

**LAND AT JUNIPER AND MAY COTTAGES,
ASH GREEN ROAD,
ASH,
SURREY.**

NGR: 490341 150466 (centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2021
Report No. 1448



ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANCY, MANAGEMENT & FIELD SERVICES

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Quality Assurance

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SUMMARY

Between 30th June and 8th July 2021 Foundations Archaeology undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Juniper and May Cottages, Ash Green Road, Ash, Surrey (NGR: 490341 150466). The project was commissioned by Chris Hebden and Jordan Reimnitz-wood of Bloor Homes Southern.

The works comprised the excavation of 13 archaeological evaluation trenches within the area of a proposed residential development.

The majority of the evaluation trenches were completely devoid of archaeological remains. The only features present consisted of an undated isolated shallow pit with a charcoal-rich in-fill, as well as a former late Post-medieval/Modern boundary ditch.

The site is therefore considered to have a low archaeological potential.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project, archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

CBM

Ceramic Building Material.

Medieval

The period between AD 1066 and AD 1500.

Natural

In archaeological terms, this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).

OS

Ordnance Survey.

Post-medieval

The period between AD 1500 and AD 1900.

Prehistoric

The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43, traditionally sub-divided into; *Palaeolithic* – c. 500,000 BC to c. 12,000 BC; *Mesolithic* – c. 12,000 BC to c. 4,500 BC; *Neolithic* – c. 4,500 BC to c. 2,000 BC; *Bronze Age* – c. 2,000 BC to c. 800 BC; *Iron Age* – c. 800 BC to AD 43.

Roman

The period traditionally dated AD 43 until AD 410.

Saxon

The period between AD 410 and AD 1066.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Foundations Archaeology between 30th June and 8th July 2021, on land at Juniper and May Cottages, Ash Green Road, Ash, Surrey (NGR: 490341 150466). The project was commissioned by Chris Hebden and Jordan Reimnitz-wood of Bloor Homes Southern.
- 1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by Foundations Archaeology (2021) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014).
- 1.3 The Cifa code of conduct was adhered to throughout.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There is currently an outline application for a development of 100 dwellings (including 40 affordable homes), along with associated access, garages, parking, open space, landscaping and play areas on land at Juniper and May Cottages, Ash Green (**Outline Planning Permission: 18/P/02308**). In accordance with the principles of NPPF19, and under Local Plan policy BE26, Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team, who are acting as the archaeological advisors to Guildford Borough Council, requested an archaeological evaluation to determine if archaeological mitigation was necessary (Condition 21).
- 2.2 The site is an irregular shaped parcel of land, which measures approximately 3ha in size. It is located 3km to the east of Aldershot and 9km west of Guildford. The site is bounded to the north by a railway line, to the east by a copse of woodland, to the south by dwellings fronting Ash Green Road and to the west by agricultural fields. At the time of the fieldwork the site consisted of pasture and paddocks. The ground within the site slopes gently downwards from south (approximately 81m aOD) to north (approximately 78m aOD). The underlying geology is recorded as *London Clay Formation* – clay, silt and sand (BGS Online Viewer).
- 2.3 An archaeological desk based assessment was prepared by RPS Group in August 2020, which should be read in conjunction with this document; however, its findings are summarised thus:
 - 2.3.1 There is no evidence of Prehistoric activity within the study area and the assessment concluded that the soils at this time would have been too poorly drained and heavy for early agriculture and therefore had a low potential for Prehistoric activity.
 - 2.3.2 There are two possible Roman roads to the south and west of the site on the SCCHER, however, it would appear that there are no associated monument

descriptions, so it is possible that the entry has been deleted as false information. A previous evaluation at The Croft, Ash (MSE22505), 750m to the west of the site, identified evidence for a small Roman farmstead, which appeared to have been short-lived.

- 2.3.3 There is no evidence for Saxon or Early Medieval activity from the HER and Ash is not mentioned in Domesday, however, there is a mention of Esche in the 7th century, but it is unclear if this refers to Ash. The church of St Peter's in Ash is believed to have been constructed in the 12th century, although, the earliest structure is recorded in the 15th century (MSE1428).
- 2.3.4 There are records from the 14th century which refer to the settlement as *Assche*. Throughout the Medieval period the HER data indicates that there were small homesteads or hovels within woodland clearings dotted across the landscape, however these are not recorded and would have left very ephemeral traces. The HER does record farms which may have originated at this time, namely Ash Manor (to the east of the site, MSE1829) and possibly the original Formans Farm, which although recorded in 1571, could date back to a William Fayrman in 1255 (MSE14442).
- 2.3.5 The pattern observed in the landscape during the Medieval period continues into the Post-medieval period and comprises a very sparsely settled landscape. The combination of London Clay and a bountiful supply of wood appears to have led to the development of a local pottery industry throughout the later Medieval and Post-medieval period. Field names on the local Tithe maps bear numerous references, (excluding the study site), to the industry with field names such as Kiln Copse and Field (MSE14008), Kiln Field (MSE14446), Pot Shop Fields and Pot Workshop (MSE14009) and Potkiln House. Although limited intrusive fieldwork has occurred in the area, possible evidence for the presence of kilns is recorded at SU 9080 4980 (MSE2723), SU 9030 5010 (MSE2767), SU 8970 5020 (MSE5384) and SU 8970 5060 (MSE5385 and MSE5386).
- 2.3.6 Saxton's map of Surrey dated 1575, is highly stylistic, but the approximate location of the site is shown to the south-east of Ash (represented with a church and mill), to the east of Aldershot. Roques Map of Surrey dated 1768 identifies the approximate location of the study site within enclosed land comprising a mixture of pasture and arable. The settlements of Wick and Ash Green are shown to the east and west of the site respectively linked by Ash Green Road which forms the southern boundary of the site. The slightly more accurate Ordnance Survey map dated 1806, continues to show the approximate location of the site within enclosed land to the west of Wick. Ash Cross Kilns, which appear to have been quite substantial at this time, are annotated to the north of the site. The Tithe for Ash is dated 1843 and shows the study area located entirely within a plot annotated as in use as an orchard. The field to the south of Ash Green Road is of interest. Plot 167 is annotated as in arable use and named Three Stones. The plot of HER data contains a record MSE14010 at SU 9050 5041 to the east of the study site which is believed to be the location of a field named Great Three Stones. This field may be the one

referenced in a document dating to 1385 which refers to Le Stones. The description refers to a triangular field, as shown on the Tithe Map, indicating the survival of the field boundaries for almost 500 years.

- 2.3.7 The data received from the SCCHER identifies very few undated archaeological assets. A large earthwork comprising a single earthen bank located at SU 9046 5144 (MSE21072) is undated but may be associated with the enclosure of Wyke Common in 1803. The HER data contains an intriguing entry located 250m southwest of the study site and 250m south of Manor Farm. The entry, MSE23036, describes five circular patches reported by a member of the public and subsequently assessed (visually) by archaeologists. The circles range in diameter with two measuring 40", one 50", one 60" and one at 30". The two most northerly of the five are the most distinct. The date, nature and function of these features are completely unknown however, due to their discreet location and compact nature they have no impact with regards to the archaeological potential on the study site. Best described as parch marks, dark rings with pale interiors, the circles are centred on NGR SU 90191 50239. A small archaeological evaluation undertaken at Ash Manor (MSE5175 and MSE5176) identified an undated wall and postholes below the foundations of a 17th century barn.
- 2.4 A magnetometer survey was undertaken across the site in April 2020 by Sumo Survey. This detected no magnetic responses which could be interpreted as being of archaeological interest. Several uncertain linear trends and discrete anomalies detected were thought likely to be due to natural, Modern or agricultural processes. However, an archaeological origin could not be entirely ruled-out for some of the anomalies. A dipolar response in the dataset marked the location of a service pipe in the southwest part of the site.
- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for evidence of Medieval and later activity, particularly associated with previously identified pottery industry. This did not prejudice the works against the recovery of data relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits, in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn, this would allow informed planning/mitigation decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the development.
- 3.2 These aims were achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:

- To determine, as far as reasonably practicable, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains.
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains.
- To establish the ecofactual and environmental potential of archaeological deposits and features encountered.
- To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to allow the archaeological implications of the proposed development to be assessed.
- To produce a site archive for deposition with Guildford Museum and to provide information for accession to the Surrey County Council HER.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The evaluation consisted of 13 trenches, as shown in Figure 2. All trench measurements refer to the base of the trench as dug. The trenches were located in order to provide a representative sample of the site, as well as to investigate a number of possible archaeological anomalies, which were identified in the previous geophysical survey. Due to on-site constraints, it was necessary to slightly alter some of the trench locations; all amendments to the approved trenching plan were agreed with the representative of Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team.
- 4.2 Non-significant overburden was removed, under constant archaeological supervision, to the top of archaeological remains or the underlying natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. This was achieved through use of a JCB type mechanical excavator, equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Features and spoil tips were visually scanned for finds.
- 4.3 Where potential archaeological features were present, these were subjected to appropriate levels of investigation. All excavation and recording work was undertaken in accordance with the approved WSI and the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 3: Excavation Manual.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 A full description of all contexts identified during the course of the fieldwork is presented in Appendix 1. A summary of the results is given below.
- 5.2 The stratigraphic sequence across the site was relatively uniform, with natural sand, silt and gravels directly overlain by a dark brown sand silt topsoil, which was on average 0.39m thick. There was no evidence for any extensive disturbance and there were no artefacts present within the topsoil.

5.3 The majority of trenches were devoid of archaeological features. Trenches 4 and 13 each contained one feature.

5.4 Trench 4

5.4.1 Pit [402] was located towards the south of Trench 4 and appeared to correlate with a pit-like geophysical anomaly situated to the immediate west. The pit was fairly shallow and contained a charcoal-rich basal fill (403), which was sealed by a soil fill (404). No artefacts were present within the pit, and it therefore remained undated.

5.5 Trench 13

5.5.1 Ditch [1302] was located towards the northeast end of Trench 13 and was situated on a north – south alignment. It was not identified by the geophysical survey. A fragment of machine-made brick, which was recovered from the main ditch fill (1304), indicated that this feature was of relatively recent, possibly Modern date.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The general paucity of finds and features within the trenches indicated that the site was not likely to be located at, or near, to any particular focus of archaeological activity. Furthermore, there was no evidence for any activity associated with the local Post-medieval pottery industry. An isolated shallow pit, with a charcoal-rich in-fill, remained undated and little further can be said of this feature. A later Post-medieval/Modern ditch was likely to be the remains of a former agricultural boundary.

7 CONCLUSION

7.1 The evaluation has indicated that the site is unlikely to contain significant archaeological remains and, as such, it is considered to be of low archaeological potential.

7.2 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited in due course with Guildford Museum. A digital report/archive will also be submitted to OASIS/ADS. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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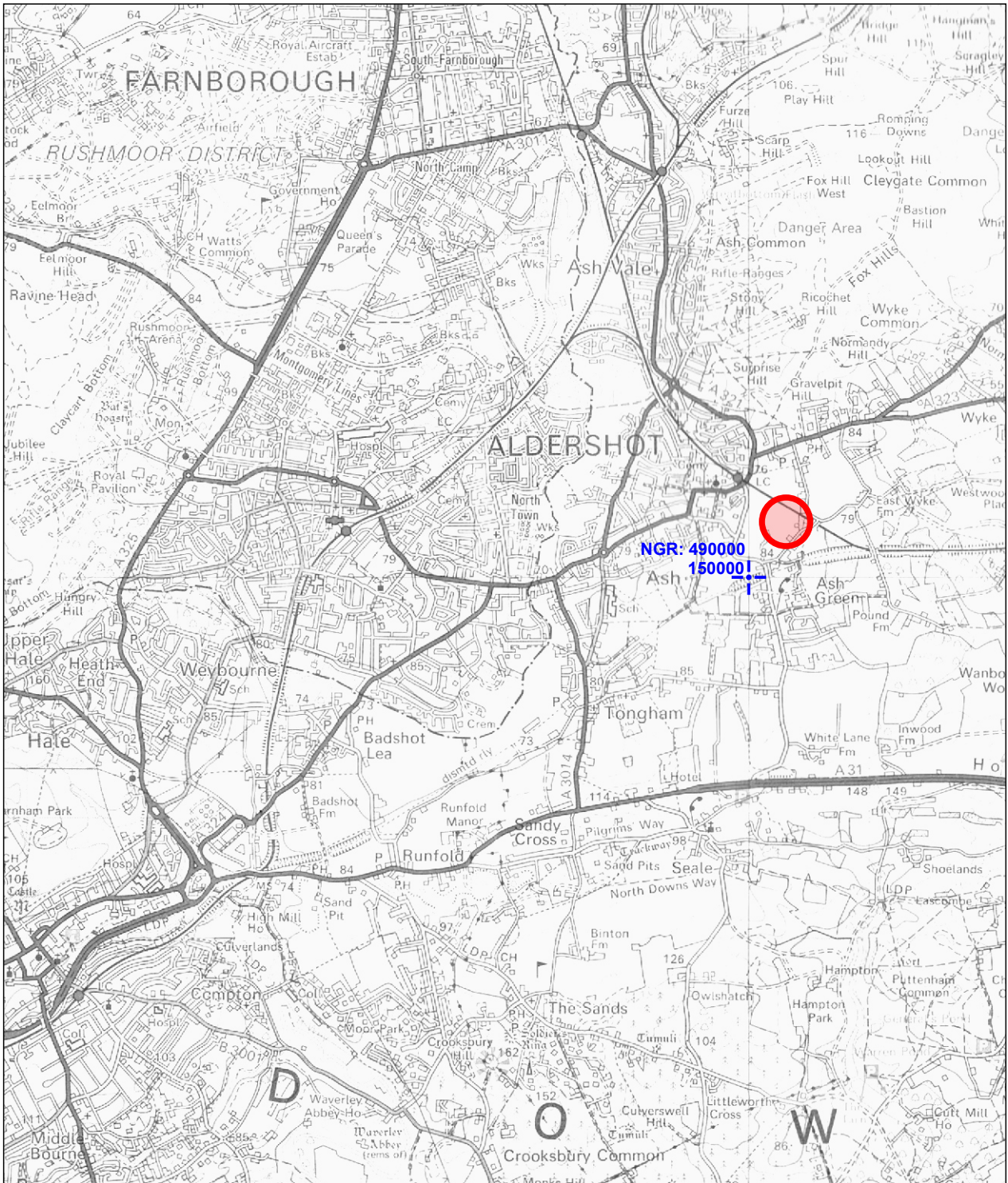
Juniper and May Cottages, Ash Green Road, Ash, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation

APPENDIX 1: Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				TRENCH 1: 38m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 77.54m aOD.		
101	n/a	n/a	0.37	Topsoil: dark brown grey sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 2: 37m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.84m aOD.		
201	n/a	n/a	0.33	Topsoil: dark brown grey sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 3: 38m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 79.49m aOD.		
301	n/a	n/a	0.37	Topsoil: dark brown grey sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 4: 37m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = variable orange to orange brown sand silt gravel. Present at average 80.28m aOD.		
401	n/a	n/a	0.34	Topsoil: dark brown grey sand silt.	natural	n/a
[402]	1.45	0.65	0.23	Probable sub-oval pit with a shallow flat profile. Contained 403 and 404.	natural	403
403	?	0.55	0.12	Fill of [402]: black clay silt, which contained very frequent charcoal flecks and lumps.	[402]	404
404	1.45	0.65	0.13	Fill of [402]: variable light to grey brown sand silt, which contained occasional charcoal flecks.	403	401
				TRENCH 5: 39m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige sand silt. Present at average 79.32m aOD.		
501	n/a	n/a	0.34	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 6: 38m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.94m aOD.		
601	n/a	n/a	0.35	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 7: 37m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.15m aOD.		
701	n/a	n/a	0.37	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a

Juniper and May Cottages, Ash Green Road, Ash, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	CUTS/LATER THAN	CUT BY/EARLIER THAN
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 8: 38m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt gravel. Present at average 77.42m aOD.		
801	n/a	n/a	0.40	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 9: 38m (n-s), 8m (e-w) long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey clay sand silt. Present at average 77.87m aOD.		
901	n/a	n/a	0.45	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 10: 25m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 77.90m aOD.		
1001	n/a	n/a	0.40	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 11: 38m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.07m aOD.		
1101	n/a	n/a	0.35	Topsoil: dark brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 12: 37m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.29m aOD.		
1201	n/a	n/a	0.48	Topsoil: dark brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
				<i>No archaeological features or finds were present within the trench.</i>		
				TRENCH 13: 37m long by 1.6m wide. Natural = orange beige to light grey sand silt. Present at average 78.66m aOD.		
1301	n/a	n/a	0.46	Topsoil: dark grey brown sand silt.	natural	n/a
[1302]	3.4	1.38	0.39	North – south aligned ditch with sloping sides and a flat base. Contained 1303 and 1304.	natural	1303
1303	?	0.53	0.07	Fill of [1302]: mottled grey blue clay sand silt.	[1302]	1304
1304	?	1.38	0.32	Fill of [1302]: dark grey brown sand silt. Indistinguishable from topsoil 1301. Contained 1 x late Post-medieval/Modern machine-made brick fragment.	1303	1301



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Accession Code:

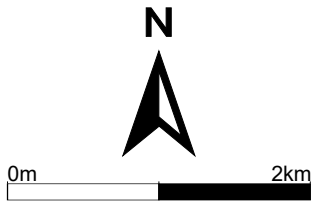




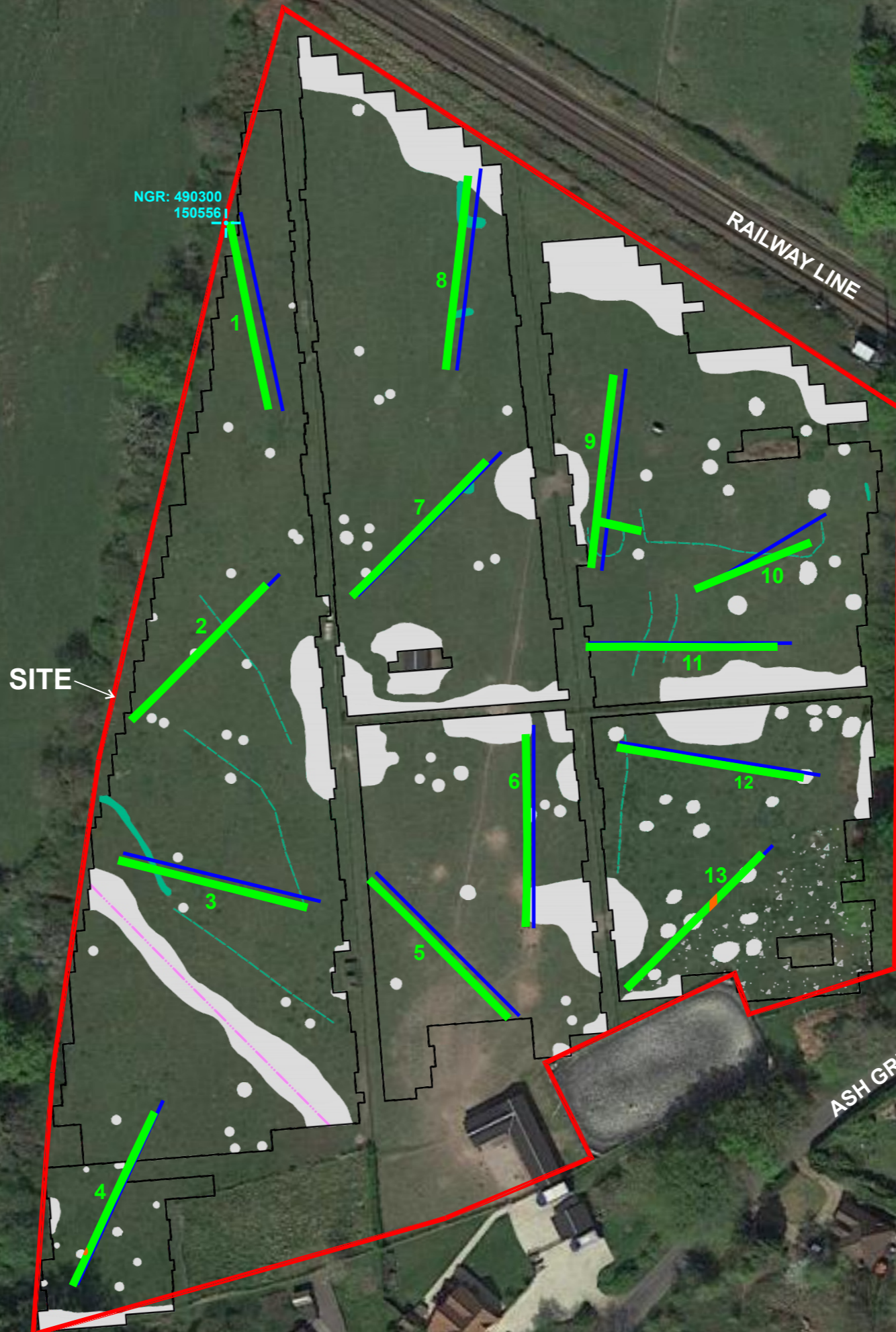


FIGURE 1: Site Location

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY KEY

	Uncertain (Discrete / Trend)
	Service Pipe
	Magnetic Disturbance
	Ferrous



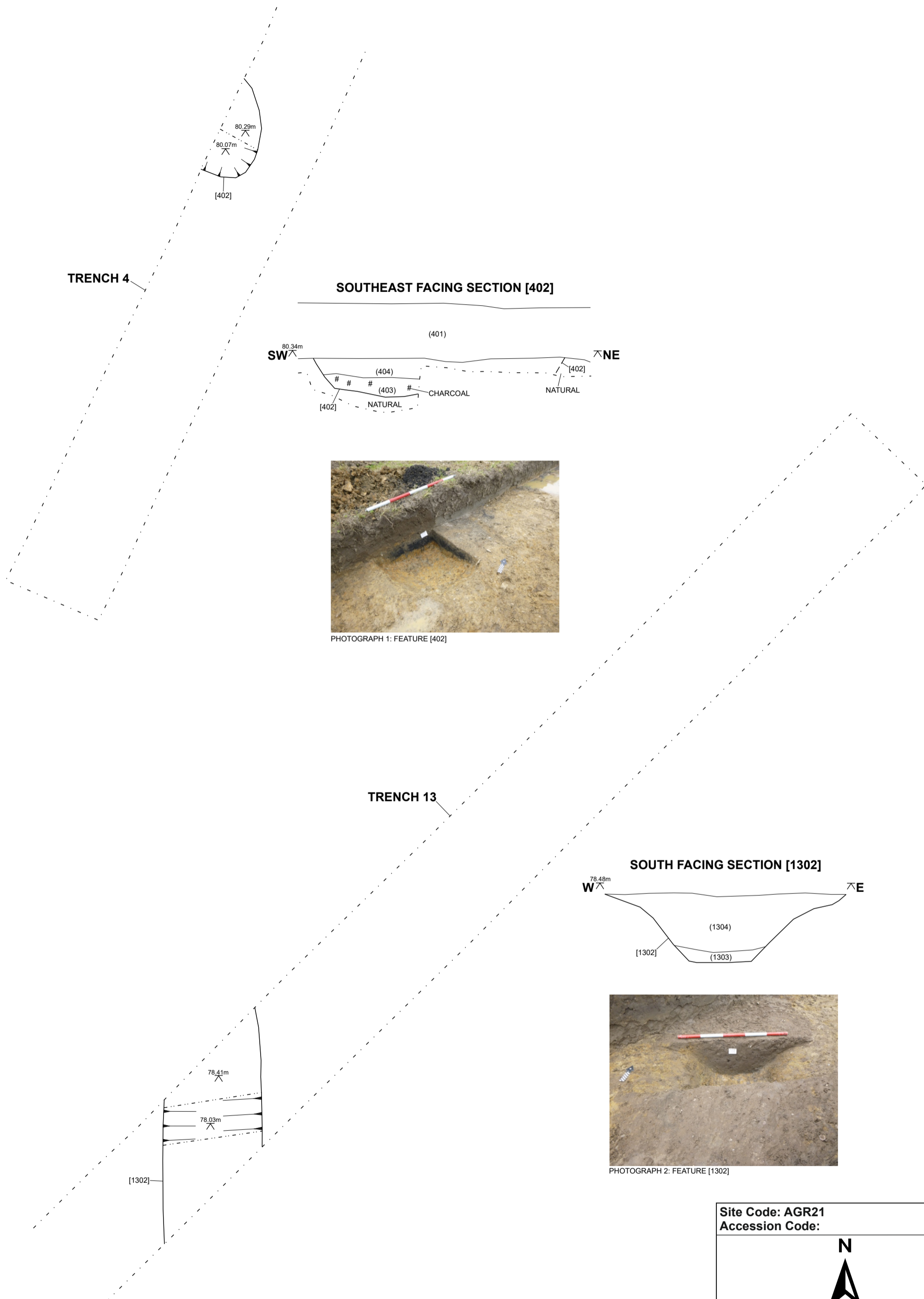
Site Code: AGR21
Accession Code:



0m 40m

- = PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATION
- = TRENCH AS DUG
- = FEATURE

FIGURE 2: Site Plan



Site Code: AGR21
 Accession Code:

N

0m 2m

PLAN

0m 1m

SECTION

FIGURE 3: Trench Plans, Sections and Photographs