

**Archaeological Watching Brief on Land at
HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX**

Watching Brief Report

NGR Site Centre: TQ 92191 21056

Planning Application Number: RR/2020/1573/P



Report for: Mr Timothy Brown

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by SWAT Archaeology on Land at HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX.

Monitored groundworks comprised demolition of an existing garage building and erection of two storey office.

Initially, no archaeological cuts deposits or artefacts were revealed during the monitored groundworks. Following water pipe outburst the foundation trench was re-machined on following day and very faint profile probably terminus of archaeological linear feature was revealed at western side of foundation trench. No archaeological finds were revealed during primary and secondary inspection of the footings.

Acknowledgements

SWAT Archaeology would like to thank to the client for commissioning the project. Thanks are also extended to Chris Grotorex, for his advice and assistance. Fieldwork was undertaken by Peter Cichy who also prepared text for this report. Illustrations were prepared by Bart Cichy.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Mr and Mrs T Brown are currently making preparations for the development of land at Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye, East Sussex. A planning permission for the proposed development has been granted by Rother District Council (RR/2020/1573/P). Conditions 4 and 5 of the Planning Permission states that:

(4) No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been 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 and in accordance with Policy EN2 (vi) of the Rother Local Plan Core Strategy.

(5) The archaeological works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation and a written record of all archaeological works undertaken shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority within 3 months of the completion of any archaeological investigation unless an alternative timescale for submission of the report is agreed in writing with 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 and in accordance with Policy EN2 (vi) of the Rother Local Plan Core Strategy.

1.1.2 In mitigation of the potential impact that the development may have on the buried archaeological resource and in accordance with the provisions of National Planning Policy 2019 and Policy EN2 of the Rother Local Plan Core Strategy, the landowners subcontracted SWAT Archaeology to carry

out a programme of archaeological works on the proposed development site prior to the development of a replacement outbuilding following demolition of the existing garage.

- 1.1.3 All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with an approved WSI and the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) procedural documents of which Dr Paul Wilkinson is a Corporate Member (MCIfA). In addition Historic England guidelines and the Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork in East Sussex including Annex D (ESCC 2019) were adhered to. All work was undertaken in accordance with approved specification and with the East Sussex County Council Standards for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex (2019), hereafter the ESCC Standards.

1.2 Planning background

- 1.2.1 Mr and Mrs T Brown are currently making preparations for the development of land at Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye, East Sussex. A planning application for the proposed development has been submitted to Rother District Council (RR/2020/1573/P). Proposed works comprise demolition of existing garage and erection of two-storey office building.

1.3 Site Description, Topography and Geology

- 1.3.1 The site is located on the southern slope of Rye hill. The slope was terraced in order to accommodate Rye Hill road and terrace houses (Figure 1). Immediately to the north off the road a ground is descending forming steep slope that is about 2m high and denotes field located to the north. This ground seems to be built up against natural slope of the hill during the road construction.
- 1.3.2 The main dwelling located to the south of the road is built at lower ground, about 1.5m below the road surface. To the east of the house is a detached single storey garage. The site is terraced within the PDA (Proposed Development Area) limit. To the south of the house the site is occupied by garden, descending terrain seems unaltered by modern levelling.
- 1.3.3 According to British Geological Survey the site is underlain by geological bedrock formation of Ashdown Formation - Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 145 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. No recorded superficial deposits

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The proposed development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area and the Archaeological Officer, Chris Greatorex has advised that:

Previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity of Hilden and indeed at the property itself have demonstrated that the proposed development lies within an area rich in archaeological activity dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The nationally significant remains of medieval kilns, protected by a Scheduled Monument designation, are located just c.15m. to the north of the property.

2.2 Recent investigations in the area

2.2.1 Previous 2019 archaeological SMS works on the land within the confines of the limits of the PDA, immediately to the west of the garage ahead of a development for a side extension was undertaken.

2.2.2 The archaeological investigation revealed a sequence of medieval drift deposits and pit overlying natural geology. Archaeological layers were sealed-off by modern deposits associated with the construction of the main house in early 20th century. The investigation recorded the residual presence of Prehistoric activity in form of two pottery sherds. Recovered materials in form of pottery and glass shards, food waste mainly of marine origin suggest that the site is a part of a medieval settlement or its outskirts.

2.3 Recent investigations in the wider landscape

2.3.1 The PDA lies on the northern outskirts of Rye. This area is little evidenced in relation to the Prehistoric and Roman period. However, the PDA in an area that has been heavily evidenced for Medieval pottery manufacture. The area immediate north of the PDA is a Scheduled Monument (1018783) and this has been an area of particular focus as a result. A site discovered in the 1930s containing a number of Medieval pottery kilns dating to 1245-1425 and a geophysical survey in 1997 suggests traces of further kilns in the surrounding areas.

2.3.2 Circa 300m north, north west is the possible site of St Bartholomew's Hospital (MES2187). A Medieval hospital documented circa 1200 AD but ruinous by 1435 AD, although the chapel apparently remained in use for some time after this. Circa 500m to the north of the PDA is a possible battle site called King's Field (MES2189). in the area now called The Grove, although this does not appear to have been substantiated. Circa 550m north east of the PDA is a possible

Roman Villa complex.

- 2.3.3 A 2001 excavation by Archaeology South East at Fairfield, circa 150m north of the PDA revealed Medieval features of pottery production. Features found included extractive pits, waster pits, and a trackway. These excavated features confirming the results of an earlier geophysical survey at the site. The main activity was focused on the kilns in the south east corner of the field.
- 2.3.4 In 2010 a magnetometer survey was carried out over 0.21ha in advance of a proposed development (Land at Deadman's Lane, Rye) by Archaeology South East. This area is immediately south of the PDA. This was to inform the locations of evaluation trenches in advance of development. Of the area surveyed, it was concluded that it had been disturbed by landscaping making identification of any anomalies difficult.
- 2.3.5 As well as the above geophysical survey, this site to the south of the PDA (Land at Deadman's Lane) has been subject to both an evaluation as well as a full strip, map and sample excavation. The evaluation revealed amorphous medieval features and deposits that survive being sealed beneath a typical depth of 600mm overburden in Trench 2 and a thick deposit containing medieval pottery sherds within Trench 1. All of these features correlated with the anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. The evaluation suggests activity on the site occurring in the 14th century. The strip, map and sample revealed features that included an east-west property boundary ditch. The northern part of the area excavated had a number of pits, suggesting the main property area associated with these features was further northwards beyond the area of excavation, which could suggest that it may lie within the PDA. The eastern edge of this excavated area revealed the presence of two medieval buildings. The northern building had robbed walls, with a hearth and internal divisions. The southern building also had hearth, robbed out walls, robbed drains and occupation deposits. To the south of the excavated area, outside of the property boundary ditch there were a number of pits.
- 2.3.6 A 2014 watching brief in an area to the east of the PDA, identified pits and linear features. Natural geology consisting of Ashdown Bed formation was encountered in Trench 2 at its highest in the north at 19.83m AOD and at its lowest in the south at 18.42m AOD. The natural substrate was not encountered in Trench 1 despite excavation to a depth of 1.7m below the surface which was at a height of 18.61m AOD.
- 2.3.7 Test pitting undertaken in a garden to the south of the area of Land at Deadman's Lane, also identified archaeological features suggesting the medieval activity continues into this area as well.

- 2.3.8 A 2019 strip map and sample within the confines of the limits of the PDA, immediately to the west of the garage ahead of a development for a side extension was undertaken. The archaeological investigation revealed a sequence of medieval drift deposits and pit overlying natural geology. Archaeological layers were sealed-off by modern deposits associated with the construction of the main house in early 20th century. The investigation recorded the residual presence of Prehistoric activity in form of two pottery sherds. Recovered materials in form of pottery and glass shards, food waste mainly of marine origin suggest that the site is a part of a medieval settlement or its outskirts.
- 2.3.9 Further details of previous discoveries and investigations within the immediate and wider area may be found in the East Sussex County Council Historic Environment Record.
- 2.3.10 Watching brief was approached that there is a high potential for archaeological remains to survive at the PDA, especially relating to the Medieval period, although chance finds from other periods cannot be discounted. There is the high possibility of some Medieval features from the 2010 excavations from the south and east continuing into the PDA.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Primary Aims

3.1.1 The watching brief was maintained throughout the programme of intrusive ground excavation. The archaeological contractor confirmed the extent of proposed ground excavations in advance with the site developer and inform the County Archaeological Officer that arrangements are in place for appropriate monitoring.

3.1.2 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks. Particular attention was made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.

3.1.3 The South East Research Framework (SERF) sets out a draft research agenda for improving the understanding of the Prehistoric period in the region (Booth 2013) as well as research objectives associated with Medieval Kilns (Weekes, 2019) where more data is required for regional comparisons.

3.2 Project Specific Objectives

3.2.1 The proposed development is situated within an Archaeological Notification Area and the Archaeological Officer, Chris Greatorex has advised that:

Previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity of Hilden and indeed at the property itself have demonstrated that the proposed development lies within an area rich in archaeological activity dating to the medieval and post-medieval periods. The nationally significant remains of medieval kilns, protected by a Scheduled Monument designation, are located just c.15m. to the north of the property.

There is clearly a potential for archaeological deposits to be exposed by the proposed development. In light of this potential we require all groundworks associated with the development to be monitored by an archaeological contractor.

3.2.2 Site specific objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:

- To access the presence or absence of any archaeological features within the PDA, with particular reference to Medieval pottery manufacture, although as per the earlier excavations at the Site, archaeology relating to the Prehistoric, Roman, Saxo-Norman and Post Medieval period are also possible.

- To assess the character, date, extent and preservation, as well as significance of any archaeological features or deposits, with particular focus as to whether features from previous excavations within the PDA extend and within the PDA continue into the specific area of the watching brief.
- To assess how any archaeological remains or deposits may be affected by the development of the site.
- To assess if there are any options for potential mitigation of the archaeological remains should they be found.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The proposed groundworks include the demolition of the existing single storey garage. A replacement two storey garage will be built on broadly the same footprint, which is also on the site of an earlier double garage. The foundation trench for the new garage will be for 48 piles topped by a steel enforced concrete raft. The area to be watched is circa 40 sqm (Figures).

4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 Prior to the commencement of the works a specification (including ESCC Archaeological Standards Annex D) was prepared to provide a programme and methodology for undertaking the watching brief, setting out the objectives, the standards to be attained and the format for reporting through to publication.

4.2.2 The monitoring of intrusive groundworks determined the state of preservation and importance of the archaeological resource and the past impacts on the site and paid particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of any archaeological deposits.

4.2.3 The archaeological contractor was monitoring the excavations of all groundworks carried out by the developer. The archaeologist has inspected the surfaces revealed. Archaeological structures or features revealed were recorded in plan and section as appropriate according to Section 4 below. The main contractor allowed the archaeological contractor reasonable time and resources to undertake any inspection or recording required.

4.2.4 The developer was not carrying out mechanical excavation of building trenches, mains services or other ground reduction involving the stripping of topsoil or bedrock in connection with the planning permission unless the Monitoring Archaeologist was present.

4.2.5 The archaeological contractor informed the developer's building contractor as soon as reasonably possible where he believes that archaeological features, deposits or structures have been exposed during the course of ground excavations on the Site, that will require identification, cleaning, investigation and recording.

4.2.6 A soil sampling programme for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology was not undertaken as suitable deposits were not identified. Additionally high level of modern cross-contamination observed during the excavation supported this decision.

4.2.7 Further limited excavation may was undertaken by hand.

4.2.8 features shall be excavated as follows:

- Excavation across all junctions or intersections of cut features.
- Linear features – Sections of 1-2m wide through the cut of the linear at 5 metre intervals or up to a total of 25% of the total exposed length with sampling of termini of linear features
- Complete excavation (100%) of all discrete datable and significant cut features of less than two sq. metres plan area, and discrete features manifestly rich in artefacts and/or ancient palaeo-environmental remains. Excavation may involve more rapid collection of all artefacts and samples from the second half of discrete features by context or spit where appropriate and following standard recording of the section and first 50% of the feature.
- 100% excavation of postholes, hearths, kilns, pits (significant discrete features and/or remains of such).
- Features larger than 2 square metres - a sliding scale of sampling (to be discussed and agreed with ESCC archaeologist).
- Complete (100%) excavation of the ditches of small mortuary enclosures of less than 25 sq. m enclosed area, with a sliding scale of reduced sampling of larger enclosures.
- Features/finds considered to be of regional or national importance - excavation of the entirety.
- 100% excavation of graves and pits containing urned or unurned burial remains (cremation urns to be lifted wherever practicable for micro- excavation in laboratory environment), and pits or immediate environments of structured/ placed deposits.
- Waterlogged prehistoric remains or other features considered to be of importance to be preserved in situ, works will cease and the County Archaeologist informed. Discussion will

then need to be had between the Archaeological Contractor, the Client and County Archaeologist in order to assess any possible mitigation strategy. A regional scientific advisor from historic England may be needed to ensure that appropriate measures will be undertaken.

- Excavation and recording of Lithic Artefact scatters will be undertaken as per Sussex Standards 2019, Annex F. A lithic technology specialist and a geoarchaeologist should be included as part of the project team to develop and implement an excavation or mitigation strategy. They should be either based on-site permanently or on a regular daily basis to develop and oversee an appropriate recording strategy.
- Should the above not provide sufficient information of function and date, further excavation of said features will be carried out subject to discussion and agreement with the County Archaeologist.
- Bulk soil samples and sub-samples will be taken from the fills of all archaeological features for bulk screening, palaeoenvironmental analysis and soil micromorphology. In addition, further soil samples will be taken where required in the form of monolith samples. The stratigraphic position of such samples will be fully recorded. The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to English Heritage guidelines for environmental archaeology (English Heritage 2011), and waterlogged wood (English Heritage 2010a) and will comply with the Sussex Archaeological Standards 2019. Bulk samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, and sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits.
- In addition provision will be made for use of other scientific dating and geo-archaeological techniques as necessary. The advice of the English Heritage Science Advisor will be sought in advance of the application of these techniques and a specialist visit to the site to examine the remains in situ and acquiring samples will be arranged, where appropriate.

4.2.9 Once the groundworks were completed, the Monitoring Archaeologist has informed the Local Authority's Archaeological Adviser/s by telephone conversation on 15th February 2022.

4.2.10 A general site safety strategy was agreed prior to the commencement of all fieldworks and included a risk assessment, a methods statement, safety plans and procedures for safety

inspections and the reporting of accidents. Safety procedures were to follow the guidelines established by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in: Policy statement of Health and Safety and in the Standards and guidance and the practical guidance in the SCAUM manual Health and Safety in the field archaeology.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 The recording methodology will be in line with industry standards and Section 3 Annexes BCDEF and G of the Sussex Archaeological Standards (2019). Notwithstanding the requirements detailed above, the following general procedures were followed.
- 4.3.2 All structures, deposits and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards using appropriate recording systems. The recording systems used was compatible with those used on other similar archaeological excavations within East Sussex District. The records are to be integrated into the East Sussex County Council HER. The site archive will be prepared according to the guidelines set out in: Management of archaeological of projects: appendix 3 (English Heritage 2nd Ed.1991).
- 4.3.3 All archaeological contexts were recorded individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work, comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology was maintained as appropriate.
- 4.3.4 Supplementary recording systems were not implemented as no samples were taken for bulk screening, palaeo-environmental analysis, and soil micromorphology.
- 4.3.5 A full colour and b/w photographic record of all phases of the excavation works was kept. The photographic film and digital record, as well as the written record of the same, comprised part of the site archive. Record digital photographs taken as part of the primary site archive included a scale, north indicator and header board detailing the site code and context number. More general photography and area and feature photographs were taken for publicity, educational or publication purposes and excluded these items.
- 4.3.6 The archaeological contractor is to provide the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on this site. Additionally a video recording was made during the monitored groundworks.
- 4.3.7 The site archive, to include all project records and cultural material produced by the project, is to be prepared in accordance with Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-

term storage (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project the Applicant will arrange for the archive to be held at the SWAT Archaeology storage facility until such times that Rye Museum, the catchment museum can accept the archive.

- 4.3.8 All plans and sections were drawn on polyester based drawing film, and each plan and/or section was clearly labelled.
- 4.3.9 A GPS site grid was established across the areas subject to monitoring. All field surveying was preceded by a site visit to clarify the site specific surveying methodology, determine lines of sight and locate appropriate survey points.
- 4.3.10 All recording points will be accurately surveyed with a GPS RTK to a horizontal accuracy of +/- 10mm+1ppm, and located to the National Grid.

4.4 Reporting

- 4.4.1 A full watching brief report to be compiled within 6 weeks following completion of the fieldwork. Any analysis in line with industry standards and Annex H of Sussex Archaeological Standards 2019.
- 4.4.2 If required by ESCC archaeological officer within 3 months of completion of the watching brief the archaeological contractor will undertake an assessment of the results and produce a MAP2 'Post-excavation Assessment Report'. This report will set out a programme of post excavation works through to completion of a 'Full Report' and 'Publication' of the findings.
- 4.4.3 The report formatting is in line with Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) and Section 4 and Appendix 1 of Sussex Archaeological Standards 2019.
- 4.4.4 The site archive was collated after the watching brief, with all site drawings digitised, and records and finds cross-referenced and ordered as an internally consistent permanent record. The site archive comprises two elements, the documentary (written, drawn, photographic and electronic) record and the material remains recovered. A full archival indexed catalogue of the documentary site archive was prepared.
- 4.4.5 The site archive will include all records created and artefacts and soil samples recovered during the course of the fieldwork and will be suitably marked as such to distinguish these records from those created during post-excavation analysis. No parts of the documentary site archive will be discarded. The documentary site archive will also be distinguished from records created during project management. Any cleaning, labelling, sorting and analysis of finds will be in line with industry standards.

- 4.4.6 On completion of the ordering and cataloguing of the site archive the site archive will be assessed in accordance with the principles of The Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2) (English Heritage, 2nd Edition, 1991) and a programme of post-excavation analysis will be defined and agreed between the client, the archaeological contractor and the East Sussex Council Archaeological Officer.
- 4.4.7 The report will be submitted to HER as per Annex I of Sussex Archaeological Standards (2019), including GIS shapefiles when required. In addition, the archaeological contractor will ensure that the developer was made aware of the need to submit the report to the LPA to request discharge of the archaeological condition.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Archaeological monitoring at Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye recorded a common stratigraphic sequence comprising top-soil and made-up ground capping a drift deposit sequence and natural geology recorded during previous SMS investigation in 2019.

5.2 Initial Watching Brief

5.2.1 Watching brief was undertaken during excavation of foundation trench.

5.2.2 During the first day, an archaeological monitoring did not exposed any archaeological cuts or deposits.

5.2.3 An accidental damage to water pipe was done when foundation trench was nearly completed.

5.3 Subsequent inspection

5.3.1 Following pumping out of waste water and subsequent re-cleaning of the trench a potential cut of archaeological linear feature was revealed at western side of foundation trench. (section 6, Figure 3)

5.3.2 Feature [13] had moderately sloping sides gradually breaking into concave base. It measured 0.6metres in width and 0.3metres in depth and its backfill sequence comprised two deposits. Primary fill (13a) comprised firmly compacted dark grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent angular stones. Deposit measured 0.13metres in depth and was capped by fill (13b) comprising moderately compacted brown-grey clay-sand-silt with infrequent angular stones.

5.3.3 Feature was cutting through two drift deposits (14) and (15) sampled and recorded in details during 2019 SMS works in adjacent area. Due to the absence of feature's profile at the opposite side of the trench it was interpreted as potential pit or linear feature's terminus.

5.3.4 Lower part of the trench exposed natural/Head deposit (17) comprising mid orange brown with small light grey patches, silty clay and was overlaid by 0.34m thick colluvial layer of mid orange-brown silty clay (16) with infrequent angular stones. Context had similar properties to context (17) from which it originated, although the difference was the presence of inclusions.

5.3.5 Context (16) was overlaid by 0.36m thick layer (15) comprising mid brown clayey silt with infrequent charcoal flecks, daub fragments and coarse pebbles at the top of the context. Both contexts did not produced any cultural material suitable for collection and observed infrequent daub and charcoal flecks were too small to retrieve.

5.3.6 It could be speculated that described above layers are Medieval regarding the results of strip map and sample investigation carried out in 2019. Very similar layers were revealed couple metres to

the west and dated to medieval period. Additionally it should be mentioned that the course of extrapolated potential feature 13 is based on speculation and it couldn't be confirmed with absolute certainty. Revealed profile of potential feature was located adjacently to man-hole and modern service duct so there was a high potential of misinterpretation.

6 FINDS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 No finds of archaeological interest were revealed during the course of investigation. The only revealed dating evidence was modern and comprised porcelain, brick fragments, broken tiles and unidentified plastic objects. Small and almost microscopic in size potential daub fragments and charcoal flecks observed in certain deposits were too small for collection and to carry out any meaningful analysis.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 No environmental samples were acquired during the course of watching brief as deposit sequence was previously sampled and subject to environmental assessment during 2019 SMS phase of works.
- 7.1.2 The deposit sequence revealed during the course of archaeological watching brief was also heavily truncated and cross contaminated with modern debris.

8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL NARRATIVE

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 Archaeological watching brief at Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye has successively fulfilled aims and objectives of the specification and recorded one possible archaeological cut within potential medieval to post-medieval drift deposits setting.

8.2 Conclusion

8.2.1 Revealed stratigraphic sequence comprised potential medieval and post medieval drift deposits although heavily truncated and cross contaminated with modern inclusions.

8.2.2 The exposed cut of potential archaeological feature did not continued at the opposite side of the foundation trench and was not observed further to the east thus it was concluded that revealed cut either belongs to discrete feature or to a terminus of field ditch in NE-SW alignment revealed during 2019 SMS works and recorded in section# 1.

8.2.3 Additionally it should be mentioned that the course of extrapolated potential feature 13 is based on speculation and it couldn't be confirmed with absolute certainty. Revealed profile of potential feature was located adjacently to man-hole and modern service duct so there was a high potential of misinterpretation.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 Archaeological watching brief at Hilden, Rye Hill, Rye has successively fulfilled aims and objectives of the specification and recorded one possible archaeological cut within potential medieval to post-medieval drift deposits setting.

9.2 Recommendations

9.2.1 Due to the absence of dating evidence and that revealed cut does not continue into the other sides of foundation trench along with more frequent truncation of drift deposits and parent material than during 2019 SMS works it has been recommended that no further archaeological works are required for this development.

10 GENERAL

10.1 Archiving

10.1.1 Any enquiries or complaints made to the archaeological contractor during the course of any phase of the fieldworks or subsequent post-excavation analysis and assessment from the press, Statutory Authorities or the public shall be recorded in writing and forwarded immediately to the landowner. The archaeological contractor shall not enter into any written, verbal or electronic communication with the press, Statutory Authorities or the public without the prior consent of the landowner.

10.1.2 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by :

- all statutory provisions and by-laws relating to the work in question, especially the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;
- the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct;
- the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

10.1.3 Copies of all reports compiled as a result of the watching brief and post-excavation archaeological works will be submitted to the client as CD containing a .pdfA version. In addition a CD containing

a .pdfA version of the report and a selection of site photos in jpeg format to be sent to the ESCC Archaeological Officer and once approved sent to the ESCC HER for inclusion on the East Sussex County Sites & Monuments Record.

10.1.4 In undertaking the work the archaeological contractor is to abide by the: Code of conduct and the: Codes of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in field archaeology of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

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APPENDIX 1

HER FORM

Site Name: Archaeological Watching Brief Land at HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX

SWAT Site Code: RHR-WB-22

Site Address: Land at HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX

Summary: *Swale & Thames Survey Company (SWAT Archaeology) was commissioned by The Client to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Land at HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX. The Archaeological Watching brief was negative throughout the course of foundation trench excavation and recorded modern made up ground concealing natural geology and potential Medieval post Medieval drift deposits.*

Subsequent re-inspection of foundation trench on following day has exposed a shallow concave cut of potential archaeological feature.

No further mitigation is proposed

District/Unitary: Rother District Council & Kent County Council

Period(s): Undated

NGR (centre of site to eight figures) NGR TQ 92191 21056

Type of Archaeological work: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date of recording: February 2022

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

Geology: According to British Geological Survey the site is underlain by geological bedrock formation of Ashdown Formation - Sandstone, Siltstone and Mudstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 134 to 145 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. Local environment previously dominated by swamps, estuaries and deltas. No recorded superficial deposits

Title and author of accompanying report: SWAT Archaeology (P. Cichy 2022) Archaeological watching brief at Land at HILDEN, RYE HILL, RYE, TN31 7NP EAST SUSSEX

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

Contact at Unit: Paul Wilkinson

Plates



Plate 1: The site looking south with one and two metres long scales.



Plate 2: Foundation trench, looking southeast with two and two-one-metres scales.



Plate 3: Foundation trench, looking south. Two one-metre scales and one two metre scale.



Plate 4: Foundation trench looking west with one-metre scales. Previously recorded 2019 excavation was located underneath black building (the extension).



Plate 5: Re-inspection on following day has revealed potential archaeological cut. East-facing section of feature [13]. Looking west with two-metre scale

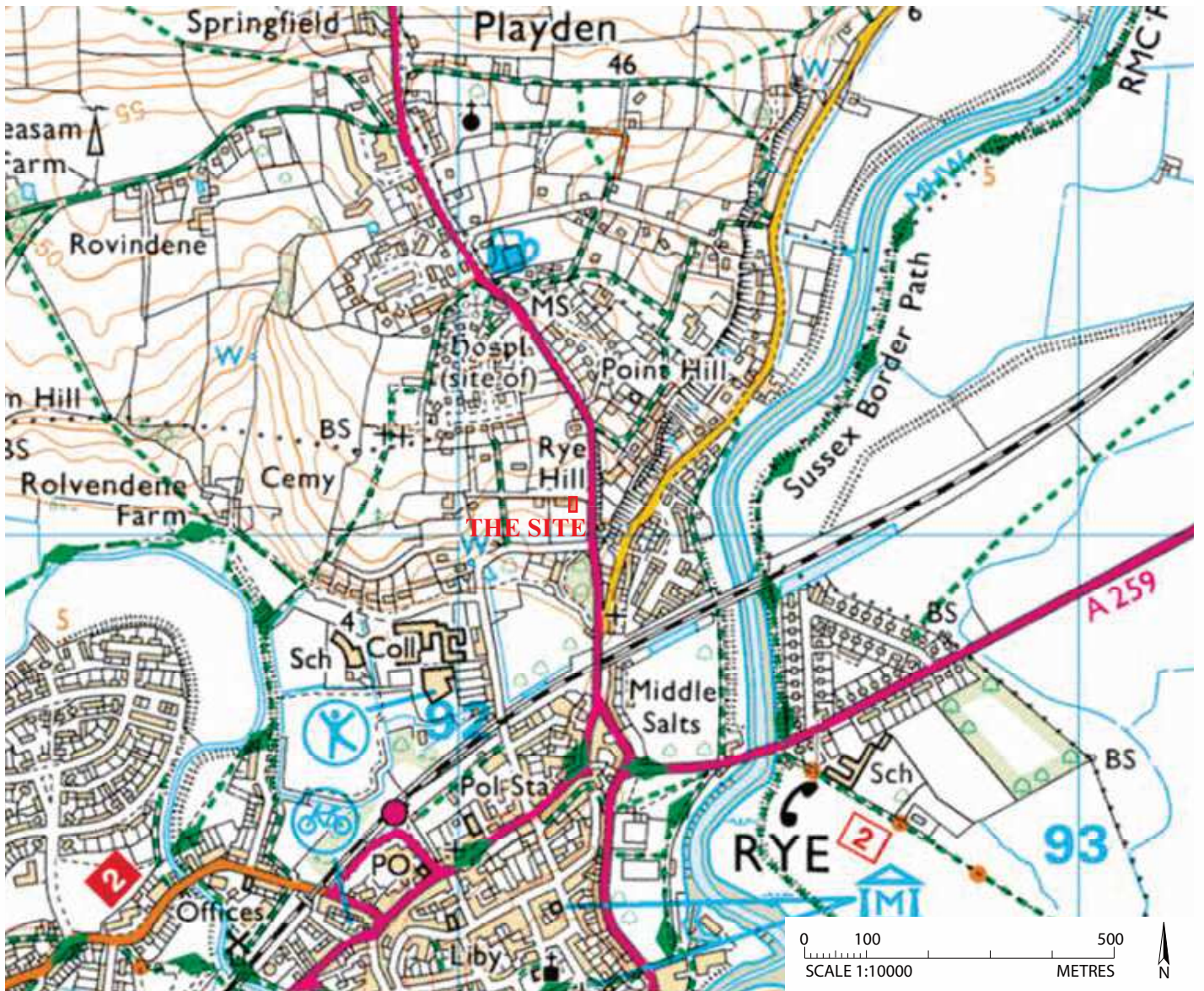
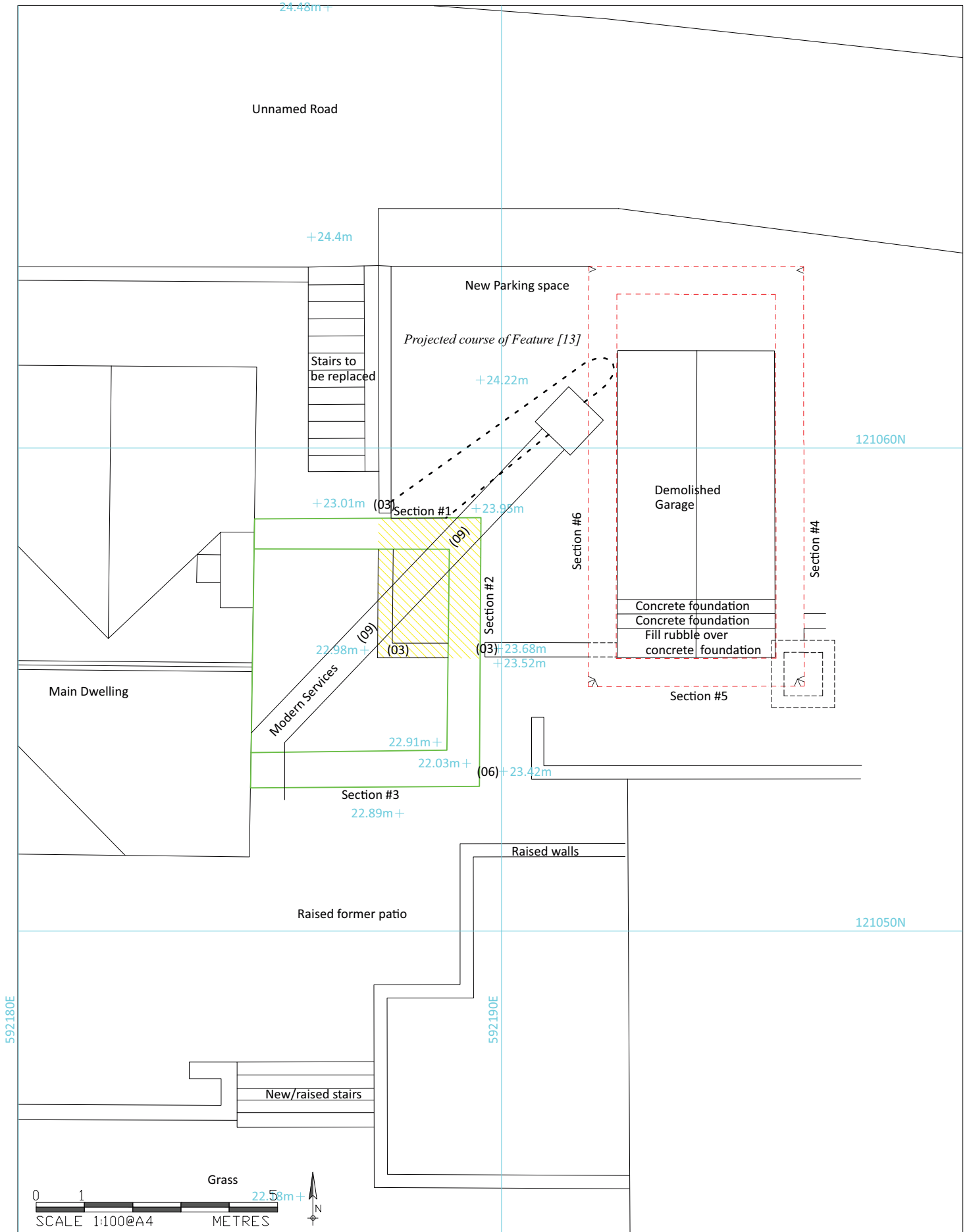
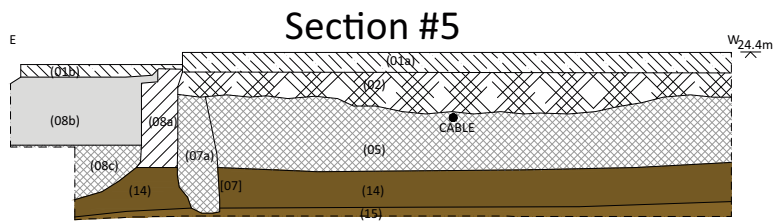
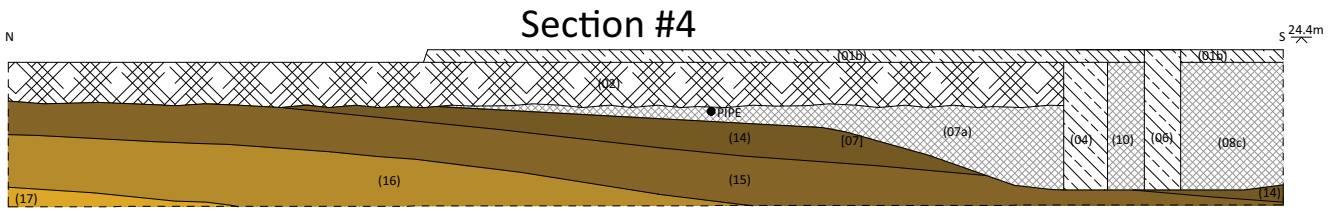


Figure 1: Site location map, scale 1:10000.

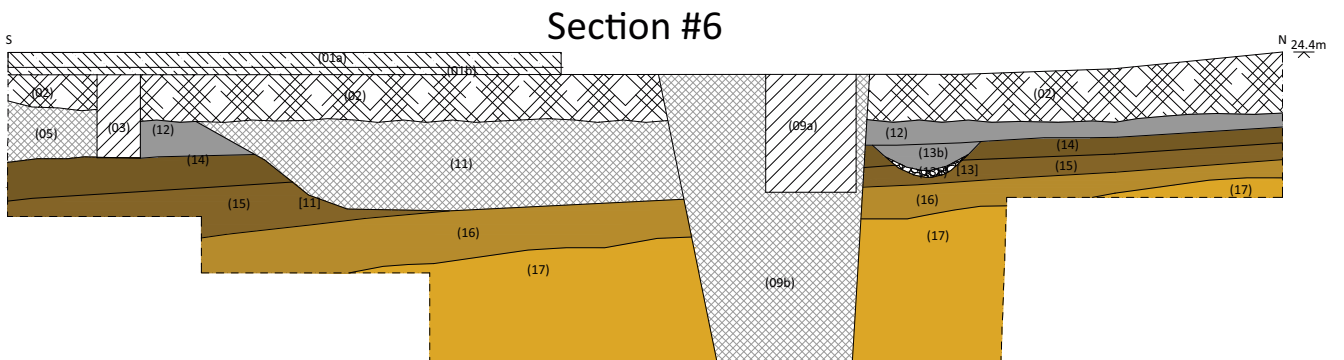


- KEY:**
- Trench - subject of WB
 - Projected feature
 - Previous SMS project (SWAT 2019)

Figure 2: Site plan



KEY:
 CONCRETE SLABS
 MODERN LEVELING - HARDCORE



KEY:
 CONCRETE SLABS
 MODERN LEVELING - HARDCORE
 MODERN BRICK WALL
 MODERN BRICK WALL FACE
 MODERN BRICK STRUCTURE
 MODERN FILL
 COLLUVIUMS
 NATURAL

0 0.5 2.5
 SCALE 1:50@A4 METRES

Figure 3: Sections