



**Land at Oakland's Farm  
Hothfield, Ashford  
Kent**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

*for*

**OPDE UK Ltd**


CA Project: 770110  
CA Report: 14397

August 2014

# Land at Oakland's Farm Hothfield, Ashford Kent

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770110  
CA Report: 14397

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## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Land at Oakland's Farm
<b>Location:</b>	Hothfield, Ashford, Kent
<b>NGR:</b>	596230 144625
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	04-08 August 2014
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	14/00326/AS
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Kent Museum Service
<b>Accession Number:</b>	
<b>Site Code:</b>	LOF14

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 on land at Oakland's Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. Twelve trenches were excavated.

The trial trench evaluation has identified archaeological features within Trenches 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Within Trench 5, a drip gully of a potential roundhouse was discovered. The drip gully revealed domestic activity in the form of pottery evidence, which has firmly dated the feature to the 1st century BC/1st century AD. A pit or posthole possibly associated with the roundhouse was located within the interior. A ditch was also located to the north-west; and a metallated track-way further to the north-west, which was flanked either side by a ditch. It is possible, due to the proximity of the east/west orientated ditch located north-west of the roundhouse, that this feature may have formed part of a boundary, enclosing the roundhouse. The north-east/south-west orientated metallated track-way may form part of an access route into and through the possible enclosure. Although these features remain undated it is possible that they formed part of a simple Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosed farmstead.

Isolated undated ditches were identified within Trenches, 8, 10 and 11. On the basis of their shallow form/fills, they are assumed to be related to later, possibly post-medieval agricultural field boundaries and drainage. The ditch located within Trench 9 may form part of a historic field boundary, which can be positively dated to the 19th century AD, as a result the recovery of an un-frogged complete brick from the ditch fill.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In August 2014 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation on behalf of OPDE UK Ltd on land at Oakland's Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 596230 144625, hereafter referred to as the Site (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The Site has been granted planning permission (14/00326/AS) for a Solar Park development. An archaeological condition required that an archaeological programme of works be undertaken. Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer (SAO) at Kent County Council (KCC) and archaeological advisor to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) requested that as part of a programme of archaeological works, the first stage should comprise an archaeological trial trench evaluation. This would then serve to inform both ABC and the client of any potential archaeological remains on the Site, and if present, their level of significance. In the case of Solar Park developments, the impact of such sites on remains of archaeological significance can usually be mitigated by alterations to the design, however where this is not possible, a mitigation strategy (based on preservation by record) will be rapidly designed for approval by the SAO for KCC. This will help to ensure that there are no subsequent unexpected delays to the construction programme. Such a programme of mitigation works (based on an earlier Interim Report of the evaluation fieldwork results) has already been submitted to the SAO for KCC for her approval.
- 1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in line with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by KCC. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The Site covers approximately 19 hectares and currently comprises a series of arable fields to the west of Bethersden Road, beyond Fred's Spinney to the south-east of Hothfield. The Site slopes down from a highpoint of 68m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to 50m aOD in the south.

- 1.5 The bedrock formation on the Site forms a geological 'sandwich' with the predominant bedrock in the north of the Site formed of the Hythe Formation which comprises a Sandstone and Limestone Inter-bedded Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately between 112-125 million years ago; south of that is a narrow band of the Atherfield Clay Formation comprising of Sandstone and Mudstone Sedimentary bedrock, formed approximately 112-125 million years ago; south of the Atherfield Clay Formation on the Site is the Weald Clay Formation, comprising Mudstone Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 125 to 134 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS online).

### ***Archaeological background***

#### ***Prehistoric (pre- AD 43)***

- 1.6 Two kilometres to the north-east of the Site, a large assemblage of pottery from a wide range of periods, but especially from the prehistoric period, was recorded during works for the Channel Tunnel Rail Link (OWA 2006). A total of 3366 sherds of later prehistoric pottery was recovered from an excavation and targeted watching brief at Beechbrook Wood (ARC BWD 98 and ARC BBW 00). The assemblage ranged in date from the middle Bronze Age to the middle Iron Age, and derived from 84 contexts, representing 72 features. The condition of the Bronze Age material was moderate, and the Early Iron Age pottery was in poor condition. The Middle Iron Age sherds displayed above-average preservation (CA 2014).
- 1.7 Three kilometres to the south-east of the Site, during a programme of archaeological excavation and watching brief at Friars School, Great Chart, a small number of later prehistoric to early Romano-British features were present, including one containing evidence for Late Iron Age iron-working. A number of medieval features were also present and an area of iron-working of this period was identified (CA 2014).
- 1.8 Just under a kilometre to the north-north-east of the Site, two burial groups of Belgic date were excavated and subsequently published in 1943 (Brinson J G S 1943), (CA 2014).
- 1.9 The environs to the south-west, south and south-east of Ashford is known to have been relatively densely settled during the later Iron Age, with farmsteads every kilometre or so. This was generally replicated in the Romano-British period with land

boundaries often being re-used or augmented. Prior to fieldwork, It was considered quite possible that field boundaries of these two periods would be encountered (CA 2014).

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.10 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the Site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality. In accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (IfA 2009), the evaluation has been designed to be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains. The information gathered will however be sufficient to enable the archaeological advisor to Kent County Council (KCC) to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

### **Methodology**

- 1.11 Twelve trenches, Trenches 1 -12, were machine excavated in August 2014 (see Figure 2).
- 1.12 Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 measured approximately 50m x 1.8m. Trench 12 measured approximately 50m x 1.8m north/south and approximately 30m east/west.
- 1.13 Trench 5 was extended several metres south within the south-east area of the trench in order to expose and investigate further a roundhouse drip gully found within.
- 1.14 All excavated trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS. The final completed trench survey was recorded using Leica GP in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual* (2012).

- 1.15 Due regard for known services was undertaken prior to, during excavation and upon completion of the work at the Site. All work was undertaken in accordance with *Safe Systems of Work for – Avoiding Overhead Services & Underground Services*.
- 1.16 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2013).
- 1.17 Deposits were assessed for their paleo-environmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* (2003) and sampled and have been retained. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation* (1995).
- 1.18 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover and Kemble respectively. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner all artefacts will be deposited with Kent Museum Service along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-11)

- 2.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and the finds are contained within **Appendices A, B, C & D** respectively.
- 2.2 Archaeological features were identified during the trial trench evaluation within Trench **5, 8, 9, 10** and **11**. No archaeological features or deposits were found within Trench **1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7** and **12** (see Figure 2).
- 2.3 Artefact evidence was recovered from Trenches **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11** and **12**. Five bodysherds of late prehistoric/early Romano-British pottery, one of which decorated, were recovered from fill **504** (of drip gully **503**). A 19th century AD un-



frogged complete brick was recovered from fill **904** (fill of ditch **903**). A small fragment of undated slag was recovered from fill **1005**, (fill of ditch **1004**). An iron nail and small fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from fill **1105** (fill of ditch **1104**).

2.4 An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material and roof-tile fragments were recovered from subsoil **101**, **201**, **301**, **401**, **601**, **801** and **1101**. An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material and roof-tile and potsherd fragments and modern glass and potsherds were recovered from topsoil **100**, **200**, **300**, **400**, **500**, **600**, **800**, **900**, **1000**, **1100** and **1200** (see Figure 2).

2.5 Ceramic land drains were identified within Trenches **1**, **2**, **3**, **4**, **5**, **6**, **7**, **9**, **10**, **11** and **12**. A tree-throw was identified within Trench **8** (see Figure 2).

#### ***Trench 5 (Figs 2, 3 - 6)***

2.6 A roundhouse drip gully, **503**, was recorded as being broadly circular in plan, with a U-shaped profile, gradual, sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single fill, **504**. The full extent of the drip gully was not established but the diameter of the feature is estimated to measure approximately 4m and with a possible entrance to the north-west (see Figure 3 & 4).

2.7 Pit/posthole **505** was sub-circular in plan and contained a single fill, **506**. Five late prehistoric to 1st century AD potsherds were recovered from fill **504**, which positively date the roundhouse to the Late Iron Age/Early Romano-British period. No artefact evidence was identified within pit/posthole **505**, but it is likely that this feature is associated with the roundhouse (see Figure 3 & 4).

2.8 Ditch **507** was linear in plan and orientated east/west, with a U-shaped profile, gradual, sloping sides and contained a primary fill **508** and upper fill **509** (see Figures 3 & 5).

2.9 Ditch **510** was linear in plan, orientated north-east/south-west, with a V-shaped profile, gradual sloping sides and contained a single fill, **511**. Ditch **513** was linear in plan, orientated north-east/south-west and positioned parallel with and located 2m north-west of ditch **510**. Ditch **513** had a U-shaped profile, gradual sloping sides and contained a single fill, **514**. Located between ditch **510** and ditch **513**, a compact and

level metallised surface, **512**, consisting of small sub-angular flint were identified. It is likely that this feature is a north-east/south-west orientated track-way defined by two parallel ditches. No artefact evidence was recovered from ditches **510** and **513** or the metallised surface, **512** (see Figure 3 & 6).

- 2.10 The roundhouse drip gully, **503**, pit/posthole **505**, ditch **510**, ditch **513** and the 'track-way', **512** were covered by subsoil **501**.

### ***Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 7)***

- 2.11 Ditch **803** was located towards the southern end of Trench **8**, was linear in plan, orientated north-east/south-west with a U-shaped profile, gradual, sloping sides and contained a single fill, **804**. Ditch **807**, was located towards the north end of Trench **8**. It was linear in plan and orientated north-west/south-east with a U-shaped profile, gradual, sloping sides and contained a single fill **808**. No artefact evidence was identified within ditches **803** and **807**. A tree-throw was located towards the southern end of Trench **8**. All three features were covered by subsoil **801**.

### ***Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 8)***

- 2.12 Ditch **903** was located to the north-east of Trench **9**, linear in plan and orientated north-west/south-east and contained an unexcavated upper fill **904**. Ditch **903** cut subsoil **901**. An un-frogged 19th century AD complete brick was recovered from fill **904**. It is likely that this feature may form part of a known, former historic field boundary.

### ***Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 9)***

- 2.13 Ditch **1004** was located in the eastern half of Trench **10**, linear in plan and orientated north-east/south-west, with a U-shaped profile, gradual, sloping sides and contained a single fill, **1005**. A small fragment of undated slag was recovered from fill **1005**. Ditch **1004** was covered by colluvium **1002** and subsoil **1001**.

### ***Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 10)***

- 2.14 Ditch **1104** was located towards the northern end of Trench **11**, linear in plan and orientated south-east/north-west and comprised a U-shaped profile, gradual sloping sides and a flat base and contained a single fill **1105**. An iron nail and small ceramic

building material fragments were recovered from fill **1105**. Ditch **1104** was covered by colluvium **1102** and subsoil **1101**.

### ***The finds and paleo-environmental evidence***

#### *Finds*

- 2.15 Artefact evidence was recovered from Trenches **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11** and **12**. Five bodysherds of late prehistoric pottery, one of which decorated, were recovered from fill **504**, (fill of drip gulley **503**). A 19th century AD un-frogged complete brick was recovered from fill **904**, (fill of Ditch **903**). A small fragment of undated slag was recovered from fill **1005**, (fill of ditch **1004**). An iron nail and small fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from fill **1105**, (fill of ditch **1104**; see Figure 2).
- 2.16 An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material and roof-tile fragments were recovered from subsoil **101, 201, 301, 401, 601, 801** and **1101**. An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material, roof-tile, potsherds (large and small), modern glass and were recovered from topsoil **100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800, 900, 1000, 1100** and **1200** (see Figure 2).

#### *Pottery: Late Iron Age*

- 2.17 Five bodysherds of wheelthrown, grog-tempered pottery in the Aylesford-Swarling style were recovered from fill **504**, (fill of drip gulley, **503**). One featured combed decoration. This type of pottery is found across south-east England and dates to the first century BC, continuing into the middle decades of the 1st century AD (Cunliffe 2005, 151–2).

#### *Palaeoenvironmental*

- 2.17 Three soil samples were recovered and have been retained;
- A single 40L bulk sample was recovered from fill **504**, fill of the roundhouse drip gulley **503** (sample **1301**), Trench **5**.
  - A single 10L bulk sample was recovered from fill **506**, fill of pit/posthole **505** (sample **1302**), Trench **5**.

- A single 40L bulk sample was recovered from fill **508**, fill of ditch **507** (sample **1303**), Trench **5**.

### **3. DISCUSSION**

- 3.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified archaeological features within Trenches 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (see Figures 2-11). Within Trench 5, a probable roundhouse drip gully, a shallow pit/posthole, a linear ?enclosure ditch located to the north-west and a metalled track-way flanked by drainage ditches either side located further to the north-west were identified. Isolated ditches were identified within Trenches, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
- 3.2 The morphology of the pen-annular drip gully identified within Trench 5 is indicative of a late prehistoric roundhouse (English Heritage 2011a). Sampling of the drip gully produced evidence of domestic activity firmly dating the feature to the 1st century BC/1st century AD. Very little other evidence of domestic activity was identified, except for an undated pit or post-hole located within the interior.
- 3.3 It is possible, that the east/west orientated ditch located north-west of the roundhouse, may form part of a boundary enclosing the roundhouse. A north-east/south-west orientated metalled track-way located further north-west within Trench 5, and flanked by two parallel ditches, may form part of a track-way into the possible farm enclosure (English Heritage 2011b).
- 3.4 Isolated undated ditches were identified within Trenches, 8, 10 and 11. Based on their shallow form/fills, these are assumed to be related to later, possibly post-medieval, agricultural field boundaries and drainage. The ditch located within Trench 9 may form part of a historic field boundary which can be positively dated to the 19th century AD, as a result of the recovery of an un-frogged complete brick from the ditch fill.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Following on and off site discussions with the SAO for KCC (Wendy Rogers), it has been agreed that no further archaeological works will be required for the majority of the Solar Farm footprint construction works. However since evidence of what is

thought to be an Iron Age roundhouse has been identified in Trench 5, the SAO has indicated that a small discrete excavation will be required in this location. This, the SAO has agreed, can be secured as an archaeological condition and can be undertaken during the construction/installation of the cable route. A draft Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to the SAO for KCC for her approval, detailing such works and for watching brief in the vicinity of those other trenches where undated ditches were identified. The excavation is not likely to require more than 2-3 days fieldwork (with a similar number of days likely required for the watching brief). The excavation will comprise the machine stripping of a small area either side of the Trench 5 location to more fully understand the extent of the Iron Age round house. Some limited sampling of any features will also be undertaken in order to confirm the character and date of the activity. The landscape of Ashford during the Late Iron Age has been well mapped in recent years and this will be an opportunity to extend that knowledge, without causing unnecessary delay to the development.

## **5. CA PROJECT TEAM**

Fieldwork was undertaken by CA Project Leader Matt Nichol, assisted by CA site personnel, Colin Forrestal and Steve Bush. The report was written by Matt Nichol. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Jennie Hughes. The project was managed for CA by CA Project Manager, Richard Greatorex, who also edited this report.



## 6. REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

## Trial Trench Evaluation - Archaeology within Trench 5, 8, 9, 10 &amp; 11

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid brownish brown silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.28	Modern
1	101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.36	
1	102	Layer		Natural	Dark orangey brown silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.64	
1	103	Layer		Natural	Light orangey grey silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.64	
1	104	Layer		Natural	Dark brownish brown silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.64	
1	105	Layer		Natural	Light greyish brown silty clay	>46.6	>1.8	>0.64	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>49.2	>1.8	>0.28	Modern
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>49.2	>1.8	>0.25	
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish grey Silty clay	>49.2	>1.8	>0.53	
2	203	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>49.2	>1.8	>0.53	
2	204	Layer		Natural	Dark orangey brown silty clay	>49.2	>1.8	>0.53	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>46.2	>1.8	>0.3	Modern
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>46.2	>1.8	>0.28	
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown to light greyish grey silty clay	>46.2	>1.8	>0.58	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>48.2	>1.8	>0.33	Modern
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>48.2	>1.8	>0.31	
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey greyish brown silty clay	>48.2	>1.8	>0.64	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>48.2	+1.8	>0.3	Modern
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>48.2	+1.8	>0.18	
5	502	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish to greyish brown silty clay	>48.2	+1.8	>0.48	
5	503	Cut		Cut of Roundhouse Drip Gulley	Drip gulley with a U-shaped profile and a flat base	+4	>0.31	>0.11	
5	504	Fill	503	Fill of Roundhouse Drip Gulley	Mid greyish brown silty clay	+4	>0.31	>0.11	
5	505	Cut		Cut of Pit/Posthole	Sub-circular pit/posthole with gradual sides and a flat base	>0.8	>0.61	>0.09	
5	506	Fill	505	Fill of Pit/Posthole	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>0.8	>0.61	>0.09	
5	507	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with a U-shaped profile	+2	>0.7	>0.29	
5	508	Fill	507	1st fill of Ditch	Mid orangey grey sandy silty clay	+2	>0.7	>0.06	
5	509	Fill	507	2nd fill of Ditch	Mid orangey brown silty clay	+2	>0.7	>0.23	
5	510	Cut		Cut of V-ditch	Linear V-ditch with gradual sides	+2	>0.45	>0.25	
5	511	Fill	510	Fill of V-ditch	Mid orangey grey silty clay	+2	>0.45	>0.25	

5	512	Deposit		Metalled Surface	Compact mid greyish brown silty clay with small sub-angular inclusions of flint	+2	>2	>0.08	
5	513	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile	+2	>0.7	>0.26	
5	514	Fill	513	Fill of Ditch	Mid orangey grey silty clay	+2	>0.7	>0.26	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>49.6	>1.8	>0.2	Modern
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>49.6	>1.8	>0.22	
6	602	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish orangey brown clay	>49.6	>1.8	>0.42	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>49.1	>1.8	>0.31	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>49.1	>1.8	>0.21	
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>49.1	>1.8	>0.52	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>48.1	>1.8	>0.31	Modern
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>48.1	>1.8	>0.26	
8	802	Layer		Natural	Light orangey brown silty clay	>48.1	>1.8	>0.57	
8	803	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with a U-shaped profile	+2	>0.41	>0.15	
8	804	Fill	803	Fill of Ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	+2	>0.41	>0.15	
8	805	Cut		Cut of Treethrow	Sub-circular treethrow with irregular sides and base	>1.26	>0.65	>0.33	
8	806	Fill	805	Fill of Treethrow	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>1.26	>0.65	>0.33	
8	807	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with U-shaped profile	+2	>0.56	>0.11	
8	808	Fill	807	Fill of Ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	+2	>0.56	>0.11	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Light brownish brown silty clay	>48.3	>1.8	>0.33	Modern
9	901	Layer		Subsoil/colluvium	Mid to light orangey brown silty clay	>48.3	>1.8	>0.66	
9	902	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown silty clay	>48.3	>1.8	>0.99	
9	903	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Unexcavated linear ditch	+2	>1.13		Post-medieval
9	904	Fill	903	Fill of Ditch	Dark greyish brown silty clay	+2	>1.13		
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>47.5	>1.8	>0.30	Modern
10	1001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid brownish brown silty clay	>47.5	>1.8	>0.35	
10	1002	Layer		Colluvium	Dark brown sandy silty clay	>47.5	>1.8	>0.36	
10	1003	Layer		Natural	Mid brown to light orangey brown sandy silty clay	>47.5	>1.8	>1.01	
10	1004	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with a U-shaped profile	+2	>0.56	>0.16	
10	1005	Fill	1004	Fill of Ditch	Mid orangey brown silty clay	+2	>0.56	>0.16	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay	>48.4	>1.8	>0.3	Modern
11	1101	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>48.4	>1.8	>0.3	
11	1102	Layer		Colluvium	Dark orangey brown silty clay	>48.4	>1.8	>0.25	
11	1103	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>48.4	>1.8	>0.75	
11	1104	Cut		Cut of Ditch	Linear ditch with a U-shaped profile	+2	>0.59	>0.21	



11	1105	Fill	1104	Fill of Ditch	Mid orangey brown silty clay	+2	>0.59	>0.21	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown silty clay	>49.4	>1.8	>0.3	Modern
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Mid yellowish brown silty clay	>49.4	>1.8	>0.25	
12	1202	Layer		Colluvium	Dark yellowish brown silty clay	>49.4	>1.8	>0.25	
12	1203	Layer		Natural	Mid orangey brown sandy silty clay	>49.4 x 32	>1.8	>0.8	

## APPENDIX B: THE FINDS

Artefact evidence was recovered from Trenches **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11** and **12**. Five bodysherds of late prehistoric pottery, one of which decorated, were recovered from fill **504**, Drip Gulley **503**. A 19th century AD un-frogged complete brick was recovered from fill **904**, Ditch **903**. A small fragment of undated slag was recovered from fill **1005**, Ditch **1004**. An iron nail and small ceramic building material fragments were recovered from fill **1105**, Ditch **1104** (see Figure 2).

An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material, roof-tile fragments were recovered from subsoil **101, 201, 301, 401, 601, 801** and **1101**. An assemblage of post-medieval ceramic building material and roof-tile and potsherd fragments and modern glass and potsherds were recovered from topsoil **100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 800, 900, 1000, 1100** and **1200** (see Figure 2).

### *Pottery: Late Iron Age*

Five bodysherds of wheelthrown, grog-tempered pottery in the Aylesford-Swarling style were recovered from fill **504**, Drip Gulley **503**. One featured combed decoration. This type of pottery is found across south-east England and dates to the first century BC, continuing into the middle decades of the 1st century AD (Cunliffe 2005, 151–2).

Table 1: Finds concordance

Context	Description	Count	Weight(g)	Spot-date
504	Late Prehistoric pottery: Aylesford-Swarling ware	5	41	LIA

**APPENDIX C: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE**

Three soil samples were recovered and have been retained;

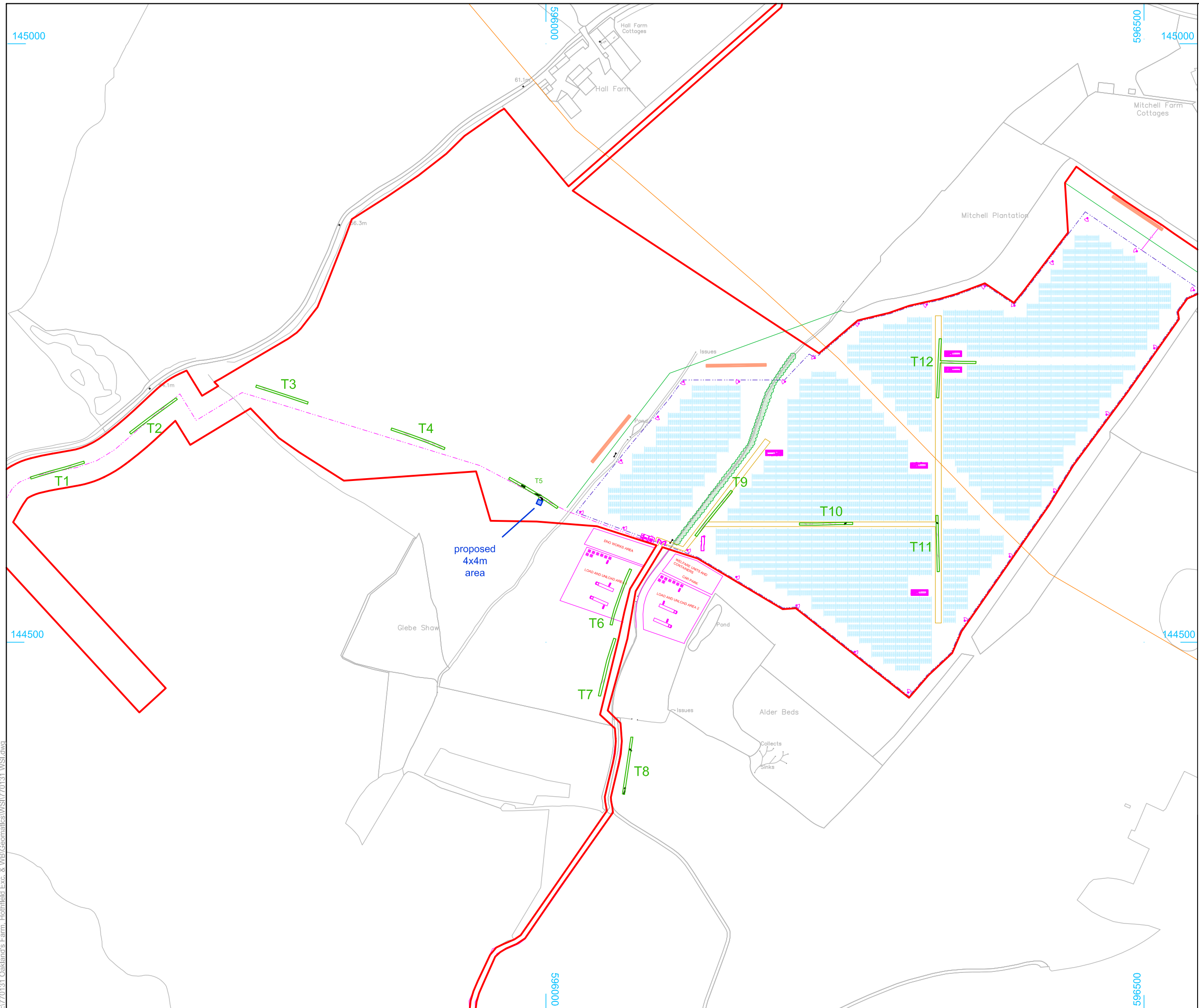
- As single 40L bulk sample was recovered from fill **504**, within Roundhouse Drip Gulley **503** (sample **1301**), Trench **5**.
- A single 10L bulk sample was recovered from fill 506, within Pit/Posthole **505** (sample **1302**), Trench **5**.
- A single 40L bulk sample was recovered from fill 508, within Ditch **507** (sample **1303**), Trench **5**.

**APPENDIX D: OASIS REPORT FORM**

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project Name	Land at Oakland's Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in August 2014 at land at Oakland's Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent. Twelve trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The trial trench evaluation has identified archaeological features within Trenches 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Within Trench 5, a drip gully of a potential roundhouse was discovered. The drip gully revealed pottery evidence for domestic activity which firmly dated the feature to the 1st century BC/1st century AD.</p> <p>A pit or posthole possibly associated with the roundhouse was located within the interior; a linear ditch located to the north-west; and a metalled track-way further north-west, flanked by a ditch either side. It is possible, due to the proximity of the east/west orientated ditch located north-west of the roundhouse, that this feature may form part of a settlement boundary to enclose the roundhouse. The north-east/south-west orientated metalled track-way may form part of an access route into the possible enclosure. Although these features remain undated it is possible that they formed part of a simple Late Iron Age/Early Roman enclosed farmstead.</p> <p>Isolated undated ditches were identified within Trenches, 8, 10 and 11. Initial assessment of their shallow form/fills, are assumed to be related to agricultural field boundaries and drainage. The ditch located within Trench 9 may form part of a historic field boundary which can be positively dated to the 19th century AD due to an unfrogged complete brick recovered from the ditch fill.</p>
Project dates	04-08 August 2014
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc)	Trial Trench Evaluation
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc)	Not Known
Future work	Small Scale Excavation – Trench 5
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Site Location	Land at Oakland's Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent
Study area (M <sup>2</sup> /ha)	19ha
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	596230 144625

<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	Kent County Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Greatorex	
Project Supervisor	Matt Nichol	
<b>MONUMENT TYPE</b>	Late iron age roundhouse, possible associated enclosure ditch and track-way and also further undated ditches	
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS</b>	<a href="#">See Above</a>	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	Kent Museum Service	
Physical		Ceramics, CBM, etc
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 <i>Geology of Britain Viewer</i> <a href="http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html">http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html</a> Accessed 27 August 2012		
Brinson J G S 1943 Two burial groups of Belgic Age, Hothfield Common, near Ashford – <i>Archaeologia Cantiana</i> 41-47, Issue 56		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Land at Oaklands Farm, Hothfield, Ashford, Kent: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Cunliffe, B. 2005 <i>Iron Age Communities in Britain: An Account of England, Scotland and Wales from the Seventh Century BC until the Roman Conquest</i> . Abingdon. Routledge.		
DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 <i>National Planning Policy Framework</i>		
English Heritage 2011a <i>Introduction to Heritage Assets: Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlements with Structures</i> . London		
English Heritage 2011b <i>Introduction to Heritage Assets: Enclosed Prehistoric Settlements</i> . London		
Meek, J., Shore, M., & Clay, P. 2004 'Iron Age Enclosures at Enderby and Huncote, Leicestershire', <i>Leicestershire Archaeology &amp; History Society</i> . <b>78</b> , 1-34		
OWA 2006 <i>The later prehistoric pottery from Beechbrook Wood, Hothfield, Kent</i> , by Grace Perpetua Jones – Channel Tunnel Rail Link, London and Continental Railways Oxford Wessex Archaeology Joint Venture - CTRL Specialist Archive Report		
PCA 2009 <i>Archaeological Investigations on land at Friars School, Great Chart, Ashford, Kent</i> – Kent Archaeology.ac/archrep/GreatChart		

WA (Wessex Archaeology) 2006. *Excavation of a multi-period site at Foster Road, Ashford, Kent:* Salisbury, unpublished report.



- site
- proposed 4 x 4m area
- evaluation trench
- contingency trench
- archaeological feature
- modern



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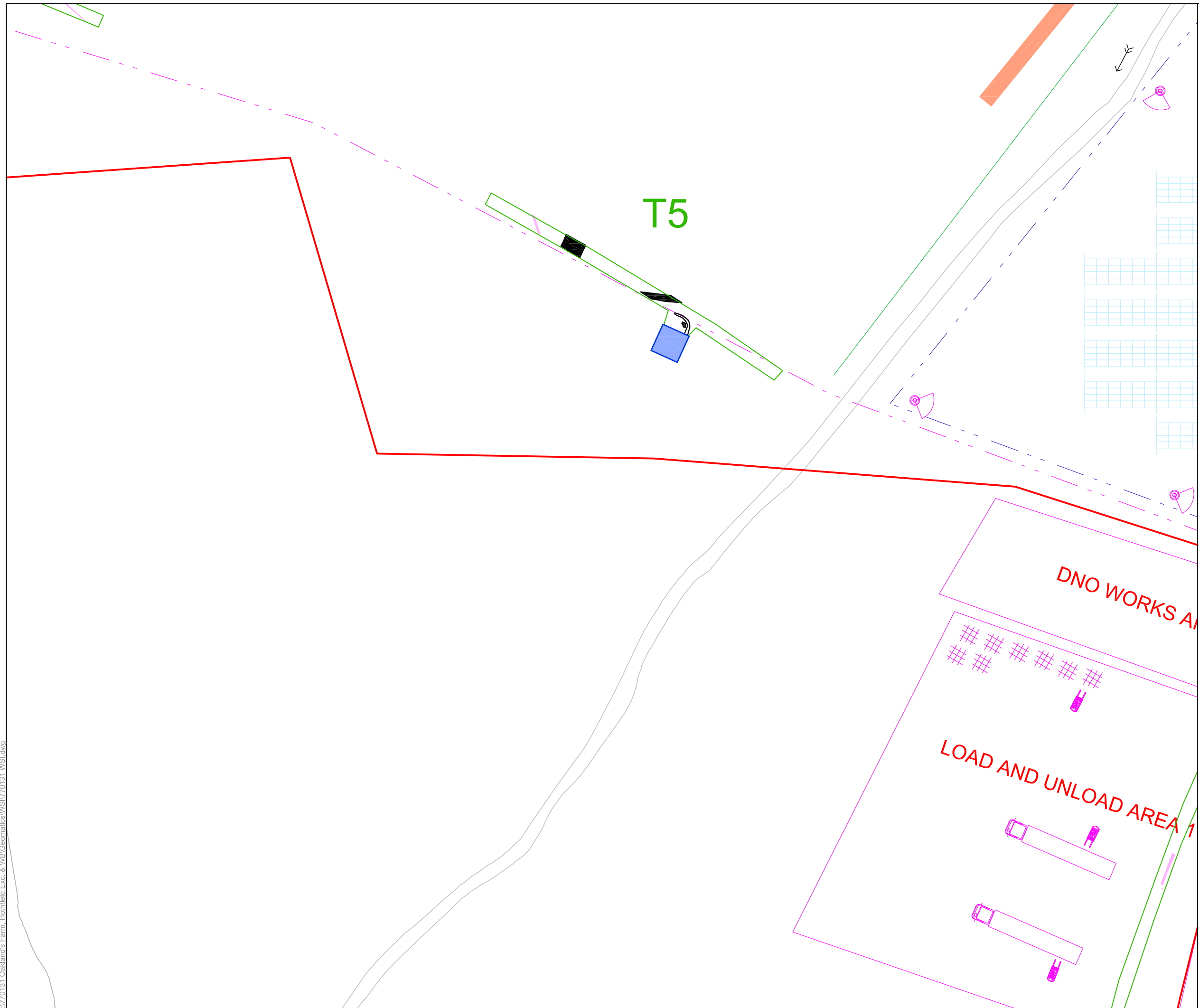
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PROJECT TITLE  
**Land at Oaklands Farm, Hothfield  
 Kent**

FIGURE TITLE  
**Site location**

PROJECT NO.	770131	DATE	28-08-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	<b>1</b>
APPROVED BY	LM/ATB	SCALE@A3	1:3000	

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-  site
-  proposed 4 x 4m area
-  evaluation trench
-  contingency trench
-  archaeological feature
-  modern



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Oaklands Farm, Hothfield  
 Kent

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Proposed excavation area

PROJECT NO.	770131	DATE	28-08-2014	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	JB	REVISION	00	2
APPROVED BY	LM/ATB	SCALE@A3	1:500	

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