

**Buxted Park  
East Sussex**

**Archaeological Assesment**

**Project Ref. 3335  
Report No: 2008236**



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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPE RESOURCE

### 1.0 Introduction

1.0.1 Archaeology South-East were commissioned by ACTA to assess the archaeological resource within Buxted Park, comprising the area within the ownership of Handpicked Hotels and the portion of Views Wood owned by the Woodland Trust that historically formed part of Buxted Park. The aim of the work was twofold: to reassess the existing topographical survey of the Scheduled Ancient Monument within the estate boundary (SAM No. ES412: Medieval Settlement Site in Buxted Park) and determine the requirements for further non-intrusive surveys; and to catalogue surviving archaeological and historic landscape features within the boundary of the estate. The results of these tasks were then used to assess the significance of the archaeological resource within the estate, and provide a suite of recommendations to aid the management of this resource. A number of areas were also identified where further archaeological work would be beneficial.

### 1.2 Methods Used

1.2.1 The work comprised two main tasks: the reassessment of the existing topographical survey; and the creation of a gazetteer of all known archaeological sites.

#### 1.2.2 *Topographical Survey*

The reassessment of the existing topographical survey (OAU 1990) was carried out by a specialist archaeological survey contractor (Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd), with the aim of determining whether a more detailed resurvey was necessary, and also whether the existing SAM boundary reflected the full visible extent of the site. Their report is included in full as an Appendix.

#### 1.2.3 *Gazetteer*

A gazetteer of archaeological and historic landscape features within the wider park was compiled by ASE. A walkover survey of the entire Site was carried out, and all identified archaeological features were mapped, using a hand-held GPS, and recorded on proforma record sheets supplied by ACTA. Digital photographs were taken of all recorded features, and form part of the project archive. All features were given

sequential reference numbers: sites within the ownership of Handpicked Hotels were labelled 1, 2, 3, etc, while those within the ownership of the Woodland Trust were labelled WT1, WT2, etc. The gazetteer of sites was compiled as an Excel spreadsheet and the sites were plotted onto Ordnance Survey digital base-mapping in GIS format. The sites included those identified from historic mapping and air photographs, those located on site by a former estate worker (Jack Sturt) and those newly-identified during the survey.

- 1.2.4 The walkover survey was carried out in May and June 2008 – the bulk of the open areas of the site were surveyed at the beginning of this period before the ground flora (primarily bracken) had become properly established. However, vegetation cover proved to be a problem in parts of Views Wood, although as much of this was impenetrable evergreen (rhododendrons and similar species) this issue was non-seasonal. The ground across much of the wood was also covered in a thick layer of branches and leaf litter, which also hampered the survey. Consequently, the results for Views Wood are largely limited to linear features – there was little chance across much of the wood of identifying small discrete features such as sawpits etc.

### 1.3 **Archaeological Background**

- 1.3.1 Buxted Park lies on the southern edge of the High Weald, a dissected and intimate landscape of small rolling hills, steeply wooded valleys and scattered settlements. The underlying geology of sandstones and clay have given rise to relatively impoverished soils, which in turn have influenced the creation of a largely pastoral landscape of small, irregular fields, often still reflecting the original carving out of small assarts from extensive woodland.
- 1.3.2 Prehistoric activity in the area was not extensive. The area remained thickly wooded into early historic times. Scattered findspots of flint tools across the region indicate the presence of Mesolithic and Neolithic hunters utilising the woodland resources – 130 Mesolithic flint artefacts were collected by C.F. Tebbutt during the excavation of the Upper Lake (Site 38) in 1973 (ESHER No. MES2909), possibly indicative of a transitory campsite within the valley of the River Uck, a valuable resource. The numerous sandstone outcrops in the Uckfield area (although none are known within the Site) may also have attracted at least seasonal settlement. Later prehistoric evidence tends to be

based around the exploitation of the iron resources of the Weald, although no evidence for this phase of the local iron industry has yet been found in the vicinity.

- 1.3.3 Romano-British activity in the area is similarly restricted to iron-working sites – a bloomery site associated with 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> century pottery has been located just to the south of the Site (ESHER No. MES3261). A feature identified as a corn-drying kiln located immediately beyond the edge of Views Wood in 1967 provides limited evidence for Roman settlement and arable agriculture in the vicinity (ESHER No. MES2847). Several Roman coins have also been found in the wider Buxted area, and Roman material has been found in and around the site of the deserted settlement (Site no. 52).
- 1.3.4 Little is known of post-Roman settlement within the Buxted area. The High Weald saw increasing usage by coastal communities keen to exploit the interior, although this initial settlement was mainly pig-herding, probably fairly nomadic in nature, but incorporating some small-scale clearance – the trackway that traverses the Site (Site no. WT3) may have originated at this time as a driveway. An estate at Buxted has existed since at least the 9<sup>th</sup> century (CBA 1991), originally forming part of the Malling estate of the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- 1.3.5 The medieval period saw the creation of a deer park at Buxted, first mentioned in 1279. The exact location of this park, and its boundaries, is unknown, as is its relationship with the Church of St Margaret the Queen – the currently unresolved issue relating to the origins of the settlement site around the church (Site no. 52) is clearly of importance here, as is the origins of the early manor house situated in the location now occupied by the Upper Lake. Much of the surrounding woodland, including Views Wood and (perhaps) Culver Wood, was exploited throughout the period, generally by coppicing to produce a variety of timber products – the internal boundaries relating to this activity are still recognisable within the woodland (e.g. Site nos 5, 6, WT5 and WT10).
- 1.3.6 Historic map evidence from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century indicates that the Site was divided up into a series of fields – the irregular field pattern and sinuous nature of the boundaries suggests that the fields are of medieval origin, which again has a bearing on the location of the medieval park. These boundaries were cleared away in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the present landscape park was created – many of them are still traceable in the landscape as low linear banks (Site nos 15, 32, 34, 42-45). Elements of the designed

landscape created at that time survive in the form of ornamental avenues (Site nos 25 and 33), and also the slips and part of the greenhouse enclosure associated with the walled garden (Site nos 23 and 24). The estate was also a working landscape, with trackways, storage platforms and keeper's bothies surviving in the woodlands. Mineral extraction on a localised piecemeal basis has left an imprint on the landscape in the form of a number of small ponds scattered around the Site. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century designed landscape is still the basis for the modern landscape at Buxted Park, albeit overlain in places with modern intrusions such as the later modifications to the gardens, the creation of the hotel and the wartime construction of a string of concrete strongpoints as part of the outer defences of London.

#### 1.4 **Archaeological Features**

1.4.1 A total of 62 archaeological features were identified during the survey. These comprise seven separate categories of site – each will be briefly discussed, and a statement of their overall significance will be provided.

##### 1.4.2 *Boundaries*

Nineteen separate boundaries were identified (Sites 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 15, 26, 32, 34, 42-45, WT1, WT2, WT5, WT7, WT10). These fall into three main types: woodbanks, relating to the coppiced woodland within Views and Culver Woods; former field boundaries indicative of the pre-18<sup>th</sup> century agricultural landscape; and stretches of former deer park pale (indicated by internal ditches). These features are all an integral part of the historical development of Buxted Park, but are not in themselves of particular significance, and are replicated widely across the landscape. All of these features are considered to be of only **Local** significance.

##### 1.4.3 *Trackways*

Four trackways have been identified within the estate (Sites 1, WT3, WT4, WT6), three of them in Views Wood. One (WT3) relates to a possible ridgeway of some antiquity, while the others are generally woodsmen's tracks created to facilitate the management of the coppiced woodland. These features are all an integral part of the historical development of Buxted Park, but are not in themselves of particular significance, and are replicated widely across the landscape. All of these features are considered to be of only **Local** significance.

#### 1.4.4 Structures

Eighteen features identified as structures have been recorded within the Site (Sites 7, 17-22, 24, 27, 29, 30, 41, 46-51). They comprise structures associated with the estate, including a keeper's bothy, a possible venison locker, an unrecorded ice house, a series of water management features, including a pumphouse and culverts, and the original wall to the greenhouse enclosure associated with the walled garden. There is also one intact pillbox and a number of demolished or unfinished examples. More mundane features comprise a ruined farm bridge and an asbestos shed. Two of the features are considered to be of **Regional** significance – the pillbox (Site 19), forming part of a national system of defence and relating to a significant historical event (the Second World War), and (if confirmed) the possible ice house (Site 41), a previously unrecorded example of a type of monument integral to designed landscapes and vulnerable to destruction. The remainder of the features are of **Local** significance, with the exception of Sites 17 and 18 which are considered to be of **Negligible** significance.

#### 1.4.5 Miscellaneous Earthworks

Eleven features have been categorised as miscellaneous (Sites 2, 3, 10, 13, 23, 31, 37, 40, 52, WT8, WT9). They comprise platforms and hollows within woodland, linear terraces, spoil heaps, garden slips and a pitch-and-putt course. They also include the site of a deserted settlement and a possible early post-medieval garden. The settlement site (Site 52) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and is of **National** significance. The earthworks adjacent to the site of the former manor house (Site 40) *may* relate to an enclosure shown on historic mapping – if confirmed, they would be of **Regional** significance. All other features are of **Local** significance, with the exception of Sites 10 and 37 which are of **Negligible** significance.

#### 1.4.6 Water Features

Seven water features have been identified (Sites 4, 12, 16, 28, 36, 38, 39). Most of these relate to ponds that are likely to represent flooded mineral extraction pit, but also include two ornamental lakes of 20<sup>th</sup> century date. All of these features are of **Local** significance.

#### 1.4.7 Ornamental

Two ornamental features have been identified (Sites 25 and 33). Both relate to the remains of ornamental lime avenues, one of which (25) is also associated with linear earthworks. Both are of **Local** significance.

#### 1.4.8 *Industrial*

One industrial site (Site 35) has been identified – a hollow in the hillside that appears to be an extraction pit. This is of **Local** significance.

#### 1.4.9 *Summary of Significance*

The archaeological features identified during the walkover survey have been assessed and a statement of significance ascribed as follows:

**National** : 1 site (52)

**Regional** : 3 sites (19, 40, 41)

**Local** : 54 sites

**None** : 4 sites

### 1.5 **Management Recommendations and Further Work**

1.5.1 Site specific management recommendations for each archaeological feature are included within the Gazetteer. The more significant recommendations will be discussed here in more detail.

#### 1.5.2 *Topographical Survey*

- Site 52 – it has been recommended by the specialist archaeological survey contractor that the deserted settlement site should be resurveyed. The existing survey, carried out in 1990, is considered to be too superficial in nature, and has incorrectly represented some of the identifiable features. It also does not include features outside the SAM boundary, which has a bearing on the accuracy of this boundary. It is recommended that this site is subject to a full digital survey to current English Heritage standards, and includes the earthworks relating to the former golf course (Site 31) and the terrace (Site 32).
- Site 40 – historic map evidence suggests that this feature may relate to the former manor house, which is known to have lain within a rectangular enclosure. If so, the earthworks will represent a rare surviving example of a pre-

18<sup>th</sup> century garden enclosure. However, this interpretation requires confirmation, as the surrounding area has undergone a degree of landscaping associated with the creation of the gardens and the excavation of the Upper Lake. Consequently, it is recommended that a topographical survey of this area would be a useful first step in allowing the earthworks to be analysed with more rigour, and may allow further subtleties in the landscape to be identified.

### 1.5.2 *Historic Building Recording*

- Site 19 – the pillbox appears to be an unusual variant in a good state of preservation. It is situated on a public footpath, and should be recorded.
- Sites 23 and 24 – the former slips and the surviving wall from the greenhouse enclosure appear to be original features associated with the walled garden. The garden is currently in a derelict state, but any proposed restoration works should be preceded by a full recording programme of the walled garden and its associated elements.
- Sites 46 – 48 – the two culverted crossings of the stream and the associated sluice system are of no particular historical importance, although they are part of the historic landscape of the park. However, they are prominent features within the west valley and are clearly visible from footpaths. Consideration should be given to providing interpretation for these features, to be informed by a programme of archaeological recording.

### 1.5.3 *Geophysical Survey*

- Site 52 – following the completion of the detailed topographical survey of the deserted settlement site, a geophysical survey would be an invaluable next step. Although a number of variables can affect the quality of results on such surveys, they have the potential to provide a great deal of useful information relating to the morphology of the archaeological resource, including the presence or absence of building remains. Ideally, the whole of the area containing earthworks, on both sides of the churchyard, would be surveyed to provide the maximum amount of information. However, a reduced programme of targeted surveys can also be carried out, using the results of the topographical survey to identify areas of particular importance or interest – one obvious candidate is the strip of grass bordering the access drive currently used for visitor parking.

- Site 40 – a geophysical survey within the rectangular depression bordered by terrace 40 may also assist in determining whether any deposits survive relating to the old manor house. However, this area will require professional advice from a geophysical specialist to determine whether the site conditions are suitable.

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
1	Culver Wood	Terraced Trackway	4913 2238 - 4925 2258	Linear scarp, c.200m long, 4m wide and up to 1m high, running through woodland, flanked to the SE by a shallow gully <4m wide and 0.5m deep. The feature is respected by coppiced trees. As it progresses north, the prominent scarp disappears, but the linear hollow continues, petering out by the modern fence-lines.	Probably a woodsman's track of pre-19th century date.	Not marked on historic mapping, although partly coinciding with a trackway shown on the 1870 OS map.	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : Trees growing along edges of feature.	Local	Retain as feature
2	Culver Wood	Terraced Platform	4920 2247	Square platform, 8m x 8m, terraced into the slope. NW side formed by a scarp 0.5m high, SE side formed by low bank 1.5m wide and <0.1m high. Other sides are less distinct, but are visible as subtle breaks of slope. A small oval hollow is evident in the rear floor of the platform.	Unknown function. Perhaps a small processing or storage platform for harvested timber.	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping. Probably 19th century or earlier.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : Trees growing along edges of feature.	Local	Retain as feature
3	Culver Wood	Circular Hollow	4925 2255 (approx.)	Irregular shallow, roughly circular hollow, measuring 5m x 5m, situated next to a prominent line of coppiced hornbeams. Flanked to SE by a bank 5m long x 2m wide, probably spoil excavated from the hollow, from which four large hornbeams are growing.	Unknown function - possibly a small extraction pit of some kind.	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Poor : Extensive burrowing by rabbits	Local	None
4	Culver Wood	Pond	4933 2269	Large irregular pond, c.40m x c.35m and at least 3m deep, just within the western edge of the wood. Boundary ditch and bank (14) runs into its western corner, while two more former boundaries (5 & 6) are associated with its SE and NE corners respectively. Pond is water-filled, with a great deal of organic debris.	Pond, probably originating as a mineral extraction pit	May be represented by an oval feature on the 1654 estate map, although this is not shown on any subsequent mapping.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : Some rabbit disturbance and vegetation encroachment around margins.	Local	Retain as feature
5	Culver Wood	Woodbank	4934 2267 - 4940 2262	Prominent linear earthwork, comprising ditch (2.25m wide x 1m deep) flanked to SW by a bank (5.75m wide x 0.5m high). The feature is 80m long, and descends the slope between pond (4) and a tributary of the Tickerage Stream. The bank appears to curve around the SE lip of the pond for a short distance, while the base of the ditch descends into the pond.	Probably originated as an internal woodbank, subsequently utilised as overflow channel for pond.	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping. May be of medieval or early post-medieval date.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : Some tree growth along the crest of the bank	Local	Retain as feature
6	Culver Wood	Woodbank	4934 2270 - 4947 2290	Shallow degraded bank, flanked to SE by very shallow ditch up to 3m wide. Bank is 190m long, 1.5m wide and 0.5m high. Northern edge is perpetuated by the northern edge of Culver Wood.	Former woodbank, originally defining the SE edge of the northern part of Culver Wood.	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping. Probably predates mid 17th century.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Poor : Ephemeral, with coppice stools growing along the bank and the far margin of the ditch. Some standards growing within the ditch.	Local	Retain as feature
7	Culver Wood	Site of Keeper's Cottage	4938 2277	Localised scatter of bricks and concrete within the woods, heavily overgrown with laurel bushes. No in situ structural features noted.	Site of former keeper's bothy with attached dog run. Iron posts formerly visible.	Predates Buxted Tithe map of 1841 - not shown on earlier mapping. Probably mid 19th century in origin.	ESRO TD/E 135 / Site Inspection 21/05/08 / pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08	Demolished	Local	None

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
8	Culver Wood	Gully	4936 2275 - 4932 2288	Sinuuous narrow shallow gully running along the W side of Culver Wood. It peters out at the southern end before reaching the modern deer fence. The northern end runs into a small natural valley within the tree-line.	Probably a former woodbank.	Possibly predates mid 17th century	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 21/05/08	Poor : northern half obscured by bracken	Local	Retain as feature
9	Culver Wood	Woodbank	4933 2285 - 4939 2289	Very wide, low bank (60m x 6-8m wide x <0.5m high). It starts abruptly on the edge of the wood, climbs upslope to the NE and peters out on the natural slope. Possible hint of shallow ditch to the east.	Probably former woodbank	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Poor : A line of young coppiced trees runs along crest of the bank.	Local	Retain as feature
10	Culver Wood	Trenches	4945 2288	Series of semi-backfilled rectangular trenches. They vary in size, but are generally less than 0.5m deep.	Resemble archaeological trenches, although no recorded interventions have taken place here. Discared notice suggests they may have an ecological purpose.	Modern - probably 1990s or later	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Poor	None	None
11	Culver Wood	Woodbank	4947 2284 - 4954 2275	Earth bank (1m wide x 0.3-0.4m high) forming current NE boundary of Culver Wood. Trace of shallow ditch on external side. Bank topped by large coppiced hornbeams. Bank stops short of the ditch of boundary (6) - the SE end is cut by the railway.	Woodbank	Predates 1654 - probably medieval	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate	Local	Retain as feature
12	Culver Wood Scrub	Pond	4929 2244	Small circular pond, 10m diameter, unknown depth.	Probably originating as an extraction pit (perhaps associated with adjacent railway)	Does not appear on historic mapping, suggesting it probably post-dates 1870.	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : Some vegetation encroachment on margins	Local	Retain as feature
13	Culver Wood Scrub	Linear Terrace	4915 2235 - 4930 2247	Prominent scarp (1m high) forming a linear terrace on the slope above a tributary valley of the Tickerage Stream. Large oak standards and coppice stools are located periodically along it. It is traceable for 200m from the Tickerage Stream in a NE direction until it is lost in impenetrable scrub.	Probably a former trackway or boundary	Unknown - it does not appear to conform to any features recorded on historic mapping	Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate	Local	Retain as feature
14	East Bank	Boundary Bank	4911 2242 - 4932 2269	Low earth bank (3m wide x <0.5m high) running for 350m parallel to, and 10m outside, the present deer-fence. The bank is flanked to the east by a shallow ditch. The southern end peters out by the Tickeridge Stream, while the northern end runs into pond (4). A line of mature ash, maple and beech standards run along the crest of the bank, which encloses a strip of wood pasture.	The position of the feature and its morphology (external bank and internal ditch) suggests a deer park boundary.	Appears to correspond with the deer park boundary as shown on the OS Surveyors' Draft of c.1800 - it may also be shown on the 1654 map as the boundary running into pond (4)	ESRO AMS 6362 / OS Surveyors Draft, Old Series One Inch / Site Inspection 21/05/08	Moderate : no longer in use as a boundary	Local	Retain as feature
15	Southeast Meadows	Former Boundary	4890 2225 - 4895 2238	Linear gully (130m long x 1.5-2m wide x 0.5m deep) running down the slope towards the Tickerage Stream. It peters out at either end.	Map evidence suggests it is part of the deer park boundary shown on the OS Surveyors Draft, and also a field boundary on the 1654 map.	Predates 1654 - probably late medieval. Utilised as a deer park boundary by 1800. Disused by 1870.	ESRO AMS 6362 / OS Surveyors Draft, Old Series One Inch / ESRO BMW/C8/2 (1) / OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Poor : largely obscured by bracken	Local	Retain as feature

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
16	Southeast Meadows	Pond	4885 2227	Former pond (30m x 20m x <3m deep), now dried up and colonised by mature ash trees and scrub	Pond, probably originating as a mineral extraction pit	Corresponds with an area of woodland shown on William Figg's 1812 map, but not on the OS Surveyors Draft, suggesting an early 19th century date	ESRO BMW/C8/2 (1) / OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Moderate : extensive vegetation encroachment	Local	None
17	River Corridor	Ruined Bridge	4864 2226	Ruined bridge, 2-2.5m wide, over the River Uck. Comprises two rectangular concrete abutments supporting two large steel girders. Original wooden decking has gone.	Modern farm bridge	20th century	Site Inspection 22/05/08	Moderate : generally in good condition, but requires decking to be replaced	None	None
18	River Corridor	Derelict Shed	4866 2243	Timber-framed shed clad in asbestos sheeting	Modern storage shed	20th century	Site Inspection 22/05/08	Poor : derelict	None	Remove
19	River Corridor	Pillbox	4917 2317	Concrete shell-proof rectangular structure (7.75m x 7.5m x 2m), with brick shuttering to the exterior, and set upon a concrete slab. Narrow access door in centre of N wall. Single loophole in each of W and S walls, two loopholes in E wall. Each loophole contains socketed concrete mounts, probably for Bren LMG tripods. Unusual design, probably a variant of FW3 Type 26.	Infantry emplacement, probably for light machine-guns. Part of Corps Defence Line	Built 1940-41. Subsequently used as farm/estate storage.	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Good	Regional	Retain as feature - requires detailed recording
20	River Corridor	Site of Former Pillbox	4925 2319	Prominent terrace extending across part of the Uck valley, with battered sides that appear to be modifications of the original slope. A scatter of bricks and concrete rubble are evident around the base of an oak tree.	Site of former anti-tank gun emplacement (probably FW3 Type 28), forming part of the Corps Defence Line with (19), (21) and (22).	Built 1940-41. Demolished after the war in error, having been identified as a useful storage facility.	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Demolished	Local	None
21	River Corridor	Site of Former Pillbox	4907 2305	Concrete slab partly exposed, at least 2m square (visible portion)	Probably the base for an infantry emplacement similar to (19)	Built 1940-41. Demolished after the war.	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Demolished	Local	None
22	River Corridor	Site of Former Pillbox	4984 2291	Scatter of concrete rubble and bricks.	Probably the site of an infantry emplacement similar to (19)	Built 1940-41. Demolished after the war.	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Demolished	Local	None
23	Walled Garden	Terrace	4862 2248 - 4869 2253	Prominent terrace, 11m wide x 1.5m high, running along the the SE and part of the SW external sides of the Walled Garden. Single narrow flight of concrete steps are visible in the centre of the SE side. It also contains a damaged semi-circular double sandstone staircase encased by flint walls, and providing access from a door in the SE wall of the garden out onto this terrace.	Former slips to the Walled Garden	The terrace appears from historic map evidence to date from at least 1790	ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Moderate : heavily overgrown with tussocky grass, nettles and scrub	Local	Clear vegetation and record.
24	Walled Garden	Former Wall of Greenho	4858 2248 - 4862 2249	Two stretches of brick wall bounding the former greenhouse yard associated with the Walled Garden. Flemish bond with red stretchers and some blue headers. Survives to a height of 2m. Now used as part of garden wall of derelict house formerly used as fishing lodge.	Former wall to greenhouse yard.	Historic map evidence suggests that the yard was in existence by 1812.	ESRO BMW/C8/2 (1) / ESRO TD/E 135 / OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / Site Inspection 22/05/08	Moderate : partly demolished and much of northern extent inaccessible due to thick scrub	Local	Retain and record

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
25	North Park	Lime Avenue	4885 2280 - 4923 2328	Remains of an avenue of mature lime trees, 25m wide and 650m long, formerly the main access to the original house. Many of the trees still survive, although there are numerous gaps where trees have fallen and scrub vegetation has colonised. The avenue begins at the park boundary, adjacent to a simple iron gate and causeway across an internal ditch. As the avenue approaches the Upper Lake it tapers out. The eastern edge is partly defined by a low double bank and central ditch up to 8m wide, only traceable in part - the trees appear to be planted on the inner bank, perhaps to raise them above the wetter valley floor. A more ephemeral bank and ditch is evident along the western side of the avenue, due W of Pillbox (19), but is not evident elsewhere.	Ornamental entrance drive to the original house at Buxted Park	An avenue of trees are marked on Figg's 1790 map, and a linear approach track is indicated on the 1654 map - this latter is not identifiable specifically as an avenue, and could reflect that ephemeral linear earthworks that are associated with it, perhaps reflecting an earlier fenced approach.	ESRO AMS 6362 / ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Poor : many trees missing, remainder of avenue becoming overgrown.	Local	Remove vegetation. Consider survey of earthworks.
26	North Park	Former Park Pale	4890 2337 - 4920 2328	Prominent earth bank (4m wide x 1m high) flanked to the SW by a ditch (2m wide x 0.5m deep) now forming the northern boundary of the estate, traceable between Lime Avenue (25) as far as the boundary of Hogge House.	The location, size and morphology of the feature, specifically the internal ditch, indicate a former park pale enclosing the northern boundary of the deer park.	Corresponds with the boundary shown on Figg's 1812 map, and may well reflect the boundary to the estate as shown on the 1654 map.	ESRO AMS 6362 / ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Moderate : much encroachment by bracken and some scrub	Local	Remove vegetation.
27	North Park	Ruined Structure	4914 2328	Footings of rectangular brick and stone building (4m x 2m x >0.5m), set into a rectangular terrace partly cut back into Park Pale (26). A number of brick-lined voids are evident within the floor, suggesting that drainage was important.	Not marked on historic mapping - may be the remains of a building used in this locality as a Home Guard ammunition store (hence the drainage).	Unknown - probably mid 20th century	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Demolished	Local	Retain as feature
28	North Park	Pond	4905 2327	Irregular shallow pond, 50m x 40m.	Pond - former mineral extraction pit	Map evidence suggests it dates from period 1654-1790	ESRO AMS 6362 / ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Poor : heavily encroached by vegetation including secondary woodland	Local	None
29	North Park	Concrete Base	4902 2330	Rectangular concrete floor (7m x 4m), terraced into the slope and edged in brick on three sides. The fourth (N) side is flanked by a brick wall up to 0.25m high above the floor. No internal details visible.	May have originated as a building associated with former quarry pit (28), possibly subsequently modified for wartime use. Possibly unfinished pillbox.	Historic mapping suggests it was built between 1841 and 1870.	ESRO TD/E 135 / OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Demolished	Local	None
30	North Park	Concrete Base	4885 2328	Rectangular concrete base (6m x 4m), edged by bricks and laterally crossed by two brick wall footings. No internal details visible.	Base for a building - local sources suggest this was a venison locker	Pre-dates 1870 OS map. Believed to have been used as accommodation by Canadian troops 1939-45	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed., 1870 / pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Demolished	Local	None
31	North Park	Former Golf Course	4875 2315 (centred)	Series of at least seven regular rectangular terraced platforms (14m x 10m) lie along the line of the former Buxted Place Avenue (see Appendix 1 for details - site nos 7, 8, 10-14)	Former pitch-and-putt golf course	Believed to have been constructed in the 1960s	pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Moderate : earthworks encroached by bracken but generally in reasonable condition	Local	Requires topographical survey as part of SAM

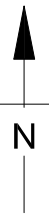
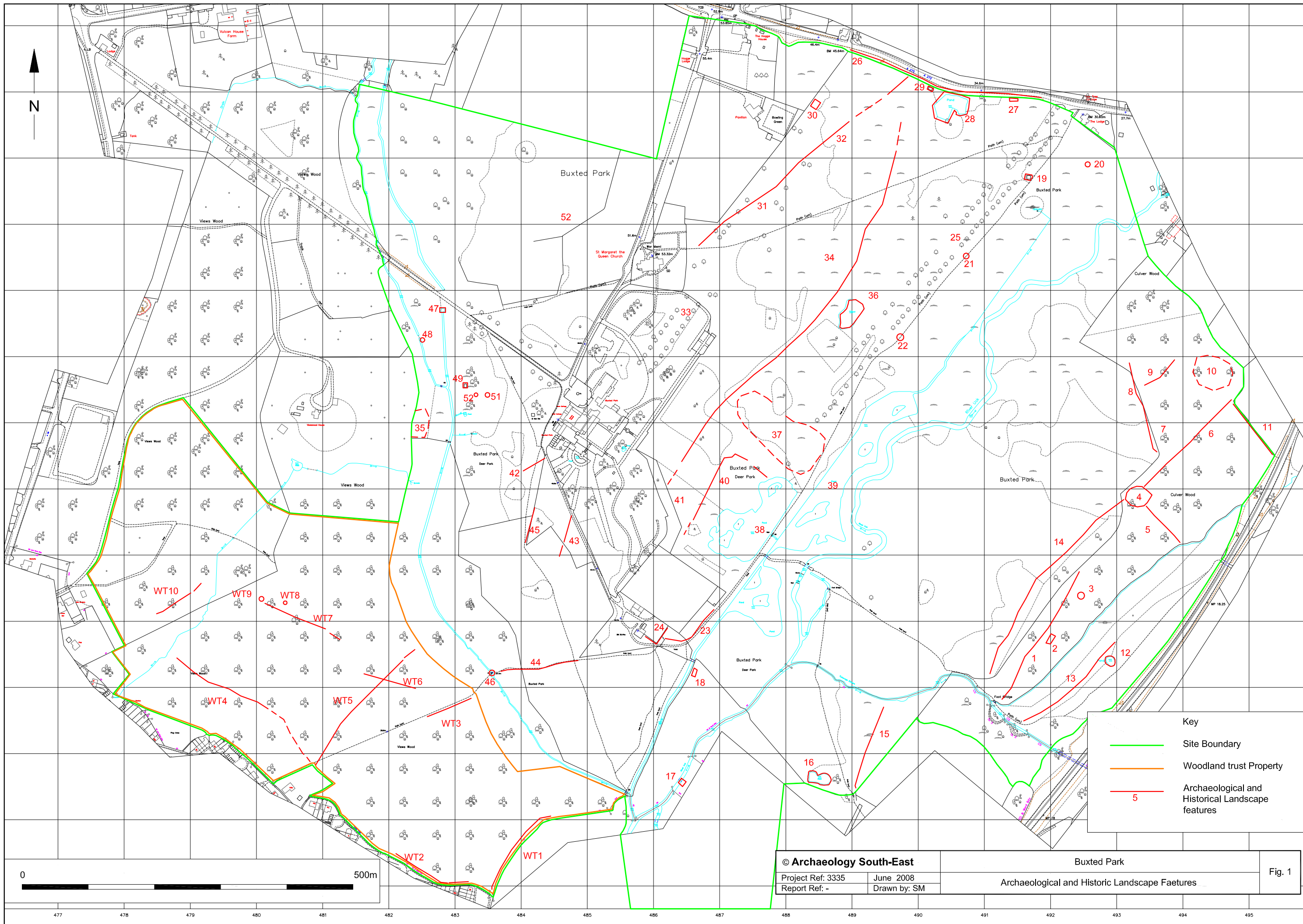
Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
32	North Park	Terrace	4865 2307 - 4898 2333	Linear terrace, up to 1m high, running for 500m across the alignment of the former Buxted Place Avenue (33). It disappears within a marshy valley towards its NE end, but reappears as a break of slope approaching boundary (26). The SW end extends as far as the churchyard gate, but cannot be traced further. (See Appendix 1 for details - Site no. 9)	Former field boundary	Marked as a field boundary on the 1654 map - probably medieval in origin. It had become disused by 1790.	ESRO AMS 6362 / ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Moderate : clearly visible as an earthwork	Local	Requires topographical survey as part of SAM
33	North Park	Buxted Place Avenue	4865 2299 - 4895 2335	Badly damaged double lime tree avenue, 40-45m wide, extending from the NE front of Buxted Park to the estate perimeter. No associated earthworks noted.	Ornamental avenue	Predates 1790 - associated with present Buxted Park, built from 1720 onwards	ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 03/06/08		Local	None
34	North Park / House Park	Linear Terrace	4862 2271 - 4896 2325	Two parallel scarps resembling lynchets, defining a terrace 700m long, up to 20m wide and 1m high. The NE end of the feature extends into a small marshy valley, becoming untraceable, while the SW end continues across the House Park towards the gardens. It is not clearly evident within the gardens, perhaps having been removed by landscaping.	The feature conforms to a field boundary on the 1654 map, suggesting it may be of medieval origin. However, the length of the feature and its parallel course in relation to the River Uck, suggests that it may have originated as a natural river cliff marking the original western edge of the valley, subsequently left behind as the river has been constrained to the centre of the floodplain. This feature was subsequently modified for use as a field boundary.	Predates 1654. Became disused as a field boundary when the park was created in the 18th century.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 03/06/08	Moderate : condition varies across length of feature, with extensive areas thickly obscured by bracken	Local	Retain as feature
35	West Valley	Quarry	4825 2280	Irregular hollow (c.30m x c.10m) cut back into the natural slope, and separated from the main valley floor by a narrow strip or ridge of higher ground. A prominent earth mound is visible at the northern end, probably a spoil heap.	Probably a sandstone quarry or sand pit	Not marked on historic mapping, although a hollow or re-entrant in the valley slope is shown here on the 1841 Tithe map and Figg's 1812 map.	ESRO BMW/C8/2 (1) / ESRO TD/E 135 / Site Inspection 05/06/08	Poor : heavily overgrown and some rabbit burrowing	Local	None
36	North Park	Pond	4890 2296	Irregular ovoid pond, 50m x 30m.	Probably originating as an extraction pit predating the creation of the parkland.	Marked on Figg's 1790 map.	ESRO ACC 5179/9 / Site Inspection 10/06/08	Good : bracken and some scrub encroaching on the margins.	Local	None
37	House Park	Mounds	4880 2280	Irregular belt of low silty mounds (160m x 40m), extending from the vicinity of the Upper Lake (38) as far as terrace (34). The mounds are mainly obscured and overgrown with bracken and bracken litter, and partly extend around a shallow marshy valley.	Spoil derived from the creation of the Upper Lake in the 1970s	Created in 1970s	Site Inspection 10/06/08	Poor - heavily overgrown with bracken	None	None

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
38	Lakes	Upper Lake	4875 2265	Irregular water body, 150m x 80m. The western shore is mainly landscaped grass with mature trees, while the southern and eastern shores are fringed by trees and vegetation. The lake contains three low islands, two of which have dilapidated wooden jetties and are linked by a wooden foot-bridge. a small hump-backed flint-faced concrete footbridge crosses an outflow channel at the SE end.	Ornamental lake	Excavated in the 1970s	Site Inspection 10/06/08	Good	Local	None
39	Lakes	Lower Lake	4875 2250 - 4900 2285	Irregular sinuous body of water, 400m x 80m, with banks generally overgrown with vegetation. There are five islands. The water exits at the SW end over a concrete weir.	Ornamental lake	Excavated in the 1930s	Site Inspection 10/06/08	Good	Local	None
40	House Park	Terrace	4865 2265 - 4875 2272	Prominent scarp or linear terrace, 18m wide x 1m high, running across the lawn between the house and the Upper Lake for a distance of 140m, before turning to the SE and running down towards the lake, where it culminates in an irregular mound. The SW end of the feature continues to the edge of the current garden, but is then lost. The feature defines two sides of a rectangular depression, the other sides of which have been lost to the Upper Lake and the gardens.	The relationship of this feature with the Lime Avenue (25), terrace (34) and the meanders of the River Uck suggest it may relate to a semi-circular enclosure associated with the original house on the 1654 map. This may have been a garden enclosure, or part of a carriage drive.	Possible predates 1654, but will have become disused in the early 18th century when the new house was built.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 10/06/08	Moderate	Regional	Requires further investigation e.g. topographical survey
41	House Park	Possible Ice House	4865 2269	Circular hollow, 1m x 1m x 0.5m, within a large patch of nettles on top of terrace (40).	Identified by local source as a former ice house. No other evidence is currently known to support this.	Unknown - probably late 18th - 19th century if it is an ice house, although another example is known from immediately outside the site boundary, within the grounds of Viewswood House. According to a local source, he saw the structure shortly after the war when it was filled with a dump of Home Guard molotov cocktails.	Pers. comm. Jack Sturt 21/05/08 / Site Inspection 10/06/08	Poor - heavily overgrown with nettles, no structural details visible.	Regional	Requires further investigation e.g. topographical survey
42	House Meadows	Boundary Bank	4840 2274 - 4844 2276	Ephemeral earth bank, up to 4m wide and <0.2m high, running for 40m across a grassy area. It extends from the modern fence-line and peters out adjacent to a Scots Pine above the break-of-slope on the edge of the western valley.	Former field boundary predating the park.	May correlate with one of the boundaries shown in this area on the 1654 map - may be of medieval origin. Probably became disused as a boundary when the park was created.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor - currently stable under grass	Local	Retain as feature

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
43	House Meadows	Boundary Bank	4846 2263 - 4847 2267	Low bank or scarp, 1m wide x <0.3m high, visible in long grass, defining the E edge of a terrace. The northern end has been disturbed by tree planting, but the feature is traceable for 45m as far as the modern fence-line.	Former field boundary predating the park.	May correlate with one of the boundaries shown in this area on the 1654 map - may be of medieval origin. Probably became disused as a boundary when the park was created.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature
44	South Scrublands	Boundary Bank	4835 2243 - 4849 2245	Ephemeral earth bank, up to 1m wide and <0.2m high, running for 130m across a grassy area. It runs from the apex of a triangular plantation westwards towards the western valley. It then descends the slope to the stream, visible as a mossy bank adjacent to the modern footpath.	Former field boundary predating the park.	May correlate with one of the boundaries shown in this area on the 1654 map - may be of medieval origin. Probably became disused as a boundary when the park was created.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature
45	House Meadows	Boundary Bank	4842 2262 - 4843 2267	Prominent scarp, up to 1.5m high and 70m long, defining the edge of a terrace, and now forming the western edge of a small plantation. It forms a substantial feature in the centre, flanked to the west by a ditch up to 4m wide and filled with nettles and brambles, but both the bank and ditch peter out to each side.	Former field boundary predating the park.	May correlate with one of the boundaries shown in this area on the 1654 map - may be of medieval origin. Probably became disused as a boundary when the park was created.	ESRO AMS 6362 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Moderate	Local	Retain as feature
46	West Valley	Brick Culvert	4835 2243	Remains of brick culvert on E side of stream, 4m long x 1.5m wide x 1.6m high. Semi-circular in section, comprising a double skin of red bricks laid stretcher bond, with a low brick plinth along the side facing the stream. A short curving stub of wall extends from the SW corner into the stream.	Brick culvert, carrying the stream beneath a former crossing point of the valley (associated with hollow-way WT3).	Not marked on historic mapping, but similarity to other similar features upstream suggests it predates 1870.	Site Inspection 11/06/08	Moderate : damaged at both ends, with fallen brickwork visible on stream bed.	Local	Consider consolidation and detailed survey
47	West Valley	Brick Sluice	4828 2297	Brick sluice system. Comprises a culvert under the driveway causeway, leading into a square brick-lined basin, 4m x 4m, with a smaller (3m x 1m) subsidiary basin (or access steps/ramp) extending to the W. The main brick-lined channel (1.2m wide) then extends for 4m to the south, with the remains of a sluice gate system at its northern end - a 200mm wide vertical slot in the W wall and a badly disturbed brick setting and vertical timber pile in the E wall. A 1m square brick base at ground level marks the site of the sluice gate mechanism. The stream bed for 120m downstream of the sluice is lined with stone blocks.	Sluice system, forming part of water management system associated with the part.	Predate 1870	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed. / Site Inspection 12/06/08	Moderate - some damage from tree roots and water action	Local	Consider consolidation and detailed survey
48	West Valley	Brick Culvert	4824 2294	Brick culvert, similar to (46), carrying an earth causeway now used as a minor footpath. The culvert comprises a semi-circular brick structure set within a brick façade, measuring 3.5m long x 2m wide x 1m high.	Brick culvert, carrying stream beneath trackway.	Precedes 1870	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13, 1st ed. / Site Inspection 12/06/08	Poor : edges of structure are damaged by tree roots and vegetation, and are crumbling	Local	Requires repair and detailed survey

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
49	West Valley	Brick Structure	4832 2286	Large brick tank, 4.5m x 3m, capped with a concrete slab roof containing a modern steel manhole cover, and buried in the hillside. The structure is flanked to the W by a 4m long stretch of brick culvert similar to (46) but perched on a hillside. A further brick tank, 2m x 2m, lies 5m to the south.	Water tank, part of water management system for the park.	predates 1870	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13 1st ed / Site Inspection 12/06/08	Moderate : largely buried in hillside, but some damage evident to walling	Local	None
50	West Valley	Brick Pumphouse	4833 2285	Footings of brick building, 5m x 5m, very overgrown but appearing to be a square structure flanked to the east by an external staircase.	Pumphouse associated with water management system.	Predates 1870	OS 25" Sheet XXVIII/13 1st ed. / OS 6" Sheet XXVIII.SW 2nd ed. / Site Inspection 12/06/08	Poor - largely demolished, filled with rubble and overgrown	Local	None
51	West Valley	Brick Tank	4834 2285	Brick tank, 6m x >3m, capped with concrete slab and mainly buried in hillside.	Water tank - possibly part of water management system for the park.	May predate 1870.	Site Inspection 12/06/08	Unknown - mostly buried	Local	None
52	Northwest Meadows	Deserted Settlement	4845 2310	Site of former settlement of Buxted, removed by Lord Liverpool by the 1830s - see Appendix for details	Former settlement of possible medieval origin	Map evidence indicates that the settlement existed in the mid 17th century - artefactual evidence from the surrounding area suggests a possible medieval origin.	ESRO AMS 6362 / ESHER No. TQ42SE16-MES2851 / Site Inspection 12/06/08	Moderate : earthworks survive beneath grass.	National	Requires detailed topographical survey
WT1	Views Wood	Woodbank	4836 2209 - 4845 2220	Low eroded bank, 4m wide, flanked to the NW by a shallow 2m wide ditch. The bank is capped by a line of young coppiced hazel with mature sweet chestnut coppice along the rear margin.	Woodbank - the presence of an internal bank and the historic map evidence that Views Wood once extended further to the south and west suggests that this feature is an internal compartment boundary.	Predates 1812, and may well be of medieval date.	ESRO BMW/C8/2 (1) / Site Inspection 05/06/08	Poor : much eroded, destroyed at NE end by landscaping for playing fields. Extensive encroachment by ground vegetation	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT2	Views Wood	Woodbank	4818 2216 - 4830 2212	Low ephemeral bank, 2m wide x <0.2m high, flanked by a shallow ditch to the N, with the hint of a second one to the south. Capped by regular coppiced hazel.	Former woodbank, probably an internal compartment boundary.	Unknown - not marked on historic mapping. Probably medieval or early post-medieval.	Site Inspection 05/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT3	Views Wood	Hollow-way	4825 2235 - 4833 2238	Prominent hollow-way, 5m wide x 2m deep at its maximum extent, ascending the slope from the stream crossing. As the track reaches the crest of the slope, it continues as a much shallower hollow-way across Views Wood, eventually being lost in a modern housing estate.	The track is marked on the 1790 map. It forms part of an alignment clearly visible on the modern map as a ridgeway linking Uckfield with High Hurstwood, now followed by Hurstwood Road to the north of the estate, and possibly originating in the early medieval period as a droveway.	Predates 1790. Probably of considerable antiquity.	ESRO ACC 5719/9 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Good : now utilised by a modern footpath	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT4	Views Wood	Trackway	4787 2246 - 4802 2238	Hollow-way, 3m wide x <0.75m deep, extending from edge of modern pathway towards the NW. It runs through the wood towards a small tributary stream, now crossed by a modern footpath.	Probably originated as a woodsman's track - it predates the 1841 Tithe map. Now disused.	Predates 1841.	ESRO TD/E 135 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor : disused and vulnerable to encroachment by ground vegetation and trees.	Local	Retain as feature. Clear encroaching vegetation. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations

Site No.	Character Area	Name	NGR (TQ)	Description	Interpretation	History	Sources	Condition	Significance	Management
WT5	Views Wood	Woodbank	4808 2229 - 4823 2245	Disused woodbank running along the upper edge of a tributary stream valley. It comprises a low bank, 2m wide and capped with coppice stools, on the downslope side, with a ditch 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep to the NE. It extends from the edge of the modern housing estate, crosses trackway WT6, then heads towards the main stream valley, where it abruptly stops.	Woodbank	Not marked on historic mapping - may be of medieval or early post-medieval origin.	Site Inspection 11/06/08	Moderate : clearly visible earthwork, although some encroachment by vegetation.	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT6	Views Wood	Trackway	4815 2243 - 4824 2240	Hollow-way, up to 3m wide, descending the side of a tributary stream valley along the line of an existing footpath. At the base of the slope, the footpath veers off to the north, but the hollow-way is evident as a slight terrace continuing along the valley to the west, although now colonised by secondary woodland.	Trackway - probably originally a woodsman's track.	Predates 1841.	ESRO TD/E 135 / Site Inspection 11/06/08	Good	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT7	Views Wood	Woodbank	4801 2254 - 4810 2250	Eroded woodbank, flanked to the NE by a ditch - 3m wide in total, and defined by a line of coppice stools on each side. The SE end peters out on the edge of the stream valley, the N end disappears next to pit WT9.	Woodbank	Not marked on historic mapping. May be of medieval or early post-medieval origin.	Site Inspection	Poor	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT8	Views Wood	Pit	4804 2254	Irregular sub-rectangular hollow, 6m x 3m x 0.5m, heavily overgrown with trees and damaged by animal burrowing.	Possibly mineral extraction pit.	Unknown	Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT9	Views Wood	Pit	4800 2250	Irregular square pit, 6m x 6m x 1m, cut into the slope above a tributary stream. Heavily overgrown with trees, including evergreens.	Possibly mineral extraction pit.	Unknown	Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations
WT10	Views Wood	Woodbank	4785 2253 - 4790 2256	Low bank, 2m wide x 0.5m high, possibly flanked on both sides by shallow ditches.	Woodbank	Not marked on historic mapping - may be of medieval or early post-medieval origin.	Site Inspection 11/06/08	Poor	Local	Retain as feature. Safeguard from damage during woodland management operations



Key	
	Site Boundary
	Woodland trust Property
	Archaeological and Historical Landscape features

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Project Ref: 3335	June 2008	Archaeological and Historic Landscape Features	
Report Ref: -	Drawn by: SM	Fig. 1	

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