

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey**

**NGR 499745 170879
(SU 99745 70879)**

Runnymede Borough Council Planning Reference: RU.18/1122

Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/Q3630/W/18/3219397

ASE Project No: 190605

Site Code: HVT 19

ASE Report No: 2019309

OASIS ID: archaeol6-370470



By Simon Stevens

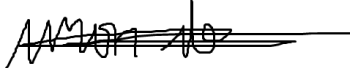

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Date of Issue:	October 2019		
Version:	2		

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey (NGR 499745 170879). Two of the proposed four trenches were investigated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluated areas.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by the RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey (NGR 499745 170879; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern side of Harvest Road, to the south of St. Cuthbert's Close, in a built-up area of Englefield Green, Egham. The area available for the archaeological evaluation consisted of a plot of grassland immediately to the south of The Jurgens Centre, bounded by trees to the south and east, with houses fronting onto Harvest Road to the west.

1.2.2 According to the latest available data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology at the site consists of the sand of the Bagshot formation, with overlying superficial deposits of the sands and gravels of the local River Terrace deposits (BGS 2019).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and the erection of student accommodation at the site was refused by Runnymede Borough Council in November 2018 (planning reference RU.18/1122). However, following an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, planning permission was granted for the scheme in August 2019 (planning reference APP/Q3630/W/18/3219397).

1.3.2 Following consultation between Runnymede Borough Council and Surrey Borough Council (Runnymede Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues) it was advised that a condition should be attached to any planning permission. The following condition (No. 10) was attached to the Planning Inspectorate permission:

'Prior to the commencement of any works below current ground levels, the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, shall secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. When approved, the development shall be undertaken in complete accordance with the approved details.'

1.3.3 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological evaluation* (ASE 2019) was produced and approved prior to fieldwork.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken on 14th October 2019.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.0.1 The archaeological background below is summarised from a desk-based assessment prepared for the site (Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 2.0.2 Small quantities of prehistoric flint have been found in the general vicinity of the site.
- 2.0.3 The projection of the London to Silchester Roman road is aligned c.950m south of the site and possible Roman building foundations were found close by at Bakeham House in the earlier 19th century.
- 2.0.4 Historic mapping indicates that the site was used for agriculture in the earlier post-medieval period. Buildings appear around the periphery of the site on the 1841 Tithe map.
- 2.0.5 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered during an archaeological evaluation undertaken prior to a housing development immediately to the south of the current site (Wessex Archaeology 2015).
- 2.0.6 A geophysical survey of the site concluded that the entire area is magnetically disturbed; and in such circumstances it is impossible to say whether any responses might be archaeological in origin (RPS 2019).

2.1 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.1.1 The overarching research aims of the evaluation given in the WSI (ASE 2019) were to ascertain
- *Whether archaeological remains are present on the site and if so to assess their nature, date, survival and significance*
 - *How they might be impacted by the development of the site*
 - *To enable the Surrey County Council Archaeology Officer to make an informed decision as to the requirement for any further archaeological work either in advance of, or during, the development.*
- 2.1.2 Specific objectives of this investigation, with reference to the South-East Research Framework (SERF) are proposed as follows;
- *An understanding of the multi-faceted landscape (Post-medieval and Modern period)*
 - *The development of the village in the post-medieval period (Post-medieval and Modern period)*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology (Figure 2)

- 3.1.1 Four trenches to a cumulative length of 90m were planned to investigate the available area of the site. In the event, the locations of Trenches 3 and 4 were unavailable owing to the presence of buried live services and therefore only 2 trenches could be opened. Trench 1 had to be shortened to 11m avoid an area of hardstanding and site access, Trench 2 was 15m long (26m in total).
- 3.1.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *WSI* (ASE 2019) and the *Regulation, Standards and Guidance* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2019).
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, under constant archaeological supervision, using a flat-bladed bucket was undertaken in small spits down to the top of natural geological deposits, or to the top of any recognisable archaeological deposits, whichever was the higher. Care was taken not to damage archaeological deposits through excessive use of mechanical excavation. Revealed surfaces of the natural geology were manually cleaned to identify archaeological features. Spoil was scanned for the presence of artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.
- 3.1.4 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were collected, sampled and recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East recording forms.
- 3.1.5 The trench locations were planned using digital survey technology. A digital photographic record was maintained of all trenches and of the site in general.

3.2 Archive

3.2.1 The site archive will be offered to Chertsey Museum in due course.

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Digital photos	12
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 site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated on 14th October 2019. Weather conditions offered good visibility for the identification of archaeological deposits, features and finds.

4.2 Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Max. Thickness m	Height m AOD
1/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.30	59.93 - 60.14
1/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.35	-
1/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	59.36 - .59.59

Table 2: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 The encountered stratigraphic sequence in the trench was straightforward. The upper layer consisted of a dark brown sandy clay topsoil, context [1/001], which sat on a layer of terram sheet suggesting the site had been recently stripped and reinstated. This overlay a deposit of reddish brown sandy gravel subsoil, context [1/002], which directly overlay the more yellowish brown 'natural' sandy gravel of the River Terrace deposits, context [1/003].

4.2.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

4.3 Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
2/001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.22	59.63 - 59.92
2/002	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.32	-
2/003	Layer	Natural	Trench	Trench	-	59.11 - 59.41

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.3.1 The two layers of overburden and the 'natural' were similar in character to those encountered in Trench 1.

4.3.2 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded in the trench.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Overview

- 5.1.1 Only 2 of the proposed 4 trenches could be excavated due to site constraints. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluated areas.

5.2 Deposit Survival and Existing Impacts

- 5.2.1 Although there had clearly been considerable earthmoving at the site in the recent past, there had been no obvious truncation of the surface of the 'natural' geology revealed in either of the trenches.

5.3 Consideration of Research Aims

- 5.3.1 No archaeological deposits or features were encountered in the evaluated areas. The specific objectives cannot be met.
- 5.3.2 A geophysical survey of the site concluded that the entire area is magnetically disturbed and that in such circumstances it is impossible to say whether any responses might be archaeological in origin (RPS 2019): Only Trench 3 falls partly within the area of the geophysical survey and the negative archaeological results found therein confirm that none of the responses in that area of overlap are of archaeological origin.

5.4 Conclusions

- 5.4.1 Only 2 of the proposed 4 trenches could be excavated due to site constraints. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluated areas.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the RPS Group for commissioning the work. The input of Nick Truckle Archaeological Officer, Surrey County Council is also gratefully acknowledged. The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist), Vas Tsamis (Senior Archaeological Surveyor) and by Lucy Sheeran (Assistant Archaeologist). The project was managed by Paul Mason (Fieldwork Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

HER Summary

Site code	HVT 19					
Project code	190605					
Planning reference	RU.18/1122 and APP/Q3630/W/18/3219397					
Site address	97-98 Harvest Road, Egham					
District/Borough	Runnymede Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	499745 170879					
Geology	River Terrace deposits over Bagshot formation sand					
Fieldwork type	Eval ✓	Excav	WB	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	14 th October 2019					
Sponsor/client	RPS Group					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period summary						
						None
Project summary	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey (NGR 499745 170879). Two of the proposed four trenches were investigated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluated areas.</p>					

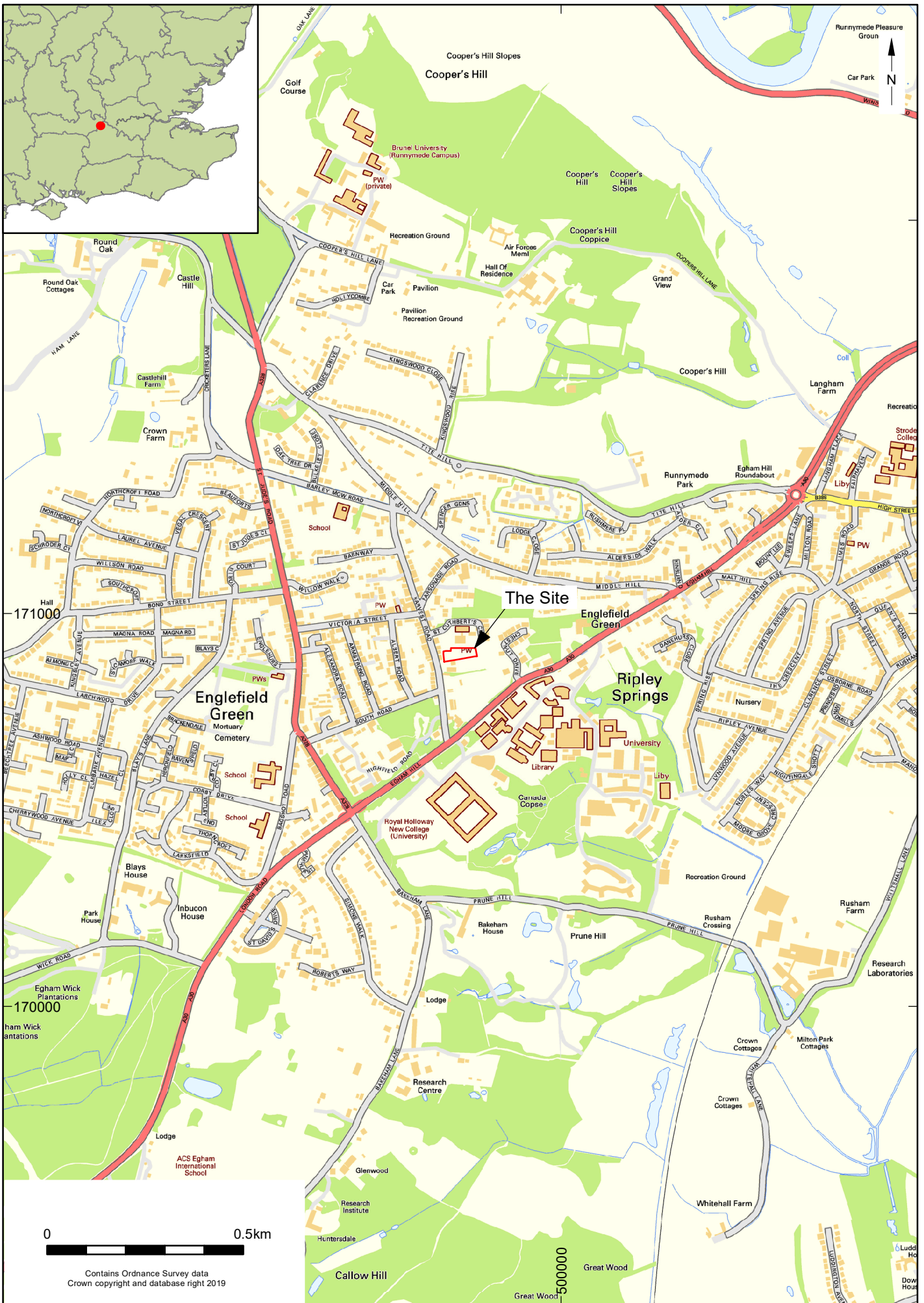
OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-370470

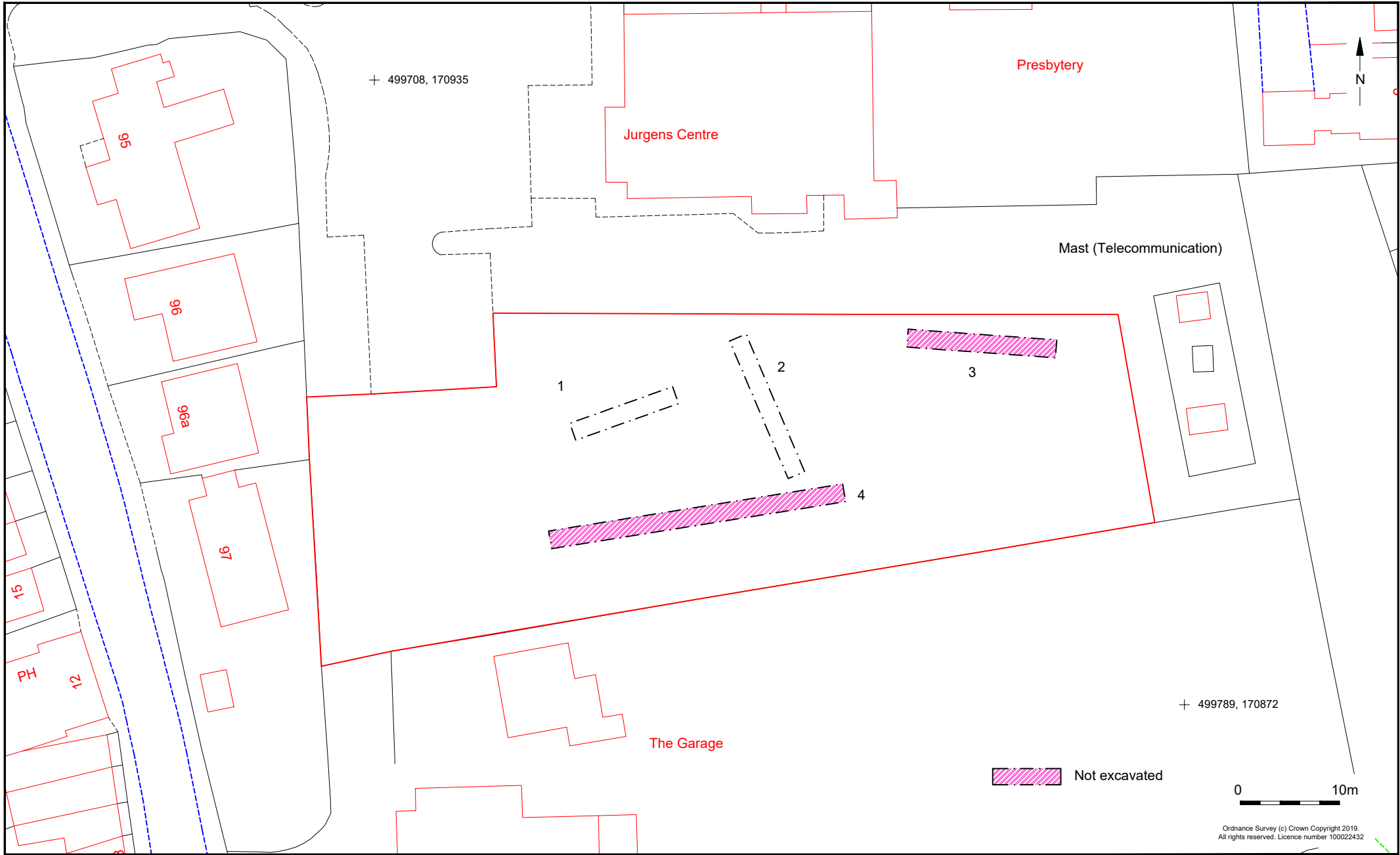
Project details

Project name	Archaeological Evaluation Report - 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the RPS Group to undertake an archaeological evaluation at 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey (NGR 499745 170879). Two of the proposed four trenches were investigated. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered in the evaluated areas.
Project dates	Start: 14-10-2019 End: 14-10-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	190605 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HVT 19 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	APP/Q3630/W/18/3219397 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	RU.18/1122 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	SURREY RUNNYMEDE EGHAM 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham
Study area	1 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 99745 70879 51.427631060715 -0.565115718264 51 25 39 N 000 33 54 W Point
Project creators	
Name of	Archaeology South East

Organisation	
Project brief originator	RPS Group
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	RPS
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Chertsey Museum
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Chertsey Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Paper Archive recipient	Chertsey Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Evaluation Report - 97-98 Harvest Road, Egham, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2019309
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Description	Standard ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	15 October 2019



© Archaeology South-East		97-98 Harvest Road, Egham	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 190605	October 2019	Site location	
Report Ref: 2019309	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		97-98 Harvest Road, Surrey	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 190605	October 2019	Trench location	
Report Ref: 2019309	Drawn by: AR		



Excavation area, looking East



Trench 1, looking South West



trench 2, looking north west

© Archaeology South-East		97-98 Harvest Road, Surrey	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 190605	October 2019	Selected photographs	
Report Ref: 2019309	Drawn by: AR		

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