

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Leybourne Chase
Leybourne, Kent**

**NGR 567832 158984
NGR TQ 678 590**

Planning Ref: KCC/TM/0173/2014

**ASE Project No: 7003
Site Code: LBR14**

**ASE Report No: 2014362
OASIS id: archaeol6-194547**



By Steve Price

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November 2014

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by R. Durtnell and Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent. Fifteen trenches were excavated.

The site was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, as previous evaluation work in the area to the north of the site uncovered Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation remains. However, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were found during the course of the evaluation.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by R. Durnell and Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent centred on NGR: 567832 158984 (Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated at approximately 35m AOD, on a gentle south facing slope. It comprises a rough pasture field bounded by trees, hedgerows and fences (ASE 2014).

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1:50,000 scale geological mapping, the natural geology of the site comprises sandstone of the Folkestone Formation, overlain with mixed head deposits.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The site is part of the subject of a planning application for the construction of a new school together with new car parking and associated playing field and landscaping. The County Planning Authority's planning reference number for the proposal is KCC/TM/0173/2014.

1.3.2 Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group, which provides archaeological advice to the County Planning Authority, advised that a programme of archaeological work would likely be required at the site. Such a programme would comprise a phased programme - initially involving trial trenching, to be followed by appropriate safeguarding or investigation. This specification sets the requirements for the initial field evaluation of the site. Kent County Council's Heritage Conservation Group has recommended the following planning condition be attached to any forthcoming consent:

AR1 No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written specification and timetable which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

1.3.3 A specification was prepared by Kent County Council (2014) detailing the aims of the archaeological evaluation.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aim of the evaluation work was to determine whether any significant archaeological remains survive on site. The area to the north of the site revealed Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation remains, and so the site was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric remains. Assessment of

the results should provide guidance on what mitigation measures would be appropriate. Such measures may, for example, include further detailed archaeological excavation prior to development and/or an archaeological watching brief during construction work.

- 1.4.2 The evaluation was designed to ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on site.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE between the 3rd-6th November 2014 on land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent. The field work was directed by Ian Hogg with the assistance of Steve Price. The field work was managed by Neil Griffin, and the post excavation work was managed by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from an archaeological desk-based study of the site (ASE 2014) and the Kent HER. No previous fieldwork has taken place on the site, although several phases of archaeological work took place immediately to the north between 2003 and 2009 during the redevelopment of the former Leybourne Grange Hospital. This work comprised a desk-based assessment and evaluation trenching in 2003, a further phase of evaluation in 2007 and a more localised excavation phase in 2009 (ASE 2014). The nearest areas to the site examined produced a handful of undated or post-medieval features (Riccoboni 2008).

2.2 Prehistoric c.10,000 BC-AD 43

2.2.1 The area has produced significant evidence for prehistoric occupation, including settlement remains. Evidence has been found from development plots immediately to the north of the site. It was therefore considered likely that further deposits of prehistoric date may exist within the site.

2.2.2 Nine prehistoric sites are recorded within the study area:

- Small quantity of Mesolithic worked flints found in later features during excavations in 2009 (HER no. TQ65NE407);
- Small quantity of Neolithic worked flints, including scrapers and a reworked polished axe, found in later features during excavations in 2009 (HER no. TQ65NE408);
- Early Neolithic denticulated flint blade found in a later ditch during excavations in 2009 (HER no. TQ65NE409);
- Ditches and pits of possible Late Bronze Age date found during evaluation in 2007 and excavation in 2009 (HER no. TQ65NE410);
- Late Iron Age enclosure found during evaluation in 2003, with further finds of a field system in 2007. Excavations in 2009 revealed the enclosure to contain pits and a four-post structure. This was replaced by a second enclosure in the early 1st century AD. A large quantity of pottery was found (HER no. TQ65NE102);
- Small Iron Age site, represented by a buried surface, a flint scraper and a pottery sherd, found during evaluation in 2005 (HER no. TQ65NE104);
- Iron Age pottery and flints found in medieval features excavated in advance of the Leybourne Bypass in 2005 (HER no. TQ65NE120);
- Late Iron Age ditches excavated in 2009 (HER no. TQ65NE411);
- Iron Age copper alloy coin found during metal detecting in 2010 (HER no. MKE75900).

2.3 Romano-British c. AD 43-AD 410

2.3.1 Little Roman evidence has been discovered from the area, although it is possible that many of the Iron Age features identified in the area immediately north of the site could have extended into the Roman period.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon c. AD 410-AD 1066

- 2.4.1 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity in the study area is restricted to findspots of artefacts relating to small metal fittings lost by horsemen travelling through, rather than necessarily residing in, the landscape.

2.5 Medieval c. AD 1066-AD 1540

- 2.5.1 Medieval settlement clusters are known in the study area, marked by the distribution of key high-status sites to the west (St. Martin's Church) and east (Leybourne Castle) of the site. The suggestion of a possible deserted settlement associated with the church is less-likely in a Kentish context, where settlement was dispersed rather than nucleated. However, given the general tendency of historic settlements to shift around within their overall boundaries, the possibility of medieval occupation cannot be ruled out, although recent excavations adjacent to the site have found no clear medieval evidence.

2.6 Post-medieval c. AD 1540 to date

- 2.6.1 The post-medieval history of the site is of open parkland and farmland, subsequently used as playing fields. The existence of former boundaries and evidence for small-scale agricultural buildings not marked on historic maps is a possibility.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological evaluation was to comprise the machine excavation under archaeological supervision of 16 archaeological trial trenches in a predetermined pattern on the site. However, Trench 1 could not be excavated, as it would partially have been situated outside of the existing site boundary, and could not be moved as it would have been underneath a tree canopy. Trench 2 was moved to the south due to its proximity to the existing site boundary. For this same reason: Trench 3 had to be cut short at the northern end; Trench 4 was cut short at the western end; Trench 6 had to be moved slightly to the south at the eastern end; Trench 7 was moved 5m north; Trench 11 was moved 4m south; Trench 12 was moved slightly to the south at the eastern end; and Trench 13 was moved 5m north. Therefore, 15 trenches were excavated in total, measuring 30m long by 1.5m wide, except for Trench 3 which measured 15.80m long and Trench 4 which measured 24.15m long.
- 3.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS).
- 3.3 All trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a CAT scanner
- 3.4 Trenches were mechanically excavated using a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.5 Machine excavation continued to the surface of geological drift deposits.
- 3.6 All areas were left open to allow for potential weathering out of features, and inspected regularly. Potential features were investigated by hand-digging sections through them.
- 3.7 All deposits were recorded according to current professional standards using the ASE recording sheets. Post-excavation plans were made both by digital means and by hand planning at a scale of 1:20. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. All trenches were photographed and levelled with reference to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.8 Backfilling and compaction was undertaken by the machine on completion of the work, but there was no reinstatement to existing condition.

3.9 Archive

- 3.9.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	47
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	34

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trenches 6 and 11

4.1.1 Trenches 6 and 11 each measured 30m long by 1.5m wide. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. All contexts encountered have been summarised in Table 2 below.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17-0.32	34.06-33.43
6/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17-0.33	-
6/003	Layer	Head clay	>21.70	Trench	-	33.09
6/004	Layer	Folkestone bed	>8.30	Trench	-	33.39
11/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.28	33.61-33.42
11/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.09-0.18	-
11/003	Layer	Head clay	>17.56	Trench	-	32.92
11/004	Layer	Folkestone bed	>12.44	Trench	-	33.24

Table 2: Trenches 6 and 11 list of recorded contexts

- 4.1.2 Folkestone Beds, consisting of light yellow softly compacted fine sand, were encountered at the east end of trench 6 [6/004], visible for 8.30m, and the north end of trench 11 [11/004], visible for 12.44m. This was overlain by a head deposit [6/003] and [11/003], which consisted of mid orange-brown softly compacted sandy silty clay with inclusions of occasional angular stones measuring 10-20mm, occasional angular flints measuring 30-100mm and occasional gravel patches.
- 4.1.3 The subsoil [6/002] and [11/002] consisted of dark orange-brown softly compacted sandy clay with inclusions of moderate angular flints measuring 20-80mm and occasional angular stones measuring 10mm. The subsoil varied in thickness from 0.17 to 0.33m in trench 6 and 0.09 to 0.18m in trench 11.
- 4.1.4 The topsoil [6/001] and [11/001] consisted of dark greyish-brown softly compacted sandy clay, with inclusions of moderate angular flints measuring 20-60mm and occasional small angular stones measuring 10mm.

4.2 Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16

- 4.2.1 Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 each measured 30m long by 1.5m wide. Trench 3 was shortened to 15.80m in length due to its proximity to the site boundary at the northern end, and trench 4 was shortened to 24.15m due to its proximity to the site boundary at the western end. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. All contexts encountered have been summarised in Table 3 below.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil, subsoil and head clay layers encountered in each of these trenches were the same as those in trenches 6 and 11. The topsoil varied in thickness across these trenches from 0.14 to 0.38m. The subsoil varied in thickness from 0.05 to 0.38m.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.15-0.32	31.10-30.79
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.14	-
2/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	30.78-30.51
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.31-0.33	31.39-30.96
3/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.38	-
3/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	30.96-30.27
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.32	33.34-32.85
4/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.21-0.31	-
4/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	32.85-32.18
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.29	33.50-32.41
5/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.17-0.28	-
5/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	33.14-31.87
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.26-0.32	30.69
7/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.14-0.26	-
7/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	30.16-29.85
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.36	30.75-30.34
8/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.11-0.26	-
8/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	30.37-29.98
9/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.27-0.32	31.88-30.71
9/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.18	-
9/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	31.64-30.38
10/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.28-0.35	33.46-32.14
10/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.12-0.25	-
10/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	33.03-31.71
12/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.14-0.29	33.09-32.47
12/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.06-0.14	-
12/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	32.87-32.05
13/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.26-0.33	31.35-30.74
13/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.12	-
13/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	30.98-30.40
14/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.36	32.16-31.03
14/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.21	-
14/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	31.79-30.55
15/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.24-0.38	33.23-32.56
15/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.05-0.10	-
15/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	32.61-32.30
16/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.29-0.34	33.25-33.12
16/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.08-0.13	-
16/003	Layer	Head clay	Trench	Trench	-	33.02-32.70

Table 3: Trenches 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 list of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The clay head deposit was encountered between 29.85 and 33.14m AOD across site. Folkestone Beds were encountered at roughly the same level in trenches 6 and 11, ranging between 33.24 and 33.39m AOD. The clay head deposit was found to be overlying the Folkestone Beds in trenches 6 and 11, and in all trenches the head clay was overlain by the same subsoil and topsoil sequence.
- 5.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered. There were no apparent signs of modern truncation save for a metal service pipe encountered towards the east end of trench 8.
- 5.3 The lack of archaeology within the excavated trenches and the survival of an intact subsoil would suggest a general lack of past activity on the site. The aims and objectives of the evaluation could therefore not be addressed.

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HER Summary

Site Code	LBR14					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 567832 158984					
Geology	Sand of the Folkestone Formation, overlain with mixed Head deposits.					
Arch. South-East Project Number	7003					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.					
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork	3 rd -6 th November 2014					
Sponsor/Client	R. Durnell and Sons Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary						
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by R. Durnell and Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent. Fifteen trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The site was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, as previous evaluation work in the area to the north of the site uncovered Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation remains. However, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were found during the course of the evaluation.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-194547

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Leybourne Chase,
Leybourne, Kent

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by R. Durnell and Sons Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching on land at Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent. Fifteen trenches were excavated. The site was considered to have a high potential for prehistoric archaeological remains, as previous evaluation work in the area to the north of the site uncovered Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation remains. However, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were found during the course of the evaluation.

Project dates Start: 03-11-2014 End: 06-11-2014

Previous/future work No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING LEYBOURNE Land at
Leybourne Chase, Leybourne, Kent

Postcode ME19 5FJ

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 567832 158984 50.9206353848 0.230874783494 50 55 14
N 000 13 51 E Point

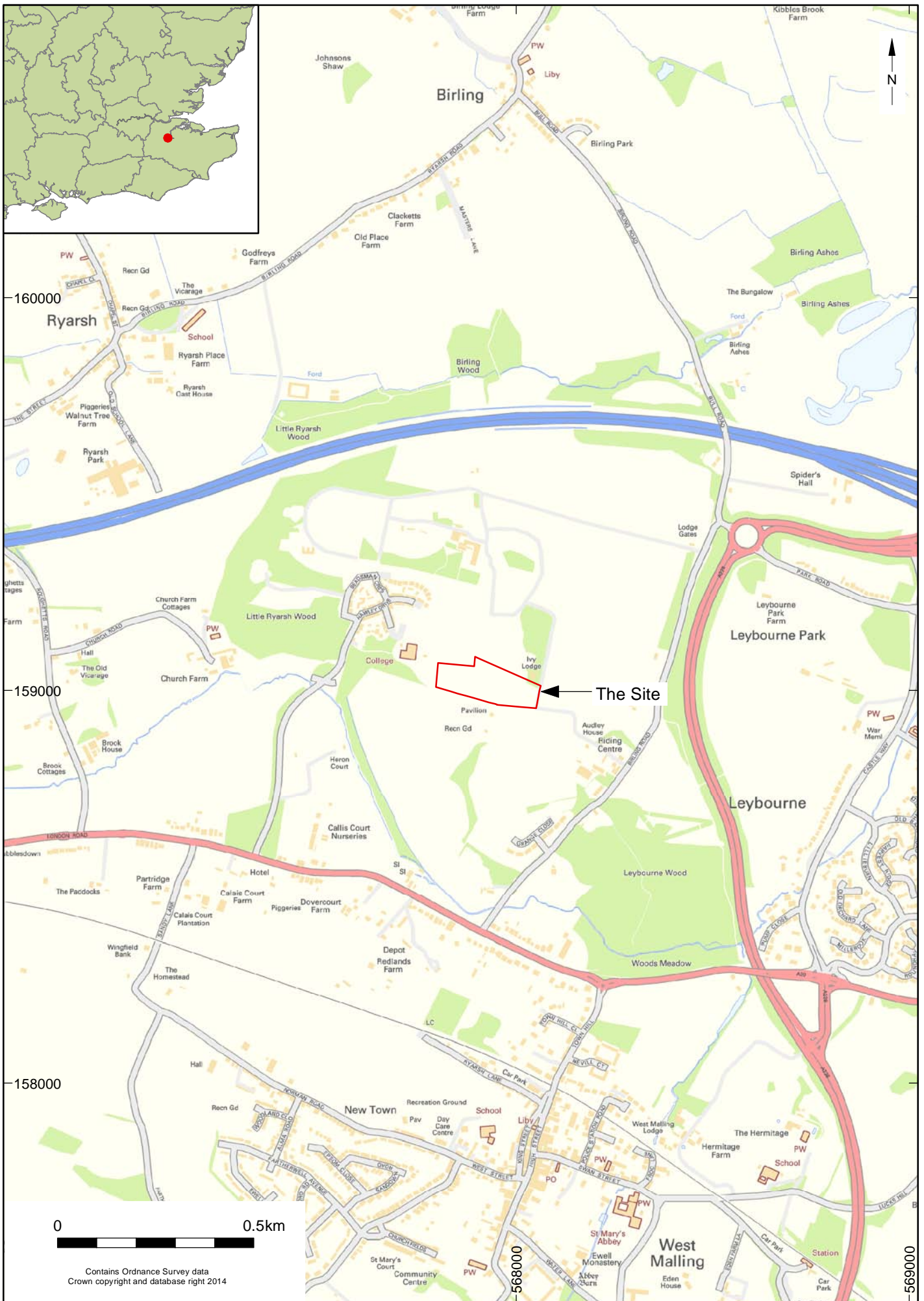
Height OD / Depth Min: 29.85m Max: 33.39m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

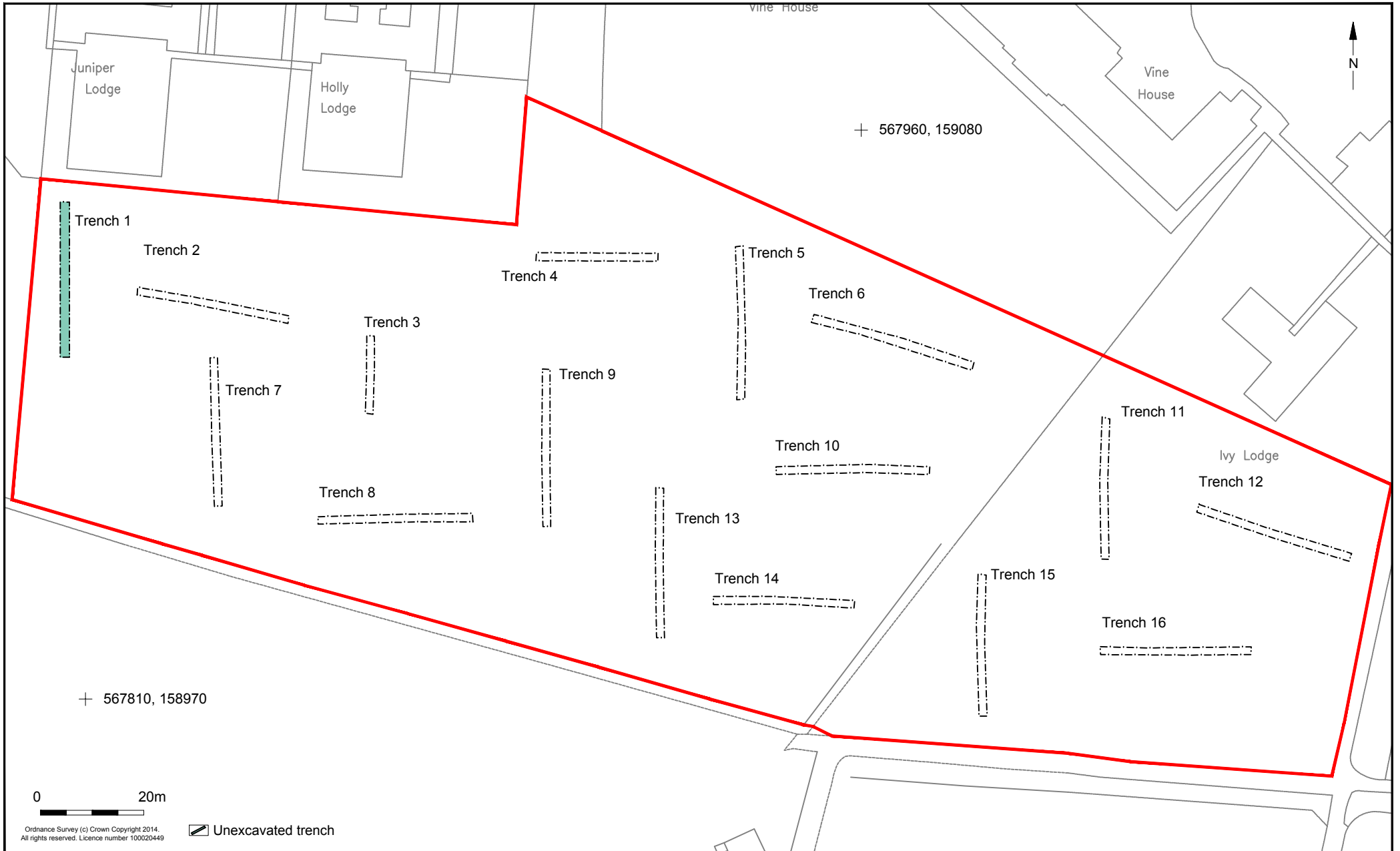
Project brief originator Archaeology South East

Project design originator	Kent County Council
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	R Durtnell & Sons Ltd
Project archives Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Photograph","Report","Survey "
Entered by	Steve Price (steven.price@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	7 November 2014



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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Laybourne Chase, Laybourne, Kent		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7003	November 2014	Site location		
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© Archaeology South-East		Land at Laybourne Chase, Laybourne, Kent		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7003	November 2014	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2014362	Drawn by: RHC			



Trench 2 looking east



Trench 3 looking south



Trench 4 looking east



Trench 8 looking east



Trench 10 looking east



Trench 11 looking south

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