

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham,  
Surrey**

**NGR: SU 8365 4380  
(48365 14380)**

**Planning Ref: WA/2014/2028**

**ASE Project No: 160591  
Site Code: FLA16**

**ASE Report No: 2016322  
OASIS id: archaeol6-260248**

**By Catherine Douglas**

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**Illustrations by Lauren Gibson**

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<b>Reviewed and approved by:</b>	Andy Margetts	Project Manager	
<b>Date of Issue:</b>	August 2016		
<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of redevelopment of the site. Sixteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds or features were encountered within the sampled areas.*

## **CONTENTS**

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

**Bibliography**  
**Acknowledgements**

**HER Summary**  
**OASIS Form**

**Appendix 1:** Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

## **FIGURES**

Figure 1: Site Location  
Figure 2: Trench Location plan  
Figure 3: Trench photographs A  
Figure 4: Trench photographs B

## **TABLES**

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive  
Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd (hereafter 'CgMs') to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in advance of residential development on Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey hereafter 'the site' (Figures 1 and 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SU 8365 4380.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The site area is bounded to the north by a strip of woodland beyond which lie residential gardens, to the west and south by further woodland and in the east by Gardener's Hill Road. The geology of the site is recorded as mudstone by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2016), with areas of Folkestone Sandstone and Head deposits to the southeast.
- 1.2.2 No site specific geotechnical information was available prior to commencing the archaeological evaluation.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 Outline planning permission (WA/2014/2028) was granted on appeal by Waverley Borough Council for redevelopment of the site following the demolition of existing structures. A Heritage Statement was prepared in support of the planning application (BSA 2014). Waverley Borough Council's archaeology advisors at Surrey County Council (hereafter 'the SCC Archaeologist') recommended that a programme of investigative archaeological works be carried out on the site which resulted in an archaeological planning condition (Condition 9) being attached to the above mentioned consent. The condition stated:

*"No development shall take place until that applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority."*

- 1.3.2 To meet the requirements of Condition 9 CgMs established with the SCC Archaeologist that the archaeological investigation should initially comprise a trial trench evaluation.
- 1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016) was prepared, setting out the methodologies and standards to be employed by ASE in order to undertake the archaeological trial trench evaluation. All work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014a, 2104b).

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report discusses the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation

undertaken by ASE on Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following information is in part taken from the Heritage Statement for the site (BSA 2014) and summarised from the WSI (ASE 2016).

### **2.2 Palaeolithic**

- 2.2.1 A number of Palaeolithic hand axes and a single contemporary worked flint are recorded in the vicinity. These include 3 Palaeolithic axes and a flake recorded at 'Mayfield, Rowledge', west of the site, a Palaeolithic hand axe found c. 500m north of the site and an uncertain number of hand axes recovered from Boundstone Gravel Pit, approximately 250m north of the site.

### **2.3 Neolithic and Early Bronze Age**

- 2.3.1 A single Neolithic axe fragment was recorded in 1967, over 700m northwest of the site. Of a similar date but outside of the wider study area (set at 1km from the centre of the site) is an Early Bronze Age plano-convex knife, found in the 1930s over 600m north east of the site.

### **2.4 Roman**

- 2.4.1 The only Roman find known from the study area was a gold coin of Theodosius of the late 4th century, recovered by a metal detectorist.

### **2.5 Medieval**

- 2.5.1 The site lay in common land within the early medieval period, in an area where the main connection, until 1868, between Farnham and Frensham was a sandy track. The land is likely to have been wooded before clearance and was probably not suitable for cultivation. The Farnham settlement is first documented in the 7<sup>th</sup> century. This name means enclosure in the bracken or fern, suggesting heathland at the time. Frensham is also documented in the Anglo-Saxon period (AD 965) and has a similar sounding and meaning name. Both Farnham and Frensham parishes had extensive 'waste' within their boundaries. Intervening settlements including Wrecclesham, Rowledge and Tilford are first documented in the 12th or 13th centuries.

### **2.6 Post Medieval**

- 2.6.1 The 18th century maps including those by Senex of 1729, Roque of 1769 and Lindley and Crosley of 1793 all suggest the site lay on Farnham or Frensham commons, close to the parish border. Farnham itself was confined to a far smaller area to the north, and only Wrecclesham and Frensham are also shown in the vicinity.
- 2.6.2 By the 1870s and the first detailed Ordnance Survey maps, the site had yet to be defined, with much of it annotated as rough grassland, which also lay to west and north. A field lay alongside the road in the east and extended as far

west as the current property boundary to the north. A small square building, probably a shed given its size, lay in the centre of the site. A mix of woodland and fields lay to the south of the site. By the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS maps of 1897, the western and southern boundaries had been established as woodland, with the whole site shown as rough grassland, albeit in two fields still. No building is shown within the site area, although a structure is noted to the north east and a well and oblong feature are marked in the south west corner of the site.

- 2.6.3 Little change is evident on the 1916 maps, although the eastern field is no longer shown as rough grassland and that to the west is shown with some scattered tree cover. The well and oblong to its north are still marked, as is a structure in the north of the eastern field. The property to the north east had been expanded by this time to its current footprint. By the 1930s, the site is shown as one open area, albeit with some trees. The well and enclosure north of it are still shown in the west and coniferous woodland had been established to the north. A small building with fencing is shown in the south east. The area is recognisable when compared to its layout today.

## **2.7 Project Aims and Objectives**

- 2.7.1 The general aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development.
- Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site.
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- Produce a report which will present the results of the trial trench evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

### **2.7.2 Specific Aims and Objectives**

The field evaluation presented an opportunity to address the following key issues outlined in the *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework* (SCC 2006):

Upper Palaeolithic:

- What was the environment like in Surrey during the Upper Palaeolithic and how did this affect patterns in exploitation?
- Does the pattern of exploitation differ between that of the Earlier and Later Upper Palaeolithic?

Neolithic- Iron Age:

- Is there any evidence of later prehistoric activity on the site given the paucity of spot finds or other HER evidence in the vicinity of the site?
- More environmental evidence
- Can study of finds demonstrate any different groups or areas of different activities in the country?
- Why and how were Late Bronze Age sites abandoned

Romano British:

- Is there any evidence of Roman activity on the site given the paucity of spot finds or other HER evidence in the vicinity of the site?
- Can the use of rivers for transport be demonstrated?

Anglo-Saxon:

- Is there any evidence relating to the Saxon development of Frensham and the surrounding area, in particular relating to any boundary earthworks and the nature of land enclosure and settlement?

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Sixteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m were excavated as set out in the WSI (ASE 2016; Figure 2). Trench 8 was not excavated because of its inaccessible location within a fenced area with a locked and bolted gate.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were accurately located using a Global Positioning System (DGPS) and DGPS Total Station (Leica 1205 R100 Total Station, Leica System 1200 GPS).
- 3.1.3 The trenches were scanned prior to excavation using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) operated by accredited ASE personnel.
- 3.1.4 The trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a suitable 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.5 Only undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and layers of underlying made ground were removed by machine and were kept separately. The excavation was taken, in spits of no more than 0.25m, down to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the underlying geology, whichever was uppermost.
- 3.1.6 On conclusion of the excavation, the spoil was backfilled by machine, in appropriate sequence, spread evenly and compacted to ensure a surface flush or nearly flush with the ground surface.

#### **3.2 Archive**

- 3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	5
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	43
Context register	0 (Trench sheet registers used as context registers)
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	16

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## **4.0 RESULTS**

### **4.1 Trenches 1 – 7 and 9 – 17 (Figures 3 and 4)**

- 4.1.1 All trenches were archaeologically negative. All contexts encountered have been summarised into a single table in Appendix 1 at the back of this report.
- 4.1.2 The natural comprised mudstone with areas of Folkestone Sandstone, therefore it varied in appearance and consistency throughout the trenches. In some trenches it comprised yellow sandy gravels, and in others red-brown sandy clay. This was encountered at varying levels across the site, with the lowest point at 94.77m AOD in Trench 17, and the highest at 112.22m AOD in Trench 5.
- 4.1.3 In most of the trenches the natural was immediately overlain by a layer of subsoil comprised of mid greyish brown sandy silt which measured a thickness of 0.10-0.20m. This was not present in trenches 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7, where the natural was immediately overlain by topsoil.
- 4.1.4 In trenches 5 and 9 the natural was immediately overlain by a layer of made ground measuring a thickness of 0.25m. This comprised dark greyish brown, pale greyish brown and reddish brown mixed sandy gravels and silty sand, containing frequent sub-angular stones. The natural underlying the made ground appeared slightly disturbed or truncated in these trenches.
- 4.1.5 The made ground and subsoil deposits were overlain by a layer of topsoil, which measured a thickness of 0.15-0.18m and comprised mid-dark greyish brown silt.



## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The height of the natural varied across the site, with the lowest point at 94.77m AOD in Trench 17, and the highest at 112.22m AOD in Trench 5.
- 5.2 No features were identified in any of the trenches.
- 5.3 The natural in Trenches 5 and 9 appeared slightly disturbed and truncated, which might explain the lack of features in these areas. The noted disturbance was likely due to the known presence of a service and a 20<sup>th</sup> century equestrian building in the vicinity. However, in all of the other trenches the archaeological horizon remained intact, and in many of the trenches the subsoil showed no visible sign of truncation or disturbance.
- 5.4 The evaluation confirmed a lack of archaeological activity within the sampled areas. Existing impacts were shown to be light (see above), however, there was a distinct absence of features and finds from any of the trenches. This likely indicates the sites nature as uncultivated common land through much of the historic period and land of marginal value during prehistory.
- 5.5 Due to the lack of archaeological activity encountered at the site there is only limited potential to address the research aims set out in the *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework* (SCC 2006). Nevertheless, the negative evidence reinforces the paucity of known later prehistoric and Romano-British activity from the area and the site likely comprised common land beyond the settlement of Frensham during the Anglo-Saxon period.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	N/A					
Site code	FLA16					
Project code	160591					
Planning reference	WA/2014/2028					
Site address	Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey					
District/Borough	Waverley					
NGR (12 figures)	48365 14380					
Geology	Mudstone with areas of Folkestone Sandstone and Head deposits					
Fieldwork type	Eval <b>X</b>	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2016					
Sponsor/client	CgMs					
Project manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Other <b>None X</b>	
Project summary (100 word max)	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey between the 1 <sup>st</sup> and the 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of redevelopment of the site. Sixteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds or featured were encountered within the sampled areas.					
Museum/Accession No.	TBC					

**OASIS Form**

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-260248**

Project details

Project name            Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey

Short description of the project            This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey between the 1st and the 5th August 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs in advance of redevelopment of the site. Sixteen archaeological trial trenches were excavated. No archaeological finds or featured were encountered within the sampled areas.

Project dates            Start: 01-08-2016 End: 05-08-2016

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes            FLA16 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes            WA/2014/2028 - Planning Application No.

Type of project            Field evaluation

Site status            None

Current Land use            Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland

Monument type            0 None

Significant Finds            0 None

Methods & techniques            "Sample Trenches"

Development type            Housing estate

Prompt            Planning condition

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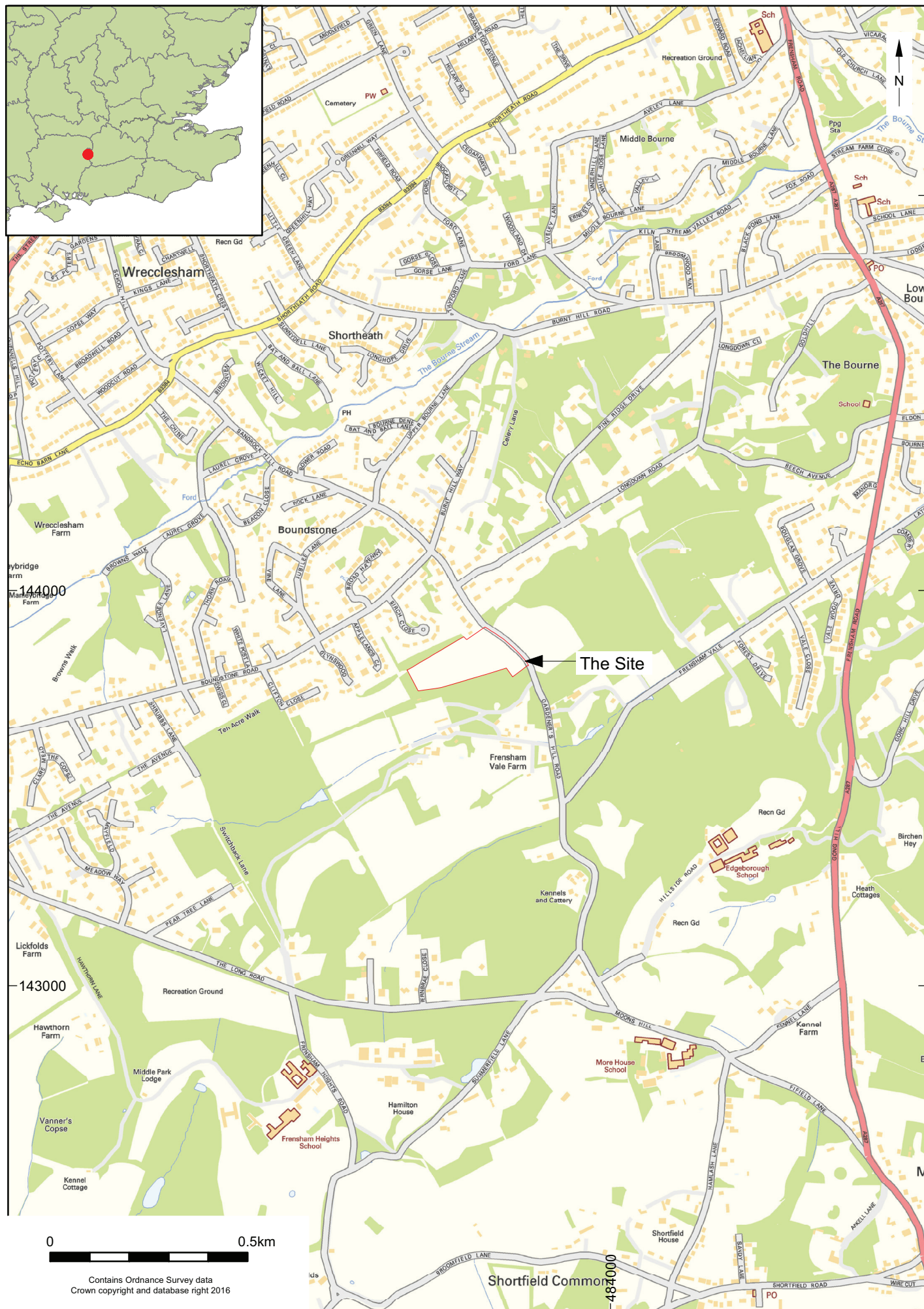
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SURREY WAVERLEY FRENHAM An Archaeological Evaluation Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey
Postcode	GU10 XXX
Study area	2.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 8365 4380 51.186776188576 -0.802942775582 51 11 12 N 000 48 10 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 94m Max: 100m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Darryl Palmer
Project supervisor	Catherine Douglas
Type of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive Exists?	No
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation Land at Gardeners Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Douglas, C.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No: 2016322
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Eval report
Entered by	andrew margetts (a.margetts@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	16 August 2016

**Appendix 1:** Archaeologically negative trenches: list of recorded contexts

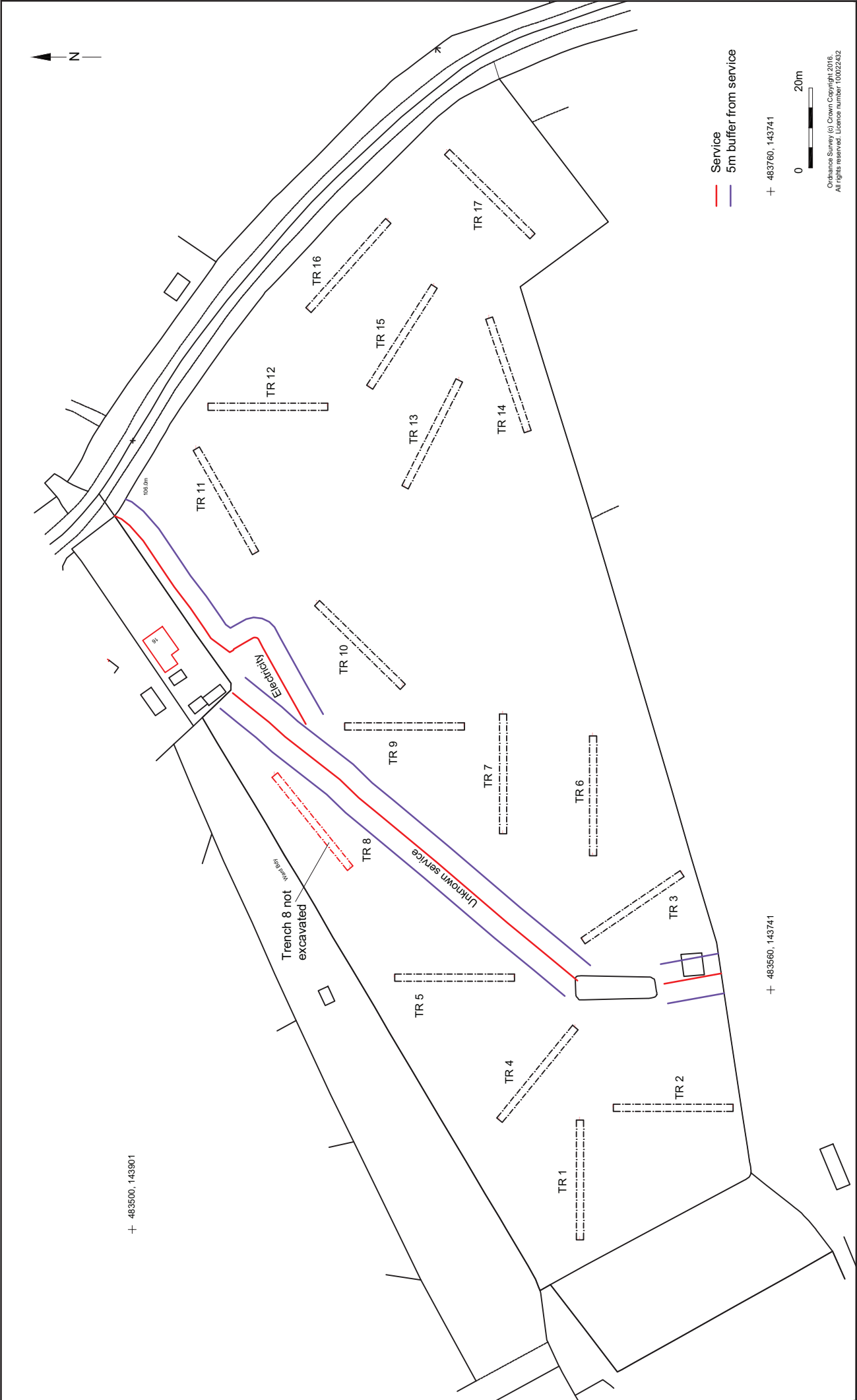
<b>Trench</b>	<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Depth m</b>	<b>Height m AOD</b>
T1	1/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.18	107.93-108.50
T1	1/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.10-0.20	
T1	1/003	Layer	Natural	0.16	107.57-107.94
T2	2/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.34-0.38	101.16-106.40
T2	2/003	Layer	Natural	0.15	100.82-105.51
T3	3/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.23	103.73-107.03
T3	3/002	Layer	Natural	0.04-0.10	103.73-106.31
T4	4/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.29	107.78-110.83
T4	4/002	Layer	Natural	0.04-0.07	107.49-110.32
T5	5/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.28	109.73-112.64
T5	5/002	Layer	Made ground	0.26	
T5	5/003	Layer	Natural	0.09	109.98-112.22
T6	6/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.19-0.29	106.91-107.31
T6	6/002	Layer	Natural	0.06-0.12	106.68-107.10
T7	7/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.14-0.08	109.66-110.70
T7	7/002	Layer	Natural	0.05-0.13	109.46-110.37
T9	9/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.15-0.31	110.84-112.78
T9	9/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.04-0.12	
T9	9/003	Layer	Natural	0	110.79-111.99
T9	9/004	Layer	Made ground	0.24	
T10	10/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.16-0.19	111.30-111.60
T10	10/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.08-0.18	
T10	10/003	Layer	Natural	0.04	110.97-111.37
T11	11/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.10-0.13	107.40-110.63
T11	11/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.13	
T11	11/003	Layer	Natural	0.08	107.44-110.03
T12	12/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.11-0.15	106.26-106.70
T12	12/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.09-0.11	
T12	12/003	Layer	Natural	0.05-0.12	106.09-106.42
T13	13/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.06-0.13	105.08-108.19
T13	13/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.14	
T13	13/003	Layer	Natural	0.05-0.19	104.96-107.68
T14	14/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.07-0.13	102.71-105.94
T14	14/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.1	
T14	14/003	Layer	Made ground	0.15	
T14	14/004	Layer	Natural	0.05	102.70-105.49
T15	15/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.2	102.61-106.14
T15	15/002	Layer	Natural	0.06-0.09	102.75-105.53
T16	16/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.12	98.94-104.36
T16	16/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.2	
T16	16/003	Layer	Natural	0	98.92-103.84
T17	17/001	Layer	Topsoil	0.13-0.24	95.09-98.82
T17	17/002	Layer	Subsoil	0.17-0.22	
T17	17/003	Layer	Natural	0.06	94.77-98.36





© Archaeology South-East		Land at Gardner's Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160591	August 2016	Site Location	
Report Ref: 2016322	Drawn by: JC		

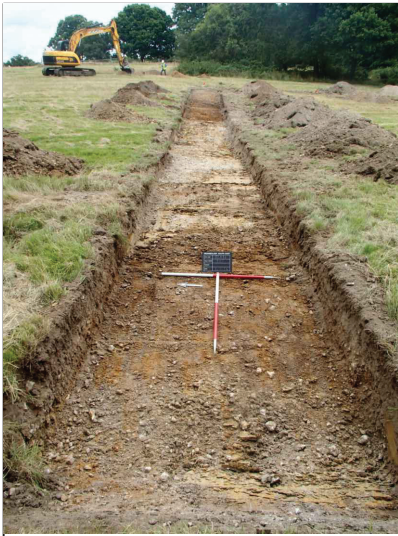




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Project Ref: 160591	August 2016	Trench Location	
Report Ref: 2016322	Drawn by: LG		

Fig. 2





Trench 1 looking east



Trench 2 looking north



Trench 3 looking south-east



Trench 4 looking south-east



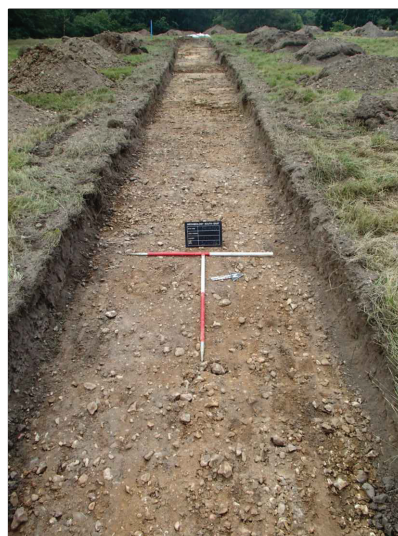
Trench 5 looking south



Trench 6 looking east



Trench 7 looking west



Trench 10 looking south-west



Trench 11 looking north-east





Trench 12 looking south



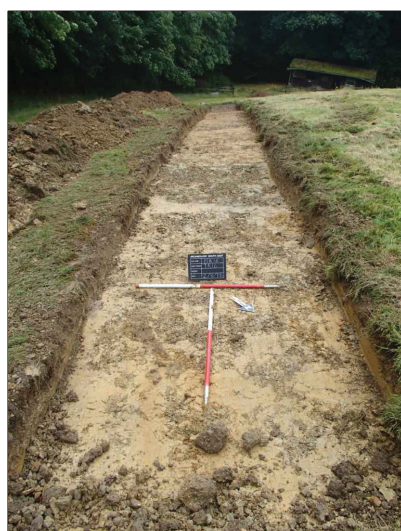
Trench 13 looking south-east



Trench 14 looking north-east



Trench 15 looking north-west



Trench 16 looking south-east



Trench 17 looking south-west

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