

Archaeological Report and Updated Project Design

**Land to the North of Springfield Road
Westcott, Dorking, Surrey**

**NGR: 51394 14893
(TQ 1394 4893)**

**ASE Project No: 6593
Site Code: WSD 10**

**ASE Report No: 2014098
OASIS id: archaeol6-175834**



By Anna Doherty

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**By Anna Doherty
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake a programme of strip, map and sample on land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking, following on from a previous evaluation on the site.

The work produced a small assemblage of unstratified/residual Mesolithic to early Neolithic flintwork. Very dense scatters of flintwork have been reported in the fields to the east and the current work suggests some limited exploitation of the site itself during this period.

A single pit appeared to represent a special deposit dating to the latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age, including three, or possibly four, partially complete pottery vessels. Given the absence of other settlement evidence, it is suggested that this may have been deposited in an isolated location chosen for its association with a nearby brook.

Finally, a narrow medieval ditch was recorded crossing the site on an east-north-east west-south-west orientation. Interestingly this feature seems to be aligned with a trackway which survived in use into the late 20th century, leading to a ford across Pipp Brook. This suggests that the trackway and the crossing may have medieval origins.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 The Environmental Samples**
- 7.0 Discussion and Conclusions**
- 8.0 Updated Project Design**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary
OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in strip, map and sample Areas 1 and 2

Table 3: Overview of the hand collected finds assemblage

Table 4: Residue quantification

Table 5: Flot quantification

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Location of SMS areas and evaluation trenches

Figure 3: SMS Area 1 plan, sections and photographs

Figure 4: SMS Area 2 plan, sections and photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology, University College London (UCL) were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, on behalf of their clients Taylor Wimpey, to undertake a programme of archaeological work in advance of the development of land to the north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey (centred NGR: TQ 1394 4893; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on a gentle north facing slope dropping from c. 74.0m AOD in the south-west of the site to c. 69m AOD in the north-east corner alongside Pipp Brook. The site is bounded by residential properties to the south and west and by Pipp Brook to the north and east.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 2014), the bedrock geology of the site is sandstone of the Folkestone Formation. Superficial deposits of quaternary alluvium associated with Pipp Brook are recorded nearby, possibly just within the northern part of the site; however, no other drift geology has been recorded in the area.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Mole Valley District Council have granted planning for residential development on the site. Before the planning application was submitted a Desk Based Assessment had been carried by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2010), which indicated high potential for Iron Age remains and moderate potential for earlier prehistoric archaeology on the site.

1.3.2 Owing to the potential impact of the proposed development, Surrey County Council (SCC) requested that an archaeological evaluation of the site be carried out prior to determination of the proposed planning application. The archaeological evaluation of the site, undertaken by Archaeology South-East in 2010 revealed archaeological features of possible medieval date in the western part of the site, and a layer of colluvial material containing prehistoric pottery in the eastern part of the site (ASE 2010). The remainder of the site was sterile and showed no evidence of archaeological activity.

1.3.3 Planning consent was subsequently granted with an attached archaeological condition stating that a programme of archaeological investigation should be undertaken prior to the commencement of any groundwork in the west of the site in the area of evaluation Trenches 2 and 5, where development had the potential to impact upon buried archaeological deposits. In accordance with this condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared for a strip, map and sample exercise (ASE 2014). The WSI, which laid out the research aims and methodology to be followed, was submitted to, and approved by, SCC prior to the start of the archaeological work.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general aim of the archaeological strip, map and sample exercise, as set out in the WSI (*ibid.*) was to establish, within the constraints of the agreed strategy, the location, extent, date, character, condition, and depth of any surviving remains within the agreed excavation area and to make public the results of the archaeological work, subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

1.4.2 The specific objectives were:

- to determine whether the ditches identified within the evaluation were contemporary, and, to attempt to refine their date and use through retrieval of further artefactual and environmental evidence.
- to identify whether there were further discrete features in close proximity to the ditches and to date these where possible.

1.4.3 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the Surrey Archaeological Research Framework (Bird 2006):

- to further the study of rural settlement and land use in the medieval period
- to contribute to the study of the formation and change of parish and land boundaries in the medieval period, given the proximity of the site to the Great and Little Bookham parish boundary, formed by Chalk Pit Lane medieval holloway/track (HER 14828), which lies c.100m to the north of Pipp Brook,.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report presents the results of the archaeological strip, map and sample exercise carried out by Hayley Nicholls (Archaeologist) between 19th February and 5th March 2014, with the assistance of Tom Rugg (Assistant Archaeologist) and Vasilis Tsamis (Archaeological Surveyor). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift.

1.5.2 This document represents a final grey literature report and updated project design (UPD) with proposals for a brief publication report in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. The results of the previous evaluation have already been reported on in a separate document (ASE 2010); however, where relevant, elements of the work from this earlier stage of work have been summarised in the results and discussion and conclusion sections of this report.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background to the site was prepared as part of a desk-based assessment (DBA) on the site carried out by CgMs Consulting Ltd (CgMs 2010). This involved a search of entries on the Surrey Historic Environment Record within a 1km radius of the site (given with their HER reference number below). Elements of the DBA are reproduced here with due acknowledgement.

2.2 Mesolithic

2.2.1 A reported scatter of up to 1200 Mesolithic flint artefacts including six microliths, cores, scrapers, blades, flakes and waste was found c. 500m to the east of the site (HER4470). The quantity of material recorded indicates that this is likely to represent a settlement site. A single Mesolithic mace head has been recorded in a back garden c. 800m to the south east of the site (HER35).

2.3 Neolithic and Bronze Age

2.3.1 Neolithic and Bronze Age flints were recorded during field-walking on the north side of the Pipp Brook opposite the site (HER 4471). A Neolithic polished stone axe was found when laying drains in Springfield Road immediately to the south of the site (HER 62). A Neolithic flint axe and a prehistoric Greensand axe have been recorded in the vicinity of the site but the exact provenance of this find is unknown (HER 2954 & 2957).

2.4 Iron Age and Roman

2.4.1 A rectangular cropmark enclosure is located c. 100m to the north-west of the site, on the opposite side of Pipp Brook (HER 43). This has been variously interpreted as a Roman camp, a Roman signalling station and a Romano-Celtic temple. The cropmark has been subject to both a resistivity survey and a partial excavation revealing an Iron Age ditch (1st century BC/1st century AD). Finds included pottery, well-preserved animal bone, including the skull of a red deer stag from which the antlers had been sawn off, fragments of large triangular loom weights, daub, a glass bead and part of a small clay disc depicting a plant. Field-walking of the area also recorded a number of prehistoric artefacts (HER 5720) and Roman pottery and tile fragments (HER4472) in the vicinity of the cropmark.

2.5 Saxon and Medieval

2.5.1 No Saxon evidence has been noted within a 1km radius of the site. An earthwork of medieval date lies c. 400m to the west of the site (HER5172 & 5715). This may relate to the site of the 'Black Hawes' castle, a fortified Norman manor house that was destroyed by the Danes.

2.6 Post-medieval

2.6.1 The desk based assessment revealed no significant post-medieval remains within a 1km radius of the site. On historic maps, the only feature shown within the bounds of the site is an east-north-east west-south-west aligned track leading to a ford across Pipp Brook close to the eastern site boundary. The track was present on the 1870 Ordnance Survey but it was difficult to determine whether it existed on earlier maps which were drawn smaller scale. The track survived in use into the late 20th century.

2.7 Recent Archaeological Evaluation

2.7.1 A previous phase of archaeological evaluation on the site (ASE 2010) revealed archaeological remains including a colluvial deposit containing a few sherds of later Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery. Two undated features were excavated: one of them a shallow discrete feature and the other interpreted as the terminus of a ditch. A second ditch was also recorded which contained a small quantity of medieval pottery.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site was excavated and recorded in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2014) and in line with the professional guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

3.2 Excavation

3.2.1 Topsoil and other overburden of recent origin was removed in spits, under constant archaeological supervision, using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation proceeded until archaeological features or deposits were uncovered or until natural geology was exposed.

3.2.2 Features were sampled following Surrey County Council's minimum sampling requirements for excavation, set out below:

- 50% of each discrete feature (i.e. pits, postholes) with the possibility of full excavation of features which are of demonstrably high archaeological significance, or where retrieval of archaeologically datable material is considered necessary. One feature, pit [106], was 100% excavated because of the richness of its finds assemblage
- 15-25% of each linear feature's exposed area plus all terminals and intersections.

3.2.3 The excavation area and spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts by eye and with a metal detector. During hand excavation, all stratified artefacts were bagged by context and retained. Unstratified artefacts were collected when they were considered datable and/or of inherent significance.

3.2.4 Environmental sampling was carried out in line with current English Heritage guidelines (EH 2011). Samples of 40 litres were taken from two features to for the retrieval of wood charcoal, plant remains and for small artefact recovery.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 Archaeological features were planned using Digital Global Positioning System (DGPS) planning technology. All contexts were recorded on standard ASE context record sheets. Sections were hand drawn at a scale of 1:10 and black and white, colour slide and digital photographs were taken of all excavated features. A general digital photographic record was also kept of the site under excavation.

3.4 The Site Archive

3.3.1 ASE informed Dorking Museum by email that the fieldwork would be taking place and that a site archive would be generated. A decision is pending from them regarding whether the archive will be accepted by the museum. The archive will continue to be stored at ASE offices in Portslade until long-term storage is arranged. The archive is quantified below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	17
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	1 section sheet
Bulk Samples	2
Photographs	13 B&W/C/S 60 digital images
Bulk finds/ Environmental flots/residue	1 box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 A full list of contexts recorded during the strip, map and sample exercise is provided in Table 2. Contexts recorded during the previous evaluation have been reported on in a separate document (ASE 2010); however, where relevant to the current work, features from the evaluation are briefly summarised below.

4.2 Natural Geology

4.2.1 Natural layer, [107], was exposed throughout both mitigation areas. It was mostly composed of light greyish yellow silty sand with patches of mid reddish brown gravel and sandy clay. In the northern part of both mitigation areas [103], a deposit of natural alluvium comprising mid orangeish brown sandy/silty clay was recorded overlying layer [107].

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max Deposit Thickness m
101	Layer	Topsoil	N/a	N/a	0.25
102	Layer	Subsoil	N/a	N/a	0.45
103	Layer	Natural alluvium	N/a	N/a	0.30
104	Fill	Fill of pit [106]	0.84	0.71	0.29
105	Fill	Fill of pit [106]	0.72	0.53	0.09
106	Cut	Pit	0.84	0.71	0.38
107	Layer	Natural bedrock geology	N/a	N/a	N/a
108	Cut	Ditch	>1.00m	0.30	0.25
109	Fill	Fill of ditch [108]	>1.00m	0.30	0.25
110	Fill	Fill of ditch [114]	>1.00m	0.28	0.13
111	Fill	Fill of ditch [115]	>1.00m	0.34	0.34
112	Fill	Fill of ditch [116]	>1.00m	0.37	0.50
113	Fill	Fill of ditch [117]	>1.00m	0.37	0.62
114	Cut	Cut of ditch	>1.00m	0.30	0.13
115	Cut	Cut of ditch	>1.00m	0.34	0.34
116	Cut	Cut of ditch	>1.00m	0.36	0.50
117	Cut	Cut of ditch	>1.00m	0.37	0.62

Table 2: List of recorded contexts in strip, map and sample Areas 1 and 2

4.3 Area 1

4.3.1 A sub-circular pit, [106], was recorded, cutting natural geology, [107] at a height of 70.83m AOD. The primary fill, [105], was a light orangeish brown sandy silt. It contained sherds from a latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age pottery vessel, dated to c. 800-600BC, which appears to have been deposited semi-complete. Sherds of a second contemporary vessel, which was also semi-complete, but more heavily fragmented, were noted spanning the primary and secondary fills. The primary fill also contained a few pieces of Mesolithic/early Neolithic worked flint including an awl/piercer. A small flint pebble with a naturally occurring hole was also noted in this context. The secondary fill, [104], was notably darker in colour. As well as the sherds from

the vessel also noted within the primary fill, [104] contained large rim sherds from a third vessel. An environmental sample of this fill produced only a small assemblage of charcoal; no charred macrobotanical remains were noted.

- 4.3.2 Two undated features, [2/004] and [2/006], which were of broadly similar diameter to [106], were recorded in Trench 2 (within Area 1) during the previous evaluation. Both were shallow and slightly irregular in profile and neither contained any finds, perhaps implying that they were tree-throws. These features therefore do not necessarily seem to be associated with pit [106].
- 4.3.3 Some pottery of similar date to that from [106] was noted in a colluvial deposit recorded in the far north-eastern part of the site during the evaluation (Trench 14; Figure 2). However, a few grog-tempered sherds, of likely Late Iron Age/early Roman date were also noted within the same deposit.
- 4.3.4 An east-north-east - west-north-west aligned ditch was recorded in Area 1: [108], [114] and [115]. It cut alluvial layer, [103], across most of its length. The feature was generally narrow with a relatively deep blunted V-shaped profile. However, it was notably shallower in [114], towards the centre of Area 1, which was recorded a slightly lower level to the other interventions (c. 70.65m AOD). This may suggest some horizontal truncation in this area. Fill [109] of intervention [108] produced two sherds of medieval pottery, although these were not directly contemporary, one being of 11th to 12th century and the other of mid 13th to mid 14th century date.

4.4 Area 2

- 4.4.1 Two further interventions through the east-north-east - west-north-west aligned gully were excavated in Area 2. Cuts [116] and [117] were of similar character to the slots investigated in Area 1. Although the feature appeared slightly wider and deeper here, the interventions were recorded at slightly higher levels, c. 71.0m-71.3m AOD, perhaps suggesting that this was the result of more extensive horizontal truncation in Area 1. Fill [113] of cut [117] produced two further medieval pottery sherds dated to AD1175-1275. A few medieval sherds had also been recorded in context [5/008], an intervention through the feature excavated during the previous evaluation. An environmental sample of fill [113] produced a small assemblage of oak-dominated charcoal.

4.5 Overburden

- 4.5.1 All of the archaeological remains were overlain by c.0.3-0.45m of subsoil, [102], which was in turn overlain by 0.15-0.25m of topsoil, [101].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A moderate assemblage of finds was recovered during the strip, map and sample exercise. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. Finds were all packed and stored according to IFA guidelines. None of the finds require further conservation. An overview is shown in Table 3 below.

Context	Pot	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)
104	39	1170						
105	85	1702			1	6	1	34
109	2	8						
113	2	22						
102 (A1)			1	8	3	20		
102 (A2)			4	370				
Total	128	2902	5	378	4	26	1	34

Table 3: Overview of the hand collected finds assemblage

5.2 Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 In total, eight pieces of struck flint weighing 190 grams were recovered including four pieces hand-collected on site and four subsequently retrieved from residues of environmental samples. Three pieces came from Area 1 subsoil context [102], three came from the fill of Late Bronze Age pit [104] and the remaining two were recovered from fill [113]. The artefacts were manufactured on light grey flint. The condition of the material was fairly good with two artefacts displaying slight post depositional edge damage. The small assemblage comprised one blade, three blade-like flakes, two waste pieces, an axe sharpening flake and a retouched piece. The later consists of an awl/piercer. It is made on a blade. The proximal end has been shaped into a point. Clark separates awl from piercers on the basis of the retouches, with the rotating awl displaying both direct and inverse retouches (Clark 1960). The implement from Springfield Road would therefore consist of an awl; it is likely to be Mesolithic / early Neolithic.

5.2.2 Although no tranchet axes were recovered, the presence of the axe sharpening flake indicates that these tools were manufactured on the site during the Mesolithic period. The flake is slightly broken, but it remains a great example. It also suggests woodworking activities.

5.2.3 The small flint assemblage from Westcott demonstrates Mesolithic/early Neolithic occupation on the site. Finds of these dates are commonly recovered in the area, which was a focus of activity during the Mesolithic/early Neolithic period (Ellaby 1987, Jones 2013). Less than a km to the east of the site a group of flint including diagnostic microliths was found during field walking (SHHER 4470).

Proposed illustrations:

1. Axe sharpening flake. Context [102] (A1)]
2. Awl. Context [105]

5.3 Flint Pebble by Karine Le Hégarat

- 5.3.1 Fill [105] of pit [104] produced a small flint pebble with a naturally occurring perforation. The pebble probably originates from river gravels close by; however, it was noted as slightly atypical of natural inclusions from within the bounds of the site. Given its context, found alongside special deposits of pottery, it is possible that the pebble was a utilised or curated item.

5.4 The Prehistoric Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.4.1 A substantial assemblage prehistoric pottery was recovered from pit [106], totalling 124 sherds weighing 2.87 kg. The vast majority of the sherds derive from three or four vessels which appear to have been deposited in a semi-complete state probably as part of a structured deposit. The fabrics and forms of the vessels are probably consistent with a latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date (c.800-600BC) although some traits suggest that the group may have been deposited towards the end of this range or perhaps even into the 6th century BC.

- 5.4.2 The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope. The assemblage was quantified by sherd count, weight and Estimated Vessel Number (ENV). The following site specific fabric codes were devised using the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 2010):

QUFL1 A silty matrix containing sparse to moderate coarse quartz grains of 0.2-0.4mm. Rare flint occurs usually of <0.5mm although very rare examples of up to 2mm are present.

QUFL1 A silty matrix with moderate to common coarse quartz grains of 0.2-0.5mm. Sparse flint of 0.5-2mm occurs alongside rare/sparse large rounded red iron-rich grains of 1-2mm.

FLSH1 A silty matrix with sparse coarse quartz grains of 0.2-0.5mm. Sparse flint of 0.5-2.5mm occurs alongside sparse plate-like voids of 2-3mm, suggesting leached shell inclusions.

Overview

- 5.4.3 The primary fill of [106], [105], contained around 50% of a well burnished fine ware bowl in a quartz-rich fabric, QUFL1, containing rare flint-tempering. In total of 29 sherds weighing 356g were recorded from this vessel. The vessel has a narrow, slightly convex base, a fairly sharply defined shoulder and a long flaring rim. Although the vessel was not complete, the deposited portion of it appears to have been placed upright and intact close to the base of the cut (see front cover image).

- 5.4.4 Sherds from another vessel in a related but coarser fabric type, QUFL2, were

also recorded. This vessel is a jar with a wide, strongly-defined, but quite rounded shoulder. It has a narrow neck aperture in relation to its shoulder and an upright rim. It is well burnished above the shoulder but has rough, unfinished surfaces on the lower body. This vessel was also around half-complete, and like the bowl, appears to have been broken on the longitudinal axis prior to deposition; in total 68 sherds, weighing 1684g were recorded. The deposited portion was more fragmented in the ground; however, it was not clear whether this was a result of breakage prior to deposition or as a result of the weight of soil. Interestingly, about half of the sherds from the vessel were attributed to primary fill [105] and half to secondary fill [104]. It is possible that this was simply the result of difficulty in distinguishing the two fills at the interface although it could perhaps suggest that a semi-intact vessel was broken and mixed into both deposits as the pit was being backfilled.

- 5.4.5 Sherds from a third vessel were also recorded in upper fill [104]. This was a very large (300mm in diameter) shouldered jar with an upright neck and widely spaced finger-tip decoration on the rim and shoulder. It was made in a flint-with-shell fabric, FLSH1. The vessel was represented by some very large sherds from the rim and upper body, although it was less complete than the other two vessels (6 sherds, weighing 274g). However, a larger number of base and lower body sherds (19, weighing 510g) from a similar jar may be from the same vessel, although they displayed a slightly more oxidised firing colour and no cross-fits could be identified. The base of this vessel showed evidence of flint-gritting on the underside.
- 5.4.6 A small number of other broken sherds (16, weighing 210g from an estimated 14 vessels) were identified in fill [104]. These were all in comparable fabrics to the three/four main vessels. Only one diagnostic element was present a rim, in fabric FLSH1, from a jar with a narrow neck and shoulder with possible light finger-tipping along the top of the rim only.

Dating and parallels

- 5.4.7 Taken as a group, the vessels from pit [106] are probably most characteristic of the final (decorated) phase of the post-Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) tradition, as defined by Barrett (1980). This is currently understood to date to c.800-600BC (Needham 1996a). The sparse use of flint-tempering in quartz-rich clay matrixes and of flint-with shell fabrics are both traits associated with later PDR assemblages such as that from Petters Sports Field, Egham (O'Connell 1886). The occurrence of fingertip decoration on both rim and shoulder is another key decorated PDR trait, which is almost entirely lacking from earlier plain ware PDR assemblages like those from Runneymede (Longley 1991; Needham 1996b). A good parallel for this vessel can be found amongst one of the later vessels from the Heathrow Terminal 5 excavations (Leivers 2010, illustration 93). However, some elements may suggest that the vessels were deposited towards the later part of the decorated phase of the PDR tradition or perhaps even as late as the 6th century. For example the profile of the fine ware bowl is approaching that of tripartite bowls and its slightly convex base might suggest a precursor to omphalos bases, traits which belong to the Early Iron Age proper. Similarly very large vessels, like the finger-tipped jar from [105] tend to be more common by the Early Iron Age.

5.5 The Post-Roman Pottery by Luke Barber

5.5.1 The archaeological work recovered just four sherds of pottery from two interventions of the same ditch. Context [109] produced a 2g residual scrap from an 11th- to 12th- century vessel tempered with moderate/abundant flint grits to 1mm and a little sand, together with a slightly less abraded oxidised sandy ware bodysherd (6g) of mid 13th- to mid 14th- century date.

5.5.2 Context [113] produced the other two sherds, both of which are fresher but still affected by an acidic subsoil. The smaller (6g) is from a vessel tempered with medium/coarse sand, while the larger, an out-turned cooking pot rim, is in a coarse sandy greyware. Both sherds can be placed between c. 1175 and 1275.

5.5 The CBM by Trista Clifford

5.5.1 A small assemblage of five fragments of CBM weighing a total of 378g was recovered from subsoil [102]. The assemblage consists entirely of roofing tile. Five fabrics were recorded:

T1 Clean mid orange fabric with fine pale cream streak, very fine quartz and a fine to medium moderate red speckle

T2 Pale orange with pale cream streaks (50/50). Moderate coarse red ironstone moderate coarse grog inclusions and sparse fine quartz. Poorly sorted

T3 Mid orange. Sparse medium-coarse white quartz, sparse very coarse iron rich inclusions. Sparse coarse moulding sand; less well fired than other fragments- earlier?

T4 Mid orange. Frequent fine-coarse coloured angular quartz and frequent very coarse iron rich inclusions (ironstone?) and grog

T5 Dark red, well fired. Sparse to moderate medium to coarse white quartz; moderate coarse to very coarse iron rich inclusions and sparse coarse calcareous inclusions

5.5.2 Although one fabric, T3, maybe of slightly earlier date the assemblage as a whole is of post medieval date.

6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

by Karine Le Hégarat and Dawn Elise Mooney

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Two 40L bulk soil samples were taken during the strip, map and sample exercise to establish evidence for environmental indicators such as charred macrobotanical remains, wood, bones and molluscs. Sample <1> was extracted from the uppermost fill, [104], of Late Bronze Age pit [106] and sample <2> from the single fill [113] of medieval ditch [117].

6.2 Method

6.2.1 Samples <1> and <2> were processed in a flotation tank and the residues and flots were retained on 500µm and 250µm meshes and were air dried prior to sorting. The residues were passed through graded sieves (8, 4 and 2mm) and each fraction sorted for environmental and artefact remains (Table 4). The flots were scanned under a stereozoom microscope at x7-45 magnifications and their contents recorded (Table 5). Preliminary identifications were made for the macrobotanical remains by comparing them with specimens documented in reference manuals (Cappers *et al.* 2006, Jacomet 2006, NIAB 2004).

6.2.2 Charcoal fragments recovered from the heavy residue of each sample were fractured along three planes (transverse, radial and tangential) according to standardised procedures (Gale & Cutler 2000), and examined using an incident light microscope at 50x to 400x magnification in order to assess the range of woody taxa present. Identifications were made by D. E. Mooney using modern comparative material and reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch *et al.* 2004). Identifications have been given to species where possible, however genera, family or group names are given where anatomical differences between taxa are not significant enough to permit satisfactory identification. Nomenclature used follows Stace (1997), and taxonomic identifications of charcoal are recorded in Table 4.

6.3 Results

6.3.1 Sample <1> (fill [104] of pit [106]) produced a large flot (120ml) that consisted almost entirely of uncharred vegetation including fine rootlets as well as occasional modern weed seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). Overall, charred plant remains were sparse in this sample. No charred macroplants were evident, but a small assemblage of charred wood remains was present in the flot and residue. The charcoal fragments were moderately well-preserved, showing slight abrasion and some evidence of sediment concretion and infiltration linked to fluctuations in groundwater level. The charcoal assemblage was dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.), with small quantities of ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and alder (*Alnus* sp.) also recorded.

6.3.2 No other biological remains were recorded. Nonetheless, the residue produced some magnetised material, occasional fragments of pottery, a small quantity of worked flints and burnt stones. The latter were burnt to a reddish colour.

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal identifications	Other
1	104	Pit	40	40	**	6	***	16	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (96), <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (2), <i>Alnus</i> sp. (2)	Pottery **/84g - Flint **/38g - Burnt stone */70g - magnetised material ***/12g
2	113	Ditch	40	40	*	<2	**	<2	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (1), <i>Betula</i> sp. (1), <i>Quercus</i> sp. (7)	Magnetised material **/4g - Glass */<2g - Flint */8g - Pottery */<2g - Burnt stone ** / 184g

Table 4: Residue quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and weights (in grams)

6.3.3 The flot from sample <2> (fill [113] of ditch [117]) was smaller than the previous flot, but it too contained high proportion of uncharred rootlets. Uncharred weed seeds were also present including elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds. Very few charred macroplant remains were present. The very small assemblage of charcoal comprised mainly small-sized fragments <2mm and flecks, although occasional pieces >4mm were also present. These were identified as oak, beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and birch (*Betula* sp.). No macroplant remains were present, and the residue produced the same types of artefacts; a small quantity of pottery, flints, burnt stones and a small amount of magnetised material.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Seeds uncharred	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	104	6	120	120	90	1	* <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.	*	**	****
2	113	2	50	50	96	1	** <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	* (1)		**

Table 5: Flot quantification (* = 0-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51 – 250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

6.4 Discussion

6.4.1 Sampling has confirmed the presence of environmental remains including some wood charcoal fragments and a large amount of uncharred botanical

remains. When deposits remain sufficiently moist, uncharred plant remains can be preserved in anoxic conditions. However, although moist conditions were encountered, there was no evidence for waterlogged deposits at the site. The high concentration of uncharred plant remains indicates some post-depositional disturbance within the features with the possibility of contamination by later intrusions. Unfortunately, no charred macroplant remains that could have provided information regarding the Late Bronze Age and medieval agriculture or the local vegetation were present in these samples.

- 6.4.2 The charcoal assemblage suggests that wood for use as fuel at the site was procured from mixed deciduous woodland. The dominance of oak in sample <1> may indicate a specific selection of this taxon, which is known to make an excellent fuel wood (Taylor 1981). Oak wood is also valued as timber for both construction and joinery, and its use as fuel may suggest that oak trees were dominant in the landscape during the Late Bronze Age. The presence of alder may also indicate that damp woodland or wetland margin environments were exploited for fuel acquisition, or that alder wood was used for charcoal production (Taylor 1981). However, as both the samples originate from features representing the secondary deposition of burnt material rather than *in situ* burning, the material is likely to derive from multiple burning events and cannot further contribute to a discussion of the use of fuel woods for particular purposes at the site.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Natural Geology, Overburden and Evidence of Truncation

7.1.1 A variable but generally sandy natural layer, [107], recorded across both mitigation areas is thought to be bedrock geology of the Folkestone formation. A more localised sandy/silty clay layer, [103], which overlay [107] in the northern part of Areas 1 and 2 probably represents Quaternary Alluvium associated with Pipp Brook that flows just to the north of the site boundary (see 1.2.2).

7.1.2 All of the archaeological features and deposits were overlain by fairly thick deposits of subsoil and topsoil, suggesting that the site was relatively unaffected by later disturbance. However, the main north-north-east - south-south-west orientated ditch which crossed both mitigation areas was noticeably shallower in the central part Area 1, perhaps suggesting some horizontal truncation in this area.

7.2 Residual Earlier Prehistoric Flintwork

7.2.1 A small collection of flintwork from the site is all broadly of Mesolithic to early Neolithic character and includes a diagnostic axe sharpening flake and an awl/piercer. Very dense concentrations of flint have been noted in the fields immediately to the east of the site, perhaps suggesting Mesolithic settlement in the area (see 2.2.1). The current material demonstrates that some contemporary activity continued to the west of the known flint scatters, albeit at a much lower intensity.

7.3 Latest Bronze Age/Earliest Iron Age

7.3.1 A single well-dated latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age (c.800-600BC) pit, [104], is of particular interest because of the possible evidence for placed deposits within its fills. In the lower fill, [105], a fine ware bowl appeared to have been placed upright and partly intact near the base of the pit. Two, or possibly three, other partially-complete but more heavily fragmented vessels were also deposited above it, with very few sherds from other vessels.

7.3.2 Two other finds from this fill are also worth highlighting although it remains uncertain how deliberate was their inclusion in the pit. One of these is a Mesolithic/early Neolithic piercer/awl. Given the presence of Mesolithic/early Neolithic flintwork in a number of contexts from the site, including some of medieval date, it is certainly plausible that this object was accidentally incorporated in backfill. However, it also worth considering the possibility that this object was found in antiquity and deliberately placed in the feature. This context also contained a small flint pebble with a natural perforation. Although the pebble could have been obtained nearby, it did not seem to be natural to the geology within the bounds of the site, suggesting that it might have been a utilised or curated object.

7.3.3 The phenomenon of deliberate deposition of items like pottery vessels, querns, clay objects and animal remains is well known in the later Bronze Age (e.g. Needham & Spence 1996b; Proctor 2002,). One theme in research

on structured deposition is a link with domestic and agricultural cycles and the symbolism of life of death (e.g. Brück 1999; 2006).

7.3.4 However, what is perhaps most interesting about this example of a special pit deposit is its isolated location. Evaluation trenches produced no definitive evidence of other Late Bronze features on the site. A very small number of probably broadly contemporary pottery sherds were recovered in a deposit of colluvium during the previous evaluation, although they were perhaps residual within that deposit. Although, it is difficult to rule out the idea that further settlement features lie outside the bounds of the site, fairly extensive field-walking and some limited intrusive archaeological work in the wider vicinity has failed to produce any firm evidence of later Bronze Age activity (see 2.0). This may suggest that the pottery vessels and perhaps other curated objects were brought to an isolated place with the express purpose of deposition.

7.3.5 The presence of Pipp Brook, a tributary of the River Mole, may be therefore significant in the choice of location. The importance of rivers and other watery places as *foci* for special deposits in the later prehistoric period has been particularly highlighted in research from the Thames region (e.g. Sidell et al 2002 30-32; Lambrick 2009, 288-289; Poulton 2012, 22-26). Whilst this has often focused on the more exceptional metalwork finds, there is also good evidence that whole pots were deposited in or adjacent to rivers or channels (Lambrick 2009, 288-289). It is also perhaps worth mentioning evidence that special deposits may have been associated with crossing points. For example, at Eton Rowing Course, deposits of human bone and other domestic material, including whole pottery vessels were found in association with timber structures interpreted as bridges across a palaeochannel, representing a former course of the Thames (ibid). Although the brook and its surrounding landscape may have changed significantly since the later prehistoric period, a ford is thought to have been located just beyond the eastern site boundary since at least the medieval period (see 7.4.2)

7.4 Medieval

7.4.1 The east-north-east - south-south-west oriented ditch contained medieval pottery in three of the six excavated interventions. The dating of this material was a little mixed, the earliest sherds being of 11th-12th and the latest of mid 13th-mid 14th century date. However the absence of any later material probably suggests that the ditch was sealed by the mid 14th century.

7.4.2 Interestingly, this feature aligns almost exactly with a track which is shown on later 20th century mapping. This was first clearly depicted on the 1st edition OS of 1870, leading towards a ford over Pipp Brook, located just beyond the current eastern site boundary. The excavation suggests that the track and the crossing point may have existed in the medieval period. However, in the absence of a parallel linear feature, it is also perhaps possible that the ditch represents a medieval field boundary alongside which the trackway later developed.

8.0 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

8.1 Revised Research Agenda

8.1.1 This section combines those original research aims that the site archive has the potential to address with any new research aims identified in the assessment process by stratigraphic, finds and environmental specialists to produce a set of revised research aims that will form the basis of any future research agenda. A new set of revised research aims (RRA's) are posed as questions below.

RRA1 To determine whether the ditches identified within the evaluation were contemporary, and to attempt to refine their date and use through retrieval of further artefactual and environmental evidence.

One of the features originally interpreted as a ditch terminus, [2/004], in fact proved to be a shallow sub-circular discrete feature. As this was completely devoid of finds, it is impossible to define its date or function. Its slightly irregular profile might suggest that it represents a tree-throw. Further investigation of the other ditch identified during the evaluation, [5/008], suggests that it marked a boundary or trackway feature. Although the ditch itself seems to have been filled by the mid 14th century, the trackway remained in use until the later 20th century.

RRA2 To identify whether there were further discrete features in close proximity to the ditches and to date these where possible.

The only additional discrete feature identified during the strip, map and sample exercise, proved to be of earlier (latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age date)

RRA3 To further the study of rural settlement and land use in the medieval period

The strip, map and sample exercise did not contribute any direct evidence of settlement within the site. However, it provides some evidence that the trackway and ford across Pipp Brook were established and in use before the mid 14th century.

RRA4 To contribute to the study of the formation and change of parish and land boundaries in the medieval period, given the proximity of the site to the Great and Little Bookham parish boundary, formed by Chalk Pit Lane medieval holloway/track (HER 14828), which lies c.100m to the north of Pipp Brook.

The current work has not produced any clear evidence relating to parish boundaries although the ditch recorded, crossing Areas 1 and 2, may represent a field boundary as well as a track. If the trackway and associated ford were in use from the medieval period they would have likely have formed part of a wider network of transport routes connected with the larger medieval holloway.

8.2 Publication

- 8.2.1 Both the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic flintwork and the evidence suggesting that a post-medieval ford and associated trackway were established in the medieval period are of local significance and would merit dissemination. The evidence for a latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age special pit deposit perhaps has some limited wider regional significance because it contributes evidence relevant to research on structured deposition in the context of rivers and watery places as opposed to in settlement locations.
- 8.2.2 However, given the fairly limited nature of the archaeological remains there is no potential for further research or analysis and it is recommended that a short note of c.1000 words is prepared for *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, based on the above text. It is proposed that specialist information on the flintwork and pottery should be integrated into the stratigraphic text. This should include a single figure for site location, plans and photographs and another for finds including four pottery illustrations and two pieces of worked flint.

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HER Summary

Site Code	WSD10				
Identification Name and Address	Land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking Surrey				
County, District &/or Borough	Surrey				
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 1394 4893				
Geology	Sandstone of the Folkestone Formation; Quaternary Alluvium				
Arch. South-East Project Number	6593				
Type of Fieldwork		Excav.			
Type of Site	Green Field				
Dates of Fieldwork		Excav. 19.02.14- 05.02.14			
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd				
Project Manager	Jon Sygrave				
Project Supervisor	Hayley Nicholls				
Period Summary		Meso.		BA	
		MED			
Summary	<p>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake a programme of strip, map and sample, on land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking, following on from a previous evaluation on the site. The work produced a small assemblage of unstratified/residual Mesolithic to early Neolithic flintwork. Very dense scatters of flintwork have been reported in the fields to the east and the current work suggests some limited exploitation of the site itself during this period. A single pit appeared to represent a special deposit dating to the latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age, including three, or possibly four, partially complete pottery vessels. Given the absence of other settlement evidence, it is suggested that this may have been deposited in an isolated location chosen for its association with a nearby brook. Finally, a narrow medieval ditch was recorded crossing the site on an east-north-east west-south-west orientation. Interestingly this feature seems to be aligned with a trackway which survived in use into the late 20th century, leading to a ford across Pipp Brook. This suggests that the trackway and the crossing may have medieval origins.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-175834

Project details

Project name Archaeological Investigations on land north of Springfield Road, Wescott, Dorking

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East were commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd, to undertake a programme of strip, map and sample, on land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking, following on from a previous evaluation on the site. The work produced a small assemblage of unstratified/residual Mesolithic to early Neolithic flintwork. Very dense scatters of flintwork have been reported in the fields to the east and the current work suggests some limited exploitation of the site itself during this period. A single pit appeared to represent a special deposit dating to the latest Bronze Age/earliest Iron Age, including three, or possibly four, partially complete pottery vessels. Given the absence of other settlement evidence, it is suggested that this may have been deposited in an isolated location chosen for its association with a nearby brook. Finally, a narrow medieval ditch was recorded crossing the site on an east-north-east west-south-west orientation. Interestingly this feature seems to be aligned with a trackway which survived in use into the late 20th century, leading to a ford across Pipp Brook. This suggests that the trackway and the crossing may have medieval origins.

Project dates Start: 19-02-2014 End: 05-03-2014

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes 6593 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes WSD10 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Current Land use Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed

Monument type PIT Late Bronze Age

Monument type TRACKWAY Medieval

Significant Finds FLINT Mesolithic

Significant Finds POTTERY Late Bronze Age

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Investigation type "Part Excavation"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

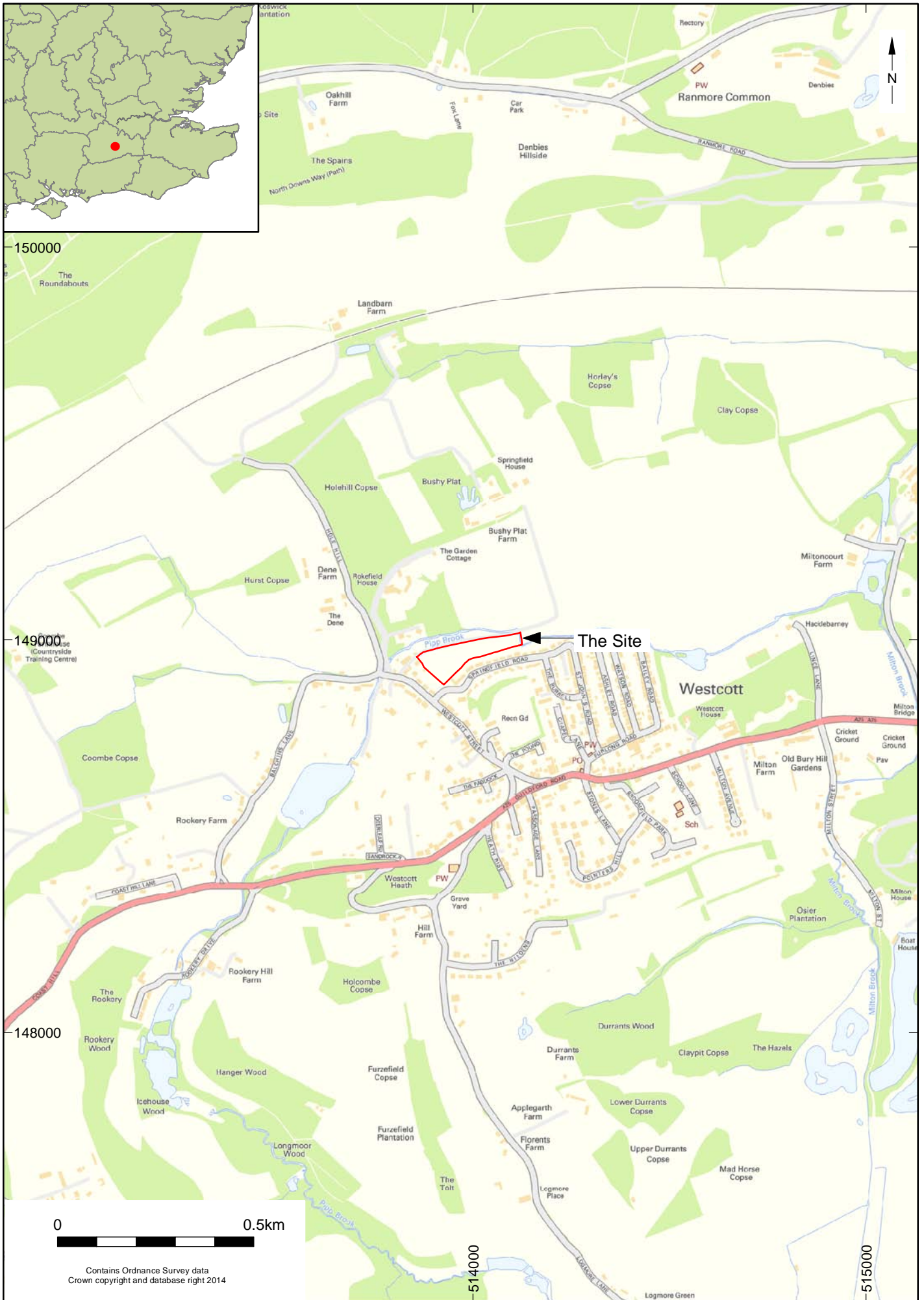
Country England

Site location SURREY REIGATE AND BANSTEAD REIGATE land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking

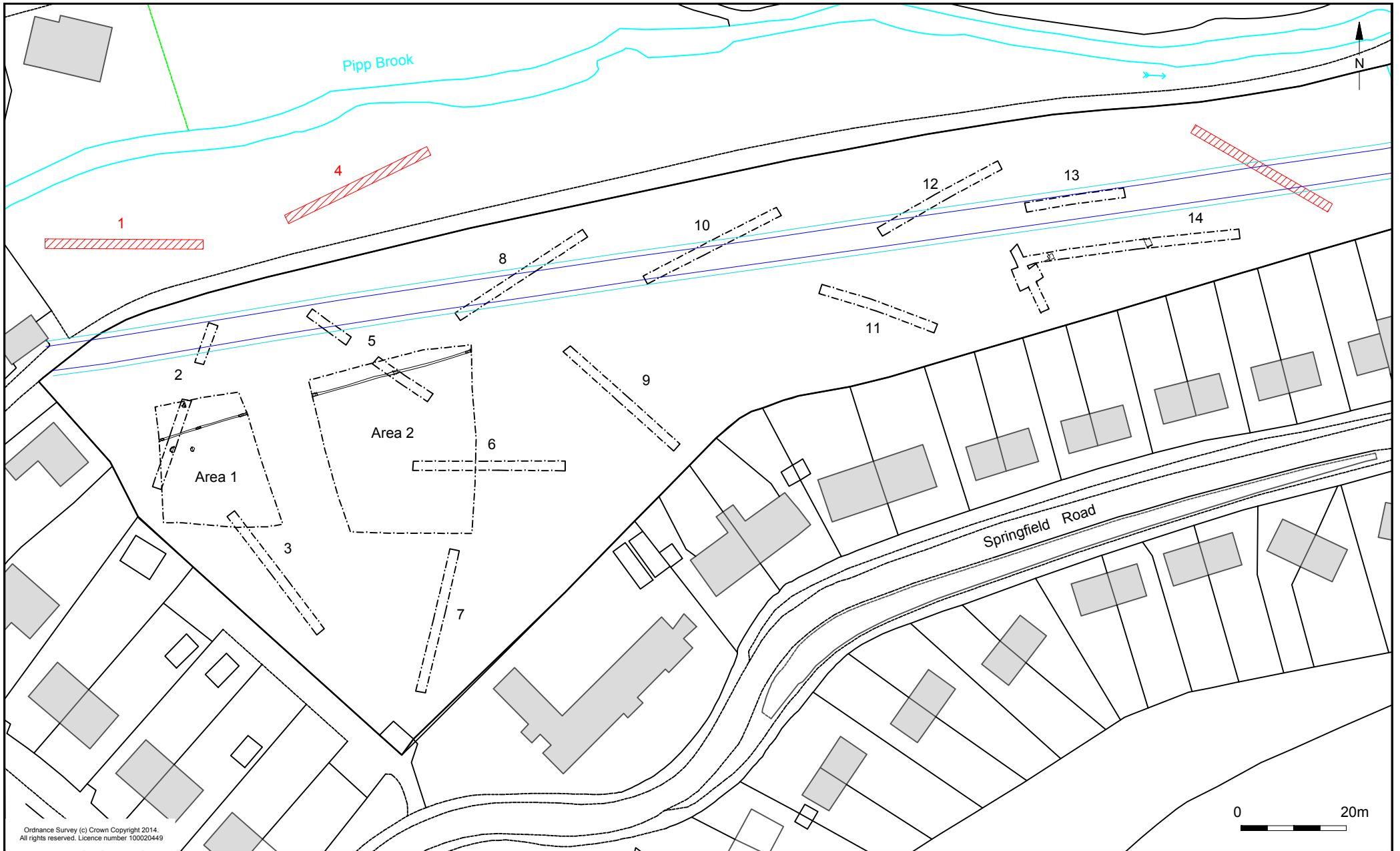
Postcode RH4 3PD

Study area	40.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1394 4893 51.2276490544 -0.368017236635 51 13 39 N 000 22 04 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 69.00m Max: 74.00m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Surrey County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Jon Sygrave
Project supervisor	Hayley Nicholls
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Unknown
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Unknown
Digital Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	Unknown
Paper Contents	"Ceramics","Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Section"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Investigations on Land to the North of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey: a Stripm Map and Sample Report and Updated Project Design for Publication
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Other bibliographic details	2014098
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© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6593	March 2014	Site location	
Report Ref: 2014083	Drawn by: RHC		



© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6593	March 2014	Location of SMS areas and evaluation trenches	
Report Ref: 2014083	Drawn by: RHC		

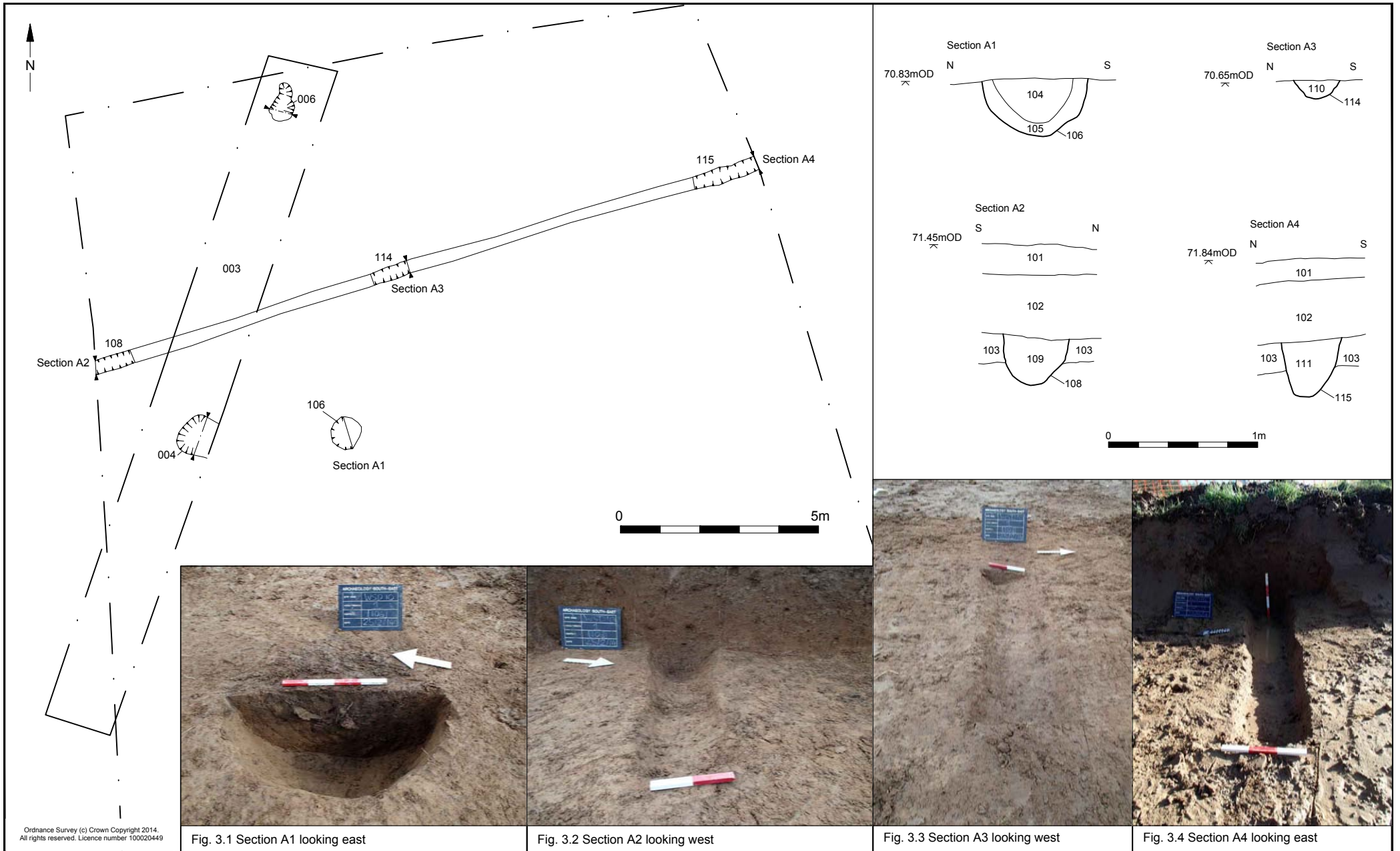


Fig. 3.1 Section A1 looking east

Fig. 3.2 Section A2 looking west

Fig. 3.3 Section A3 looking west

Fig. 3.4 Section A4 looking east

© Archaeology South-East		Land north of Springfield Road, Westcott, Dorking	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6593	March 2014	SMS area 1 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014083	Drawn by: RHC		

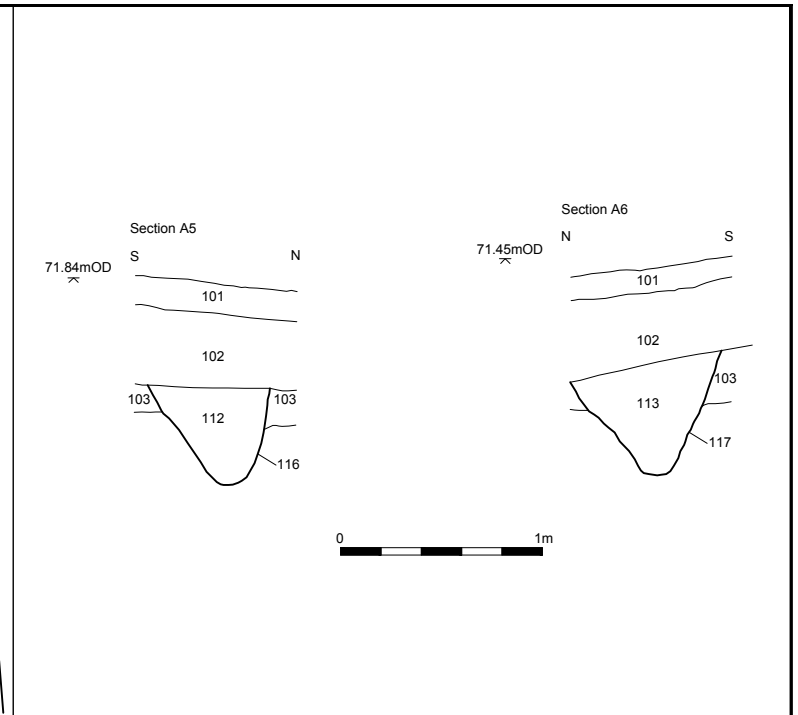
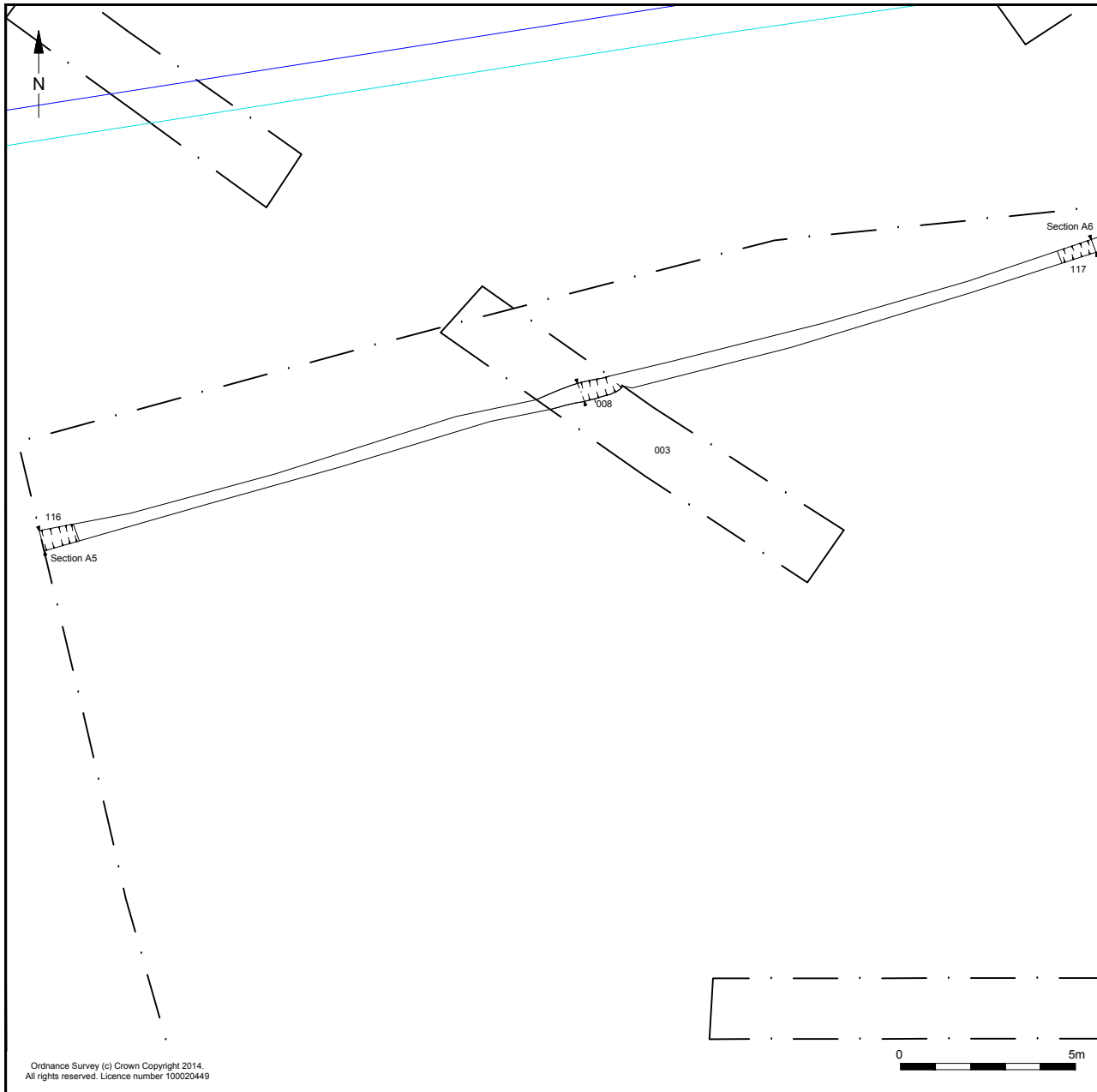


Fig. 3.5 Section A5 looking west



Fig. 3.6 Section A6 looking east

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Project Ref: 6593	March 2014	SMS area 2 plan, sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2014083	Drawn by: RHC		

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