
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND AT 9 FARM CLOSE, GUILDFORD ROAD,
FETCHAM, SURREY**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TQ 14933 55048	Report No: 5244
District: Mole Valley	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6899
Signed:	Date: 3 November 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at 9 Farm Close, Fetcham, Surrey</i>		
<p><i>In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 9 Farm Close, Fetcham, Surrey (NGR TQ 14933 55048). The evaluation was commissioned by Finesse Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the removal of the existing building of Highacres and the construction of seven detached dwellings with new access on to Guildford Road and Farm Close.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located adjacent to an area of High Archaeological Potential identified on the Local Plan. The identification relates to an area of Iron Age and Romano-British activity. An Iron Age farmstead was excavated c.450m to the north in the 1960s and a further part of the site (or separate farmstead) was excavated in the grounds of Hawks Hill House some 100m to the south west, dating to the middle Iron Age. Romano-British settlement is known from Norbury Park to the east and Saxon cemetery was located c.900m to the north-east.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>31/10/2016</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>6899</i>	Site code	
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Dwelling (demolished) and garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Construction of 7 dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Surrey</i>	<i>Mole Valley</i>	<i>Fetcham</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Surrey HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>KT22 9BW</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.5150m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 14933 55048</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>79.50/88.00m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Requirement of SCC HCT</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Finesse Homes</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at 9 Farm Close, Fetcham, Surrey. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5244</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2016</i>		

LAND AT 9 FARM CLOSE, GUILDFORD ROAD, FETCHAM, SURREY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 9 Farm Close, Fetcham, Surrey (NGR TQ 14933 55048). The evaluation was commissioned by Finesse Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the removal of the existing building of Highacres and the construction of seven detached dwellings with new access on to Guildford Road and Farm Close.

The site is located adjacent to an area of High Archaeological Potential identified on the Local Plan. The identification relates to an area of Iron Age and Romano-British activity. An Iron Age farmstead was excavated c.450m to the north in the 1960s and a further part of the site (or separate farmstead) was excavated in the grounds of Hawks Hill House some 100m to the south west, dating to the middle Iron Age. Romano-British settlement is known from Norbury Park to the east and Saxon cemetery was located c.900m to the north-east.

In the event no archaeological features or finds were present. No indication of any previous disturbance or truncation of the site was identified with the exception of modern garden features, drainage and other services related to (now demolished) modern house of the Highacres. Archaeological features, had they been present, would likely have been preserved.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at 9 Farm Close, Fetcham, Surrey (NGR TQ 14933 55048; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Finesse Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the removal of the existing building of Highacres and the construction of seven detached dwellings with a new access on to Guildford Road and Farm Close (Mole Valley Council approval Ref. MO/2016/0001).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with requirements of the Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team (Archaeology) (SCC HCT), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 06/10/2016) and approved by SCC HCT. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 The aims of the project were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is located on the northern side of the A246 Guildford Road at Fetcham (Fig. 1). It comprises the existing dwelling of Highacres set in a mature residential plot and the rear of the residential plot of Dalmuir adjacent to the east. Both existing properties front Guildford Road to the south. Highacres had been recently demolished prior to the evaluation taking place.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at between 79.50 and 88.00m AOD on a land gently sloping towards the north. The solid geology of the area is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils to the south of the site are those of the Newmarket 2, described mainly as shallow well drained calcareous coarse loamy and sandy soils over chalk rubble (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological/historic environment assessment has been prepared (Heritage Collective 2016). In summary:

The site is located adjacent to an area of High Archaeological Potential designated on the Local Plan. This relates to an area of Iron Age and Romano-British activity. An Iron Age farmstead was excavated c.450m to the north in the 1960s and a further part of the site (or separate farmstead) was excavated in the grounds of Hawks Hill House some 100m to the south west, dating to the middle Iron Age. Romano-British settlement is known from Norbury Park to the east and Saxon cemetery was located c.900m to the north-east.

Later ground disturbance appears to be limited to post-medieval farming activity and the construction of the existing structures on the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Four trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360° tracked excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches locations were approved by SCC HCT.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 1-2)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3): north end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 80.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid brownish grey, friable, silty sand with roots and occasional modern debris and CBM.
0.19 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellowish and orangey brown, friable, sandy silt.
0.38m +	L1002	Natural mid brownish yellow, compact, silty clay with occasional chalk chunks.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 4): south end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 82.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1003	Modern made ground. White, friable, chalk mixed with the topsoil.
0.08 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.48 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.53m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 5-6)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 7): west end, south-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 83.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.16 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 8): east end, north-north-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 83.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.13 – 0.21m	L1004	White, loose, chalk chunks.
0.21 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.47m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2, DP 9-10)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 11): north end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 83.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.19 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 12): south end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 84.12m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.12 – 0.24m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.24m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2, DP 13-14)

<i>Sample section 4A (DP 15): west end, south facing</i> <i>0.00 = 86.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.27 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 4B (DP 16): north end, west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 86.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.42m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Trench 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a mid brownish grey, friable, silty sand with roots and occasional modern debris and CBM (0.15 – 0.40m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid yellowish and orange brown, friable, sandy silt (0.06 – 0.20m thick).

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.20 – 0.55m below existing ground level and comprised a mid brownish yellow, compact, silty clay with occasional chalk chunks.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology. An Iron Age farmstead was excavated c.450m to the north in the 1960s and a further part of the site (or separate

farmstead) was excavated in the grounds of Hawks Hill House some 100m to the south west, dating to the middle Iron Age. Romano-British settlement is known from Norbury Park to the east and Saxon cemetery was located c.900m to the north-east.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were present. No indication of any previous disturbance or truncation of the site was identified with an exception of modern garden features, drainage and other services related to (the now demolished) modern house of Highacres. Archaeological features, had they been present, would likely have been preserved.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the local receiving museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Finesse Homes for their co-operation and funding the evaluation and for their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Nigel Randall of Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team.

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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading

Heritage Collective, 2016, *Land at 9 Farm Close, Highacres and Dalmuir, Fetcham. Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. Report Project Ref: AC00192A.

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

APPENDIX 1 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	12
Site photographs colour slides	12
Digital Photographs	17

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DP 2. Trench 1. Looking south-south-east.



DP 3. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking east-north-east.



DP 4. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west-south-west.



DP 5. Trench 2. Looking north-west.



DP 6. Trench 2. Looking east-north-east.



DP 7. Trench 2, west end. Sample section 2A. Looking north-north-west.



DP 8. Trench 2, east end. Sample section 2B. Looking south-south-east.



DP 9. Trench 3. Looking north.



DP 10. Trench 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 11. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking east-north-east.



DP 12. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking west-south-west.



DP 13. Trench 4. Looking north-west.



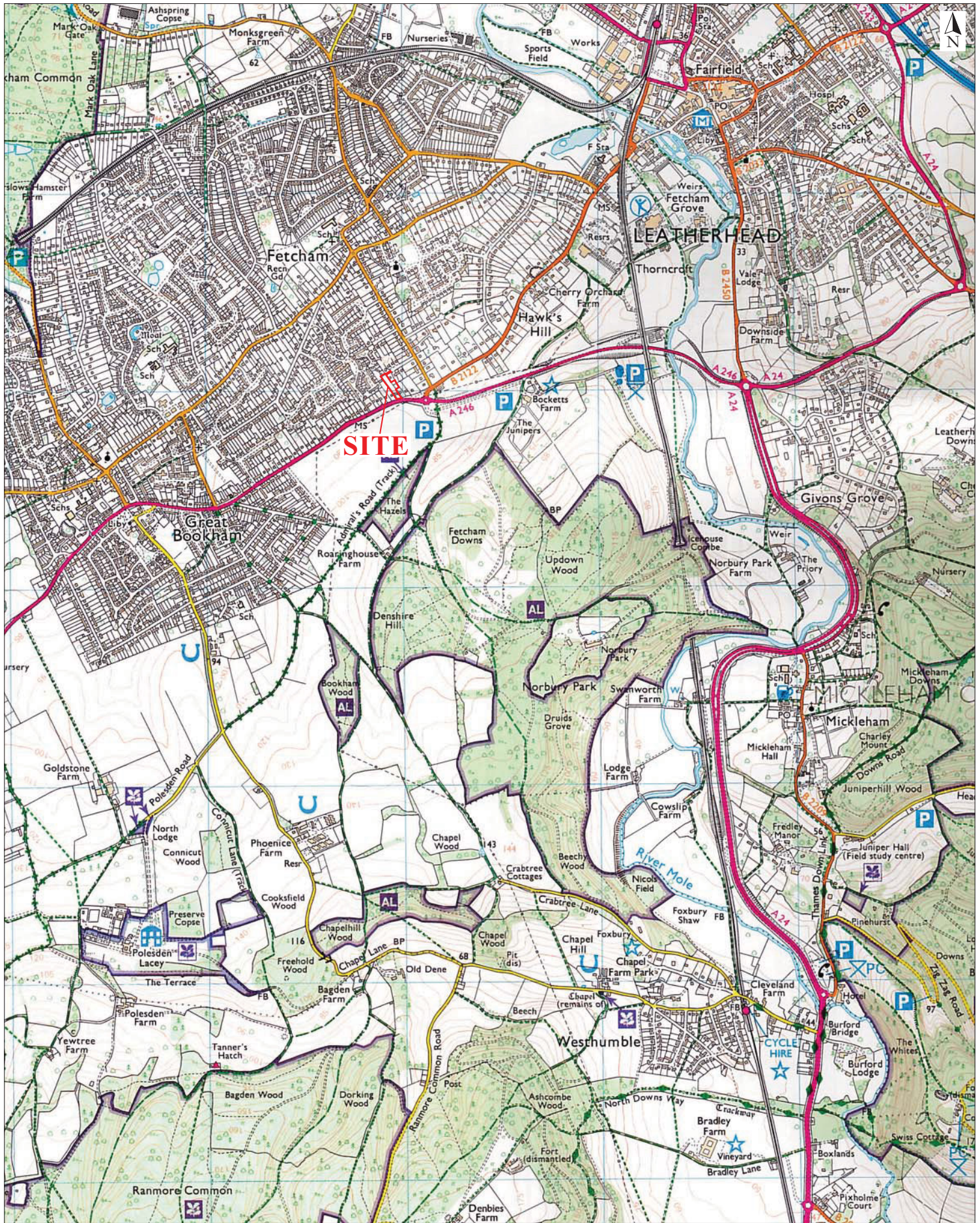
DP 14. Trench 4. Looking east.



DP 15. Trench 4, west end. Sample section 4A. Looking north.



DP 16. Trench 4, north end. Sample section 4B. Looking east.



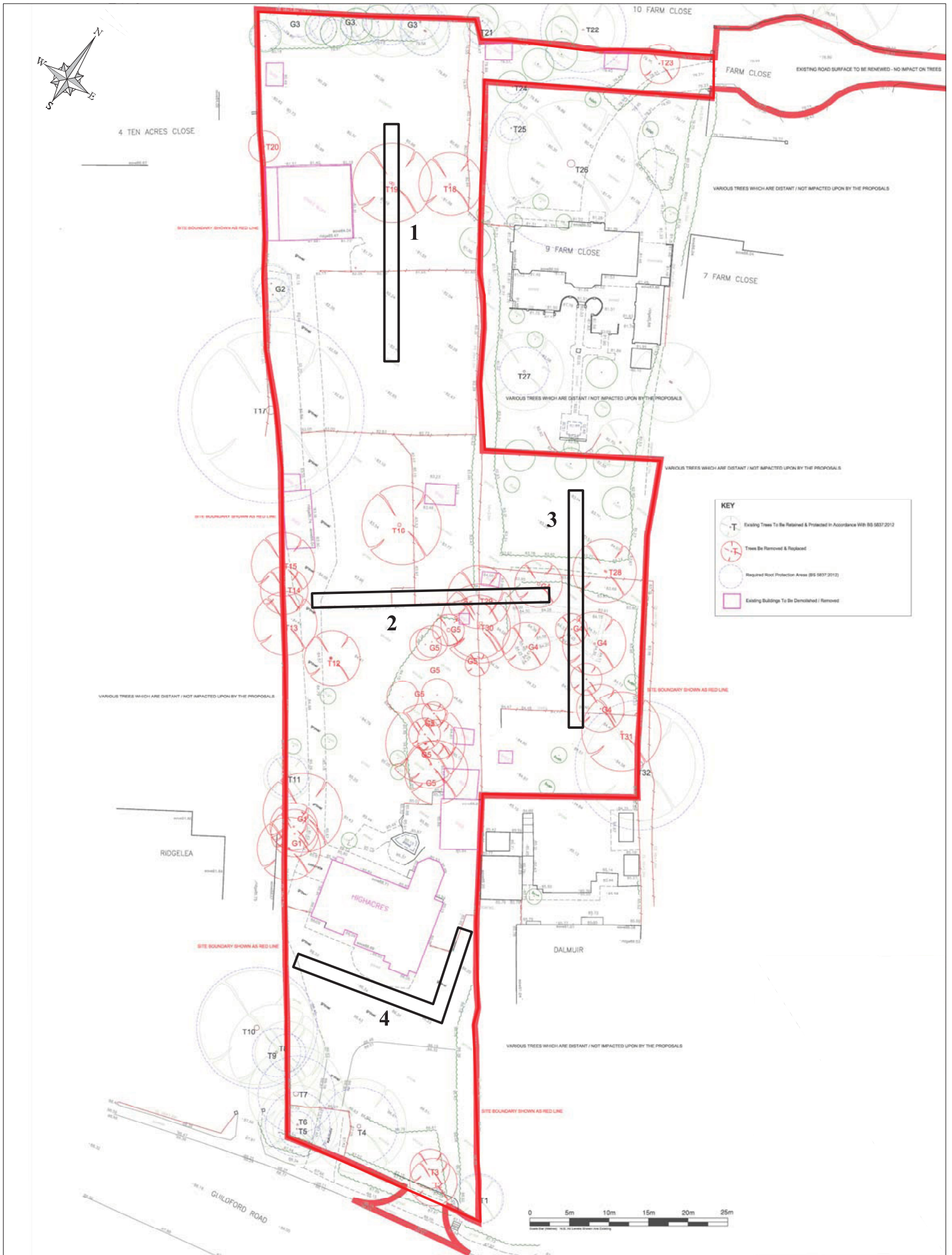
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Highacres, Fetcham, Surrey (P6899)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:5000 at A4
 High Acres, Guildford Rd, Fetcham, Surrey (P6899)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:600 at A4
 High Acres, Guildford Rd, Fetcham, Surrey (P6899)