

Archaeological Monitoring of Development at Hill Farm, Lenham Road, Ulcombe, Kent

NGR 585399 150146



Report for Wealden Agriculture

Date of Report 17/07/2015

Project Code: ULC-WB-15

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Figure 1. Site plan

Archaeological Monitoring of Development at Hill Farm, Lenham Road, Ulcombe in Kent

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Plate 1. Aerial view of site (red circle) showing the site during development.

(GoogleEarth 20/04.2015).

1.0 Summary

1.1. From the 1st to 8th April 2015 Swale and Thames Archaeological Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief on ground works involved in the build of a detached agricultural building at Hill Farm in Ulcombe, Kent (Fig. 1 & Plates 3-8).

1.2. The works were carried out on instructions from Wealden Agriculture.

1.3. An Archaeological Watch was kept during the machine digging for the build of an agricultural building (Plates 3-8). The archaeological work was undertaken in two phases. Phase 1 was watching the levelling of the site with bulk removal of the slope and Phase 2 digging of the foundations for the post pads.

1.4. The Archaeological Watching Brief was to watch for any archaeological below ground impact.

1.5. The Planning Application Number for the development is 14/504784/FUL.

1.6. Although the archaeological potential was highlighted by the KCC HER with Late Iron Age cremation urns (TQ 84 NW 52) and Roman urn burials (TQ 85 SE 2) the Archaeological Watching Brief revealed no buried archaeological features and no archaeological finds were retrieved.

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Planning Background

Planning application 14/504784/FUL for the build of a large agricultural building. The following condition (4) was attached to the planning consent:

Condition 4: The construction of the agricultural building and associated hard surfacing shall not take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds recorded. The watching brief shall be accordance with a written programme and specification which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of visual amenity

3.0 Schedule of Visits

An archaeologist (Dr Paul Wilkinson) from SWAT Archaeology attended the site and monitored the excavation works from 1st to 8th April 2015.

4.0 Aims and Objectives

4.1. The reason for the monitoring and recording, were to:

- Clarify the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed building;
- Provide sufficient information for the Planning Condition to be signed off and data for KCC HER.

4.2. The ground works were to remove the slope so the new building and hard standing had a level platform. The first task to watch was the removal of topsoil followed by the removal of the slope in spits. Once the site was level the site was surveyed out for the projected concrete pads and a close watch kept on the excavation of these foundation trenches (Plates 3-8).

4.3. A full programme of proposed works by the contractor were made available to SWAT Archaeology before the on-site monitoring took place.

4.4. Confidence Rating

No factors hindered the recognition of archaeological and deposits during the monitoring and recording exercise.

5.0 Archaeological and Geological Background

5.1. The underlying geology on site was Atherfield Clay Formation (Plate 6).

5.2. The application site consisted of an area of ground to the west of Tillman Gate Farm, to the east of All Saints' Church which is next to Ulcombe Place and south of the Lenham Road.

5.3. The development site is located within a landscape that is known to have Iron Age and Roman remains. More importantly a rapid aerial survey has shown that just to the west of the development site are located a set of fresh water springs and the aerial photographs show relict field systems clustered around these springs (Plate 2).

6.0 Methodology

6.1. The Watching Brief complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (IfA: 1994, revised Oct 2008) and the KCC Watching Brief Specification.

6.2. The works comprised the observation of all ground works, including the inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and finds.

6.3. The Watching Brief was carried out in two phases according to the needs of the building contractors from 1st to 8th April 2015.

6.4. Excavation of the slope was carried out by contractors using a 360 degree machine equipped with a bucket necessary to remove the turf, topsoil and subsoil (Figs 3-5).

6.5. All excavations were carried out under the constant supervision of Dr Paul Wilkinson MCIfA, an experienced archaeologist.

6.6. Where possible the areas of excavation were subsequently hand-cleaned with the intention of revealing any observed features in plan and section.

6.7. The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with current IfA Standards and Guidance, (IfA: 2008), and methodology incorporated in the KCC Watching Brief Specification.

7.0 Results

7.1 General

No archaeological features or finds were revealed or recovered. (Figures. 4-8).

8.0 Finds

No buried archaeological features were located in the Archaeological Monitoring phase and no finds were retrieved.

9.0 Discussion

The development site is in an area of archaeological potential but no archaeology was revealed on the development site.

10.0 Conclusion

The Archaeological Monitoring has fulfilled the primary aims and objectives of the Watching Brief Specification. As far as it is known no buried archaeological features have been affected as a result of the development.

11.0 Acknowledgments

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank Wealden Agriculture for commissioning the project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Wilkinson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. It is enclosed within a thin, light-colored rectangular border.

Paul Wilkinson, PhD., FRSA., MCIfA.

References

IfA (1994 & 2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs

KCC Generic Watching Brief (2011)

Appendix 1
KCC HER Summary Form

Site Name: Development site at Hill Farm, Lenham Road, Harrietsham, Kent

Site Code:

Site Address: As above

Summary:

Swale and Thames Survey Company (SWAT) carried out Archaeological Monitoring on the development site above. The site has planning permission for the building of a detached agricultural building (14/504784/FULL) whereby LPA requested that Archaeological Monitoring be undertaken to determine the possible impact of the development on any archaeological remains.

The Archaeological Monitoring consisted of site visits which encountered no buried archaeological features or artefacts.

District/Unitary: Harrietsham

Period(s):

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Monitoring

Date of recording: April 2015

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

Geology: Underlying geology is sandy silt.

Title and author of accompanying report: Wilkinson P. (2015) Archaeological Monitoring at Hill Farm, Lenham Road, Ulcombe in Kent

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

See above

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Date: 17/07/2015

Plates



Plate 2. Aerial view of springs (red arrows) and relict field systems (blue arrows)



Plate 3. The site showing ground workers removing the slope (looking north-east)



Plate 4. The site showing the slope being removed in spits (looking south)



Plate 5. The site showing removal of slope with ditching bucket (looking south-east)



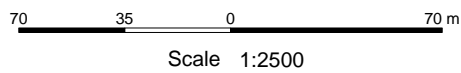
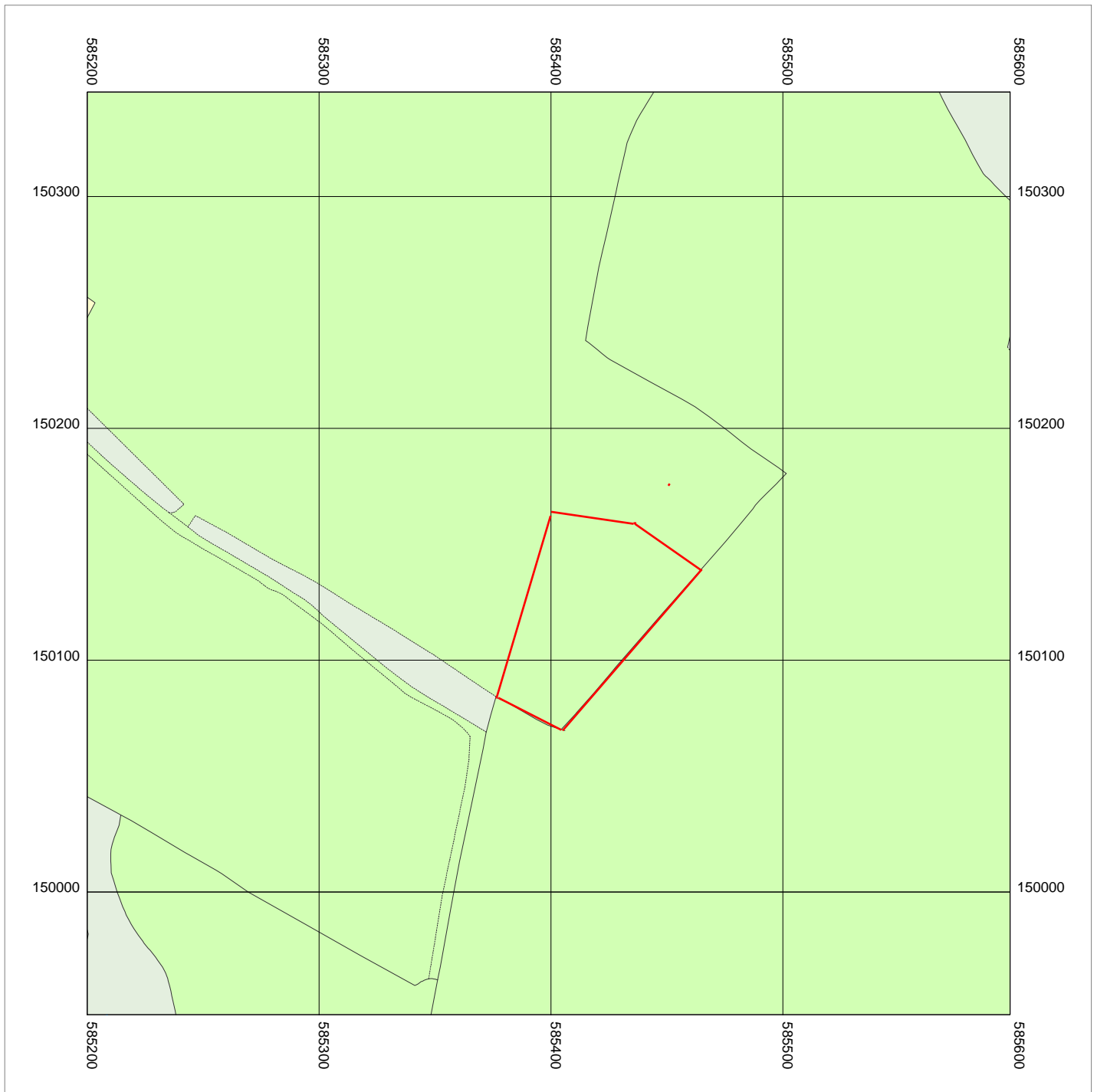
Plate 6. The site showing section (looking south-east)



Plate 7. The site showing layout of projected concrete post pads (looking north-east)



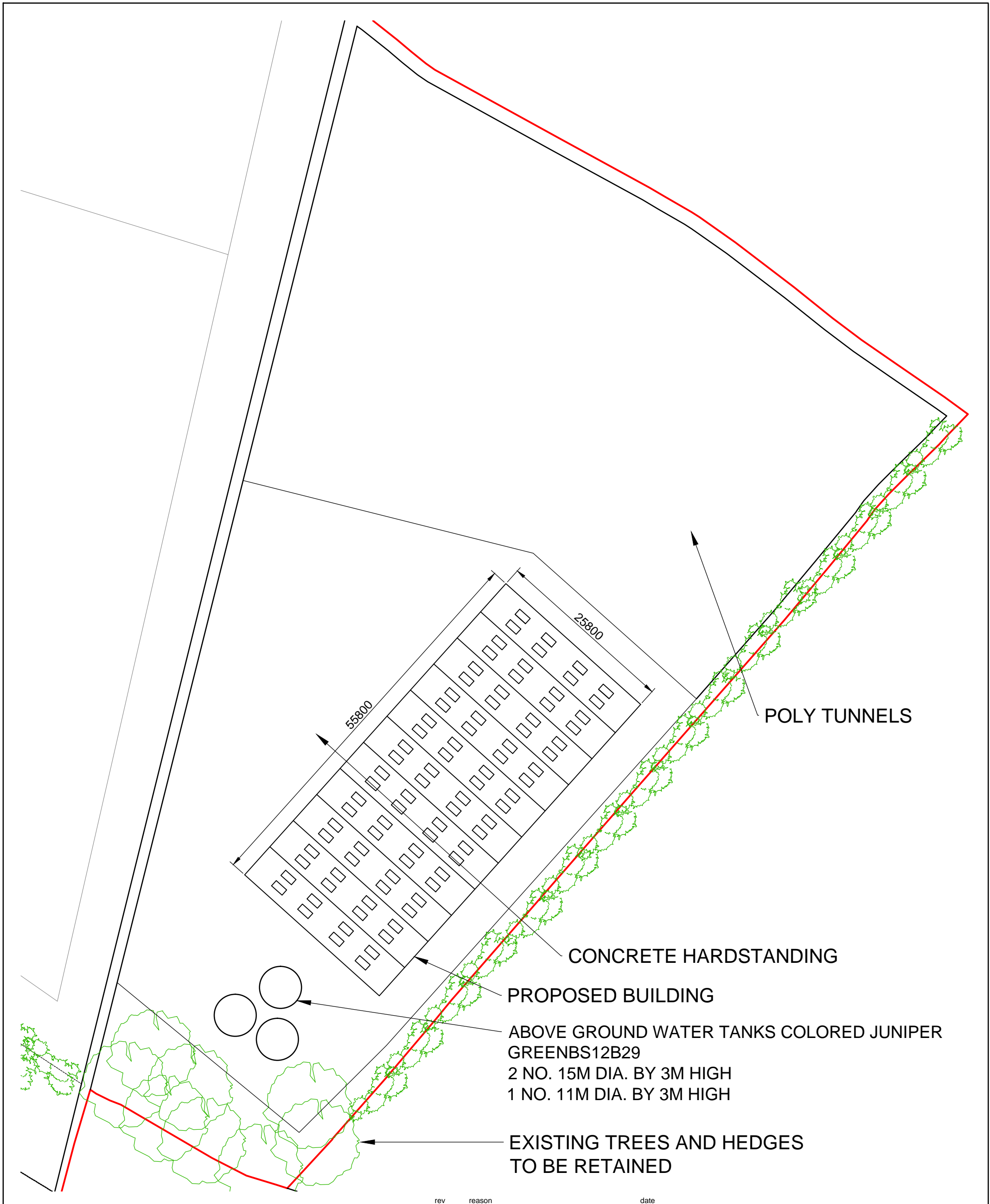
Plate 8. The site showing completed excavation of post pads (looking south-east)



Hill Farm, Ulcombe

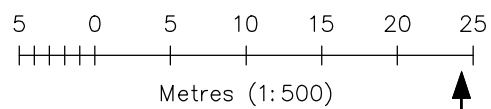
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title

PROPOSED BUILDING
SITE LOCATION PLAN

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