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ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

**Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane,
Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TQ**



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Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TQ

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report reference: BAL23-074

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CHALK SCOUT GROUP, CASTLE LANE, GRAVESEND, KENT DA12 4TQ

Planning Reference: 20210514

NGR: TQ 6776 7282

BAL Site Code: CLG23-EV

Report for an Archaeological Evaluation

Report prepared for Jamie Masters (Client)

By Brook Archaeology Limited, Company No 14397861

Report Number BAL23-071

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted at Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend as part of the planning application 20210514 filed with Gravesham Borough Council (GBC).
- 1.2. The evaluation comprised three 1.8m x 2.0m evaluation trenches to sample the site and identify the extent and nature of any archaeological deposits present.
- 1.3. A Post Medieval quarry was identified which truncated the south-west corner of the site.
- 1.4. A structure of indeterminate date was situated to the south-west of the site and sat within the fill of the quarry.
- 1.5. No other significant archaeological features were identified during the excavation of the three evaluation trenches over the Proposed Development Site (PDS).

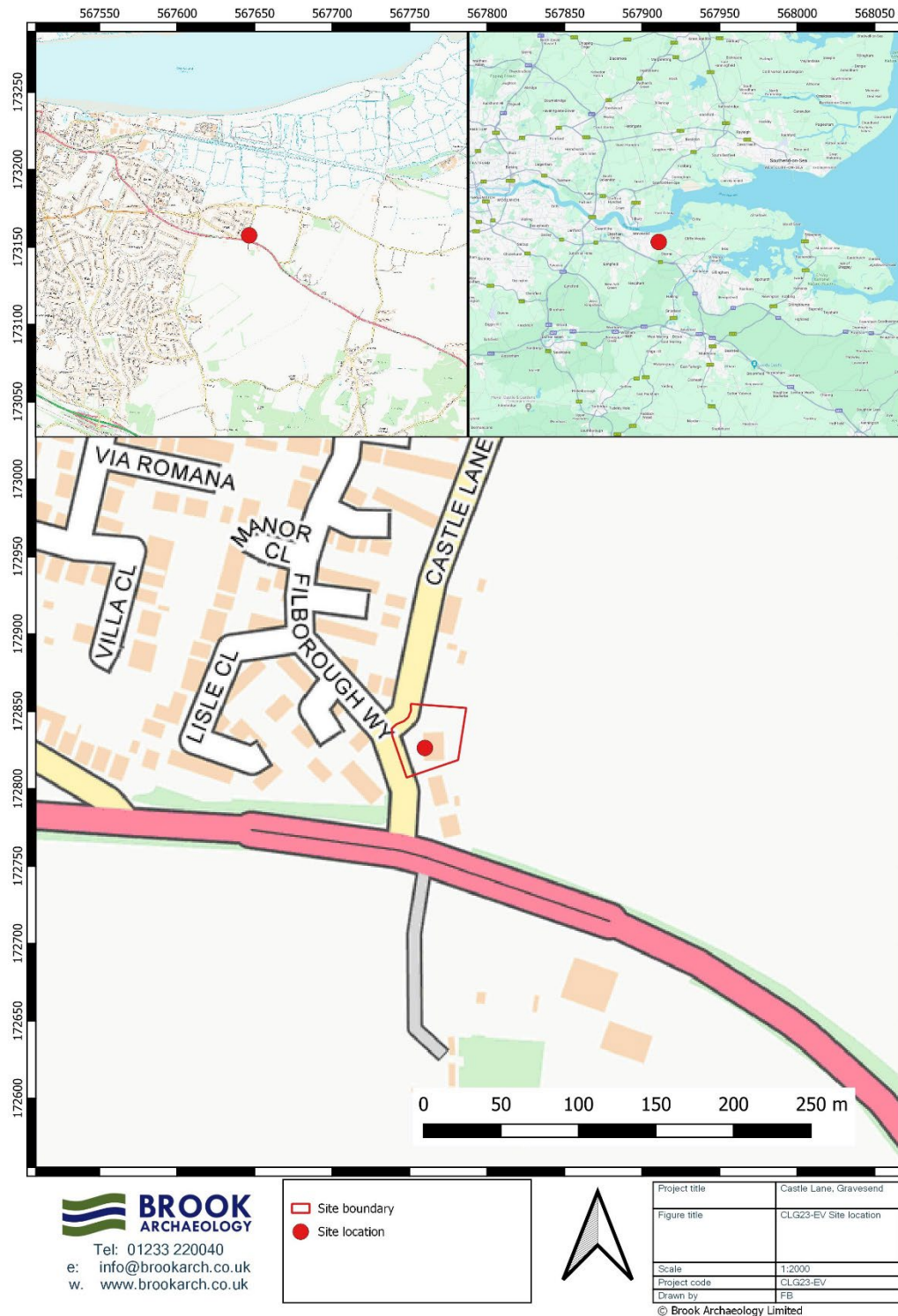


Figure 1 – Site location of CLG23



Figure 2 - 1:200 Site boundary and development plan for CLG23-EV

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Project and planning background

- 2.1.1. An Archaeological Evaluation has been conducted on behalf of Jamie Masters on land at Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend, Kent, known hereafter as the 'site'. The Evaluation aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. The site has planning permission 20210514 for the demolition of the existing building and erection of two detached 3/4 bedroom chalet-style bungalows. The development requires the excavation of footings for the erection of the bungalows and installation of associated services.
- 2.1.2. The Evaluation consisted of the monitored excavation of three 25m x 1.8m trenches on land at the Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend. The location is centred on NGR: TQ 6776 7282. The Evaluation aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. This work followed the Kent County Council's methodologies and guidelines in Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) and Planning Policy Guidance on Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG 15). It was conducted following the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2014) and Kent County Council – Manual of Specifications Part B KCC evaluation – trial trenching requirements.
- 2.1.3. All works were undertaken as per a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards employed to undertake the evaluation (Birkbeck, 2023). The WSI was submitted on 14th November 2023 and the Archaeological Consultant for Kent County Council Heritage Consultants (KCCHC) approved the WSI on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Decision Notice was published by GBC on 08/01/2024.
- 2.1.4. The trenches were subject to site constraints and were therefore slightly shortened and narrower than originally planned (**figure 3**). The trenches were subject to site constraints and were therefore slightly shortened and narrower than originally planned (**Figure 3**). This did not affect the outcome of the evaluation.
- 2.1.5. The Evaluation comprising three trial trenches was undertaken on 22nd January 2024.

2.2. Scope of the report

- 2.2.1. This report aims to provide a detailed description of the Evaluation results, interpret the results within a local, regional or broader archaeological context and assess whether the Evaluation aims have been met.

- 2.2.2. The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision concerning the requirement for and methods of further archaeological excavation.

2.3. Location, topography and geology

- 2.3.1. The Proposed Development Site (PDS) is located at the east of the village of Chalk in the Civil Parish of Shorne in the district of Gravesend. The village of Chalk lies approximately 3.3km to the east of the centre of the town of Gravesend and merges with its eastern boundary. The PDS lies approximately 750m east of the centre of Chalk village on the eastern edge of the residential development of the village. The PDS is located 1.5km south of the bank of the Thames estuary and is bounded on the east and south by arable land, A226 (Rochester Road) runs east – west. It lies on the west side of Castle Lane and is the former site of the Chalk Scout Group (**Figure 1**).
- 2.3.2. The PDS does not lie within a conservation area and there are no historic parks and gardens or scheduled ancient monuments within the study area.
- 2.3.3. The PDS lies atop bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation - Chalk. Sedimentary bedrock formed between 93.9 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. There is no superficial geology recorded at the location on the BGS survey. However, a geoarchaeological transect (13) conducted by Oxford Archaeology 150m – 170m north-east of the site revealed “coarse chalky flint gravel/rubble” overlaying the chalk geology in the higher ground and recorded evaluation trenching carried out by Oxford Archaeology immediately to the east and north-east of the PDS revealed occasional deposits of colluvium over the natural white chalk sealed by plough soil. Two dry riverbeds run to the west of the site and a significant dry valley to the north-east of the field directly east of the PDS. The slope down from the PDS towards the Thames has resulted in significant colluvial activity which has carried archaeological features and redeposited them out of context and altered the sequence in some cases.
- 2.3.4. The PDS is relatively level, with the site boundary at a consistent 17m (+/- 1m) aOD. The topography slopes down towards the River Thames floodplain north of the site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The following is a summary of the known archaeological and heritage assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) within a 1km radius of the development area. A full contextualised background will be provided in the final Evaluation Report. This section is to inform the archaeological contractor on site of the potential archaeology that may be encountered during the project.

- 3.2. The PDS lies within a multi-period archaeological landscape. There have been discoveries within a 500m radius of the PDS ranging from the Prehistoric to Post-Medieval periods. The PDS is located within the Post 1810 settlement (general) historic land classification.
- 3.3. In addition to the assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record, recent investigations have been carried out as part of the Rapid Coastal Zone Assessment Survey, Hoo Peninsula, North Kent Coast, Thames Estuary: 45 A Palaeoenvironmental Review of the Development of the Peninsula, Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project and Lower Thames Crossing archaeological evaluations. There is an abundance of further evidence of multi-period settlement within the study area, which would be impossible to cover in full in this document. Therefore, this section will focus on the area immediately surrounding the PDS and the potential for archaeological remains at the PDS.
- 3.4. Castle Lane takes its name from the Lisle Castle Public House, which was previously named the Horseshoe and Castle, the earliest reference of which is from 1668, when the road was named Prettywick Lane, later Petticoat Lane. The pub was located on the corner of Castle Lane and Rochester Road and was rebuilt some time in its history. It was situated directly south of the PDS and was destroyed during an air raid in 1940, after which a residential detached dwelling was built in its place. The first edition Ordnance Survey displays evidence of a structure at the PDS which is referred to in the KCCHC consultation as a 19th century dwelling (Figure 6).
- 3.5. Below is an assessment of the archaeological potential by period.

Prehistoric – An archaeological evaluation conducted by Oxford Archaeology as part of the Lower Thames Crossing investigations (HE, 2021) revealed colluvial deposits in several dry valleys in the north of the field to the east of the PDS, which contained artefacts and features likely to have been of possible Mesolithic early Neolithic date (NH, 2022 p. 93). Sherds of a Bronze Age globular urn were found in a ditch in the centre of this field and in several ring ditches excavated in the field south of Rochester Road. A potential Bronze Age ring ditch listed on the HER (TQ 67 SE 91) has been ground-truthed and is confirmed to be of Early Bronze Age date. At the southern end of the field, within an area from Rochester Road to 250m north, possible field boundary ditches and pits were revealed which contained EBA/LIA and LIA/Roman pottery as well as struck flint, animal bones, oyster shells and slag (NH, 2022, pp. 91-95).

Roman – There is evidence of substantial Roman activity in the study area and beyond. Immediately north-west of the PDS, during the construction of the Readers housing estate in the 1960s, a ‘substantial’ Roman building (TQ 67 SE 15) was revealed and excavated with subsequent recording and reporting by the Ministry of Works. The building was identified as a bath house originally with a date likely to be from the second century AD and destroyed by a fire in the third century. Subsequently, the building was substantially altered and it is thought the building may have served another function and been an



outbuilding for a larger villa. The remains are now built over and nothing is visible above ground. The evidence of this building, along with a burial 140m north-west of the building dated to the 2nd century AD and a Romano British settlement associated with tile making (TQ 67 SE 8) located just outside the study area 800m north-west of the PDS indicate the **moderate/high** possibility of Roman remains being present in the area of the PDS.

Post-Medieval - Approximately 400m north-west of the PDS lies a Grade II listed 15th/16th century timber-framed building, possibly a hall house, named Readers (TQ 67 SE 1113). There was a Post-Medieval farmstead directly north of Readers (MKE84363) of which only the courtyard remains, the buildings having been completely demolished. The OS First Edition map of the PDS shows a building directly west of the location of the scout headquarters which is no longer there. There is a possibility that remains of the buildings listed on the OS 1st edition map may be present at the site.

Modern – Three assets associated with World War II are located within the study area located at the sides of the road running directly south of the PDS. One of these (TQ 67 SE 1214) was the headquarters during the war of the 12 Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment RA and the building and grounds are extant. There is potential, therefore, for archaeological remains associated with defences during WWII to be present on the site.

The PDS has been truncated during the building of the scout headquarters and associated ground works. The site has been levelled by digging into the chalk to the east of the PDS by up to five metres (to be verified). The site is relatively level with the road to the west of the PDS, therefore the soil horizons and earlier structures may remain. The activity revealed during the evaluation trenching in the field east of the site suggest that there is a **moderate/high** possibility of finding remains relating to the Prehistoric/Roman and Early-Medieval periods and possible field boundaries from the Medieval/Post-Medieval periods. Many features originally present at the location may have been compromised by colluvial action, the building of the structures, tree plantation as indicated on the OS map (**Figure 6**) and the surfacing of the hard-standing area and road layout to the west of the site.

Reference	Description	MonType	Period
TQ 67 SE 91	Curvilinear enclosed settlement - cropmark	ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT; BARROW?; PIT	Bronze Age
TQ 67 SE 92	Ring-ditch - poss. round barrow; pit - cropmarks	ROUND BARROW; PIT	Bronze Age



TQ 67 SE 15	Chalk Roman villa	DITCH; INHUMATION; PIT; VILLA; BATHS	Early Iron Age to Roman
TQ 67 SE 18	Romano-British burial found AD 1959	BURIAL	Roman
TQ 67 SE 44	Roman beaker	FINDSPOT	Roman
TQ 67 SE 1114	Readers	SITE; TIMBER FRAMED HOUSE; HALL HOUSE; HOUSE	Medieval to Modern
MKE84363	Yard north of Readers	FARMSTEAD	Post-Medieval
TQ 67 SE 1214	Polperro' Second World War, anti-aircraft headquarters, Rochester Road, Chalk	ANTI-AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS ROOM	Modern
TQ 67 SE 1158	Chalk Second World War Defended Locality DL20	FORTIFICATION	Modern
TQ 67 SE 1148	Rochester Road Second World War Police Telephone Box, Chalk, Nr. Gravesend	CIVIL DEFENCE SITE	Modern
TQ 67 SE 1161	Lower Higham Road Second World War roadblock, Chalk	ROADBLOCK	Modern
TQ 67 SE 385	Possible round barrow seen in aerial photographs	ROUND BARROW	Unknown
TQ 67 SE 79	Pits, Cropmark	PIT	Unknown
MKE113306	hoard	FINDSPOT	Unknown

Table 1: HER Assets listed in the study area

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1. General aims

- 4.1.1. The general aims of the Evaluation, as stated in the WSI Brook Archaeology Limited (Birkbeck, 2023) and compliance with the ClfA's Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014a) and KCC's Manual of Specifications Part B: trial trenching requirements, were:



- To establish whether there are any significant archaeological deposits at the site that may be affected by the proposed development.
- To ascertain the extent, depth below ground surface, depth of deposit, character, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains on the site.
- To establish the extent to which previous developments and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site.
- To establish the key likely impact on archaeological deposits of the proposed development
- To record soil levels, deposit levels and soil horizons to help establish the impact of past events.

4.2. **General objectives**

4.2.1. To achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the Evaluation were:

- To establish the date, character, and condition of any archaeological remains.
- To assess the survival level of archaeological remains within the development area and understand how the future development may impact them.
- To place the results into context within the wider archaeological and historical landscape.
- To contribute to the Regional South East Research Framework where possible
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online.
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2019) and relevant Historic England and CIfA standards and guidance.
- To ensure the results of the work are appropriately reported and disseminated.
- To ensure compliance with the WSI.

5. **METHODS**

5.1.1. **Introduction**

5.2. All works were undertaken following the detailed methods in the WSI (Brook Archaeology Limited, 2023) according to best practice as set out by CIfA. Any significant variation on these methods were agreed upon with the Client, Gravesham Borough Council and KCCHC. The methods employed are summarised below.

5.3. Fieldwork methods

- 5.3.1. Three trenches were excavated in level spits using a 1.8 tonne 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. The trenches were shortened from the planned 25m length due to the installation of a drainage pipe and channel into the chalk to the east of the site and narrower due to the contractor using a smaller excavator than advised. The drainage channel confirmed the chalk geology at the end of trenches 2 and 3 and the fill of the quarry at the end of trench 1, negating the need to remove the drainage pipe and channel to complete the 25m length. Machine excavation continued until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, was exposed. Where archaeology was deemed to continue below a level of 1.2m or the maximum depth of the proposed groundworks, a sondage was excavated to confirm the archaeological layers down to the limit of excavation. The trenches were placed slightly east of the intended western limit due to the site constraints of material deposited there. As this area will be landscaped and a hardstanding installed, a decision was made on site that the scope of the evaluation would not be adversely affected.
- 5.3.2. Where necessary, the bases of the trenches were cleaned by hand.
- 5.3.3. Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits were visually scanned for finds retrieval. Pottery and worked bone items were found.
- 5.3.4. Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and correspondence summarising the findings were sent to KCCHC. Once discharged remotely by KCCHC, the trenches were backfilled utilising excavated materials in the order they were excavated and left level on completion. No other reinstatement was undertaken.
- 5.3.5. A Post-Medieval quarry was revealed in the south-west corner of the site and the edge revealed in the evaluation trenches. The quarry fill contained Late Georgian - Victorian era artefacts and pottery.
- 5.3.6. A South GNSS connected to an RTK correction service surveyed the trench locations, depths and the location of representative sections. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50mm.
- 5.3.7. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which have embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long-term accessibility of the image set.

5.4. **Artefactual and environmental strategies**

- 5.4.1. Appropriate strategies for recovering, processing and assessing artefacts and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Brook Archaeology Limited, 2023). There were no artefactual or environmental samples taken.

5.5. **Monitoring**

- 5.5.1. The KCC Archaeologist was made aware of all developments and findings during the evaluation.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS



Figure 3 – 1:250 Evaluation trench locations

6.1. Introduction

6.2. The Evaluation trenches revealed a post medieval quarry.

6.3. Detailed descriptions of individual contexts from each trench are provided in the trench summary tables (**Appendix 1**). **Figure 1** shows the site location. **Figure 2** shows the development area in relation to the site boundary. **Figure 3** shows the evaluation trench locations relative to the development plan. **Plates 1 - 4** provide trench photos and drawings of representative sections recorded across the site with their locations shown in **Figure 7**. **Appendix 2** contains a selection of site photographs.

6.4. Soil sequences and natural deposits

6.4.1. The archaeological evaluation at Castle Lane, Gravesend, Kent comprised the excavation of three trenches and revealed that the area inside the Proposed Development Area (PDA) had been severely truncated by a quarry, cut into the natural chalk bedrock.

6.4.2. A common stratigraphic sequence across the Proposed Development Area comprised a series of surface layers (topsoil and crushed chalk) sealing the natural geology to the east and the quarry within the centre of the PDA.

6.4.3. The backfill within the quarry also formed a common Late Georgian and Victorian stratigraphic sequence across the three trenches and demonstrated that the later and most recent layers of backfill: contexts **(102)**, **(103)**, **(104)**, **(204)** and **(305)** occurred within the centre-west of the quarry, whereas the slightly earlier but contemporary layers: contexts **(101)**, **(203)** and **(303)** occurred within the centre. The earliest layer **(201)** and **(301)** within the stratigraphic sequence, occurred at the east end of the quarry. However, the test pit at the west end of trench 3 also revealed this layer re-occurred, as context **(305)**. As this layer appeared at a depth of 0.10m (16.90m aOD) toward the east end of the quarry and at 0.60m (16.40m aOD) toward the west end, it is possible to calculate that the earliest layer of backfill encountered within the quarry has a gradient of 035° sloping from east to west. The reappearance of the quarry within the test pit demonstrated that it had a width of at least 11.50m. Also, within the quarry and situated at the west end of trench 1 lay a chalk block and flint nodule construct. This feature **[105]** sat within one of the latest layers of quarry backfill: layer **(104)**, and in turn had been sealed by another **(103)**. Both layers contained Late Georgian and Victorian pottery.



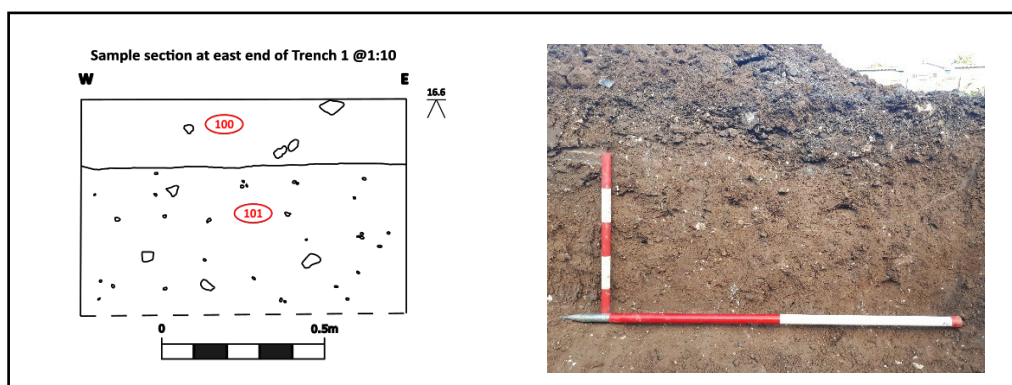
6.5. Trench 1

The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 14.5m, a width of 1.20m. It had a depth of 0.64m (16.36m aOD) at the east end and 0.88m (16.12m aOD) at the west end.

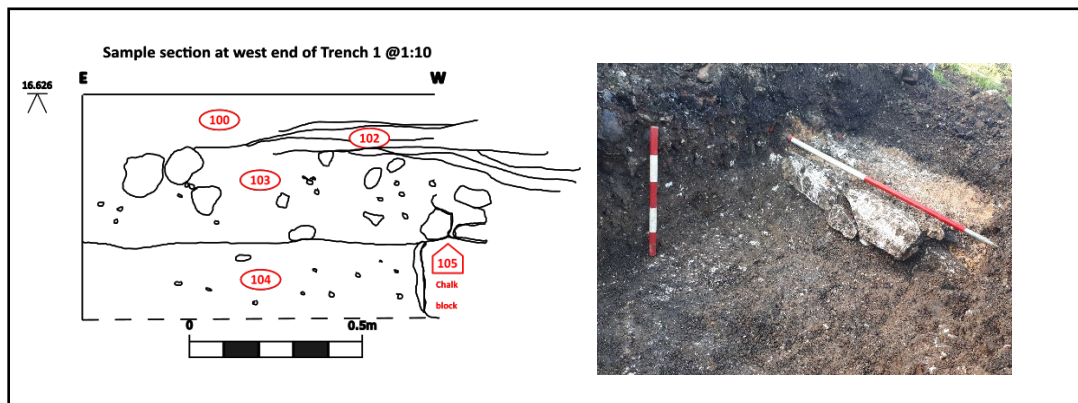
Undisturbed natural geology was not present within the trench. The topsoil, layer **(100)** comprised mid grey-brown silty, slightly sandy, clay and had a thickness of 0.00-0.20m.

At the east end of trench, the topsoil sealed compact mid brown silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces and occasional small angular flints. This layer **(101)** had a length of 9.50m, a thickness of 0.20-0.64+ and formed a layer of backfill within a quarry. The layer contained CBM (Peg tile) and Late Georgian – Victorian yellow-glazed pottery. This layer would be encountered within Trench 2 as context **(203)**.

At the west end of trench, layer **(101)** sealed multiple thin tip lines of ash and soot **(102)** forming a thickness of 0.17m. This context sealed a layer **(103)** within the quarry and comprised compact dark grey loamy clayey silt with moderate medium-large flint nodules and occasional fragments of red frogged brick and small chalk pieces. It had a length of 3m, a thickness of 0.24m and contained Late Georgian – Victorian brown-glazed pottery and white-glazed porcelain. This context sealed layer **(104)** and structure **[105]**. Layer **(104)**, also a layer of backfill within the quarry, had a length of 5.20m, a thickness of +0.27m. It comprised compact light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces, with two isolated dumps of chalk either side of a modern footing and contained Late Georgian – Victorian glazed pottery and a bone utensil handle (**SF: 1**). This layer would be encountered within trench 2 as context **(204)**. Sat within this layer occurred a structure **[105]**. The structure comprised a single, basal row of chalk blocks capped with a single row of small-medium flint nodules bonded with yellow coarse sandy mortar. The structure, encountered at a depth of 0.61m (16.39m aOD), had a height of 0.24m and a width of 0.60m.



Plates 1 and 2 – Trench 1: Representative Section 1 and image facing south at east end of trench



Plates 3 and 4 – Trench 1: Representative Section 2 and image facing north and structure {105} at west end of trench

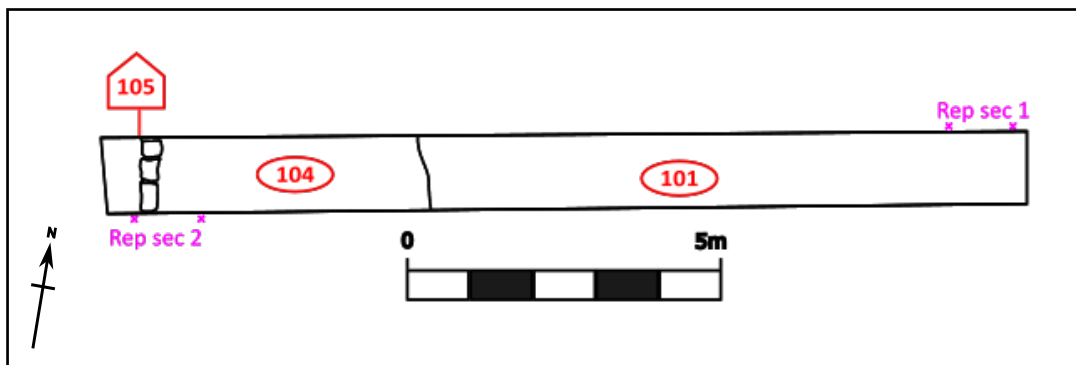


Plate 5 – Trench 1: Plan

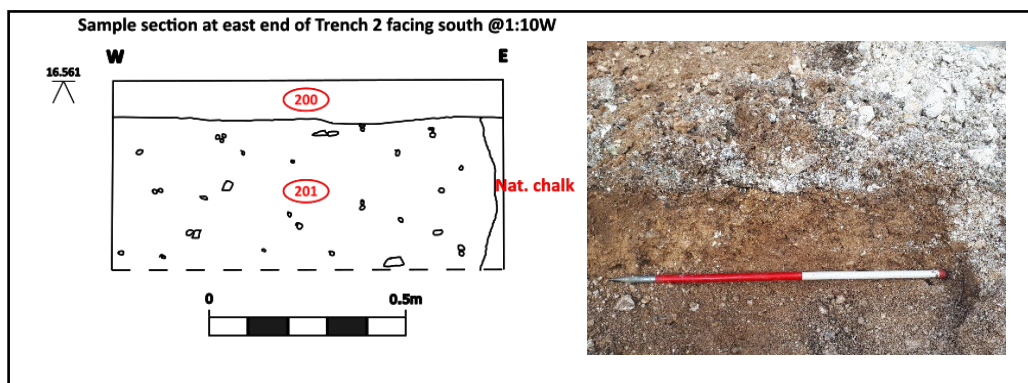
6.6. Trench 2

The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 22m, a width of 1.20m and had a depth of 0.48m (16.52m aOD) at the east end; a test pit at the west end was excavated to a depth of 1.20m (15.80m aOD). Undisturbed natural geology was present at the east end of the trench for a length of 2.50m before being truncated as part of the quarry edge.

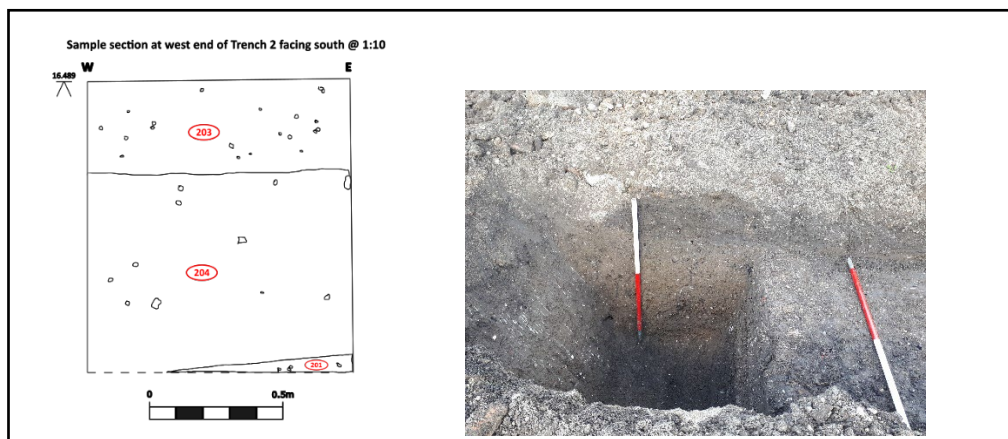
At the east end of trench, a 0.10m thick layer of crushed chalk (**200**) sealed a layer of quarry backfill situated up against the cut of the quarry. This layer (**201**) had a length of 5m, a thickness of +0.20m and comprised compact light brown and yellow silty chalk and contained Late Georgian – Victorian brown-glazed pottery and CBM (Peg tile). This layer would be encountered within trench 3 as contexts (**301**) and (**305**). The cut of the quarry [**202**] had a north-south alignment. This alignment continued and was encountered at the

east end of trench 3.

Within the centre of the trench was the continuation of the layer of backfill within the quarry observed in trench 1 as context **(101)**. Again, this layer **(203)** comprised compact mid brown silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces and occasional small angular flints. Within trench 2, this context had a length of 6m and a thickness of +0.24m. At the west end of trench was the continuation of the layer of backfill within the quarry observed in trench 1 as context **(104)**. Again, this layer **(204)** comprised compact light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces, with an isolated dump of chalk, and contained Late Georgian – Victorian, blue and white (transfer – not hand painted) glazed pottery, a bone utensil handle (SF: 2) and a worked bone bobbin (SF: 3). This layer had a length of 9.20m, a maximum thickness of 0.76m and sealed the re-occurrence of context **(201)**. Recorded as **(205)**, this context occurred within the test pit at the west end of the trench at a depth of 1.10m (15.90m aOD) and continued beyond a depth of +1.20m.



Plates 6 and 7 – Trench 2: Representative Section 1 and image facing south at east end of trench.



Plates 8 and 9 – Trench 2: Representative section 2 and test pit image facing south at west end of trench.

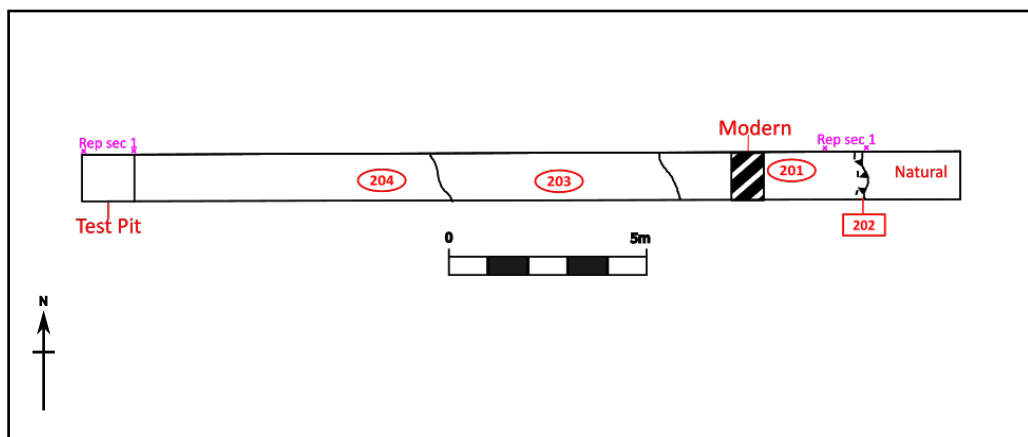


Plate 10 – Trench 2: Plan

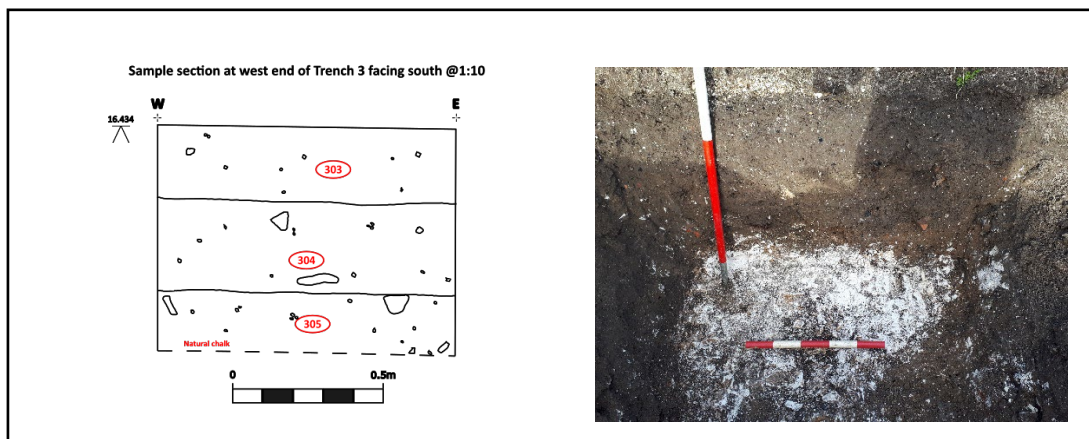
6.7. Trench 3

The trench had an east-west alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.20m and had a depth of 0.30m (16.70m aOD) at the east end; a test pit at the west end was excavated to a depth of 0.84m (16.16m aOD). Undisturbed natural geology was present at the east end of the trench for a length of 8.50m before being truncated as part of the quarry edge. A north-east – south-west aligned edge of the quarry, truncating the undisturbed natural geology, was also encountered with the base of the test pit.

As within trench 2, at the east end of trench a 0.10m thick layer of crushed chalk **(300)** sealed the layer of quarry backfill situated up against the cut of the quarry. This layer **(301)** had a length of 3.70m, a thickness of +0.20m and was the continuation of context **(201)** - comprising compact light brown and yellow silty chalk. The cut of the quarry **(302)** at the east end of the trench had the same north-south alignment as observed within trench 2.

Within the centre of the trench was the continuation of the layer of backfill within the quarry observed in trench 1 as context **(101)** and trench 2 as context **(203)**. Again, this context **(303)** comprised compact mid brown silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces and occasional small angular flints. Within trench 3, this context had a length of 2.40m and also had a thickness of +0.24m.

At the west end of trench was the continuation of the layer of backfill within the quarry observed in trench 1 as context **(104)** and trench 2 as context **(204)**, comprising compact light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces. This layer **(304)** had a length of 6.10m, a thickness of 0.30m and contained Late Georgian – Victorian blue and white and red and white (transfer – not hand painted) glazed pottery, fragments of a stoneware demijohn and a ceramic milk bottle. This layer sealed the re-occurrence of context **(301)**. Recorded as **(305)**, this context occurred within the test pit at the west end of the trench, at a depth of 0.64m (16.36m aOD) and continued beyond that depth. The quarry edge **[306]**, cut into the natural chalk, was also encountered at this depth; however, the cut had a northeast-southwest alignment.



Plates 11 and 12– Trench 3: Representative section 1 and test pit image facing south at west end of trench.

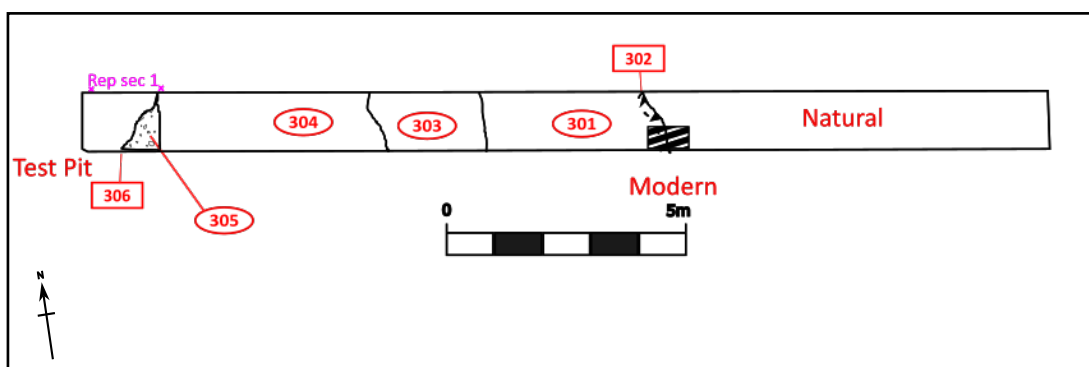


Plate 13 – Trench 3: Plan

6.8. Artefactual evidence

The layers of backfill within the quarry produced a finds assemblage comprising: Late Georgian – Victorian, pottery (inc. a variety of glazes and with transfer decoration) from contexts (101), (103), (104), (201), (203), (204), (205) and (304): a combined weight of 600gm.

CBM (Peg tile) from contexts (101) and (201): a combined weight of 300gm.

In addition, layers (104) and (204) produced worked bone handles from utensils and layer (204) also produced a worked bone object, probably a bobbin.

SF: 1. Context (104). Complete bone handle for an iron knife. The handle is straight and has a circular cross section. A roughly shaped oval wedge has been inserted into the terminal of the handle and part of the bolster extends from the opposite end. The bolster has a short, elongated triangular-shaped cross section. Length: 77.5mm. Diameter: 11mm.

SF: 2. Context (204). Incomplete bone handle for an iron fork. The handle is similar to a pistol grip with a slightly bulbous terminal that tapers down to the collar. Internally are the remnants of an iron shank with a rectangular-shaped cross section. Length: 79mm. Width: 18mm.

SF: 3. Context (204). Incomplete bone object – probably a bobbin. Lathe-turned, the object is cylindrical in shape and the main body comprises two large elliptical-shaped sections either side of a central collar around the circumference. The collar is raised and comprises a plain centre flanked either side by a thin groove. At one end (the lower section?) is a recessed section, perhaps to hold thread, surmounted by a fluted terminal. The side of the terminal has been shaved slightly to produce a flat face at the back. The opposite end is damaged, although remnants of another raised section is present. Length: 69.5mm. Diameter (max): 9mm.

6.9. Environmental evidence

- 6.9.1. No deposits suitable for environmental assessment were identified during the Evaluation.



7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1. Discussion

- 7.1.1. The evaluation trenches revealed a Post-Medieval quarry cut into the chalk at the site in the south-west corner where the scout hut was previously erected. Also revealed was a structure set atop and below the later deposits of quarry fill at the far west of trench 1. Due to the modest size of the foundations and the relatively unstable matrix above and below, it is unlikely that this represented the footings of a significant building. However, it does align with buildings included in the 1897 OS map and may be the remains of outbuildings originally associated with the quarry and abandoned after it covered by the quarry fill.
- 7.1.2. The presence of the quarry on the outskirts of the settlement of Chalk is consistent with the mining of chalk in the area which gave the village its name.

8. ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1. Museum

- 8.1.1. The archive resulting from the Evaluation is currently held at the office of Brook Archaeology Limited in Charing. No museum has agreed as yet to accept the archive on completion of the project. However, appropriate archiving in digital form can be carried out via the Archaeological Data Service and a hard copy retained by Brook Archaeology Limited until another suitable repository is available.

8.2. Preparation of the archive

- 8.2.1. The archive, which includes paper records and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for accepting excavated archaeological material following the nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2. All archive elements are marked with the site code **CLG23-EV**, and a complete index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:
- One file/document case of paper records and A4 graphics.

8.3. OASIS

- 8.3.1. An OASIS online record has been initiated with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report will be submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements regarding confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records

and published through the Archaeological Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

- 8.3.2. An OASIS online record has been initiated, with key fields and a .pdf version of the final report will be submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements regarding confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeological Data Service ArchSearch catalogue.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1. Many thanks to Jamie Masters for commissioning Brook Archaeology Limited to carry out the archaeological evaluation and to Casper Johnson of KCCHC for his guidance.

10. REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARIES

trench No.1		Max Length 14.5m	Max Width 1.2m	Mean basal level:16.25
NW corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.626	Northing: 172823	Easting: 567756	
SW corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.717	Northing: 172822	Easting: 567756	
NE corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.6	Northing: 172825	Easting: 567770	
SE corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.593	Northing: 172823	Easting: 567770	
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth (m)
100	Topsoil	Mid grey-brown silty, slightly sandy, clay.		0.00-0.20
101	Layer within Quarry. Layer at East end of trench. Same as (203).	Mid brown silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces and occasional small angular flints. Contained CBM (Peg tile) and yellow-glazed pottery.		0.20-0.64+
102	Layer at West end of trench. Layer within Quarry. Sealed by (101).	Multiple thin tip lines of ash and soot.		0.20-0.37
103	Layer at West end of trench. Layer within Quarry. Sealed by (102)	Dark grey loamy clayey silt with moderate medium-large flint nodules and occasional fragments of red frogged brick and small chalk pieces. Contained brown and white-glazed pottery.		0.37-0.61

	and in turn seals Structure [105] and Layer (104).		
104	Layer at West end of trench. Layer within Quarry. Sealed by (103) and contains Structure [105]. Same as (204).	Light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces. Contained glazed pottery and a bone utensil handle.	0.61-0.88+
105	Structure. Sits within Layer (104) and sealed by Layer (103). Height: 0.24m. Width: 0.60m.	A single, basal row of chalk blocks with a single row of small-medium flint nodules bonded with yellow coarse sandy mortar, on top.	0.61-0.85

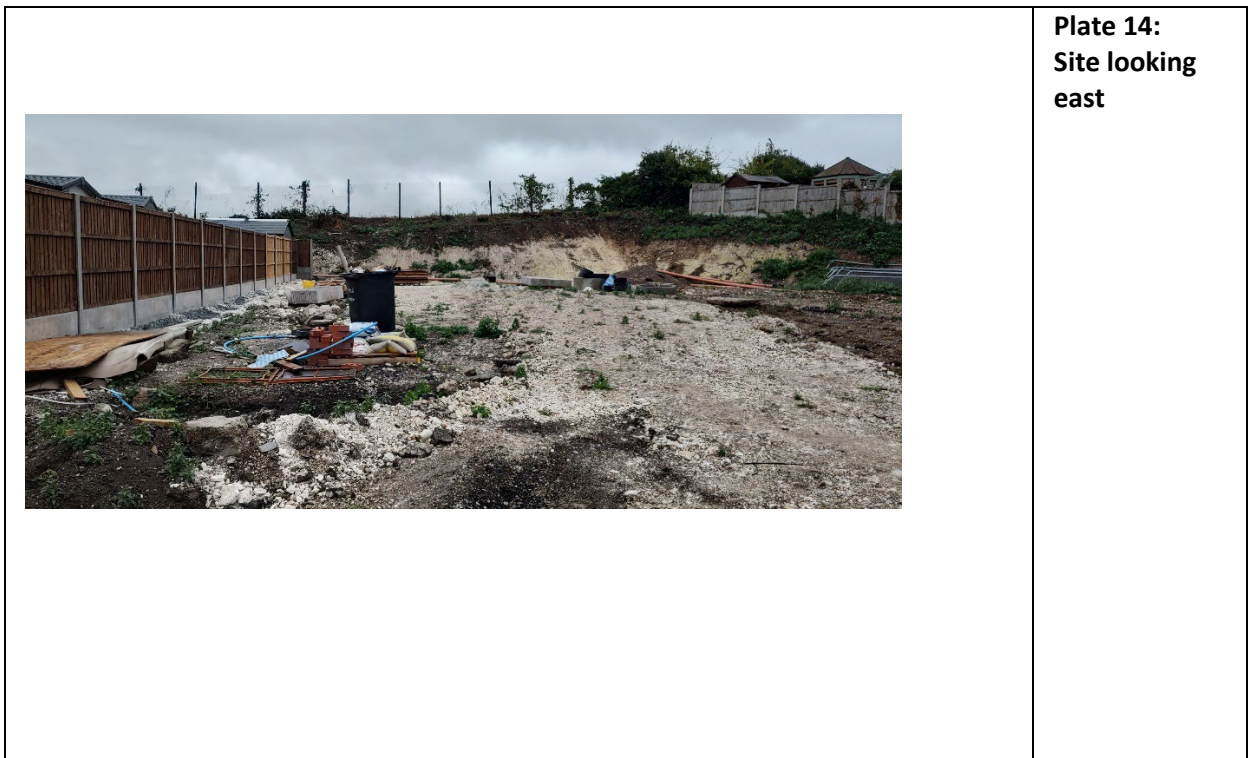
Trench No.2		Max Length 22m	Max Width 1.2m	Mean basal level:16.25
NW corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.489	Northing: 172831		Easting: 567757
SW corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.563	Northing: 172829		Easting: 567757
NE corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.561	Northing: 172830		Easting: 567779
SE corner (ground lvl)	OD height: 16.552	Northing: 172829		Easting: 567778
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth (m)
200	Surface Layer. Layer at East end of trench.	Crushed chalk.		0.00-0.10
201	Layer. Layer at East end of trench. Earliest layer encountered within Quarry. Same as (205).	Light brown and yellow silty, chalk. Contained brown-glazed pottery and CBM (Peg tile).		0.10-0.48+
202	Cut of Quarry. Encountered at East end of trench. Same as [302] and [306].	Quarry edge. Cut into the Natural chalk.		0.10-0.48+
203	Layer in the centre of trench. Same as (101).	Mid grey-brown silty, slightly sandy, clay with occasional small chalk pieces and charcoal flecks.		0.10-0.34+
204	Light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent	Layer. Layer at West end of Trench. Layer within Quarry. Same as (104).		0.34-1.10

	small chalk pieces. Contained blue and white (transfer – not hand painted) glazed pottery, a bone utensil handle and a worked bone object – probably a bobbin.		
205	Light brown and yellow silty, chalk.	Layer. Earliest layer encountered within Quarry. *Layer Encountered at East end of Trench as (201).	1.10-1.20+

Trench No.3		Max Length 20m	Max Width 1.2m	Mean basal level:16.70
NW corner (ground)	OD height: 16.434	Northing: 172839		Easting: 567760
SW corner (ground)	OD height: 16.418	Northing: 172838		Easting: 567760
NE corner (ground)	OD height: 16.486	Northing: 172837		Easting: 567780
SE corner (ground)	OD height: 16.592	Northing: 172836		Easting: 567780
Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description		Depth (m)
300	Surface Layer. Layer at East end of trench.	Crushed chalk.		0.00-0.10
301	Layer. Layer at East end of trench. Earliest layer encountered within Quarry. Same as (201), (205) and (305).	Light brown and yellow silty, chalk.		0.10-0.30+
302	Cut of Quarry. Encountered at East end of trench. Same as [202] and [306].	Quarry edge. Cut into the Natural chalk.		0.10-0.30+
303	Layer at East end of trench. Same as (101) and (203).	Mid grey-brown silty, slightly sandy, clay with occasional small chalk pieces and charcoal flecks.		0.10-0.34+
304	Layer. Layer at West end of trench. Layer within Quarry. Same as (104) and (204).	Light-mid grey silty clay with moderate-frequent small chalk pieces. Contained blue and white and red and white (transfer – not hand painted) glazed pottery,		0.34-0.64

		demijohn and ceramic milk bottle.	
305	Layer. Layer at West end of trench. Earliest layer encountered within Quarry. Same as (201), (205) and (301).	Light brown and yellow silty, chalk.	0.64-0.84+
306	Cut of Quarry. Encountered at East end of trench. Same as [202] and [302].	Quarry edge. Cut into the Natural chalk.	0.64-0.84+

APPENDIX 2 – ADDITIONAL SITE IMAGES



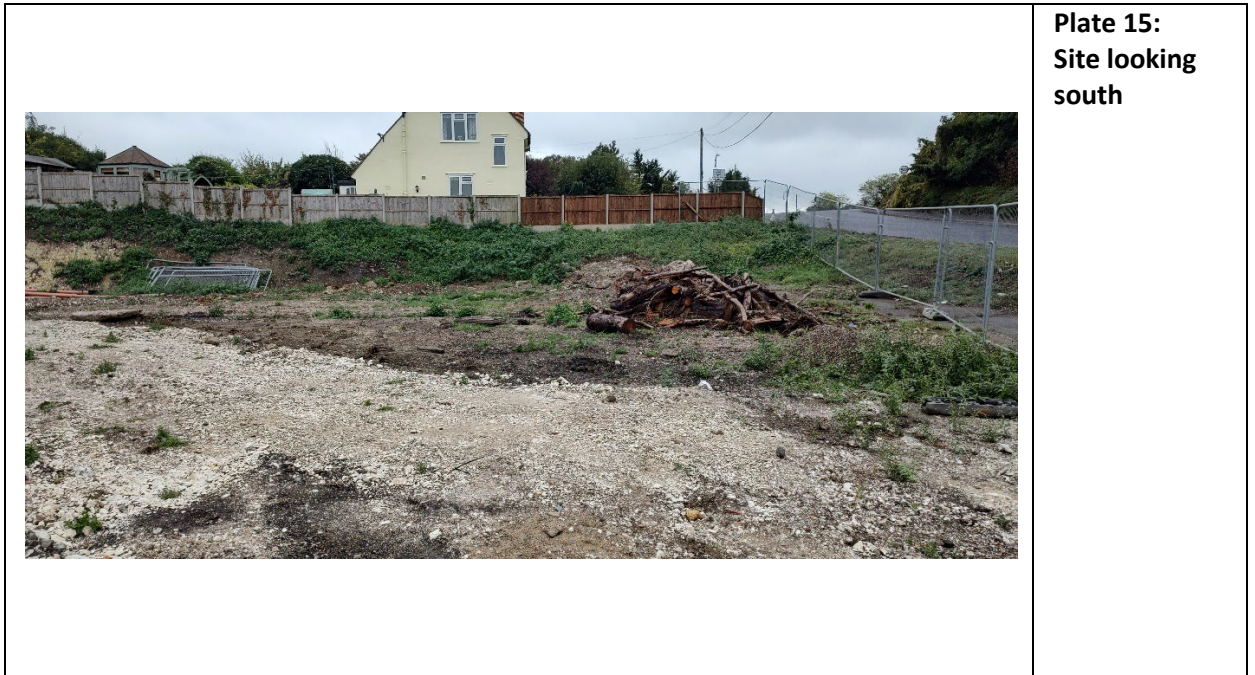




Plate 16:
TR1. Looking East. with Structure [105] in the foreground, together with layer (104) at west end of trench.
TR1. Looking East. with Structure [105] in the foreground, together with layer (104) at west end of Trench.





Plate 17:
TR2. Looking
east. With
test pit in the
foreground
and layer
(204) at West
end of
trench.Trench.





Plate 18:
TR3. Looking
West with
Natural chalk
at the East
end of
trench.Trench.



HER & Fieldwork Notification Form



Sections **A** and **B** to be sent digitally to KCC Heritage Conservation Group **in advance of the start of fieldwork**.
 Section **C** to be completed and sent **at end of fieldwork**.
 Section **D** to be filled in and sent with completed report.

SECTION A - PROJECT DETAILS

Site/Project Name:	Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend,	NGR:	TQ 6776 7282
Site Address:	Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TQ		
Archaeological Contractor (inc name and address of project contact):			
Fred Birkbeck, Broook Archaeology Limited, 2 Brook Cottages, Charing Kent, TN27 0AL			
Commissioning Body/Client: Jamie Masters			
Development Proposals/Reason for Fieldwork:		Planning Reference:	
Demolition of the existing building and erection of two detached 3/4 bedroom chalet style bungalows. The site lies in an area which has multi-period archaeological potential as outlined in previous excavations particularly to the east and north east during excavations in advance of the Lower Thames crossing. There is also evidence of a possible earlier building on the site. The work required will be an archaeological evaluation consisting of three trenches, the results of which will inform any subsequent archaeological work.		20210514	

SECTION B - COMMENCEMENT OF FIELDWORK

Type of Archaeological Fieldwork:	Site Supervisor:	Fred Birkbeck		
Evaluation	Site Contact Details:	07719439429		
Specification for Works:	WSI submitted to Gravesham Borough Council as part of the planning condition			
Local Museum Notified:	No	Site Code: CLG23-WB		
Date:				
Local Arch Soc Notified:	No			
Date:				
START DATE:	22/01/2024	ANTICIPATED DURATION:	2	days

I (archaeological contractor) confirm that all necessary provision has been made for the resources to complete the archaeological fieldwork, post-excavation analysis and reporting in accordance with the agreed specification.

Name:	Fred Birkbeck		
On behalf of:	Brook Archaeology Limited		
Signed:		Date:	17/01/2024
SECTION C - COMPLETION OF FIELDWORK			
Date Fieldwork Completed:	22/01/2024	Was fieldwork monitored by KCC/EH/Other?	
Further Fieldwork Anticipated:	No	Who?	Casper Johnson
Map attached showing site location and extent of intervention?			
			
Summary of results (Continue on a separate sheet if necessary): Three evaluation trenches were excavated at Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TQ. The three trenches revealed a Late-Georgian/Victorian quarry dug into the chalk geology in the south west corner of the site. Artefacts from the period were recovered. from the quarry fill. The west end of trench 1 contained the possible footings of a structure which may be related to the structure noted on the OS first edition map. However, they did not appear substantial enough to support a building of any importance and were sat atop and below the consistent fill of the quarry			
Agreed Reporting Stages and Program:			
Name:	Fred Birkbeck		
On behalf of:	Brook Archaeology Limited		
Signed:		Date:	09/02/2024

SECTION D - COMPLETION OF POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS & REPORTING							
Reports Submitted (Titles)	Copies to: (Number)						
	KCC	LPA	Arch Soc	Client	EH	Other	Digital Copies
REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION Chalk Scout Group, Castle Lane, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4TQ	x	x	x	x			Brook Archaeology
HER Data:							
Digital Mapping Data?			Notes:				
Location and Destination of Archive:			Brook Archaeology Limited 2 Brook Cottages, Charing Heath Road, Charing TN27 0Al				
Name:	Fred Birkbeck						
On behalf of:	Brook Archaeology Limited						
Signed:					Date:	09/02/2024	