

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield
Berkshire**

NGR: 48365 17080

**Planning Application numbers: 12/00911/FUL
and 12/00912/FUL**

**ASE Project No: 5879
Site Code: FLB 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013021
OASIS ID: archaeol6-142190**

**By Giles Dawkes BA MIFA
With contributions by Gemma Ayton
Luke Barber, Elke Raemen**

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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 CgMs to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield, Berkshire.

A series of obscure pits and gullies probably relating to the use of the site as an orchard during the late 19th century/ 20th century were identified in 7 of the 8 trenches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.

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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 on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a housing development at Foxley Lane / Forest Road, Binfield, Berkshire. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 48365 17080 and its location is shown on Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is level and the underlying geology is London 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 An Archaeological Desk-Based assessment (DBA; TVAS 2010) of the site was undertaken for a previous developer. This was approved by Berkshire Archaeology and concluded that an archaeological evaluation of the site was required.

1.3.2 A specification for Archaeological Evaluation (CgMs 2012) was submitted to and approved by Berkshire Archaeology. All work was carried out in accordance with the specification, as well as with the Berkshire Archaeology *General Standards for Fieldwork Projects, 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 aims of the evaluation as outlined in the specification (CgMs 2012, 4-5) were as follows:

1.4.2 The general aims of the project, as defined by the Berkshire Archaeology General Standards for Fieldwork Projects are *to determine the existence or absence of any archaeological remains; and should remains be found to be present to ensure their preservation in situ (where nationally important remains are identified) or preservation by record, through excavation, to the highest possible standard – any decisions made regarding preservation in situ (where nationally important remains are identified) will be by agreement through consultation with Berkshire Archaeology and English Heritage (if appropriate) with the view to considering current and on-going impacts.*

- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains

- To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains
- To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present
- To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape
- To determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to
 - economy, status, utility and social activity
- To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present
- To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

1.4.3 The aims of the project can be summarised as follows:

- To determine if Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains identified in the wider study area are present within the site. It is possible that remains of other periods could be present as well.
- To inform the design of suitable mitigation measures and the production of a written scheme of investigation for excavation if archaeology is identified or the production of a mitigation strategy for preservation *in situ* where remains are found that are nationally important.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out between 9th and 11th January 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the Specification (CgMs 2012). The work was carried out by Giles Dawkes (Senior Archaeologist) and managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This summary of the archaeological background is taken from the specification (CgMs 2012.) and from the DBA (TVAS 2010).
- 2.2 The desk based assessment has established that the site lies on the edge of Binfield which has medieval origins. There are no known archaeological sites located on the site but there are various prehistoric and medieval finds recorded within 1km especially to the west and south-west. Iron Age/Roman occupation have identified at Park Farm to the east along with Mesolithic flint scatters
- 2.3 From cartographic evidence it appears that the majority of the site has been largely undeveloped with only a few structures including outbuildings, adjacent to Foxley Lane, being erected in the last two centuries which no longer exist on site. It is possible that these structures may have compromised archaeological deposits in their locations.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 Eight trenches measuring 20m x 1.8m were excavated as shown on Figure 2.
- 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 Specification (CgMs 2012) 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	32
No. of files/paper record	40
Plan and sections sheets	2
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	39
Bulk finds	13
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
1/002		VOID			
1/003	Fill	Natural	Tr.	m	0.1m
1/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	m	0.1m
1/005	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	m	0.25m
1/006	Cut	Gully	Tr.	m	0.25m
1/007	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.		

Table 2: Trench 1 recorded contexts

The natural clay [1/003] was encountered at c. 67.05m OD.

Cut into the natural was irregular gully [1/004] and [1/006] filled with brown silt clays [1/005] and [1/007] containing finds of mid 18th / early 20th century ceramic building material fragments and pottery sherds dating to c.1890-1940.

4.2 Trench 2

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
2/002	Layer	Natural clay	Tr.	Tr.	-
2/003	Fill	Ditch fill	Tr.	0.68m	0.13m
2/004	Cut	Ditch	Tr.	0.68m	0.13m
2/005	Cut	Pit	0.9m	0.9m	0.17m
2/006	Fill	Pit fill	0.9m	0.9m	0.17m

Table 3: Trench 2 recorded contexts

The orange brown natural clay [2/002] was encountered at c. 68.05m OD.

Cut into the natural was ditch [2/004] and pit [2/005] and both were filled with brown clays ([2/003] and [2/006]). The pit fill contained a finds of pottery dating to c. 1850-1940.

4.3 Trench 3

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
3/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.2m
3/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
3/003	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.1m
3/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.1m

Table 4: Trench 3 recorded contexts

The natural clay [3/002] was encountered at c. 68.52m OD.

Cut into the natural was gully [3/004] filled by brown silt clay [3/003] containing finds of mid 18th / early 20th century ceramic building material fragments.

4.4 Trench 4

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
4/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
4/002	Fill	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
4/003	Cut	Pit fill			0.12m
4/004	Layer	Pit			0.12m

Table 5: Trench 4 recorded contexts

The natural clay [4/002] was encountered at c. 69.30m OD.

Cut into the natural was as series of 5 ring-shaped pits and one of these, [4/004] was excavated. The pit had a shallow concave profile and was filled with brown silt clay [4/003] containing finds of mid 18th / early 20th century ceramic building material fragments.

4.5 Trench 5

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
5/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.25m
5/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
5/003	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m
5/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.12m

Table 6: Trench 5 recorded contexts

The natural clay [5/002] was encountered at c. 69.28m OD.

Cut into the natural was irregular gully [5/004] with shallow concave sides and filled by brown silt clay fill [5/003] containing finds of mid 18th / early 20th century ceramic building material fragments.

4.6 Trench 6

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
6/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.3m
6/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
6/003	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m
6/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.08m

Table 7: Trench 6 recorded contexts

The natural clay [6/002] was encountered at c. 70.38m OD.

Cut into the natural was irregular gully [6/004] with shallow concave sides and filled by brown silt clay fill [6/003] containing finds of pottery dating to c. 1850-1940.

4.7 Trench 7

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
7/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.23m
7/002		VOID			
7/003	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-
7/004	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
7/005	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.24m
7/006	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m
7/007	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.04m
7/008	Cut	Gully	Tr.	Tr.	0.03m
7/009	Fill	Gully fill	Tr.	Tr.	0.03m

Table 8: Trench 7 recorded contexts

The natural clay [7/002] was encountered at c. 69.85m OD.

Cut into the natural was irregular gully [7/004], [7/006] & [7/008] filled with brown silt clays containing finds of mid 18th / early 20th century ceramic building material fragments.

4.8 Trench 8

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Depth
8/001	Layer	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.32m
8/002	Layer	Natural	Tr.	Tr.	-

Table 9: Trench 8 recorded contexts

The natural clay [8/002] was encountered at c. 70.99m OD.

No archaeological finds or features were identified in the trench.

5.0 FINDS

5.1 A small assemblage of mostly post-medieval finds was recovered during the archaeological work. Finds were all washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently counted, weighed and bagged by material and by context. None of the metalwork requires x-ray. An overview of the assemblage can be found in Table 10.

Cxt	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Stone	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)
1/005	1	68	5	186					1	20	1	20
1/007			2	80	2	<2			1	20		
2/004					3	<2			24	92		
2/006	1	<2	1	22			1	4	1	20		
3/003			2	78								
4/003			1	78								
5/003			3	228							1	26
6/003	1	<2										
7/005			2	148								
Total	3	68	16	820	5		1	4	27	152	2	46

Table 10: Quantification of the finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The pottery sherds were recovered from just three contexts on the site. The largest piece consists of part of a grey English stoneware lid with Bristol glaze from [1/005]. The sherd is likely to date between c. 1890 and 1940. Context [2/006] produced a chip of blue transfer-printed ware while [6/003] contained a chip of refined white earthenware with moulded decoration. Both these sherds can be placed anywhere between the mid 19th and early 20th centuries.

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered a small and heavily fragmented assemblage of ceramic building material. Three different brick fabrics are present, all of which come from well-formed and fired bricks: B1 sparse fine sand with common iron oxides to 5mm (contexts [1/005] and [3/003]); B2 sparse fine/medium sand with common iron oxides to 1mm with some marl streaks (contexts [1/007], [2/006] and [7/005]) and B3, as fabric B2 but also with sparse angular flints to 2mm (context [5/003] only). All of the bricks are of mid 18th- to early 20th- century types, though, considering the associated pottery, a date later in this range is likely.

5.3.2 The tile from the site appears to be of similar date to the brick fragments. Nearly all the tile pieces are from well-formed and fired peg tiles. Two fabrics are present: T1, with moderate fine sand, very rare iron oxide inclusions to 1mm and very rare flint to 1mm (contexts [1/005], [3/003], [4/003] and [5/003]) and T2, as T1 but with marl swirls instead of flint inclusions (context [1/007] only). The only other tile consists of a small (22g) fragment of a pan tile in fabric T1 (context [1/005]).

5.4 The Bulk Metalwork by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A small assemblage consisting of 27 pieces of ironwork was recovered from four individually numbered contexts. Included are 24 sheet fragments, recovered from [2/004] and measuring 0.9mm thick. Most are flat, though a few curving fragments are also present. All 24 likely derive from the same object, e.g. a (food) tin, and date to the mid 19th to early 20th century. A total of three general purpose nails were also found ([1/005], [1/007] and [2/006]).

5.5 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.5.1 Two glass fragments were recovered from two different contexts. Context [1/005] contained a green glass wine bottle body fragment dating to the mid 19th to early 20th century. A beer bottle body shard in green glass and of late 19th- to early 20th-century date was found in [5/003].

5.6 The Geological Material by Luke Barber

5.6.1 Context [2/006] produced a single heavily abraded piece of coal.

5.7 The Animal Bone by Gemma Ayton

5.7.1 Five fragments of poorly preserved bone have been recovered from contexts [1/0074] and [2/004] and are too small to be identified. The assemblage has no potential for analysis.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No features or finds earlier than mid 19th century/early 20th century were found and it is more than likely that all of the features identified were largely contemporary. The similarities between the unusual circular gullies in Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 was striking, and although the exact function of these unusual features is unknown, they are probably related to the orchard on the site shown on the OS maps between 1912 and 1960 (TVAS 2010, Figures 8 - 10).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work and Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology for her assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	FLB 13					
Identification Name and Address	Land at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield					
County, District &/or Borough	Berkshire					
OS Grid Refs.	48365 17080					
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5879					
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. Jan13	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>Summary</p> <p>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 to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield, Berkshire.</p> <p>A series of obscure pits and gullies probably relating to the use of the site as an orchard during the late 19th century/ 20th century were identified in 7 of the 8 trenches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.</p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-142190**

Project details

Project name	Land at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield -archaeological evaluation
Short description of the project	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 to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield, Berkshire. A series of obscure pits and gullies probably relating to the use of the site as an orchard during the late 19th century/ 20th century were identified in 7 of the 8 trenches. No finds or features of archaeological interest were identified.
Project dates	Start: 09-01-2013 End: 11-01-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	FLB 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	not known
Prompt	not known
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WOKINGHAM WOKINGHAM Land at Foxley Lane/Forest Road, Binfield
Postcode	RG42 4EG
Study area	6000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 841 704 51 0 51 25 33 N 000 47 24 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 67.05m Max: 70.99m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator CgMs Consulting

Project design originator CgMs Consulting

Project director/manager Andy Leonard

Project supervisor Giles Dawkes

Type of sponsor/funding body Client

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Archive ID FLB 13

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital Media available "Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Archive ID FLB 13

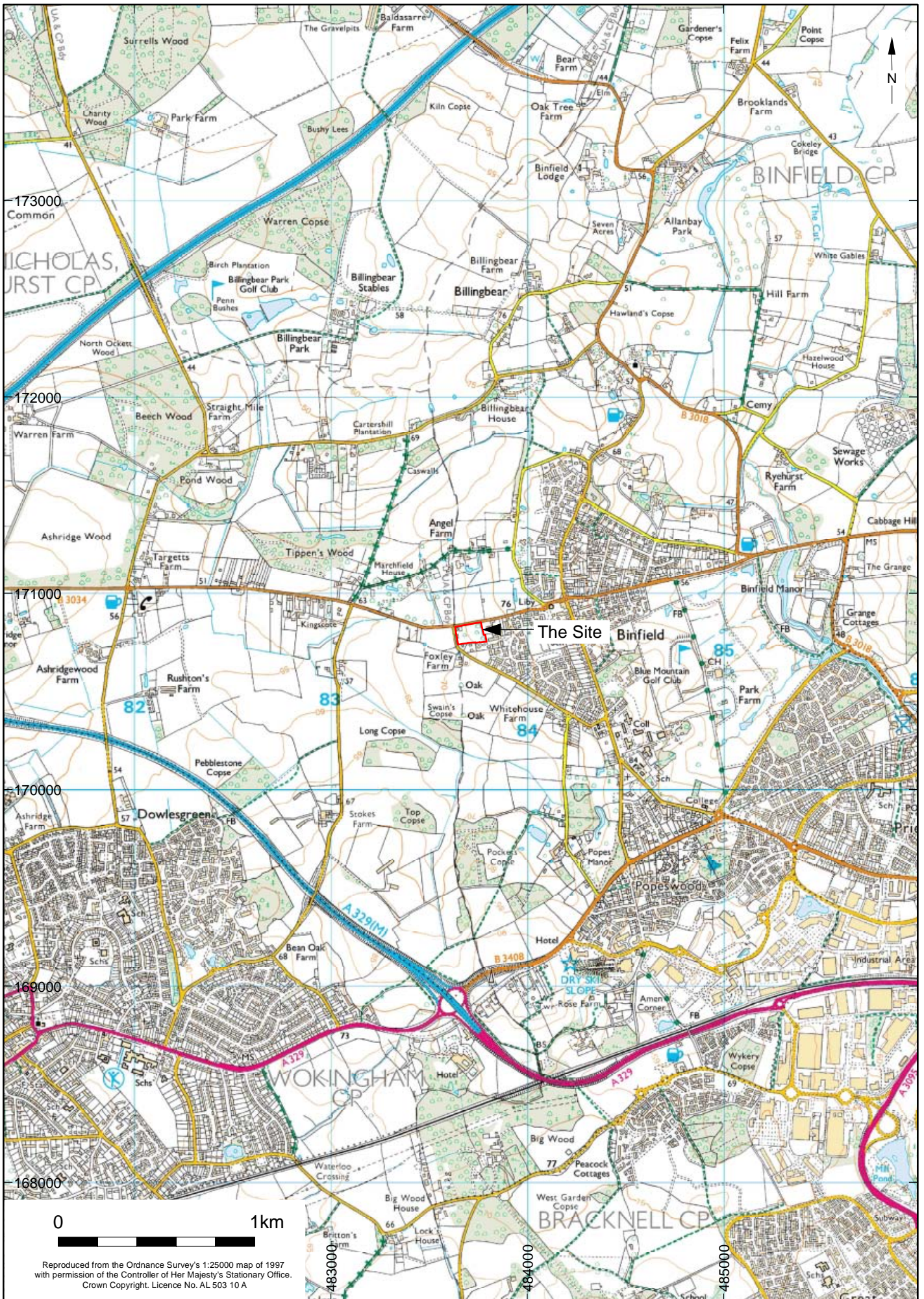
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Correspondence","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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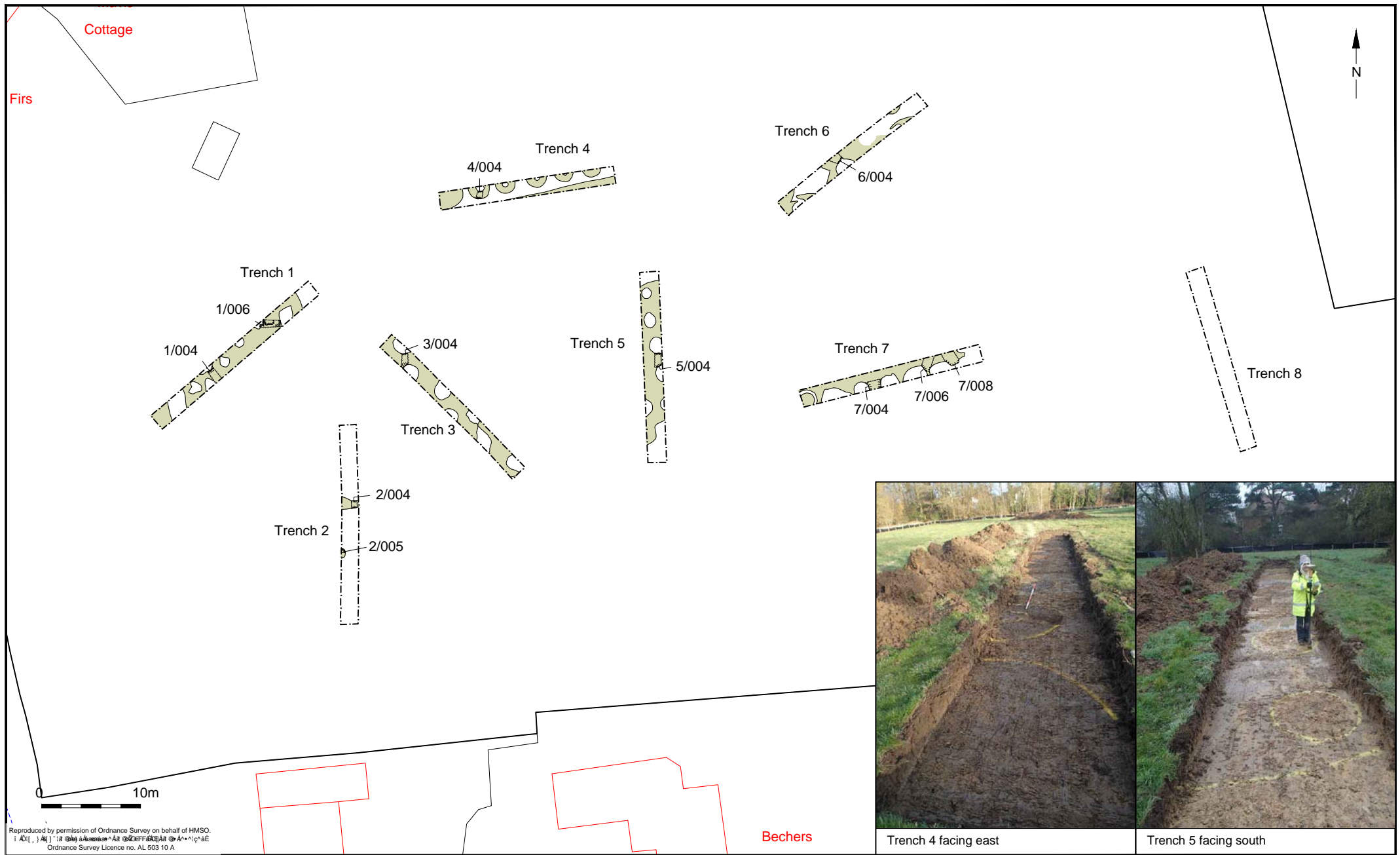


© Archaeology South-East		Land at Foxley Lane, Binfield	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5879	Jan 2013	Site location	
Report Ref: 2013021	Drawn by: JLR		



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Archaeology South-East		Land at Foxley Lane, Binfield		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5879	Jan 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013021	Drawn by: JLR			



Archaeology South-East		Land at Foxley Lane, Binfield		Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5879	Jan 2013	Plan and photographs of archaeological features		
Report Ref: 2013021	Drawn by: JLR			

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