

Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Court Lodge Farm, Stack Road, Horton Kirby, Kent DA4 9DU

Site Code: COU-EV-18

NGR Site Centre TQ 57243 68166

Planning Application Number: SE/18/00293



SWAT ARCHAEOLOGY

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Summary

Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Court Lodge Farm, Stack Road, Horton Kirby in Kent. The archaeological works were monitored by the Kent County Council Senior Archaeological Officer.

The fieldwork was carried out in November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification (SWAT Archaeology 2018) submitted to the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works.

The Archaeological Evaluation consisted of 18 trenches, which encountered a relatively common stratigraphic sequence comprising topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Court Lodge Farm, Horton Kirby in Kent (**Figure 1**). The land has planning permission (SE/18/00293) for the build of an anaerobic digester with ancillary infrastructure, landscaping, buildings and equipment.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource Kent County Council Heritage & Conservation (KCCHC), who provide an advisory service to Sevenoaks District Council (SDC), requested that the programme of archaeological works comprising an archaeological evaluation

1.1.3 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in November 2018 in accordance with an archaeological specification prepared by SWAT Archaeology (2018), prior to commencement of works, and in discussion with Wendy Rogers Senior Archaeological Officer at KCCHC.

1.1.4 Site Description and Topography

The site is situated just east of the village of Horton Kirby (Figure 1).

The Geological Survey of Great Britain (1:50,000) shows that the PDA is set on Bedrock Geology of Bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. Superficial deposits are not recorded but revealed on site as chalk. The PDA is set at an average height of 83.00m AOD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record and have been summarised in the Specification produced by SWAT Archaeology (2018).

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Specific Aims (SWAT 2018)

3.1.1 The specific aims of the archaeological fieldwork are set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018) were to:

3.1.2 *'The primary objective of the archaeological evaluation is to establish or otherwise the presence of any potential archaeological features which may be impacted by the proposed development. The aims of this investigation are to determine the potential for archaeological activity and in particular the adjacent Roman remains and later archaeological activity.'*

3.1.3 *The programme of archaeological work should be carried out in a phased approach and will commence with a geophysical survey and evaluation through trial trenching. This initial phase should determine whether any significant archaeological remains would be affected by the development and if so what mitigation measures are appropriate. Such measures may include further detailed archaeological excavation, or an archaeological watching brief during construction work or an engineering solution to any preservation in situ requirements'.*

(SWAT Archaeology 2018: 6)

3.2 General Aims

3.2.1 The general aims of the archaeological fieldwork were to;

- establish the presence or absence of any elements of the archaeological resource, both artefacts and ecofacts of archaeological interest across the area of the development;
- ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit if possible, character, date and quality of any such archaeological remains by limited sample excavation;
- determine the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource, if present, and to assess the past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the Specification (SWAT 2018 and KCC Manual of Specifications 'B') and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (CIfA 2017).

4.2 Fieldwork

4.2.1 A total of 18 evaluation trenches were excavated across the Site (Figures 2, 3).

4.2.2 Each trench was initially scanned for surface finds prior to excavation. Excavation was carried out using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, removing the

overburden to the top of the first recognisable archaeological horizon, under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist.

4.2.3 Where appropriate, trenches, or specific areas of trenches, were subsequently hand-cleaned to reveal features in plan and carefully selected cross-sections through the features were excavated to enable sufficient information about form, development date and stratigraphic relationships to be recorded without prejudice to more extensive investigations, should these prove to be necessary. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with KCC and ClfA standards and guidance. A complete photographic record was maintained on site that included working shots; during mechanical excavation, following archaeological investigations and during back filling.

4.3 Recording

4.3.1 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprising both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights. These are retained in the site project archive.

4.3.2 Photographs were taken as appropriate providing a record of excavated features and deposits, along with images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the Site overall. The photographic record comprises digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the site project archive.

4.3.3 A single context recording system was used to record the deposits. A full list is presented in Appendix 1. Layers and fills are identified in this report thus (100), whilst the cut of the feature is shown [100]. Context numbers were assigned to all deposits for recording purposes. Each number has been attributed to a specific trench with the primary number(s) relating to specific trenches (*i.e.* Trench 1, 101+, Trench 2, 201+, Trench 3, 301+ etc.).

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of 18 evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision.

5.2 Stratigraphic Deposit Sequence

5.2.1 A relatively consistent stratigraphic sequence was recorded across the majority of the Site comprising a mix of topsoil sealing an intact subsoil of mid orange sandy clayey silt overlaying the natural chalk.

5.2.2 Appendix 1 provides the stratigraphic sequence for all trenches. Figures 1-3 provide a site plan and trench location plan while Plates 1-20 include selected site photographs.

5.3 Overview

5.3.1 The 18 trenches were located across the site to ensure full coverage of potential archaeological remains.

6 FINDS

6.1 No finds of any archaeological merit were recovered from the archaeological evaluation

7 Discussion

7.1 Archaeological Narrative

7.1.1 No archaeological features were recorded in any of the trenches.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The archaeological evaluation has been successful in fulfilling the primary aims and objectives of the Specification. Development proposals are not likely to impact on archaeological remains.

7.2.2 This evaluation has, therefore, assessed the archaeological potential of land intended for development. The results from this work show that the proposed development is not likely to impact on any archaeological remains.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 General

8.1.1 The Site archive, which will include; paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.1.2 All archive elements will be marked with the site/accession code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises 1 file/document case of paper records & A4 graphics

9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

9.1.1 SWAT would like to thank the developer for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Kent County Council, for her advice and assistance.

9.1.2 Paul Wilkinson MCIfA supervised the archaeological evaluation project and illustrations were produced by Bartek Cichy. Paul Wilkinson MCIfA produced the text for this report.

10 REFERENCES

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Brown, D.H., 2011. Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised edition)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2009, Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Institute for Archaeologists

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance: for field evaluation*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.

Compiled by: SWAT Archaeology (PW). The Office, School Farm Oast, Faversham, Kent

Date: 20/12/2018

Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Land at Court Lodge Farm, Stack Road, Horton Kirby, Kent

SWAT Site Code: COU/EV/18

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Evaluation on the development site above. The site has planning permission for an anaerobic digester whereby Sevenoaks District Council requested that Archaeological works be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of an Archaeological Evaluation which revealed no archaeology.

District/Unitary: Sevenoaks District Council

Period(s):

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) TQ 57243 68166

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Evaluation

Date of recording: November 2018

Unit undertaking recording: Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT. Archaeology)

Geology: Underlying geology is Bedrock Geology of Lewes Chalk

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2018) Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Court Lodge Farm, Stack Road, Horton Kirby, Kent

Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate)

No archaeology found

Location of archive/finds: SWAT. Archaeology. Graveney Rd, Faversham, Kent. ME13 8UP

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 20/12/2018

Trench Table

Trench 1	Dimensions: 12.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 82.95m S-end Ground Level: 83.2m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
102	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
103	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with , moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
104	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock	0.05+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 12m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 82.92m E-end Ground Level: 83.42m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
202	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
204	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with freq. root traces.	0.05+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 11.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.19m S-end Ground Level: 83.4 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
302	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
303	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
304	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock	0.2+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 10.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.49m E-end Ground Level: 83.61m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
402	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
403	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 11.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.09m S-end Ground Level: 83.27 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05

502	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
503	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints, manganese/iron stains and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
504	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 10.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.25m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 82.53m E-end Ground Level: 82.92m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
602	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
603	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
604	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 7	Dimensions: 10.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.04m S-end Ground Level: 83.18 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
702	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05-0.1
704	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 8	Dimensions: 11.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.25m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.46m E-end Ground Level: 83.57m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
802	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
803	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
804	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 10.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.81m S-end Ground Level: 83.99 m Test pit has been excavated in southern end of the trench through Head deposits to the depth of 1.3m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
902	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
903	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with	0.1+

		moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints, manganese/iron strains and bioturbations (small roots)	
904	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 11.4m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 84.02m E-end Ground Level: 84.01m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1002	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1003	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.1+
1004	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 11	Dimensions: 10.5m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.68m S-end Ground Level: 83.90 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1101	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1102	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1103	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints, manganese/iron strains and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+

Trench 12	Dimensions: 10.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.24m E-end Ground Level: 83.6m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1201	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1202	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1203	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.1+
1204	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.1+

Trench 13	Dimensions: 10 m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.97m S-end Ground Level: 84.03 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1301	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1304	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.05+

Trench 14	Dimensions: 10.7m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.46m E-end Ground Level: 83.84m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1401	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ.	0.00-0.05

		sub angular flints, freq small roots	
1402	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1403	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1404	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.05+

Trench 15	Dimensions: 10.6m x 1.8m Depth: 0.35m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.16m S-end Ground Level: 83.10 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1501	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1502	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1504	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.05+

Trench 16	Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m Depth: 0.3m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.43m E-end Ground Level: 83.82m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1601	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1602	Natural – Head	Mid compaction, mid orange brown silty clay with occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1603	Natural - Head	Mid compaction, mid greenish brown sandy clay with moderate large flint nodules, occ. sub angular flints and bioturbations (small roots)	0.05+
1604	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.05+

Trench 17	Dimensions: 10.3m x 1.8m Depth: 0.1m Trench alignment: N-S N-end Ground Level: 83.27m S-end Ground Level: 82.97 m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1701	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.05
1704	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.05+

Trench 18	Dimensions: 10m x 1.8m Depth: 0.05m Trench alignment: W-E W-end Ground Level: 83.43m E-end Ground Level: 83.82m		
Context	Interpretation	Description	Depth (m)
1801	Topsoil	Mid compaction, dark brownish grey silty clay with occ. sub angular flints, freq small roots	0.00-0.02
1804	Natural - bedrock	White weathered chalk bedrock with occasional flint nodules	0.02+

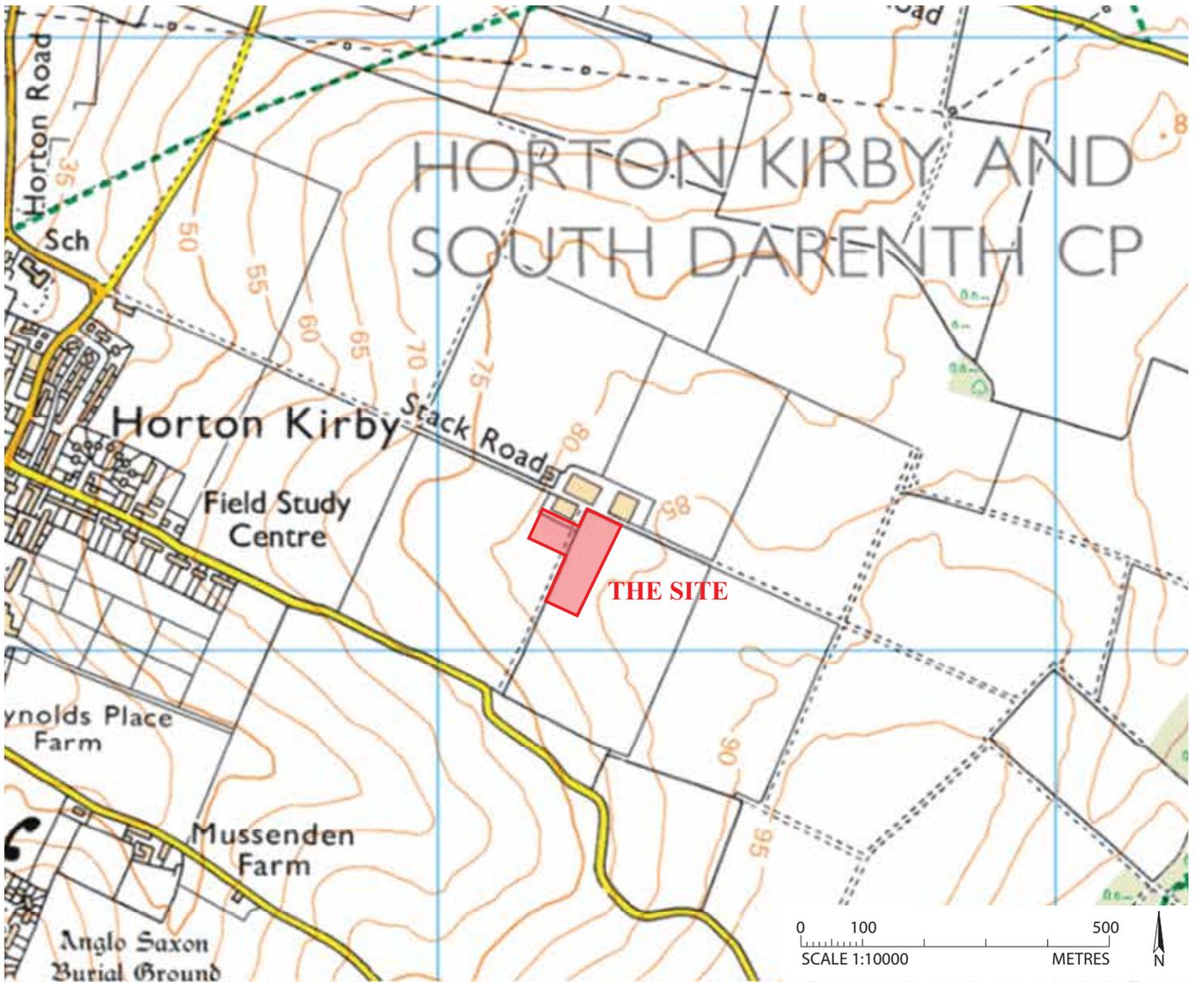
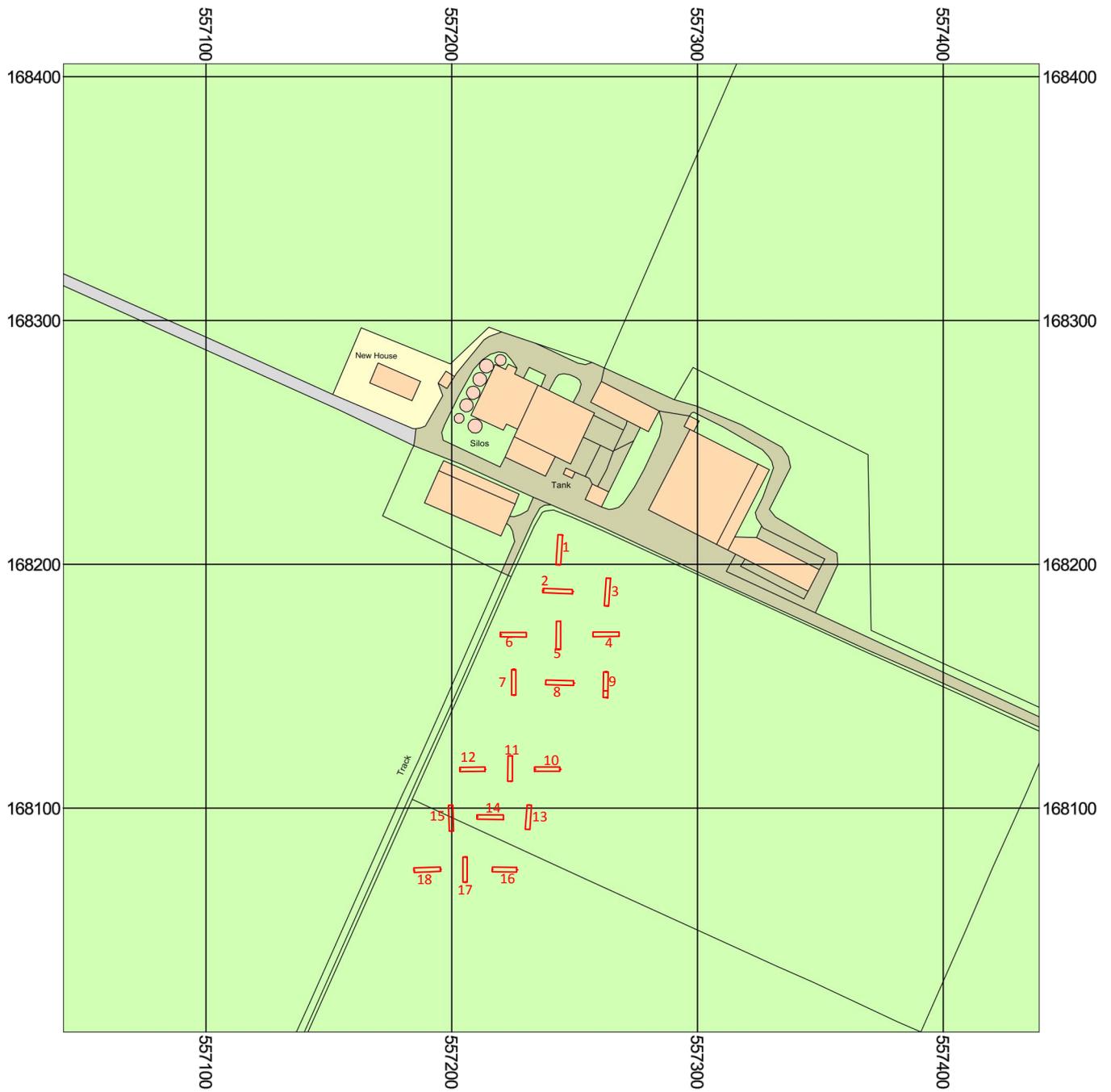


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.



Figure 2: Trench location in relation to development (green), scale 1:1250



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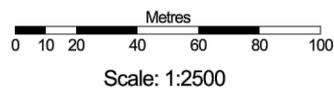


Figure 3: Trench location in relation to OS map, scale 1:2500

Plates



Plate 1: Looking north east at the site from its southern end



Plate 2: Looking north at trench 1



Plate 3: Looking west at section of trench 1 showing common stratigraphy of natural deposits exposed across the site. Chalk bedrock 04 is overlain by Head deposit 03, then 02 and sealed with thin top soil layer 01.



Plate 4: Looking east at trench 2



Plate 5: Looking north-north-west at trench 3



Plate 6: Looking east at trench 4



Plate 7: Looking north at trench 5



Plate 8: Looking south east at trench 6



Plate 9: Looking south at trench 7



Plate 10: Looking west at trench 8



Plate 11: Looking south at trench 9



Plate 12: Looking east at trench 10



Plate 13: Looking north at trench 11



Plate 14: Looking west at trench 12



Plate 15: Looking north at trench 13



Plate 16: Looking east at trench 14



Plate 17: Looking north at trench 15



Plate 18: Looking east at trench 16



Plate 19: Looking north at trench 17



Plate 20: Looking north east at trench 18