

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Cherkley Court
Leatherhead, Surrey**

NGR: 518138 155049

Planning Ref: MO 2011/1451

**ASE Project No: 5790
Site Code: CCL 13**

**ASE Report No: 2015345
OASIS id: archaeol6-224502**



By Ian Hogg

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, Surrey. The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the excavation of a service trench adjacent to the Roman road Stane Street, and a directional borehole beneath it. The removal of a protective surface covering the Roman road was also monitored.

Natural chalk deposits were recorded in the entry pits and service trenches. Across much of the area the natural deposits were directly overlain by topsoil; in one entry pit modern made ground overlain by topsoil was recorded.

No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring and no disturbance to Stane Street was recorded.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to undertake an archaeological watching brief at land at Cherkley Court, Leatherhead, Surrey (Figures 1 and 2, NGR: 518138 155049). The watching brief focussed on the monitoring of the excavation of a service trench adjacent to the Roman road Stane Street, and a directional borehole beneath it. The removal of a protective surface covering the Roman road was also monitored.

1.1.2 The site lies approximately 2.5km south-east of Leatherhead. It is irregular in shape and is located within the undulating Leatherhead Downs. The site is bounded by woodland to the north, south and east and residential development to the west. The site comprised a number of fields under pasture, with dense undergrowth bordering each of the fields and appearing elsewhere in isolated pockets. The site is located within the Cherkley Court estate, an extensive area of parkland and woodland surrounding the stately home itself, the estate is currently being redeveloped as a hotel, golf course and spa complex.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located on the Leatherhead Downs, an area of undulating chalk grassland ranging in height from 80m AOD to 150m AOD.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey identifies the geology of the site and the surrounding area as Upper Chalk (BGS 1974, map 286 Reigate). The soils underlying the site are most likely brown rendzina soils of the 343g (Newmarket 2) association (CgMs 2012), overlying chalk bedrock. Colluvial deposits were present within many of the valleys.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Outline planning permission (Ref: MO 2011/1451) was granted at the site for the use of Cherkley Court and its existing associated outbuildings as a hotel comprising guest accommodation, health club, spa and cookery school. The plans also included an 18 hole golf course, practice facilities, clubhouse and maintenance area.

1.3.2 Scheduled ancient monuments on the site include three Bronze Age barrows known collectively as the 'Tyrell's Wood Group' and the London to Chichester Roman road Stane Street.

1.3.3 The initial work comprised a geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2011). Subsequently, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (CgMs 2012) was composed; this was followed by the first evaluation phase of work (Wessex 2012).

1.3.4 Following this, Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of their client to undertake an archaeological evaluation, excavation and programme of strip, map and sample (ASE 2013).

1.3.5 The current phase of work focuses on groundworks adjacent to Stane Street.

1.3.6 All works were carried out in accordance with the CgMs WSI (CgMs 2012) ClfA standards and guidance (ClfA 2015a, b and c).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims of the watching brief were:

- To define, insofar as possible, the date, character, form and function of any archaeological features observed on site.
- To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development and to preserve by record any such remains
- To determine the survival, extent and minimum depth below modern ground level of any such remains
- To determine the nature and significance of any archaeological deposits.
- To determine the presence of any remains associated with Stane Street.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on the site on the 16th December 2014 and the 17th September 2015 and has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2012). The work was carried out by Ian Hogg (Archaeologist).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

- 2.1.1 No material relating to the earliest Prehistoric periods is recorded for the site or its immediate environs. However Neolithic worked flints have been recorded in the western part of the site.
- 2.1.2 Three Bronze Age barrows are recorded on the site, collectively known as the 'Tyrell's Wood Group' (SCAU, 1994), however only the two westernmost barrows survive as visible earthworks, the eastern barrow having been buried under made ground during the 20th century.
- 2.1.3 The previous evaluation (Wessex Archaeology, 2012) identified Bronze Age ditches, gullies, pits and postholes.
- 2.1.4 A group of cropmarks identified from aerial photography have been interpreted as Iron Age field systems and are situated on Leatherhead Down and are partially located within the site. The field systems are described by the HER as almost obliterated by ploughing and resemble field banks scattered across the area.

2.2 Romano-British

- 2.2.1 A Scheduled Ancient monument, the London to Chichester Roman Road (Stane Street) bisects the site on a south-east/north-west alignment. Archaeological investigations on the route of the road identified a 5.6m wide agger, measuring some 0.4m thick, and was recorded comprising small pebbles, whilst to the east a roadside ditch was identified.
- 2.2.2 A small hoard of late Roman coins was recovered close to the line of Stane Street via a metal detector, whilst unstratified finds of pottery, including sherds of mortaria and jars, were located in the very east of the site at Cherkley Wood.

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 2.3.1 Very few medieval features are recorded on the Surrey HER for the site. These include a lynchet towards the southern edge of Cherkley Wood which may be the result of ploughing up to the edge of the woodland.
- 2.3.2 The HER contains a record relating to an early 14th century settlement known as Poneshurst, which has been putatively positioned on either side of the Roman road near Tyrell's Wood to the north of the site.
- 2.3.3 During the medieval period the site was located in the agricultural hinterland, away from any known centres of settlement.

2.4 Post-medieval

- 2.4.1 Mapping up to 1866 illustrates the continuing pastoral nature of the site. Cherkley Court was completed in 1870, but was already depicted on the 1867-8 Ordnance Survey map (CgMs, 2012). This map also illustrates a

number of outbuildings or estate buildings; tracks or roads leading to the house and extensive wooded areas in the southern part of the site, with copses lining trackways in the northern area. By 1894 Cherkley Court had been extended to include a large conservatory.

- 2.4.2 There appears to have been little further development of the site until the 1960's, and by 1961 the southern part of the site is illustrated as entirely wooded.
- 2.4.3 The Ordnance Survey map of 1970-1 illustrates some land division and the addition of Paddock Cottage alongside the north-western track, but no other significant changes to the site. By 1989 The Garden House and Garden Cottage had been constructed on the site of the former eastern range and by 2011 a large area of Cherkley Wood had been cleared to the south-east of the site.

2.5 Designated Heritage Assets

- 2.5.1 A number of Scheduled Monuments relating to the Bronze Age and Romano-British periods lie within the site boundary.
- 2.5.2 Three Bronze Age round barrows are recorded although only the two westernmost survive as extant earthworks with the landscape.
- 2.5.3 Extending north-east/south-west through the centre of the site is the London to Chichester Roman Road (Stane Street).

2.6 Previous Work

- 2.6.1 A Preliminary Archaeological Assessment for a proposed golf course at Cherkley Court has previously been prepared (CgMs 2012).
- 2.6.2 Further archaeological investigation was undertaken at Cherkley Court during the construction of a new access road (CgMs 2012). A c.400 long and 3m wide watching brief took place in the north-east of the site and no archaeological remains were found present.
- 2.6.3 A geophysical survey comprising c.20ha of the site was completed (Wessex 2011). The results of this survey were used to inform an updated archaeological assessment completed in October 2011 (CgMs, 2012) and are included in brief below.
- 2.6.4 A subsequent archaeological evaluation was carried out by Wessex Archaeology (Wessex Archaeology 2012) consisting of 70 trenches located across the site. Archaeological features were identified within five of the 70 trenches; the features included Bronze Age ditches, pits, gullies and postholes; and a post-medieval ditch. A further phase of evaluation was undertaken by ASE in February 2013, no significant archaeological remains were recorded during this work (ASE 2013).
- 2.6.5 Following this, archaeological mitigation involved the excavation of eight strip, map and sample areas and three excavation areas. The excavations revealed evidence for multi-period activity on the site from the late Bronze

Age onwards. The majority of the activity was dated to the late Bronze Age and a lesser extent the mid to late Iron Age. Very scant evidence of Roman activity was recorded (ASE 2013).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The work comprised the monitoring of the excavation of a service trench with adjacent entry pit in December 2014. In September 2015 further monitoring of a directional borehole and removal of protective layers over Stane Street was undertaken (Figure 2).

3.1.2 Spoil from the test pits was visually scanned for finds.

3.1.3 All deposits were recorded using standard ASE recording sheets, with colours recorded by visual inspection.

3.1.4 A digital photographic record was taken of the work.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at the LAARC in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	10

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Cable Trench and Entry Pit (monitored on 16th December 2014)

4.1.1 The cable trench was located on the eastern side of Stanes Street, it measured 36m x 0.50m. Natural chalk [003] was overlain by a dark brown clay silt topsoil [001] between 0.12m and 0.30m thick. A single pit of 20th century date was observed in section within the trench.

4.1.2 The entry pit was located on the western side of Stanes Street and measured 2.50m x 1.00m in plan. Natural chalk [003] was overlain by modern made ground [002] comprising mixed dark brown silt and chalky rubble with frequent CBM and concrete inclusions. This deposit measured between 0.55m and 0.65m in thickness. The made ground was overlain by the dark brown clay silt topsoil [001]. No archaeology was recorded in the pit or service trench.

4.1.3 A table of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1.

4.2 Direction Borehole (monitored 17th September 2015)

4.2.1 The direction borehole was located 5.0m west of Stane Street (Figure 3). A small entry pit was excavated, with the bore entering through the pit and travelling south-west approximately 2.0m below the ground surface before re-emerging 5.0m to the east of Stane Street.

4.2.2 Deposits were only visible within the entry pit. The natural chalk [003] was overlain by 0.25m of dark brown clay silt topsoil [001] with frequent root activity.

4.2.3 A table of recorded contexts is given in Appendix 1.

4.3 Removal of protective layers over Stane Street (monitored 17th September 2015)

4.3.1 This phase of monitoring was focussed on junction of Stane Street and an east to west aligned heavy plant crossing. On the route of the plant crossing Stane Street had been overlain by successive layers of terram, fine sand, crushed concrete and asphalt 0.27m thick. These layers were removed by machine.

4.3.2 No archaeological remains were encountered during the work and no damage was done to the deposits on the line of Stane Street.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 Natural chalk deposits were recorded with the entry pits and service trench. Topsoil directly overlay the natural chalk across much of the area. Within one of the entry pits modern made ground overlain by topsoil was recorded.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features or finds were recorded during the watching brief and no disturbance to Stane Street occurred.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 This watching brief confirmed the presence of modern made ground in some areas to the west of Stane Street. These deposits have previous been shown to probably be material dumped during the construction of the M25.

5.3 Consideration of research aims

- 5.3.1 The evaluation did not reveal any Roman remains, no disturbance to Stane Street occurred. No archaeological remains were encountered.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 The watching brief confirmed presence of modern made ground in some areas of the site. The scheduled ancient monument of Stane Street was not disturbed and no associated remains were recorded.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Gary Jackson of Surrey County Council for his guidance and monitoring.

Appendix 1: List of Recorded contexts

Context	Type	Description	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12-0.30
002	Layer	Modern made ground	0.55-0.65
003	Layer	Natural chalk	-

HER Summary

Site Code	CCL 13					
Identification Name and Address	Cherkley Court, Reigate Road, Leatherhead Surrey					
County, District &/or Borough	Mole Valley, Surrey					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 182 457					
Geology	Cretaceous Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5790					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green field					
Dates of Fieldwork			16-12-2014 and 17-9-2015			
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Ian Hogg					
Period Summary						
				Other		None
<i>Summary</i>						
<p><i>The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the excavation of a service trench adjacent to the Roman road Stane Street, and a directional borehole beneath it. The removal of a protective surface covering the Roman road was also monitored.</i></p> <p><i>Natural chalk deposits were recorded in the entry pits and service trenches. Across much of the area the natural deposits were directly overlain by topsoil; in one entry pit modern made ground overlain by topsoil was recorded.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring and no disturbance to Stane Street was recorded.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-224502

Project details

Project name Cherkley Court, Leatherhead

Short description of the project The archaeological work comprised monitoring of the excavation of a service trench adjacent to the Roman road Stane Street, and a directional borehole beneath it. The removal of a protective surface covering the Roman road was also monitored. Natural chalk deposits were recorded in the entry pits and service trenches. Across much of the area the natural deposits were directly overlain by topsoil; in one entry pit modern made ground overlain by topsoil was recorded. No archaeological remains were encountered during the monitoring and no disturbance to Stane Street was recorded.

Project dates Start: 16-12-2014 End: 17-09-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 5790 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes CCL 13 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status Scheduled Monument (SM)

Current Land use Woodland 8 - Other

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Monument type ROAD Roman

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY MOLE VALLEY LEATHERHEAD Cherkley Court, Leatherhead

Postcode KT22 8QX

Study area 159 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 1813 5504 51.281718191277 -0.306013040876 51 16 54 N
000 18 21 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Surrey County Council

Project design CgMs Consulting

originator

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer/Jim Stevenson

Project supervisor Ian Hogg

Type of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Physical Archive recipient LAARC

Digital Archive recipient Leatherhead Museum

Digital Contents "Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Leatherhead Museum

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan"

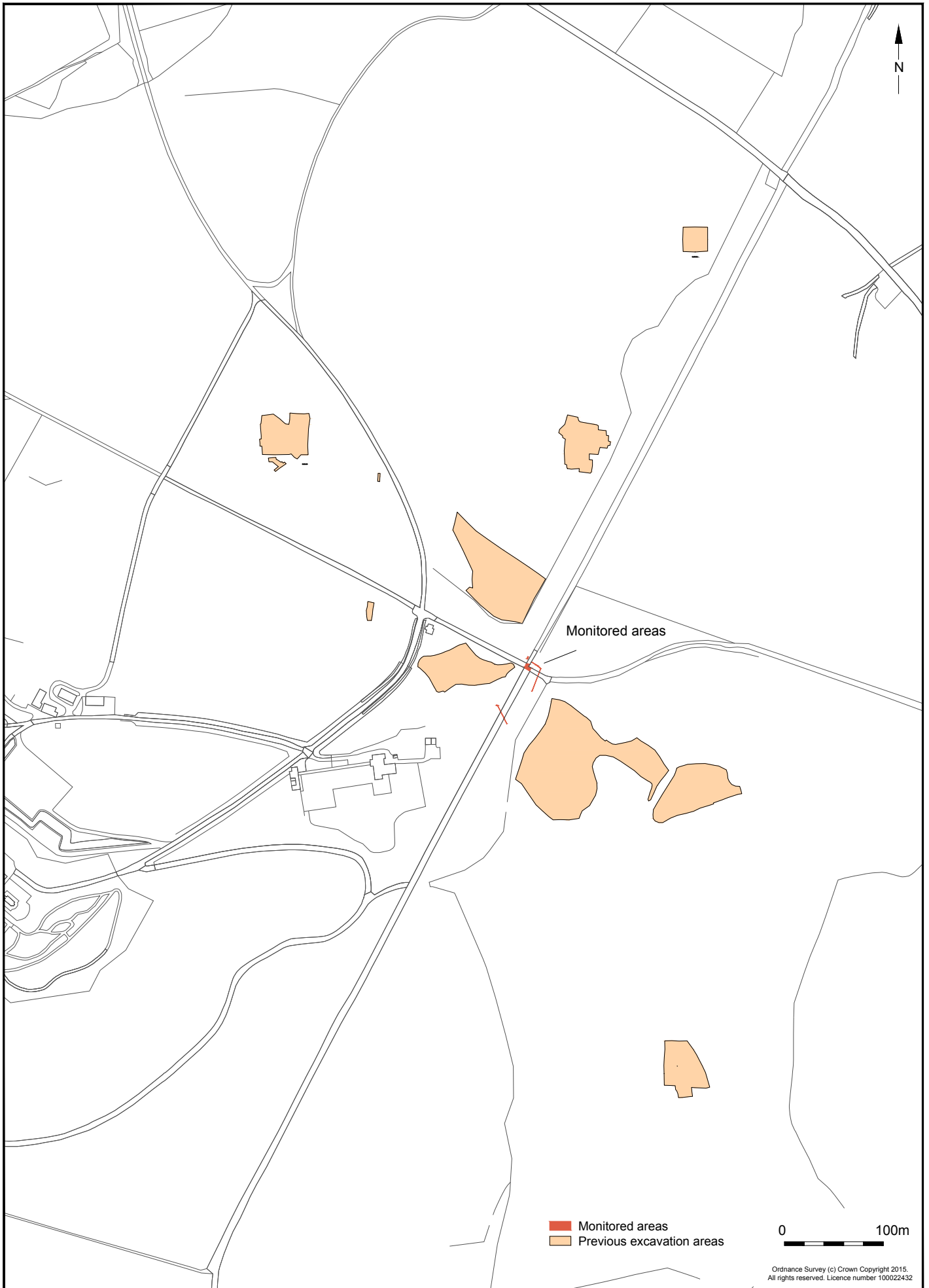
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Entered on 23 September 2015

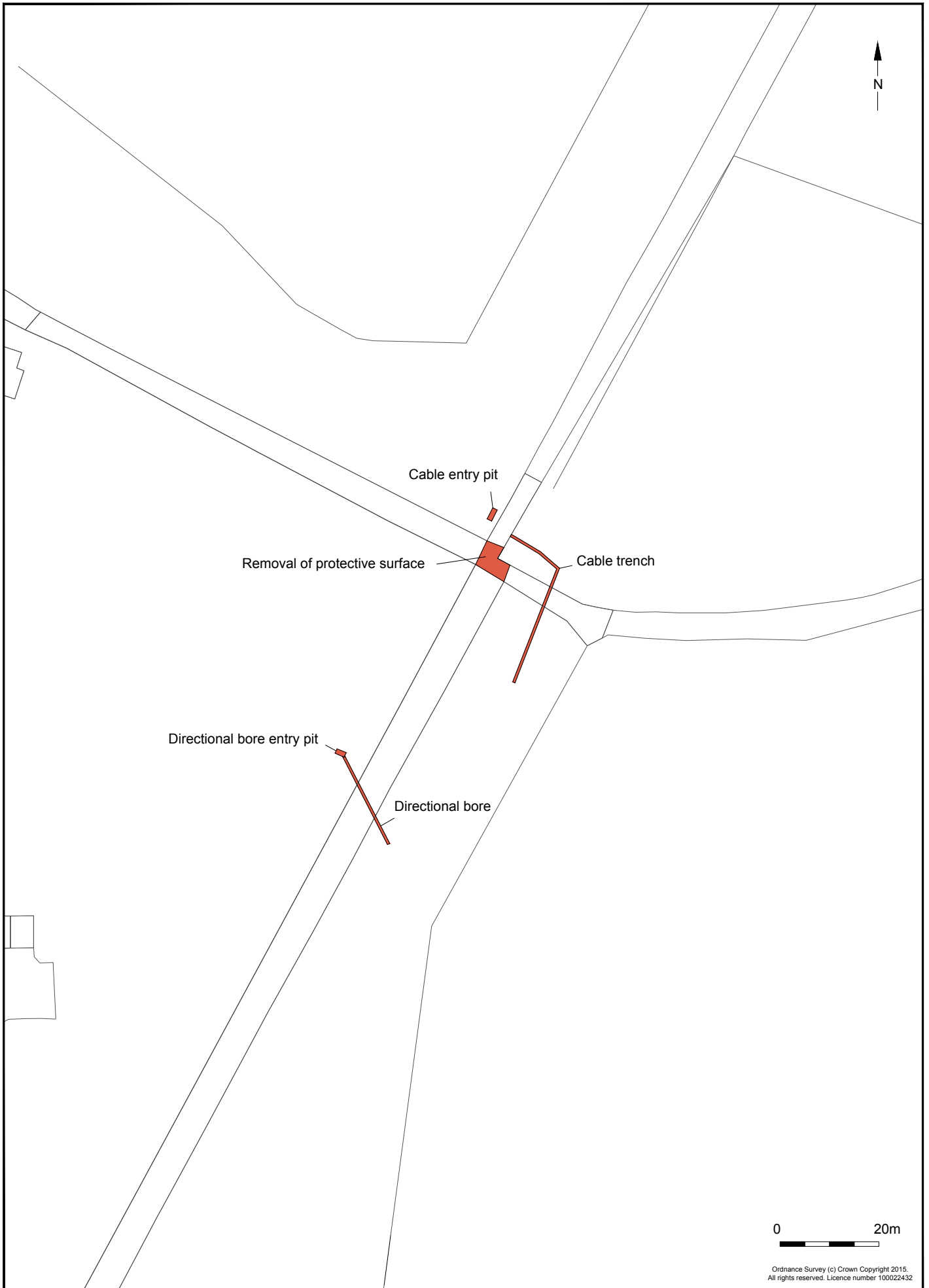


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© Archaeology South-East		Cherkley Court	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5790	Oct 2015	Site location	
Report Ref: 2015345	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Cherkley Court		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5790	Oct 2015	Location of monitored areas and previous excavation areas		
Report Ref: 2015345	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Cherkley Court	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5790	Oct 2015	Detail of monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2015345	Drawn by: JLR		



Cable trench looking north



Removal of protective surface over Stane Street

© Archaeology South-East		Cherkley Court	Fig. 4
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