

**An Archaeological Evaluation at  
Upper Parrock Farm, Parrock Lane  
Hartfield, East Sussex**

**Planning Refs: WD/2007/1574 and WD/2007/1575F**

**NGR 54492 13472  
Project No. 3305  
Site Code: UPF 08**

**ASE Report No. 2008078  
OASIS ID: 43126**

**Giles Dawkes  
With a contribution by Elke Raemen**

**May 2008**

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*Abstract*

*An archaeological evaluation of three trenches was undertaken at Upper Parrock Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex, in advance of the construction of a proposed new residence and outbuildings.*

*The trenches recorded a similar stratigraphic sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the clay natural. The only features identified were a modern water pipe in Trench 2 and a terminal end of a linear feature associated with a modern agricultural building in Trench 3. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the evaluation.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), (a division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London) was commissioned by RPS Planning and Development on behalf of Mr and Mrs Simon Moore to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Upper Parrock Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex (centred NGR 54492 13472) to address a condition for a programme of archaeological works attached to the planning permission for the scheme (Fig 1).
- 1.2 The proposed redevelopment of the site is for the demolition of the existing residence and the construction of a new residence with barn and garage (Planning Refs. WD/2007/1574F for the replacement dwelling and garage block and WD/2007/1575F for the new barn block). The driveway area will also be revised. Full planning permission was granted for the development, subject to a condition requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The County Archaeological Officer (ESCC) recommended that investigation by archaeological evaluation would be an appropriate strategy to fulfil this condition.
- 1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining the requirements of the archaeological evaluation was prepared by RPS Planning and Development in association with Archaeology South-East in February 2008, and was submitted and duly approved by the County Council Archaeological Officer prior to the archaeological works taking place (RPS 2008).
- 1.4 Other than the existing residence, the site is grassed paddock, bounded on all sides by fields apart from Parrock Lane and Nightingales Farm to the south-east. The underlying solid geology of the site is sandstone and siltstone of the Ashdown Formation.
- 1.5 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation.
- 1.6 The fieldwork was undertaken by Giles Dawkes on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2008. The project was managed by Neil Griffin.

**2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The archaeological background of the site was researched as part of the preparation of the WSI (RPS Planning and Development 2008). This earlier document should be referred to for detailed background information. A summary is given below.
- 2.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the proposed development area. A search of the East Sussex HER revealed 19 entries within a 500m radius of Parrock Farm. Most of these entries relate to the medieval period, a period which has the highest potential for archaeological activity on site. In particular, the evidence seems to be associated with the iron industry with five known smelting sites in the vicinity and also indications of iron working and ore extraction.
- 2.3 The cartographic evidence shows the existing residence was built between 1931 and 1961.

**3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

3.1 The general aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and function of any archaeological features within areas of development. Specific research aims were as follows:

- To identify any evidence for smelting activity on the development site.
- To identify any evidence for the survival of prehistoric, Roman or later remains on the site.

3.2 Three trial trenches were excavated within the footprints of the proposed three new buildings (Fig. 2).

3.3 The trial trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision and were dug by a JCB excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

3.4 The trench excavation was taken down to the top of the underlying natural geology, on average 0.5m below ground level. The sections of the trenches were selectively cleaned to observe and record their stratigraphy. The removed spoil was scanned for the presence of any stray, unstratified artefacts.

3.5 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards (IFA) in accordance with the WSI using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50 and a general site plan was kept at 1:250. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection. The spoil, from site clearance prior to development, was inspected by the archaeologist to recover any artefacts of archaeological interest.

3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept (monochrome prints, colour slides and digital), and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

3.7 Because of the site's rural and isolated location, there was no benchmark in the vicinity. It was therefore impossible to relate the trenches to true height AOD. The trenches were, however, tied in to a TBM given the arbitrary value of 100.00m.

3.8 Site Archive Quantification

Number of Contexts	13
No. of files/paper record	3 trench record sheets
Plan and sections sheets	1 Plan
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	3 B&W, 3 Colour Slide, 3 Digital
Bulk finds	1 CBM roof tile fragment
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trench 1

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (related to TBM value 100m)
1/001	Layer	2/001 3/001	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.28m	97.00m
1/002	Layer	2/002 3/002	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	96.72m
1/003	Deposit	2/003 3/005	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	96.45m
1/004	Cut		Pipe trench	Tr.	0.25m	0.3m	-
1/005	Fill		Modern plastic pipe and backfill	Tr.	0.25m	0.3m	-

#### Summary

The trench was located in the footprint of the new residence and measured 16.5m in length and 1.6m wide. The natural stiff yellow brown clay [1/003], with a moderate amount of sandstone gravel, was encountered at 0.55m below ground level and sloped from west to east. Overlying the natural was mottled brown and yellow silt clay subsoil [1/002], up to 0.27m thick. Cutting the subsoil was modern plastic water pipe trench [1/004], backfilled with dark brown clay silt [1/005]. Overlying the subsoil was topsoil [1/001] up to 0.28m thick.

No archaeological features were present and no artefacts were recovered.

### 4.2 Trench 2

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (related to TBM value 100m)
2/001	Layer	1/001 3/001	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.27m	98.82m
2/002	Layer	1/002 3/002	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.06m	98.55m
2/003	Deposit	1/003 3/005	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	98.49m

#### Summary

The trench was located in the footprint of the new garage and measured 9m long and 1.6m wide. The natural stiff yellow brown clay [2/003], with a moderate amount of sandstone gravel, was encountered at 0.33m below ground level and sloped gradually from south to north. Overlying the natural was mottled brown and yellow silt clay subsoil [2/002], up to 0.06m thick. Overlying was topsoil, [2/001], up to 0.27m thick.

No archaeological features were present and no artefacts were recovered.

### 4.3 Trench 3

#### List of recorded contexts

Number	Type	Same As	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth	Height (related to TBM value 100m)
3/001	Layer	2/001 3/001	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.30m	95.40m
3/002	Layer	1/002 2/002	Subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m	95.10m
3/003	Cut	-	Linear	0.45m	0.6m	0.25m	94.86m
3/004	Fill	-	Fill of linear	0.45m	0.6m	0.25m	94.61m
3/005	Deposit	1/003 2/003	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-	

#### Summary

The trench was located in the footprint of the new barn and measured 11m long and 1.6m wide. The natural stiff yellow brown clay, [3/005], with moderate sandstone gravel, was encountered at 0.54m below ground level and sloped steeply from south to north. Overlying the natural was mottled brown and yellow silt clay subsoil [3/002], up to 0.24m thick. Cutting the subsoil was the terminal end of linear feature [3/003], aligned east to west. The feature was 0.45m long, 0.25m deep and 0.6m wide with vertical sides and a flat base. The fill was compacted redeposited natural yellow brown gravely clay [3/004] with a residual find of a post-medieval roof tile fragment. This feature almost certainly relates to former agricultural buildings (see Discussion). Overlying was topsoil [3/001] up to 0.3m thick.

No ancient features were identified.

**5.0 THE FINDS** by Elke Raemen

- 5.1 A single piece of ceramic building material (26g) was recovered from the site. Context [3/004] contained a hard fired, sparse fine sand-tempered roof tile fragment with occasional iron oxide inclusions to 1 mm, dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is no potential for further analysis.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 Nothing of archaeological significance was identified in the archaeological evaluation. Linear [3/003] was the only feature identified of note. This probable backfilled sill beam slot appeared to relate to the concrete plinth base of a former agricultural building to the south-west and although a find of probably residual post-medieval roof tile was recovered from the fill, the rest of the feature was visible as a scar or 'crop-mark' in the grass extending west of Trench 3.
- 6.2 Regarding the research aims outlined in paragraph 3.1 above, there was no evidence for smelting, of any date, on the site and there was no evidence for the survival of prehistoric, Roman or later remains.
- 6.3 East Sussex County Council have confirmed that the archaeological potential of this site has now been determined and that it is unlikely that archaeological deposits will be disturbed by the planned development. Consequently, they are happy to proceed without the need for further archaeological works.

**REFERENCES**

RPS Planning, February 2008, *Upper Parrock Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation, Wealdon District Council*, RPS Ref: JLJ 0084 RO1.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The co-operation and assistance of the staff of RPS Planning and Development, Mr and Mrs Simon Moore and Greg Chuter and Casper Johnson of East Sussex County Council is gratefully acknowledged.

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	UPF 08					
Identification Name and Address	Upper Parrock Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 4492 3472					
Geology	Clay overlying sandstone and siltstone					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3305					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green✓ Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 19 May 08	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	RPS Planning consultants					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological evaluation of 3 trenches was undertaken at Upper Parrock Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex, in advance of the construction of a proposed new residence and outbuildings. The trenches recorded a similar stratigraphic sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the clay natural. The only features identified was a modern water pipe in Trench 2 and a terminal end of a linear feature associated with a modern agricultural building in Trench 3. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the evaluation.</i></p>						

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-43126**

**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Evaluation at Parrock Farm, Parrock Lane, Hartfield, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation of three trenches was undertaken at Upper Parrock Farm, Hartfield, East Sussex, in advance of the construction of a proposed new residence and outbuildings. The trenches recorded a similar stratigraphic sequence of subsoil and topsoil overlying the clay natural. The only features identified were a modern water pipe in Trench 2 and a terminal end of a linear feature associated with a modern agricultural building in Trench 3. Nothing of archaeological significance was identified during the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 19-05-2008 End: 19-05-2008
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN FOREST ROW Parrock Farm
Site coordinates	TQ 449200 347200 51.0929025193 0.06971205969760 51 05 34 N 000 04 10 E Point

**Project creators**

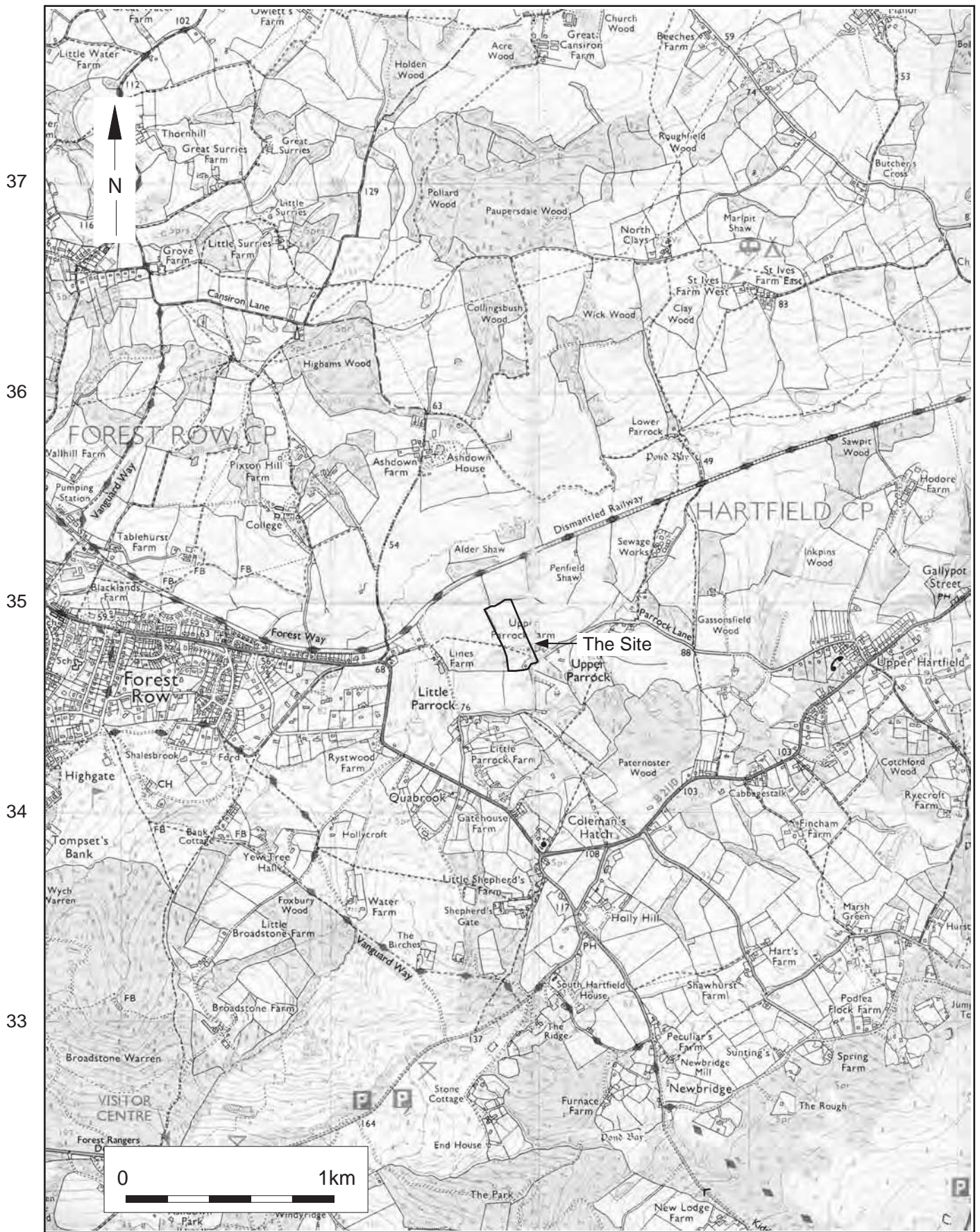
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	RPS Consulting

Project                    Neil Griffin  
director/manager

Project supervisor    Giles Dawkes

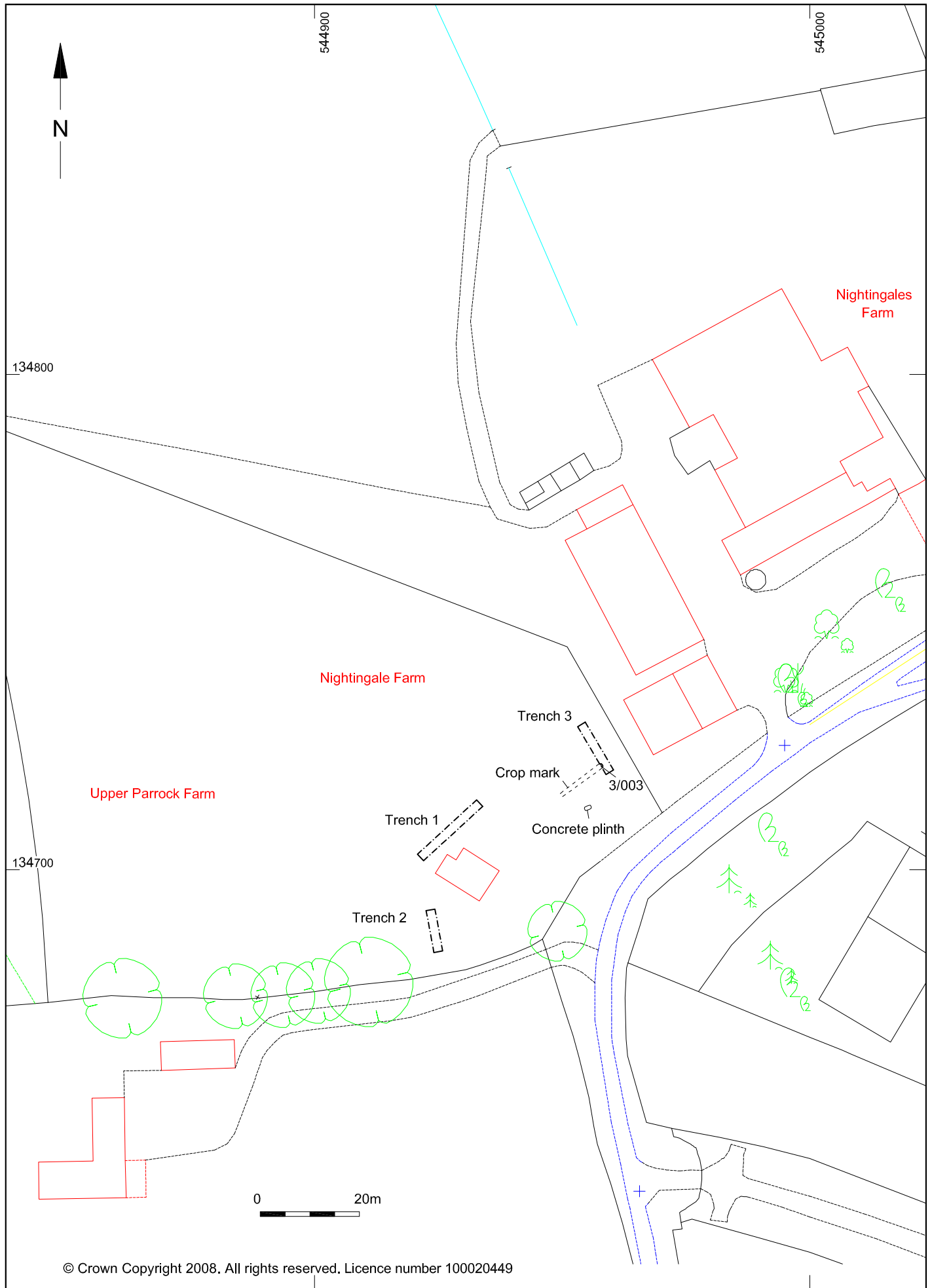
Entered by              Jim Stevenson (jim.stevenson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on              30 May 2008



© Archaeology South-East		Upper Parrock Farm	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3305	May 2008	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008068	Drawn by: JLR		

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© Archaeology South-East		Upper Parrock Farm	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3305	May 2008	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2008068	Drawn by: JLR		

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