

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**Hilldene North, Land adjacent to Hilldene Close  
Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens and Northallerton Way  
Harold Hill, Romford  
London Borough of Havering**

**NGR: TQ 536 922**

**Planning Ref: P1279.12**

**ASE Project No: 6092  
Site Code: BGW 13**

**ASE Report No. 2013127  
OASIS id: archaeol6-151631**

**By Ian Hogg**

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**May 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Hilldene North, Harold Hill, Romford, London Borough of Havering in advance of the redevelopment of the site.*

*Five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed. The majority of the site (Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5) has been horizontally truncated right down into London Clay substrate with only modern deposits recorded overlying the clay. In Trench 2 a possible buried topsoil horizon remained intact beneath the modern truncation.*

*Given the low archaeological potential of the site identified by the DBA, the lack of any archaeological findings and the extreme degrees of truncation recorded across most of the site by the evaluation, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.*

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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 on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of development at 'Hilldene North', on land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens and Northallerton Way, Harold Hill, Romford, London Borough of Havering. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) TQ 536 922 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The underlying geology of the study site comprises deposits of London Clay; geotechnical investigation has revealed deposits of topsoil/made ground 0.15-0.9m thick above the clay.

1.2.2 The general topography of the site comprises a drop in height from north to south, from c. 46.5m AOD on Darlington Gardens, to c. 41.9m AOD on Hilldene Avenue (CgMs 2013a, Section 3).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted for the residential redevelopment of the site (Planning Ref: P1276.12) to which has been attached a condition relating to archaeology:

*A) No development shall take place on any phase of the development (as identified in condition 6) until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme for investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

*B) No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part A).*

*C) Each phase of the Development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed for that phase in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part A) and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.*

*Reason: Heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development (including historic building recording) in accordance*

- 1.3.2 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the site was prepared (*ibid.*) followed by a Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation (CgMs 2013b) in accordance with the planning condition. This was submitted to and approved by the Adam Single of the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS) on behalf of the local planning authority. All work was undertaken in accordance with this document at with the relevant standard and guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2009) GLAAS (GLAAS 2009) and English Heritage (English Heritage 2008).

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

- 1.4.1 The evaluation sought to establish whether any archaeological sites exist within the site, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to require preservation in situ.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation aimed to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- 1.4.3 The evaluation also sought to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 1.4.4 Within these parameters, the evaluation of this site presented an opportunity to address the following objectives:
- 1) To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric and later activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity.
  - 2) To establish the environmental context of prehistoric and later activity.
  - 3) Evaluate the likely impact of past land use and development.
  - 4) Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

#### **1.5 Scope of Report**

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on the site between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2013). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist) and was managed by Andy Leonard (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The following archaeological background is drawn from the Desk Based Assessment for the site (CgMs 2013a). For a full account of the archaeological background of the site and area, the reader is referred to that document.
- 2.2 No designated heritage assets are recorded on or in close proximity to the site, and the site does not lie within a designated Archaeological Priority Area or an Archaeological Priority Zone as identified by the London Borough of Havering.
- 2.3 A review of archaeological finds spots within a 1.5 kilometre radius of the site indicates a generally low archaeological potential for all past periods of human activity.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 All excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with the WSI (CgMs 2013b). Seven trenches were proposed in the WSI, but only 5 were excavated due to access constraints (Figure 2).
- 3.2 All trenches were scanned using a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to excavation.
- 3.3 Excavation was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed bucket under the supervision of ASE archaeologists. Spoil was removed in spits of no more than 0.10m to the top of the underlying natural substrate.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection only.
- 3.5 Trenches were located and tied in to the Ordnance Survey in 3D using GPS survey equipment.
- 3.6 Spoil heaps and trench bases were scanned by eye, for unstratified artefacts.

Number of Contexts	15
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	15 digital photographs
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 1: Quantification of site archive



#### 4.0 RESULTS (Figures 3 and 4)

No archaeological features were encountered and only modern brick, concrete and tile were observed in the evaluation.

#### 4.1 Trenches 1, 4 and 5

4.1.1 No archaeological features were identified with Trenches 1, 4 and 5; these trenches displayed a similar sequence being all truncated into the London Clay substrate.

4.1.2 Natural brownish grey London Clay [003] was observed in all three trenches; it was overlain by mid greyish brown rubbly clay modern made ground [002], this deposit was between 0.25m and 0.65m thick. The made ground was sealed by loose dark grey clayey silt topsoil [001] between 0.10m and 0.32m thick.

4.1.3 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.80m and 0.90m deep.

4.1.4 Trench 4 was located in the centre of the site; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.59m and 0.67m deep.

4.1.5 Trench 5 was located in the east of the site; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m and was aligned north-west to south-east. The trench was between 0.54m and 0.85m deep.

Trench Number	Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
1	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.23-0.26	44.65 - 45.29
1	002	Layer	Made ground	0.44-0.55	-
1	030	Layer	London Clay	0.05-0.10	44.02 - 45.10
4	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29-0.32	44.68 - 45.32
4	002	Layer	Made ground	0.25-0.27	-
4	003	Layer	London Clay	0.04-0.10	44.02 - 44.67
5	001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.25	43.63 - 43.97
5	002	Layer	Made ground	0.22-0.65	-
5	003	Layer	London Clay	0.05-0.07	42.87 - 43.65

Table 2: Trenches 1, 4 and 5 list of recorded contexts

## 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 2.
- 4.2.2 Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site, it was aligned south to north; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 0.79 deep at the southern end and 0.82m deep at the northern end.
- 4.2.3 Natural brownish grey London Clay [2/004] was observed between 44.14 and 44.53m AOD; it was overlain by soft dark grey silty clay interpreted as buried topsoil [2/003], this deposit was between 0.15m and 0.18m thick. The buried topsoil was sealed by mid brownish grey rubbly clay made ground [2/002] between 0.23m and 0.30m thick. The made ground was overlain by a dark grey clayey silt topsoil deposit [2/001] between 0.28m and 0.31m thick; 44.76 to 45.33m AOD.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.28-0.31
2/002	Layer	Made ground	15.00	1.80	0.23-0.30
2/003	Layer	Buried topsoil	15.00	1.80	0.15-0.18
2/004	Layer	London Clay	15.00	1.80	0.08-0.10

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

## 4.3 Trench 3

- 4.3.1 No archaeological features were identified within Trench 3.
- 4.3.2 Trench 3 was located in the north of the site, it was aligned south to north; it measured 15.00m x 1.80m. The trench was 0.83 deep at the southern end and 0.97m deep at the northern end.
- 4.3.3 Natural brownish grey London Clay [3/002] was observed between 44.49 and 44.88m AOD; it was sealed by mid brownish grey rubbly clay made ground [3/001] between 0.80m and 0.91m thick; 44.48 to 45.72m AOD.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
3/001	Layer	Made Ground	15.00	1.80	0.80-0.91
3/002	Layer	London Clay	15.00	1.80	0.03-0.06

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 Five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed.
- 5.2 The majority of the site (Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5) has been horizontally truncated right down into London Clay substrate with only modern deposits recorded overlying the clay.
- 5.3 In Trench 2 a possible buried topsoil horizon remained intact beneath the modern truncation.
- 5.4 Given the low archaeological potential of the site identified by the DBA (CgMs 2013a), the lack of any archaeological findings and the extreme degrees of truncation recorded across most of the site by the evaluation, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

BGS 1994. Sheet 256, *North London*

CgMs Consulting 2013a. *Hilldene North. Land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens & Northallerton Way, Harold Hill; Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment.*

CgMs Consulting 2013b. *Hilldene North. Land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens & Northallerton Way, Harold Hill; Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation.*

English Heritage 2008. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Project Planning Notes 3 (PPN3): Archaeological Excavation.*

GLAAS 2009 *Greater London Archaeology Advisory Service: Standards for Archaeological Work.* London Region, English Heritage External Consultation Draft July 2009.

IfA, 2009 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank CGMS Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Adam Single of GLAAS for his guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Ian Hogg. The author would like to thank all archaeologists who worked on the evaluation; Justin Russell who produced the figures for this report; Andy Leonard who project managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson who project managed the post-excavation process.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	BGW 13					
Identification Name and Address	Hilldene North, at land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens and Northallerton Way, Harold Hill, Romford					
County, District &/or Borough	London Borough of Havering					
OS Grid Refs.						
Geology	London Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	6092					
Type of Fieldwork	<b>Eval.</b>	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	<b>Shallow Urban</b>	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval. 23-05-13 to 24-05-13	Excav.	WB.	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CGMS Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	<b>Other None</b>		
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed. The majority of the site (Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5) has been horizontally truncated right down into London Clay substrate with only modern deposits recorded overlying the clay. In Trench 2 a possible buried topsoil horizon remained intact beneath the modern truncation.</p> <p>Given the low archaeological potential of the site identified by the DBA, the lack of any archaeological findings and the extreme degrees of truncation recorded across most of the site by the evaluation, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.</p>						

OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-151631**

**Project details**

Project name	Hildene North, Harold Hill, Romford
Short description of the project	Five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological remains or finds were revealed. The majority of the site (Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5) has been horizontally truncated right down into London Clay substrate with only modern deposits recorded overlying the clay. In Trench 2 a possible buried topsoil horizon remained intact beneath the modern truncation. Given the low archaeological potential of the site identified by the DBA, the lack of any archaeological findings and the extreme degrees of truncation recorded across most of the site by the evaluation, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2013 End: 24-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	6092 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	BGW 13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

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**Project location**

Country	England
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Site location	GREATER LONDON HAVERING ROMFORD Hilldene North, Land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Bridgewater Road, Darlington Gardens and Northallerton Way, Harold Hill
Postcode	RM3 7XJ
Study area	0.90 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 536 922 51 0 51 36 25 N 000 13 06 E Point

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**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Ian Hogg
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

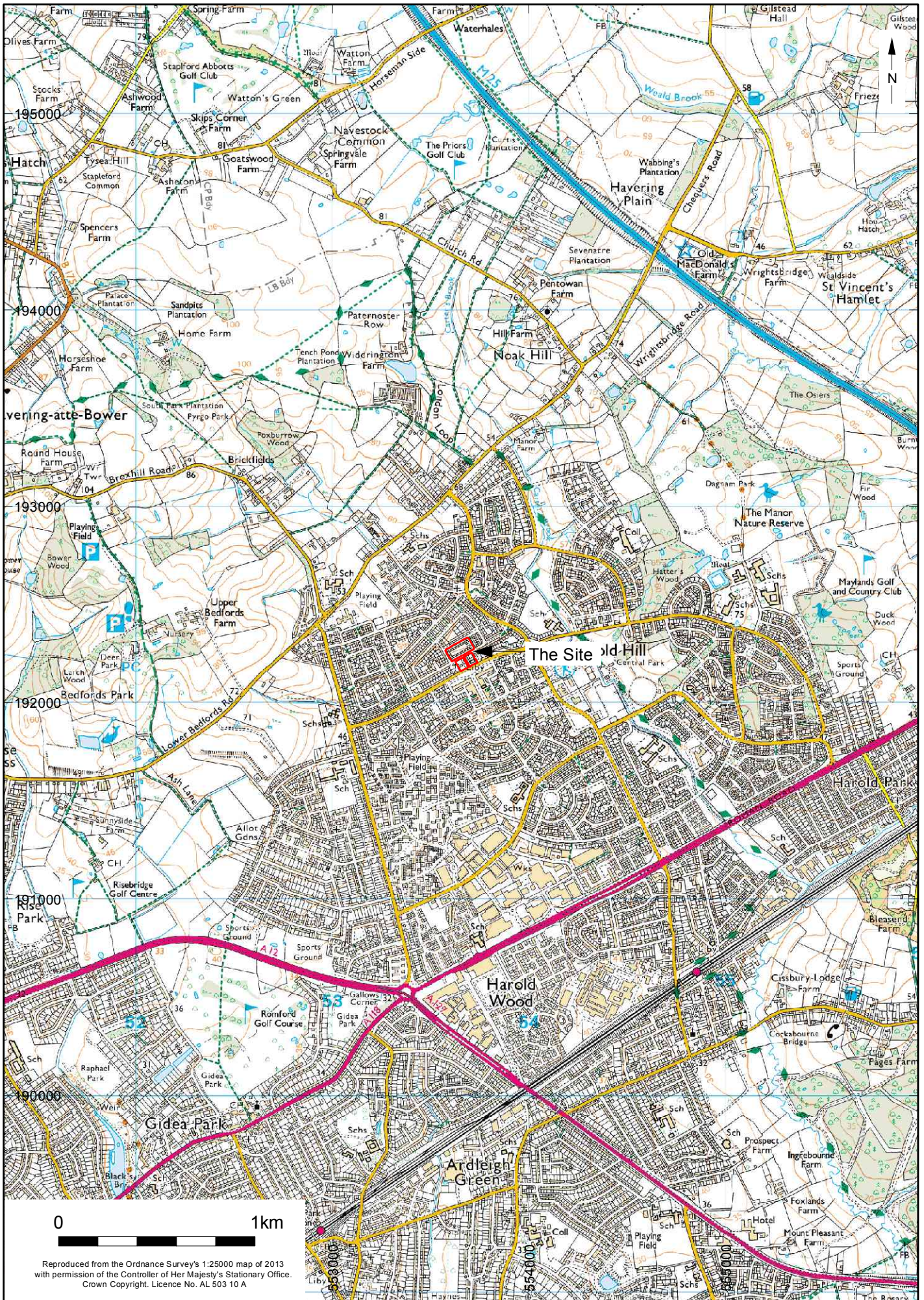
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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Contents	"Survey", "Stratigraphic"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic", "Survey"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Survey ", "Unpublished Text"

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Entered by	Ian Hogg (ian.hogg@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	28 May 2013



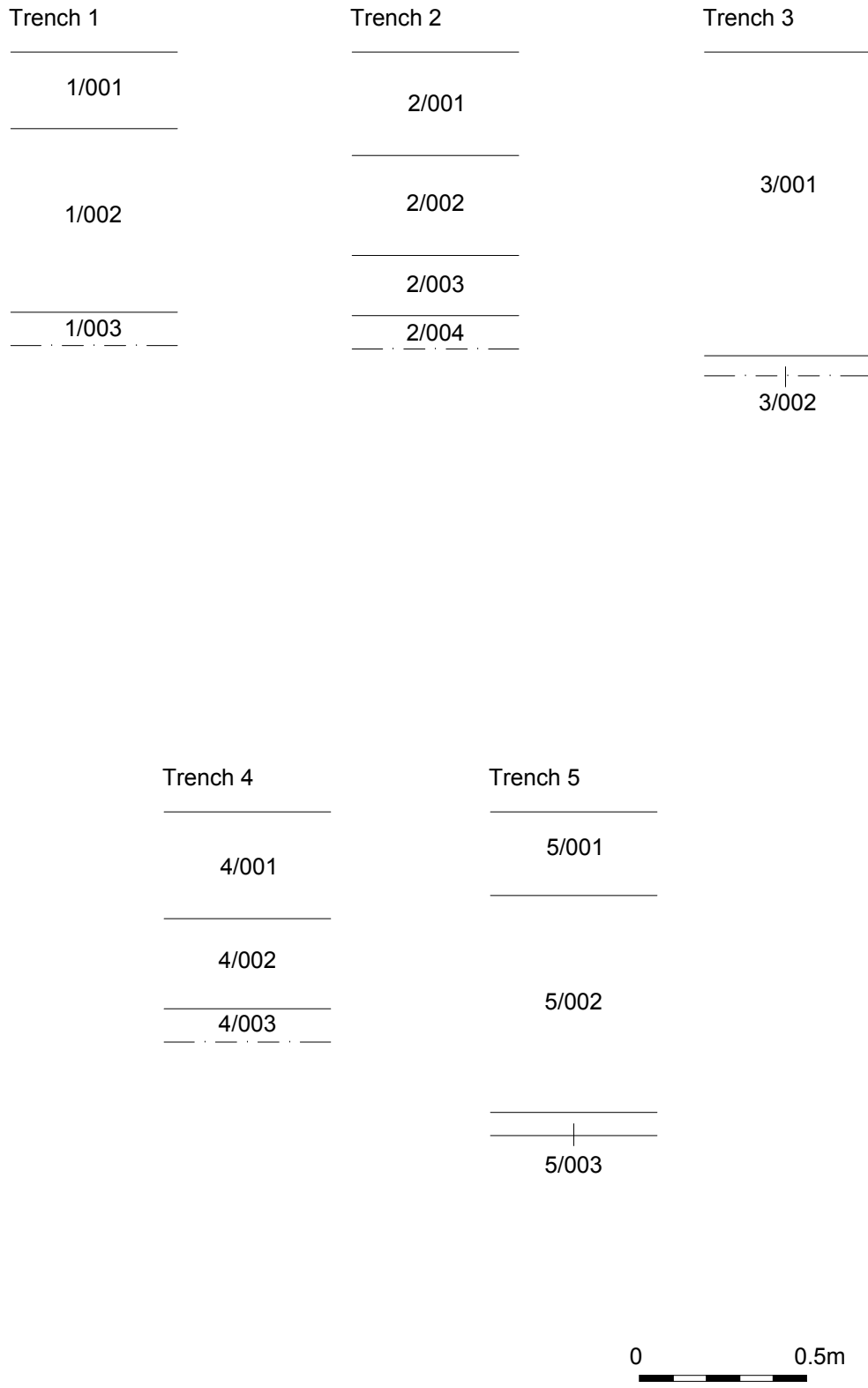
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© Archaeology South-East		Hildene North, Land adjacent to Hildene Close, Harold Hill		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6092	May 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013127	Drawn by: AR			





<b>Archaeology South-East</b>		Hilldene North, Land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Harold Hill		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6092	May 2013	Trench location		
Report Ref: 2013127	Drawn by: JLR			





Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Hilldene North, Land adjacent to Hilldene Close, Harold Hill	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6092	June 2013	Trench photographs	
Report Ref:	Drawn by: JLR		

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