

HER:

EVENT: 2335

SOURCE: 4996

5069-70 5056-8
5109-11

HENGROVE FARM, STAINES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK 2004 -2006
ASSESSMENT REPORT

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL



HENGROVE FARM, STAINES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK 2004 -2006
ASSESSMENT REPORT

TQ 0537 7199
(centred)

Project Manager	Rob Poulton
Authors	SCAU
Date	June 2007

Surrey County Archaeological Unit
Surrey History Centre
130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking, GU21 6ND
Telephone 01483 518 777 Facsimile 01483 518 780

2004-6 ASSESSMENT CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
2	STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT <i>by G N Hayman</i>	1
2.1	Introduction	1
2.2	The 2004 season	1
2.3	The 2005 season	2
2.4	The 2006 season	3
3	POTTERY ASSESSMENT <i>by P Jones</i>	3
3.1	2004 season	3
3.2	2005 season	57
3.3	2006 season	7
4	WORKED FLINT <i>by N Marples</i>	7
4.1	2004 season	7
4.2	2005 and 2006 seasons	9
5	OTHER FINDS <i>by K Ayres & P Jones</i>	10
5.1	2004 season	10
5.2	2005 and 2006 seasons	11
6	BONE	12
6.1	2004 season	12
6.2	2005 season <i>by Claire Ingrem</i>	13
6.3	2006 season <i>by Claire Ingrem</i>	16
7	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	17
8	REFERENCES	18

1 INTRODUCTION

Proposals put forward by Henry Streeter (Sand and Ballast Ltd) for mineral extraction at Hengrove Farm, near Staines (fig 1), resulted in a field evaluation being conducted by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit in October 1997. This work identified two specific areas of archaeological interest, Areas A and B, and identified remains elsewhere that seemed most likely to occur in isolation, or in small groups, rather than to belong to areas of intensive occupation. It was recommended that Areas A and B should be formally excavated prior to mineral extraction, and that the removal of overburden material (to the level of the undisturbed geology) be examined as part of a watching brief throughout the remainder of the permission, with provision being made for any features so discovered to be sampled and recorded (Hayman 1997). In addition, a further Area, C, was not evaluated at that time but was included as an area which would be subject to a controlled watching brief (strip, map and sample).

Two previous reports have provided an assessment of the results of all work up to 2002 (SCAU 2003), and an assessment of work completed in 2003 (SCAU 2004), setting out what has been discovered and proposals for further work needed to produce reports for eventual publication. The present report provides assessment reports and summaries of work carried out in 2004, 2005, and 2006. These have been prepared at different stages, and for the 2005 and 2006 seasons are not always comprehensive. The reason for this is that, before all such reports were prepared, it was decided that, as the 2006 season represented the final stage of work at the quarry, it would be appropriate to review the whole programme of work at the quarry and produce an 'Assessment of Assessments' that would provide an overall view of the archaeology at Hengrove Farm and the programme of work needed to produce a full and final report (SCAU 2007). In some cases this effectively obviated the need to produce individual Assessment reports for 2005 and 2006, and this is noted as appropriate in what follows. Unlike the earlier Assessment reports, the present one does not generally provide proposals for further work needed to produce reports for eventual publication, as these are incorporated into SCAU 2007. Where such estimates had already been prepared, they are retained here for comparative purposes, although they are superseded by those in SCAU 2007.

For convenience of reference a full set of context listings and finds listings for all years is provided separately on CD (in pocket at end of SCAU 2007)

2 STRATIGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT by G N Hayman

2.1 Introduction

It is the intention of this report to provide a brief summary of discoveries made in 2004, 2005, and 2006 (see fig 2 for location). The phasing of the remains suggested below and in the plan (see CD with SCAU 2007) is provisional at this stage, being offered in advance of consideration of the full range of information that will ultimately be available, but it is not anticipated that major amendments will be necessary in the future. A full context listing for each year is provided as Appendix 1.

2.2 The 2004 season

The work undertaken at Hengrove in 2004 covered approximately 2.5Ha, and lay to the north and west of that excavated in 2003. This led to the excavation of further features of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman origin, and also of various features of early medieval origin, these latter representing the first remains of this period to be discovered within the quarry. The vast majority of the features found belonged to the Bronze Age, and these consisted of a large number of ditches, at least seven water holes (two further, similarly deep, but otherwise smaller features may also have served this purpose), and numerous small pits and post holes. Many of the ditches were readily comparable with those of that date found previously, but others were of greater interest as they produced much larger quantities of pottery and struck flint. The majority of these more productive ditches were found in the northern part of the site and occupied a similar area to the greatest concentration of pits and post holes. There can be little doubt that the occupation concentrated in this area would have included dwellings, but no plans were recognised during the excavation and it was only possible to suggest the presence of one four-posted structure from the post holes discovered. A preliminary examination of the pottery discovered suggests that much

of it belongs to the Middle Bronze Age. Besides the pottery and struck flint the finds from these features were generally unexceptional, but also of interest was a human skull recovered from one of the possible water holes, and the articulated remains of a dog and the semi-articulated remains of other animals found in several insecurely dated, but potentially Bronze Age pits.

The Iron Age was represented by the eastern half of a ring gully, and, possibly, by a small number of pits which may not be securely datable. The western half of the gully lay beneath a baulk that will not be disturbed by quarrying, but the part that was dug included both terminals of the east facing entrance; this orientation being typical of Iron Age round houses. The excavation of this feature produced few finds, but several sherds of Iron Age pottery were recovered.

The Roman features primarily consisted of another water hole, and further parts of the enclosures revealed in 2003 and previously. Lack of time, partly caused by the unexpected volume of Bronze Age material revealed, meant that many of the ditches could not be sampled beyond what may have been done during other periods of work.

The early medieval features, which date to at least as early as the 11th century, consisted of several ditches, some pits, and a deep pit or well, and these were quite widely distributed over the southern and western part of the site area with no concentrations that seem particularly significant being present. Some of the ditches appear to belong to a boundary that ran in a north-west to south-easterly direction, roughly parallel to the extant field boundary, but much of this lay immediately adjacent to, or beyond the limit of excavation. Recutting showed that this boundary had been re-established several times, which indicates that it was long-lived, and, therefore, potentially of importance, but the limited finds recovered and the largely homogeneous fills that were encountered meant that the sequence was impossible to determine. Other, generally smaller ditches found within the excavation area may belong to a large enclosure lying adjacent to the northern side of this boundary. A few of the pits produced useful assemblages of pottery, which included several vessels that, after reconstruction, will be entirely or mostly complete. The absence of any structural remains belonging to this period, and the sporadic appearance of the non-linear features discovered, suggests that the settlement with which these features are presumably associated lay beyond the excavation area, towards the south and/or west.

2.3 The 2005 season

The work undertaken within the gravel quarry at Hengrove Farm, Staines, during 2005 covered two areas each of approximately 1.3 Ha. The northern of the two areas lay immediately north of an area examined in 2004 that included a large number of ditches, water holes and numerous small pits and post holes, producing substantial quantities of pottery and struck flint, of Middle Bronze Age date. This concentration of evidence did not extend far into the 2005 area, although this also produced almost exclusively Bronze Age evidence. Most of the features were ditches, forming part of the extensive co-axial field system uncovered at Hengrove (see Hayman 2005, 3-7 and 10-11, for details of earlier work).

The interest of the southern area (Area C on the plan in Hayman 2005, 10-11) was more diverse and bore a strong relationship to the area excavated in 2003 to the north. The earliest features were of Bronze Age date and consisted mostly of ditches which belong to the coaxial field system, but also included two substantial pits and several small pits or post holes. The field system has been traced across all areas of the quarry that have been examined since work began in 1999, and ditches in this area can be seen to align with features discovered at the Ashford Prison site to the south and east (Carew *et al* 2006), showing that the system extends over a block of land in excess of 50Ha. Iron Age and Roman features, predominantly ditches, formed a dense concentration in the northern part of Area C, and were themselves further disturbed by a number of early medieval ditches. Several Iron Age ring gullies, assumed to indicate the position of round houses, were identified. They form part of an open settlement area, for which considerable evidence was found to the north in 2003, and a substantial number of pits and post holes associated with it were also excavated in 2005. The pottery belongs to the Early, Middle and Late Iron Age, and suggests that occupation continued into the Roman period with no break. The Roman period is represented by a large number of ditches, various pits and post holes, and five water holes. Many of the ditches discovered were in use during the late 1st century AD, some of these probably having origins in the Late Iron Age, and belong to a system of fields and

enclosures that links with the substantial area of similar features seen in 2003. Some early medieval ditches ran in a west to east direction, roughly parallel to the extant field boundary, and these may link to similar features identified in 2004, to the north-west. Two human skeletons were also identified, but were without associated finds, and are presently of uncertain date.

2.4 The 2006 season

The majority of features discovered during the 2006 excavation were further parts of the extensive Bronze Age co-axial field system which has been found throughout the Hengrove Farm quarry and also at the Ashford Prison site (Carew et al 2006) site immediately to the south, systems of this type being well known throughout the region (for example at Perry Oaks - see Barrett *et al*, 2000, 2001). As seen elsewhere at Hengrove, the parts of this field system which survive within the archaeological record consist primarily of linear segmented boundaries which are aligned roughly north-south and east-west, the different elements of these boundaries varying considerably in length, width and depth, and in places showing signs of having been recut or otherwise modified at different times. The reason for these differences and modifications are unclear, as is the reason for them being segmented (with gaps of varying length occurring between the elements) rather than being dug as a continuous feature to form a more conventional ditched boundary, but it is possibly that they served primarily as markers (associated with usage or ownership, perhaps), and/ or that they were associated with more substantial above ground features, such as hedgerows, for which no evidence has survived. Where modifications did occur it is unclear whether this was intended to close up areas of open ground between existing segments, or to re-establish parts of the boundary where infilling had taken place.

The majority of segments excavated were relatively uninteresting in terms of finds recovered from their fills, which was not surprising given that they presumably occurred within fields away from areas of more intense occupation such as settlement, but in some cases the totals and/ or type of material found was of greater potential significance. The 33 struck flints from segment 5171 of ditch 5170 may, for example, indicate that some localised flint working had taken place in that vicinity, and the very substantial total from the final infill deposit of segment 5181 (ditch 5180) suggests both this and that the feature had been deliberately infilled, at least in its final stages. In addition to the flints, the recovery of eleven sherds of pottery from 5181, and the relatively large total of five sherds collected from ditch 5003 to the east of it, may provide further evidence that an area of more intensive occupation was situated just beyond the southern boundary of the site.

With the exception of the small number of modern features discovered which require no further mention here, the remaining man-made features revealed by the excavation consisted of a couple of possible pits, a large pit or possible well, and a probable cremation burial, all of which were comparable with similar features found previously at Hengrove

Tree throws have been seen throughout the quarry, and a selection of the large number seen in 2006 were excavated. Apart from one small scrap of roof tile (almost certainly intrusive), the finds recovered from the tree throws consist of material of Bronze Age and earlier origin which was mostly recovered from the surfaces or upper parts of the fill; the Bronze Age material may be limited to the four small sherds from 5019, but the flintwork is generally of Early Bronze Age or Neolithic date (see SCAU 2007, the flintwork report, for further comment on this and the implications for clearance of the landscape at that time).

3 POTTERY ASSESSMENT by P Jones

3.1 2004 season

Introduction

The greater majority of the collection is of MBA date, but a significant minority is of 11th to 12th century medieval sherds. There are also a few context assemblages of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, as well as some of Late Iron Age/early Roman and late Roman date.

All sherds/vessels were examined at X20 magnification and separated according to their ware/fabric during the primary assessment. No further fabric analysis will be necessary.

All sherds were also quantified by count and weight within each context assemblage and for each fabric variant. Quantification by EVEs has been undertaken for all Roman and medieval

fabrics in the same manner, but not for the prehistoric material because rims were generally too variable to be precise about the measurement of their diameters. No further quantification work will be necessary.

Middle Bronze Age

The latest sherds from 74 features were of Deverel-Rimbury fabrics and forms, and include small collections from 16 ditches/gullies, 24 pits, six waterholes, seven postholes, three hollows and 18 'sausages' (short lengths of ditch with a slight curvature). Only two features yielded more than 30 sherds ('sausages' 2663 and 2708), although it should be noted that such 'counts' involved the inclusion of joining fragments of the same vessels as single 'sherds'. Amongst the coarseware forms are bucket and barrel urns, most often with finger-impressed cordons and sometimes with impressed rims, of which there are six complete or $\frac{3}{4}$ -profiles, over 30 rims and 12 body sherds with parts of other such cordons. There are also many sherds from fineware globular jars, including two $\frac{3}{4}$ -profiles and parts of at least five other vessels, most of which have burnished geometric decoration; and a complete cup in an unusual sandy fabric.

Iron Age

Two pits, a 'sausage' and a ditch contained single sherds of Early to Middle Iron Age fabrics, and another ditch contained a small assemblage of Late Iron Age pottery including three rims of jars.

Roman

Roman pottery was recovered from 14 features including 7 ditches/gullies, 3 pits, 2 postholes, a waterhole and a burrow. As with the prehistoric material, however, most feature assemblages are small, and only one contains more than twenty sherds (ditch 2594). Some include only early Roman types, but a few are of 4th century date, including that of ditch 2594, with eight rim sherds.

Early Medieval

Later 11th and 12th century pottery was recovered from 9 ditches/gullies, 12 pits, a posthole and a well. The collection is important because it is from a seldom sampled settlement type: that of a small rural holding of the immediately post-Conquest period, and which seems to have been abandoned before the end of, or soon after, the 12th century. It includes coarsewares in a variety of fabrics, most of which are cooking-pots, but bowls and a spouted pitcher are also present.

Work Outstanding

FABRIC /FORM ANALYSES

All such work was done during the spot-dating examination.

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR PUBLICATION

Sketches of featured sherds (profiles, rims, decorated or oddly configured material, some bases) accompany the spot-dating catalogue prepared during the primary assessment, and were used to enable an overview of what ought to be drawn for publication. The selection of items accords with two criteria.

The first concerns the costs involved in drawing, annotating and pasting pottery illustrations for publication, especially since most recommended for inclusion are prehistoric. Such hand-made material usually requires more considered illustration than normally suffices for later material. For that reason, care has been taken to select only the minimum number of the best examples of the collection to be illustrated.

A second criterion was the inclusion of only the best representative single feature assemblages of the Middle Bronze Age and of the early medieval period. No Iron Age or Roman feature assemblages have been selected, since they are better represented in the HFS 03 collection, and very few individual pieces of intrinsic interest of those dates.

REPORT/CATALOGUE/DISCUSSION PREPARATION

These need to be written, although there will not be an item by item catalogue in the conventional sense.

TASKS & SCHEDULE

Drawing for publication/paste-up, numbering etc @ 6 per day

MBA: 60 items including 4 full profiles, 5 ¾ profiles,
c35 rims, 16 dec

10

Early Med: 14 items including 5 full profiles and 9 rims

2.5

Preparation of Written Reports

3

Editing, Misc

1

Total 16.5 days

3.2 2005 season

INTRODUCTION

Pottery was recovered from 455 contexts of the site that, combined, amount to 167 features or layers and 45 that were mixed. The breakdown by period and type of feature is given below:

	<i>BA</i>	<i>E-MIA</i>	<i>M-LIA</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>MED</i>	<i>PM</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Ditches	3	3	2	45	2	1	56
Gullies	-	5	2	8	-	-	15
Pits	2	25	7	18	-	-	52
PHs	4	9	2	2	-	-	17
Hollows	-	3	-	2	-	-	5
Ringditches	-	5	-	-	-	-	5
W'holes/Wells	-	2	-	5	-	1	8
'Sausages'	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Layers	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Palaeochannel	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Scoops	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Burials	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
4-poster	-	1	-	-	-	-	<u>1</u>
					<i>total:</i>		167

The greater majority of the collection is of Roman material, most especially of the late 1st century and including an overlap with pottery of Late Iron Age date. There are also reasonable groups of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery, but only a few that are of Mid to Late Bronze Age date and none that could be demonstrated to have been earlier. In addition, there are a few medieval sherds and a handful of post-medieval date.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

Fabric/Form Analyses

All sherds/vessels of all periods were examined at X20 mag and separated according to their ware/fabric during the primary assessment. No further fabric analysis will be necessary. During these analyses all 'figured' material (rims, bases, decoration etc) were sketched, and diameters calculated.

Quantification

All sherds have been quantified by count and weight within each context assemblage and for each fabric variant. Quantification by EVEs has been undertaken for all Roman and medieval fabrics in the same manner, but not for the prehistoric material because rims were generally too variable to be precise about the measurement of their diameters. No further quantification work will be necessary.

WORK OUTSTANDING

Illustrations for archive and publication

Sketches of featured sherds prepared during the primary assessment were used to enable an overview of what ought to be drawn for archive and publication. It is recommended that the profiles and details of all such pottery of prehistoric or 'native Roman' type be drawn for archive.

The selection of the proportion of prehistoric and 'native' types, and of later material, that ought to be drawn for publication, meets three criteria. The first concerns the costs involved in drawing, annotating and pasting pottery illustrations for publication, especially since most recommended for inclusion are prehistoric. Such hand-made material usually requires more considered illustration than normally suffices for later material. For that reason, care has been taken to select only the minimum number of the best examples of the collection to be illustrated. The second criterion was the inclusion of only the best representative single feature assemblages for each period represented, and the last concerns those of intrinsic interest not otherwise included.

Prehistoric Feature/Layer Groups and intrinsic material for full illustrated publication:

Ring Ditch 4476	(16 figs)	E-MIA
Waterhole 4544	(8 figs)	E-MIA
Ringditch 4680	(9 figs)	E-MIA
Ringditch 4681	(3 figs)	MIA
intrinsic items	(23 figs)	BA-LIA

Roman Feature/Layer Groups and intrinsic material for full illustrated publication:

Ditch 4140	(19 figs)	Late 1st c
Ditch 4260	(8 figs)	Late 1st
Pit 4266	(2 figs)	Late 1st
Enclosure Ditch 4410	(33 figs)	Late 1st c
Ditch 4565	(8 figs)	Late 1st c
Ditch 4474	(10 figs)	Late 1st c
Pit 4757	(54 figs)	Late 1st c
Ditch 4765	(16 figs)	Late 1st c
Ditch 4182	(53 figs)	2nd/3rd
Layer 4202	(8 figs)	2nd/3rd
Ditch 4263	(7 figs)	2nd/3rd
intrinsic items	(8 figs)	various

*It should be noted that the illustration of these feature/layer groups of Roman date will be subject to review when a full, whole site assessment is prepared. It may be that groups excavated in previous years better exemplify the range of vessels/ fabric types current for any particular sub-period, and that some of the above need not, therefore, be illustrated for publication. The figures for outstanding work given below, however, currently includes them all.

Medieval Items for illustrated publication

Ditch 4137	(1 fig; full profile)	L12th/E13th
------------	-----------------------	-------------

Report/Catalogue/Discussion preparation

These need to be written, although there will not be an item by item catalogue in the conventional sense.

TASKS & SCHEDULE

Drawing for archive all prehistoric and 'native' featured sherds; 225 @ 50 p d	4.5
Drawing for publication/paste-up, numbering etc @ 6 p d; prehistoric: 59 items	10
@10 per day; Roman: 226 items	23
@ 6 per day; medieval: 1 (full profile)	0.5
Preparation of Written Report s	10

Preparation of Tables
Editing, Misc

5
1
54 days

3.3 2006 season

INTRODUCTION

Pottery was recovered from 39 contexts of the site. The total number of sherds amounted to only 73, of which all except six were of Bronze Age date, and most of these came from segments of the field boundary ditches. The small numbers, and their dispersed locations (the largest number of sherds from a single context was 8) mean that little comment is called for here, but the minimal amount of further work needed is incorporated into the overall assessment in SCAU 2007.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

Fabric/Form Analyses

All sherds/vessels of all periods were examined at X20 mag and separated according to their ware/fabric during the primary assessment. No further fabric analysis will be necessary. During these analyses all 'figured' material (rims, bases, decoration etc) was sketched, and diameters calculated.

Quantification

All sherds have been quantified by count and weight within each context assemblage and for each fabric variant. Quantification by EVEs has been undertaken for all Roman and medieval fabrics in the same manner, but not for the prehistoric material because rims were generally too variable to be precise about the measurement of their diameters. No further quantification work will be necessary.

4 WORKED FLINT *by N Marples*

4.1 2004 season

QUANTIFICATION

1282 items of flintwork were recovered from 251 flint-bearing contexts. 22 contexts from 16 separate features yielded more than 10 pieces: 2356 SURF; 2356 A SPIT 1; 2414 A; 2414 B, 2432; 2442; 2476; 2541; 2541 B; 2621 B; 2625; 2663 S. SEG; 2664; 2685; 2693; 2707; 2708 SURF; 2729 A; 2729 A (S.); 2746 A; 2783 and 2784.

The most significant groups numerically are: Bronze Age waterholes 2356 (85 flints including 12 cores and 14 tools) and 2541 (80 flints including 6 cores and 2 tools). BA pit 2414 (45 flints including 6 cores and 7 tools); Bronze Age Northern ditch terminals 2664 (59 flints including 5 cores and 6 tools) and 2685 (40 flints including 3 cores and 7 tools); ditch segment 2693 (26 flints including 7 tools); ditch 2728/9 (83 flints including 8 cores and 12 tools); and Southern ditch terminal 2746 (143 flints including 16 cores and 27 tools). Most, if not all, of these clusters were found in direct association with Deverel-Rimbury pottery and include very little residual material.

A few other contexts yielded significant numbers of tools: BA pit 2429 (4 tools and 5 other items); pit 2446 (9 flints including 6 tools); Northern ditch terminal 2700 (7 flints including 4 tools); 2708 (18 flints including 6 tools); and paired Northern ditch terminals 2735 (4 flints including 3 tools) and Southern ditch terminal 2734 (7 flints including 3 tools).

RAW MATERIAL

As with most previous phases of work, virtually all of the material recovered is of local gravel flint. 11 flakes (including 1 core tablet) are of Bullhead flint: similar quantities have been collected in previous years and are usually associated with Neolithic flintworking. There are also several items of honey-coloured flint including one polished axe fragment.

CONDITION

Most Bronze Age flintwork is fresh and unabraded. There are a few earlier pieces which are slightly rolled. Finds from the Southern end of the site where calcareous clays outcrop are patinated pale blue/white. 21 flakes and blades are broken and 47 pieces are burnt.

TECHNOLOGY & DATING

There are a small number of diagnostically pre-Bronze Age artefacts, most of which were recovered from later features. These include two burins of Mesolithic or earlier date, two serrates and a subsequently re-worked polished axe fragment which are probably Neolithic. A number of more proficiently worked scrapers made on regular flake blanks, as well as a blade endscraper, are also likely to span the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. A few flakes (including the Bullhead flint pieces noted above) and blades are more characteristic of pre-Bronze Age flintworking.

The bulk of the material collected is, however, clearly of later Bronze Age date. There are large numbers of irregular pieces, including much core shatter and thermal flakes. The few regular flakes present in Middle Bronze Age features are often squat and thick. Hinge terminations are not uncommon. Most cores are multi-platform flake types. Irregular waste, cores and flakes all often bear evidence of hard-hammer miss-hits in the form of incipient cones of percussion.

From secure Bronze Age contexts, the limited 'standard' tool inventory comprises crude scrapers, piercers, denticulates and notches. There are also a number of less formal tool types including 'core tools' and miscellaneous retouched and utilized pieces similar to later Bronze Age material from Grimes Graves (Herne 1991), the Marlborough Downs (Harding 1992) and Beddington (Bishop 2001). Although locally derived gravel pebbles have been used almost exclusively for the manufacture of Bronze Age tools, evidence for the recycling of better quality raw material may be present in the form of a polished axe fragment with stepped retouch and a Neolithic type scraper with incipient cones on its dorsal surface, features which are most characteristic of later Bronze Age flintworking. The higher proportion of tools collected from Bronze Age contexts during the 2004 phase of archaeological work at Hengrove is noteworthy and may relate to domestic 'midden' type of other patterned depositional practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations made in the interim Flintwork Assessment Report for Hengrove Farm 1997-2003 (Marples 2004) remain valid despite the large increase in volume of lithic finds resulting from archaeological work in 2004. Briefly,

- the 2004 flintwork should be collated with earlier data and grouped by context phase/type;
- distribution maps should be prepared for all lithic finds and significant artefact categories;
- the material should be considered in regard to its association with other finds and precise depositional contexts;
- selected groups of securely dated Bronze Age lithics should be examined in greater detail to investigate flintworking strategies, tool use and patterns of lithic discard across the whole of the area investigated.

TABLE 1. HENGROVE FARM, STAINES (HFS 1997-2004): FLINTWORK TOTALS BY WORK PHASE (ALL CATEGORIES)

	199 7	199 9	200 0	200 1	200 2	200 2b	200 3	200 4	TOT AL
FLAKES	57	129	5	233	302	205	231	431	1593
IRREGULAR WASTE	2	28	3	30	218	150	130	496	1057
CORES	2	33	2	31	62	41	41	127	339
MISC. UTILIZED	17	3	0	18	20	1	7	47	113
SCRAPERS	3	5	1	7	11	4	14	61	106
BLADES	2	6	0	21	7	3	32	17	88
MISC. RETOUCHE	10	5	0	4	7	4	5	12	47
AWLS	1	0	1	1	8	2	3	30	46
CHIPS	0	4	0	8	7	15	10	1	45
NOTCHES	2	0	1	1	5	0	4	17	30
DENTICULATES	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	23	26
REJUVENATION FLAKES	0	1	0	3	9	0	3	3	19
SERRATES	1	0	0	3	2	1	2	2	11
POLISHED AXES & FLAKES	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	7
HAMMERSTONES	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	9
CORE TOOLS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	6
FABRICATORS	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
COMBINATION TOOLS	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	3
BURINS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3
MICROLITHS	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
KNIVES	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
BRUISED BLADES	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
LEAF ARROWHEADS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TRANSVERSE ARROWHEADS	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	98	215	13	366	665	489	489	128 2	3557

TABLE 2 HENGROVE FARM, STAINES (HFS 97-04): CORE CLASSIFICATION

CORE TYPE	TOTAL	%
SINGLE PLATFORM	78	23
DOUBLE PLATFORM	64	18.9
MULTI PLATFORM	51	15
KEELED	22	6.5
DISCOIDAL	1	0.3
TESTED NODULES	15	4.4
FRAGMENTS	108	31.9
TOTAL	339	100

4.2 2005 and 2006 seasons

These two seasons produced a substantial proportion of the flintwork from the whole campaign of archaeological work, and this is tabulated in Appendix 1. The overall assessment (SCAU 2007) looks at the whole assemblage from the site and provides the detailed assessment for these years.

5 OTHER FINDS *by K Ayres & P Jones*

5.1 2004 season

Metalwork

The metalwork assemblage from the 2004 excavations consisted of:

Silver spoon fragment

Copper alloy coins x2

Copper alloy objects x 6

Iron nail x 3

Iron objects x 5

Lead objects x 7

The iron objects (excluding the nail) were sent to the Museum of London Specialist Services for x-ray, as were the coins, which will also be cleaned and identified. All the objects will need to be fully identified and catalogued for the main report.

Glass

Three small fragments of glass were collected, but all were from modern vessels and need no further work.

Clay pipe

A single clay pipe was recorded. Although only a section of stem survived, the bowl was complete and can be dated. Stamped letters (makers mark) were noted on the spur.

Clay object

A fragment of a biconical spindlewhorl (weighing 18g) was recovered from waterhole 2441.

Stone and stone objects

45 fragments of stone, weighing 8249g were recorded, some of which appear to have been utilised as tools, and there are some quernstone fragments included in the assemblage. These include:

Pebbles used as hammerstones x2

Smoothed pebbles x2

Fragment of whetstone

Possible quern fragment x2

Shaped as bricks x2?

The stone objects/tools require further identification and study, and the remaining fragments will need to be identified geologically.

Ceramic building materials

A relatively small number of tiles were recovered and identified, only 59 fragments weighing just over 6kg. They include both Roman and medieval/postmedieval roof and floor tiles, with those from the latter period being the most frequent. A small quantity of tiles were undated. A short paragraph of discussion and spatial analysis is needed in the main report.

	ROMAN		MED/PM			Unid	TOT
	Tegula	Misc	Roof	Floor	Misc		
N	5	2	14	3	12	23	59
Wgt	372	170	2120	895	922	1562	6041

Baked clay

429 fragments (4020g) of baked clay were recorded, many of which displayed distinct wattle impressions and had smoothed surfaces. The greatest single amount (over 2kg) was recovered from pit 2498, but there were also large numbers retrieved from other individual features. A short discussion of the baked clay and the distribution of fragments is needed.

Burnt flint

Over 44kg of burnt and calcined flint were recorded. Although these were collected from a variety of features, there were some individual features from which large quantities were retrieved. A short discussion of the burnt flint and the distribution of fragments is needed.

Shell

53 snail and 2 oyster shells were recovered from various contexts, the largest quantity (39 snail shells) from well 2558.

Human bone

A partial skeleton was found amongst animal bone within well/deep pit 2429, of probable Bronze Age date.

This will need to be fully identified and recorded, and the circumstances/significance of its deposition in this feature assessed

Wood

Seven small fragments of unburnt wood were collected from scoop/posthole 2582 and 5 fragments of burnt wood from waterhole 2652.

Charcoal

A very small amount of charcoal (4g) was collected from three features.

5.2 2005 and 2006 seasons

The quantity of material from the 2006 season was very small, and it has, therefore, been included with the 2005 material to avoid an unnecessarily large amount of repetition.

Metal

Copper Alloy

In addition to five Roman coins, twenty objects were recovered, of which most were from Roman contexts, including part of a brooch, a tack head, a stud and four pins. Four buckles, a thimble and two drawer handles, however, are likely to be of post-medieval date.

The coins will be sent to the Museum of London Specialist Services for x-ray, and will also be cleaned and identified. All the objects will need to be fully identified and catalogued for the main report.

Iron

The collection is mostly of objects from Roman contexts that include a brooch, a ring, a possible bracelet, a socketed object, 117 nails, seven knife blades and 37 other indeterminate objects. Nine horseshoes and two buckles, however, are of medieval or later date.

The iron objects (excluding the nails) will be sent to the Museum of London Specialist Services for x-ray, as were the coins, which will also be cleaned and identified. All the objects will need to be fully identified and catalogued for the main report.

Lead

There are eight indeterminate objects from Roman contexts that are mostly fragments of sheet, but there are also four musket balls and a bullet. No further work is needed on this material

Brass

Two post-medieval objects include a stud and another of uncertain function. No further work is needed on this material

Baked Clay

In addition to a spindle-whorl from a Roman context and part of a triangular loomweight from an Iron Age feature, a very large quantity of burnt walling daub (1417 pieces; 11.4kg) was sampled

from Late Iron Age and Early Roman features, many fragments of which include wattle impressions.

Ceramic Building Material

A total of 311 fragments of tile were recorded, together weighing just over 29kg

- 278 Roman tile fragments (275 from 2005 Area C) consisting of tegulae, imbrices and floor tiles, as well as one example of the spica type.
- 33 fragments could be identified as medieval/postmedieval, but call for little comment.

Stone Objects

Querns

Eight fragments from saddle querns of Lower Greensand Hythe Beds could be positively identified, and another nineteen pieces are from either saddle or rotary querns. In addition, twelve fragments of nephrite rotary querns were recovered from Roman contexts as well as one of sandstone.

Whetstone

Three examples made from siliceous sandstone were recovered.

Polished Stones

The collection includes two pebbles of sarsen and one of sandstone from prehistoric features.

Shale

A single bead from a Roman context.

Burnt Flint

5529 pieces (101.7kg) were recovered from the site, and the great majority were from prehistoric features.

Glass

Eight fragments of vessel glass were recovered from Roman features.

Tobacco Pipes

Seven fragments were recovered from post-medieval contexts.

6 BONE

6.1 2004 season

Animal bone

A total of 954 animal bone fragments were recorded, approximately half of which could be identified to species. These were retrieved from a variety of features across the site, which dated from the Bronze Age onwards. Phasing of the features is not available at this point and only a basic assessment can be given, but fuller phasing will allow a more comprehensive discussion.

Species	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Horse	Dog	Deer	Red deer	Roe deer	Bird	Cattle- size	Sheep- size	Human	Unidentified	Total
Total	78	24	5	10	2	4	2	2	2	279	33	1	512	954

Condition of the bone was very mixed, ranging from 1 (excellent condition) to 5 (identifiable only as 'bone') as set out below. However, those fragments which survived in better condition displayed evidence of butchery, gnawing and burning, and ageing and sexing data was also retained.

Condition	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Total	22	26	59	53	26	186

There were some interesting features of the assemblage, including
 Bird skeleton within pit 2428
 Sheep skeleton within pit 2430

6.2 2005 season by Claire Ingrem

A considerable quantity of animal bone was recovered from Area C, Hengrove Farm, Staines during excavation by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit in 2005. The material came from a variety of features including pits, postholes, ditches, gullies and layers that range in date from the Iron Age through until the Post-medieval period.

In addition to the material discussed in this report, animal bone has been recovered from other areas of Hengrove Farm during previous excavations. Consequently, the findings of this report should be viewed alongside reports dealing with work undertaken in earlier years.

Methods

The assemblage was examined in September 2006. All bone fragments over 10mm were examined, with the number of potentially identifiable and unidentifiable bones being counted for each context, to provide a basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimens Present). The number of bones or teeth that could provide metrical, ageing or sexing information was recorded, and the presence of butchery, burning and gnawing marks was noted.

Condition of the bone

In order to estimate the potential of an assemblage to provide taphonomic information, the condition of the bone in each bag is graded on a scale of 1 to 5. That assigned to '1' is deemed to be in excellent condition, demonstrating little post-depositional damage whilst bone material classed as '5' has suffered severe surface erosion and can be identified only as 'bone'. The condition of the bone recovered from Area C, Hengrove Farm is shown in Table 1 according to phase, clearly the majority is in moderate (Grade 3) condition with similar proportions in both good (Grade 2) and poor (Grade 4) condition.

Table 1. Condition of the bone (number of bags)

	Condition					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
Bronze Age	1	1	0	6	15	23
Bronze/Iron Age			1		1	2
Iron Age		34	90	53	7	184
Iron Age/Roman		8	6	3	5	22
Roman		98	118	54	15	285
Medieval			1	2	1	4
Post-medieval			1			1
Undated/unstratified			1	7	1	9
Total	1	155	240	133	45	574

Data

A total of 6,139 fragments of animal bone were recovered from Area C of which 20% are identifiable (Table 2). Most derive from Iron Age and Roman deposits although a significant number are from Bronze Age context

Table 2. Taxa representation (NISP)

	Bronze Age	Bronze/Iron Age	Iron Age	Iron Age/Roman	Roman	Medieval	Post-medieval	?	Total
Cattle	16		174	10	231			46	477
Sheep/goat	2	2	69	20	240		3	28	364
Pig			35	0	23			4	62
Horse	6		87	5	113			13	224
Dog			2	12	62		1		77
Deer			3						3
Other					2				2
Galliform					1				1
Bird					1			1	2
Fish					1				1
Unidentifiable	473	5	1643	170	2267	45		323	4926
Total	497	7	2013	217	2941	45	4	415	6139
Total identifiable	24	2	370	47	674		4	92	1213
% identifiable	5	29	18	22	23		100	22	20

Bronze Age

Bronze Age features produced 497 pieces of animal bone but only twenty-four are identifiable to species or taxa. Cattle, sheep/goat and horse are all represented but the sample size is too small to allow a reliable estimate of taxa frequency.

Two bones belonging to sheep/goat could provide metrical data. Five horse teeth offer ageing information (Table 3).

Iron Age

A total of 2,013 fragments of animal bone were recovered from Iron Age deposits of which 370 are identifiable. More than half of the assemblage belongs to cattle. Horse is the second most numerous taxa being more frequent than either sheep/goat or pig. The only other taxa present are dog and red deer, both of which are represented by a few fragments each.

Metrical data is available from thirty-seven specimens, most of which belong to cattle and horse. Ageing data could be obtained from thirty-nine mandibles or loose teeth including twenty-one horse teeth, five cattle, six caprine and seven pig specimens.

During recording it became evident that the assemblage contained a considerable proportion of loose teeth. Surface modifications in the form of butchery, gnawing and burning were also observed on some specimens.

Table 3. General information (NISP)

	Bronze Age	Iron Age	Iron Age/Roman	Roman	?
<i>Measurable</i>					
Cattle		16	4	27	4
Sheep/goat	2	2	1	16	1

Pig		3		2	
Horse		16	1	23	2
<i>Total measurable</i>	2	37	6	68	7
<i>Ageable</i>					
Cattle		5	1	17	3
Sheep/goat		6	1	23	4
Pig		7		2	
Horse	5	21	1	15	
<i>Total ageable</i>	5	39	3	57	7
<i>Sexable</i>					
Pig		1			

Roman

Deposits dated to the Roman period produced 2,941 fragments of animal bone of which 23% (n=674) are identifiable. Cattle and caprines are fairly equally represented. Horse and dog are well represented and both are more frequent than pig (Table 2). Galliform (probably domestic fowl) and fish are represented by single specimens.

Metrical data is available from twenty-seven cattle, twenty-three horse, sixteen sheep/goat and two pig bones. Ageing data can be obtained from fifty-seven specimens most of which belong to cattle, horse and caprines (Table 3).

During recording evidence for butchery, gnawing and burning was observed. Other noteworthy items include a human femur, the partial skeleton of an immature sheep/goat, a paw belonging to a puppy, a dog skull and a cut marked horse bone.

Medieval

Deposits dated to the Medieval period produced forty-five specimens but none are identifiable.

Post-medieval

Four fragments derive from Post-medieval contexts, three belong to sheep/goat and one to dog.

Discussion

The majority of the assemblage was recovered from prehistoric, particularly Iron Age and Roman deposits. It has long been recognised that the relative frequency of the major domesticates (cattle, caprines and pig) varies according to settlement type and the degree of 'romanization' (King 1978, 1991). High frequencies of sheep/goat are commonly found on native rural sites whilst military and other more 'romanized' settlements tend to display higher frequencies of cattle and pig (*ibid*). More recently it has been suggested that differences in taxa ratio indicate not only changes in dietary choice but also reflect shifts in animal husbandry which occurred in response to wider economic intensification and social change (Hamshaw-Thomas, 2000: 168). The apparent switch in emphasis from cattle to sheep/goat at Hengrove Farm is therefore interesting. The possibility that differential butchery and disposal may have taken place according to animal size and that taxa frequency can reflect the type of features excavated has long been recognised (Maltby, 1985). Consequently, in order to fully investigate the relative frequency of cattle and caprines requires analysis of both anatomical representation and spatial distribution.

Urban centres would have relied to a large degree on their hinterland as a source of provisions and as a result, species representation will also reflect the forces of supply and demand. Detailed

analysis of the characteristics of faunal assemblages, particular body part representation and mortality profiles, is also a valuable source of data on which to base inferences concerning economic practices and urban/rural relationships. Animals were exploited not only for meat but also for the many other resources that they were able to provide both in life and after death. Consequently, it will be interesting to compare the Iron Age and Roman assemblages in order to investigate patterns of change and/or continuity in respect of animal husbandry and resource exploitation.

Numerous sites, both urban and rural, dating to the Iron Age and Roman period have been excavated in southern England and many have produced assemblages of animal bone that have been reported on in detail. These will make interesting comparison with the material recovered from Hengrove Farm especially as animal bone assemblages from Surrey are fairly scarce. The condition of much of the bone prohibits detailed analysis of butchery practices although cut marks are preserved on some bones. A considerable number of bones are able to provide metrical data which will add to the growing database of measurements already available and may prove sufficient to allow comparisons to be made, in terms of animal size, between the two periods.

The probability that some animal burials and groups of articulated bones represent symbolic actions is now generally accepted (Wilson, 1999; Grant, 1991; Hill, 1996; Luff, 1982). The presence of a few unusual deposits amongst the Roman assemblage therefore deserves further investigation.

Recommendations

- Full analysis of securely dated Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman material is recommended. This should focus on investigating taxa and body part representation, mortality profiles and disposal strategies. If possible, any further work should also include or take account of the material that has been recovered from other areas of the sites during previous seasons.
- No further analysis of the Medieval and Post-medieval assemblage is warranted.

6.3 2006 season by Claire Ingrem

A relatively small quantity of animal bone was recovered from Hengrove Farm, Staines during excavation by the Surrey County Archaeological Unit in 2006. The material discussed in this report came from ditches, a pit and tree throws, provisionally dated to the prehistoric (Bronze Age or earlier) and the Post-medieval periods.

In addition to the material discussed in this report, animal bone was recovered from other areas of Hengrove Farm during previous excavations. Consequently, the findings of this report should be viewed alongside reports dealing with work undertaken in earlier years.

Methods

The assemblage was examined in September 2006. All bone fragments over 10mm were examined, with the number of potentially identifiable and unidentifiable bones being counted for each context, to provide a basic NISP (Number of Identified Specimens Present). The condition of the bone was recorded, and the presence of butchery, burning and gnawing marks was noted.

Condition of the bone

In order to estimate the potential of an assemblage to provide taphonomic information, the condition of the bone in each bag is graded on a scale of 1 to 5. That assigned to '1' is deemed to be in excellent condition, demonstrating little post-depositional damage whilst bone material classed as '5' has suffered severe surface erosion and can be identified only as 'bone'. The condition of the bone recovered from Hengrove Farm is shown in Table 1 according to phase, clearly the majority is in very poor (Grade 5) condition and only a small amount is in moderate condition.

Table 1. Condition of the bone (number of bags)

	Condition					Total bags
	1	2	3	4	5	
Bronze Age				3	9	12
Prehistoric					1	1
PM			2		2	4
?					1	1
Total			2	3	13	18

Data

A total of 148 fragments of animal bone or tooth were recovered during the 2006 excavation (Table 2). Only two specimens are identifiable to taxa and both are tooth fragments that came from Bronze Age deposits; one belongs to cattle (Context 5186) and the other to a sheep or goat (Context 5181).

Amongst the unidentifiable component are two limb bone fragments belonging to sheep size mammals, one came from a Bronze Age deposit the other from a Post-medieval context.

Evidence for burning was noted on a few specimens.

Table 2. Taxa representation (NISP)

	Provisional period				Total
	Bronze Age	Prehistoric	Post-medieval	?	
Cattle	1				1
Sheep/goat	1				1
Unidentifiable	114	3	25	4	146
Total	116	3	25	4	148

Discussion

The small assemblage of animal bone recovered during the 2006 excavation indicates that cattle and caprines were present during the Bronze Age period. No other information is available and consequently further analysis is unwarranted.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

The overall assessment (SCAU 2007) looks at the whole suite of samples from the site and provides the assessment for these years.

8 REFERENCES

- Barrett, J C, Lewis, J S C, & Welsh, K, 1999 Perry Oaks – a history of inhabitation, part 1, *London Archaeol*, 9 no 7, 195-9
- Barrett, J, C, Lewis, J, S, & Welsh, K, 2001 Perry Oaks - a history of inhabitation, part 2, *London Archaeol*, Vol 9, no 8, 221-7
- Bishop, B., 2001 The Late Bronze Age Lithics Assemblage, in M. Bagwell, B. Bishop & A. Carew, T, Bishop, B, Meddens, F, & Ridgeway, V, 2006 *Unlocking the landscape, excavations at the Ashford Prison site*, PCA monograph no 5
- Gibson, Mesolithic & Late Bronze Age Activity at London Road, Beddington, *SyAC*, 88, 299-303
- Grant, A. (1991). Economic of symbolic? Animals and ritual behaviour. *Sacred and Profane*. Monograph 32. P. Garwood, D. Jennings, R. Skeates and J. Toms. Oxford, Oxford University Committee for Archaeology: 109 - 114.
- Hamshaw-Thomas, J. 2000 When in Britain do as the Britons: dietary identity in early Roman Britain. In P. Rowley-Conwy (ed) *Animal Bones, Human Societies*. Oxford, Oxbow pp 166-69.
- Harding, P., 1992 The Flint, in C. Gingell, *The Marlborough Downs: A Later Bronze Age Landscape & Its Origins*, 123-133
- Hayman, G, N, 1997 An Archaeological Evaluation at Hengrove Farm, Staines, Surrey County Archaeological Unit client report
- Hayman, G, N, 2005 Hengrove Farm, Staines: excavation of a multi-period landscape, *Surrey Archaeol Soc Bulletin*, 382
- Herne, A., 1991 The Lithic Assemblage, in I. Longworth (ed.), *Excavations at Grimes Graves, Norfolk, Fascicule 3*, 21-93
- Hill, J. D. (1996). The identification of ritual deposits of animal bones. A general perspective from a specific study of 'special animal deposits' from the southern English Iron Age. *Ritual Treatment of Human and Animal Remains*. S. Anderson and K. Boyle: 17-32.
- King, A. (1991). Food Production and Consumption - Meat. *Britain in the Roman Period: Recent Trends*. R. F. J. Jones. Sheffield: J.R. Collins Publications, Department of Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Sheffield: 15-20.
- King, A. (1978). "A comparative survey of bone assemblages from Roman sites in Britain." *Bulletin of the Institute of Archaeology* 15: 207-232.
- Luff, R. M. (1982). *A Zooarchaeological Study of the Roman North-western Provinces*. Oxford, BAR.
- Maltby, J. M. (1985) The animal bones. In Fasham, P. J. *The Prehistoric Settlement at Winnall Down, Winchester*. Hampshire Field Club Monograph 2. 97-138.
- Marples, N., 2004 *Hengrove Farm, Staines, 1997-2003: Flintwork Assessment* (Unpublished report)
- SCAU 2003 Hengrove Farm, Staines Archaeological Work 1997 -2002 Assessment Report, Surrey County Archaeological Unit client report
- SCAU 2004 Hengrove Farm, Staines Archaeological Work 2003 Assessment Report, Surrey County Archaeological Unit client report
- SCAU 2007 Hengrove Farm, Staines Archaeological Work 1997 -2006 An Overall Assessment Report and Publication Proposal, Surrey County Archaeological Unit client report
- Shaikhley, N, 1996 A Preliminary Assessment of the Proposed Gravel Extraction at Hengrove Farm, Staines, Surrey County Archaeological Unit client report
- Wilson, B. (1999). Displayed or concealed? Cross cultural evidence for symbolic and ritual activity depositing Iron Age animal bones. *Oxford Journal of Archaeology*, 18 (3), 297-305.

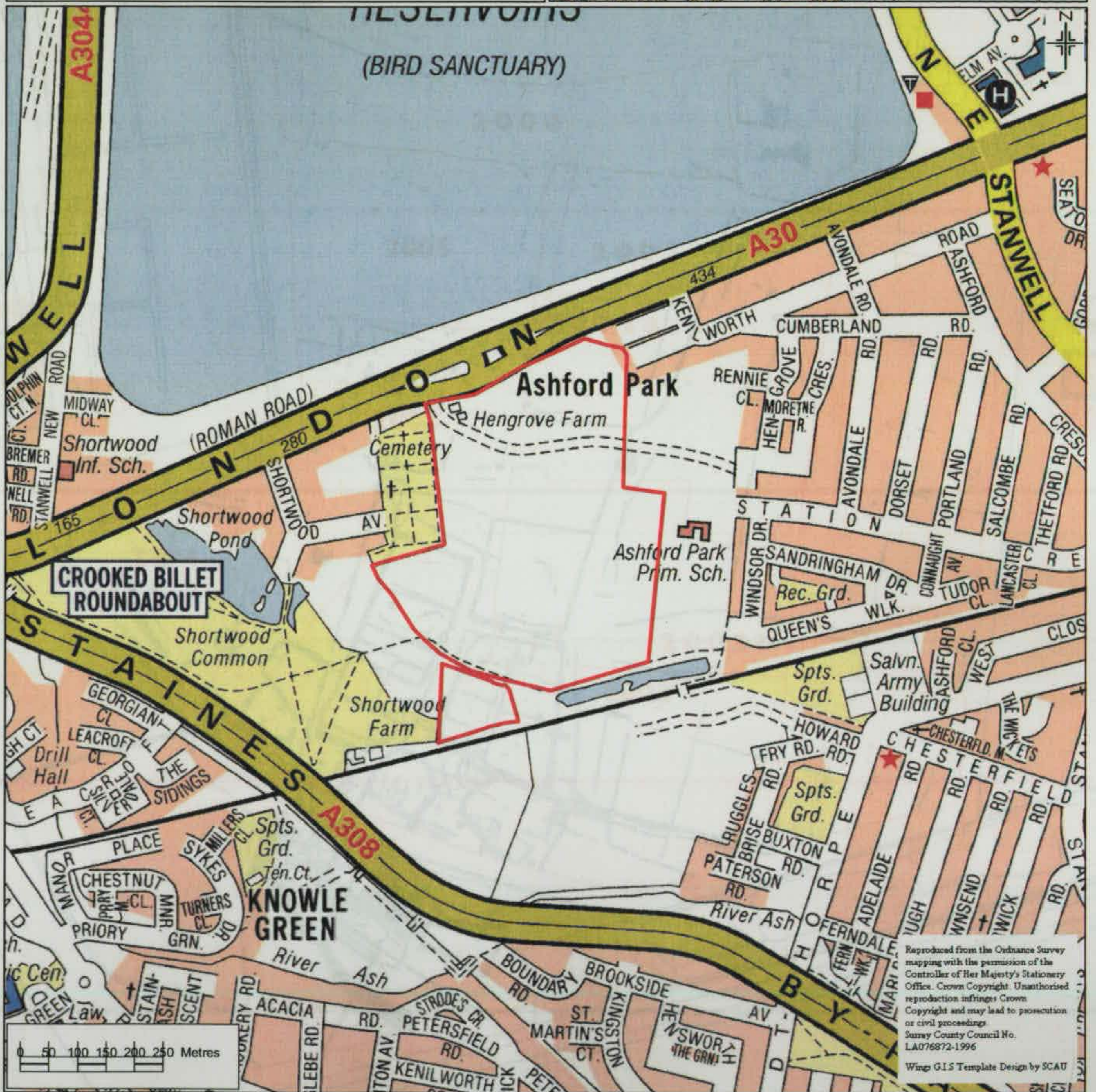
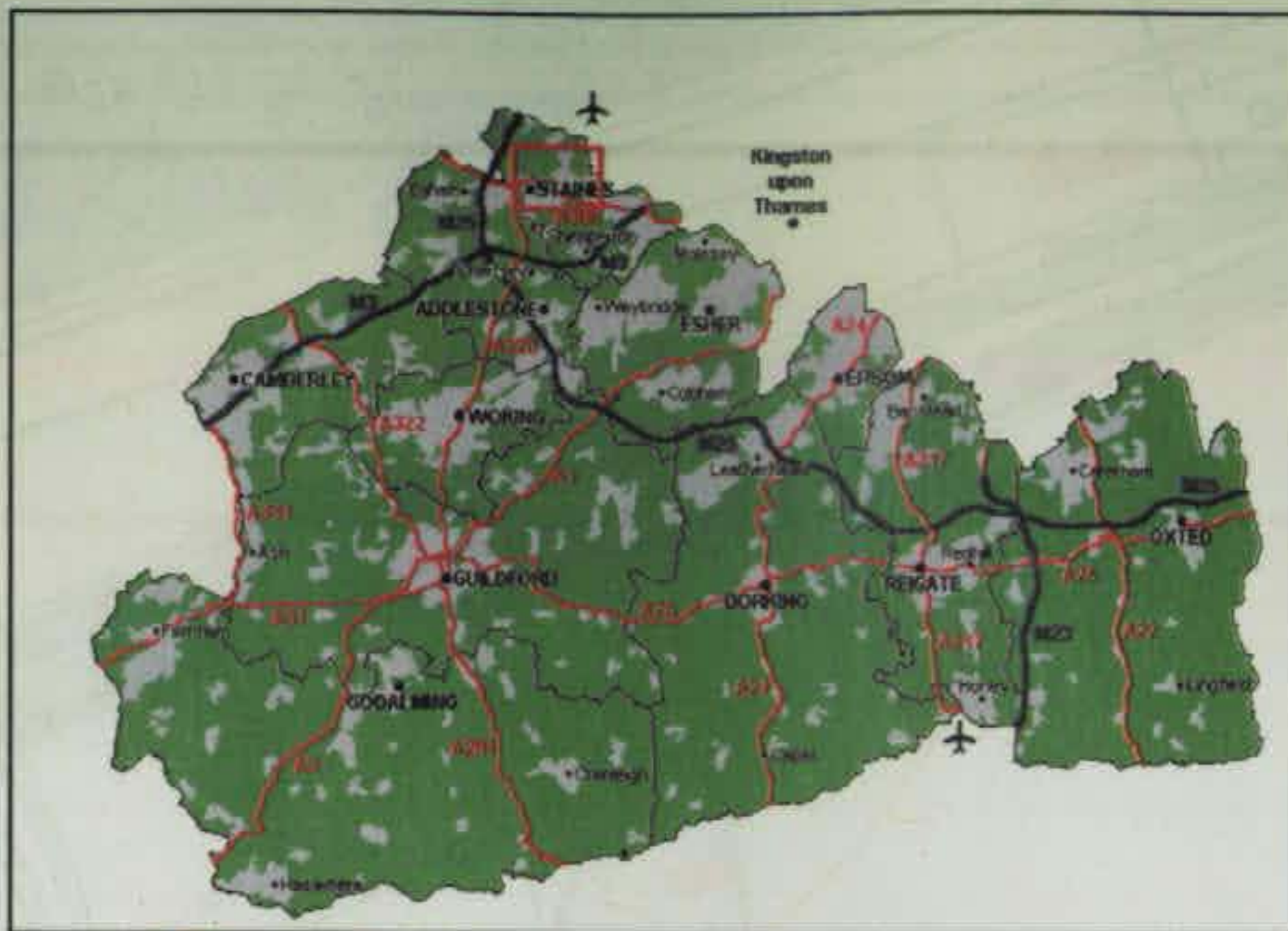


Fig 1 Hengrove Farm, Staines: site location

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Surrey County Council No. LA076872-1996. Wings GIS Template Design by SCAU



Fig 2 Hengrove Farm, Staines: Areas of work in each year, and all archaeological features identified