

**Archaeological Evaluation
Land West of Southwater
West Sussex (Phase 3.1)**

**NGR: 515428 126401
(TQ 15428 26401)**

**Planning Ref: DC/14/0590
ASE Project No: 190061
Site Code: WSW13
ASE Report No: 2019068
OASIS id: archaeol6-343299**



By Lucy May


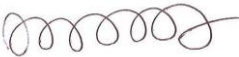
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation, phase 3.1, carried out by Archaeology South-East at land west of Southwater, West Sussex on 11th February 2019. The fieldwork was commissioned by Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd in advance of the continued residential development. Five of the proposed 7 trenches were excavated. Trenches 42 and 43 could not be excavated due to groundworks having already started in that area.

The archaeological horizon appeared intact but the results do not appear to correspond with those of the geophysical survey. The trial trenches encountered no archaeological finds, features or deposits and the nearby Iron Age activity, found during the previous phases of work, does not appear to continue into this area. Within the currently evaluated area therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on archaeological features or deposits.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) has been commissioned by Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd to undertake archaeological evaluation (phase 3.1) of land west of Southwater, West Sussex (Figure1). The site is centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) 515193 126086).

1.1.2 Phase 3.1 is a broad strip of land to the north of the cricket ground extending to the north of Church Lane, to the west of Southwater and is located to the south and south-east of Phase 1 & 2 of the development site.

1.1.3 A Desk-based Assessment produced for the wider development scheme (ASE 2014) included an appraisal of the results of geophysical survey (Stratascan 2011) and field-walking exercise (ASE 2011), both of which include the Phase 3.1 area. Trial trench evaluation of Phases 1 & 2 have already been undertaken (ASE 2016a) and subsequent mitigation is complete (ASE report forthcoming).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey map the underlying bedrock geology of the site as Wealden sandstone and siltstone. No superficial geological deposits are recorded for this area (BGS 2019).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 An outline planning application for the residential development of the site has been approved by Horsham District Council (HDC) subject to a Section 106 Agreement and appropriate conditions (Planning Ref: DC/14/0590). The archaeological condition is as follows:

No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or the applicant's agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation and timetable which has been submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: In order to ensure that archaeological features, deposits and artefacts revealed during development works will be adequately recorded in accordance with policy DC10 of the Horsham District Local Development Framework: General Development Control Policies (2007) and in accordance with the NPPF.

1.3.3 Accordingly, a written scheme of investigation (ASE 2017) for the phase 3.1 of the archaeological evaluation was submitted to all parties for approval prior to the commencement of work at the site.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the phase 3.1 archaeological evaluation carried out on the 11th February 2019.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Below is a summary derived from the field-walking exercise (ASE 2011), the desk-based assessment (ASE 2014), the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2011), the evaluation undertaken to the north of Church Lane in Phases 1 & 2 (ASE 2016) and the mitigation work.
- 2.2 Field-walking across the central and southern fields to the south of Church Lane recovered small quantities of worked flint and a larger amount of fire-cracked flint; no particular concentrations were noted. One sherd of Roman pottery was recovered together with approximately 20 sherds of post-Roman pottery. Ceramic building material dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods was present – the later period represented by a significant concentration in the central eastern part of the site which corresponds to the location of ‘College Barn’, a structure which first appears on the Ordnance Survey Old Series 1-inch map of c.1800 (ASE 2011).
- 2.3 Geophysical survey of the Phase 3 & 4 areas was undertaken by Stratascan (2011). A series of discrete anomalies located towards the north-east corner of the southern field was interpreted as a possible pit alignment. A number of ferrous spikes detected in the area of the football pitch, immediately south of Church Lane, were interpreted as possible archaeology. A small number of possible ‘cut’ features were located in the northern field (cricket pitch) and across the middle and southern fields south of Church Lane. A smaller number anomalies, possibly corresponding with former earthworks, were noted in similar locations. Thermoremnant anomalies were detected in the northern and southern parts of the Phase 3 & 4 site (Stratascan 2011). Areas of magnetic disturbance were noted across the site.
- 2.4 Twenty-three trenches measuring up to 30m in length were excavated across the Phase 1 and 2 sites (ASE 2016) to test the veracity of the geophysical survey in those areas. Small quantities of residual worked flint were recovered from the overburden across the site. Evidence of Iron Age activity, represented by ditches and an occupation layer was identified in a small area of the site. Evidence of burn beating was also encountered which might derive from this period. Post-medieval activity was represented by a small collection of 19th and 20th century pottery in the overburden.
- 2.5 Subsequent watching brief across the Phase 1 & 2 area has recently been completed (ASE forthcoming). Little was found to expand upon the results of the evaluation.

2.3 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.4 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

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

- To test the results of the field-walking exercise, particularly regarding the composition and dating of any flintwork present
- To test the results of the geophysical survey
- To determine whether there is evidence for Iron Age activity as noted to the north in the Phase 1 & 2 areas

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

- The use of the Weald in later prehistory
- Further archaeological investigation of agricultural buildings and other ancillary structures in the post-medieval period

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

(Figures 2 and 3)

- 3.1.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) and with the guidelines in the Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC / CDC / ESCC 2019), and the Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2019).
- 3.1.2 Seven trenches, measuring 30m x 2m, were to be excavated in this stage of work excavated however 2, Trenches 42 and 43, could not be excavated due to the groundworks having already started in that area.
- 3.1.3 Additionally, Trench 24 had to be shortened and extended to an L- due to a large spoil heap to the south and a compound area to the north. This trench measured c.10m x 7m.
- 3.1.4 Mechanical excavation was undertaken under archaeological supervision using a flat-bladed, 1.80m wide ditching bucket removing spits of no more than 0.10m thickness to the top first significant archaeological deposit/horizon, or to the top of the underlying 'natural'; whichever was uppermost.
- 3.1.5 All resultant features were then investigated by hand. All deposits were recorded using the standard context record sheets used by Archaeology South-East. All features were planned using digital survey technology. Sections were hand drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20. A digital photographic record was maintained of all excavated features and of all trenches.

3.2 Archive

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

Context sheets	15
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	22
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	5

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 Archaeologically negative trenches: Trenches 25-28

4.1.1 All five trenches were devoid of archaeological deposits, finds and features. A table of the contexts recorded in the archaeologically negative trenches is provided below.

4.1.2 The stratigraphic sequence for all the trenches comprised of the natural geology, Wealden sandstone and siltstone, overlain by a mid-orange-grey sandy clay subsoil, ranging in thickness from between 0.10-0.35m. This was then sealed by a dark brown grey silty clay topsoil ranging in thickness between 0.10-0.30m.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Height (mOD)
24/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.1	51.12-51.57
24/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	trench	0.10-0.35	
24/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0	50.80-50.99
25/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.24-0.30	50.49-51.81
25/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	trench	0.12-0.27	
25/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0	50.04-51.36
26/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.24-0.26	48.78-49.64
26/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	trench	0.10-0.25	
26/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0	48.36-49.11
27/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.18-0.25	47.73-48.89
27/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	trench	0.14-0.20	
27/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0	47.42-48.42
28/001	Layer	Topsoil	trench	trench	0.25-0.30	46.92-47.54
28/002	Layer	Subsoil	trench	trench	0.12-0.20	
28/003	Layer	Natural	trench	trench	0	46.69-47.18

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence within all of the trenches were the same and comprised of natural geology overlain by subsoil and topsoil. The overburden varied in depths between 0.20m and 0.51m.
- 5.1.2 The natural geology was encountered at its highest within Trench 25 at 51.36m OD and its lowest within Trench 28 at 46.92m OD
- 5.1.3 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded within the trenches.
- 5.1.4 The methodology, as set out in the WSI (ASE 2017), was successfully employed during the evaluation

5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 5.2.1 Within the five trenches excavated, the natural overburden (subsoil and topsoil) and therefore the archaeological horizon appeared intact and there does not appear to have been any significant affect from any previous groundworks or farming activity. However, within the two trenches which were not excavated, Trenches 42 & 43, the natural overburden had already been impacted by the current groundworks taking place at the time of the evaluation.

5.3 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 5.3.1 Due to the lack of archaeological finds and features within the excavated trenches, the proposed development is unlikely to impact on the archaeological features or deposits within the evaluated areas.

5.4 Consideration of research aims

- 5.4.1 The broad aims of the evaluation were successfully employed and determined that there was no evidence of archaeological activity within the evaluated areas. There was also no apparent correlation between results of the geophysical survey and the evaluation.

5.5 Conclusions

- 5.5.1 The archaeological horizon appeared intact but the results do not appear to correspond with those of the geophysical survey. The trial trenches encountered no archaeological finds, features or deposits and the nearby Iron Age activity found during the previous phases of work does not appear to continue into this area. Within the currently evaluated area therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on archaeological features or deposits.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Maria Medlycott County Archaeologist, Essex County Council for her guidance and monitoring. The evaluation was directed by Lucy May. John Cook surveyed the site and produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the field-work and Dan Swift the post-excavation process.

HER Summary

Site code	WSW13				
Project code	190061				
Planning reference	DC/14/0590				
Site address	Land West of Southwater,				
District/Borough	West Sussex				
NGR (12 figures)	515428 126401				
Geology	Wealden Sandstone and Siltstone				
Fieldwork type	Eval				
Date of fieldwork	11 th February 2019				
Sponsor/client	Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Lucy May				
Period summary					
Project summary	<p>This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation, phase 3.1, carried out by Archaeology South-East at land west of Southwater, West Sussex on 11th February 2019. The fieldwork was commissioned by Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd in advance of the continued residential development. Five of the proposed 7 trenches were excavated. Trenches 42 and 43 could not be excavated due to groundworks having already started in that area.</p> <p>The archaeological horizon appeared intact but the results do not appear to correspond with those of the geophysical survey. The trial trenches encountered no archaeological finds, features or deposits and the nearby Iron Age activity found during the previous phases of work does not appear to continue into this area. Within the currently evaluated area therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on archaeological features or deposits.</p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-343299

Project details

Project name	An archaeological evaluation, (phase 3.1) at land west of Southwater, West Sussex
Short description of the project	This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation, phase 3.1, carried out by Archaeology South-East at land west of Southwater, West Sussex on 11th February 2019. The fieldwork was commissioned by Berkeley Homes Southern Ltd in advance of the continued residential development. Five of the proposed 7 trenches were excavated. Trenches 42 and 43 could not be excavated due to groundworks having already started in that area. The archaeological horizon appeared intact but the results do not appear to correspond with those of the geophysical survey. The trial trenches encountered no archaeological finds, features or deposits and the nearby Iron Age activity found during the previous phases of work does not appear to continue into this area. Within the currently evaluated area therefore, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on archaeological features or deposits.
Project dates	Start: 11-02-2019 End: 11-02-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	WSW13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	190061 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 2 - Vacant land not previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER land west of southwater
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 15428 26401 51.024828644323 -0.35392996302 51 01 29 N 000 21 14 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 46.92m Max: 51.36m

Project creators

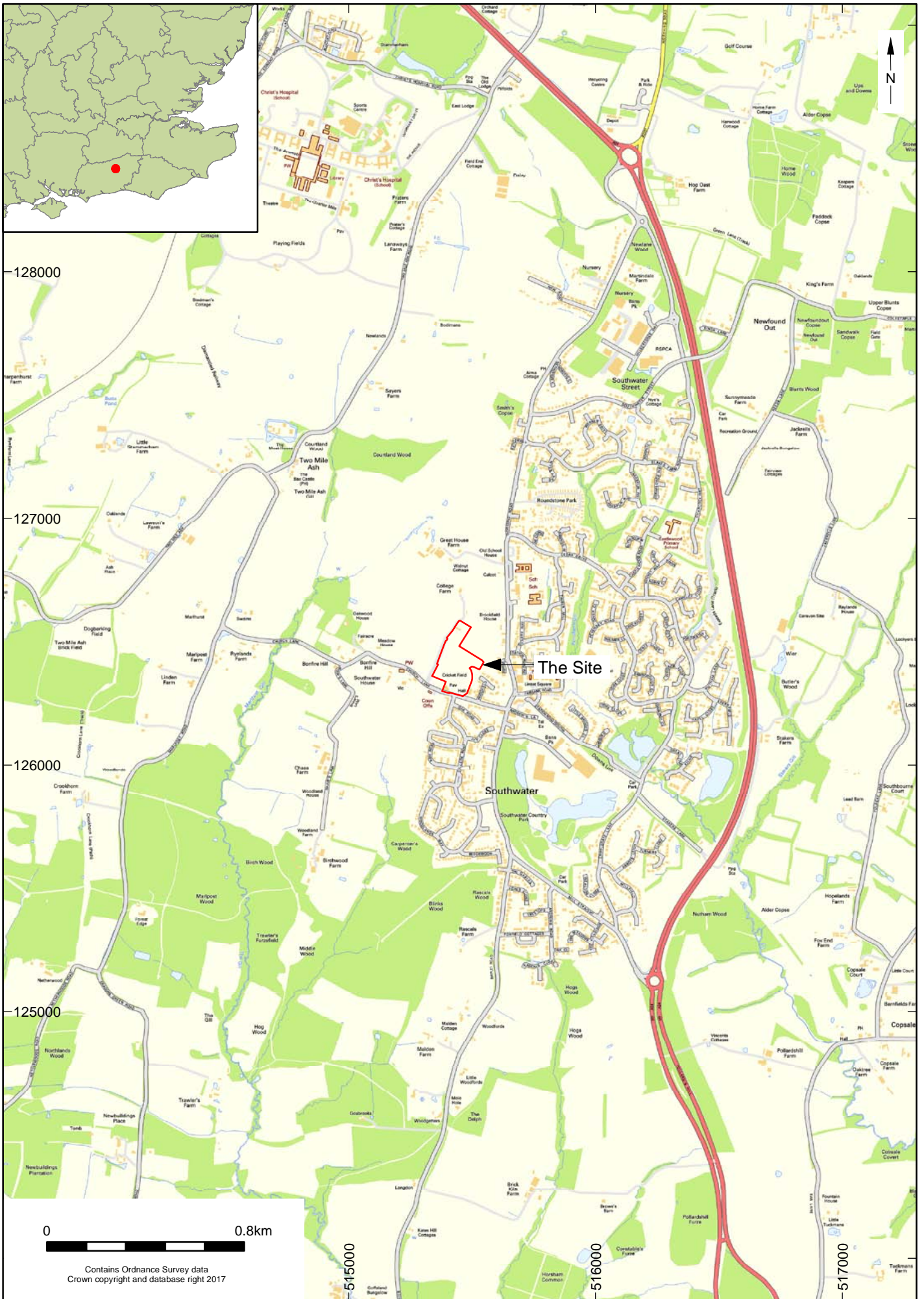
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	ASE
Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Lucy May
Type of sponsor/funding body	Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report"

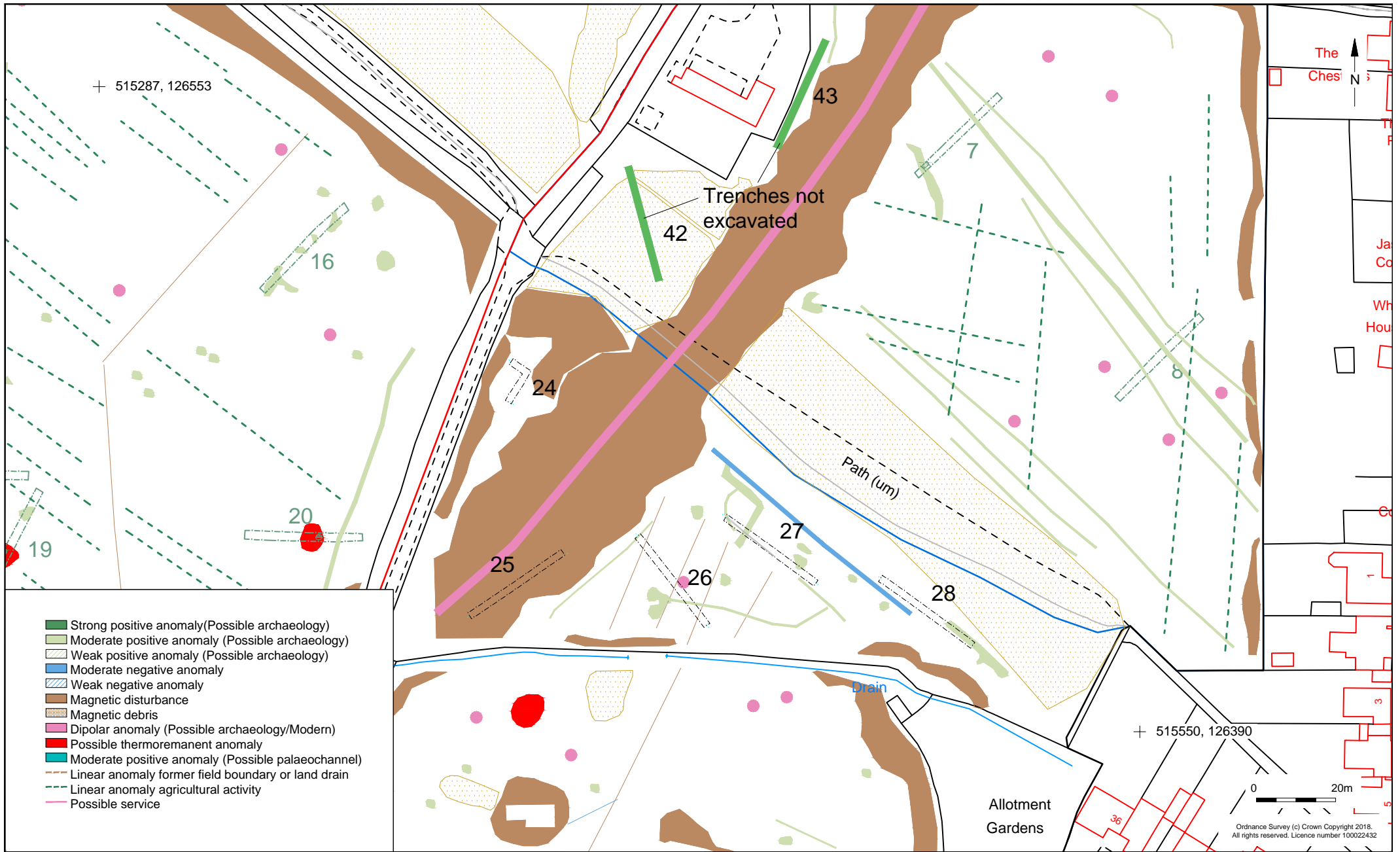
Project bibliography 1

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Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
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Description	A4 report
Entered by	L May (l.may@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	20 February 2019



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© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Southwater Phase 3.1		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 190061	February 2019	Site location		
Report Ref: 2019068	Drawn by: JC			



© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Southwater Phase 3.1	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 190061	February 2018	Trench location - Trenches 24-28 & 42-43 over geophysics interpretation	
Report Ref: 2019068	Drawn by: JC		



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Project Ref: 190061	February 2018
Report Ref: 2019068	Drawn by: JC

Land west of Southwater Phase 3.1

Google Earth Image - showing trenches and site constraints

Fig. 3

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