

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Moore Place, Portsmouth Road,
Esher, Surrey**

NGR TQ 1356 6436



Planning Ref: 2011/5025

**ASE Project No: 5188
Site Code: PRE 12**

**ASE Report No: 2012069
OASIS ID: archaeol6-120757**

By Giles Dawkes

March 2012

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Moore Place, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey. Four trial trenches were excavated on the 5th March 2012.

The natural gravel and sand was identified between 43.57m OD and 44.98m OD. Modern dumps associated with levelling for the former car park were identified in the south of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Moore Place, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 1356 6436 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site slopes down from the south at 47m OD to the north at 43m OD. The underlying geology is Bagshot Beds.

1.2.2 The site is the former location of the heavily-renovated late 17th/early 18th century building, Moore Place with associated ancillary buildings and car park. It is bound to the east by Portsmouth Road, to the west by the open area of a golf course, to the south by buildings fronting on to Portsmouth Road and to the north by residential buildings and gardens.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The first phase of work comprised the preparation of a Desk-Based Assessment (PCA, 2005) and having considered that document Surrey County Council's (SCC) archaeologist recommended an archaeological evaluation by trenching to be undertaken as a condition of planning permission to determine the presence (or absence) of archaeological remains. The object of this exercise was to determine whether a further stage of archaeological mitigation work would be required.

1.3.2 Planning consent has been granted subject to conditions. Condition 19 relates to archaeology and states:

“A written scheme of archaeological investigation for this large site shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the Borough Council before the commencement of the development hereby approved. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work and recording in accordance with the findings of that investigation.”

REASON: The development proposed covers a large surface area and it is therefore considered likely that it will affect currently unknown archaeological information. It is important that the site is surveyed and work is carried out as necessary in order to preserve as a record any such information before it is destroyed by the development, in accordance with saved Policy HEN17 of the Replacement Elmbridge Borough Local Plan 2000.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012) and a Method Statement (ASE 2012) were prepared and approved by SCC prior to the commencement of work. The evaluation was then carried out in accordance with these documents.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The WSI (*ibid.*) outlined the following aims and objectives:

GENERAL

- Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so assess the date, survival and condition of said remains
- The character date and quality of ancient remains and deposits
- How they might be affected by the development of the site
- To enable the Surrey County Council Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development

SPECIFIC

- Identify and characterise the remains of any Saxon activity on the site
- Identify and characterise any remains associated with the medieval or post-medieval development of Moore Place

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the 5th March 2012 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI. The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and Lesley Davidson (Archaeological Surveyor) and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork), Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following archaeological summary is reproduced from the WSI (CgMs 2012) which was drawn from the Desk Based Assessment (PCA 2005).
- 2.2 In summary, the Desk Based Assessment concluded there was low to moderate potential for prehistoric remains, low potential for Roman remains and low to moderate potential for Saxon remains and medieval remains. The potential for post-medieval remains, especially early-18th to late-20th-century garden features was considered moderate to high. It was also considered likely that the site had suffered truncation from the use as a modern car park (PCA 3, 2005).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Four trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m were mechanically excavated across the proposed development footprint as laid out in Figure 2. The trenches were targeted on the areas of greatest impact; the sunken garden and the new building.
- 3.2 The trenches were located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.3 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision by a JCB machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.4 The excavation was taken down in small spits to the top of the underlying geology which was manually cleaned to identify any archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy. All removed spoil was scanned for the presence of stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.5 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2012) using *pro-forma* ASE record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection.
- 3.6 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive which is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum or archive repository at the end of the project.

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2-6)

4.1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
1/002	Layer	Sand and brick rubble dump	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m
1/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 1: Trench 1 recorded contexts

(Figure 3)

The natural sand and gravel [1/003] was encountered at 44.21m OD. Overlying were dumps of coarse yellow sand with occasional fragments of modern brick rubble [1/002] associated with the construction of the modern car park. Above was modern overburden [1/001].

No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

4.2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	0.4m
2/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 2: Trench 2 recorded contexts

(Figure 4)

The natural sand and gravel [2/002] was encountered at 44.98m OD. Above was modern overburden [2/001].

No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

4.3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	0.4m
3/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 3: Trench 3 recorded contexts

(Figure 5)

The natural sand and gravel [3/002] was encountered at 44.38m OD. Above was modern overburden [3/001].

No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

4.4

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Modern overburden	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
4/002	Layer	Sand and brick rubble dump	Tr.	Tr.	0.8m
4/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 4: Trench 4 recorded contexts

(Figure 6)

The natural sand and gravel [4/003] was encountered at 43.57m OD. Overlying was dumps of coarse yellow sand with occasional fragments of modern brick rubble [4/002] associated with the construction of the modern car park. Above was modern overburden [4/001].

No archaeological deposits or finds were recorded.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation did not identify any archaeological deposits or finds. Any potential archaeological remains may have been truncated in advance of the construction of the modern car park to the rear of the former Moore Place.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs and their client for commissioning the work and Gary Jackson of SCC for his assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	PRE 12					
Identification Name and Address	Moore Place, Portsmouth Road, Esher					
County, District &/or Borough	Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 1356 6436					
Geology	Bagshot beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5188					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. March 12	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawkes					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Moore Place, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey. Four trial trenches were excavated on the 5th March 2012.</p> <p>Modern dumps associated with levelling for the former car park were identified in the south of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-120757

Project details

Project name	evaluation at Portsmouth rd Esher
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Moore Place, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey. Four trial trenches were excavated on the 5th March 2012. Modern dumps associated with levelling for the former car park were identified in the south of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 05-03-2012 End: 05-03-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	PRE 12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Methods & techniques	'Test Pits'
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY ELMBRIDGE ESHER Portsmouth Road Esher
Postcode	KT10 9LH
Study area	144.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 1356 6436 51.3664278557 -0.368547445803 51 21 59 N 000 22 06 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 43.57m Max: 44.98m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Surry County Council
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Giles Dawkes

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID PRE 12

Digital Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID PRE 12

Paper Contents 'Stratigraphic','Survey'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Miscellaneous Material','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey '

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Archaeological Evaluation Report

Author(s)/Editor(s) Dawkes, G

Other bibliographic details ASE Report No: 2012069

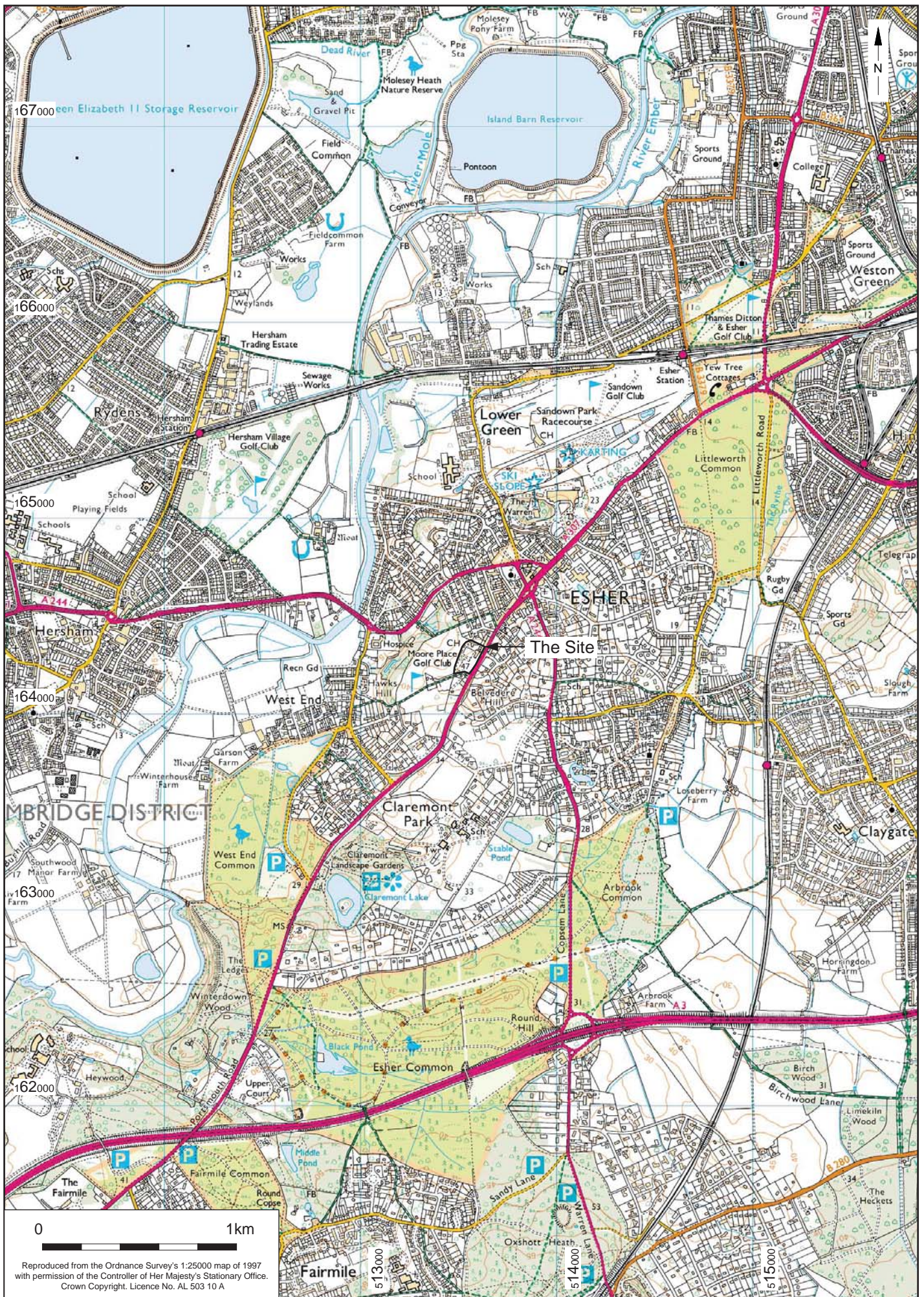
Date 2012

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Place of issue or publication Portslade

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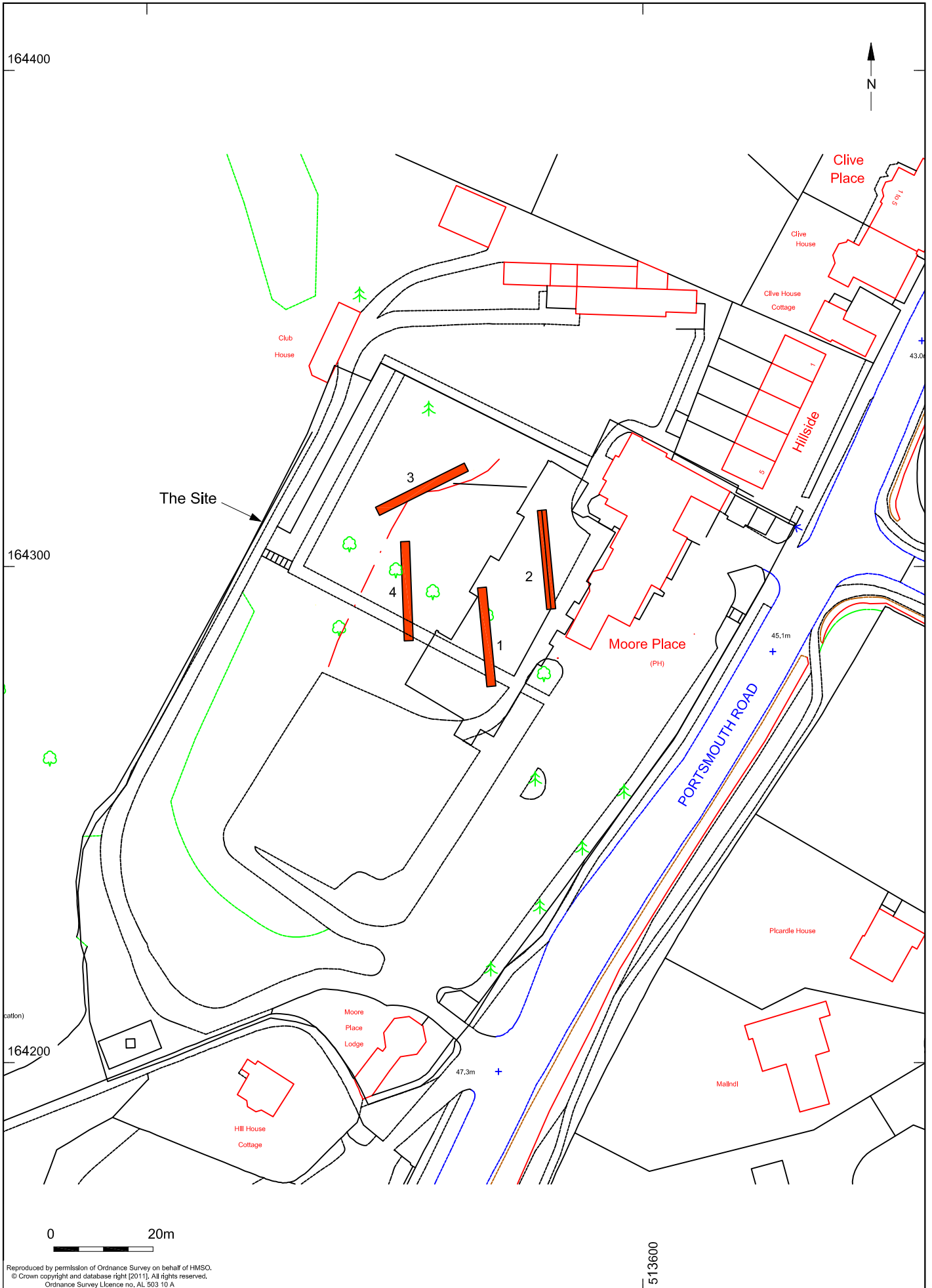
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© Archaeology South-East		Portsmouth Road, Esher	
Project Ref: 5188	March 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012069	Drawn by: JLR		

Fig. 1



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© Archaeology South-East		Portsmouth Road, Esher	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5188	March 2012	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2012069	Drawn by: JLR		



Figure 3: Trench 1 facing south



Figure 4: Trench 2 facing north



Figure 5: Trench 3 facing north-east



Figure 6: Trench 4 facing north

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