REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

New House Farm, Old Crawley Road, Faygate, West Sussex RH12 4RU



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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Report reference: BAL24-077

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New House Farm, Old Crawley Road, Faygate, West Sussex RH12 4RU

Planning Reference: DC/22/2167

NGR: TQ 2027 3315

BAL Site Code: NHFH23-EV

Report for an Archaeological Evaluation

Report prepared for Robert Walton (client)

By Brook Archaeology Limited, Company No 14397861

Report Number BAL24-077

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1. SUMMARY

1.1. An Archaeological Evaluation was conducted at New House Farm, Old Crawley Road, Faygate, West Sussex (**Figure 1**) as part of the planning application 20210514 filed with Horsham District Council (HDC).

1.2. Planning permission had been granted by Horsham District Council for application DC/22/2167 for the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a replacement barn style dwelling within the site boundary agreed (**Figure 2**). An archaeological investigation of the site, prior to development, was recommended by the Archaeological Advisor from Essex County Council (ECC) on 30th May 2023.

1.3. Modern services truncated the south east of the site and a layer of redeposited landscaping material, creating a gradual slope to the tarmac road running east-west across the south of the site, was revealed.

1.4. No archaeological features or remains were identified during the excavation of the three evaluation trenches over the Proposed Development Site (PDS).

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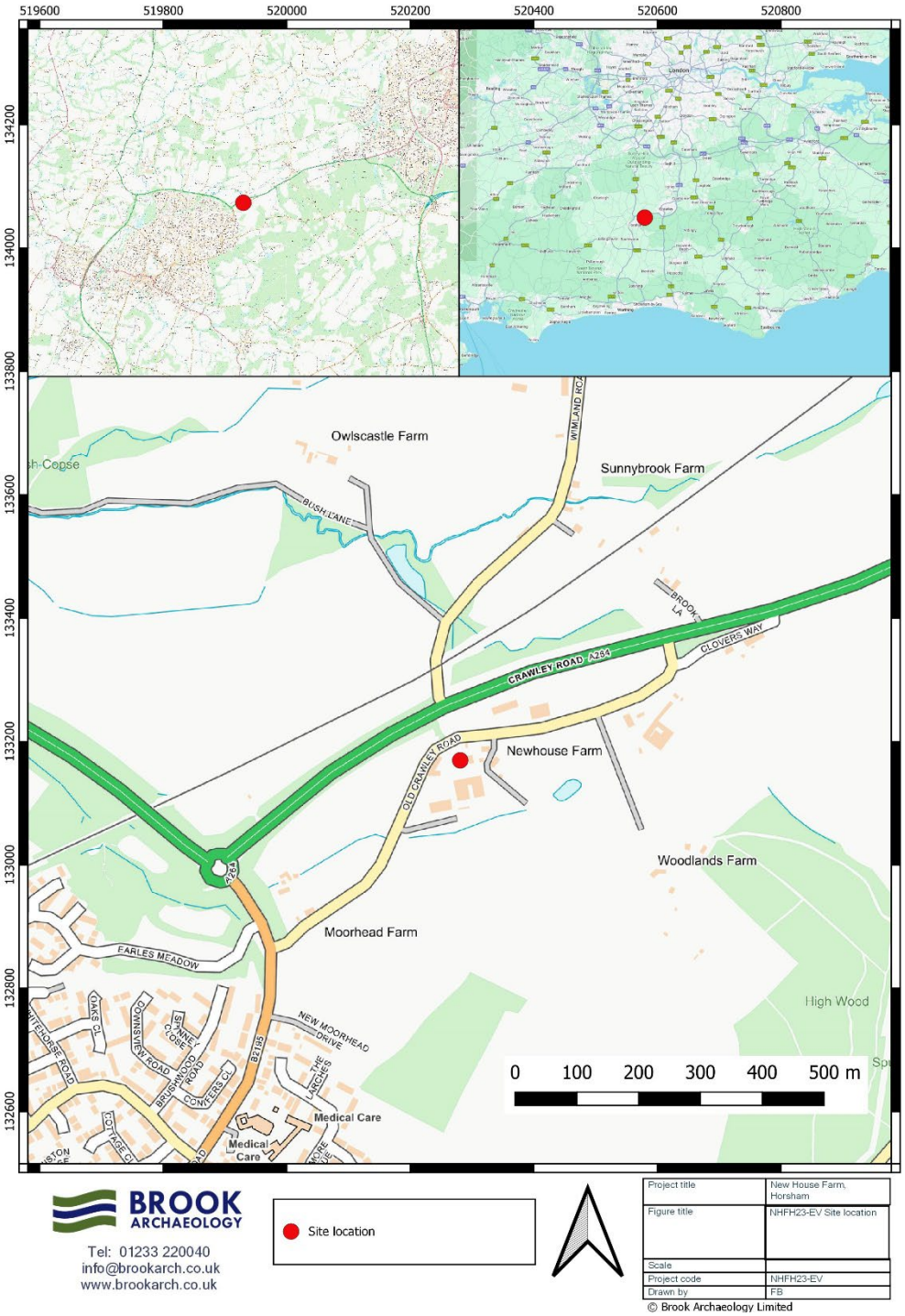

Figure 1 – Site location of NHFH23-EV



Figure 2 – Site boundary for NHFH23-EV

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. Project and planning background

2.1.1. An Archaeological Evaluation has been conducted on behalf of Robert Walton on land at New House Farm, Old Crawley Road, Faygate, West Sussex, 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 by Horsham District Council (HDC) for the demolition of an existing dwelling and construction of a replacement barn style dwelling (ref: DC/22/2167).

2.1.2. An archaeological investigation of the site, prior to development, was recommended by the Archaeological Advisor from Essex County Council (ECC) on 30th May 2023. The project was subsequently curated by Nick Truckle of Surrey County Council (SCC) Historic Environment Planning Department. Notification was given to Nick Truckle in advance of the

evaluation works taking place and updates given regularly during and directly after the excavation of the trenches.

2.1.3. The Evaluation consisted of the monitored excavation of two 15m x 1.8m and one 20m x 1.8m trenches which target the proposed groundwork area. Trench locations as planned on the WSI and the final location of the trenches are shown in **Figure 3-4**. Final positions were agreed after constraints dictated a variation (see 2.1.5). The PDS location is centred on NGR: TQ 2027 3315. The Evaluation aimed to record the presence of any potential archaeological resource present on the site. This work followed the relevant 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' Standards and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2014).

2.1.4. 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 by the client's agent on 30th November 2023 and the Archaeological Consultant for West Sussex County Council approved the WSI on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The Discharge Notice was published by HDC on 5th February 2024 approving the WSI.

2.1.5. Trench 2 was repositioned to avoid the south west corner of the building which had not yet been demolished, this was after consultation and approval from the SCC Archaeological Consultant. The 15m x 2m Trench 3 was positioned on site within the 20m x 2m range specified in the WSI. The final position of the trenches did not present a constraint nor have any effect on the outcome of the evaluation.

2.1.6. The Evaluation comprising three trial trenches was undertaken on 29th February 2024 and completed and backfilled on the same day.

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 The Proposed Development Site (PDS) lies within a small complex of farm buildings approximately 2km south west of the centre of the village of Faygate in the civil parish of Colgate which lies within the district of Horsham. Horsham center is approximately 4km south west of the PDS and Crawley, approximately 7.5km north east (**Figure 1**). New House Farm lies immediately south of Old Crawley Road which formed part of the main London-Worthing turnpike. The road was bypassed by the A264 which runs east-west approximately 100m north of the PDS.

2.3.2. The PDS is on top of two bands of geology; the north of the site sits atop bedrock geology of the Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand - Sandstone and mudstone and the south of the site sits atop bedrock of Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – Mudstone. There is no superficial geology recorded at the PDS's location.

2.3.3. 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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1. The following is a brief summary of the archaeological and heritage potential ascertained from historic map regression and documentary evidence. recorded within a 500m radius of the PDS. 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 an agricultural area consisting of several discreet farmsteads lying along Old Crawley Road and Winland Road which runs north south from the junction of Od Crawley Road directly north of the entrance to the New House Farm complex. The New House Farm complex itself contains a grade II listed building, Newhouse Farmhouse (HE Ref: 1027061) which lies directly east of the PDS. The 1st edition OS Map indicates a building to the south east of the PDS which has subsequently been demolished (**Figure 4**). There are no records of this building available at the publication of this WSI. Other Farmsteads within the study area contain listed buildings; Roffey House (HE Ref: 1354144) 350m east, Clovers (HE Ref: 1286195) 470m north east, Clyst Hayes (HE Ref: 1027057) 450m north east and Kings Farmhouse (HE Ref: 1193716), barn to the south west of Brook House (HE Ref: 1286021) and Brook House (HE Ref: 1027040) which are within close proximity of each other adjacent to Winland Road between 380m and 480m north east of the PDS.

3.3. Given the site's location in an agricultural area and the consistency of farmstead configurations along with the buildings within their curtilage, there was deemed a **medium/high** possibility of finding remains of earlier buildings associated with New House Farm at the PDS. The record from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map being the strongest indicator that there was a building which cannot be of a later than 1874 origin.

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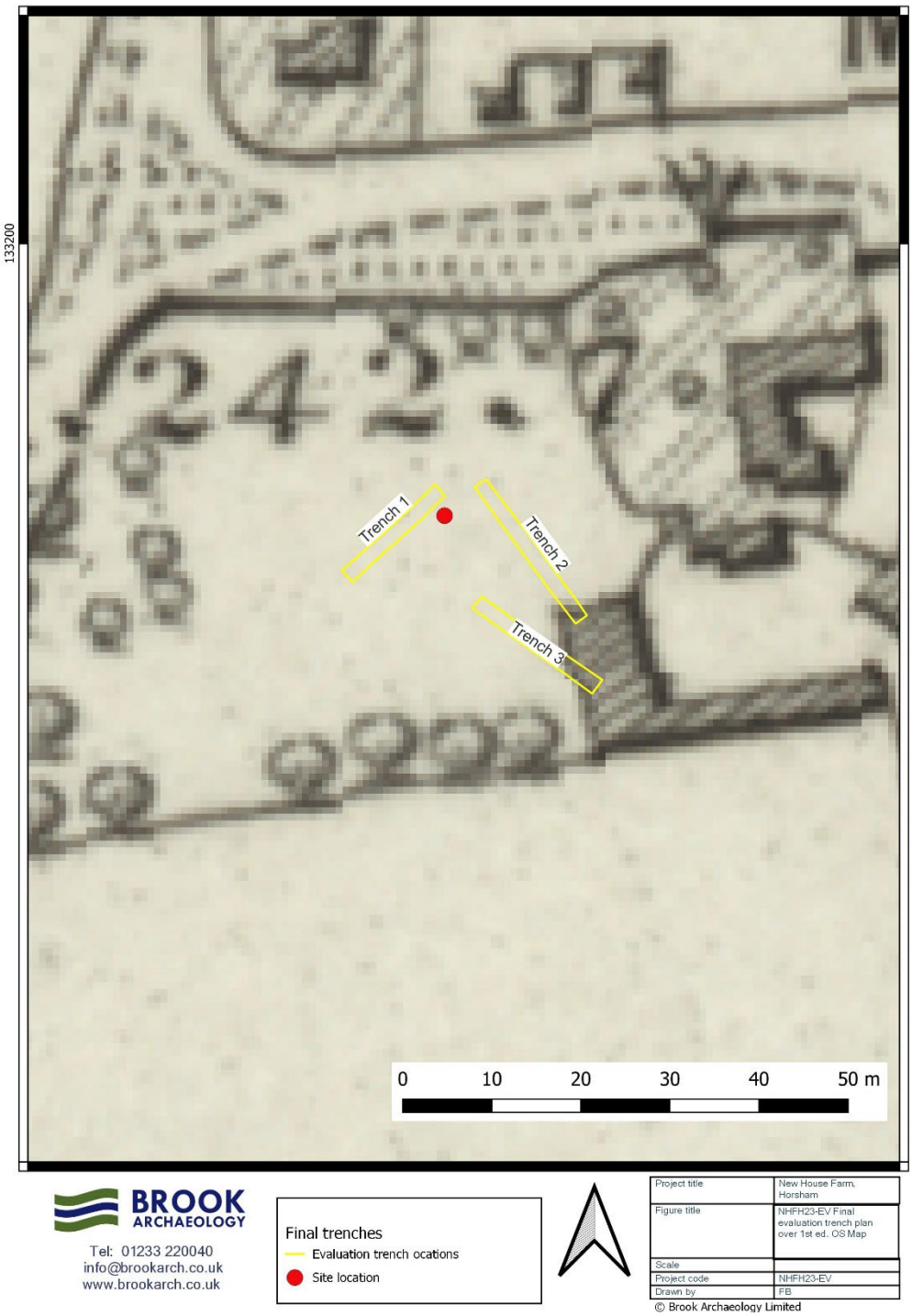

Figure 3: Final evaluation trench locations over 1st edition OS map

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. 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 in these methods were agreed upon with the Client and Surrey County Council. The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2. Fieldwork methods

4.2.1. Three trenches were excavated in level spits using a 5.0 tonne 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Two trenches were excavated at approximately 15m length and one at approximately 20m length. Each trench was approximately 2m wide. Trench 2 was rotated slightly to avoid the corner of a building to the east of the site (**Figure 4**). Machine excavation continued until the archaeological horizon, or the natural geology, was exposed. A sondage was dug in the south west end of Trench 1 to confirm the geological stratigraphy and inform the likely composition across the site.

4.2.2. Where necessary, the bases of the trenches were cleaned by hand.

4.2.3. Spoil derived from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits were visually scanned for finds retrieval. No items were retrieved from the spoil.

4.2.4. Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the Client and correspondence summarising the findings were sent to SCC. Once discharged remotely by SCC, the trenches were backfilled utilising excavated materials in the order they were excavated and left level on completion. No other reinstatement was undertaken.

4.2.5. Modern services were revealed in Trench 2 and Trench 3. A redeposited layer of subsoil was revealed in Trench 2 to have been used for landscaping a gradual gradient from the lower level in the middle of the site to the hard standing area south of the site.

4.2.6. 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.

4.2.7. 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.

4.3. Artefactual and environmental strategies

4.3.1. 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.

4.4. Monitoring

4.4.1. The SCC Archaeologist was made aware of all developments and findings during the evaluation.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

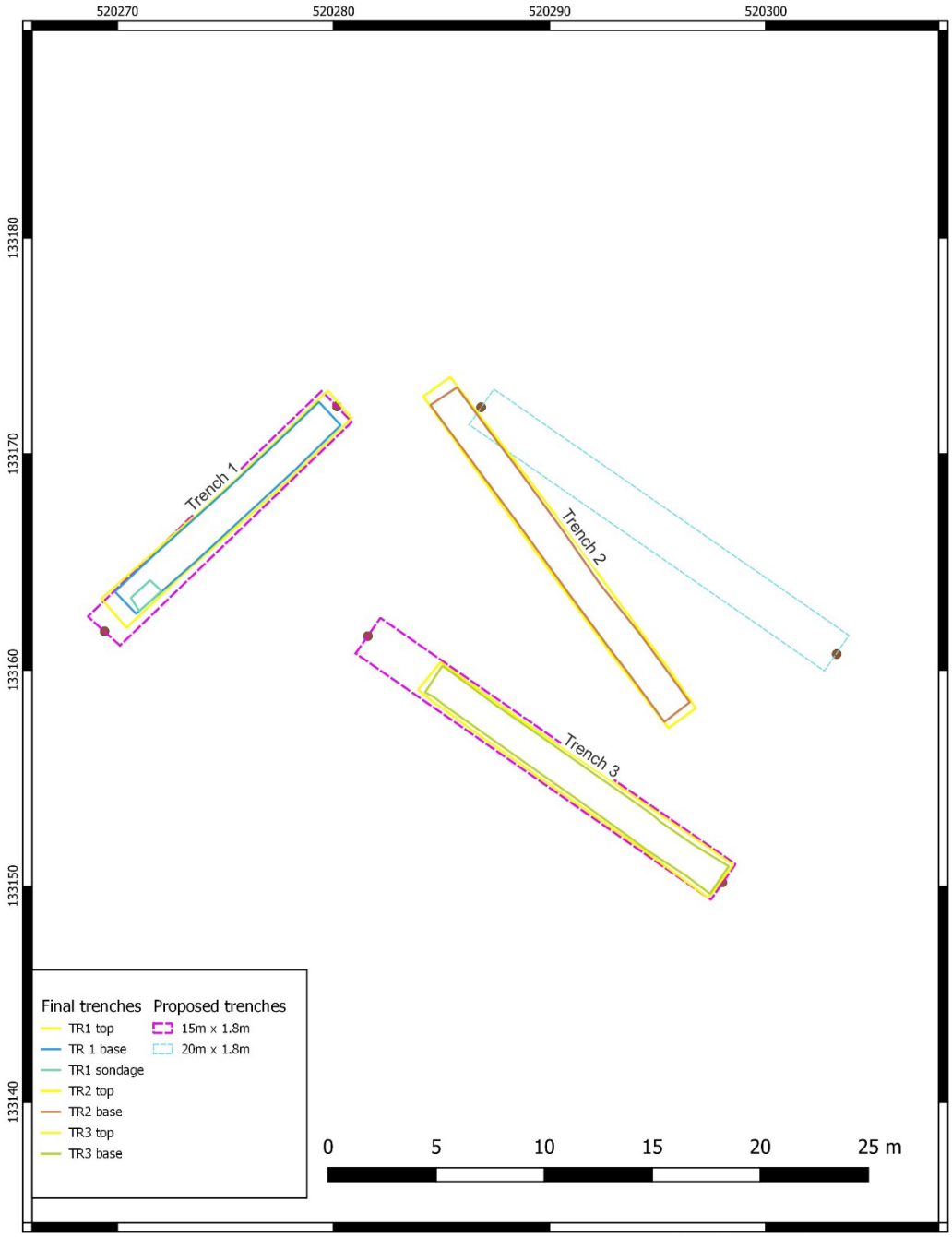

Figure 4 – 1:250 Planned and final evaluation trench locations

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. The Evaluation trenches revealed no archaeology.

5.1.2. 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 in relation to the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, Figure 4 shows the planned and eventual trench locations. **Figure 5** shows the location of the Sample Sections**. Plates 1 - 15** provide trench photos and drawings of representative sections recorded across the site with their locations shown in **Figure 5. Figure 6** shows the location of the modern services truncating the south west end of Trenches 2 and 3. **Appendix 2 contains** a selection of site photographs.

5.2. Soil sequences and natural deposits

5.2.1. The archaeological evaluation at New House Farm, Old Crawley Road, Faygate, West Sussex comprised the excavation of three trenches and revealed that the area inside the Proposed Development Site contained a common stratigraphic sequence across the area comprising a series of surface layers, topsoil - contexts **(100)**, **(200)** and **(300)**, subsoil – contexts **(101)**, **(201)** and **(301)** and a modern track – contexts **(104)** and **(105)**.

5.2.2. The Undisturbed natural geology occurred throughout all three trenches and comprised mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking – contexts **(202)** and **(307)** overlying in places, the upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone – contexts **(103)** and **(304)**, which in turn sealed the cleaner and more solid Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone bedrock, context **(106)**.

5.2.3. Between the subsoil and the naturally occurring geology within the Proposed Development Site were a number of layers, and they comprised **(102)**, **(302)**, **(303)** and **(306)**. In addition to these layers, landscaping, in the form of an embankment comprised contexts **(203)** and **(305)**.

5.2.4. The archaeological resource was **NOT** encountered within all three trenches.

5.3. Trench 1

5.3.1. The trench had a northeast-southwest alignment, a length of 15m, a width of 1.80m and had a depth of 0.57m (73.44m aOD) at the northeast end and 1.12m (73.05m aOD) at the southwest end. Undisturbed natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand - sandstone was present within and throughout the trench.

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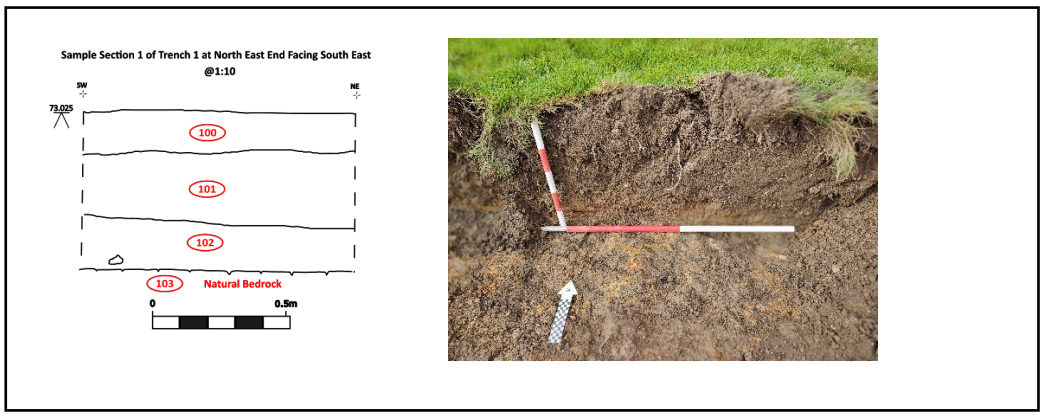
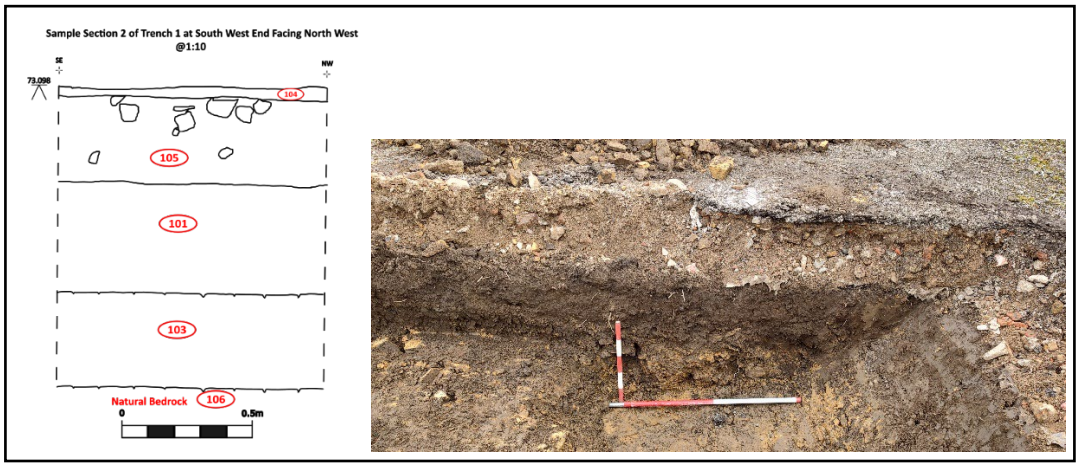
5.3.2. The topsoil, layer **(100)** comprised dark grey loam and had a thickness of 0.00-0.15m. At the northeast end of trench, the topsoil sealed compact dark grey silty, sandy loamy subsoil. This layer **(101)** had a maximum thickness of 0.25m. This layer sealed mottled dark grey and orange-brown clay **(102)** and had a maximum thickness of 0.20m. Layer **(102)** sealed the upper, frost-shattered layer of undisturbed natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(103)** mixed with elements of layer **(102)** encountered at a depth of 0.58m (73.02m aOD).

5.3.3. At the southwest end of the trench a modern track, comprising gravel and Tarmacadam **(104)** with a thickness of 0.05m and a 0.32m thick bedding layer **(105)** of modern demolition material – crushed concrete and bricks on a sheet of Terram, sealed layer **(101)** – the compact dark grey silt, sandy loamy subsoil (with a thickness of 0.40m) which in turn, sealed the undisturbed upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(103)** mixed with elements of layer **(101)**. Cleaner and more solid Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone bedrock **(106)** was encountered at a depth of 0.77m and excavated to a depth of 1.12m (73.1m aOD).



Plates 1 and 2 – Trench 1: Sample section 1 at north east end facing south east



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Plates 3 and 4 – Trench 1: Sample section 2 at south west end facing north west



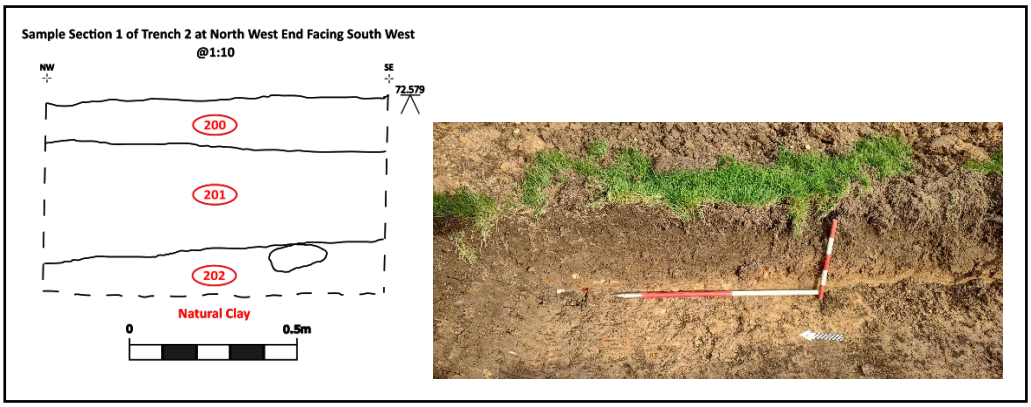
Plate 5 – Trench 1: Plan

5.4. **Trench 2**

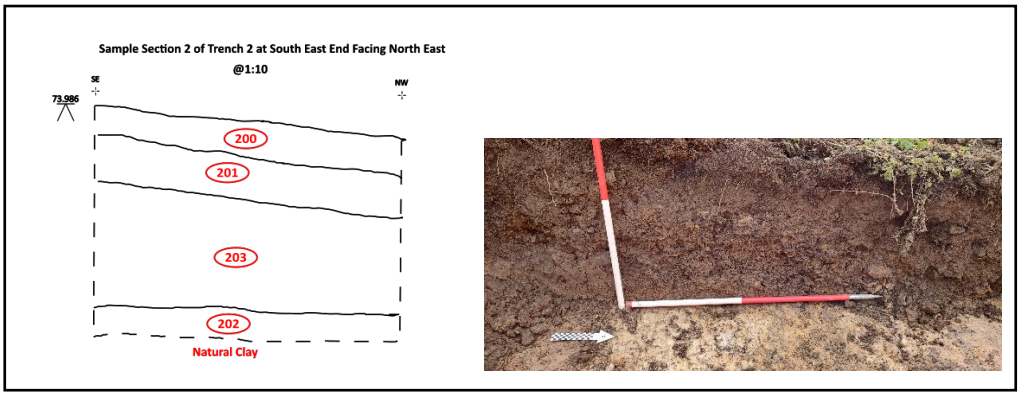
5.4.1. The trench had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a depth of 0.60m (73.08m aOD) at the northwest end and 0.75m (74.13m aOD) at the southeast end. Undisturbed natural geology; mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking was present within and throughout the trench.

5.4.2. At the northwest end of the trench, a 0.15m thick layer of dark grey loamy topsoil **(200)** sealed compact dark grey silty, sandy loamy subsoil. This layer **(201)** had a thickness of 0.37m and sealed a layer **(202)** of undisturbed naturally occurring mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking, encountered at a depth of 0.52m (72.58m aOD).

5.4.3. At the southeast end of the trench the topsoil **(200)** with a thickness of 0.12m sealed the compact subsoil **(201)** (thickness: 0.13m) which in turn sealed a 0.40m thick layer of redeposited upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(203)** mixed with elements of layer **(201)**, as part of the landscaping within this area of the Proposed Development Site. This in turn sealed the undisturbed naturally occurring mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking **(202)** encountered at a depth of 0.65m (73.99m aOD).



Plates 6 and 7 – Trench 2: Sample section 1 at north west end facing south west.



Plates 8 and 9 – Trench 2: Sample section 2 at south east end facing north east.

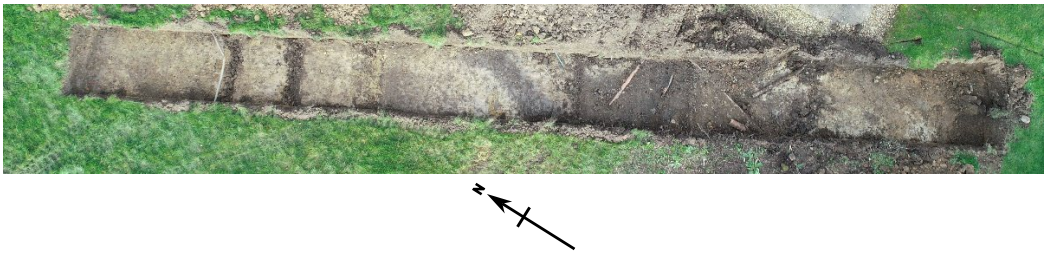


Plate 10 – Trench 2: Plan

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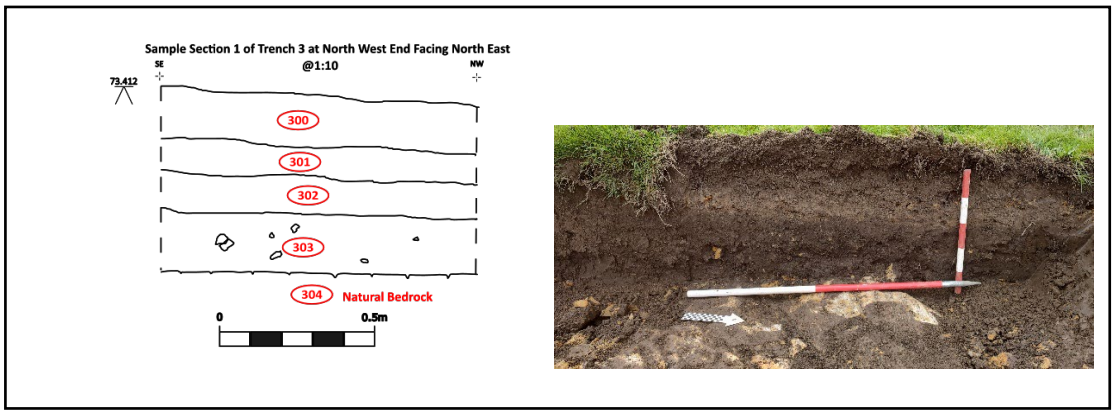
5.5. **Trench 3**

5.5.1. The trench had a northwest-southeast alignment, a length of 20m, a width of 1.80m and had a depth of 0.58m (73.39m aOD) at the northwest end and 0.90m (73.69m aOD) at the southeast end. Undisturbed natural geology; the upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone was present within and throughout the trench.

5.5.2. At the northwest end of the trench a 0.16m thick layer of dark grey loamy topsoil **(300)** sealed compact dark grey silty, sandy loamy subsoil. This layer **(301)** had a thickness of 0.10m and sealed a 0.12m thick layer of mottled light-mid grey silty soil **(302)** with occasional small angular stone and very occasional charcoal flecks. This layer sealed dark grey loamy soil **(303)** with occasional small angular stone. This layer had a thickness of 0.20m and sealed the undisturbed natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(304)** encountered at a depth of 0.58m (73.41m aOD).

5.5.3. At the southeast end of the trench the topsoil **(300)** with a thickness of 0.08m, sealed the layer of mottled light-mid grey silty soil **(302)** with occasional small angular stone and very occasional charcoal flecks. This layer had a thickness of 0.19m and sealed the redeposited upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(305)** mixed with elements of Layer **(302)**, as part of the landscaping within this area of the Proposed Development Site - a continuation of Layer **(203)** encountered within Trench 2. This layer had a thickness of 0.27m and sealed a layer of mid grey loamy soil **(306)** which had a thickness of 0.22m. Layer **(306)** sealed a 0.20m thick layer of the undisturbed naturally occurring mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking **(307)** which in turn sealed the undisturbed natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone **(304)** encountered at a depth of 0.90m (72.24m aOD).



Plates 11 and 12 – Trench 3: Sample section 1 at north west end facing north east

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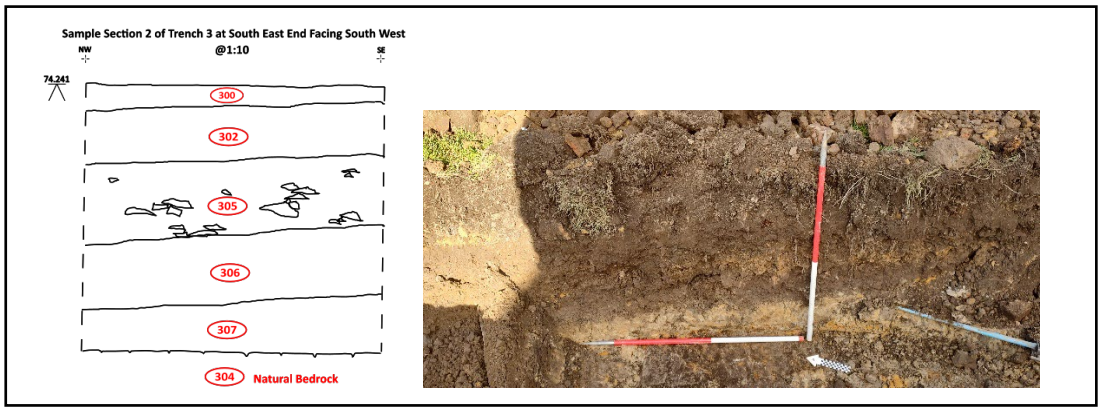

Plates 13 and 14 – Trench 3: Sample section 2 at south east end facing south west



Plate 15 – Trench 3: Plan

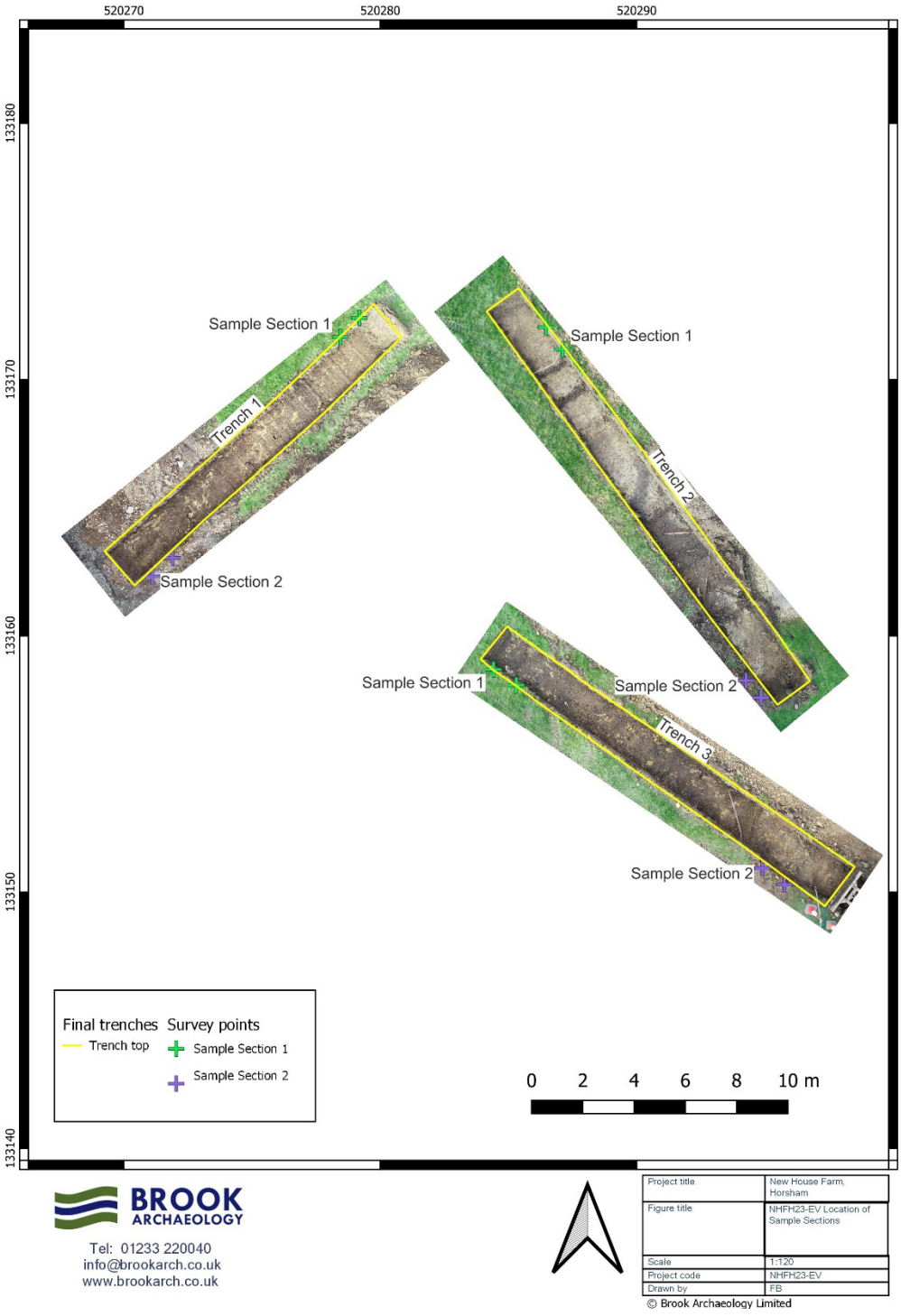

Figure 5: Location of Sample sections

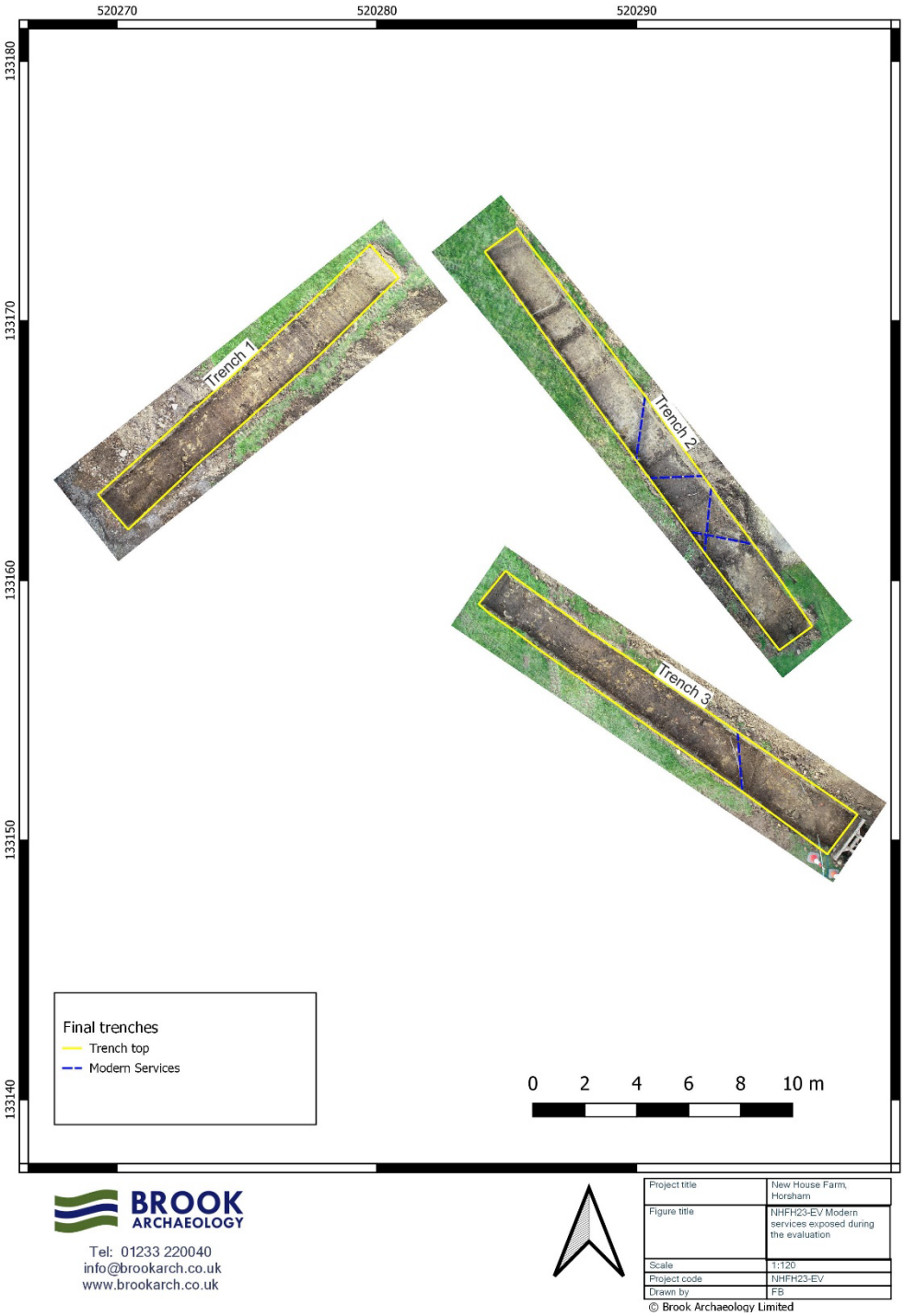

Figure 6: Modern services exposed during the evaluation

5.6. **Artefactual evidence**

5.6.1. No artefactual evidence or finds were recovered during the evaluation.

5.7. **Environmental evidence**

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

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1. **Discussion**

6.1.1. The evaluation trenches revealed a consistent geological stratigraphy throughout the site. Trench 1 was placed over the tarmac driveway to the west of the site where the leveling and substrate levels were revealed and there was a variation in stratigraphy at the south west end of Trench 3 where redeposited subsoil and modern building material were used to create a landscaped slope to the tarmacked driveway running along the south of the site.

6.1.2. There was no evidence of the presence of a building identified in the WSI by OS Maps to have been present around where the south east end of trench 2 was excavated. There is a possibility remains were removed or compromised during the installation of the road surface, landscaping and the installation of the modern services in this part of the PDS.

7. ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1. **Museum**

7.1.1. **T**he 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.

7.2. **Preparation of the archive**

7.2.1. 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; CIfA 2014c; ADS 2013).

7.2.2. All archive elements are marked with the site code **NHFH23-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.

7.3. OASIS

7.3.1. 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. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1. Many thanks to Rob Walton for commissioning Brook Archaeology Limited to carry out the archaeological evaluation and to Nick Truckle of SCC for his guidance.

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APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH SUMMARIES

Trench No.1	**Max Length 14.29m**	**Max Width 1.82m**	**Mean basal level: 72.483**
NW corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 73.377**	**Northing: 133160**	**Easting: 520269**
SW corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 73.438**	**Northing: 133159**	**Easting: 520270**
NE corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 73.012**	**Northing; 133170**	**Easting: 520279**
SE corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 73.049**	**Northing: 133169**	**Easting: 520280**

Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
100	Dark grey loam	Top Soil	0.00-0.15
101	Dark grey silty, sandy loam	Subsoil	0.15-0.43
102	Mottled dark grey and orange-brown clay	Layer	0.43-0.57
103	Upper, frost-shattered layer of undisturbed natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone	Natural	0.57+
104	Gravel and Tarmacadam	Track	0.00-0.05
105	Bedding layer of modern demolition material – crushed concrete and bricks on a sheet of Terram	Track	0.05-0.37

106	Clean and more solid Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone bedrock	Natural	0.77-1.12+

Trench No.2	**Max Length 19.2m**	**Max Width 1.8m**	**Mean basal level: 72.93**
NW corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 72.959**	**Northing: 133172**	**Easting: 520284**
SW corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 74.058**	**Northing: 133157**	**Easting: 520295**
NE corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 72.994**	**Northing: 133173**	**Easting: 520285**
SE corner (ground lvl)	**OD height: 74.083**	**Northing: 133158**	**Easting: 520296**

Context Number	**Interpretative Category**	**Description**	**Depth (m)**
200	Dark grey loam	Topsoil	0.00-0.15
201	Dark grey silt, sandy loam	Subsoil	0.15-0.52
202	Mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking	Natural	0.52+
203	Redeposited upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone mixed with elements of Layer (201)	Landscaping	0.12-0.52

Trench No.3	**Max Length 16.5m**	**Max Width 1.9m**	**Mean basal level: 73.128**
NW corner (ground)	**OD height: 73.391**	**Northing: 133159**	**Easting: 520280**
SW corner (ground)	**OD height: 74.283**	**Northing: 133160**	**Easting: 520282**
NE corner	**OD height: 73.255**	**Northing: 133160**	**Easting: 520281**

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(ground)			
SE corner (ground)	**OD height: 74.301**	**Northing: 133151**	**Easting: 520295**

Context Number	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth (m)
300	Dark grey loam	Topsoil	0.00-0.16
301	Dark grey silty, sandy loam	Subsoil	0.16-0.26
302	Mottled light-mid grey silty soil with occasional small angular stone and very occasional charcoal flecks	Layer	0.26-0.38
303	Dark grey loamy soil with occasional small angular stone	Layer	0.38-0.58
304	Clean and more solid Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone bedrock	Natural	0.58+
305	Redeposited upper, frost-shattered layer of natural geology; Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand – sandstone mixed with elements of Layer (302)	Landscaping	0.26-0.54
306	Mid grey loamy soil	Layer	0.54-0.74
307	Mottled very light grey and very light brown clay with very frequent manganese flecking	Natural	0.74-0.90+

APPENDIX 2 – ADDITIONAL SITE IMAGES



Plate 16: Trench 1 looking north east

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Plate 17: Trench 2 looking north west

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Plate 18: Trench 3 looking north west



Plate 19:
Drone photo of evaluation trenches

