

**Land South of Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge,
East Sussex, BN27 4DH**

NGR 557787 111389

**Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Evaluation**

**ASE Project no. 170458
Site Code: KHP17**

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By

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) have been commissioned by Decimus Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land south of the Kings Head Public House, Lower Horsebridge, East Sussex, BN27 4DH, (NGR 557787 111389; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site comprises a roughly rectangular plot of land to south of the King Head Public House and immediately west of North Street. The site is bound to the west and south by open fields. The site is relatively flat and is currently open grassland.
- 1.3 According to the online British Geological Survey 1:50,000 mapping, the site is underlain by solid geology of Weald Clay Formation: Mudstone. The Weald Clay is overlain by River Terrace Sands and Gravels with alluvium to the east of the site (BGS 2017).
- 1.4 This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by ASE for evaluation by trenching. All work will be carried out in accordance with this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), the Sussex Archaeological *Standards (2015)* and relevant Certified Institute for Archaeologists standards and guidance for *Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014)*.
- 1.5 It should be noted that further work and/or measures to preserve archaeological remains in situ or by record may be required if archaeological remains are found in the trial trench investigation. In the event that further, more detailed archaeological investigation, sampling and recording is required a supplementary WSI will be prepared detailing the proposed work and submitted for approval.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A search of the East Sussex Historic Environment Record returned the following sites within a 500m radius of the site:

HER No.	Description	Period
MES4369	Horsebridge Tollhouse	19th Century
MES6957	Cast Iron Milestone	18th century
MES6958	Watermill	17th century
MES7797 MES7809	Lower Horsebridge Hamlet	Post-medieval
MES7798	Brook House. Buildings	Post-medieval
MES7821	Quarry west of Horsebridge Wood	19th century
MES7872	World War II Gun Emplacement	20th century
MES15543	Wellbury Farm. Moat	Medieval
MES24509	Memorial Pavilion	20th century

MES32626	Bakers Farm. Farmstead	19th century
MES33053	Brook House. Farmstead	19th century

2.2 The HER search also returned records of nine listed buildings within the search radius (Figure 1). None of these buildings lie within or adjacent to the site.

2.3 The site itself lies close to the core of the post-medieval hamlet of Lower Horsebridge (MES7797 MES7809); however Lower Horsebridge is likely to have emerged during the medieval period. The only entry in the HER which was not of post-medieval date was a probable moat at Wellbury Farm (MES15543) some 400m south-west of the site. A moat was recorded during a geophysical survey conducted by Stratascan in 2008 at Welham Farm (EES14527) this most likely is a duplicate of the previous entry. The only other fieldwork within the area was an evaluation by Oxford Archaeology also at Welham Farm (EES14724) which found only a single undated pit and a modern feature.

3.0 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General Aims

The general aims of the archaeological evaluation as stated by Greg Chuter are:

- Establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains present
- Establish the ecofactual/environmental potential of the site any archaeological features
- Assess the likely impact of the development proposals on any archaeological remains identified
- Present a mitigation strategy which states how the archaeology of the site is to be accommodated within the proposed development, by design changes, preservation *in situ* of archaeological remains and/or by record (i.e. through excavation, recording and publication) of archaeological remains that would be impacted if this is considered necessary or appropriate

3.2 Specific Research Aims

Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities in alignment with the draft South East Research Framework:

- Can any traces medieval activity be found, particular relating to the settlement of Lower Horsebridge?

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- Because of the presence of several post-medieval farmsteads in the vicinity of the site, can we further our understanding of rural spatial organisation in the area?
 - More consideration of the interaction between town and country. Towns should not be split off from their hinterlands. (SERF M1)

4.0 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The trial trench evaluation will comprise the excavation of four 25m x 1.8m trenches (Figure 2). Any significant alteration to this trench pattern will be agreed in advance by ASE, the client and ESCC.
- 4.2 A Risk Assessment will be produced prior to the commencement of the work. The locations of all the trenches will also be checked with a CAT scanner prior to the commencement of the excavation.
- 4.3 The trenches will be excavated using a suitable mechanical excavator. The trenches will be excavated through undifferentiated topsoil and modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.20m with artefact recovery taking place every scrape until archaeological deposits are encountered or the top of the underlying natural sediments reached. The excavator will be fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless grading bucket and care will be taken that archaeological deposits are not damaged due to over machining. All machining will stop if significant archaeological deposits are encountered.
- 4.4 In the event that flint scatters are encountered during ground reduction, excavation shall cease immediately and the extent of the scatter will be defined by hand cleaning of the area. In addition, a 1m-wide sondage will be excavated to confirm the depth and nature of the scatter and a representative sample of flint will be collected for assessment. Once confirmed, the depth and position of the scatter will be recorded in three dimensions and a written and photographic record will be made. The majority of the scatter shall then be left in situ pending mitigation or preservation in situ.
- 4.5 Topsoil and subsoil will be stored in separate bunds to either side of the trenches. The deposits will be backfilled in order.
- 4.6 Any exposed archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand and recorded in plan and section. During the evaluation, archaeological features/deposits will be excavated sufficiently to ascertain their character. Full excavation will not be undertaken at this time.

5.0 RECORDING AND ANALYSIS

- 5.1 All recording and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with this document unless otherwise agreed in writing by the ESCC Archaeological Officer.
- 5.2 The spoil from the excavations will be inspected by an ASE archaeologist to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest. A metal detector

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- will be used to scan spoil derived from the excavations and any archaeological deposits and features.
- 5.3 The ESCC Archaeological Officer will be kept informed of progress and given the opportunity to attend site once all of the trenches have been opened.
- 5.4 All archaeological features will be recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features will be planned at 1:20, with section and wall elevation drawings at 1:10. In the event that this proves impractical, an alternative will be agreed with the ESCC Archaeological Officer. Drawings will be on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits will be described on the standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. Levels will be established for all remains with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record will be made in digital format.
- 5.5 The strategy for sampling archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, animal bone and human burials) will be developed with reference to Historic England guidelines for environmental archaeology (Historic England 2011) and waterlogged wood, and in consultation with the Historic England regional advisor or relevant specialists. Samples will be collected from suitable excavated contexts, including dated/datable buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, waterlogged or cess deposits.
- 5.6 Bulk soil samples (of 40 litres where possible or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken to target the recovery of plant remains (including wood charcoal and macrobotanicals), fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone, and small artefacts. Specialist samples may also be taken to target recovery of pollen (using monolith tins), fish and small bone, molluscs, foraminifera, parasites and insects (in small <20 litre samples) or large mammal bones and marine molluscs (in large samples of ~80-100 litres). When taken, large samples will be extracted wholesale from deposits to maximise the range of bone recovered. As a general rule waterlogged wood specimens will be photographed and recorded in detail in their original location prior to being lifted or sampled for more detailed assessment. Other scientific dating and geoarchaeological techniques will be considered and employed where appropriate. In all instances deposits with clear intrusive material shall be avoided.
- 5.7 Excavation strategy will be in accordance with the relevant sections of the *CIfA Standards and Conditions* (CIfA 2014).
- 5.8 Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, shall be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer. Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the ESCC Archaeological Officer will also be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the ESCC Archaeological Officer of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).
- 5.9 If human remains are found they will be left in situ, covered over and protected. The ESCC Archaeological Officer and the client will be informed immediately.
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6.0 TREATMENT OF ARTEFACTS AND ECOFACTS

- 6.1 All pottery, bone and worked flint recovered from the evaluation will be washed and marked with an appropriate code to identify the site and context. Most ceramic and other building material and burnt flint will be identified, counted, weighed and discarded. Samples will be retained as appropriate. Finds will be bagged in polythene bags according to type and context.
- 6.2 The lithic and ceramic finds will be identified by specialists within Archaeology South-East, and preliminary identification of faunal remains may be undertaken if the nature of the deposits justifies such study. All finds in an unstable condition will be stabilised using passive conservation techniques where appropriate before being deposited with the receiving museum.
- 6.3 Bulk samples will be processed using tank flotation unless considered detrimental to the samples or recovery rate (such as for waterlogged samples). Waterlogged samples will be wet sieved through nested sieves and stored in wet, cool conditions or dried if considered an appropriate form of conservation for the remains. Flots and wet samples may be subsampled for assessment purposes. If waterlogged wood specimens are removed from site they will be cleaned, recorded, photographed and a thin section sample will be taken for identification (unless considered detrimental to the artefact preservation or status). These specimens will be stored submerged in water in cool conditions and assessment will establish whether appropriate for conservation. Specialist samples as well as sub-samples of bulk soil samples (taken to recover pollen, parasites, fish and small bone, foraminifera and insects for example) will be sent to appropriate specialists for assessment and analysis.
- 6.4 Provision will be made for obtaining charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating from such archaeological features as structural features (e.g. post holes), hearths, kilns or features that contain good artefactual or ecofactual assemblages.

7.0 REPORTING

- 7.1 Within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork a full report on the results of the field evaluation will be submitted. It will include the local geology and archaeological evidence. It will describe the work undertaken and results of elements described above. It will include a description of archaeological features and tabulated details of finds from each context. A list of environmental samples and any samples taken for dating will also be included. The report will include a plan showing the trench locations. Further plans, sections and photographs of features located and excavated will be included as necessary.
- 7.2 A draft report will be submitted to the client and to the ESCC Archaeologist in the first instance for approval. Once any necessary changes have been made, the approved final report will be submitted to the client and should also be passed to the local planning authority with a further copy submitted to ESCC so that the results may be added to the Historic Environment Record.

A short summary of the work will be prepared for the relevant local archaeological journal.

- 7.3 A further digital copy of the report (including plans, illustrations and photographs) will be supplied to the East Sussex Historic Environment Record on CD-ROM in a .pdfArchive format.

8.0 PREPARATION AND DEPOSITION OF THE FINDS AND ARCHIVE

- 8.1 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (HE 2015) and in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1994).
- 8.2 The archive, including any artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the fieldwork, will be stored at the ASE office pending deposition at Eastbourne Museum.

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 Health and Safety must take priority over archaeological requirements. It is essential that all projects be carried out in accordance with safe working practices and under a defined Health and Safety Policy.
- 9.2 A Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) will be produced prior to the commencement of the work and a copy of this document will be maintained on site by ASE throughout the fieldwork. All relevant health and safety regulations will be adhered to.

10.0 INSURANCE

- 10.1 Archaeology South-East is insured against claims for: employer's liability to the value of £50,000,000 each and every loss, any one occurrence; primary public/products liability to the value of £50,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate for products liability, with an extension for no-fault compensation up to £15,000,000 in the aggregate; and professional indemnity to the value of £15,000,000 any one occurrence and in the aggregate.

REFERENCES

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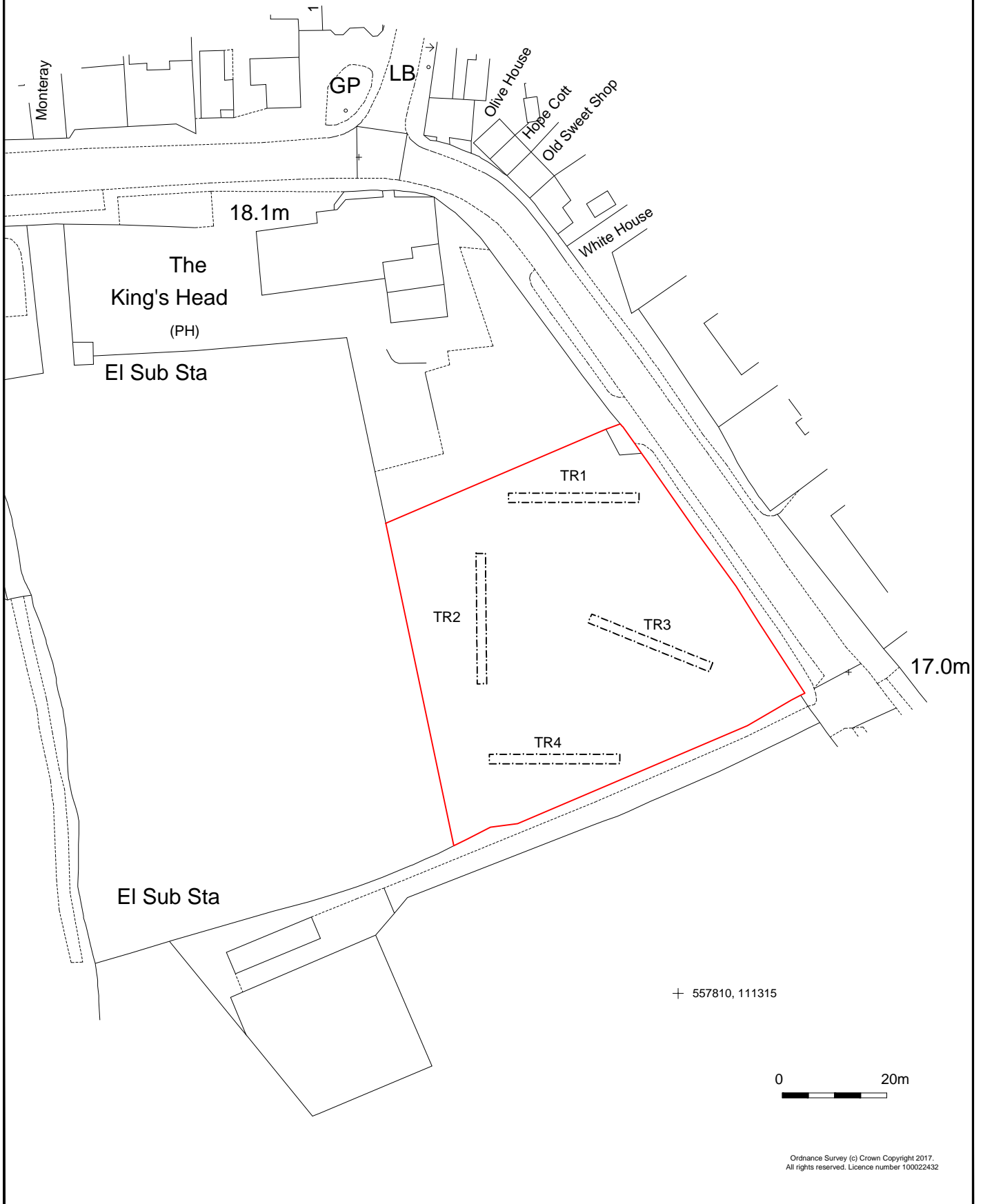
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© Archaeology South-East		Land South of Kings Head Public House	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170458	June 2017	Proposed trenches location	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: AR		