



Land South of Beldam Bridge Road West End, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Surrey Heath Borough Council Planning Ref.: 14/0451
Ref: 116170.03
March 2017



**Land South of Beldam Bridge Road
West End, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Quality Assurance

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land south of Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey (NGR) 495315 160630. The archaeological evaluation of three trenches was carried out between 20 and 21 March 2017.

The Site has been proposed for the erection of three detached dwellings with detached double garages and accommodation in the roof, as well as associated landscaping and access. Conditional planning permission (Surrey Heath Borough Council Ref: 14/0451) had been granted and an archaeological condition (Condition 8) was placed on the approved notice.

The archaeological evaluation encountered no archaeological features or deposits within the three trenches. Two wheel ruts and a feature deemed to be disturbance were identified as being of modern date. The topsoil and subsoil deposits were deeper than anticipated and were likely derived from the use of the Site as part of Fellow Green Nursery.

Due to the land use of the Site and the depth of the soils above the natural geology, there would have been little truncation of any potential archaeology.



Land South of Beldam Bridge Road West End, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited, and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Chris Chapman in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Alex Egginton of Surrey County Council, who monitored this project on behalf of the local authority.

The archaeological evaluation was directed in the field by Lee Newton and assisted by Orlagh Walsh. The report was compiled by Matt Kendall and the graphics were prepared by Karen Nichols. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Gareth Chaffey, who also edited this report.



Land South of Beldam Bridge Road West End, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land south of Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey, GU24 9LB (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). The Site was centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 495315 160630 (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 Conditional planning permission had been granted for the erection of three detached dwellings with detached double garages, as well as associated landscaping and access (Surrey Heath Borough Council Ref: 14/0451). An archaeological condition (Condition 8) was placed on the approved notice and states:

No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In the interests of heritage and to comply with Policy DM17 of the Surrey Heath Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2012.

1.1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) for the Site was undertaken in May 2014 (WA 2014a), the results of which warranted further archaeological mitigation in the form of a trial trench evaluation. The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (WA 2017) and was submitted to the Archaeological Officer at Surrey County Council (SCC) prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.4 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 20 and 21 March 2017.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located on the eastern side of the village of West End, which lies approximately equidistant between the Surrey towns of Woking and Camberley some 5 km to the east and west, respectively. The village of Bisley is located approximately 1 km to the south, and the village of Chobham c. 2.8 km to the north-east.

1.2.2 The Site comprises a triangular parcel of land of approximately 0.36 hectares and occupies an area of scrubland containing several dense groupings of trees, which are concentrated around the edges of the proposed development.

1.2.3 Beldam Bridge Road forms the northern boundary of the Site, beyond which lies an area of undeveloped and densely wooded land. Scrubland of a similar character to that within the Site extends to the south and east. The eastern limit of the proposed development is not currently demarcated by any formal boundary. The grounds of private residences lie



further to the east, while the gardens of private residences situated along Rose Meadow lie immediately to adjacent to the western boundary of the Site.

- 1.2.4 The Site is situated within a relatively flat area of land at an elevation of approximately 40 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.2.5 The underlying geology throughout the Site is mapped as sand, silt and clay of the Windlesham Formation, formed during the Palaeogene Period (British Geological Survey Website). No superficial deposits are recorded.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in detail within the DBA (WA 2014a) which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km Study Area around the Site in order to place the Site within its historical and archaeological context. The results of this assessment and relevant Surrey Historic Environmental Records (SHER) and entries from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) are summarised below.
- 2.1.2 No records pertaining to prehistoric activity were noted within the Study Area, although this is likely a result of the limited investigation in the area rather than an accurate reflection of levels of activity during the period. A group of Scheduled barrows are located on West End Common, some 2 km to the north-west of the Site (National List no.s 1007890 and 1018505). The existence of funerary monuments of this type, which date from the Late Neolithic through to the Late Bronze Age, is indicative of the active presence of prehistoric communities within the wider landscape.
- 2.1.3 The projected route of an alleged minor Roman Road linking Stane Street at Alfoldean and the London to Silchester road near Bagshot, via a temple site at Farely Heath, passes approximately 60 m to the west of the Site. However, the existence of the road within the Study Area was noted as unconfirmed and, as such, it's suggested location is entirely conjectural. However, the potential exists for the buried archaeological traces of the road to be encountered within the Site as well as for associated areas of settlement, funerary sites and field systems.
- 2.1.4 Though not included in Domesday, the village of Bisley to the south of the Site is referred to in documentary sources dating to 673 AD and 967 AD (Malden 1911), and is known to have been occupied during the medieval period (WA 2014b). Part of the Study Area, some 700 m to the south of the Site, has been designated as an Area of High Archaeological Potential in recognition that this area may contain buried remains relating to the historic core of the village.
- 2.1.5 The organisation of the landscape surrounding the Site is likely to have remained relatively unchanged from the end of the medieval period throughout the early post-medieval period. Cartographic evidence such as John Rocque's map of Surrey (dating to 1768) depicts the location of the village of West End devoid of extensive evidence. Rocque's map depicts the position of the Site as lying within a large parcel of land extending south of what is now Beldam Bridge Road, between Fellow Green to the west and Beldam Bridge Farm to the east. Later maps suggest that few, if any, significant changes had taken place within the landscape. The 1845 Chobham Parish Tithe Map depicts the Site as lying within the northern corner of a larger, triangular enclosure, the

northern and western boundaries of which correspond with the edges of the proposed development area.

- 2.1.6 Subsequent editions of Ordnance Survey mapping illustrate that, by the early 1970s, the area had changed considerably due to the rapid expansion and development of West End, which took place following World War II. The Fellow Green Nursery had been established immediately to the west of the Site, and much of the surrounding area, including the Site itself, was in use as horticultural nurseries. By the early 2000s, the Fellow Green Nursery had been closed, and new houses built in its place, along Rose Meadow immediately to the west of the Site. Since the closure of the nurseries, the Site has remained undeveloped, and is currently in use as paddocks.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The overall aim of the programme of archaeological evaluation was to provide further information regarding the potential location and nature of archaeological remains within the Site. If remains were present, the evaluation was to seek to establish sufficient details such that informed decisions could be made regarding the need and scope of any further mitigation that may be required before or during the development of the Site.
- 3.1.2 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation (CIfA 2014a), the generic aims of the project were to:
- *To locate, identify and to investigate and record the presence/absence of archaeological features or deposits;*
 - *The evaluation, where possible, would confirm the extent, date, character, relationship, condition and significance of archaeological features, artefacts and deposits within the proposed development area;*
 - *To inform the scope and nature of any requirements for any potential further fieldwork, whether additional watching brief, excavation or post-excavation work;*
 - *To enable the preservation by record of any archaeological features or deposits uncovered, and;*
 - *To place any identified archaeological remains within their historical context.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out within the WSI (WA 2017). In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015). All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the guidance and standards outlined in the CIfA's *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation* (CIfA 2014a).
- 3.2.2 All the trenches were laid out using a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30 mm or below, and in general accordance with the pattern given in the WSI (**Figure 1**). The investigation areas were scanned using a cable avoidance tool (CAT) by trained WA staff experienced in the use of such equipment prior to machining.



- 3.2.3 Trench excavation was carried out using an eight tonne, rubber tracked 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, measuring 1.60 m wide, and was supervised by a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times. The topsoil and subsoil were removed by machine in a series of level spits to the top of the archaeology or natural geological deposits, whichever were encountered first. The machine excavated arisings were stored at the side of the trench and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals from both the topsoil and subsoil.
- 3.2.4 Areas of investigation completed to the satisfaction of the Archaeological Officer were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate order in which they were excavated and left level on completion.
- 3.2.5 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were recorded using WA's *pro forma* recording system.
- 3.3.2 A complete drawn record of archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This included both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections), and with reference to a site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principle features and levels was calculated and plans/sections annotated with OD heights.
- 3.3.3 A photographic record was maintained during the evaluation using a digital camera equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images were subject to managed quality control and curation processes which embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Work comprised the machine excavation of three trenches measuring 30 m in length, and their subsequent recording and backfilling. **Trenches 2** and **3** were moved due to the potential impact on the pre-existing trees but were still located within the footprints of the proposed buildings.

4.2 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.2.1 All trenches were situated within scrubland which had been used as horticultural nurseries until the early 2000's. The underlying natural geology across all the trenches was a mid-yellowish brown silty clay with occasional patches and bands of sands and gravels (**Plate 1**). The natural geology was overlain by topsoil measuring 0.12 m deep, and two subsoil deposits measuring 0.19 m and 0.18 m respectively (**Plate 2**).
- 4.2.2 Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 Summary of evaluation results

- 4.3.1 The three evaluation trenches were positioned over the proposed development area and covered approximately 4 % of the area that was going to be impacted by the developments (0.36 ha) (**Figure 1**).



- 4.3.2 Excavation of Trench 2 identified a single, irregularly shaped feature (**206**) located roughly in the centre of the trench (**Plate 3**). Measuring 2.06 m by 0.76 m, the feature had moderate concave sides and an irregular base. Measuring a total of 0.13 m deep, it contained a single, naturally derived fill which contained no dating evidence. As it was located close to two modern wheel ruts and contained a similar deposit, **206** was interpreted as modern disturbance.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 No artefacts were recovered during the trial trench evaluation. Three sherds of modern flower pots were recovered from the topsoil but were not retained.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental sampling was present within the monitored areas and accordingly no samples were taken.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Overview

- 7.1.1 The archaeological evaluation revealed no archaeological features or deposits. The fact that the Site had been part of Fellow Green Nursery may explain the greater depth of subsoil than what was originally anticipated. Waste materials (e.g. waste soil from flower beds) would have been thrown away after their use and would have been built up over time. This would also explain why wheel ruts were seen at a depth of 0.45 m with no evidence of them being present in the overlying deposits.

- 7.1.2 There seemed to be little truncation of the natural geology and the potential for survival of archaeological features was deemed good.

7.2 Archaeological Potential

- 7.2.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation have revealed that there is a low potential for archaeological features and deposits to be encountered during the proposed development of the Site.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive be deposited with Guildford Museum and the Museum had agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project. The archive is currently held at WA's Salisbury office under the site code **116170**.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Guildford Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2001; ADS 2013).

- 8.2.2 An OASIS online record (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/>) will be initiated. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission with Surrey HER.

8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the site code, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following;

- 1 file of paper records.

8.3 Discard policy

8.3.1 WA follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant further analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.

8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows the guidelines laid out in WA's 'Archive and Dispersal Policy for Environmental Remains and Samples'. The archive policy conforms with nationally recommended guidelines nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002) and is available on request.

8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purpose, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003.

8.4.2 The report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-WA copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which were or are unable to provide from limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by WA. You are reminded that you remain bound by conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1998 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

8.5 Security Copy

8.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9 REFERENCES

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Archaeological Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practise
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- Wessex Archaeology 2014a. *Land at Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Salisbury, unpubl rep 103830.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2014b. *Queens Road, Bisley, Surrey: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Salisbury unpubl rep: 102240.01
- Wessex Archaeology 2017. *Land South of Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*. Salisbury unpuli rep: 116170.01

Online resources

British Geological Survey, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/> [accessed March 2017]



10 APPENDICES

10.1 Appendix 1: Trench Tables

TRENCH 1		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 28.77 m x 1.60 m		Max. depth: 0.55 m	Ground level: 39.00 – 39.34 m aOD
Co-ordinates: E 495269.03 N 160660.54 and E 495294.72 N 160647.64			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty sand containing sparse sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.06 m) and abundant rooting.	0 – 0.12 m
102	Layer	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.05 m).	0.12 – 0.29 m
103	Layer	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown silty sand containing sparse sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.05 m).	0.29 – 0.50 m
104	Layer	Natural – Mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel patches.	0.50 m+

TRENCH 2		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 30.75 m x 1.60 m		Max. depth: 0.54 m	Ground level: 38.44 – 38.97 m aOD
Co-ordinates: E 495301.00 N 160647.36 and E 495329.51 N 160635.79			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.04 m) and moderate rooting.	0 – 0.09 m
202	Layer	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.05 m).	0.09 – 0.30 m
203	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.04 m).	0.30 – 0.45 m
204	Layer	Natural – Mottled yellowish brown silty clay to silty sand with occasional gravel patches.	0.45 m+
205	Fill	Secondary fill of 206. Mid greenish blue silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.04 m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.13 m thick
206	Cut	Cut of an irregularly shaped feature aligned north-north-west to south-south-east. Measures 2.06 m by 0.76 m and 0.13 m deep. Moderate concave sides and an irregular base. Modern disturbance.	0.13 m deep

TRENCH 3		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 28.63 m x 1.60 m		Max. depth: 0.59 m	Ground level: 38.45 – 38.74 m aOD
Co-ordinates: E 495327.40 N 160632.53 and E 495311.35 N 160608.90			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty sand containing sparse sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.04 m) and moderate rooting.	0 – 0.14 m
302	Layer	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.05 m).	0.14 – 0.32 m
303	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty sand containing moderate sub-rounded flint pebbles (<0.04 m).	0.32 – 0.50 m
304	Layer	Natural – Mixed; Yellow silty clay with bands of yellowish brown sand and gravel.	0.50 m+



10.2 Appendix 2: OASIS Summary

OASIS ID: wessexar1-280306

Project details

Project name	Land South of Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Redrow Homes Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land south of Beldam Bridge Road, West End, Surrey (NGR) 495315 160630. The archaeological evaluation of three trenches was carried out between 20 and 21 March 2017. The Site has been proposed for the erection of three detached dwellings with detached double garages and accommodation in the roof, as well as associated landscaping and access. Conditional planning permission (Surrey Heath Borough Council Ref: 14/0451) had been granted and an archaeological condition (Condition 8) was placed on the approved notice. The archaeological evaluation encountered no archaeological features or deposits within the three trenches. Two wheel ruts and a feature deemed to be disturbance were identified and were of modern date. The topsoil and subsoil deposits were deeper than anticipated and were likely derived from the use of the Site as part of Fellow Green Nursery. Due to the land use of the Site and the depth of the soils above the natural geology, there would have been little truncation of any potential archaeology.
Project dates	Start: 20-03-2017 End: 21-03-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	116170 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/0451 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	103830 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Woodland 7 - Scrub
Monument type	DISTURBANCE Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location



Country	England
Site location	SURREY SURREY HEATH WEST END Land South of Beldam Brigde Road, West Ham, Surrey
Postcode	GU24 9LB
Study area	0.36 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 495315 160630 50.941330010492 -1.294934833539 50 56 28 N 001 17 41 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 38m Max: 39m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Redrow Homes Limited
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Gareth Chaffey
Project supervisor	Lee Newton
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Redrow Homes Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Guildford Museum
Physical Archive ID	116170
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Guildford Museum
Digital Archive ID	116170
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Guildford Museum

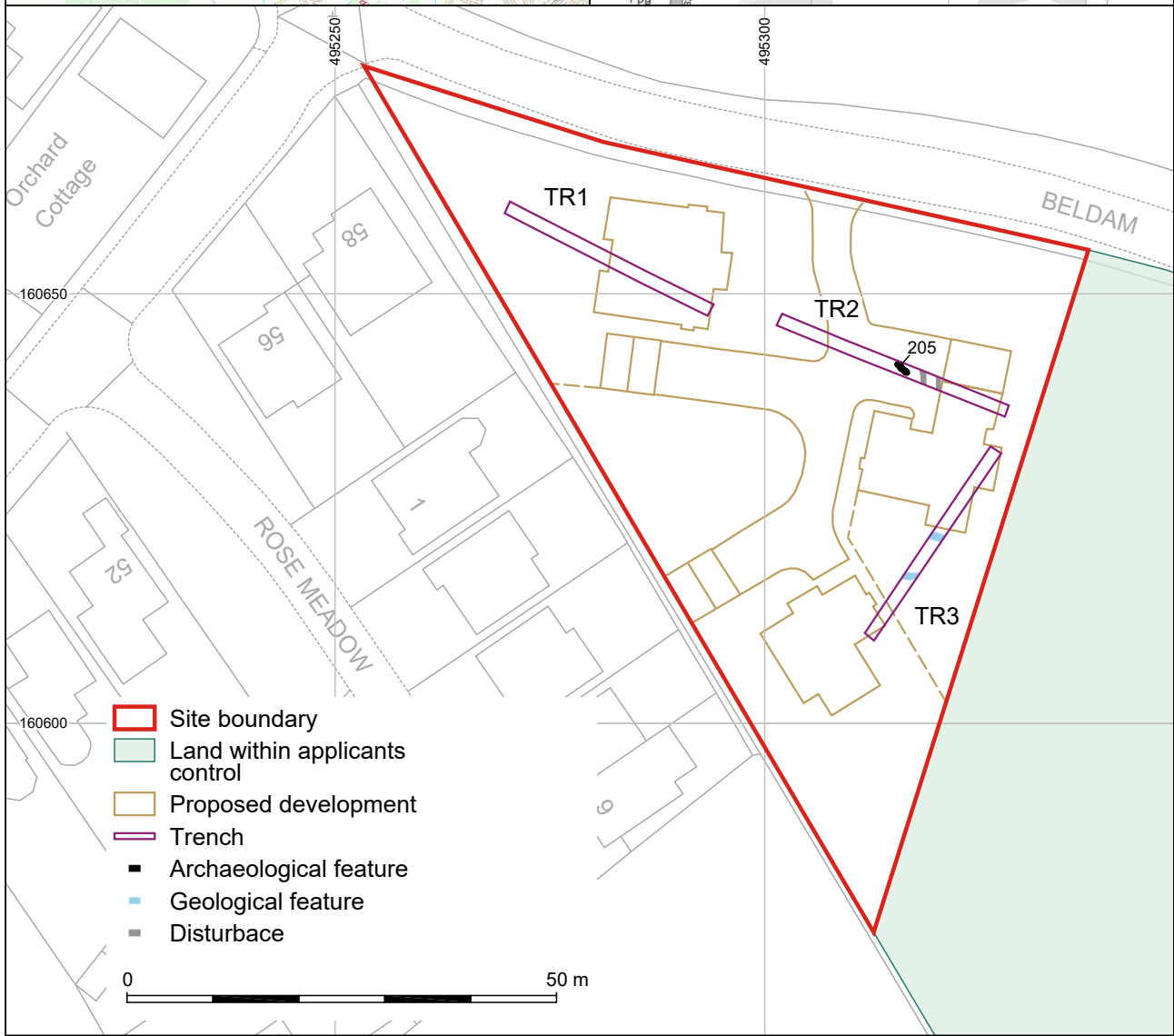
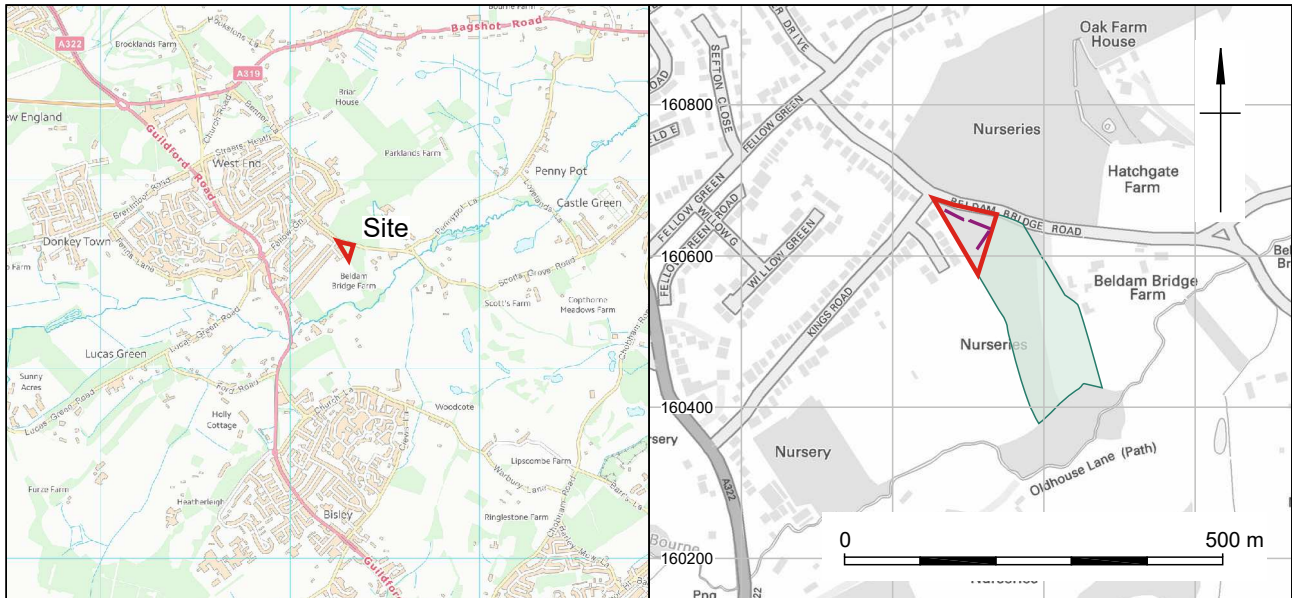



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 Coordinate system: OSGB36 (OSTN15/OSGM15)	Proposed site plan based on client data. Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2017. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2017. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
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Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Plate 1: Trench 3 viewed from the north-east (1 x 2 m, 1 x 1 m)



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Plate 2: Representative section of Trench 1 viewed from the south-west (1 x 1 m)



Plate 3: Feature 206 viewed from the north-east (1 x 1 m)

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