDpit 1B located at the lowest point of the field. The hilltop flattened out after 70m from the start of excavation. The downward slope continues beyond the 'new' road so it is possible that a natural terrace is present, (earlier maps show a wooded shaw,) which dictated the positioning of the road and allowed colluvial deposits to build up in this area.

Generally, the soils are very mobile, with metal hop-ties becoming buried within a few years.

The deposits showed little variation due to the dry conditions and smearing of deposits by the chain digger, but hand cleaning enabled some variation to be recorded.

Upper deposits consisted of a 0.3m depth of pale grey brown sandy soil, the modern topsoil/ploughsoil, overlaying a further 0.2m of similar sandy clay deposit containing more stone at the base. Occasional roof-tile was present to a depth of 0.4m below the surface and the presence of deeper ploughsoil to 0.5m may relate to an episode of post-war sub-soiling.

The lowest natural geology across the upper slopes and hill top appeared to consist of a mid-brown moist sand deposit below 1m, which appeared deeper at the base of the slope. The sand was overlain by a varying depth of pale, yellowish-brown sandy-clay, which contained some poorly formed sand rock patches and some loose flat sandstone/mudstone bedding.

Between the upper and lower natural deposits was a varying depth of between 0.2-0.4m of pale brown sandy-clay possibly a colluvial based sub-soil, containing occasional stone and occasionally some archaeological finds, with shallower deposits present on the hill-top.

3.2.1.3 Joint bay 1C

In Joint bay 1C, at 18m-20m east of the road, the natural pale sandy clay and stone deposit could be seen at the base of the trench rising with the slope of the hill. The lower deposits seen in section to the east of this excavation appeared to consist entirely of moist brown sand with occasional stone pieces, often 'tumbled' and it is presumed that this deposit is colluvial in origin, although a natural outcrop of the sand may be present at the base of the hill. Charcoal was seen at 0.6m below the

surface at 14m in an otherwise uniform moist, brown sandy-clay and again at 0.7m at 13m, suggesting colluvial deposits.

3.2.1.4 DDpit 1B, 11-8m; fig 3

Water used during directional drilling softened the very dry deposits, enabling sections to be examined in more detail.

The upper 0.5m of the deposit consisted of 0.2m of grey-brown topsoil (O1) over a 0.2m depth of pale brown sandy clay (O2) with a 100mm layer of similar sandy clay containing more frequent stone, at the base (O3). Occasional roof tile fragments were present, mainly in the upper 0.4m indicating a ploughsoil layer and a single fragment of burnt flint was also retrieved at this depth.

A possible colluvial layer or truncated buried soil lay below this layer.

This consisted of a 0.15m depth of, slightly darker grey-brown, fine sandy-clay (O4) with very occasional charcoal fragments present in this layer at around 0.55m below the surface, Layer (O5) lying between 0.65-0.8m below the surface, appeared to consist of faint narrow 'V' shaped undulations of dark and light soil/sand and it is possible that this may represent the remains of a buried ploughsoil, although soil leaching may also have produced this effect. This deposit contained 1 piece of degraded pot, a flint chip and frequent charcoal. The charcoal appeared to lie mainly at the base and in the darker zones of the layer. As the layer above this also contained very occasional charcoal, it was not clear whether these two layers were separate deposits or the remains of a single buried topsoil/ ploughsoil. The deposits appeared to merge into a deeper, more uniform, mid-brown sandy deposit west of the pit excavation, so it is possible that the upper layer (O4) represents the thinning out of a colluvial deposit. Layer (O6) below consisted of pale firm sandy clay with some pale patches of poorly formed sand rock, presumably the natural sandy clay geology

3.2.1.5 Route 1A, Hillslope

A piece of burnt flint was retrieved from mid-brown sandy-clay in the section at 0.7m below the surface at 70m from the start and a piece of prehistoric pot and fragment of daub retrieved from 0.55m below the surface at 50m from the start, indicating buried soils or colluvial deposits within the sub-soil layer, presumably colluvial deposits having filled natural undulations in the ground surface, but it is possible that cut features are present. The dry deposits, time restraints and narrow trench hindered interpretation.

Two fragments of worked flint were recovered from spoil on the top of the hill, suggesting prehistoric activity in this area.

3.2.1.6 Conclusions

Un-diagnostic worked flint on the hill top combined with fragments of burnt flint, charcoal and prehistoric pottery (?Bronze Age) in colluvial soils suggest prehistoric activity in the area, probably focussed on the hilltop. The presence of a spring to the north-east and a small watercourse to the west may have provided local water resources. It is likely that colluvial deposits from the north and east have filled natural undulations on the hilltop and on the lower slopes, possibly preserving in situ remnants of buried soils and possibly cut features. Quarrying for sand may have disturbed deposits.

3.2.2 Area 2; Stream to quarry at Finchcocks Farm

3.2.2.1 Methodology

A 0.3m width trench was excavated 6.5m inside the field boundary westwards from DDpit 2B, (5m west of the stream, 4m inside the field south of the path,) to the gate at the top of the hill adjacent to the quarry and the trench continued along the centre of the track to the rear of the farm buildings.

Joint bay 2C was located 24m west of the field corner (measured from the N-S field boundary) Joint pit 2D lay 5m outside the gate, at the top of the field.

3.2.2.2 Geology

The geology in the field west of the watercourse differed from that on the east. A gravel terrace forms the main part of the hill and the steep sides of the 18th century quarry/sandpit behind Finchcox cottage indicate that the sandy gravel had been quarried extensively. A slight plateau was present 70-100m west of the northern angle of the field, below the rising terrace.

Natural deposits overlying the lower slopes of the gravel terrace consisted of sandy-clay with stone overlain by some colluvial deposits, with possibly alluvial deposits in the valley bottom. A possible buried soil was observed in joint bay 2C close to the field corner and further inclusions of charcoal, slag and pottery suggest this layer to be present to 110m west of the corner.

3.2.2.3 Results; route 2A

Deposits after 10m inside the lower field consisted of a 0.25m depth of topsoil/ploughsoil overlying very dry, pale sandy clay with rootlets present to 1m depth, suggesting a mobile soil. A combination of alluvium and colluvium may have formed this deposit. DDpit 2A was completely waterlogged and deposits not seen.

By 20m, 0.8m of very dry pale brown, sandy clay with occasional tile at 0.4m overlay a mid orange-brown sandy clay to depth.

Between 40m and 70m, the 0.25m depth of grey-brown topsoil overlay pale brown dry sandy-clay containing occasional tile at 0.6m and coal at 0.5m, presumably a more recent colluvial soil, with some probably natural, patchy layered sand below 0.8m.

At 70m and up to the field corner adjacent to the field containing the 'Hop-huts' and close to a large oak tree, the lower deposits below a 0.4m depth of modern topsoil/plough soil overlay a dry more stony sandy-clay. Deposits here appeared more uniform consisting of soft pale brown sandy clay to 1m below the surface with a slightly darker sandy clay at the base of the trench, which may be residual from the matrix of the gravel terrace. This deposit of sandy clay may include a build up of colluvial deposits, as tile was present up to 0.6m below the surface. Some pieces of iron rich stone were present at 0.5m below the surface at 80m.

3.2.2.4 Joint bay C. 24m W of corner; fig 4

Deposits in Joint bay 2C were examined in more detail. Upper deposits consisted of (07) a 0.25m depth of dry, grey-brown topsoil/ploughsoil overlying (08) a dry pale brown sandy-clay deposit with increasing amounts of stone at the base lying 0.4m below the surface, probably representing a deeper ploughsoil.

Below this stony layer, a 0.2m depth deposit (09), with poorly defined almost vertical undulations of mid brown and pale brown sandy-clay soils was observed. This deposit was similar to (05), seen in Area 1. This may represent a relic ploughsoil' although no dating was recovered in this excavation. Deposits below this layer at 0.6m below the surface, consisted of mid-brown sandy-clay with some paler patches (10), possibly an early colluvial layer but more likely the natural geology.

3.2.2.5 50-100m; fig 5

A slight plateau was present at this point in the field.

Deposits remained fairly consistent on the gentle hill-slope, with the lower deposit of mid-brown sandy-clay, darkening and becoming sticky and more stony below 1m. Upper deposits at 50-80m west of the field corner, consisted of 0.2m of topsoil/ploughsoil overlying a 0.3m depth of a similar buried ploughsoil layer to (09), seen in the joint bay, which occasionally contained charcoal flecks between 0.40-0.50m below the surface.

Between 90-100m deposits appeared more disturbed, with some charcoal appearing in the lower topsoil. (20) The underlying layer (21) a 0.3m depth of mid brown sandy clay appeared disturbed and had an undulating horizon with (22), the natural pale-brown sandy clay. A piece of prehistoric pot was retrieved at 100m from (21) at 0.4m below the surface and 3 pieces of iron rich slag also retrieved at 0.5m below the surface at 100m. Underlying gravel deposits (23) remained consistent.

3.2.2.6 Feature at 108m; fig 6

A U-shaped feature, measuring 1m wide, 1m depth, at 0.6m below the surface and containing a charcoal-rich sandy clay fill was recorded in the north facing section, with centre at 108m from the field corner at the hop-huts. No sign of any cut was seen in the upper 0.5m of deposits, presumably the depth of the plough line or more recent build up of colluvial soils forming Topsoil/Ploughsoil (11) and subsoil (12) as in JB1C to 0.5m below the surface

3.2.2.7 South facing section

The cut was not visible on the south facing section, although a little charcoal was present at 0.6m below the surface so presumably the feature is a pit and the south facing section contained only the edge of the feature. Deposits in the south facing section were observed as 0.5m of pale topsoil/subsoil with a deposit of clean brown, sandy-clay extending to the darker gritty sand below 1m.

3.2.2.8 North facing section

The top of the cut appeared to originate in a similar layer to the relic soil layer recorded as (09) in JB1C, and (21) at 90-100m here recorded as (13), a 0.25m depth of greyish brown fine sandy clay.

This layer was not clearly defined to the west of the feature, being incorporated into, or replaced by soft sandy clay as the underlying gravel terrace increased in depth. Disturbance from a water service running alongside the trench made interpretation difficult beyond this point.

The main cut [14] was observed on the west side,(uphill), clearly cutting through the natural, seen as a white sandy-clay layer within the pale brown sandy clay((18)) above the darker more gritty sandy gravel layer(19) below 1m. The cut was poorly defined on the east side and deposits appeared blurred. A 0.15m wide band of soft silt (17) lay below the main fill and may represent a deeper original cut, or leaching from the pit cut [14].

3.2.2.9 Fills (15) (16)

The pit cut [14] contained lower fill (16), a soft, mid-brown, relatively stone free and charcoal rich fill. A small sample of the fill was washed. The sandy clay deposit around individual flecks of the charcoal contained slightly pink clay rounded pieces, indicating heating, but no other inclusions were present other than a small amount of the natural gravel and no large pieces of charcoal could be retrieved.

Lying above this layer was a 0.2m depth of stony, firm sandy clay, containing moderate charcoal, (15) which may be an upper fill or backfill. This layer appeared to slump down the slope over the edges of fill(15), but as the sides of the pit were poorly defined it may be that the original cut was wider and incorporated the band of silt (17), which could only be seen on the lower west side of the feature. No dating evidence was retrieved from the fill.

3.2.2.10 Gravel terrace; 110m to top

No further evidence of prehistoric activity was seen on the steeper slope or hilltop.

A broken water service disturbed deposits to the west of the feature, but by 130m, deposits consisted of 0.4m of topsoil/subsoil, with the prehistoric layer being replaced by 0.2m of mid-brown stony clay.

The upper deposits overlay the natural pale-brown sandy clay and a gradually increasing depth of dark sandy gravel to depth until in JB2C on the hill top, the topsoil/ploughsoil to a depth of 0.4m directly overlay the gravel. No change was recorded until halfway down the track, where brick rubble replaced the topsoil. The gravel deposit in the track contained frequent roots and may have been made-ground.

3.2.2.11 Rear of Farm Buildings

Deposits on the steep bank to the rear of the farm buildings consisted of 0.4m of topsoil and frequent tile overlaying a 0.2m layer of compact natural stone in sandy clay. Some dumped chalk and flint was present in the upper 0.6m of the section. The gravel was present below 0.6m.

3.2.2.12 Conclusions

The slight plateau below the steeper slope of the gravel terrace has provided evidence of prehistoric activity and potentially a prehistoric iron production site, although iron stone does occur naturally in the soil.

A build-up of modern colluvium may have protected underlying prehistoric features from erosion and farming activity to some degree. A flint core present in spoil suggests this area was occupied prior to the Iron Age.

Combined with evidence from Areas 1, 4, 5 and 6 it would appear that the resources of the Teise valley were being utilised during the late prehistoric period.

3.2.3 Area 3 Hop-Gardens

3.2.3.1 Methodology

The route was excavated through 2 sections of hop-garden. N-S from the end of section 2 at the rear of the farm buildings at Finchcocks Farm, along the hop garden and crossing over a small drainage ditch, where the cable connected with existing underground services and the section to Spelmonden. The excavation resumed 40m south of JB 3E at JB 3B, at the gateway entrance into the western hop-garden and

continued for 204m E-W along the track of the hop garden, finishing at JB 3C close to the track leading back onto the road, opposite the collection of renovated old farm buildings to the west of Finchcocks House.

3.2.3.2 Results Western hop garden

JB 3B, located at the hedge line in the track outside the hop-garden revealed existing services in a disturbed pale reddish brown sandy clay. In the entrance and majority of the track, deposits consisted of 0.3m of made ground consisting of compact clay with stone, brick, tile and occasional, coal or clinker with an additional 0.2m depth of disturbed but compact sandy clay in places. This is consistent with the requirement of an initial sub-soiling when creating the hop-garden to enable the hops to form a deep root base.

Pale reddish brown sandy clay was present to 1.2m below the surface and this deposit was moist below 0.5m.

At 125m along the track, some slight variation in the deposits was observed. Here 0.2m of topsoil overlay stony clay to 0.35 and the underlying sandy clay was slightly patchy and contained some manganese or similar mineral. A single piece of charcoal was observed at 0.6m below the surface at the interface with the more moist sandy-clay below.

Deposits at the end of the section, in the bank north of the road consisted of 0.4m of stony topsoil overlying three deposits of sandy clay, 0.15m of dark orange sand, overlaying 0.3m of very pale brown sandy clay with orange brown sandy clay present below 0.9m.

3.2.3.3 Brick drains; fig 7

Two brick drains were recorded on a curve in the track at the end of the excavation 3m apart, at 190m (28) and 187m (34) from the start of excavation (drain 187m located 16m north of the road). The position of the drains, located at the end of a drainage ditch, south of the track at the base of a high bank, suggests their purpose was to divert excess drainage water into the hop-garden.

Both drains were similarly constructed with tops 0.5m below the surface and cut into a soft brown sandy clay (30). Construction trench cuts [25] and [31] could be seen through upper deposits measuring 0.5m wide at 0.3m below the surface and contained some brick rubble in respective fills (26) and (32).

Topsoil and overlying deposits to 0.3m (24) had not been recently disturbed.

Drain sides consisted of two '4 inch' courses of bricks 0.4m high, 0.3m apart. The drain (34) at 187m was topped with a chalk block and the drain (28) at 190m topped with a covering of roof tile. Both drains contained a fine clean silty fill, respectively (29) and (35).

3.2.3.4 Results; Northern hop-garden

The route was excavated from the end of section 2, northwards toward the River Teise.

Upper deposits were similar to those in the western hop-garden track and consisted of 100mm of topsoil overlying 0.2m of yellowish brown stone-rich sandy clay. This overlay a further 0.2m depth of pale to mid-brown sandy-clay which contained some tile and coal fragments. The remains of a hop-post were observed 20m from the start dug to a depth of 0.6m below the surface

Lower deposits consisted of a mid-brown sandy clay deposit, overlying a darker reddish brown deposit of gravel-rich clay, which gradually increased towards the bottom of the slope (40-50m)

At 57m from the start, the 0.25m topsoil/ploughsoil overlay the mid brown gravel-rich sandy clay to 0.7m below the surface and a 0.3m wide thin patch of charcoal and roof tile was observed at 0.6m below the surface. The base of this upper deposit undulated and from this point, to the end of the excavation-90m from the start, lower deposits consisted of a soft, dry, pale yellowish-brown, mineral-rich sandy-clay deposit. Presumably this represents the convergence of the gravel terrace and alluvial river valley deposits.

The trench was excavated across the drainage ditch at this point, where deposits were too disturbed to record. Excavation continued toward the track leading between Finchcocks Farm and the bridge, where deposits were seen to consist of 0.5m of modern made-ground overlying the original ground surface, which sloped toward the drainage ditch. Excavation in JB 3F showed a ceramic land drain at 1.25m below the present surface. The original surface consisted of 0.2m of grey-brown topsoil overlying 0.2m of darker grey-brown subsoil, which overlay a dark brown clean soft clay.

3.2.3.5 Conclusions

Evidence was seen for deep ploughing required to establish the hop-gardens and also post-medieval drainage relating to the hop-gardens.

3.2.4 Area 4 NW facing slope from Finchcocks Farm to Little Scotney Farm

3.2.4.1 Methodology; route 4A

Cable was laid southwards from the old substation (4B) along the field edge (west of the Ha-Ha and Finchcocks House) avoiding the canopies of the oak trees, to the field corner at Rookery wood and JB4C located 9.m west of Rookery wood and 6m north of the E-W field boundary. The trench was then excavated downhill to DDpit 4D. Trench was excavated southwards from DDpit 4E along the lower field edge to DD pit 4F (river crossing) and continued from DDpit 4G parallel with the road and the avenue of Lime trees to DDpit 4H south of Little Scotney farm.

3.2.4.2 Section 4A; West of Finchcocks House

At the start of excavation as the curving trench was excavated from the substation past the property boundary just past the limits of the existing sub-station, 2 cast iron pipes and a cast iron boiler door were removed from the trench at 0.5m below the surface. Deposits consisted of orange sandy clay. Soil was contaminated to 1m depth within the substation and was removed before construction of the concrete plinth.

3.2.4.3 Cobbled surface; fig 8

The remains of a floor/track surface, lying immediately below the topsoil, were observed between 13m-24m from the start of excavation.

At 13m, excavation revealed a 0.2m depth of topsoil (36) overlying 100mm of clinker in topsoil (37). Occasional blue and white china was present within the clinker.

A 100mm layer of very pale yellowish white clay(39) lay below the clinker layer. At 14m the clinker layer appeared slightly lower, overlain by a 100mm layer of brick

rubble pieces and 0.2m of topsoil. At 15m the clinker layer appeared more substantial and sloped up to lie below 100mm of topsoil and continued until at 20m from the start, the clinker was replaced by a layer of black ironstone cobbles (38) with occasional roof-tile and unfroged brick pieces, which may have been repairs. Turf overlay the surface and some clinker was present in the turf, presumably either a layer of clinker had been applied over the cobbles or loose clinker had washed into the uneven surface.

This cobbled surface continued for 4m where the laying of 2 large ceramic pipes had disturbed deposits for 3m. No further evidence of the surface was observed. A local ex-resident suggested a barn used to stand on the spot and there is a similar cobbled surface in front of one of the buildings within the grounds of Finchcocks. Estate records may be able to provide more evidence.

3.2.4.4 Route south past Finchcocks to joint bay 4C

Typically deposits were seen to consist of 0.3m of pale brownish grey topsoil/ploughsoil with tile fragments and occasionally glass present. Lower deposits consisted of pale yellowish-brown sandy-clay to depth, with patches of iron-stone occurring at around 0.5m below the surface. A possible track/surface was observed at the large oak tree 40m from the start, where a layer of ironstone rich stony clay was present at 0.4m below the surface and occasional brick and clinker present in the lower part of the topsoil deposit, but this may have been disturbance due to land drains. Natural deposits were finer and paler with more mineral flecks(/manganese) toward the south.

A flint blade was recovered from spoil 20m north of the field boundary close to the Joint bay 4C .

3.2.4.5 Joint bay 4C downhill to DDpit 4D hedge crossing-North side (receive pit 26m from road boundary, 6m N of hedgerow)

Deposits remained relatively unchanged, but in joint bay 4C at the top of the hill, the top of a sand deposit was observed at 1.2m below the surface and this was present below 0.9m for the remainder of the route. Although the field boundary for the old orchard could be seen as an earthwork between 36-39m SE of the road, it was not visible as a bank and ditch in section during excavation and was presumably a hedge boundary.

Deposits were slightly disturbed in DDpit 4D with 0.2m of grey topsoil overlying 0.2m of compact pale yellow brown sandy clay with tile present at 0.3m. Ironstone was present at 0.5m below the surface and lower deposits consisted of pale yellowish-brown sandy clay with manganese flecking. A piece of brick was present at 0.7m below the surface, but trenching revealed a large drain had been laid at 27-30m from the road and brick rubble incorporated with the backfill.

3.2.4.6 DDpit 4E hedge crossing-south side and route to DD4F (Send pit, 6m south of hedge, 15m from field boundary)

The deposits in excavation DDpit4E consisted of a 0.3m depth of loose grey-brown topsoil overlying 0.2m depth of fine, pale-brown sandy-clay. Inclusions included a nail at 0.32m below the surface and occasional large charcoal pieces at 0.4m. Below this layer, two similar 0.15m deep pale brown sandy clay layers were present, with charcoal present in the lower deposit between 0.7m and 0.8m. Roots were present to

0.6m depth. No dating evidence was recovered from these layers. The underlying deposit consisted of a pale, yellowish brown sandy-clay to the base of excavation 1.2m with occasional manganese inclusions. This excavation would also have been located in the old Orchard.

Along the route joining the 2 DDpits, deposits were seen to consist of 0.3m of pale grey-brown topsoil/ploughsoil over a 0,2m depth of pale yellow brown clay to 0.5m depth. Coal, tile and occasional charcoal fragments were present in the upper 0.3m. Occasional ironstone was present at around 0.5m. Deposits gradually became darker with depth with the sandy clay being mid-brown below 0.7m.

3.2.4.7 River crossing Directional drill pits DDpt 4F, 4G

North side DD4F (receive pit located 5m inside new footpath, 12m inside road edge; 10m from river centre.)

South side DD4G (send pit located 20m along road edge 8m inside field.)

Excavation for drilling under the tributary of the River Bewl revealed little information. Both excavations showed a 0,2m depth of topsoil overlying a uniform sandy clay deposit to depth.

Manganese was present below 0.75m and the deposit was moist at this level, but no layering within the deposits was observed.

A small amount of coal was present in topsoil in DD4F on the north side and more frequent stone was present within the 0.2m depth of deposit at the base of topsoil in DD4G on the south side

3.2.4.8 Route from DD4G to DDpit 4H Little Scotney farm (located 16m East of the Bungalow, 8m SE of the field boundary)

The route followed the avenue of Lime trees and road to Little Scotney Farm, 9m inside the present field boundary. The trench was continued beyond DDpit4G to the bungalow boundary and LV cable laid to the back of the building using a mole. Deposits in this area consisted of 0.2m of very dry pale grey-brown sandy topsoil over a pale-yellow-brown sandy clay with some stone to 0.4m below the surface.

Underlying deposits appeared to be a pale, orange-brown sandy clay darkening with depth, probably colluvial in origin. A lead feeder pipe, carrying water from nearby springs was seen 1m to the SW adjacent to the DDpit excavation at 0.5m depth below the surface.

3.2.4.9 Conclusions

The cobbled surface and clinker area to the rear of Finchcocks house are likely to date to the Post-Medieval period. Further excavation may be able to determine if this represents a track or floor surface. Some evidence of Post-Medieval activity was observed taking the form of more frequent debris in the topsoil/ploughsoil, especially in the area of the old orchard.

A single flint blade found in spoil close to Rookery wood indicates a possible prehistoric presence on the hilltop.

3.2.5 Area 5 Excavations in Little Scotney Farm

3.2.5.1 Methodology route 5A

Several excavations were undertaken within the farm which lies on a plateau overlooking the river Bewl valley to the NE, with hills rising behind the farm to the west.

Directional drill receive pit 5B was located 54m along farm track, 10m inside verge (20m NW of the existing stable block) and adjacent to a newly created sand-school. A trench was dug from DD5B to the new substation, 5C located 104m along farm track 5m inside verge 100m N of the DD pit.

A joint bay was dug 15m NE to the rear of the stable block and a trench excavated to the gateway at the southern end of the stable block, where a LV cable was laid by mole to the farm buildings.

3.2.5.2 Results DDpit 5B

Deposits in DD5B consisted of 0.2m of dry grey-brown topsoil (40) overlaying a 0.4m depth of mid-yellowish-brown sandy-clay (41) and (42), extending to 0.5-0.6m below the surface although the horizon was blurred. Within the upper part of this deposit (41), at 0.4m below the surface, 4 pieces of very sharp black worked flint were recovered, with occasional charcoal flecks and burnt stone also present. Underlying deposits consisted of a clean moist pinkish-brown sandy-clay (43), (colluvium), to depth.

3.2.5.3 Dig from DDpit to Substation

When the excavation was re-opened and extended 1m northwards toward the substation it was possible to make out a very faint U-shaped pit cut in the east facing section after the section had dried out. The feature extended across 2.5m. This was initially thought to be a possible tree-bole, but the presence of the flint assemblage recovered only in this area, suggests the possibility of a cut feature.

3.2.5.4 Possible pit; fig 9

Only the lower part of the feature was visible (below 0.5m depth). Deposits above this depth appeared as in the DD pit.

A 0.15m depth of topsoil (40) overlay a 0.45m depth of mid- pinkish brown sandy clay (41-42) to 0.6m below the surface. Additional flint and 2 pieces of flint tempered pottery were recovered from 0.4m below the surface, suggesting that a ploughsoil (41) may be present to this depth and that the horizon between (41) and (42) may represent the truncated remains of the original surface above the feature.

The pit cut into moist pinkish brown colluvium(43) on the southern edge(DDpit) and into a firm, fine pale-yellowish-brown clay with moderate stone on the northern edge, (excavation towards substation) which suggests the siting of the feature may have been determined presence of the softer colluvial soil.

The lower limits of the cut were distinguished only by a faint 0.15m band of dry pale yellow-brown sand clay outlining the limits and the base of the feature was not clearly defined. The upper, main fill consisted of a pale-brown fill with occasional charcoal flecks. The brown fill extended to 0.8m below the surface and the drier yellow band extended to 1m depth in the centre of the feature.

Beyond the northern limits of the feature the deposits appeared as in the DDpit, with 0.2m of topsoil overlaying 0.3-4m of greyish yellow brown ploughsoil, with occasional

stone at 0.4m below the surface. Underlying deposits consisted of firm pale yellow brown sandy clay blending with moist pinkish sandy clay below 1.1m.

3.2.5.5 *Flint report*

Fifteen pieces of un-retouched worked flint consisting of 8 flakes 2 narrow blades, 2 flake chips and 3 chunks were recovered from within the section and spoil at DD 5B and 3m extension in Little Scotney Farm. Flint was consistently at 0.4m below the surface and presumably the flint recovered from spoil also from the same layer.

This area contained a possible pit feature.

The flint was dark grey in colour, good quality with few visible flaws and six pieces retain a very thin smooth cortex. The pieces do not appear to have suffered plough damage and retain sharp edges.

Platform preparation was varied, with the thicker pieces having flat, broad and plain platforms, presumably created during initial reduction, whereas the thinner flakes and chips, show evidence of platform preparation, narrower blade like removals and removal of irregularities from the core. Two of the flakes may represent possible tool blanks; a scraper and awl. The proximal end and platform of another has been snapped off, producing a hinge fracture and so may have originally formed a longer wide blade. One of the larger flakes, has multi directional flake removals and if not a core removal, may represent a removal from a flaked axe. One blade has a blueish patination and may represent a separate episode of activity

Two of the thicker pieces represent primary flakes, retaining 60% cortex. One of the primary flakes re-fits with the scraper blank, the similar quality/colour flint and re-fit suggests the majority of pieces may represent a single knapping episode.

The presence of a fragment of flint tempered pottery in the same layer as the majority of the flintwork dates the assemblage to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. The quality of both the flint and the workmanship suggest the assemblage dates to the Neolithic period.

3.2.5.6 *Excavation 5A between DDpit5B and substation 5C*

Beyond the entrance to the sand school, 2m beyond the limits of the cut feature, the upper deposits up to 0.3m depth had been truncated and replaced with stone hard standing for the remainder of excavation to the substation site. No further evidence of prehistoric activity was recorded.

3.2.5.7 *Substation 5C*

Excavation for the sub-station took place on hard standing used for storage of farm/building material and debris. Excavation removed the upper 0.5m of the ground surface over a 3m square and deposits to 1.2m depth on the eastern half of the excavation.

Deposits consisted of 0.1m of stone hard-standing which appeared to have truncated the underlying topsoil deposits. Remaining deposits consisted of 0.2m of dark-brown soil containing occasional tile fragments and appeared disturbed. The horizon with the underlying deposit, the mid, pinkish-brown soft sandy clay presumably the same colluvial deposit, (43) was blurred.

3.2.5.8 *JB5D*

An additional joint bay was created to the east of the stable block, picking up the ducts laid by directional drill. All sections showed 0.2m of mid-brown topsoil overlying

0.2m of pale yellowish brown sandy clay. Clean pinkish-brown colluvium was present to 2m depth. A trench was dug to the gateway at the western edge of the field and a cable laid by mole to the existing pole at the barns to the west

3.2.5.9 Mole pit at barn

Deposits at the barns consisted of 0.3m of made-ground, overlaying 0.2m of stiff yellow clay with stone. Below 0.7m, a band of solid sandstone was present.

3.2.5.10 Conclusions

The main farm sits on a terrace, with high ground to the west, and the hillside in this area has been cut into to increase the area to the rear of the oast-house.

Excavations to the east of the older barns show a band of fine grained sandstone present below 0.7m which presumably determined the original siting of the farm. The eastern part of the farm sits on the edge of a terrace, which extends into the field to the east. Deep colluvial deposits are present to the south and presumably on the slopes to the east. The presence of worked flint and prehistoric pottery in the DDpit suggests prehistoric activity, probably Neolithic, and it is likely that the natural terrace formed an ideal site for settlement. The possible cut feature was cut into the softer colluvium rather than the stiffer clay, presumably then, as now, at the edge of the terrace.

A level sand school has been created to the east of the farm yard on this terrace, by removing some of the higher ground to the north, which will have disturbed upper deposits in the area.

Prehistoric deposits were absent or have been removed along the track edge except to the south of the sand school entrance. Given the good condition of the flint pieces recovered from the directional drill pit, within the farm yard and the presence of prehistoric pottery it is likely that colluvial deposits may have increased topsoil depths, protecting archaeological deposits from damage. Further evidence may be present between the north end of the stable block and the southern limits of excavation.

It is possible this particular area has not suffered post-medieval disturbance or soil erosion due to the presence of 2 closely planted, large oak trees, which may have formed a hedgeline around the 1870s when the oast-houses were built.

3.2.6 Area 6; Spelmonden to River Bewl

3.2.6.1 Methodology route 6A

A trench was excavated from an existing duct at the edge of the field (Kitchen Field) at 6B, downhill in a SW direction under the line of existing overhead lines and then along the field edge to Joint Bay 6C and across the fence line to the N-S track in the field to the west.

From there the trench was excavated along the track for 40m and then alongside the track to JB 6D and connection to existing supply.

3.2.6.2 Results

Deposits in the main field were similar throughout. A thin 100mm layer of topsoil overlay a pale yellowish brown ploughsoil to a depth of 0.3m where tile fragments were often observed. A similar deposit of sandy clay was present to 0.5m below the surface and this may represent a deep-plough horizon. (The field had been used as a hop-garden.)

The natural geology between 0.5 and 0.7m below the surface consisted of pale, orange-brown stony clay. Below this depth, deposits consisted of mid-brown clay, overlying an undulating white clay containing leached patches of orange, sandy-clay and iron-rich sand. There was some poorly formed sandstone below 1m.

Several land drains were observed along the route. The cuts of these modern plastic drains were filled with clinker, which was occasionally in the topsoil.

The E-W section along the lower slope of the field showed some change with 0.2m of topsoil over 0.2m of ploughsoil and varying depths of pale yellow-brown stony sandy clay overlaying an orange sandy clay. Some hill wash may have contributed to the increased topsoil/ploughsoil depth. No domestic debris other than tile was observed during excavation. Land drains were present at 0.7m below the surface.

3.2.6.3 Track and field section

Deposits in this section, the flat river valley bottom, were alluvial based. Some stone was present in the track surface, but generally 0.25m of mid-brown topsoil overlay a uniform mid-yellowish brown sandy clay. The partial remains of a brick drain of the same construction as seen in the hop-gardens was recorded 5m south of the gateway into the field south of the previous section, again thought to be associated with drainage ditches for hop-gardens.

3.2.6.4 Long field to south of Spelmonden farm

This field had been ploughed prior to the start of the watching brief and a large flint flake and an abraded piece of stoneware were observed on the field surface adjacent to the E/W footpath south of the hedgeline, close to the gated entrance. Repeated flooding and ploughing may have disturbed any shallow features, but more extensive field-walking should be able to provide a greater range of archaeological material in the topsoil and provide further information about the archaeological activity which has occurred along the river Bewl in this area.

3.2.6.5 Conclusions

No archaeological deposits other than the brick drain remains were recorded in this section, but the presence of flint-work and pottery in the ploughed field north of the river, indicates further evidence for archaeological activity may be retrieved through a field-walking exercise.

4 Potential of archaeology

Evidence from the watching brief suggests that the resources of the Teise valley in this area as a whole were being utilised during the late prehistoric period, with evidence for activity found at Little Scotney Farm and on the eastern part of the site, with a potential iron-working site to the west of the quarry at Finchcocks farm. Activity appears localised and mainly concentrated on hilltops and terraces, but some deposits have been disturbed and also buried by colluvial action.

There is a good potential that prehistoric soils and cut features have remained undisturbed below colluvial deposits where deep ploughing to establish the hop-gardens has not occurred.

4.1 Original research aims

This type of watching brief provides a useful snapshot across a wide landscape, providing limited, but none the less useful, information on geology and archaeological activity.

- What are the earliest and latest deposits identified?

Earliest deposits at Little Scotney farm may date to the Neolithic period and suggest the site was in use during this period. No Roman or Medieval deposits were identified. Post-Medieval deposits probably relate to the estate and hop-gardens.

- What is the nature and significance of any surviving archaeological remains?

The evidence from the watching brief is significant in that it represents new information for the archaeological record.

Over the whole site, pottery was generally abraded, but combined with worked flint, suggests prehistoric settlement possibly dating to as early as the Neolithic period. The presence of slag in layers containing prehistoric pottery, found close to the quarry, suggests the potential for local iron-working. Further excavation undertaken in this area could provide more detailed information. The area of cobbled surface recorded at Finchcocks may be able to be traced on estate records.

- Can evidence from the watching brief add further information to existing evidence, gained through field walking and previous excavation?

The watching brief has added information to the archaeological record in an area where little work has been previously undertaken. It should be noted that the National Trust has an archaeologist who actively works in the area, but any local research, or more recent archaeological work undertaken during laying of the new water mains was not available for study at the time of the excavation.

4.2 New research aims

The watching brief has raised awareness of prehistoric activity in the area which may be useful in the formation of any new research aims.

4.3 Significance of the data

Whilst the archaeological remains are undoubtedly of local significance there is nothing to suggest that they are of regional or national importance.

5 Publication and archiving

Information on the results of the excavation will be made publicly available by means of a database in digital form, to permit inclusion of the site data in any future academic researches into the development of London.

The site archive containing original records and finds will be stored in accordance with the terms of the *Method Statement* (MOLA, 2009) with the Museum of London within 12 months of the end of the excavation.

In view of the limited potential of the material (Sections 4) and the relatively limited significance of the data (Section 4.3) it is suggested that a short article on the results of the watching brief should appear in the County Round-up. This should be within 12 months of the end of the site.

6 Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the following for their contributions and help in producing this report: The clients, land owners and tenants and the on-site team from Europoll.

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8 NMR OASIS archaeological report form

8.1 OASIS ID: molas1-82534

Project details

Project name	EDF Finchcocks to Little Scotney Farm AONB undergrounding
Short description of the project	Evidence for prehistoric and post-medieval activity was recorded during the watching brief. Burnt flint, occasional pottery sherds and burnt stone were recorded in buried, often charcoal- rich deposits below the modern ploughline in 3 areas; the field north of Sandfield Wood, the field to the east of the quarry at Finchcocks Farm; where a pit and a few pieces of iron slag, associated with the prehistoric pottery were also recorded and at Little Scotney Farm, where a collection of 15 pieces of Neolithic worked flint was recovered from a buried soil above a cut feature. Colluvial deposits are present on these hill-slopes and soil build-up has protected lower deposits to some degree. A small flint blade was recovered on the hilltop where the route passed close to Rookery Wood and worked flint also observed in the edge of a ploughed field in the River Teise valley south of Spelmonden, suggesting the whole area was being utilised during the prehistoric period A Post-Medieval cobbled surface was recorded close to the new-substation at Finchcocks House and 3 brick drains associated with hop-garden drainage ditches recorded in the hop-gardens.
Project dates	Start: 26-07-2010 End: 27-08-2010
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	KT-FSY10 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
Site status	National Trust land
Site status (other)	Kent Garden Trust List of Historic parks and Gardens
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Neolithic
Monument type	COBBLES Post Medieval
Monument type	BURIED SOIL Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	FLINT DEBITAGE Neolithic
Significant Finds	FLINT BLADE Early Prehistoric
Significant Finds	SLAG Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT SHERD Late Prehistoric
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS GOUDHURST EDF Finchcocks to Little Scotney Farm AONB undergrounding
Postcode	TN171HH
Study area	2.40 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 70168 36704 51.1037731828 0.430911663720 51 06 13 N 000 25 51 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.00m Max: 45.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	MOLA
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Project brief originator	EDF Energy
Project design originator	Freedom Group
Project director/manager	Robin Nielsen
Project supervisor	Gabby Rapson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Electricity Authority/Company
Name of sponsor/funding body	EDF Networks Ltd

Project archives

Physical Contents 'Ceramics', 'Worked stone/lithics'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	EDF Finchcocks to Little Scotney Farm AONB undergrounding
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Rapson, G.
Date	2010
Issuer or publisher	MOLA
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 Client report

Entered by	Gabby Rapson (grapson@museumoflondon.org.uk)
Entered on	13 September 2010

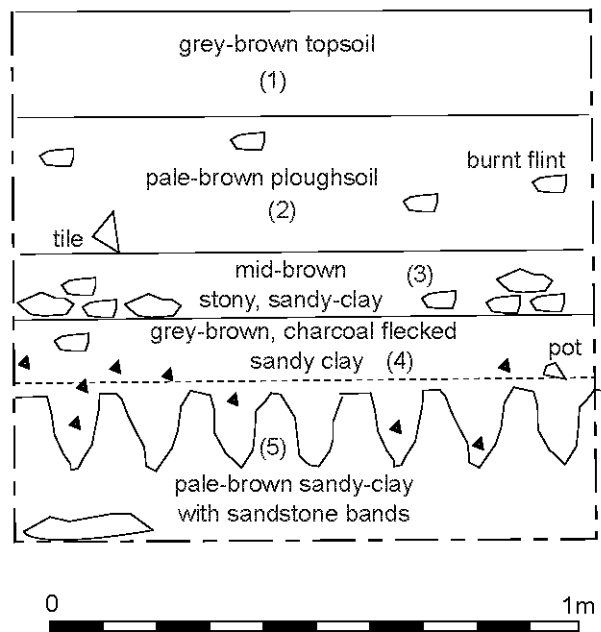


Fig 3 North facing section in DDpit 1B, Sandfield.

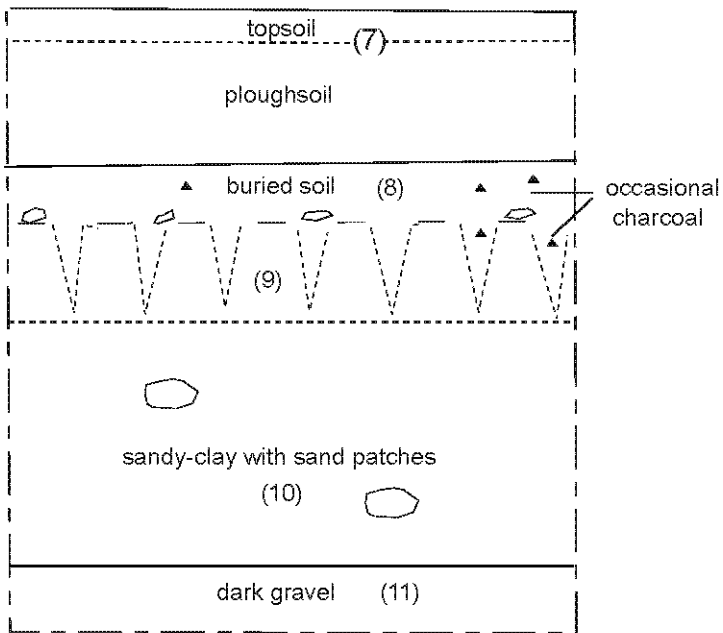


Fig 4 North facing section in Joint bay 2C

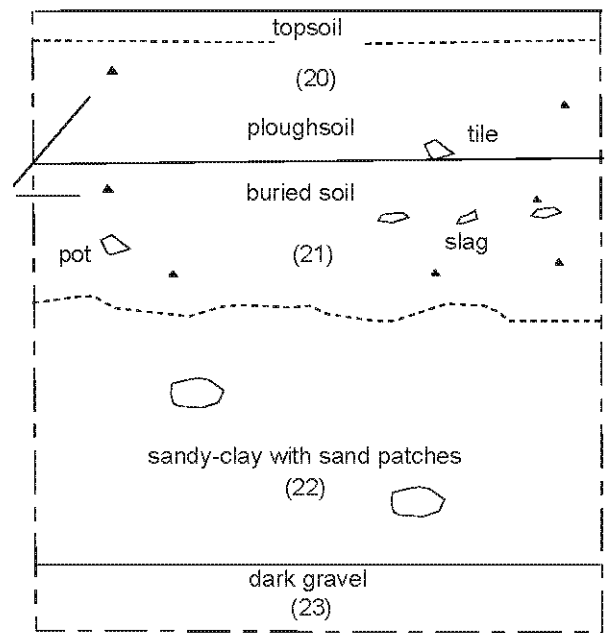


Fig 5 North facing section, 100m west of Joint bay 2C

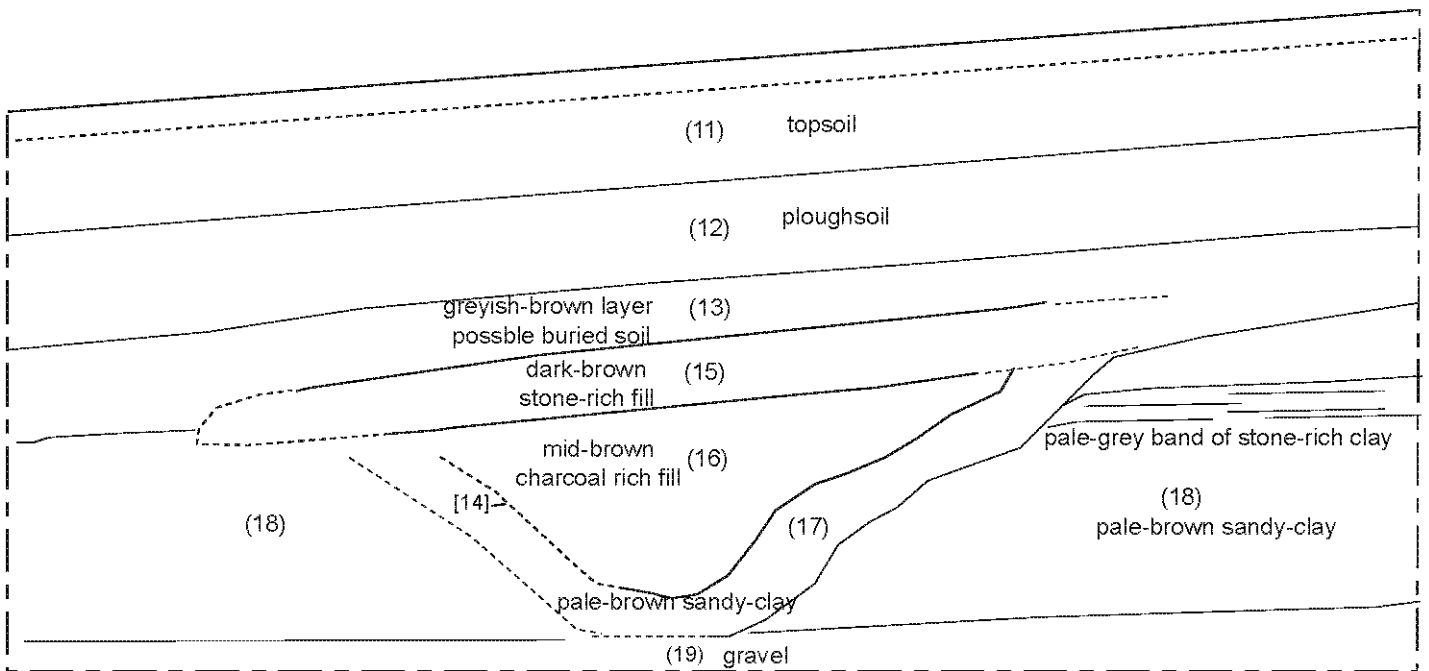


Fig 6 North facing section of pit 108m west of Joint bay 2C in Area 2

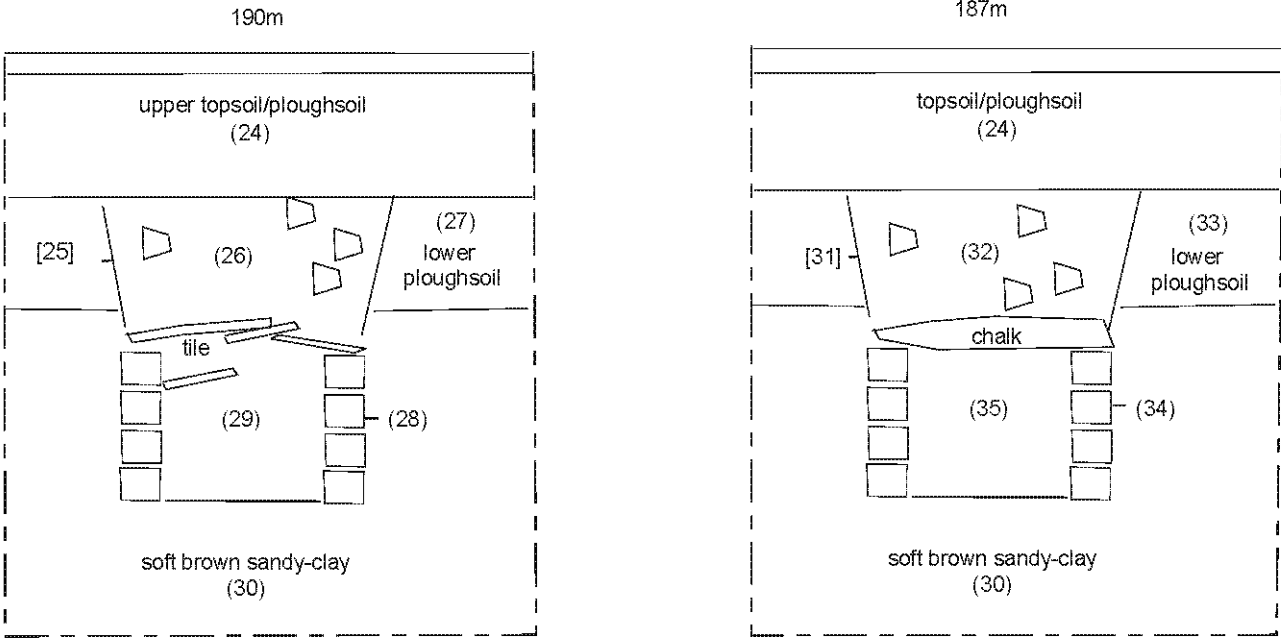


Fig 7 Two brick drains in NW facing section in hop-garden Area 3



← 7m long clinker layer

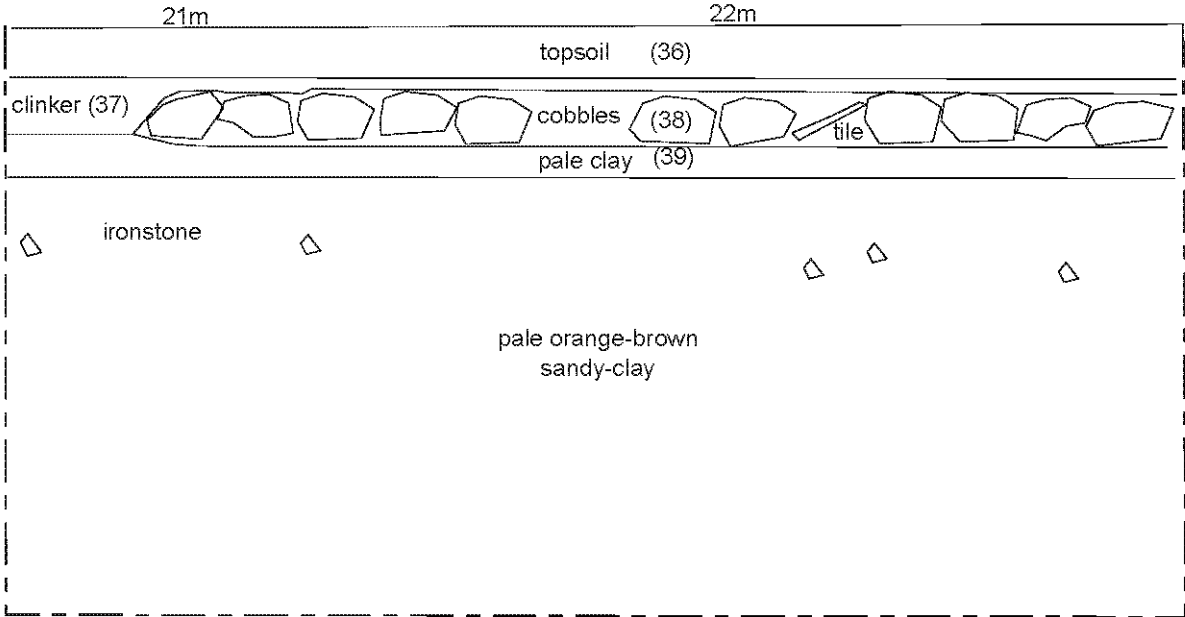


Fig 8 West facing section 21m south of route 4A start, showing end of 7m clinker surface and edge of 3m cobbled surface

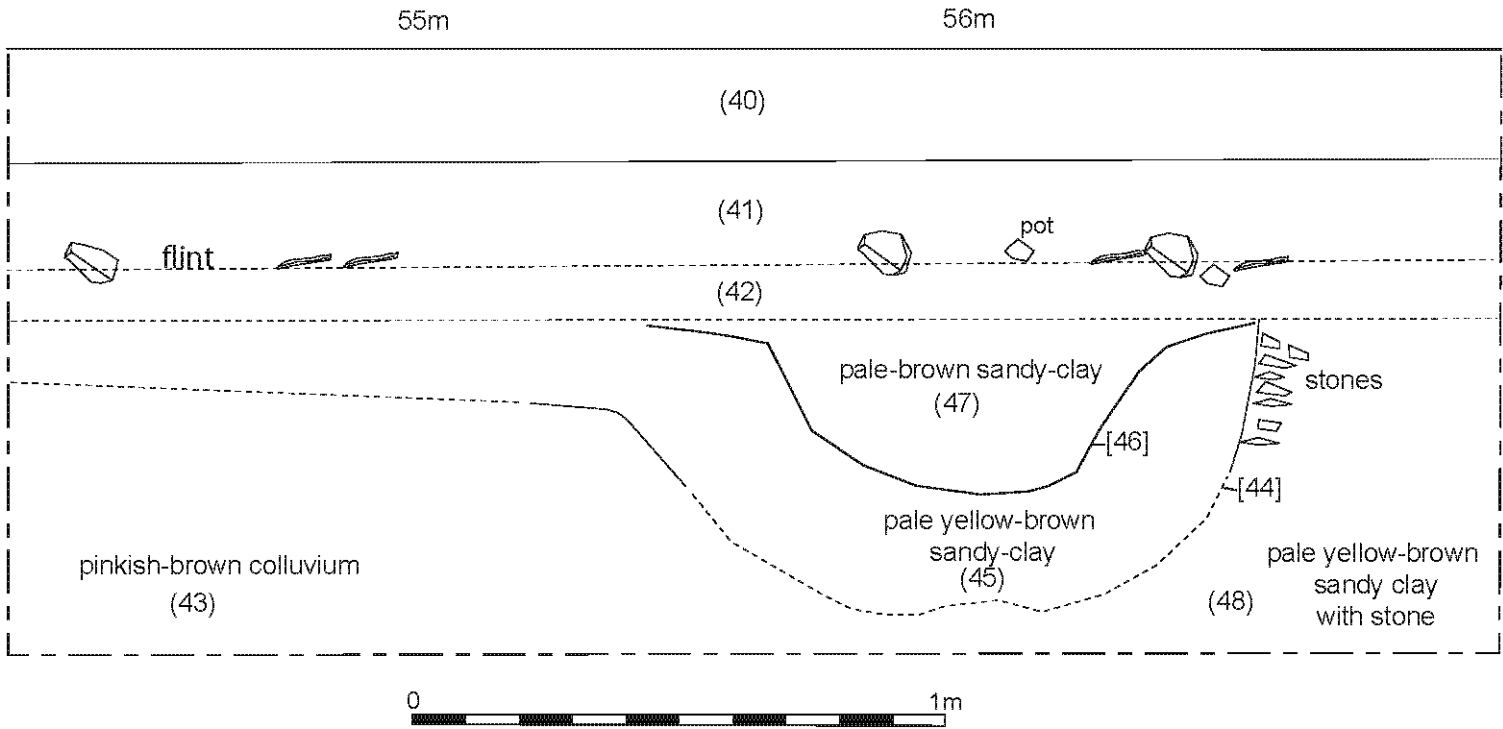


Fig 9 East facing section in DDpit 5B and trench extension in Little Scotne Farm Area 5.