

Land at Worstead Farm, East Grinstead, West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation



on behalf of
Sun4net Limited

CA Project: 770836
CA Report: 18676

November 2018



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SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Worsted Farm,
Location: East Grinstead, West Sussex
NGR: 41147 38063
Type: Evaluation
Date: 5 – 6 November 2018
Planning Reference: DM/15/30/56, APP/D3830/W/16/3151730
Location of Archive: East Grinstead Museum
Site Code: WOFA 18

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2018 at Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, West Sussex. Three trenches out of a possible eight were excavated; the remaining five trenches could not be accessed due to the wooded nature of the site. No archaeological features were observed, and the only finds, including a worked flint, were residual in nature.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In November 2018 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Sun4Net Worsted Limited at Worstead Farm, East Grinstead, West Sussex centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 41147 38063 (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning condition (ref: DM/15/30/56, APP/D3830/W/16/3151730) requested by Mid Sussex District Council prior to the construction of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic array to generate electricity of up to 5MW capacity, comprising photovoltaic panels, inverters, security fencing, cameras and other associated infrastructure.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2016), and approved by Alexandra Egginton Archaeological Officer, Heritage Conservation Team, Surrey County Council. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), and the county standards.

The site

- 1.4 The proposed development area is approximately 15.11ha, and comprises a gentle south to north facing slope; the north, north east and west boundaries of the Site are flanked by a tributary of the River Medway, which flows in a west-east direction. The Site is relatively level in the southern corner, lying at an elevation of approximately 100m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The landscape slopes towards the northern corner of the site, at an elevation of 85m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site consists largely of semi-mature deciduous woodland flanked by heavily overgrown former hedgerow field boundaries.
- 1.5 The underlying geology within the site is mapped as mudstone of the Ardingly Sandstone and Grinstead Clay, sedimentary bedrock laid down approximately 139 to 132 million years ago in the Valangian Age. This is overlain by River Terrace Deposits, dating to the Quaternary Period (British Geological Survey).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

- 2.1 No finds and features dating to the early prehistoric period are recorded within the site's proximity; this is consistent within the wider local landscape.

Romano-British

- 2.2 No finds of Romano-British dates are recorded within the study area, although Roman period activity and ironworking evidence has been identified within the wider surrounding landscape of the Site, to the west and south-west of East Grinstead. Across the Weald, few Roman period farms are recorded, possibly a result of poor soils, woodland cover or the presence on an Imperial estate controlling the ironworks. However, this could also be due to a limited number of archaeological investigations.

Early medieval and medieval

- 2.3 No early medieval activity is recorded within the study area. The nearest known evidence of early medieval origin is recorded at land west and south-west of East Grinstead.
- 2.4 There is no evidence to suggest settlement activity during the medieval period within the Site. The West Sussex Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project records the fields within the Site as Cohesive Assarts, created through the process of clearance of woodland and the subsequent enclosure of cleared land as fields (Bannister 2010). In conformity with the HLC data, the assarts are of medieval origin, indicating that during this period the Site was cleared of forest and developed for agriculture. The HLC data indicates that the majority of the landscape surrounding the Site in the medieval period comprised assarts, created through deforestation.
- 2.5 Further evidence for medieval activity within the study area is represented by medieval (and post-medieval) mine pits located in Minepit Wood, 1.3km north east from site. Heavily overgrown, the mine pits range in size from 5 to 10m in diameter, 0.5m average depth.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.6 The pattern of the mid-14th century settlement within the historic core of East Grinstead remains recognisable today; the study area appears to have remained throughout the post-medieval period and modern period a predominantly agricultural landscape.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 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 *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Mid Sussex District Council 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).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 3 trenches (measuring 23m, 14m and 11m in length by 1.7m in width), in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Five further trenches could not be excavated due to the overgrown nature of the site. The locations of the three trenches that were excavated (**Trenches 6, 7 & 8**) had to be moved to open land away from the woodland with the approval of Joanna Taylor. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 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 natural substrate.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and no deposits were identified that required

sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with East Grinstead Museum along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix A, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGURES 2 - 3)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B. No archaeological features were recorded and only a limited number of artefacts were recovered from the topsoil within **Trench 6**.

Trench 6 (Figures 2 & 3)

- 5.2 **Trench 6** measured 23m in length and was located at 99.60m aOD to the north-east increasing to 100.54m aOD to the south-west, and consisted of light grey topsoil 0.26m in depth which overlay yellow/brown silt/clay with common manganese inclusions. Two field drains were noted. CBM, worked flint, and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 7 (Figure 2)

- 5.3 **Trench 7** measured 14m in length with north-western end of the trench measuring 100.41m aOD and the south-eastern end measuring 100.61m aOD. The trench consisted of grey/brown topsoil 0.20m in depth which overlay yellow/brown silt/clay with frequent manganese inclusions. Two field drains were noted.

Trench 8 (Figure 2)

- 5.4 **Trench 8** measured 11m in length and was relatively flat with the aOD only changing 0.17m between the east (103.58m aOD) and the west (103.75m aOD). The trench comprised of light grey topsoil 0.30m in depth which overlay yellow/brown silty/clay with abundant manganese inclusions.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material recovered from the evaluation is listed in Appendix B and discussed further below. All finds have been cleaned, quantified by material type in each context and recorded to an Excel spreadsheet.

Pottery

6.2 A single sherd of pottery, a bodysherd of glazed earthenware, was recovered from topsoil deposit 600. The sherd is small but in relatively good (unabraded) condition. The fabric broadly dates from the mid-16th to 18th centuries.

Other Finds

6.3 One prehistoric worked flint item, a flake, was recovered as redeposited material in topsoil deposit 600. It cannot be closely dated.

6.4 A single flake of ceramic building material was recovered from topsoil deposit 600. The flake cannot be closely dated.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Alice Jones. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds evidence reports were written by Katie Marsden. The illustrations were prepared by Tom Brown. The archive has been compiled by Zoe Emery, and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxton. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. DISCUSSION

8.1 The results of the evaluation confirmed that the archaeological potential within the site, as outlined in the archaeological background, is very low with no feature or deposits of archaeological significance identified, and the finds being residual in nature. As the archaeological background indicates there is no recorded archaeological potential within the site it is not recommended that further archaeological work be undertaken.

9. REFERENCES

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016, *Land at Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, West Sussex Heritage Desk Based Assessment* CA Report No. **15765**

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 *Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

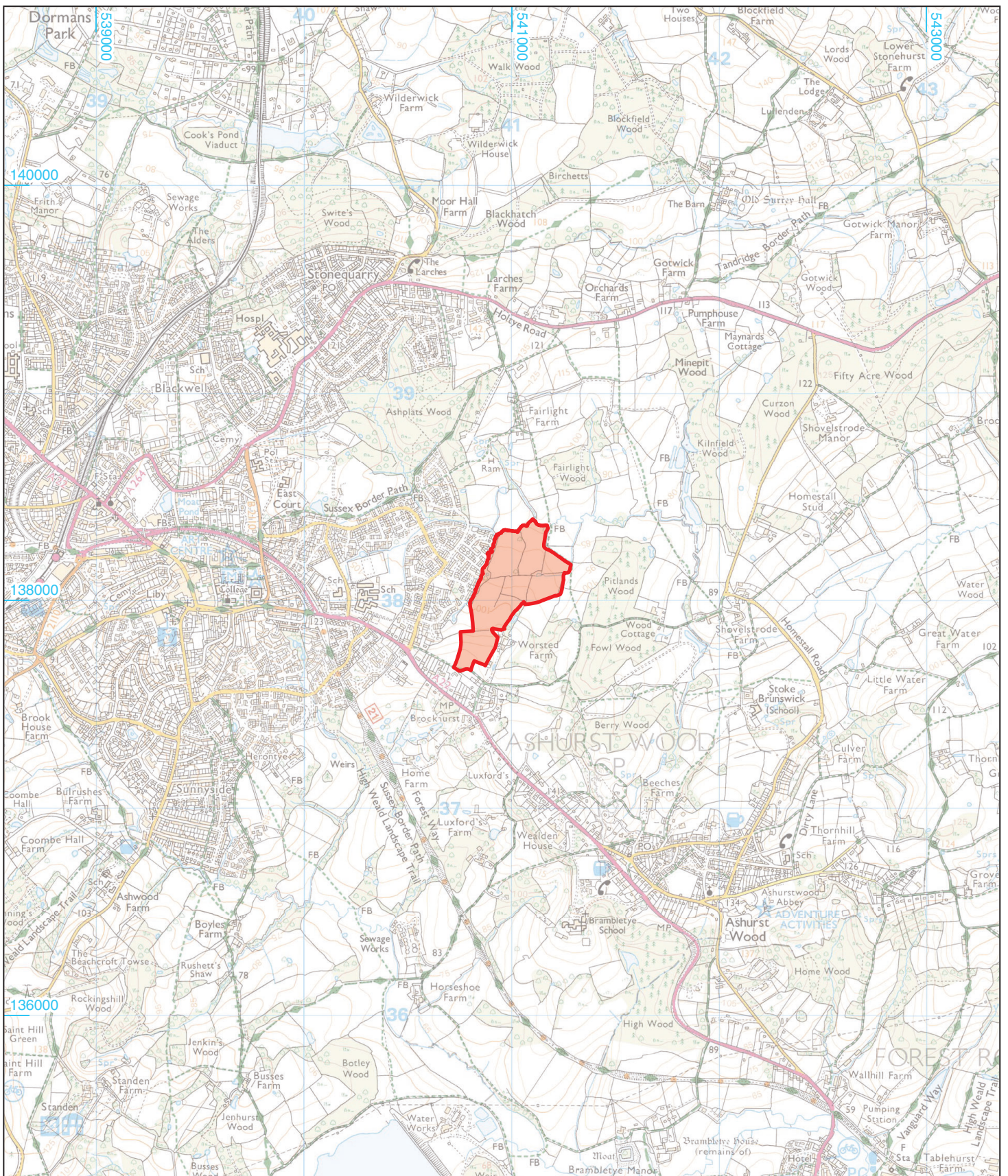
Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Fill	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D (m)
6	600	Layer		topsoil	Light grey brown clay silt, friable with rare ironstone inclusions	23	1.7	0.26
6	601	Layer		natural	Yellow brown silty clay with common manganese inclusions	23	1.7	0.26 +
7	700	Layer		topsoil	Light grey brown clay silt, friable	14	1.7	0.76
7	701	Layer		natural	Yellow brown silty clay with frequent manganese inclusions	14	1.7	0.43
8	800	Layer		topsoil	Grey brown clay silt, friable	11	1.7	0.05
8	801	Layer		natural	Yellow brown silty clay with abundant manganese inclusions	11	1.7	0.35

APPENDIX B: FINDS

Context	Class	Description	Fabric Code	Ct.	Wt.(g)	Spot-date
600	post-medieval pottery	Glazed earthenware	GEW	1	6	MC16-C18
600	CBM	flake		1	5	
600	flint	flake		1	22	

APPENDIX C: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Land at Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex	
Short description	An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in November 2018 at Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex. Three trenches out of a possible eight were excavated, the remaining five trenches could not be accessed due to the wooded nature of the site. No archaeological features were observed.	
Project dates	5 – 6 November 2018	
Project type	Field evaluation	
Previous work	DBA (CA 2015)	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex	
Study area (M ² /ha)	15.11 ha	
Site co-ordinates	41147 38063	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Joe Whelan	
MONUMENT TYPE	none	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	none	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	East Grinstead Museum	Ceramic, flint
Paper	East Grinstead Museum	Context sheets, registers
Digital	East Grinstead Museum	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology), 2018, <i>Land at Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report 18676		



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PROJECT TITLE

Worstead Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

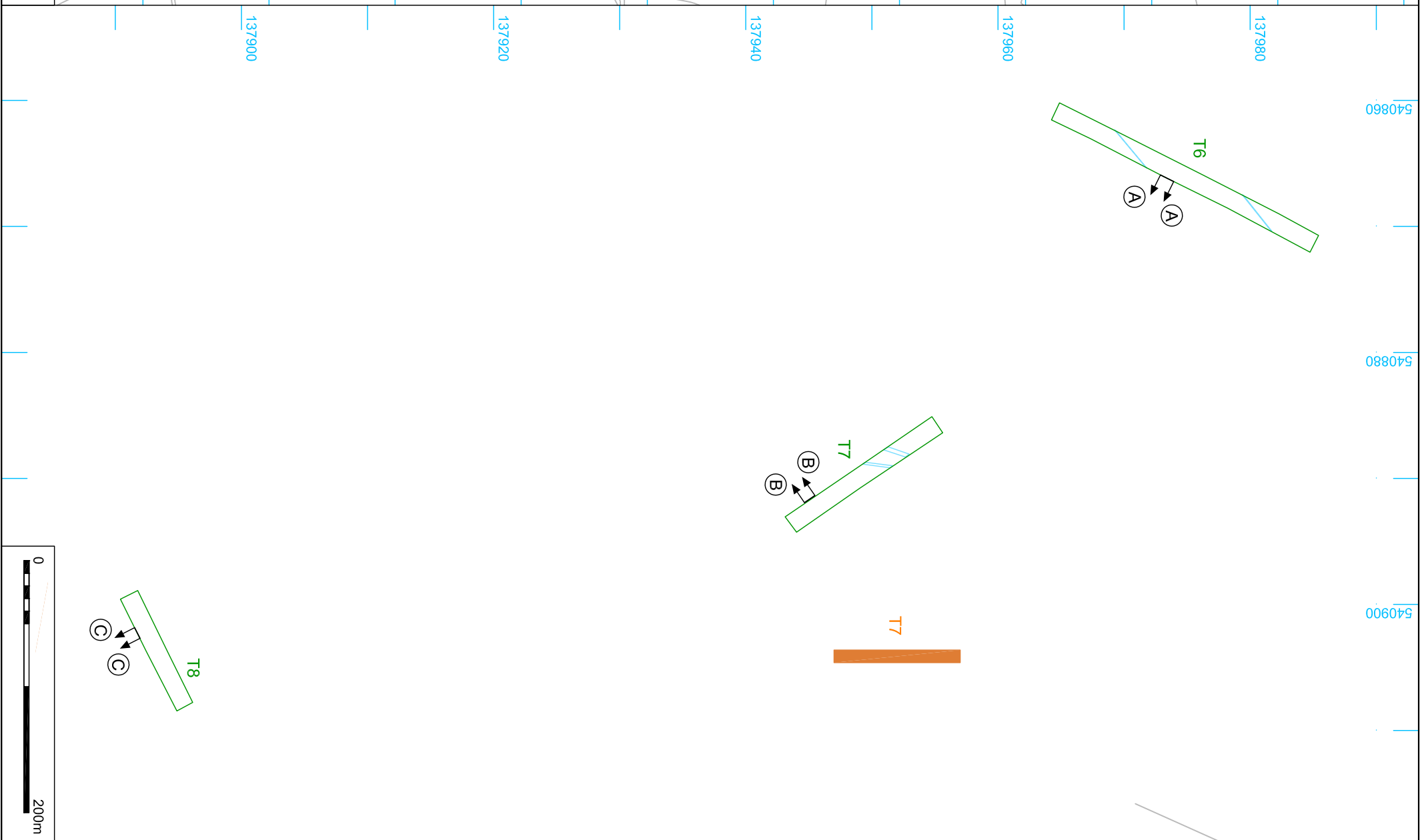
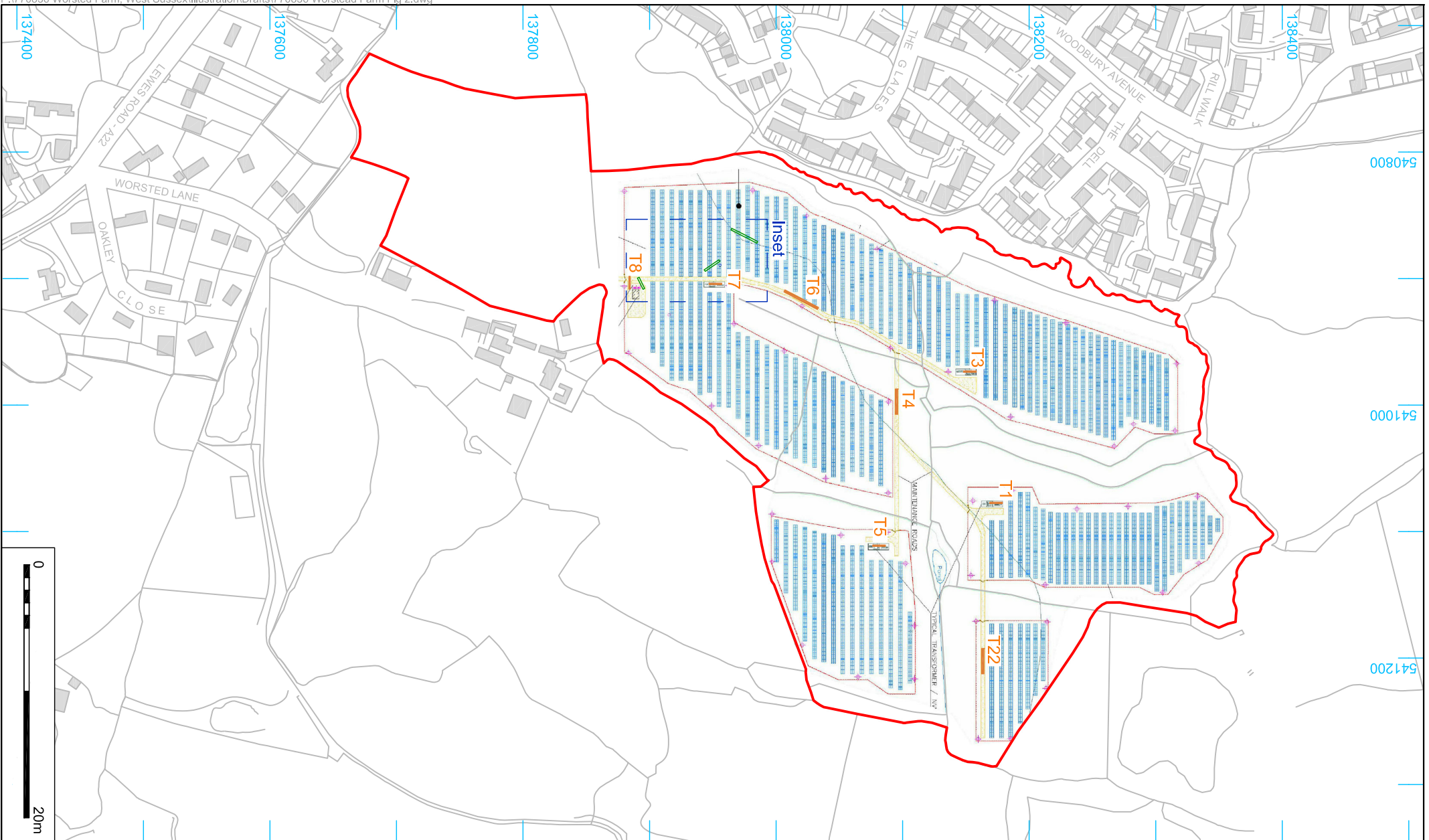
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FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- originally proposed trench
- field drain



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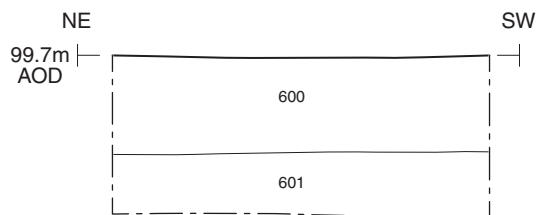
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PROJECT TITLE
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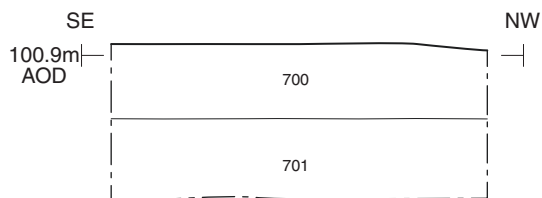
FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

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APPROVED BY	RK	SCALE	A3 1:400 & A4 1:400		

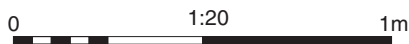
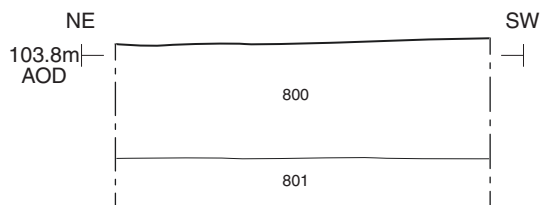
Section AA



Section BB



Section CC



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Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Representative sections

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FIGURE NO.

3



Trench 6 representative section, looking south (0.5m scale)



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Worsted Farm, East Grinstead, Sussex

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

4

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