

Archaeological Evaluation Report Horley Development North East Sector Horley, Surrey

NGR: TQ 5296 1442

Planning Application number: 04/01778/RM13

ASE Project No: 4953 Site Code: LNH 04

ASE Report No: 2012201 OASIS ID: archaeol6-134378

By Giles Dawkes and Dan Swift With contributions by Lucy Allott and Luke Barber

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Archaeology South-East

Eval: North East Sector, Horley, Surrey ASE Report No: 2012201

Abstract

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 David Wilson Homes Southern and Barratt Southern Counties to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at North East Sector, Horley, Surrey.

A series of medieval pits and ditches were identified in 5 of the 6 trenches and other finds included a quantity of slag, suggesting iron-working was being undertaken in the near vicinity.

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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 David Wilson Homes Southern and Barratt Southern Counties to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at North East Sector, Horley, Surrey. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 5296 1442 and its location is shown in Figure 1. The site is known as Area 5 and is part of a larger proposed development of 308 dwellings and a neighbourhood centre.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is level and the underlying geology is Weald Clay.
- 1.2.2 The site is an open field under pasture bounded by mature hedgerows and trees.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The evaluation of Area 5 is part of the overall archaeological investigations required by Tony Howe, Surrey County Council's Assistant County Archaeologist (SCCACA).
- 1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; ASE, June 2007) for the evaluation of Area 5 was submitted to and approved by Tony Howe. All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI, as well as with the Standards and Guidance: Archaeological Excavations of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2012), and other codes of practise and relevant documents of the IfA.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general aim of archaeological fieldwork is to identify, excavate, record and characterise any archaeological remains present in the excavated area.
- 1.4.2 More specific aims in light of recent fieldwork in the area (ASE 2005-2009) are:
 - To assess what evidence there is that changing environmental conditions, such as the flooding of the Burstow Stream, may have dictated settlement shift in the area during the MIA/LIA and Romano-British periods
 - To assess what was the Iron Age and Romano-British 'network' of sites in this region in light of the theory that these follow arterial waterways such as the Burstow Stream and the River Mole etc
 - To use any Middle and Late Iron Age pottery recovered to help to improve our knowledge of Iron Age material culture in the Weald

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 To attempt to relate any evidence of the medieval tannery Scheduled Ancient Monument site recorded in Scotchman's Copse

- 1.4.3 A further aim is to identify and examine the evidence for continuity between past and present landscapes and to:
 - Examine the relationship of cut features, particularly field / enclosure boundaries and trackways to the existing field boundaries, roads and lanes
 - Examine the documentary and cartographic sources and relate these, if possible to the excavated evidence
 - Particular attention should also be paid to the continuity of land use from the prehistoric / Romano-British period and the medieval landscape. This has been suggested for other areas of the Weald, particularly Kent (SERF seminar October 2007)

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 18th and 20th September 2012 and has been prepared in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2007). The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and John Cook (Archaeological Surveyor) and managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (postexcavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is situated on pastureland to the north-east of Horley on the floodplain of the Burstow Stream, which is very close to the north of the site, on level ground at between 53m and 54m OD. The Burstow Stream joins the River Mole to the northwest of Horley and is a small but fast-flowing waterway prone to flooding, particularly onto the lower, southern side of the channel.
- 2.2 The land adjacent to the Burstow Stream has soils grouped in the Shabbington Association which overlies Weald Clay. This association is developed in river terrace drift and comprises deep fine loamy and fine loamy sandy soils affected by ground water. Such soils are prone to water logging.
- 2.3 Until the last few years very little was known of the archaeological background of the area to the north of Horley. However, this situation has changed, and a large amount of work has now been conducted by ASE affording a much better understanding of the archaeology of the area.
- 2.4 Initially, an Archaeological Desktop Assessment Report (DBA) was carried out by CPM (2000) in advance of proposed redevelopment on land at North-East Horley. This provided a summary of what was then known of the area, but as a result of a lack of archaeological fieldwork, the report revealed very little activity earlier than the 16th century AD.
- 2.5 The findings of the DBA (*ibid*.) revealed very little prehistoric and Romano-British archaeological information for the study area other than the finding of occasional stray finds:
 - SMR 872 (English Heritage Sites and Monuments Record 872) records the find of a Neolithic polished flint axe discovered near Burstow Stream to the west of the site area
 - Further away, to the north east of the site, a Romano-British gold coin was discovered at West Field, Hathersham Farm in 1854 (SMR 1298)
- 2.6 The DBA (*ibid*.) also revealed that, in advance of development, a small number of archaeological investigations had been undertaken in the vicinity since 1996:
 - Evaluation by Surrey County Archaeology Unit at Balcombe Road, c 300-400m to the south west, revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest
 - A similar negative result was obtained during evaluation at Horley Football Club some 500-600m to the south east
 - A small evaluation in advance of an extension at Langshott Manor found only post-medieval and modern features
- 2.7 The DBA (*ibid*.) found no sites designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments were found to lie within the site although:

A possible medieval tannery site is recorded in Scotchman's Copse (a scheduled ancient monument) almost immediately to the north of the site

- A possible Saxon trackway was also identified in the immediate area
- 2.8 The DBA (ibid.) also showed that medieval and post-medieval manor and moated sites are known in the surrounding area. These include:
 - Langshott Manor (SMR 3020) to the south of the site (hence Langshott Lane)
 - Horley Lodge (SMR 3015), some distance to the north-west
 - Thunderfield Castle, dating to between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries to the south east of the site (SMR 873)
- 2.9 A geophysical survey for the same land was then conducted (WYAS 2001):
 - This revealed little of archaeological consequence apart from some faint traces of ridge and furrow in one field and a few areas of magnetic disturbance
- Contrary to this, a subsequent archaeological evaluation undertaken by ASE (Stevenson 2005) revealed:
 - Middle/Late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval occupation evidence across various parts the site. The remains included ditches, pits and post-holes and associated tracks, fields and droveways. There was also evidence of ancient water courses or areas of sitting water
- Further archaeological evaluation (Figure 2) was also undertaken by ASE to the east of Lake Lane (Swift 2007). This revealed:
 - A similar spread of field boundary ditches and (scant) settlement evidence of possible Iron Age / Romano British and later date
- 2.12 Another archaeological evaluation by ASE (Margetts 2007) in fields to the south-east of this produced limited evidence for multi-period activity. This includes:
 - Iron Age, late medieval and post medieval evidence. The majority of the remains uncovered comprised ditches or gullies, probably mostly of MIA/LIA date. Two removed field boundaries were also in evidence, one of which has a probable late medieval date assigned to its foundation as well as a late 19th century date for its decommission. Much post-medieval blast furnace iron slag was also recovered from the southern part of the site.
- 2.13 The first evaluation (Stevenson 2005) led to the further archaeological excavation (Swift 2009) of several large, targeted areas across the site. These revealed:

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 Extensive evidence of Middle and Late Iron Age, Romano-British and medieval settlement and farming as well as rare evidence of Middle/Late Iron Age ritual practice.

- 2.14 Thus excavation has shown that this area has potential for prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval archaeology.
- 2.15 A mitigation excavation undertaken to the immediate west in Horley Development North-East Sector, Areas 1-3 identified a series of linear features and a thin scatter of pits and postholes dating from the 1st to 3rd centuries. A later phase of activity was represented by a substantial post-medieval/modern ditch, with adjoining drainage gullies. This feature is thought to represent the remains of part of the post-medieval field system, in parts still extant within the wider Horley landscape.
- 2.16 In Areas 2 and 3 a similar series of linear features and a thin scatter of discreet features was observed and although no initial spot dates are available, these are likely to be of similar date comparable to those identified in Area 1.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Six trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated in Area 5 as laid out in Figures 2 and 3.
- 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 to identify archaeological features. The sections of the trenches were cleaned to observe and record stratigraphy.
- 3.5 All removed spoil was scanned for the presence of stray, unstratified artefacts.
- 3.6 All encountered deposits, features and finds were recorded and sampled according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2007) using pro-forma ASE recording sheets.
- 3.7 All features were investigated by sondage, by hand and planned using digital survey equipment.
- 3.8 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.

Number of Contexts	16
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	1
Photographs	15
Bulk finds	1 small bag
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
272/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
272/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
272/003	Fill	Pit fill	1.6m	1m	0.1m
272/004	Cut	Pit	1.6m	1m	0.1m
272/005	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	1.3m	0.25m
272/006	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.3m	0.25m

Table 2: Trench 272 recorded contexts

The natural clay [272/002] was encountered at c. 54.00m OD.

Cut into the natural was sub-circular pit [272/004] with brown clay fill [272/003] containing finds of iron-working slag and medieval pottery dating to 1250-1350.

To the east was ditch [272/006] filled by brown clay [272/005] with finds of medieval pottery dating to 1250-1350.

4.2

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
273/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
273/002	Layer	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	-
273/003	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.		0.35m
273/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.		0.35
273/005	Fill	Ditch fill, upper	Tr.	1.9m	0.19m
273/006	Fill	Ditch fill, lower	Tr.	1.9m	0.27m
273/007	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	1.9m	0.46m

Table 3: Trench 273 recorded contexts

The natural clay [273/002] was encountered at c. 53.80m OD.

Cut into the natural were two ditches [273/004] and [273/007], both aligned northeast – southwest and filled by brown clays.

Ditch fill [273/003] of the former contained a single sherd of medieval pottery dating to 1250-1350.

Ditch fill [273/005] of contained a small amount of iron-working slag.

4.3

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
274/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
274/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
274/003	Fill	Pit fill			0.18m
274/004	Cut	Pit			0.18m

Table 4: Trench 274 recorded contexts

The natural clay [274/002] was encountered at c. 53.90m OD.

Cut into the natural was sub-circular pit [274/004] filled by black clay [274/003]. There were no finds from the feature.

4.4

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
275/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48m
275/002	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	4.5m	0.24m
275/003	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	4.5m	0.24m
275/004	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 5: Trench 275 recorded contexts

The natural clay [275/004] was encountered at c. 53.80m OD.

Cut into the natural was broad shallow ditch [275/003] possibly representing a holloway. The brown clay fill [275/002] contained a small amount of ironworking slag.

4.5

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
276/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.35m
276/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
276/003	Fill	Pit fill	0.94m	1m	0.08m
276/004	Cut	Pit	0.94m	1m	0.08m

Table 6: Trench 276 recorded contexts

The natural clay [276/002] was encountered at c. 54.10m OD.

Cut into the natural was small pit [276/004] filled by brown clay fill [276/003] containing medieval pottery sherds dating to 1250-1350.

4.6

Number	Туре	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
277/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.48m
277/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	

Table 7: Trench 277 recorded contexts

The natural clay [277/002] was encountered at c. 54m OD.

No archaeological features or finds were recovered from the trench.

5.0 FINDS

Contex t	Pottery	wt (g)	Slag	wt (g)
272/3	7	56	99	4834
272/5	3	34	4	364
273/3	1	<2		
273/5			2	124
275/2			2	182
276/3	9	30		
Total	20	120	107	5504

Table 8: Finds quantification

5.1 **The Post-Roman pottery** by Luke Barber

- 5.1.1 Four contexts produced a small assemblage of pottery, all of which is of the medieval with activity occurring somewhere between the late 13th and mid 14th centuries. The sherds vary in size from small (< 30mm across) to, more rarely, medium-sized sherds (30-60mm across). However, all appear to have been adversely affected by acidity so the exact degree of abrasion through reworking is difficult to gauge.
- 5.1.2 The most common fabric consists of Surrey whitewares, with three sherds recovered from [272/003] (including a vessel with internal green glaze) and a further three, from a bowl with flat-topped rim, coming from [272/005]. The remaining sherds consist of a possible Surrey whiteware and three oxidised sandy bodysherds (context [272/003]), an abraded Earlswood jug bodysherd with external white slip below a clear glaze (context [273/003]) and nine abraded oxidised coarse sandy wares from a bowl/cooking pot with squared out-turned rim (context [276/003]). It is possible these could also be Earlswood products.

5.2 **The Slag** by Luke Barber

Considering how few contexts were involved the evaluation produced a notable assemblage of slag. By far the majority was recovered from [272/003]. A provisional scan of this material shows three material types to be present. The bulk of the pieces consist of quite aerated, non-magnetic, black/brown iron slag. This material is not diagnostic of process. There are also seven pieces of similar, but notably denser, slag that although again not really diagnostic of process are more likely to be the result of smelting rather than smithing. The other type of material consists of ferruginous concretions/panning, with notable sandstone grits/pebbles adhering to their exterior. Whether these had been collected for smelting, or are a post-ironworking phenomenon is uncertain. The slag pieces from [273/005] and [275/002] are of similar undiagnostic types. The single piece from [272/005] does have some flow structure on its upper surface suggesting it may be from smelting. It is clear that iron-working was occurring on a low level at the site (or very close to it). At present it can be tentatively suggested that this involved smelting, but a larger, more diagnostic assemblage will be needed to prove this.

6.0 Environmental Sample

- 6.1 A single sample, <1> was taken from pit fill [272/003], feature [272/004]. The sample was taken to maximise recovery of artefacts and environmental remains. It was processed by flotation in its entirety and the residue and flot retained on 500μm and 250μm meshes respectively. The flot was scanned under a sterezoom microscope and the residue was sieved and sorted. Sample contents are recorded in Tables 9 & 10.
- 6.2 Environmental remains are scarce within this sample with only a small quantity of wood charcoal fragments recorded in both the residue and flot. In addition to the charcoal, pot and slag were recovered from the residue and appear comparable with those recorded in the finds report (see Barber). The flot consisted almost entirely of small uncharred roots and rootlets suggesting a degree of modern disturbance within the deposit. The sample presents no potential to further examine vegetation or fuel use.

Sample Number	Context	Weight g	Flot volume ml	Volume scanned	Uncharred %	Sediment %	Charcoal >4mm	Charcoal <4mm	Charcoal <2mm
1	272/00 3	38	30 0	30 0	95	<2	*	*	**

Table 9: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

Sample Number	Context	Context / deposit type	Sample Volume litres	Sub-Sample Volume litres	Charcoal >4mm	Weight (g)	Charcoal <4mm	Weight (g)	Other (eg ind, pot, cbm)
	272/00								
1	3	Pit	40	40	**	2	**	<2	Pot */32g, Slag **/2066g

Table 10: Residue quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250)

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The archaeological evaluation has shown that the site is untruncated. The integrity of the natural horizon was good.
- 7.2 It is slightly unexpected that no Iron Age or Romano-British material was recovered whatsoever given the known density of activity of this date identified in areas investigated to the east and west. It may be that during those periods this area was unsuitable for habitation or farming, perhaps as it was inundated. There certainly does not seem to be any apparent continuity of land-use between Romano-British activity, medieval and post-medieval activity.
- 7.3 A series of shallow ditches and pits, mostly medieval (1250-1350) in date and containing a sizable assemblage of iron-working slag relative to the small amount of features were recorded. Although not *in situ* remains of iron-working, such as furnaces were identified, and the slag was not diagnostic of process (see Finds 5.2), the slag does suggest that the site may be in the vicinity of medieval iron-working.
- 7.4 Most archaeological work in the area has been notably devoid of iron-working evidence; however, one area to the north of the Burstow Stream (Stage 2 Phase 1 Evaluation Area F; excavation area APA 1; Swift 2009) had some 13th century ditches and slag was also recovered. Additionally, the evaluation (Margetts 2007) to the south-east produced evidence of post-medieval iron-working.
- 7.5 Whether, or how, this evidence may pertain to the medieval tannery SAM site recorded in Scotchman's Copse remains to be seen.
- 7.6 The boundaries (ditches) identified in the evaluation of Area 5 do not seem to bear much resemblance to the alignment of existing field boundaries.

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HER Summary Form

Site Code	LNH 04	LNH 04						
Identification Name	North East	Sector, Horl	ey					
and Address								
0 / 51///0/								
County, District &/or	Surrey							
Borough								
OS Grid Refs.	TQ							
Geology	Weald Clay	/						
Arch. South-East	4953							
Project Number		1	T	T -	T -			
Type of Fieldwork	Eval. ✓	Excav.	Watching	Standing	Survey	Other		
			Brief	Structure				
Type of Site	Green√	Shallow	Deep	Other				
	Field	Urban	Urban					
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB.	Other				
	Sept 12							
Sponsor/Client	David Wilso	on Homes S	outhern and I	Barratt South	nern Counti	ies		
Project Manager	Darryl Paln	ner						
Project Supervisor	Giles Dawk	ces						
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Palaeo. Meso. Neo. BA IA RB						
	AS	MED ✓	PM	Other				
0				Modern				

Summary

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 David Wilson Homes Southern and Barratt Southern Counties to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at North East Sector, Horley, Surrey.

A series of medieval pits and ditches were identified in 5 of the 6 trenches and other finds included a quantity of slag, suggesting iron-working was being undertaken in the near vicinity.

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-134378

Project details

Project name North West Sector Horley Area 5

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 David Wilson Homes Southern and Barratt Southern Counties to undertake an

Short description of the project

archaeological evaluation in advance of development at North East Sector, Horley, Surrey. A series of medieval pits and ditches were identified in 5 of the 6 trenches and other finds included a quantity of slag, suggesting iron-working was being undertaken in the near vicinity.

Project dates Start: 18-09-2012 End: 20-09-2012

Previous/future

work

No / Yes

Any associated

project reference

LNH04 - Sitecode

codes

Any associated

project reference

4953 - Contracting Unit No.

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type DITCH Medieval Monument type PIT Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Significant Finds SLAG Medieval

Methods & techniques

"Sample Trenches"

Development type Housing estate

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process

Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY REIGATE AND BANSTEAD HORLEY North East Sector

Horley

Postcode RH1 5RF

Study area 1.00 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 5296 1442 50 0 50 54 30 N 000 10 33 E Point

Project creators

Name of Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East

Eval: North East Sector, Horley, Surrey ASE Report No: 2012201

Organisation

Project brief originator

Surrey County Council

Project design originator

Surrey County Council

Project

director/manager

Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Giles Dawkes

Type of

sponsor/funding

private client

body

Name of

sponsor/funding

David Wilson Homes

body

Project archives

Physical Archive

Local Museum

recipient

Physical Contents "Ceramics", "Environmental", "Industrial"

Digital Archive

recipient

Local Museum

Digital Contents

"Ceramics", "Environmental"

Digital Media

available

"Database", "Spreadsheets", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient

Local Museum

Paper Contents

"Ceramics", "Environmental"

Paper Media

"Context

available

sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

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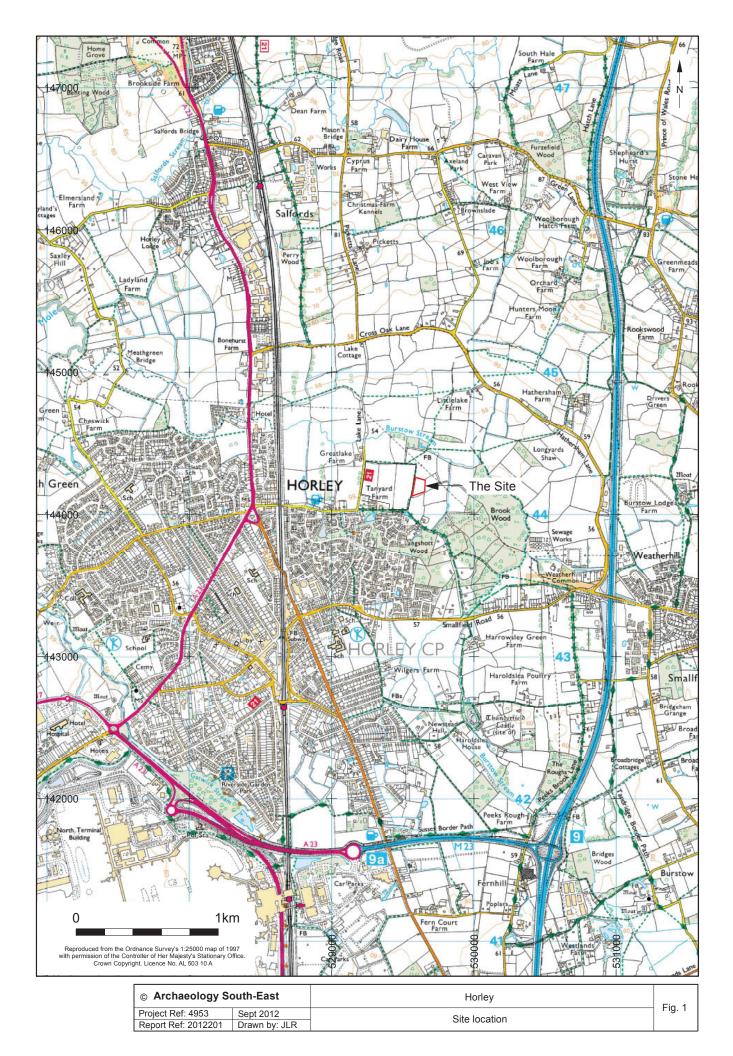
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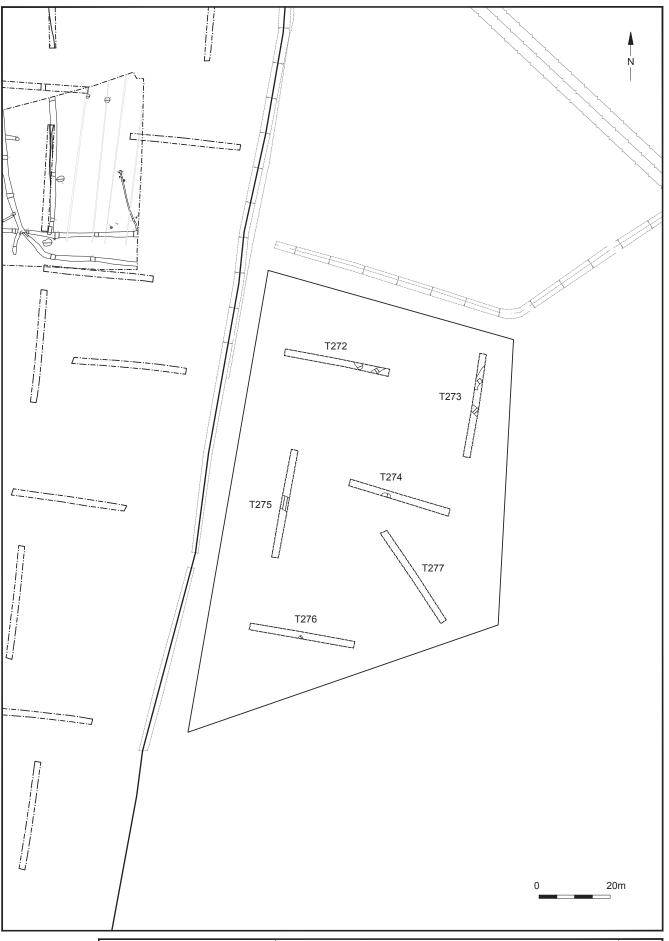
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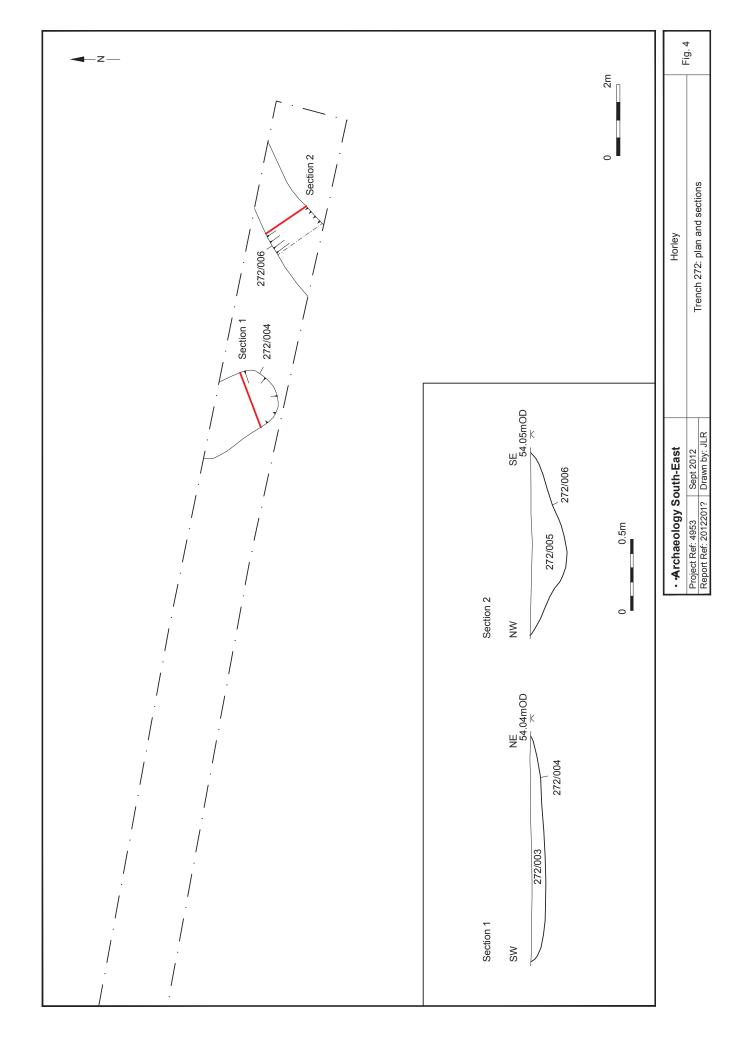
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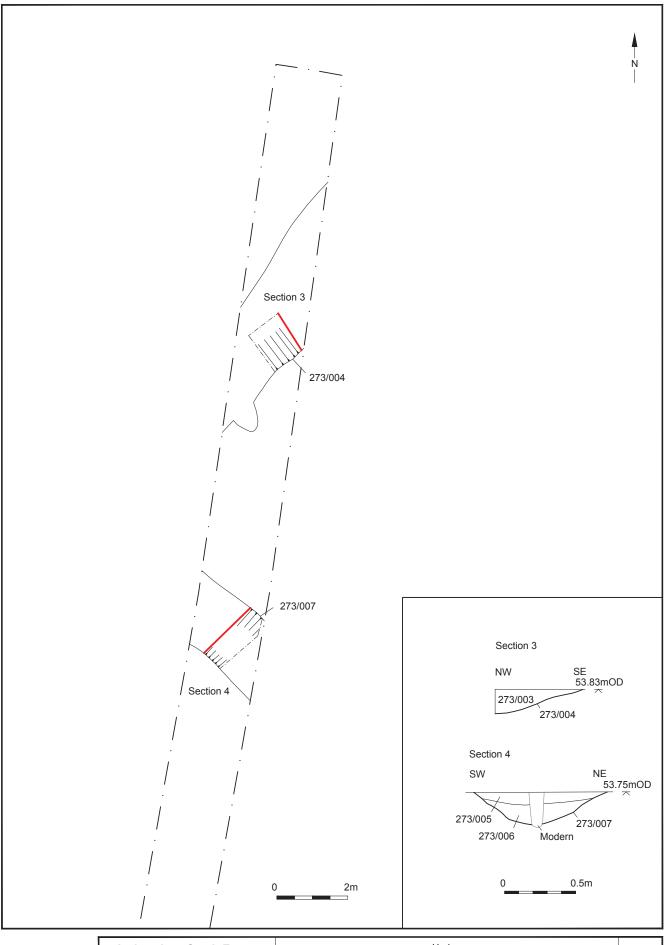




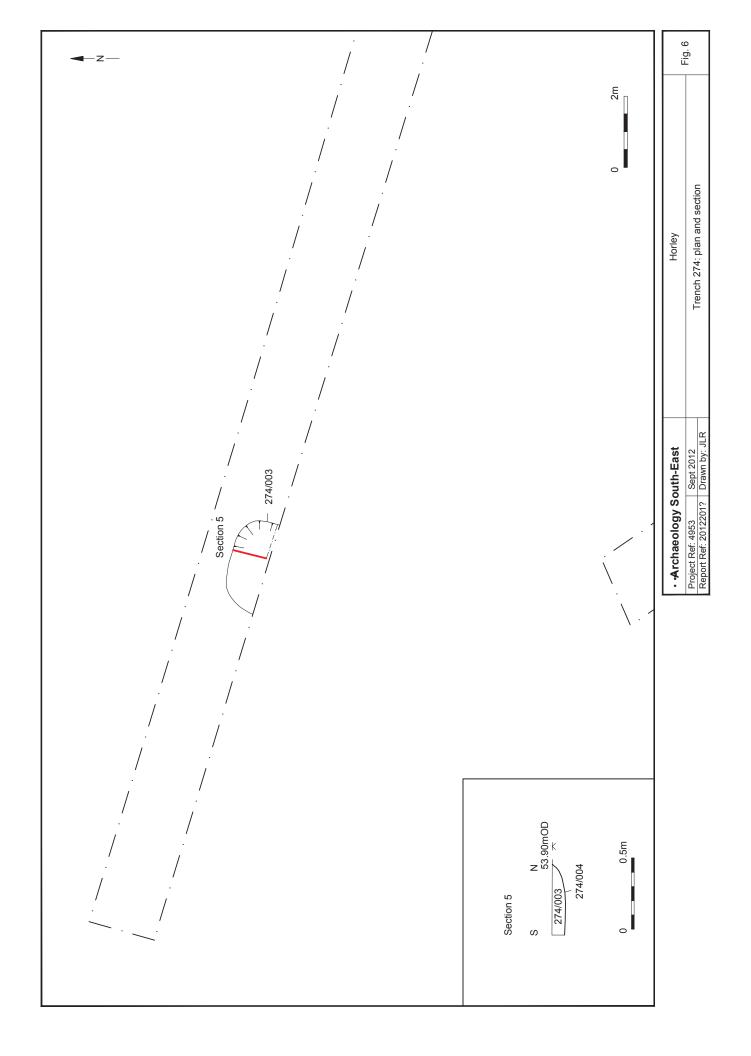


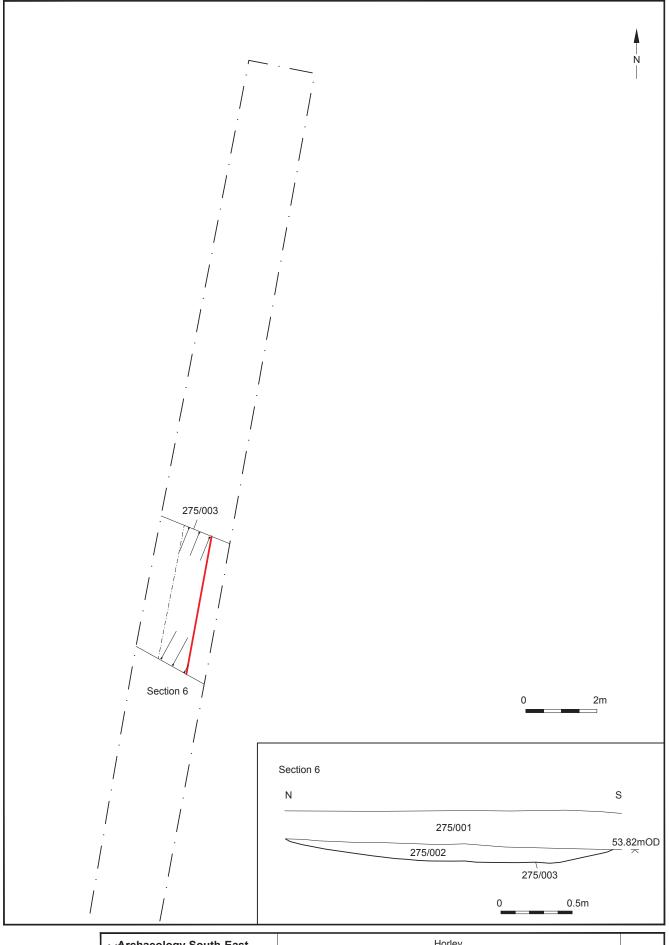
· •Archaeology South-East		Horley	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4953	Sept 2012	Transh location	
Report Ref: 2012201	Drawn by: JLR	Trench location	



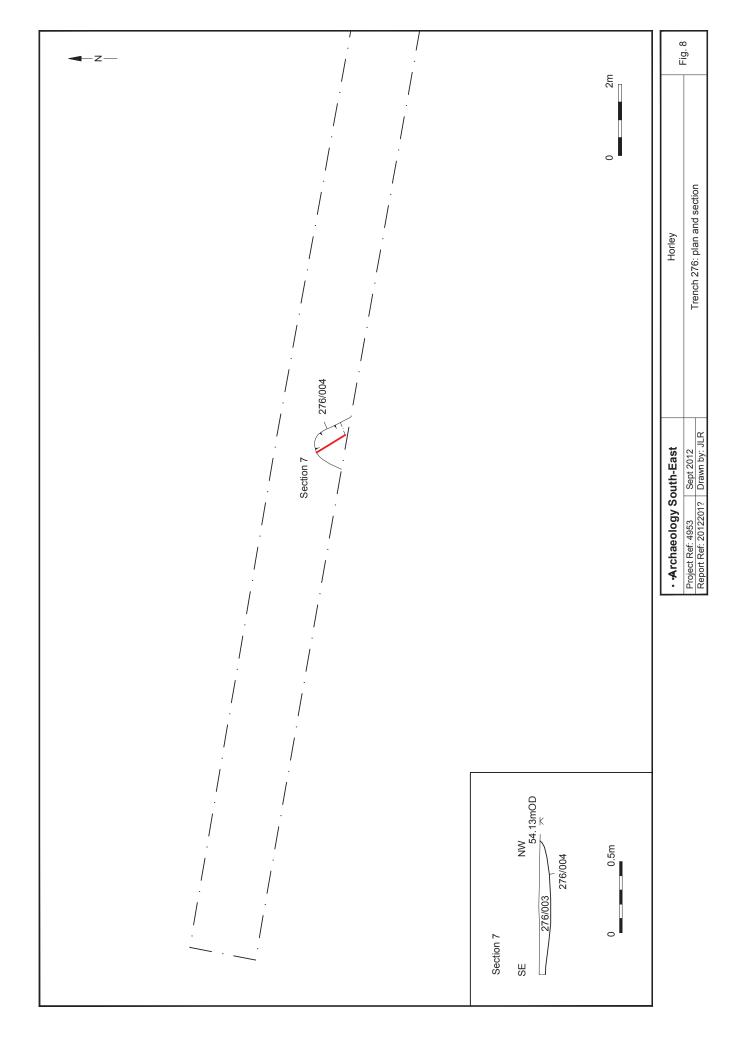


· •Archaeology South-East		Horley	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 4953	Sept 2012	Trench 273: plan and sections	1 lg. 5
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· · Archaeology South-East		outh-East	Horley	Fig. 7
	Project Ref: 4953	Sept 2012	Trench 275: plan and section	1 lg. /
	Report Ref: 2012201	Drawn by: JLR	Trenen 273. plan and section	



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