THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

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SOUTH

Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: WCBH12/42

(TQ 2980 1895)

Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Croudace Homes Limited

Phase 3

byAndy TaylorandSeanWallis

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeWCBH12/42

November 2012

Summary

Site name: Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 2980 1895

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th September to 30th October 2012

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisors: Andy Taylor and Sean Wallis

Site code: WCBH 12/42

Area of site: *c*. 3.35 ha

Summary of results: Trenching revealed small number of features of probable archaeological interest, but dating is very tentative for all of them. One pit is possibly prehistoric; one gully may date to the late Iron Age, and one ditch is possibly medieval. Further undated ditches may relate to the same land division as the latter.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Burgess Hill Museum in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 12.11.12 Steve Preston 12.11.12

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Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation phase 3

by Sean Wallis

Report 12/42c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the north of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (TQ 2980 1895) (Fig. 1), and incorporates the results of two preliminary reports which were produced before the fieldwork was completed (Wallis 2012; Taylor 2012). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Norris, of Croudace Homes Limited, Croudace House, Caterham, Surrey, CR3 6XQ.

Following the refusal of an original planning application (09/00602/FUL), planning permission has been gained on appeal (APP/D3830/A/09/2105479) from Mid Sussex District Council to develop the site for residential housing, along with associated access and car parking areas. Planning permission (10/00107/FUL) for a second phase of housing on the site has also been granted by Mid Sussex District Council. These permissions are both subject to conditions relating to archaeology, which require a programme of archaeological works to be carried out prior to groundworks. Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, who act as archaeological advisers to the District Council, has indicated that this should take the form, initially, of a field evaluation, by means of trial trenching. Based on the results of the evaluation, further mitigation might be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the District County Council's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that PPS5 has been superseded by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aiji Castle, Aidan Colyer, Felicity Howell, Andy Taylor and Sean Wallis between 24th September and 30th October 2012, and the site code is WCBH 12/42. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Burgess Hill Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the north of Maltings Park, approximately 1km west of the historic core of Burgess Hill, West Sussex, and is centred on TQ 2980 1895 (Fig. 2). The site consists of overgrown pasture, and is bounded to the east and south by industrial estates, and to the west by residential housing. The site generally slopes down towards the south, where it meets the Pookebourne stream, and as a result the height above Ordnance Datum varies from *c*. 32m in the northern part of the site to about 26m next to the stream. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of sandstones of the Weald Clay Formation, with some Head Deposits being present along the southern part of the site (BGS 2006). The natural geology revealed during the evaluation varied slightly across the site, but generally consisted of mid orange brown sandy clay, with silty sand being recorded in the central area, and patches of sandstone being recorded in the southern end of Trench 3.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from the fact that archaeological features were recorded to the south-west in the 1990s. Several Roman features, including a ditch and probable corn-drying oven, were investigated, whilst a modest collection of prehistoric flintwork was recovered (Sawyer 1999). Roman features were also recorded during an excavation further to the south, along with two prehistoric burnt flint mounds (Butler 2009). More recently, features dating from the late Bronze Age were found on the eastern side of Burgess Hill (Wallis forthcoming). A Roman road is known to have passed through Burgess Hill, less than 1km to the east. During the post-medieval period, the surrounding area was exploited for clay for brickmaking. It is therefore possible that features relating to clay extraction may be present within the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;

to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present; and

to determine whether any features relating to post-medieval extraction are present.

Twenty-four trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length and 1.8 – 2.0m in width, targeting those parts of the site that would be most affected by the proposed development. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. The work was carried out in three stages: Trenches 1–3 (Wallis 2012); Trenches 4–7 and 15–24 (Taylor 2012); and finally Trenches 8–14. All of these trenches are reported on below.

Results

The trenches measured between 23m and 27m in length, and between 0.40m and 0.90m in depth. All were 1.8m wide. A list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Some of the trenches had to be moved slightly from their original planned positions due to the presence of a footpath and amphibian fences.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned approximately SW–NE, and was 26.50m long and up to 0.90m deep. At the south western end it consisted of 0.44m of hardcore overlying 0.20m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy clay natural geology. The north eastern end consisted of 0.20m of wood chippings overlying 0.34m of buried topsoil (50). This overlay 0.25m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy clay natural. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench, which was located in an area which had obviously been disturbed in the recent past.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE, and measured 26.60m in length and up to 0.84m deep. It consisted of 0.20m of wood chippings overlying 0.25m of buried topsoil (50). This overlay up to 0.23m of subsoil (51), which lay directly above the sandy clay natural geology. A gully (1) was investigated between 4.6m and 6.8m, which was 0.72m wide and 0.20m deep. It had a single fill of mid greyish brown silty clay (52), which contained one tiny sherd of pottery, possibly dating from the medieval period, and a small piece of struck flint.

Trench 3 (Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was 26.30m long and up to 0.52m deep, and was orientated approximately SW–NE. The stratigraphy generally consisted of 0.25m of turf and topsoil (50), above 0.15m of subsoil (51), which lay directly above the natural geology. The underlying geology varied along the trench, with yellow clay containing frequent sandstone fragments being recorded at the SW end of the trench, and mid yellow brown sandy clay being seen along the rest of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was aligned approximately N–S and measured 25.10m in length and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.45m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology. A gully

(2) was located at the northern end of the trench. This measured 0.50m wide and 0.09m deep but did not produce any finds. However, it is considered to be a continuation of ditch 1 located during the first phase evaluation (Trench 2) and is therefore tentatively dated to the medieval period.

Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned E–W and measured 25m in length and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.43m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE and measured 24.90m in length and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.36m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 5; Pls 3 and 4)

Trench 7 was aligned approximately N–S and measured 25.70m in length and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.60m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology. Two gullies were located at either end of the trench. Gully 3, at the southern end, measured 0.67m wide and 0.15m deep. Its mid grey brown sandy silt fill (54) produced two pottery sherds, one of late Iron Age date and one of medieval date. Gully 4 measured 0.70m wide and 0.08m deep but did not produce any dating evidence.

Trench 8

This NE–SW aligned trench was 25.70m long and up to 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil (50) above up to 0.50m of subsoil (51). The subsoil lay directly above the underlying sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 9

Trench 9 was orientated approximately NE–SW, and was 25.30m long and up to 0.80m deep. Topsoil (50) up to 0.30m thick, lay above 0.33m of subsoil (51). This in turn lay above the natural clay geology.

Trench 10

This trench was aligned approximately WNW–ESE, and was 26m long and 0.81m deep. Up to 0.36m of topsoil (50) was removed to reveal a subsoil horizon (51). This was about 0.30m thick and lay directly above the natural sandy clay geology, which contained occasional flint gravel.

Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned approximately N–S, and was 25.50m long and up to 0.80m deep. Topsoil (50), up to 0.32m thick, lay above 0.32m of subsoil (51), which in turn lay above the natural sandy clay geology.

Trench 12

This trench was orientated WNW–ESE, and was 25.40 long and 0.70m deep. Up to 0.34m of topsoil (50) was removed to reveal a 0.30m thick subsoil horizon (51). The subsoil lay directly above the sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 13

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE, and was 23m long and up to 0.71m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil (50), above 0.33m of subsoil (51), above the natural sandy clay geology.

Trench 14

Trench 14 was 26.50m long and 0.72m deep, and was orientated approximately NE–SW. Up to 0.32m of topsoil (50) lay above a subsoil horizon (51), which was about 0.24m thick. The subsoil lay directly above the sandy clay natural geology.

Trench 15 (Figs 4 and 5; Plates 5 and 6)

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE and measured 25.40m in length and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.50m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology. An inter-cutting pit and ditch were observed at 13m. Pit 6 measured 1.80m wide and 0.70m deep. Its mid grey brown sandy silt fill (59) contained two pieces of struck flint and a piece of burnt flint. Ditch 7 measured 1.10m wide and 0.40m deep. Its mid grey brown sandy silt fill (60) contained one sherd of pottery of late Iron Age date, a piece of struck flint and five pieces of burnt flint. No relationship could be determined between the two features.

Trench 16

Trench 16 was aligned N–S and measured 25.80m in length and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.28m of subsoil (51) overlying silty sand natural geology.

Trench 17

This trench was aligned N–S and measured 25m in length and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.40m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 18

This trench was aligned E–W and measured 25.70m in length and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.45m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was aligned NW–SE and measured 26.10m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.25m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 20

This trench was aligned approximately E–W and measured 26.60m in length and 0.40m deep The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.28m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 21 (Figs 4 and 5)

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW and measured 27.0m in length and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.36m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology. A ditch was observed at the western end of the trench into which a slot (5) was dug. A full section could not be dug across the ditch but the slot dug measured 1.80m wide and was dug to a depth of 0.73m deep but not bottomed. Three fills were observed but none contained any dating evidence.

Trench 22

Trench 22 was aligned NW–SE and measured 25.0m in length and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.25m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 23

Trench 23 was aligned NE–SW and measured 24.0m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.20m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 24

This trench was aligned NE–SW and measured 25.80m in length and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.30m of subsoil (51) overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

Four sherds of pottery were recovered from the evaluation. Two sherds were of Late Iron Age date and two were of medieval date. They are detailed in Appendix 3.

Fabrics

Late Iron Age/Roman

LIA.1.East Sussex Ware

LIA.2.Handmade brown-black fabric with profuse <0.10 mm. glauconitic sand and sparse <0.50 mm. multi-coloured quartz sand. Import from the Maidstone area.

Medieval

M.1.Wheelturned grey-cored rough red fabric with profuse <0.30 mm. multi-coloured quartz-sand and sparse <1.00 mm. black ironstone and alluvial flint filler

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

Two stuck flints were recovered during the evaluation, both from features in Trench 15. A single broken flake was recovered from ditch 7 (60). A broken flake and a spall, which was heavily patinated, came from pit 6 (59).

Burnt Flint by Andy Taylor

A single piece of burnt flint, weighing 6g, was recovered from the fill of gully 1 (52) in Trench 2. One piece (18g) of burnt flint was recovered from ditch 6 (59) and 5 pieces (72g) from ditch 7 (60).

Sieved samples

A total of 4 samples 20L each were taken from slots dug across the features 2–5 to recover any small datable artefacts. The samples were wet sieved using a 5mm mesh. A single fragment of pottery was recovered from the sample from gully 3 (54).

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the new development. A modest amount of archaeological deposits were identified in the western and central parts of the site, whilst the eastern end of the site appeared to be archaeologically sterile.

A gully (1 and 2) in the south-west corner of the site is very tentatively dated to the medieval period. Two further gullies as well as two ditches most likely represent parts of land division features, one of which (3) is also possibly of medieval date, based on the finding of a single sherd of pottery. The other ditch (7) is tentatively assigned a Late Iron Age date, though this pottery could easily be residual. Pit 6 in Trench 15 may indicate domestic deposits of prehistoric date in the vicinity, but again the dating is tentative and based only on the presence of durable struck flints. Further work will be required in order to determine the full nature and extent of these deposits.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	26.50	1.80	0.90	SW End: 0-0.44m hardcore; 0.44m-0.64m subsoil (51); 0.64m+ sandy clay natural geology. NE End: 0-0.20m wood chippings; 0.20m-0.54m buried topsoil (50); 0.54m-0.79m subsoil (51); 0.79m-0.90m+ sandy clay natural geology.
2	26.60	1.80	0.84	0-0.20m wood chippings; 0.20m-0.45m buried topsoil (50); 0.45m-0.68m subsoil (51); 0.68m-0.84m+ sandy clay natural geology. Gully 1. **[Pl. 1]**
3	26.30	1.80	0.52	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25m-0.40m subsoil (50); 0.40-0.52m+ sandy clay natural geology, with some sandstone at SW end of trench. **[Pl. 2]**
4	25.10	1.80	0.65	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18m-0.63m subsoil (51); 0.63m-0.65m+ sandy silt natural geology. Gully 2.
5	25.00	1.80	0.73	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20m-0.63m subsoil (51); 0.63m-0.73m+ sandy silt natural geology.
6	24.90	1.80	0.52	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13m-0.49m subsoil (51); 0.49m-0.52m+ sandy silt natural geology.
7	25.70	1.80	0.80	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20m-0.80m subsoil (51); 0.80m+ sandy silt natural geology. Gullies 3 and 4; **[Pls. 3 and 4]**
8	25.70	1.80	0.90	0-0.38m topsoil (50); 0.38-0.88m subsoil (51); 0.88-0.90m+ sandy clay natural geology.
9	25.30	1.80	0.80	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.63m subsoil (51); 0.63-0.80m+ sandy clay natural geology.
10	26.00	1.80	0.81	0-0.36m topsoil (50); 0.36-0.66m subsoil (51); 0.66-0.81m+ sandy clay natural geology.
11	25.50	1.80	0.80	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.64m subsoil (51); 0.64-0.80m+ sandy clay natural geology.
12	25.40	1.80	0.70	0-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.64m subsoil (51); 0.64-0.70m+ sandy clay natural geology.
13	23.00	1.80	0.71	0-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.67m subsoil (51); 0.67-0.71m+ sandy clay natural geology.
14	26.50	1.80	0.72	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.56m subsoil (51); 0.56-0.72m+ sandy clay natural geology.
15	25.40	1.80	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m+ sandy silt natural geology. Pit 6, Ditch 7; **[Pls. 5 and 6]**
16	25.80	1.80	0.45	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.45m+ sandy silt natural geology.
17	25.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m-0.60m+ sandy silt natural geology.
18	25.70	1.80	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.70m+ sandy silt natural geology.
19	26.10	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy silt natural geology.
20	26.60	1.80	0.40	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ sandy silt natural geology.
21	27.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.50m subsoil; 0.450m+ sandy silt natural geology. Ditch 5.
22	25.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.45m+ sandy silt natural geology.
23	24.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ sandy silt natural geology.
24	25.80	1.80	0.50	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.50m+ sandy silt natural geology.
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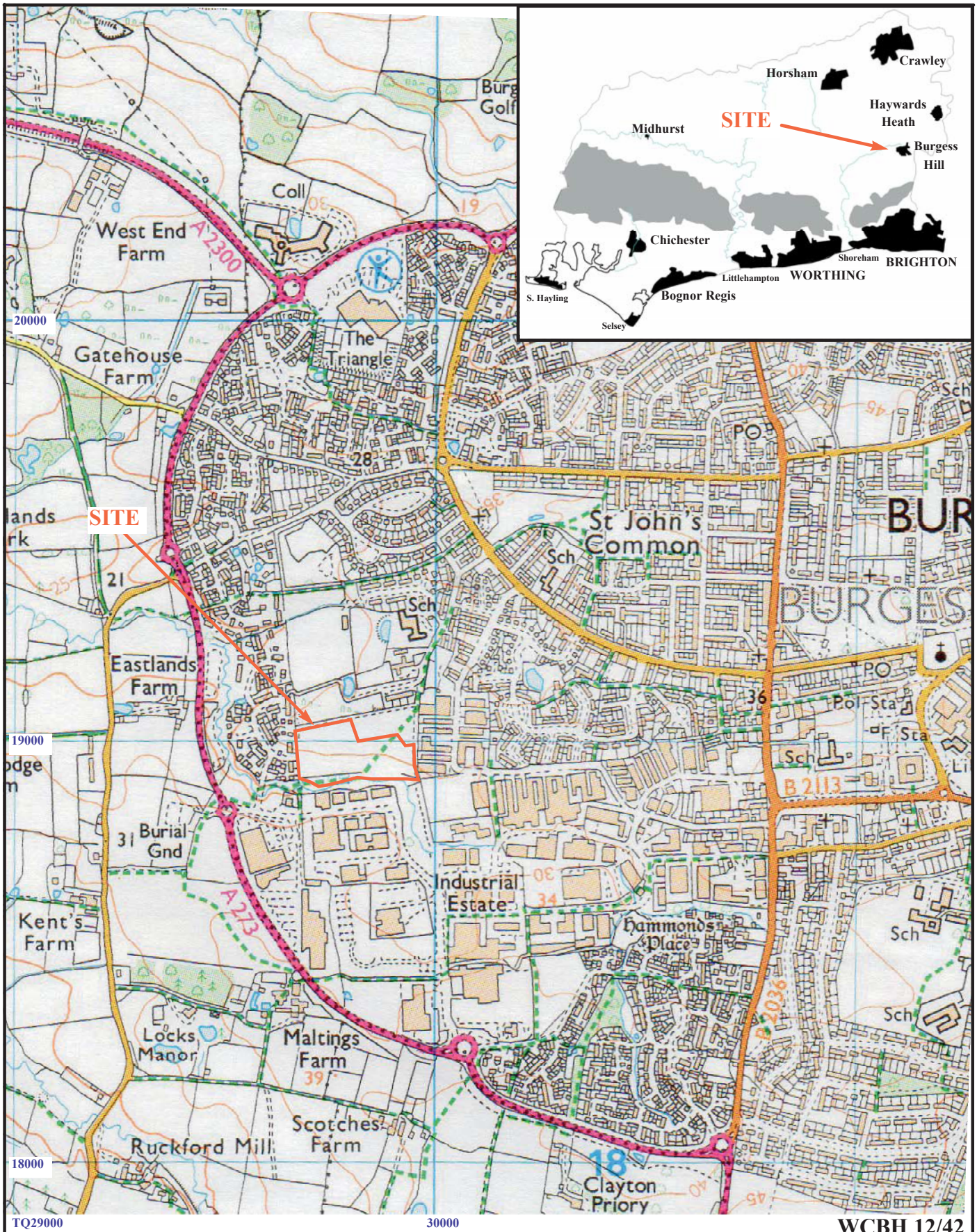
APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
2	1	52	Gully	Medieval ?	Pottery
4	2	53	Gully	Medieval ?	Same as gully 1 in trench 2
7	3	54	Gully	Medieval ?	Pottery
7	4	55	Gully	Unknown	None
15	6	59	Pit	Prehistoric ?	Struck flint and stratigraphy
15	7	60	Ditch	Late Iron Age ?	Pottery
21	5	56, 57, 58	Ditch	Unknown	None

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

Trench	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*Fabric*	*Form*	*Date-range*	*No. sherds*	*Wt (g)*	*Comments*
2	1	52	M1	Cooking pot	*c*.AD1150-1350	1	1	
7	3	54	LIA.1		*c*.50BC-250	1	1	Abraded
			M1	Cooking-pot	*c*.AD1150-1350	1	2	Abraded
15	7	60	LIA2	Jar	*c*.25BC-AD50	1	7	Abraded



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Land to the north of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2012
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Figure 1. Location of site within Burgess Hill and West Sussex.

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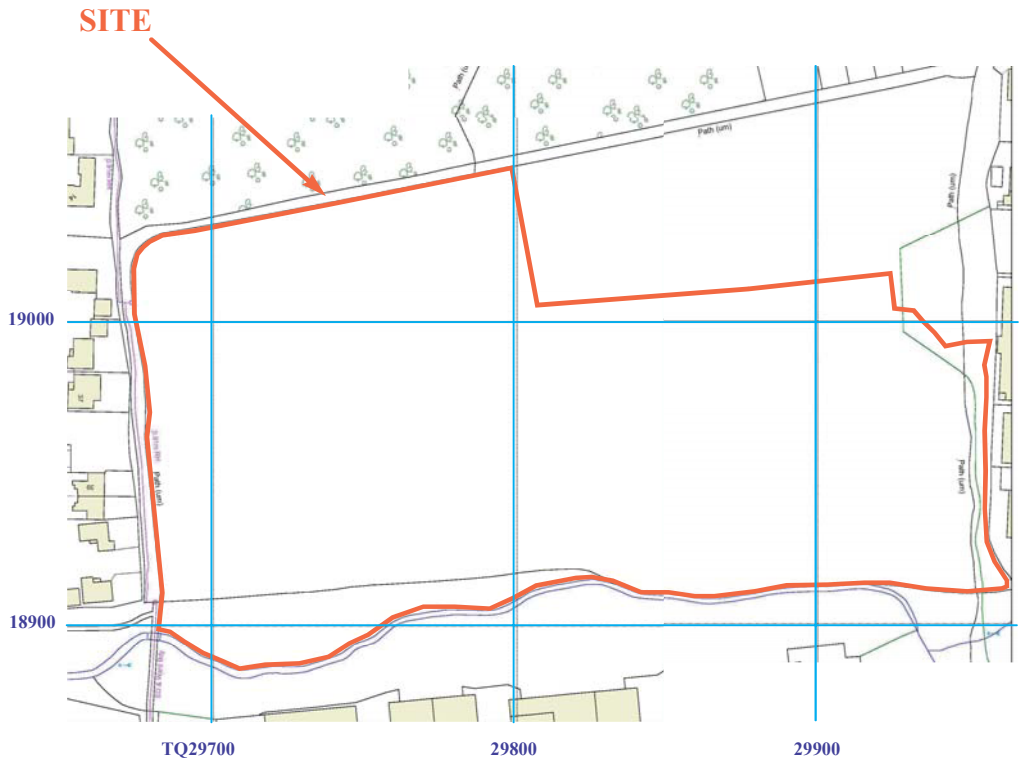

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Land to the north of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2012 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 100m

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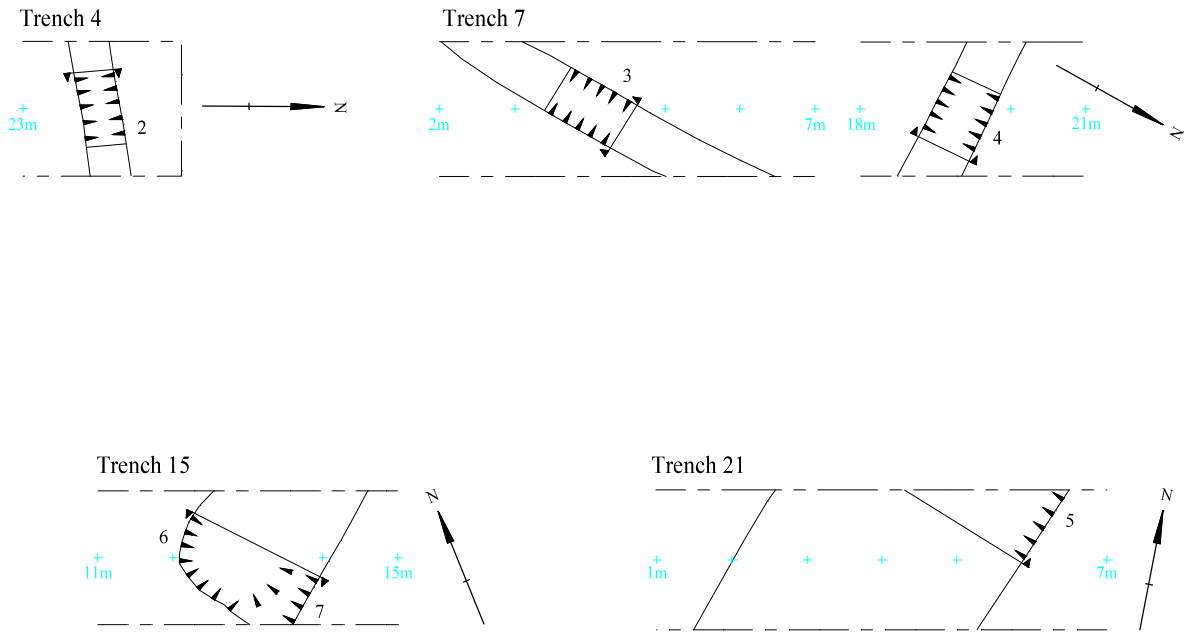

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Figure 4. Trench Plans

0 5m

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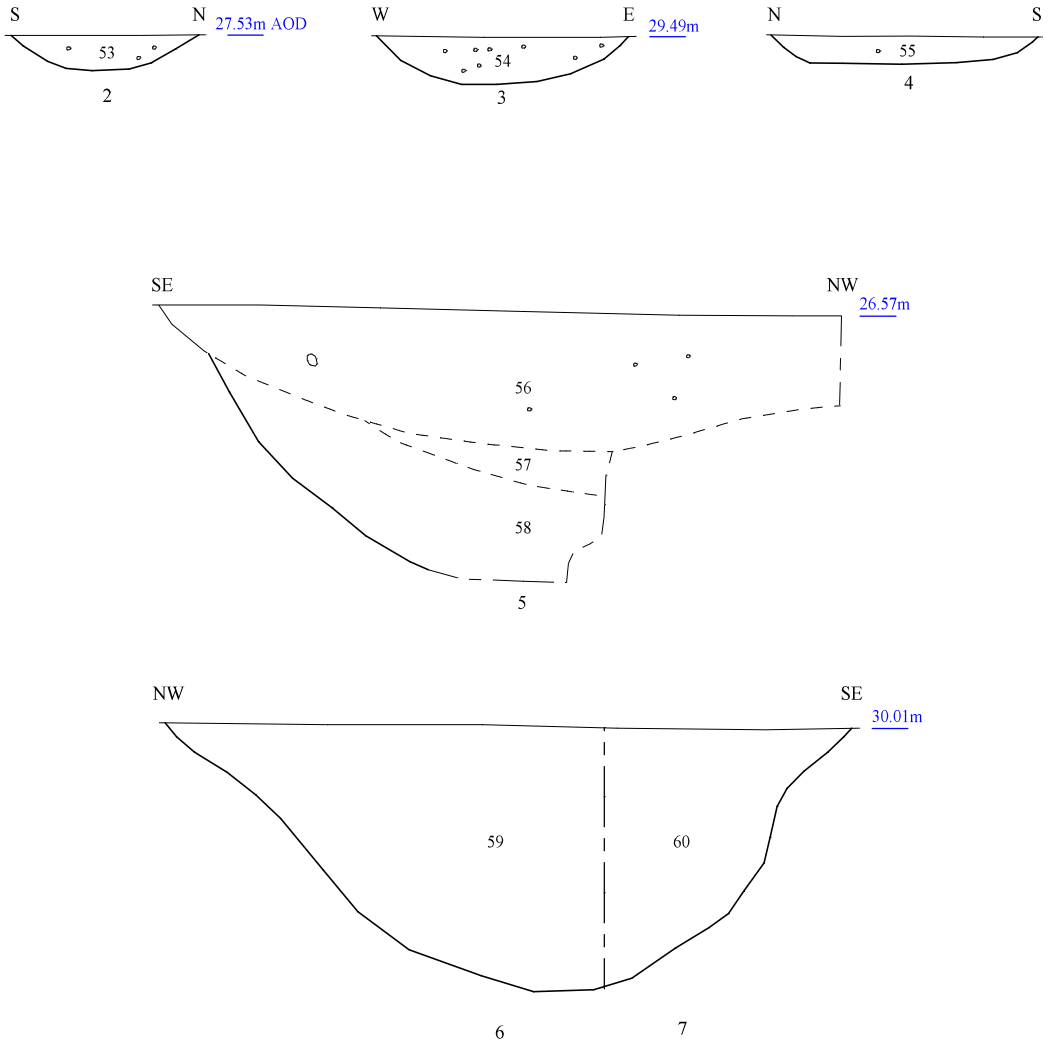

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Figure 5. Sections

0 1m

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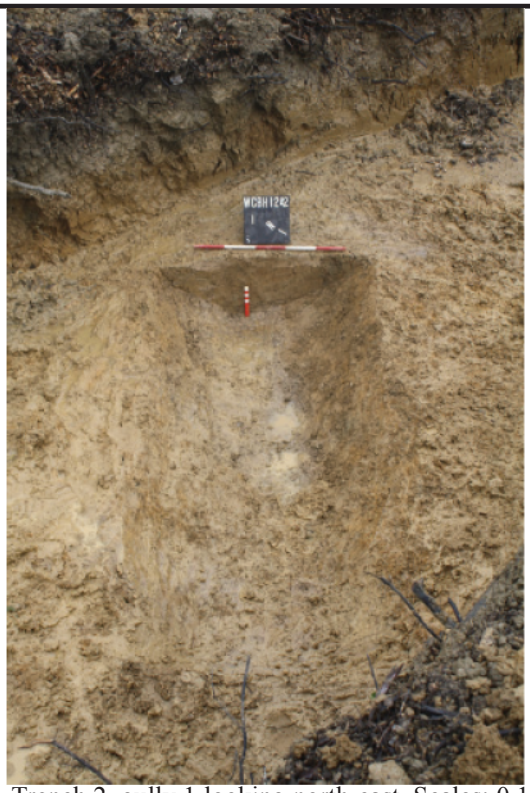

Plate 1. Trench 2, gully 1 looking north-east, Scales: 0.1m and 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 3 looking north-east, horizontal scales: 2m and 1m, vertical: 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 7, looking north-west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m; vertical 0.5m.

Plate 4. Trench 7, ditch slot 3 looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

Plate 5. Trench 15, looking north-west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m; vertical 0.5m.

Plate 6. Trench 15, pit 6 or ditch terminus 7, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

Land to the north of Maltings Park,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2012
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Plates 5 and 6.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
Iron Age	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC

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