



# Shottendane Road, Margate, Kent

## Archaeological Watching Brief Report

December 2019

**Client: CSA Environmental on Behalf of  
Gladman Developments Ltd**

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: MARSHRWB

NGR: TR 34746 69386





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**Shottendane Road, Margate, Kent**

***Archaeological Watching Brief Report***

*Written Rachael Daniel*

*With contributions from Michael Donnelly.*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CSA Environmental on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of nine geotechnical test-pits, at site located both to the north and south of the Shottendane Road, Margate, Kent.

The test-pits were excavated to a depth of c. 2.5m below present ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural geology, comprising chalk, was recorded at between 0.2 and 0.65m below present ground level. A single late prehistoric flint core was recovered from the topsoil in the one of the test-pits.

## Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Rosey Meara at CSA Environmental for commissioning this project on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by John Boothroyd, and the fieldwork undertaken by Rachael Daniel. Thanks are extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the find under the management of Leigh Allen, and prepared the archive under the management of Nichola Scott.



## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Scope of work**

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by CSA Environmental on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations at the site of a proposed development.
- 1.1.2 Due to the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains, it was recommended that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during geotechnical investigations. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the proposed works and the archaeological monitoring methodology (OA 2019). This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

### **1.2 Location, topography and geology**

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the south-west of Margate, Kent NGR: TR 34746 69386 (Fig. 1)
- 1.2.2 The area of proposed development measures of c 18.6 hectares, split across two arable fields, located to the north and south of Shottendane Road. The site is bounded to the south and north-west by agricultural land, to the east by Margate Cemetery and to the north-east residential properties (Fig. 2).
- 1.2.3 To the north of Shottendane Road the geology is mapped as Seafood Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 84 to 90 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. This is overlain by deposits of clay and silt Head, formed 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, which form a central band through the area. To the south the underlying geology is mapped as Margate Chalk Member, a sedimentary bedrock formed 72 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous period (BGS Online).

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been described in detail in a Desk-based Assessment (DBA; CSA 2019), and will not be reproduced here
- 1.3.2 The DBA concludes that the site is located in area with significant levels of archaeological remains from the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods.
- 1.3.3 Cropmarks within the site are indicative of prehistoric round barrows as well as remains of an uncertain origin. Late Neolithic or early Bronze Age round barrows, a possible flint mine, late Bronze Age settlement or stock management activity, an enclosed Iron Age settlement, a Roman trackway and possible medieval activity were all identified during a trial trench evaluation undertaken immediately to the north-west of the site. The alignment of the Roman trackway suggests it is likely to continue into the site. Roman artefacts, thought to be associated with a cremation cemetery, were recovered in the 1850s immediately to the south of the site.
- 1.3.4 Roadworks along Manston Road, to the south of the site, during the 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have exposed the remains of over 30 burials dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. Given their location there is a strong likelihood that these remains will also be

present within the southern portion of the site. Discrete cropmarks indicate that further burials maybe present around the ring ditch in the southern area of the site.

- 1.3.5 The Head deposits recorded to the north of Shottendane Road were exploited in the 19th century for the production of bricks. As such, this activity has likely removed the potential for archaeological remains within the central part of the site, however, the area beyond still has significant potential.

### *Geophysical survey*

- 1.3.6 A geophysical survey of the site was undertaken in October 2019 (MS 2019). Anomalies indicative of archaeological activity including a possible round barrow and field systems were recorded in the southern half of the site, along with anomalies identified as relating to geological processes (Fig. 2). In the northern half of the site anomalies believed to be associated with historic clay extraction and agricultural practices were recorded.
- 1.3.7 A ground penetrating radar survey was also undertaken but only covered an area of within the south-east corner of the site (MS 2019). The survey was carried out to identify possible burials associated with the known remains to the south-east. No evidence of burials was recorded but the accuracy of the survey is suspected to have been affected due to saturation of the top-soil.

## **2 WATCHING BRIEF AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims**

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present.
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.
- iii. To provide details of depth of overburden and nature of exposed deposits.
- iv. To provide information to inform further archaeological work, and to disseminate the results through the production of a site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Kent HER.

### **2.2 Methodology**

2.2.1 The location of each of the nine test-pits was established by the lead contractor as shown in Figure 2. The location of each test-pit was scanned by a cable avoidance tool prior to the beginning of any excavation works. The test-pit locations remained the same as outlined in the WSI.

2.2.2 The test-pits were excavated using a JCB mechanical excavator fitted with a 0.5m wide toothed bucket. All mechanical excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

2.2.3 The test-pits were recorded by the attending Archaeologist according to methodology outlined in the WSI, established best practice and the OA Field Manual.

2.2.4 The test pits were backfilled by the lead-contractor upon completion of the works.

## **3 RESULTS**

### **3.1 Introduction and presentation of results**

- 3.1.1 The results of the watching brief are presented below. The full details of all test-pits with dimensions and depths of all deposits are tabulated in Appendix A. Finds data is shown in Appendix B.

### **3.2 General soils and ground conditions**

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence varied across the site. Natural geology consisting of chalk was identified in all trenches at between 0.2m and 0.6m below ground level (BGL). In the majority of the test-pits (1-3 and 6-9) the natural geology was encountered at between 0.2 and 0.35m bgl. In Test-Pits 4 and 5 this increased to between 0.55m and 0.65m bgl.
- 3.2.2 In the north-east and south-west limits of the site the natural geology was directly overlain by topsoil (Test-Pits 2, 3, and 7-9). In the other Test-Pits (4, 5, 6 and 7) a mid reddish-brown silt subsoil was recorded overlying the natural. The subsoil, a former plough soil, measured between 0.15m and 0.25m thick.
- 3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the watching brief were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout.

### **3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits**

- 3.3.1 No archaeological features or deposit were identified.

### **3.4 Finds summary**

- 3.4.1 A single worked flint core was recovered from the topsoil in Test-Pit 7 and is likely to be of late prehistoric date.

## **4 DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 Reliability of field investigation**

- 4.1.1 Ground conditions were good throughout the course of the watching brief and the ground was well drained. The deposits of subsoil and plough-soil were clear against the underlying chalk natural. Therefore, the results of the watching brief can be considered to be reliable.

### **4.2 Watching Brief objectives and results**

- 4.2.1 The overall objectives of the watching brief were to ascertain if there were any archaeological remains present in the geotechnical test pits and to record them as required. There were no archaeological remains present.
- 4.2.2 It should be noted that the test-pits were located to avoid a recorded barrow and the remains possible extending from the adjacent cemetery. As such, these results should not be considered to provide a fair reflection of the archaeological potential of the site, although they do support the accuracy of the geophysical survey.
- 4.2.3 The absence of subsoil across the south-west and north-east parts of the sites suggests any archaeological features or deposits within these areas may have been subject to significant truncation resulting from agricultural practices.

## APPENDIX A DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Test Pit 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.2	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions.	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil – soft mid reddish brown silt.	-	-
102	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk; flint nodule inclusions.	-	-

Test Pit 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil overlying natural geology of Chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
200	Layer	-	0.3	Plough-soil - soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions.	-	-
201	Layer	-	-	Natural - Chalk	-	-

Test Pit 3						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
300	Layer	-	0.2	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions (chalk chips and natural flint fragments).	-	-
302	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk; flint nodule inclusions.	-	-

Test Pit 4						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
400	Layer	-	0.3	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions (chalk chips and natural flint fragments).	-	-
401	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil – soft mid reddish brown silt.	-	-
402	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk.	-	-

Test Pit 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
500	Layer	-	0.45	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions.	-	-
501	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil – soft mid reddish brown silt.	-	-
502	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk.	-	-

Test Pit 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
600	Layer	-	0.25	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small flint inclusions.	-	-
601	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil – soft mid reddish brown silt.	-	-
602	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk; flint nodule inclusions.	-	-

Test Pit 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
700	Layer	-	0.3	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small stone inclusions.	Flint fragment	Later Prehistoric
701	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk.	-	-

Test Pit 8						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
800	Layer	-	0.25	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Frequent small chalk chip inclusions.	-	-
801	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk; flint nodule inclusions.	-	-

Test Pit 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Test pit devoid of archaeology. Consists of plough-soil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	2.2
					Width (m)	0.5
					Avg. depth (m)	2.5
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Thickness (m)	Description	Finds	Date
900	Layer	-	0.35	Plough-soil – soft, mid blackish brown silty loam. Infrequent small chalk chip inclusions.	-	-
901	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk; flint nodule inclusions.	-	-



## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Flint

*By Michael Donnelly*

#### **Introduction**

- B.1.1 A single flint core was recovered from this evaluation. This piece was a core on a flake geared towards flake production and is largely undiagnostic but is of form that is more common in later assemblages. The piece could be a fortuitously broken nodule, but the flaking pattern and angle are more typical of intentionally worked pieces. The lack of preparation along the cores edge also suggests a later date rather than an early one.

#### **Methodology**

- B.1.2 The artefact was catalogued according to OA South's standard system of broad artefact/debitage type (Anderson-Whymark 2013; Bradley 1999), general condition noted and dating was attempted where possible. The assemblage was catalogued directly onto an Open Office spreadsheet. During the assessment additional information on condition (rolled, abraded, fresh and degree of cortication), and state of the artefact (burnt, broken, or visibly utilised) was also recorded. Retouched pieces were classified according to standard morphological descriptions (e.g. Bamford 1985, 72-77; Healy 1988, 48-9; Bradley 1999). Technological attribute analysis was initially undertaken and included the recording of butt and termination type (Inizan *et al.* 1999), flake type (Harding 1990), hammer mode (Onhuma and Bergman 1982), and the presence of platform edge abrasion.

Context	Type	sub-type	Notes	date
700	Core on a flake	Flakes	Very basic workmanship, possibly fortuitous but more likely expedient later prehistoric flaking	?LPH

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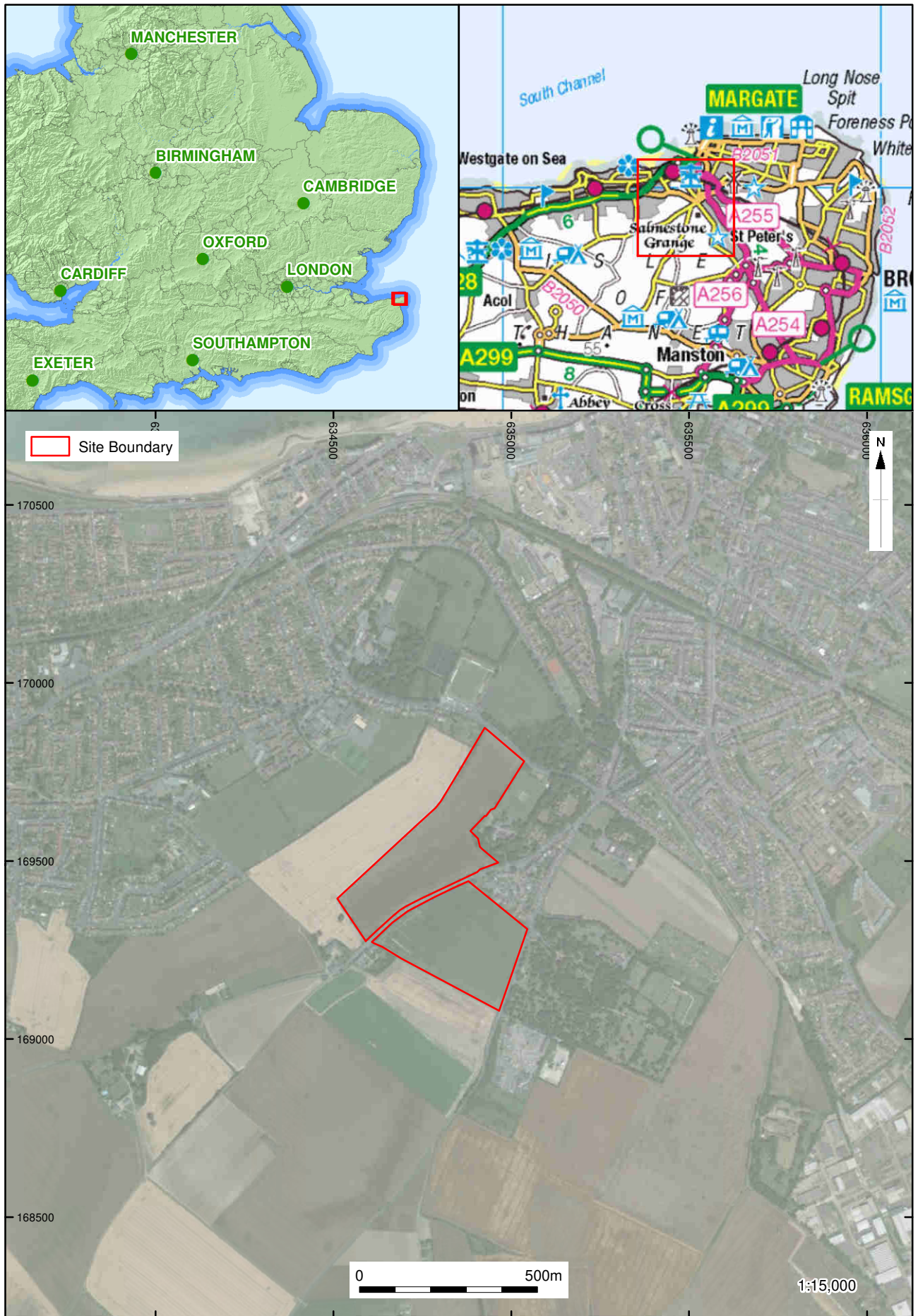
**APPENDIX C****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM**

**Site name:** Shottendane Road, Margate, Kent  
**Site code:** MARSHR19  
**Grid Reference** TR 34746 69386  
**Type:** Watching Brief  
**Date and duration:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019 to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, and will be deposited with an appropriate museum when one becomes available.

**Summary of Results:** Oxford Archaeology was commissioned by CSA Environmental on behalf of Gladman Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of nine geotechnical test-pits, at site located both to the north and south of the Shottendane Road, Margate, Kent.

The test-pits were excavated to a depth of c. 2.5m below present ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. The natural geology, comprising chalk, was recorded at between 0.2 and 0.65m below present ground level. A single late prehistoric flint core was recovered from the topsoil in the one of the test-pits.

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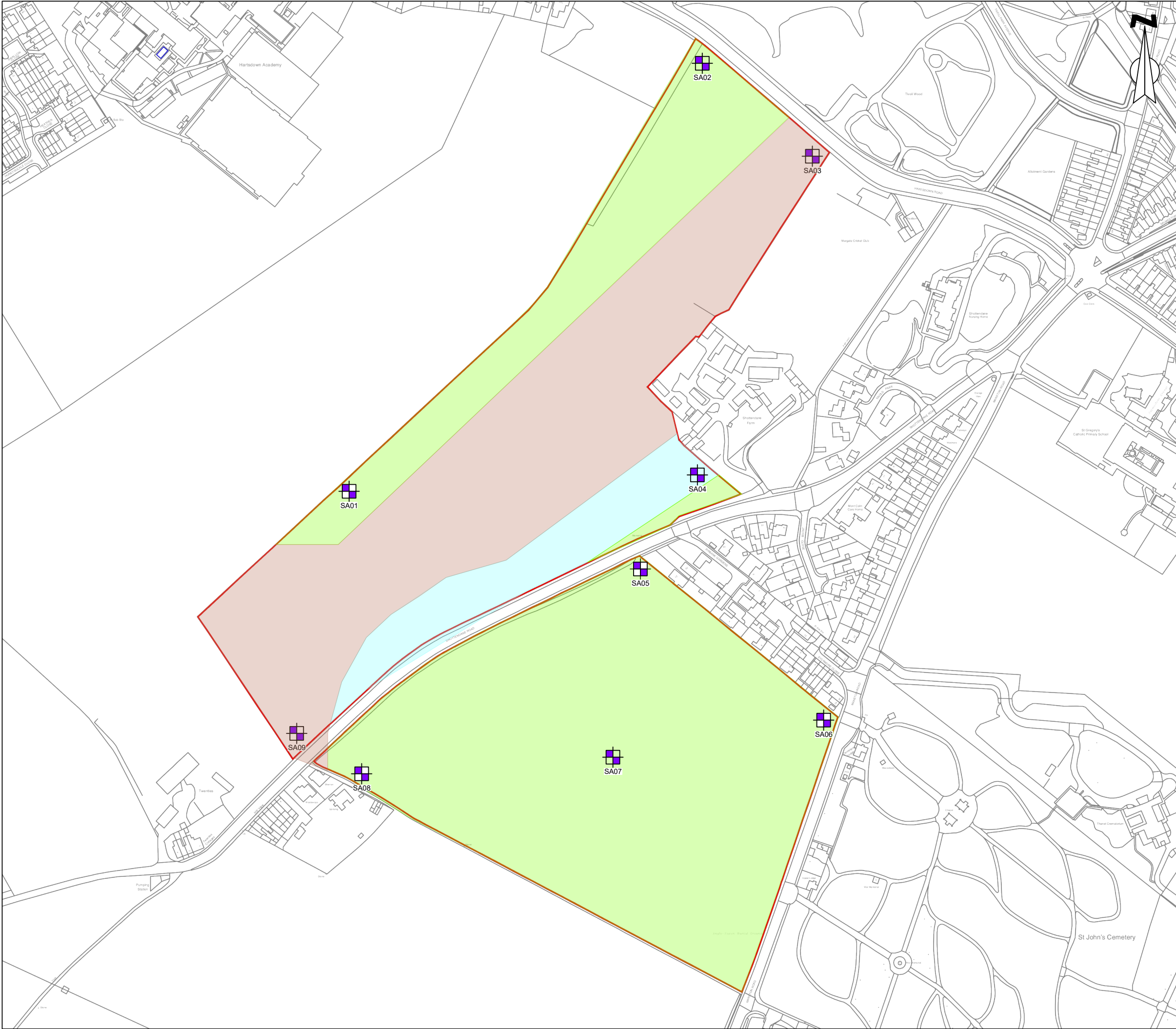


X:\m\Margate\_Shottendane\_Road\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figure1\_2019-09-25.mxd\gary.jones\*25/09/2019

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Figure 1: Site location





- NOTES
1.

Do not scale from this drawing.
2.

This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant documentation.
3.

All surveyed information including levels and layout is provided by others.

Key:

Site Boundary

Approximate Location of Soakaway Test Pits

Approximate Location of Outcropping Strata - Head Deposits (Superficial)

Approximate Location of Outcropping Strata - Seaford Chalk (Bedrock)

Approximate Location of Outcropping Strata - Margate Chalk (Bedrock)

B	03/10/19	Archeological Comments	NB	DA	DA
A	03/07/19	First Issue	DL	NB	SB
REV:	DATE:	DETAIL:	DES:	CHK:	APP:

enzygo

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PROJECT:  
Shottendane Road, Margate

DRAWING TITLE:  
Proposed Exploratory Hole Location Plan

DRAWN: NB	DESIGNED: NB	CHECKED: DA	APPROVED: DA
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DATE: 03/10/2019	SCALE @ A3: Not to scale
PROJECT NO.: SHF.1132.228	DRAWING NO.: 001
DRAWING STATUS: FOR INFORMATION	ISSUE: B



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