



Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend Kent DA13 0XE

Archaeological evaluation report

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NGR: 567186 166544 (centred)

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Summary

Canterbury Archaeological Trust undertook an archaeological evaluation between 20 and 21 January 2025 on Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0XE (NGR 567186 166544).

The work was commissioned by Vineyards Farms Ltd as part of pre-commencement engineering works for the construction of a formal car parking area for Vineyard Farms Ltd office, winery and vineyard workers, and other users of Brookers Farm.

Five evaluation trenches were opened within the site. The natural chalk bedrock was observed within the two trenches excavated upslope. It was overlain by colluvium and / or Head deposits, which had been buried under made ground within the lower half of the site, where the car park is to be built. No archaeological features were seen cut into the chalk bedrock or the overlying colluvium / Head deposits.

The depth of the overburden is thought to be sufficiently thick for the chalk bedrock not to be impacted by terracing works during construction. The colluvium / Head deposits may also remain largely untouched.

Project contributors

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Reporting: George Carstairs and Carolien Russell

Acknowledgements

The project was commissioned by Vineyards Farms Ltd. GSE Plant Ltd supplied the machine. The archaeological evaluation was monitored by Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeological Officer of Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, who visited the site on 21 January 2025.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Canterbury Archaeological Trust (CAT) undertook an archaeological evaluation between 20 and 21 January 2025 on Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0XE (NGR 567186 166544 centred; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The work was commissioned by Vineyards Farms Ltd (the Client) as part of pre-commencement 'Engineering works to construct a formal car parking area for Vineyard Farms Ltd office, winery and vineyard workers, and other users of Brookers Farm' (Planning Application Ref: 20240091).' The Local Planning Authority (LPA) of Gravesham Borough Council granted the planning application full permission subject to conditions, including condition 4 which relates to archaeological matters:

'No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of

i. archaeological field evaluation works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and

ii. following on from the evaluation, any safeguarding measures to ensure preservation in situ of important archaeological remains and/or further archaeological investigation, recording, reporting and dissemination of the results, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation and timetable which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded and in accordance with Policy CS20 of the Gravesham Local Plan: Core Strategy (2014).'

1.1.3 In mitigation of the potential impact that the proposed works may have on any buried archaeological resource, and in accordance with the provisions of the *National Policy Planning Framework* (DLHC 2023), the Client commissioned CAT to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (CAT 2024a) for an archaeological evaluation and to undertake the evaluation. The archaeological works were monitored by Casper Johnson, Senior Archaeological Officer of the Heritage Conservation Group (HCG) at Kent County Council (KCC), who visited the site on 21 January. This report sets out the results of the evaluation and informs on the site's potential to produce archaeological remains.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is situated east of Luddesdown Road, north of the settlement of Luddesdown, between Cuxton and Meopham in North Kent. The site comprises the north-west corner of a field (currently partitioned into three), part of the track that bounds the field to the west and north, and the field access (Figure 1).

1.2.2 The site lies at a height of c. 50m above Ordnance Datum (OD), at the base of, and on the lower north-west facing slopes of, a north-east to south-west aligned dry valley.

1.2.3 The British Geological Survey (BGS on-line) maps the bedrock geology of the site as chalk of either the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation or the New Pit Chalk Formation, with overlying superficial

Head deposits of clay, silt, sand and gravel within the base of the dry valley, in the north-western two-thirds of the site.

2 Archaeological and historical background

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The site does not lie within a World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Registered Battlefield or Registered Park and Garden. Brookers Farm, a Grade II listed building, stands 150m north-west from the edge of the site. This is an eighteenth century building with later additions, including a nineteenth century gabled porch.
- 2.1.2 A Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) report (Grigsby 2023) was recently produced for the Client for Luddesdown Court, c. 430m to the south-west of the Brookers Farm site. This DBA report consulted the Kent Historic Environment Record (KHER) for a 750m radius around the site centre. The resulting archaeological and historical background chapter has largely been reproduced below, with the cartographic evidence having been revisited for a brief map regression of the Brookers Farm site.

2.2 Prehistoric (500,000 BP–AD 43)

- 2.2.1 Luddesdown is situated to the west of the Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project (MVPP) areas 18, 30 and 35, defined in the MVPP report as belonging to the broad group KT 2 - Medway Gap. The report notes the following (Wenban-Smith *et al* 2007, 5):
- 2.2.2 Few Pleistocene fluvial deposits are mapped in the area. However, it does include the site of Cuxton, which is contained in a small patch of fluvial gravel with a base at c. 15m OD... Furthermore, patches of gravel mapped as 'Head Gravel' are shown by BGS mapping on the inside (east side) of the river bend, where Pleistocene fluvial deposits would be most likely to be preserved. These are surrounded by extensive spreads of superficial Head deposits that may also hide fluvial deposits. Cuxton is one of Britain's most spectacular Palaeolithic sites, having produced very many fine handaxes from a few tiny test pits.
- 2.2.3 The Palaeolithic sites at Cuxton lie c.4km east of Luddesdown and include:
- abundant Lower/Middle Palaeolithic finds (HER TQ76 NW428), including twenty handaxes, mostly pointed, from an excavation at 15 Rochester Road;
 - Lower/Middle Palaeolithic finds (HER TQ76 NW384), including twenty six handaxes, some amongst them large and very finely worked specimens, uncovered from a test pit at 21 Rochester Road as part of the fieldwork programme for the MVPP.
- 2.2.4 Regarding the sites at Cuxton, which is possibly the youngest Acheulian site in Britain and, perhaps, Europe (Wenban-Smith *et al* 2007, 31), the MVPP states that 'previous work by Bridgland... has confirmed that the terrace is part of the main Medway river system, and not associated with the west bank tributary that enters the Medway from the west here (here provisionally named "the Luddesdown River")'. However, this tributary, the palaeochannel system west of Cuxton and running just south of Luddesdown Court is one of two areas suggested in the MVPP as worth exploring as possible areas of high potential, these being as follows (*ibid*, 32). (a) up and down the main Medway Valley in the vicinity of Cuxton; and (b) along the flanks of the dry tributary valley that enters the Medway from the west at Cuxton, coming from Luddesdown and hence here provisionally named the Luddesdown River. Although there is now no stream in this valley, it must have contained substantial drainage periodically

through the Pleistocene, and terrace remnants may be preserved at various places along its flanks.

- 2.2.5 The remains of a possible Iron Age structure with associated pottery (HER TQ66 NE21) were found just 25m north-east of Luddesdown Court, on land between the church and the manor house, c 20m from the north-west corner of the churchyard. The finds were of burnt clay, showing signs of timber wattles and were associated with fragments of La Tène pottery.
- 2.2.6 The fragmented cropmark (HER TQ66 NE40) of a probable Iron Age or Romano-British rectilinear enclosure is visible on aerial photographs east of the site, within the field (now vineyard) east of Cutter Ridge Road; the KHER records the entry as c. 140m south-east of the site.

2.3 Romano-British (AD 43–450)

- 2.3.1 Other, perhaps, than the aforementioned cropmark, Romano-British archaeological remains are scarce within the locality of Luddesdown.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon (AD 450–1066)

- 2.4.1 No evidence from the Anglo-Saxon period was recorded within the search area.

2.5 Medieval (AD 1066–1540)

- 2.5.1 Luddesdown is recorded as a settlement in the Domesday survey of 1086, in the hundred of Tollington, with a recorded population of 22 households and with a church (Domesday on-line, sv Luddesdown).
- 2.5.2 Luddesdown Court is believed to date in origin to the early/mid 13th century (Austin 2023). Both Luddesdown Court and the parish church offer ample evidence for the continuation of the settlement at Luddesdown into the medieval period. Presently, however, aside from the building evidence, no medieval archaeology has been found in the vicinity.

2.6 Post-Medieval (AD 1540–1900)

- 2.6.1 The Andrews, Dury and Herbert map of 1769 shows the site as undeveloped land between two unnamed roads (Luddesdown Road and Cutter Ridge Road), north of one building in a roadside plot and a group of three in another more southern roadside plot.
- 2.6.2 The 1797 Ordnance Survey (OS) drawing shows the site in more detail. The site lies within a field north of an unnamed farm with multiple buildings; the building that had stood to the north is no longer apparent.
- 2.6.3 The 1801 Mudge map shows at least three buildings to have been built to the north of the site, where The Golden Lion Public House and Brookers Farm now stand.
- 2.6.4 The First Edition OS map of 1869 reveals that the site was mostly an orchard, possibly open to the rest of the field. This orchard looks to have been removed by the Second Edition OS map of 1898.

2.7 Modern (AD 1900–Present)

- 2.7.1 There was no change noted to the site from the third and fourth OS maps of 1909 and c. 1940. Aerial images from 1946, 1990 and 2008 show the site to have been arable farmland.

2.8 Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.8.1 A geophysical survey was conducted by Canterbury Archaeological Trust (Russell 2024) in

support of the present application. A summary of the results is presented below:

'The geophysical survey identified no anomalies that could be identified as archaeological in origin. The LiDAR data available also showed no obvious archaeological features present on site. A build-up of hill-wash may, however, have masked the identification of any archaeology.....'

3 Methodology

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The purpose of an archaeological field evaluation, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2023a), is to:

'determine, record and report on the nature, extent, preservation and significance of archaeological remains within a defined area.'

- 3.1.2 The principal objective of the evaluation work was therefore to determine whether any archaeological remains survive on site, and to ascertain their extent, depth below ground surface, depth, character, date, significance and condition.

- 3.1.3 Specific objectives were outlined within the WSI (CAT 2024a) as follows:

- to assess whether there is any archaeological evidence, such as early structural remains, which may relate to medieval or post-medieval farmstead activity within the site;
- to determine what impact modern development may have had on any archaeology within the site; and
- to place and assess any archaeological remains revealed within the local landscape and topography.

- 3.1.4 The evaluation is to provide sufficient information for all parties concerned, particularly the LPA, to devise appropriate mitigation strategies, if required. An evaluation may therefore result in the need for an agreed mitigation strategy and the implementation of further archaeological works to fulfil the planning condition. These works may include another phase of evaluation, more detailed excavation, an archaeological watching brief during groundworks or, where feasible and appropriate, design measures to accommodate the preservation of archaeology *in situ*.

3.2 Methodology

- 3.2.1 The archaeological investigations were carried out in accordance with the WSI (CAT 2024a), and to professional standards as set out in CIfAs' Standard for archaeological field evaluation (2023a) and Universal guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023b). CAT is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with CIfA and conforms to their by-laws, standards and policy statements.

- 3.2.2 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of five evaluation trenches using an 8-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were located within the approximate locations as proposed with the WSI (CAT 2024a; Figure 2). They measured around 10m long, as per the WSI.

- 3.2.3 Mechanical excavation was conducted under constant archaeological supervision and was limited to the removal of overburden to expose the uppermost archaeological deposits or the

natural geological surface, whichever was the higher (in this instance, the latter, as no archaeological deposits were encountered). The underlying geological deposits were not overly reduced but identified and recorded in terms of extent and depth below the present ground surface.

- 3.2.4 Following mechanical clearance, the exposed soil profiles in each trench were photographed and the trenches recorded using pro forma trench recording sheets. The trenches were tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) grid system using GPS equipment. A full digital photographic record of the evaluation was produced and comprises part of the site archive.

3.3 Health, safety and welfare

- 3.3.1 All site investigation works were conducted in accordance with a project specific risk assessment and method statement (CAT 2024b), and CAT's Company Policy and Procedural Manual for Health, Safety and Welfare (CAT 2024c).
- 3.3.2 All CAT operatives held valid Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards. CAT is a member of Constructionline and is AcclaimSSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement) accredited.
- 3.3.3 All necessary precautions to the satisfaction of the statutory or other service authorities and the landowner concerned were taken to avoid interference with, or damage to, their services, and to comply with any applicable codes of practice. Prior to excavation, all trench locations were scanned using a cable avoidance tool.

3.4 Project Archive

- 3.4.1 The project archive has been prepared in accordance with the procedures laid down in Historic England's 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) and the archiving guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2020).
- 3.4.2 The archive name 'Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown, DA13 0XE', CAT site code EV BFLRL 24, and archive number 5286 have been used.
- 3.4.3 All fieldwork records have been collated and checked for consistency and a full digital copy made. A digitised plan of the archaeological resource has been compiled using QGIS. Photographic records have been catalogued and cross-referenced with trench records.
- 3.4.4 No artefacts or environmental samples were recovered during the evaluation.
- 3.4.5 The project archive is presently held in the offices of CAT (92a Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU). Upon completion of the project, the project archive will be transferred to an approved local archive receiving body as recommended by KCC.

4 Results

4.1 Trench 1 (Table 1, Figure 2 and Plates 1-3)

Table 1. Trench 1 contexts

TR 1	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NW-SE	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Provisional date	
100	Topsoil	Friable, mid to dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt with chalk nodules, 0.17m thick.	Modern	
101	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with moderate chalk inclusions, 0.60m thick max.	Undated	
102	Superficial Head deposits? Colluvium?	Firm mid reddish brown clayey silt with moderate flints, including nodules. With depth contains less frequent flints and more clay content. Redder at base of sondage. D. 0.70m.	n/a	
103	Weathered surface of chalk bedrock	Loose weathered chalk and pale brown clayey silt with occasional flints, including nodules.	n/a	

4.1.1 Trench 1 was the most north-eastern of the five evaluation trenches. It ran broadly north-west to south-east up the hillslope, with the existing ground level rising from 51.63m OD to 53.79m OD.

4.1.2 In Trench 1, the weathered surface of the natural chalk bedrock (103) was exposed at the higher, south-east end of the trench only, at a depth of 0.62m Below Ground Level (BGL). Overlying deposits (102), interpreted as natural superficial Head deposits and/or colluvium (hill wash), were observed to begin at a point where the chalk bedrock dipped down. A sondage, machine excavated at the north-west end of the trench, revealed that deposit (102) had a depth of 0.70m, as chalk was beginning to be exposed at the base of the sondage. Deposit (102) was sealed by subsoil (101) and topsoil (101).

4.1.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in Trench 1.

4.2 Trench 2 (Table 2, Figure 2 and Plates 4-7)

Table 2. Trench 2 contexts

TR 2	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NW-SE	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Provisional date	
200	Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy clayey silt with chalk flecks and brick fragments, 0.30-0.38m thick.	Modern	
201	Made ground	Mixed greyish brown and mid orangey / reddish brown clayey silt and silty clay with chalk and brick fragments and chalk flecking, 0.24-0.70m thick. Contains redeposited Head deposits.	Modern	
202	Superficial Head deposits? Colluvium?	Mid orangey brown clayey silt with chalk flecking, at least 0.48m thick.	n/a	

- 4.2.1 Trench 2 was the middle of the five evaluation trenches. It ran broadly north-west to south-east up the hillslope, with the existing ground level rising from 49.41m OD to 50.42m OD.
- 4.2.2 In Trench 2, the lowest horizon encountered comprised Head deposits and/or colluvium (202). These deposits look to have been found *in situ* upslope, at the south-east end of the trench, where it rested below made ground (201) and topsoil (200) with a combined depth of 0.60m. A sondage machine opened at the north-west end of the trench exposed the Head deposits and/or colluvium at a depth of 1.10m BGL below the made ground and topsoil.
- 4.2.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in Trench 2.

4.3 Trench 3 (Table 3, Figure 2 and Plates 8-10)

Table 3. Trench 3 contexts

TR 3	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Interpretation	Description	Provisional date	
300	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown soil, 0.25-0.40m thick.	Modern	
301	Made ground	Soft mid brown redeposited Head deposits, 0.22-0.28m thick.	Modern	
302	Made ground	Compacted chalk fragments with common small to medium brick and peg tile fragments, 0.48m thick.	Modern	
303	Made ground	Mid greyish brown silty clay with clay lenses, containing common small to medium chalk and flints and occasional small brick and peg tile fragments, 0.50m thick.	Modern	
304	Superficial Head deposits? Colluvium?	Firm mid slightly reddish brown silty clay with common small chalk and flint fragments.	n/a	

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 was the northernmost of the five trenches. It was aligned broadly north-east to south-west across the hillslope, with the existing ground level ranging in height from 48.61m OD to 48.75m OD respectively.
- 4.3.2 In Trench 3, made ground extended to the base of the trench and comprised redeposited Head deposits and natural chalk (301-303). It appears to have been bottomed in the sondage machine opened at the south-west end of the trench, where the top of the Head deposits and/or colluvium (304) looks to have been exposed at a depth of 1.23m BGL.
- 4.3.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in Trench 2.

4.4 Trench 4 (Table 4, Figure 2 and Plates 11-12)

Table 4. Trench 4 contexts

TR 4	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
400	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown silty clay with common small chalk and flint fragments, 0.18-0.28m thick.		Modern

TR 4	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
401	Subsoil	Mid greyish brown silty clay with common small to medium flint and chalk fragments, 0.12-0.22m thick.		Undated
403	Weathered surface of chalk bedrock	Hard, fractured chalk.		n/a

4.4.1 Trench 4 was the southernmost of the five trenches. It was aligned broadly north-east to south-west across the hillslope, with the ground level ranging in height from 54.91m OD to 55.35m OD respectively.

4.4.2 In Trench 4, the natural chalk bedrock (403) was recorded at a depth of between 0.36m and 0.39m OD. It was overlain by subsoil (401) and topsoil (400).

4.4.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in Trench 4.

4.5 Trench 5 (Table 5, Figure 2 and Plates 13-15)

Table 5. Trench 5 contexts

TR 5	Length: 10m	Width: 1.60m	Orientation: NE-SW	
Context	Interpretation	Description		Provisional date
500	Topsoil	Loose dark greyish brown agricultural, 0.30m thick.		Modern
501	Made ground	Loose mid whitish brown chalky clayey silt, 0.10m thick.		Modern
502	Made ground	Pale yellowish brown chalky clayey silt, 0.15m thick.		Modern
503	Made ground	Pale yellowish brown clayey silt with abundant chalk, 0.50m thick.		Modern
504	Made ground	Yellowish brown clayey silt with moderate chalk flecks and small inclusions, 0.50m thick.		Modern
505	Made ground	Pale redeposited chalk with lenses of dark brown clayey silt, 0.60m thick.		Modern
506	Made ground	Pale whitish brown redeposited chalk, , 0.55m thick.		Modern
507	Made ground	Dark brown clayey silt with abundant chalk content, 0.70m thick.		Modern

4.5.1 Trench 5 was the most south-western of the five trenches. It was aligned broadly north-west to south-east up the hillslope, with the ground level ranging in height from 48.54m to 49.05m OD respectively.

4.5.2 In Trench 5, no *in situ* Head deposits were encountered as these were buried below topsoil (500) and made ground deposits (501-507), revealed to be at least 1.0m thick within the sondage that was opened at the south-east end of the trench. The sondage was opened to a depth of 1.40m BGL.

5 Conclusion

5.1 Interpretation

- 5.1.1 The natural chalk bedrock was only encountered within Trenches 1 and 4, which were both opened higher up the hillslope than the other three trenches. This natural deposit was exposed at minimum depths of 0.62m in Trench 1 and 0.36m in Trench 4.
- 5.1.2 Throughout most of the length of Trench 1, the natural chalk bedrock was seen to be overlain by deposits interpreted as comprising natural superficial Head deposits, possibly topped with colluvium (hillwash). Colluvium / Head deposits were only recorded within the upslope stretch of Trench 2, as made ground deposits were exposed across the rest of this trench. Made ground deposits were also observed in Trenches 3 and 5, the lowest two trenches to be excavated. Sondages cut through the made ground revealed the colluvium / Head deposits in Trenches 2 and 3 at depths of 1.10m and 1.23m BGL respectively. The sondage in Trench 3, however, showed the made ground to extend beyond a depth of 1.40m BGL.
- 5.1.3 The made ground, deposited across the lower half of the site, comprised a mix of chalk bedrock and colluvium / Head deposits and is believed to have derived from when the modern farm buildings were constructed to the adjacent north of the site. This work involved terracing into the hillslope to the rear of Court and Brookers Farm.
- 5.1.5 No archaeological features were encountered cut into the chalk bedrock or the colluvium / Head deposits, and no finds were recovered.

5.2 Development impact

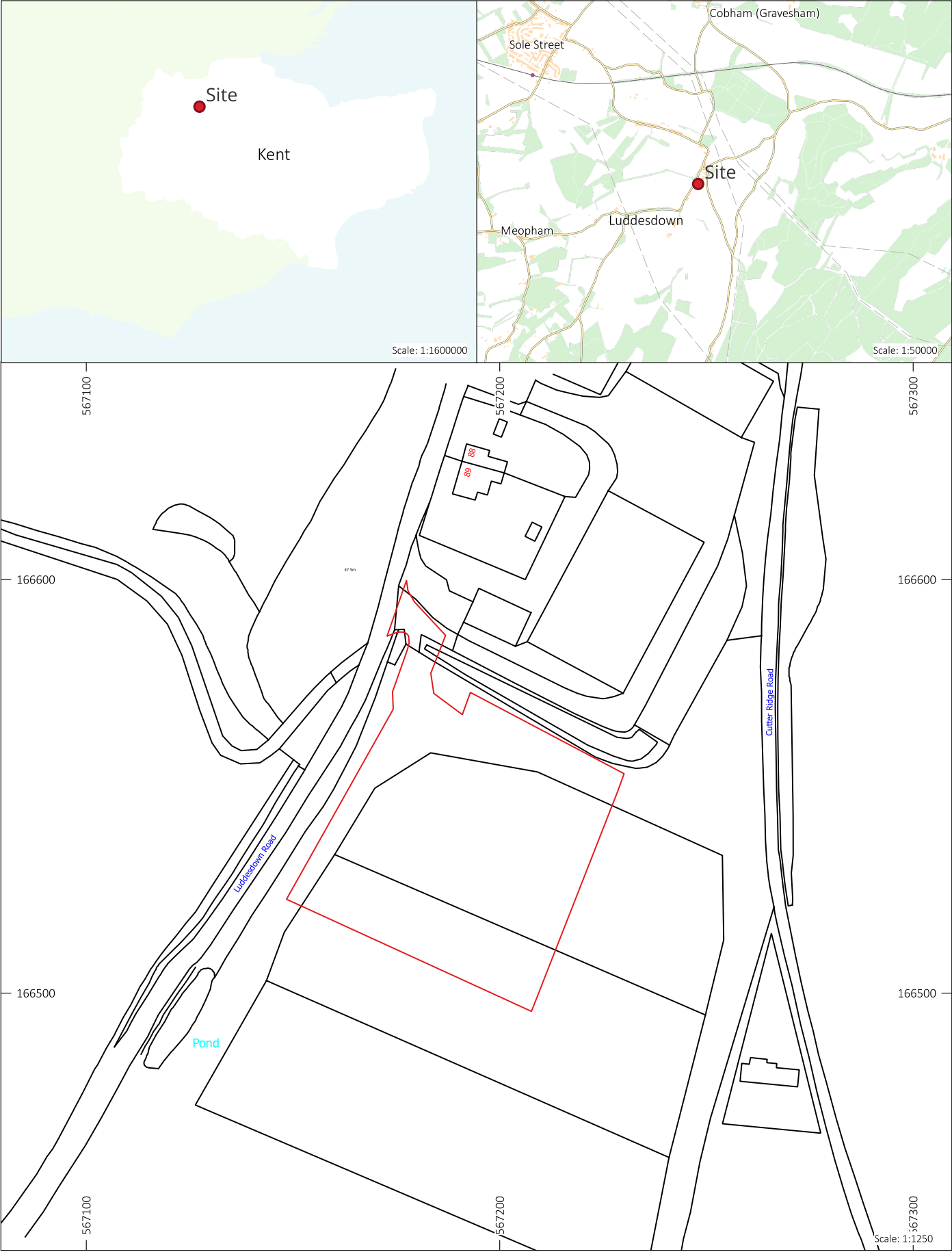
- 5.2.1 The proposed development comprises 'Engineering works to construct a formal car parking area for Vineyard Farms Ltd office, winery and vineyard workers, and other users of Brookers Farm' (Planning Application Ref: 20240091).'
- 5.2.2 The footprint of the proposed car park (Figure 2) will cover the area evaluated by Trenches 2, 3 and 5, which contained made ground resting above colluvium / Head deposits; Trenches 1 and 4 lie outside the footprint. The made ground had depths of between 1.10m and at least 1.40m, and with the additional (undetermined) depth of the colluvium / Head deposits, terracing works for the car park will unlikely impact the underlying natural chalk bedrock and any archaeological features that may cut into it. The overburden may be sufficiently deep as to also leave the overlying colluvium / Head deposits untouched.
- 5.2.3 Based on the results of the evaluation, the Senior Archaeological Officer at Kent County Council has confirmed that no further archaeological fieldwork is required at the site.

5.3 Confidence rating

- 5.3.1 The archaeological evaluation determined that no archaeological remains were present within the trenches opened.
- 5.3.2 The evaluation was sufficiently resourced and was conducted under fair weather and normal ground conditions.

6 References

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PROJECT
Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown
Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent
DA13 0XE

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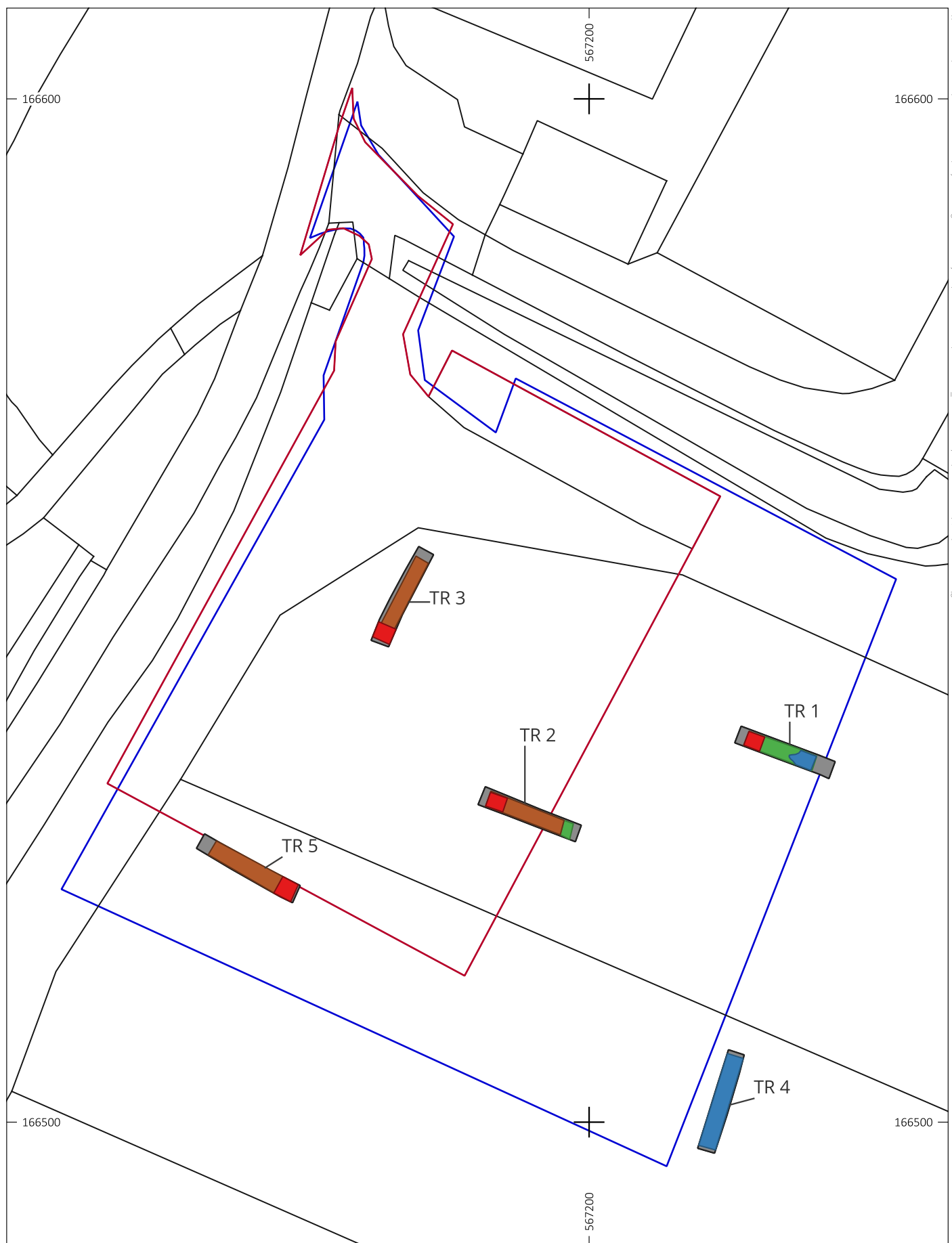
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Site Outline

Figure 1. Proposed development location



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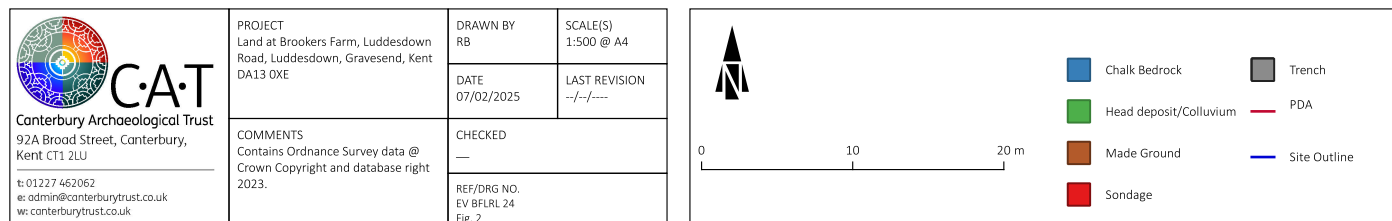


Figure 2. Trench locations plan

Plates



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking broadly south-east, upslope (scale 1m)



Plate 2. Trench 1 looking south (scale 1m)



Plate 3. North-east facing sondage in Trench 1, showing underlying Head deposits with natural chalk appearing to outcrop at the base (scale 1m)



Plate 4. Trench 2 looking north-west, downslope (scale 1m)



Plate 5. Trench 2 looking south-east, upslope (scale 1m)



Plate 6. North-east facing section of Trench 2 (scale 1m)



Plate 7. North-east facing section of sondage in Trench 2 (scale 1m)



Plate 8. Trench 3 looking broadly south-west (scale 1m)



Plate 9. Trench 3 looking broadly north-east (Scale 1m)



Plate 10. North-west facing section of sondage in Trench 3 (scale 1m)



Plate 11. Trench 4 looking broadly north-east (scale 1m)



Plate 12. Trench 4 looking broadly south-west (scale 1m)



Plate 13. Trench 5, looking broadly south-east, upslope (scale 1m)



Plate 14. Trench 5, looking broadly north-west, downslope (scale 1m)



Plate 15. South-west facing section of sondage in Trench 5 (scale 1m)

Appendix 1. Kent County Council HER Summary Form

Site Name: Brookers Farm	
Site Address: Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0XE	
Summary: Five evaluation trenches were machine opened in advance of groundworks for 'Engineering works to construct a formal car parking area for Vineyard Farms Ltd office, winery and vineyard workers, and other users of Brookers Farm' (Planning Application Ref: 20240091).	
District/Unitary: Gravesham Borough Council	Parish:
Period(s): Modern	
NGR: NGR 567186 166544 (centered)	
Type of archaeological work: Evaluation	
Date of Recording: 20/01/2025 - 21/01/2025	
Unit undertaking recording: Canterbury Archaeological Trust	
Geology: Chalk bedrock with overlying Head deposits	
Title and author of accompanying report: Land at Brookers Farm, Luddesdown Road, Luddesdown, Gravesend, Kent DA13 0XE Archaeological evaluation report. CAT report no. 2025/10 George Carstairs	
Summary of fieldwork results (begin with earliest period first, add NGRs where appropriate): Five evaluation trenches were opened within the site. The natural chalk bedrock was observed within the two trenches excavated upslope. It was overlain by colluvium and / or Head deposits, which had been buried under made ground within the lower half of the site, where the car park is to be built. No archaeological features were seen cut into the chalk bedrock or the overlying colluvium / Head deposits. The depth of the overburden is thought to be sufficiently thick for the chalk bedrock not to be impacted by terracing works during construction. The colluvium / Head deposits may also remain largely untouched.	
Location of archive/finds: Canterbury Archaeological Trust, 92A Broad Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2LU	
Contact at Unit: Caroline Russell	Date: 07/02/2025