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Archaeological Services Ltd**



**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Holdings Farm,
The Street,
Kingston, East Sussex.**

SDNP/14/00638/HOUS

By

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the ground-works for a new extension at Holdings Farm, The Street, Kingston, East Sussex. No artefacts were recovered and the only feature located was a circular brick built structure, possibly a soak-away or sump, some 3m in diameter and was constructed using modern frogged bricks from the Warnham Brickworks and back-filled with modern debris, probably dating to the mid 20th century. The site had been previously truncated and terraced presumably during the construction of the modern house as the adjacent garden sat some 1.3m higher than the area under investigation.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd had been commissioned by Mrs Lisa Morrell (The Client) to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the ground-works associated with the construction of a new two-storey side extension at Holdings Farm, The Street, Kingston, East Sussex, BN7 3NT, centred at TQ 39370 08260 (Fig. 1).

1.2 As a result of the site's location, and the archaeological potential of the area, the local planning authority put a condition on the planning consent for the development (SDNP/14/00638/HOUS) , requiring an appropriate programme of archaeological work to be undertaken.

1. A) No demolition/development shall take place/commence until a Written Scheme of Investigation has been submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing. The scheme shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and [if indicated by the Desk Top Study submitted with the application]

1. The programme and methodology of site investigation and recording
2. The programme for post investigation assessment
3. Provision to be made for analysis of the site investigation and recording of the site investigation
5. Provision to be made for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation
6. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organization to undertake the works set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation

B) No demolition/development shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A).

C) The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition (A) and the provision to be made for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured.

D) Any historic or archaeological features not previously identified which are revealed when carrying out the development hereby permitted shall be retained in-situ and reported to the local Planning authority in writing within [7] working days. Works shall be halted in the area/part of the building affected until provision has been made for the retention and/or recording in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority

Reason: To ensure that the archaeological and historical interest of the site is safeguarded and recorded to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework 2012.

- 1.3 Holdings Farm is not a listed building, however it is situated within 20m of the ‘Old’ Holdings Farmhouse¹. The ‘Old Holdings Farmhouse is a grade II listed building². This ‘Old Farmhouse is a 17th century building, altered in the 19th century³. It is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area defining the medieval and Post Medieval village centre (Fig. 2), and is within the Kingston Conservation Area.
- 1.4 The site lies on the south side of The Street, which is the original main street through Kingston Village, with the Parish Church of St. Pancras and Manor House situated a little further west along The Street.
- 1.5 The geology of the site, according to the British Geological Survey (sheet 319), comprises Head Deposit overlying Lower Chalk.
- 1.6 The appropriate programme of archaeological work comprised an archaeological watching brief as specified in a brief issued by the Archaeology Team at East Sussex County Council. The written scheme of investigation⁴ covered the watching brief and was approved by the local planning authority prior to work commencing. The HER was provided by ESCC (001/14).
- 1.7 The watching brief was required to monitor the excavation of the ground-works for an extension, The objective of the watching brief was to record any archaeological remains or building features which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, and to determine whether there are any archaeological remains relating to the medieval and early Post Medieval village which may shed any light on its extent and development.
- 1.8 The fieldwork was carried out by the author between the 27th August and the 1st September 2014.



Plate 1: View across site showing level of site surface and raised level of adjacent garden

¹ HER Records ESCC. (001/14)

² <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1274578>

³ HER Records ESCC. (001/14)

⁴ Klemenic, S. 2014 *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Holdings Farm, Kingston*. CBAS

2.0 Archaeological & Historical background (Fig. 3)

- 2.1 There is limited activity from the Palaeolithic period through to the Neolithic period. A single Palaeolithic hand axe (MES1683) was found to the north of the site. Although there was some potential for hunting and gathering activity taking place around the edge of the flood plain to the east of the site during the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods, there have been no discoveries of artefacts from these periods close to the site.
- 2.2 During the Bronze Age there is an increase in activity evidenced by the round barrows situated on the higher ground to the west of the site (MES1555 & MES1556), and cremation burials to the north (MES1685). A Bronze Age rapier (MES1686) was also found to the north of the site. The Downland landscape was probably being farmed during the Bronze Age and this continued into the Iron Age with evidence for field systems on the Downs e.g. MES2007). This activity almost certainly continued into the Roman period as well. A Roman Road (MES489) probably ran along Kingston Ridge and Juggs Road.
- 2.3 The earliest evidence for drainage and meadow in the Lower Ouse valley comes from a 10th century charter (AD957) for South Heighton, and it is likely that the levels at Kingston were also managed in a similar manner for grazing and hay prior to the Norman Invasion. Kingston does not have its own entry in the Domesday Book, but probably comes under the entry of *niworde* (Iford)⁵, and the settlement appears to have been divided up between a number of different manorial holdings⁶.
- 2.4 Evidence for the Medieval Village (MES19814) can be found in the Church of St Pancras, the earliest surviving part dating to the 14th century (MES1549), and evidence for a dovecote (MES16604) found at Kingston Farm. Swanborough was probably a grange belonging to Lewes Priory, and dates from the 12th century (MES1525).
- 2.5 The landscape around Kingston village comprised strip fields which may have originated in the Medieval period or earlier⁷. They certainly existed in the 17th century, and are first shown on Marchant's Plan of 1773 (Fig. 4), and continued in use until the Enclosure Award of 1830.
- 2.6 The nearby Manor House was built in the 16th century (MES1547), whilst many of the other buildings along The Street appear to have been built, like Kingston Lodge, in the 17th or 18th century (e.g. Holdings Farmhouse – MES1559) and Hyde Manor (MES2575), including Nos. 6 & 7 The Street (MES22872). Barn Cottage has been converted from an 18th century barn (MES22871).

⁵ Cooper, C. 2006 *A Village in Sussex; The History of Kingston-near-Lewes*. I.B. Tauris

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

- 2.7** The 'Old' Holdings Farm (MES1559) is shown on Marchant's Map of 1773, this shows little detail, but the area to the west which now contains Holdings farm can be seen (Fig.4). The 'Old' Holdings Farmhouse also appears on the 1st Edition OS map of 1873 (Fig. 5), and again there is no visible structure on the site of the 'new' Holdings Farm building, which appears for the first time on the 1983 edition of the OS map (Fig. 6).

3.0 Method Statement

- 3.1** The archaeological work was carried out in accordance with ESCC's *Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post-Excavation in East Sussex* dated April 2008 (Recommended Standards) and the IfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs November 2013.
- 3.2** The footing trench and electrical service trench for the new extension were excavated by a 2.5 tonne machine using a 450mm wide toothless ditching bucket to a depth of approximately 1.3m at its deepest point, by 500mm wide throughout. All excavation was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 3.3** All exposed sections and surfaces were cleaned and inspected for archaeological deposits, features, structures and finds. The spoil from the excavation was inspected on a regular basis to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest before been removed off-site. A Garrett Ace 150 metal detector was used to scan the spoil heap during the evaluation, and to scan the excavated surfaces.
- 3.4** All deposits were recorded according to accepted professional standards and to the ESCC Recommended Conditions. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.5** A temporary bench mark was established by the rear door to the house (20.0m Site OD) but was not levelled in to the OS datum at the time of the watching brief. Levels were then taken at the surface and base of the footing trenches, and on the top of the feature found (Fig. 7).
- 3.6** A full photographic record of the work was kept as appropriate and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held by Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd. A site reference of HFK14 has been allocated and after any further analysis will be deposited in Lewes Museum or a suitable alternative repository as agreed with the County Archaeologist.

4.0 Results (Fig. 7)

- 4.1** Context 1 was assigned to the modern made ground, derived from the demolition of the existing modern extension. It consisted of modern demolition rubble and was c.273mm in depth. The level of the site was noted as being some 1.3m lower than the adjacent garden area (Plate 1).
- 4.2** Context 2 was the natural Head Deposit that lay immediately below Context 1 (Plate 2). It was a dark brown silty-clay containing small light grey chalk pieces and occasional flint at <1%. It comprised 500mm of the silty-clay cap before becoming more compact with more chalk pieces, 30mm in size, and flecks at 3% and was 1.3m in depth at the limit of excavation (LOE).



Plate 2: Section in footing trench (Contexts 1 & 2)

- 4.3** Below the Head Deposit was a natural Gault clay deposit clearly visible in plan and only slightly visible by a few mm in section at the limit of excavation, Context 3. It was dark grey in colour and was not excavated.
- 4.4** In the south-west corner of the site, part of modern circular structure and its associated cut was uncovered, Context 4. It was built of frogged bricks which were marked 'WARNHAM' and used a modern cement as a bonding agent. The construction was built in header bond. It appeared to be approximately 3m in diameter and 1.2m deep to the LOE, as exposed in the footings and had no readily apparent function, but may have been a soak-away or sump (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Modern brick feature, Context 4 looking South-West

- 4.5** Context 5 was the backfill deposit within Context 4, the modern feature. It was a firm deposit of mixed brown and grey silty-clay and contained about 10% of modern frogged bricks, similar to those used in its construction, and was c1.2m in depth to the LOE.

5.0 Finds by Chris Butler

- 5.1 No finds were recovered from the excavation as the site was sterile of all finds, aside from the modern bricks used in the construction of the brick structure and contained within its fill.
- 5.2 The bricks are standard Warnham bricks, manufactured by the Warnham brickworks located near Horsham in West Sussex, and date to the mid 20th century. Warnham Brickworks was first established c.1888. In 1899 Warnham Brickworks was sold to William Belcher who established the Sussex Brick Co. Ltd, which then in 1903 became the Sussex Brick and Estates Co. Ltd. In 1935 a merger resulted in the formation of the Sussex and Dorking United Brick Companies which in turn merged with the Redland group in 1958/9⁸. Brickmaking ceased in the 1990's.

⁸ Beswick, M. 2001 *Brickmaking in Sussex*, Middleton Press

6.0 Discussion

- 6.1** The watching brief at Holdings Farm established that no deposits, artefacts or features pre-dating the modern period were present on the site.
- 6.2** It was noted that the adjacent garden was approximately 1.3m higher than the area of the site, and it seems that the site has been heavily truncated and terraced, probably during the construction of the existing house and the previous extension. It therefore seems very likely that any archaeological deposits that may have been present on the site were destroyed at that time.
- 6.3** The modern feature, constructed from the Warnham Bricks, can be dated to the mid 20th century, and could be contemporary with the construction of the house. It is not entirely clear what its function was, but it may have been a cess pit or soak-away or sump.
- 6.4** The watching brief achieved its objectives and ascertained that the development had not damaged or destroyed any archaeological remains, although it is possible that archaeological remains may have been removed during the construction of the existing house. The methodology adopted for this watching brief proved to be satisfactory, and the confidence rating should be considered to be reliable.

7.0 Monitoring and Standards

- 7.1** I would like to thank the client, Mrs Lisa Morrell, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief. The project was managed for CBAS by Chris Butler.

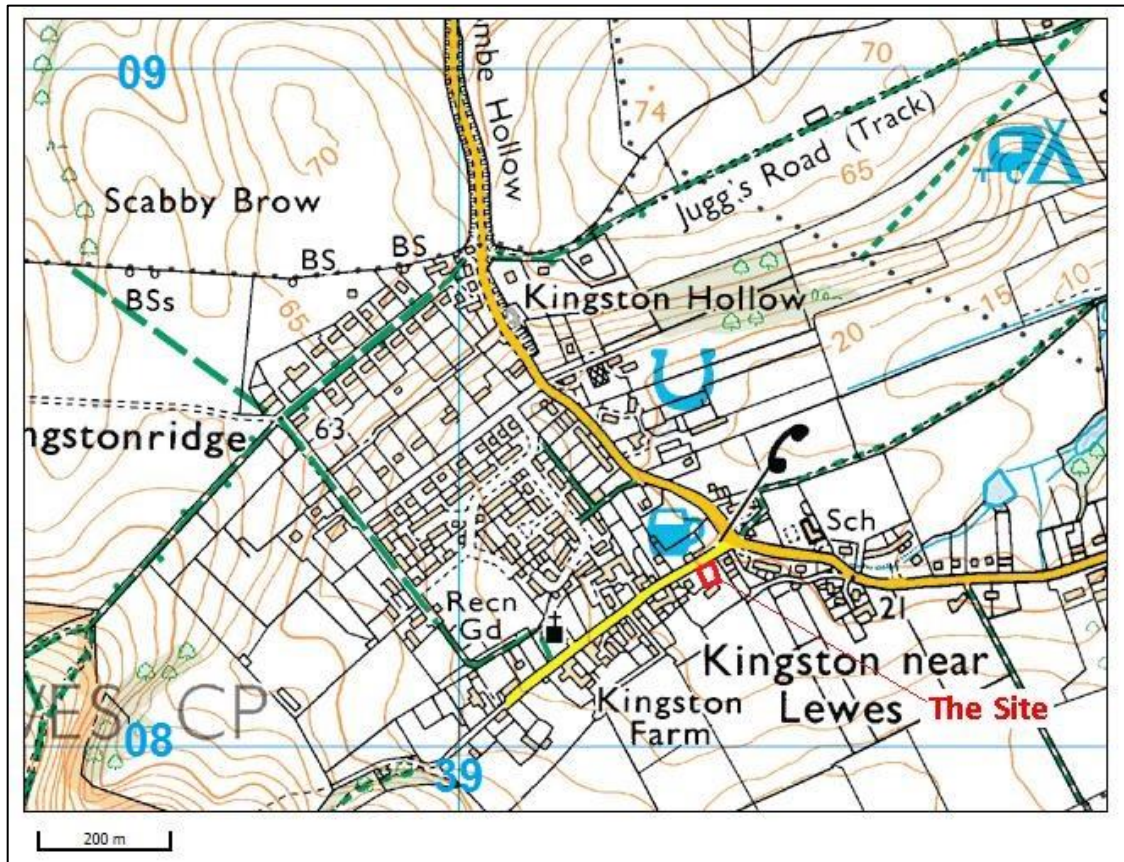
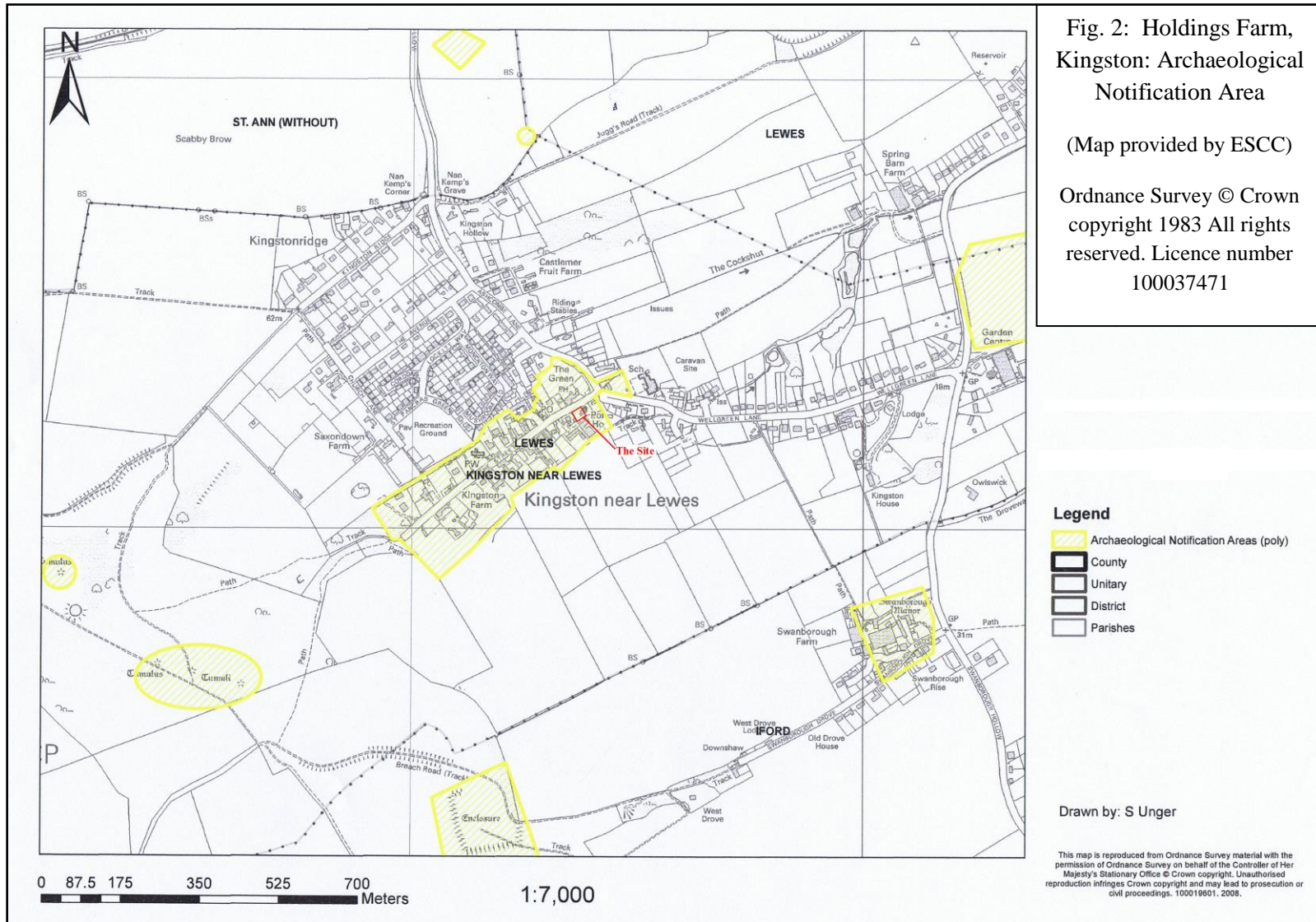


Fig. 1: Holdings Farm, The Street, Kingston: Location of the Site
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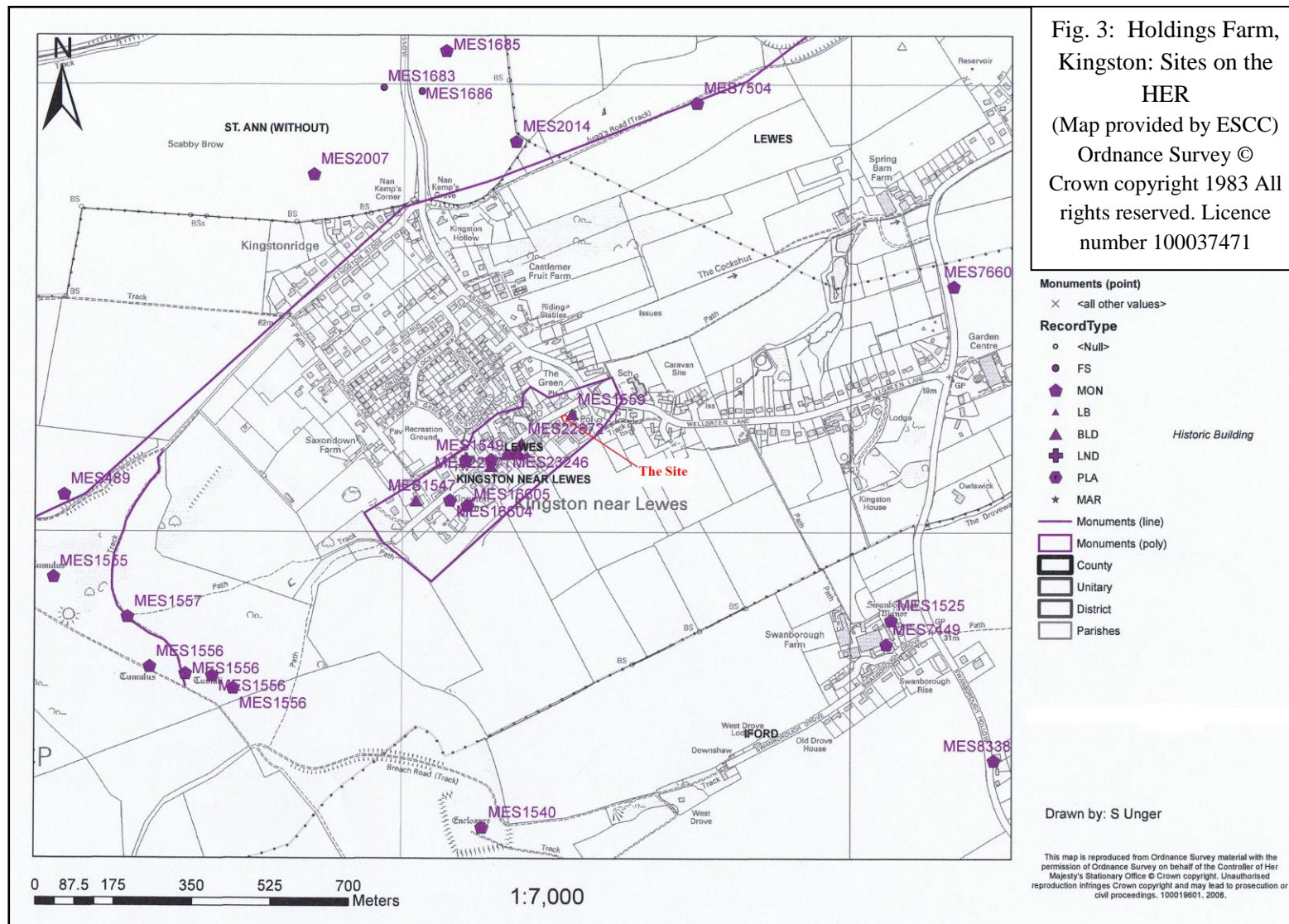




Fig. 4: Site of Holdings Farm, Kingston: Marchants Map 1773

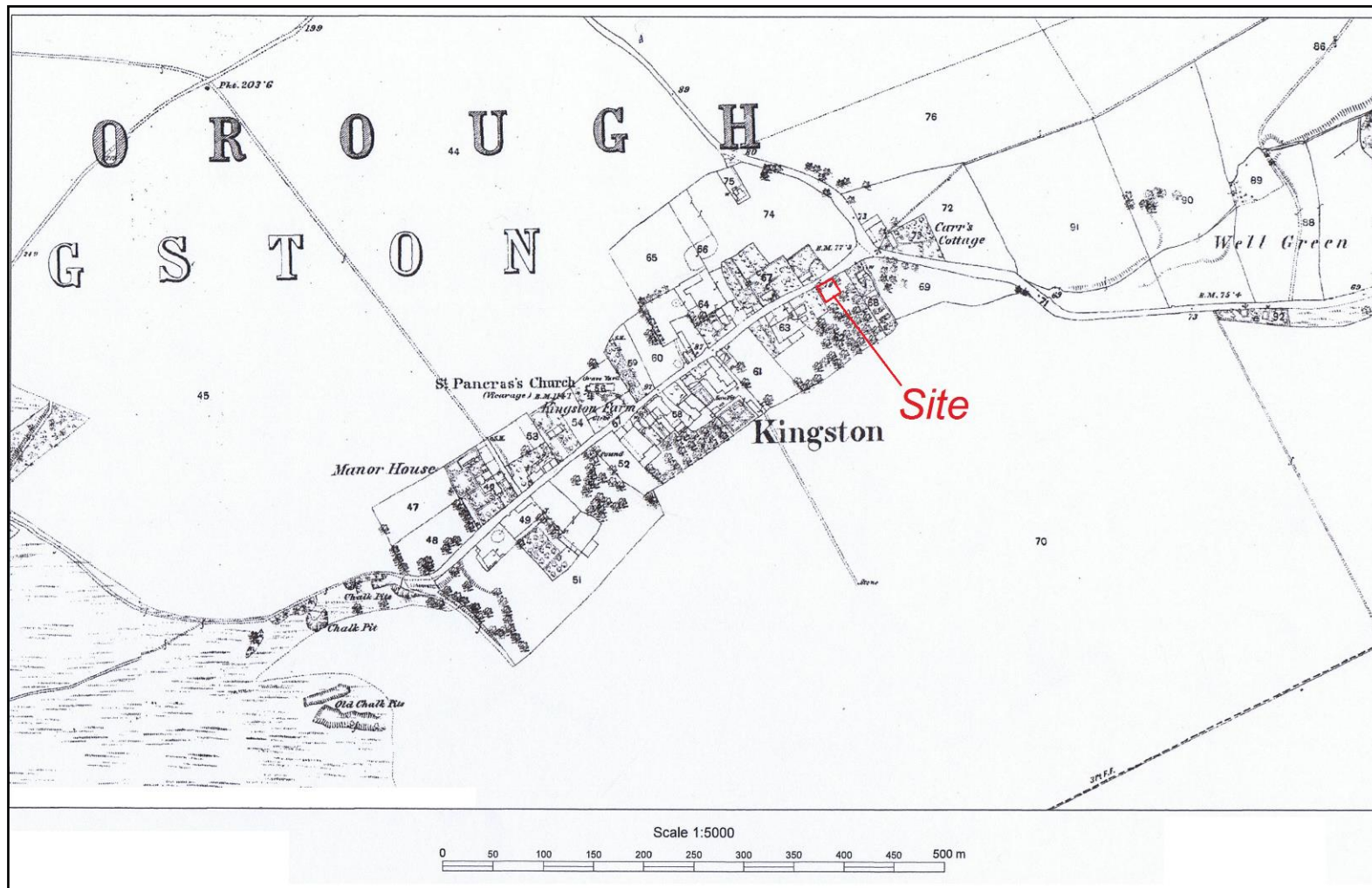


Fig. 5: Holdings Farm, Kingston: 1st Edition OS Map 1873
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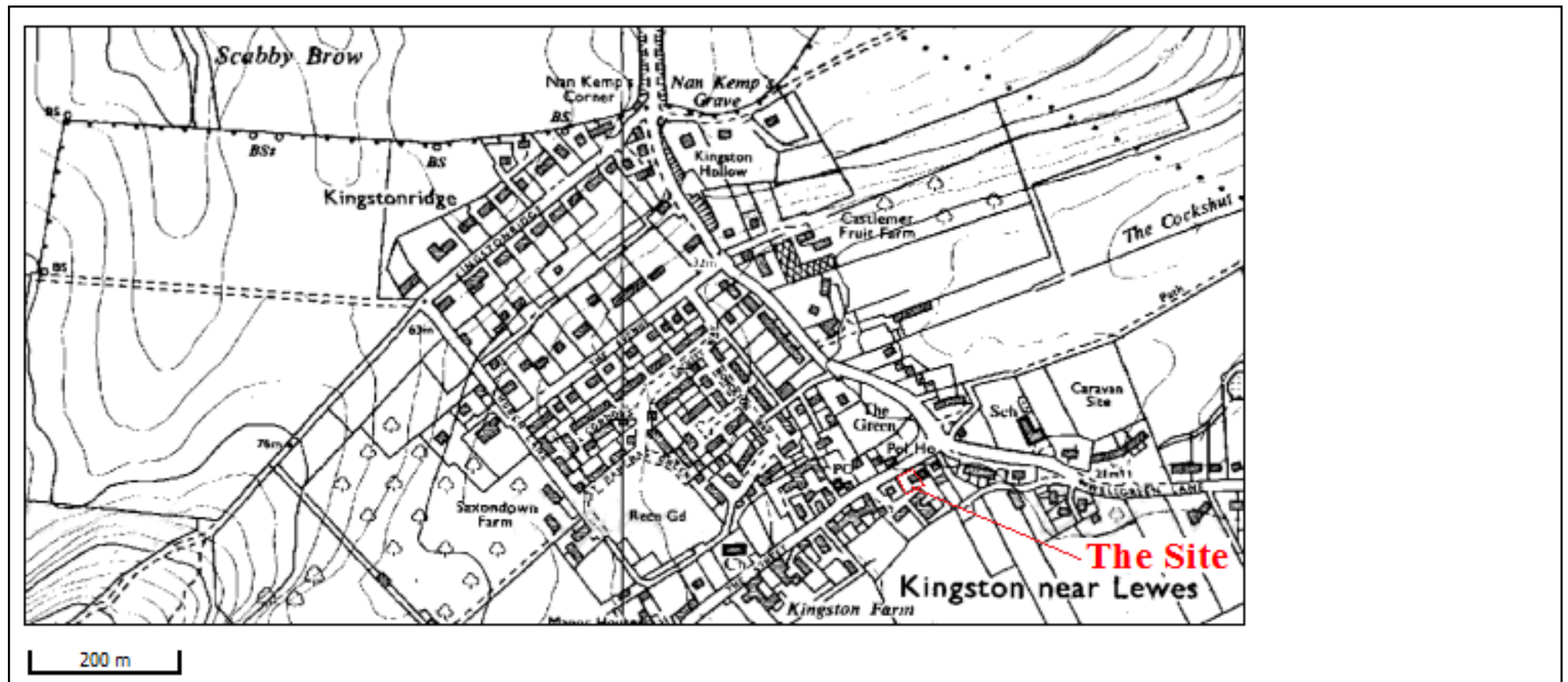


Fig. 6: Holdings Farm: 1983 Edition OS Map

Adapted from map provided by ESCC

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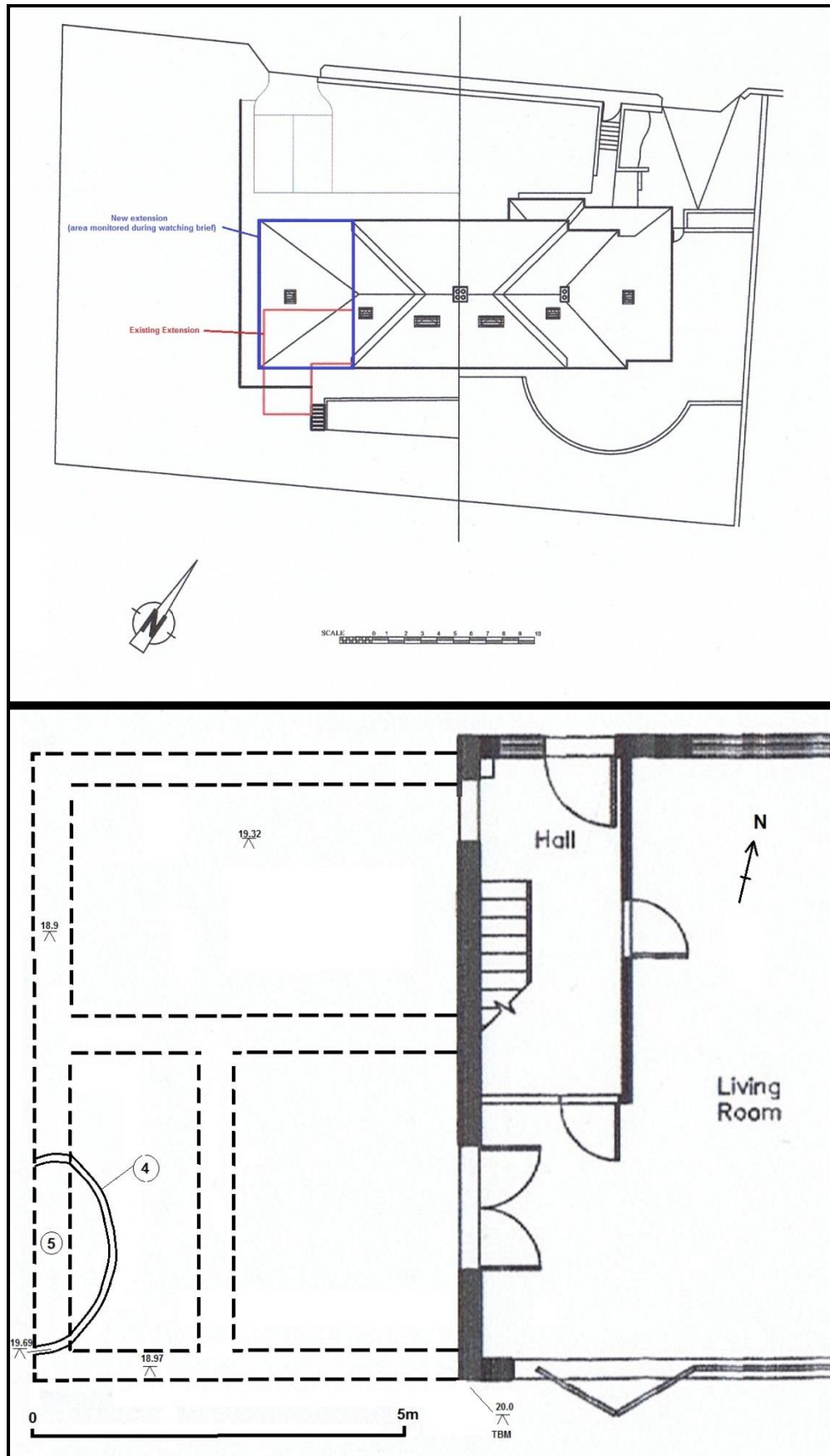


Fig. 7: Monitored Groundworks & location of Feature 4

Appendix 1 HER Summary Form

Site Code	HFK14					
Identification Name and Address	Holdings Farm, The Street, Kingston Near Lewes, Lewes, East Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	SDNP					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 39370 08260					
Geology	Gault Clay/Head deposit					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief X	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other X Deep rural		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 27.08.14- 01.09.14	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mrs. Lisa Morrell					
Project Manager	Chris Butler MCIfA					
Project Supervisor	David Atkin					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM X	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the ground-works for a new extension at Holdings Farm, The Street, Kingston, East Sussex. No artefacts were recovered and the only feature located was a circular brick built structure, possibly a soak-away or sump, some 3m in diameter and was constructed using modern frogged bricks from the Warnham Brickworks and back-filled with modern debris, probably dating to the mid 20th century. The site had been previously truncated and terraced presumably during the construction of the modern house as the adjacent garden sat some 1.3m higher than the area under investigation.</i></p>						

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd

Chris Butler has been an archaeologist since 1985, and formed the Mid Sussex Field Archaeological Team in 1987, since when it has carried out numerous fieldwork projects, and was runner up in the Pitt-Rivers Award at the British Archaeological Awards in 1996. Having previously worked as a Pensions Technical Manager and Administration Director in the financial services industry, Chris formed **Chris Butler Archaeological Services** at the beginning of 2002.

Chris is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He was a part time lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Sussex, and taught A-Level Archaeology at Bexhill 6th Form College having qualified (Cert. Ed.) as a teacher in 2006.

Chris specialises in prehistoric flintwork analysis, but has directed excavations, landscape surveys and watching briefs, including the excavation of a Beaker Bowl Barrow, a Saxon cemetery and settlement, Roman pottery kilns, and a Mesolithic hunting camp. He has recently undertaken large landscape surveys of Ashdown Forest and Broadwater Warren and is Co-Director of the Barcombe Roman Villa excavation project.

His publications include *Prehistoric Flintwork*, *East Sussex Under Attack* and *West Sussex Under Attack*, all of which are published by Tempus Publishing Ltd.

Chris Butler Archaeological Services Ltd is available for Flintwork Analysis, Project Management, Military Archaeology, Desktop Assessments, Field Evaluations, Excavation work, Watching Briefs, Landscape and Woodland Surveys & Fieldwalking, Post Excavation Services and Report Writing.

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