

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Land at Piries Place, Horsham
West Sussex**

**NGR 517380 130555
(TQ 17380 30555)**

**Planning Ref: DC/16/2506
ASE Project No: 170345
Site Code: PPH17
ASE Report No: 2017296
OASIS ID: archaeol6-289075**



By John Cook

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Prepared by:	John Cook	Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed and approved by:	Dan Swift	Project Manager	
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**Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR**

**Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk**

Abstract

An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex on the 28th and 29th June 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd. The evaluation comprised two trenches.

No archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas and the site has been extensively disturbed by previous construction and services.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by Orion Heritage to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex, hereafter 'the site' (centred on NGR 517380 130555; Figure 1).

1.1.2 The site is situated within the eastern part of the historic town of Horsham and lies partly within the northern extent of the Horsham Conservation Area and adjacent to a number of Listed Buildings. The area of the existing Piries Place shopping centre is 0.98ha, situated on the northern edge of the historic core of Horsham town, just off the area known as The Carfax, part of the original medieval market area (Figure 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey map shows the underlying bedrock geology of the site as Upper Tunbridge Wells Sand (sandstone and mudstone). No superficial geological deposits are recorded for this area (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Archaeological works are required to discharge condition 16 of planning consent granted for development at land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex (planning application reference DC/16/2506). The condition states:

No development, other than demolition works above ground level, shall take place until a written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. For land that is included within the WSI, no demolition below ground or development shall take place other than in accordance with the agreed WSI, which shall include:

- *the statement of significance and research objectives, and*
- *the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording and the nomination of a competent person(s) or organisation to undertake the agreed works*
- *the programme for further mitigation, post-investigation assessment and subsequent analysis, publication & dissemination and deposition of resulting material. This part of the condition shall not be discharged until these elements have been fulfilled in accordance with the programme set out in the WSI.*

Reason: As this matter is fundamental as the site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy 34 of Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

1.3.1 In accordance with this, and with discussions with Horsham District Council Archaeology Advisor, Martin Brown, evaluation of the site and mitigation of any remains of interest was recommended. A WSI (Orion 2017), superseded by a second WSI (ASE 2017) prior to the commencement of fieldwork, outlined the scope and standards to be followed by the evaluation.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.3.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation carried out on 28th and 29th June 2017. It has been prepared in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017). The fieldwork was carried out by John Cook and Tom Simms and managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and Dan Swift (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.0.1 The following background information is largely taken from the Desk-based Assessment (DBA; Orion 2016) for the site.
- 2.0.2 There are no prehistoric remains recorded within the site itself. In the wider area evidence is limited to Mesolithic and Neolithic flint finds recorded 0.5km to the southwest of the site (HER MWS1243 and MWS4598). Previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site have found no evidence from these periods.
- 2.0.3 However, while there is no recorded evidence of prehistoric activity within the site it should be taken into account that this area has not seen much archaeological investigation.
- 2.0.4 No evidence of Roman activity is recorded in the site itself. Roman activity in the wider area comprises evidence of a burial 0.55km to the south of the study site (HER MES494) and a Roman coin found by a workman in Denne Road, c. 150m to the southwest of the site (HER MWS502). Evidence in the wider area is also limited.
- 2.0.5 The HER does not record any evidence of Saxon / early medieval activity within the site or the surrounding area. The Domesday Survey of 1086 records Horsham as a detached place of pasture for the manor of Washington, with nine households working the land west of Horsham, between Marlpot and North Heath. They were tenants of the Archbishop of Canterbury; the street still known as the Bishopric was in his ownership.
- 2.0.6 It is likely that the area formed pasture land during this time. Therefore, on current evidence, the potential for buried remains of interest from this period to be present is considered low.
- 2.0.7 Horsham's position on an existing route between London and the coast was exploited and by the 13th century settlement at Horsham was given royal licence to hold a weekly market and the town expanded. The Carfax was originally a large, triangular and uncluttered open space where twice-weekly markets were held.
- 2.0.8 The HER records that an archaeological evaluation undertaken in the northern part of the site at Central Market, Copnall Way, recovered late medieval pottery and recorded an undated gully (HER MWS4492). The site is situated within the limits of the medieval town in an area projected as former medieval burgage plots (Harris 1995; Map 5).
- 2.0.9 17th, 18th and early 19th century maps (Orion 2016) show the site largely as open fields, but with properties present along the western boundary.
- 2.0.10 In the latter part of the 19th century the site saw development with a row of cottages, which is shown on the 1897 OS Map as Piries Place (*ibid*). These were constructed by William Pirie, headmaster of Collyer's School 1822-1868, as a speculative development to provide a retirement income. The cottages overlooked the Central Market, an important shopping focus.

2.0.11 By the mid-20th century some of the cottages were demolished and additional commercial buildings were built on the site, and by the later part of the 20th century all of the cottages had been removed. By the end of the 20th century the study site had been developed into the current shopping centre.

2.1 Project Aims and Objectives

2.1.1 The broad aims of the evaluation, in keeping with previous similar projects are:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

2.1.2 The specific aims of this project are, where possible:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent and character of any archaeological features on the site and to consider the archaeological interest of these in the context of the regional archaeological framework
- To examine any available evidence for economic activity and environmental conditions
- To generate an archive which will allow future research of the evidence to be undertaken if appropriate
- To disseminate the results of the work in a format and manner proportionate to the significance of the findings

2.1.3 The site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the South Eastern Research Framework:

- The study of medieval fairs
- The study of use of space within towns in the post-medieval period
- The study of houses and diet in the post-medieval period

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The trial trench evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of two trenches, measuring 10m x 1.80m as shown on Figure 2. Both trenches were excavated in the vicinity of their original position as per WSI (ASE 2017). However, the trench dimensions had to be reduced due to on-site spatial constraints and services (Figures 2 and 3).
- 3.1.2 Both trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using an 8 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a flat-bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated through modern made ground in spits of no more than 0.10m until the top of the underlying natural sediments was reached. A metal detector was used at regular intervals to scan spoil derived from the excavations and to scan the base of both trenches.
- 3.1.3 All exposed deposits were recorded by hand on standard ASE *pro forma* recording sheets. All planning was completed using digital GPS survey equipment. A digital photographic record of the work was completed.
- 3.1.4 Both trenches were backfilled using the excavated material in the approximate stratigraphic sequence in which they were excavated, and were left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

3.3 Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at a local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2).

Context sheets	7
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	24
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	2
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 1: Quantification of the site archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 3 and 4)

Contexts are tabulated in the Appendix at the back of this report.

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was located in the west of the site, within the courtyard of Piries Place, and measured 10.00m x 1.80m in plan; However, due to services only the southern two metres of the trench could be excavated to the level of the natural geology. No archaeology was recorded.

4.1.2 The natural mottled yellow-brown Tunbridge Wells sandstone and mudstone [1/003] was overlain by a reddish brown sand made ground [1/002] and layers of aggregate sub-base [1/001]. This was in turn sealed by stone slabs set in concrete [1/004].

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was located in the east of the site, within the loading bay of the former supermarket, and measured 5.00m x 1.80m in plan; the trench had to be shortened from the proposed length, as outlined in the WSI (ASE 2017), due to existing services. A service trench was also encountered at the eastern end of the trench. No archaeology was recorded.

4.2.2 Where visible, at the western end of the trench, natural yellow-brown Tunbridge Wells sandstone and mudstone [2/003] was overlain by layers of aggregate sub-base [2/002]. This was sealed by a loading bay surface set in concrete [2/001].

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

5.1.1 Natural Tunbridge Wells sandstone and mudstone was recorded in both trenches at between 47.45m and 47.52m aOD; these natural deposits were directly overlain by made ground in both trenches. No archaeological finds, deposits or features were recorded in the evaluation.

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

5.2.1 Truncation of the natural horizon, both locally by services and horizontally during the construction of Piries Place, was observed in both trenches. There was no surviving subsoil or topsoil horizon; the natural geology was instead directly overlain by modern made ground deposits in both trenches.

5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

5.3.1 No archaeological finds, deposits or features were recorded in the evaluation.

5.4 Consideration of Research Aims

5.4.1 The work has established that the evaluated areas are extensively disturbed by previous groundworks; no archaeological remains were recorded.

5.5 Conclusions

5.5.1 No archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas and the site has been extensively disturbed by previous construction and services.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Orion Heritage Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary

Site code	PPH17					
Project code	170345					
Planning reference	Planning Ref: DC/16/2506					
Site address	Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex					
District/Borough	Horsham					
NGR (12 figures)	517380 130555					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells sandstone and mudstone					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	28/06/2017 - 29/06/2017					
Sponsor/client	Orion Heritage Ltd					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	John Cook					
Period summary	Modern					
Project summary	<p>An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex on the 28th and 29th June 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd. The evaluation comprised two trenches.</p> <p>No archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas and the site has been extensively disturbed by previous construction and services.</p>					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-289075

Project details

Project name Archaeological Evaluation Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was carried out by Archaeology South-East on Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex on the 28th and 29th June 2017. The fieldwork was commissioned by Orion Heritage Ltd. The evaluation comprised two trenches.

No archaeological remains exist in the evaluated areas and the site has been extensively disturbed by previous construction and services.

Project dates Start: 28-06-2017 End: 29-06-2017

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 170345 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes PPH17 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 3 - Retailing

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM HORSHAM Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex

Postcode RH12 1EE

Study area 0.7 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 17380 30555 51.061774491295 -0.324759282176 51 03
42 N 000 19 29 W Point

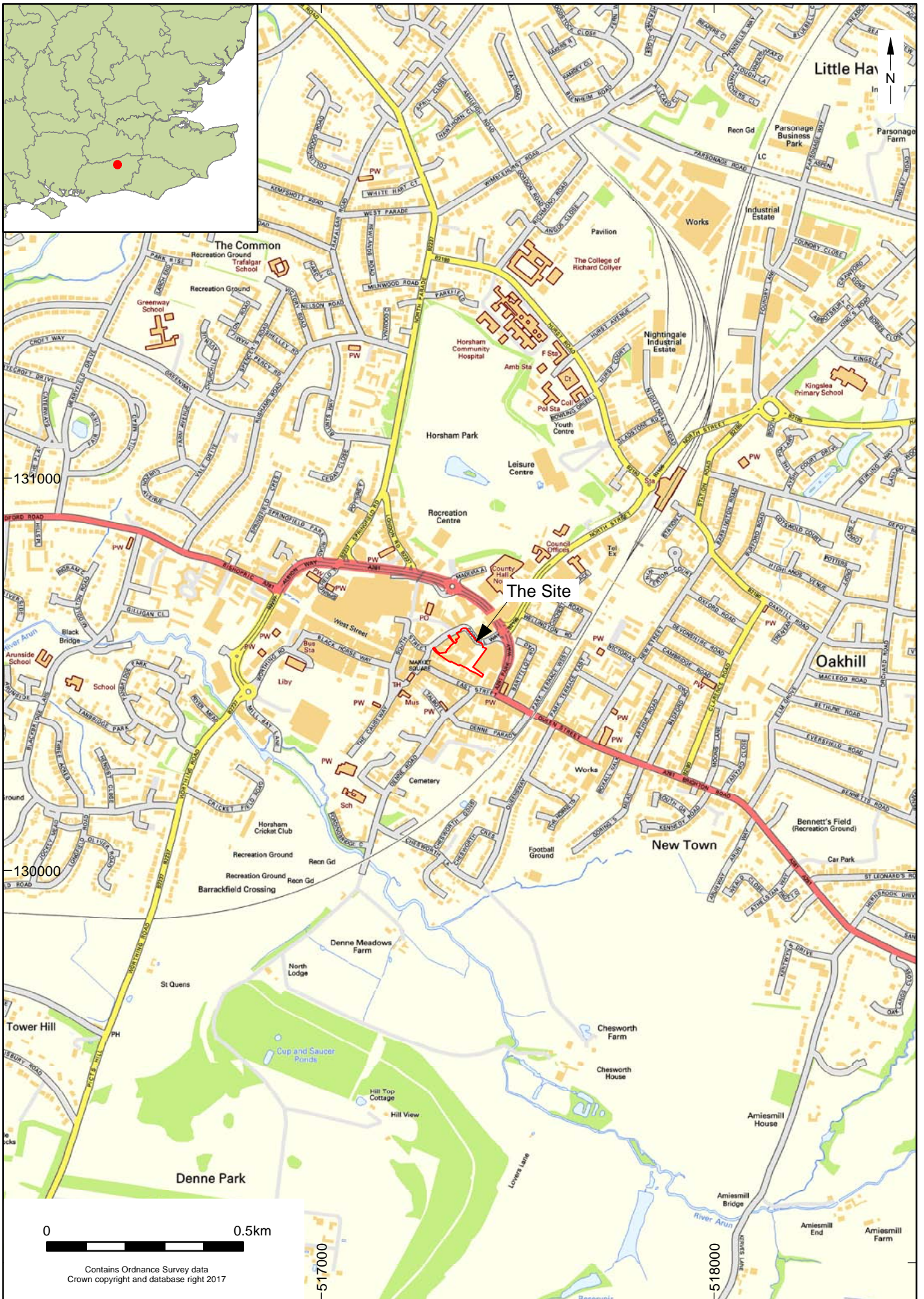
Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South East

Project brief originator	Orion Heritage Ltd
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	John Cook
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultant
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orion Heritage Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	ASE
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic","Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	ASE
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Report","Survey","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report Land at Piries Place, Horsham, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Cook, J.
Other bibliographic details	Report number; 2017296
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	ASE
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	John Cook (john.cook@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	30 June 2017

Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches: List of recorded context

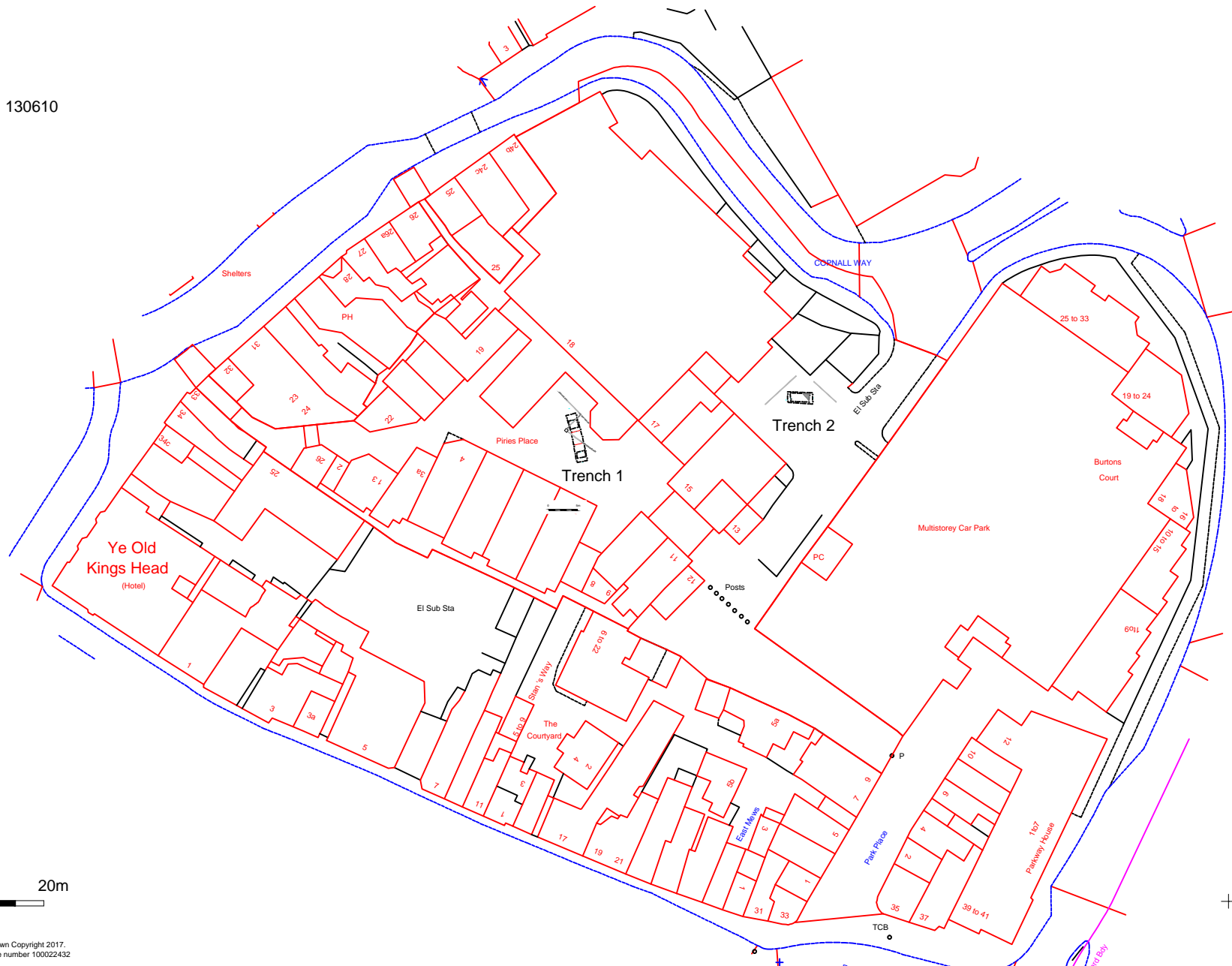
Trench	Context	Type	Interpretation	Depth (m)	Height (m aOD)
1	1/001	Layer	Made ground	0.48	48.14
1	1/002	Layer	Made ground	0.14	47.66
1	1/003	Layer	Natural	-	47.52
1	1/004	Layer	Made ground	0.08	48.22
2	2/001	Layer	Made ground	0.11	48.20
2	2/002	Layer	Made ground	0.64	48.09
2	2/003	Layer	Natural	-	47.45



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© Archaeology South-East		Piries Place, Horsham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170345	June 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017296	Drawn by: JC		

+ 517240, 130610

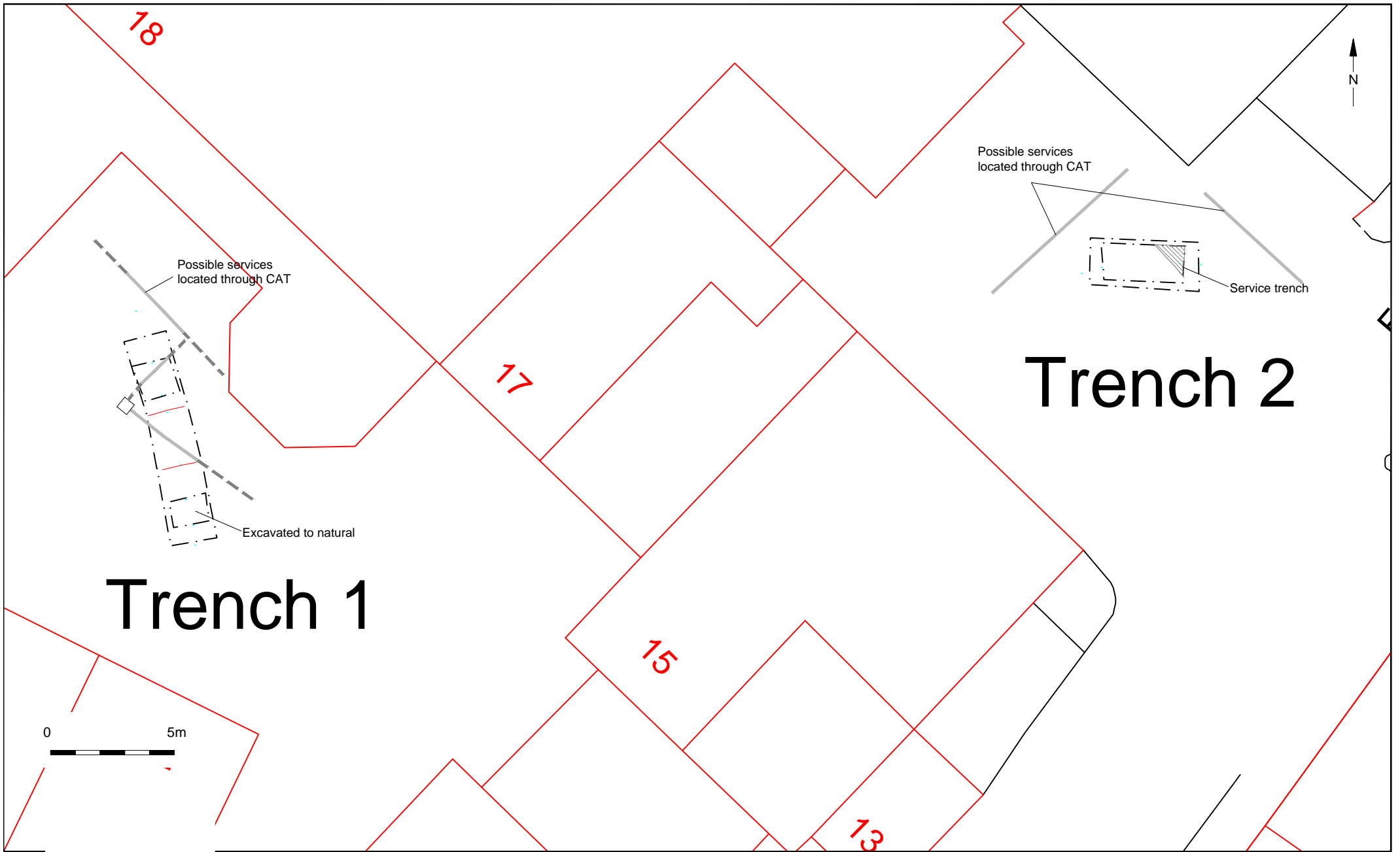


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© Archaeology South-East		Piries Place, Horsham	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170345	June 2017	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2017296	Drawn by: JC		



© Archaeology South-East		Piries Place, Horsham	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170345	June 2017	Trench plan	
Report Ref: 2017296	Drawn by: JC		



Trench 1 facing north west



Trench 1 north east facing section



Trench 2 facing west



Trench 2 south facing section

Sussex Office

Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
tel: +44(0)1273 426830
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

Essex Office

27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office

Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

