

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

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S O U T H

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

Archaeological Evaluation

Phase 2 report

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: WCBH12/42

(TQ 2980 1900)

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

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Croudace Homes Limited
Phase 2 report**

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code
WCBH 12/42

October 2012

Summary

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

Grid reference: TQ 2980 1900

Site activity: Evaluation (phase 2)

Date and duration of project: 24th-27th September 2012

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: WCBH 12/42

Area of site: c.3.35 hectares

Summary of results: Two gullys tentatively of medieval date, one ditch tentatively of Late Iron Age date and a possible prehistoric pit were identified on the site.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 29.10.12
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Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation, phase 2

by Andy Taylor

Report 12/42b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land to the North of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex (TQ 2980 1900) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Norris, Regional Technical Manager with Croudace Homes Limited, Croudace House, Catherham, Surrey, CR3 6XQ.

An original planning application (09/00602/FUL) was refused with an appeal (APP/D3830/A/09/2105479) from Mid Sussex District Council granting permission to develop the site for residential housing with associated access and parking. A second application (10/00107/FUL) for a second phase of housing has also been granted. These are both subject to conditions relating to archaeology, which require a programme of archaeological works to be carried out prior to groundworks.

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. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor along with Aiji Castle and Aidan Colyer between the 26th and 27th September 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 is located at the eastern end of Woodpecker Crescent, part of a housing estate, and to the north of Maltings Park (Fig. 2). The historic core of Burgess Hill lies approximately 1km to the east. The site currently consists of overgrown pasture and is bisected by a public footpath. The Pookebourne stream flows along the southern edge of the site with industrial estates to the east and south (Fig. 1). The underlying geology consisted of a silty sand with occasional clay patches at the northern end of the site (BGS 1984). The site slopes southwards from a height of c.32m above Ordnance Datum at the northern end of the site to c.25.80m in the south.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its proximity to archaeological works carried out to the south west since the 1990's. Several Roman features, including a ditch and probable corn drying oven were recorded as well as a modest collection of prehistoric flintwork (Sawyer 1999). Roman features were also recorded further to the south, along with two prehistoric burnt mounds (Butler 2009). More recently, Late Bronze features were excavated on the eastern side of Burgess Hill (Wallis forthcoming). A Roman Road is known to have run through Burgess Hill and in the post-medieval period the surrounding area is known to have been exploited for brick making.

A preliminary report for the first phase of evaluation of the site has been completed (Wallis 2012) which revealed a possible medieval ditch.

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

24 trenches were to be dug, measuring 25m in length, targeting areas of the site that would be most affected by the proposed development. However, at the time of writing only 17 of these of these could be done due to the presence of newts at the eastern end of the site (trenches 1-3 having previously been reported upon (Wallis 2012)). These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The trenches measured between 24m and 27m in length and between 0.40m and 0.90m deep (Fig.3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 4 was aligned approximately north-south and measured 25.10m in length and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil 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 east-west and measured 25m in length and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.43m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned approximately north west-south east and measured 24.90m in length and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil overlying 0.36m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 5; Plates 1 and 3)

Trench 7 was aligned approximately north west-south east and measured 25.70m in length and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.60m of subsoil 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 15 (Figs 4 and 5; Plates 2 and 4)

This trench was aligned approximately north west-south east and measured 25.40m in length and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.50m of subsoil 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 2 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 north-south and measured 25.80m in length and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of subsoil overlying silty sand natural geology.

Trench 17

This trench was aligned north-south and measured 25m in length and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 18

This trench was aligned east-west and measured 25.70m in length and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 19

Trench 19 was aligned north west-south east and measured 26.10m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 20

This trench was aligned approximately east-west and measured 26.60m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 21 (Figs 4 and 5)

This trench was aligned approximately north east-south west and measured 27.0m in length and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying 0.36m of subsoil 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 north west-south east and measured 25.0m in length and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.25m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 23

Trench 23 was aligned north east-south west and measured 24.0m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 24

This trench was aligned north east-south west and measured 25.80m in length and 0.50m deep. consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying sandy silt natural geology.

Finds

Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

Four sherds of pottery were recovered from the evaluation (including one sherd for the phase 1 trenching). 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 struck flints were recovered during this phase of work, both from feature 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

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

This phase of the evaluation successfully identified a modest amount of archaeological deposits, tentatively dated to the earlier prehistoric, Late Iron Age and medieval periods. Gully 2 was a continuation of gully 1 observed in Trench 2, during the first stage of trenching which is tentatively of medieval date. Two further gullies as well as two ditches most likely represent parts of land division features, one of which is likely to be of medieval date based on the finding of a single sherd of pottery. The other ditch 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. The final phase of trenching may clarify the nature of these deposits if more archaeology is identified. Further work, after the final evaluation phase, would be required in order to determine the full nature and extent of these deposits.

References

- BGS, 1984, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000 Sheet 318/333, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Butler, C, 2009, Prehistoric burnt flint mounds and later activity at Hammonds Mill Farm, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **147**, 7-18
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- Sawyer, J, 1999, The excavation of a Romano-British site at Burgess Hill, West Sussex, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **137**, 49-58
- Wallis, S, 2012, Land to the north of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, an archaeological evaluation preliminary report, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 12/42, Reading
- Wallis, S, forthcoming, Late Bronze Age features at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

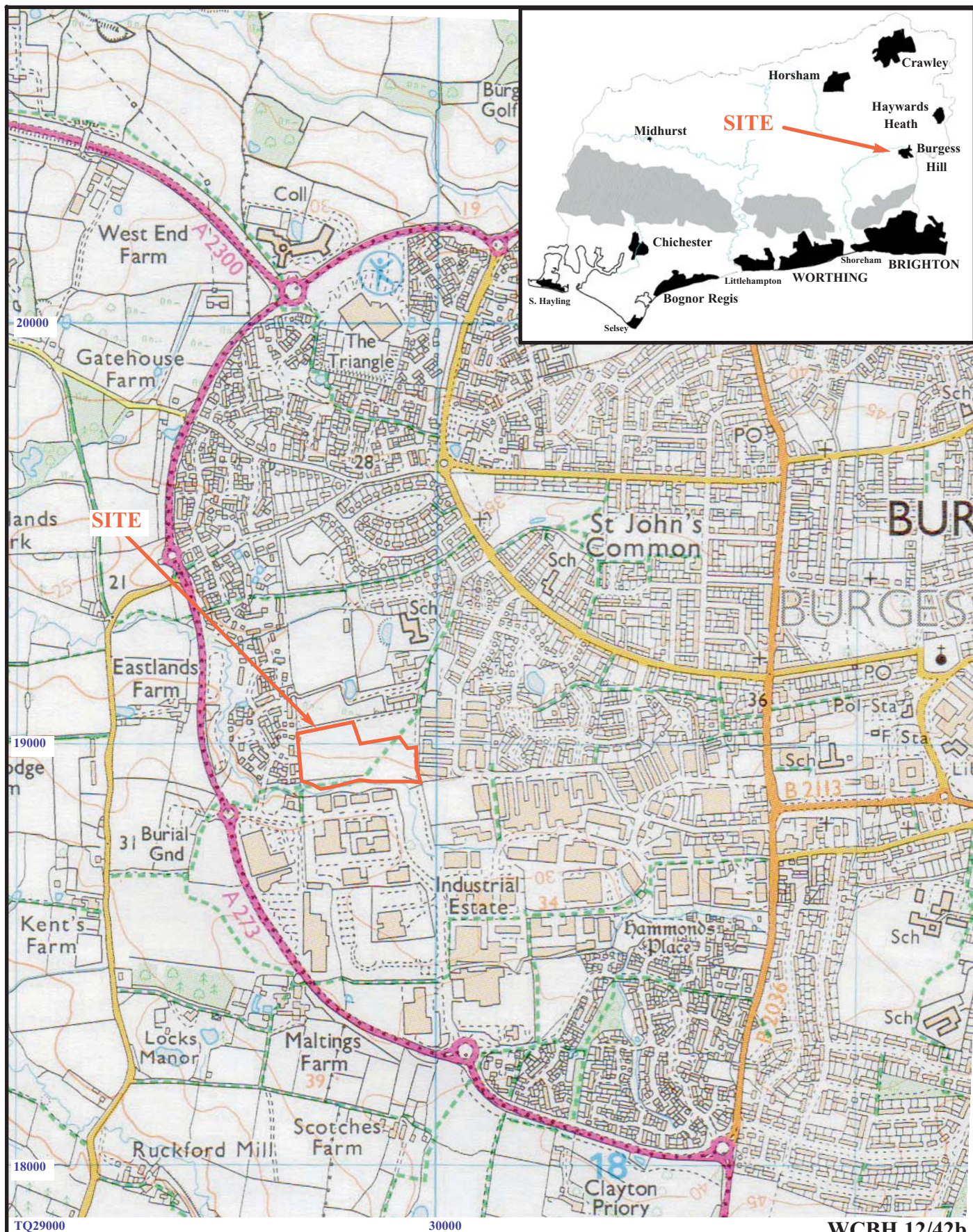
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
4	25.10	1.80	0.65	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m-0.65m+ sandy silt natural geology. Gully 2.
5	25.00	1.80	0.73	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m-0.73m+ sandy silt natural geology.
6	24.90	1.80	0.52	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m-0.52m+ sandy silt natural geology.
7	25.70	1.80	0.80	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m+ sandy silt natural geology. Gullies 3 and 4; Pls. 1 and 3
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. 2 and 4
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.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
4	2	53	Gully	Medieval?	Same as gully 1 in phase 1 evaluation 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

Context	Fabric	Form	Date-range	No of sherds	Wt in gm	Comments
[1] 52	M1	Cooking pot	c.1150-1350	1	1g	Phase 1 trench
[3] 54	LIA.1		c.50BC-250	1	1	Abraded
	M1	Cooking-pot	c.1150-1350	1	2	Abraded
[7] 60	LIA2	Jar	c.25BC-50	1	7g	Abraded



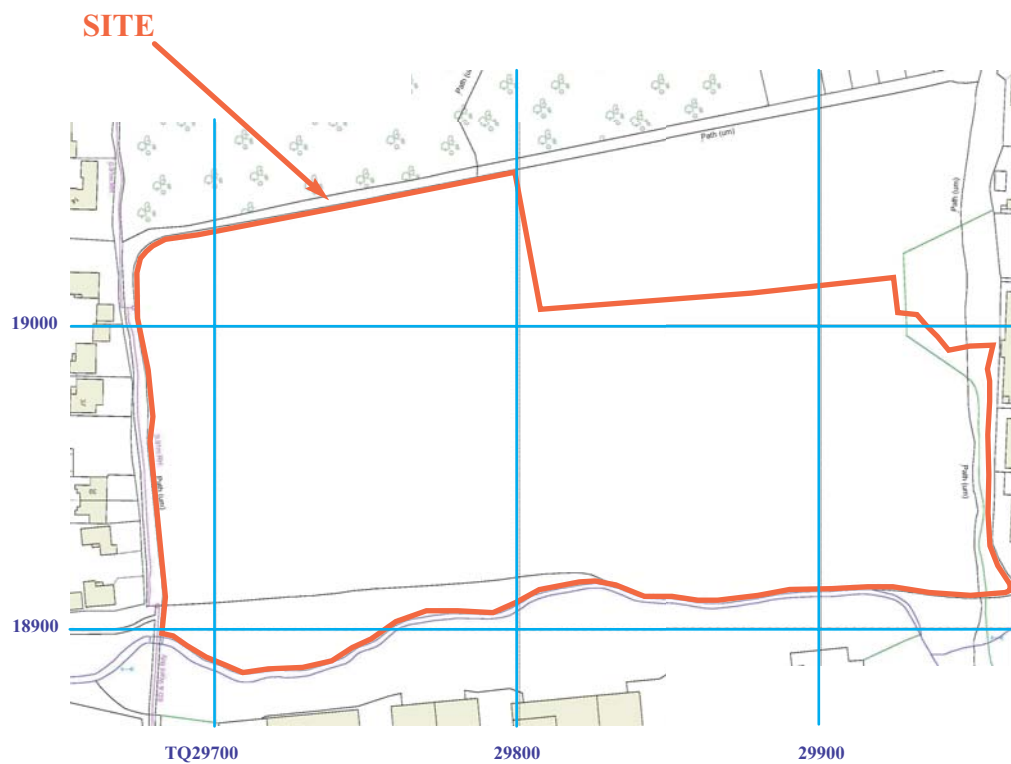
Land to the north of Maltings Park, Burgess Hill,
West Sussex, 2012

Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

Figure 1. Location of site within Burgess Hill
West Sussex.

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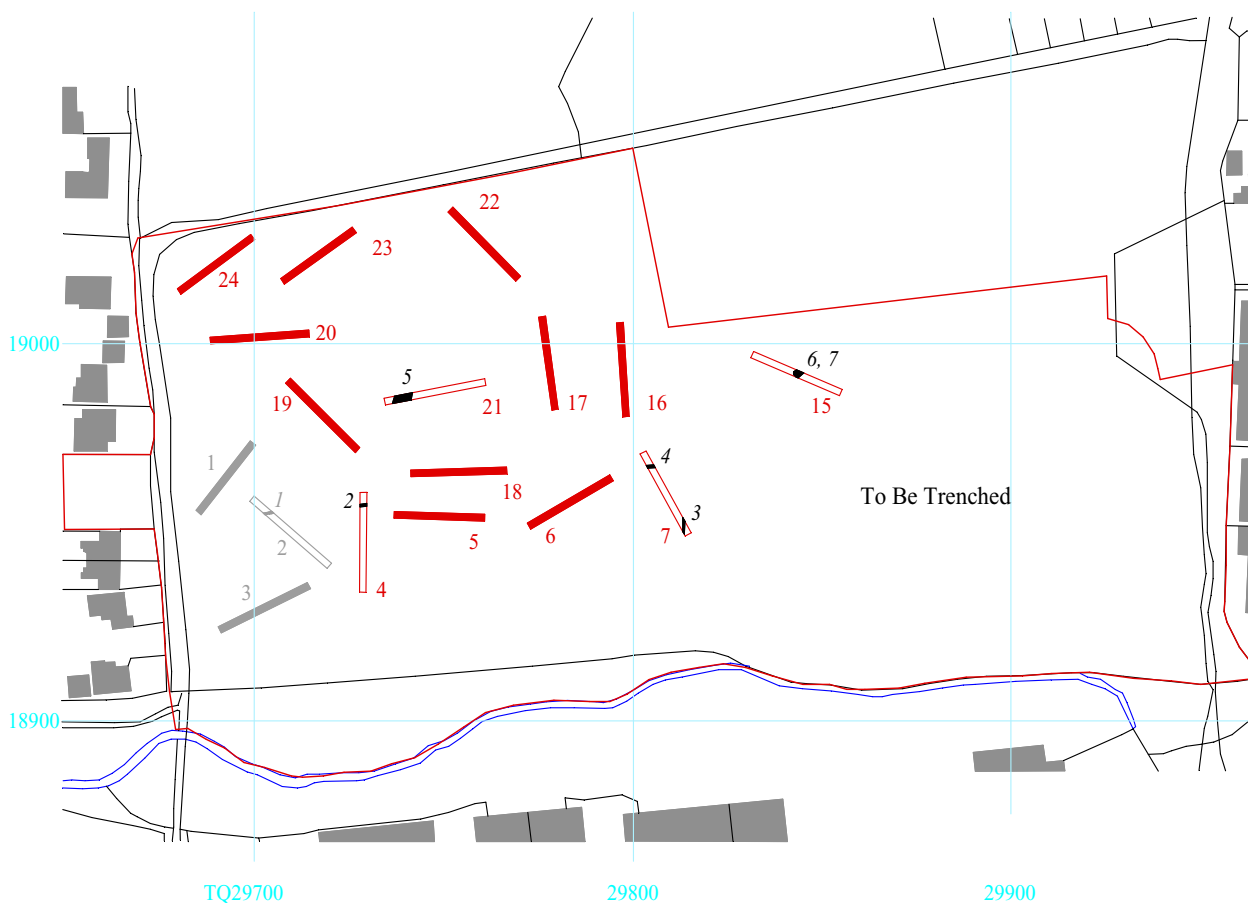


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Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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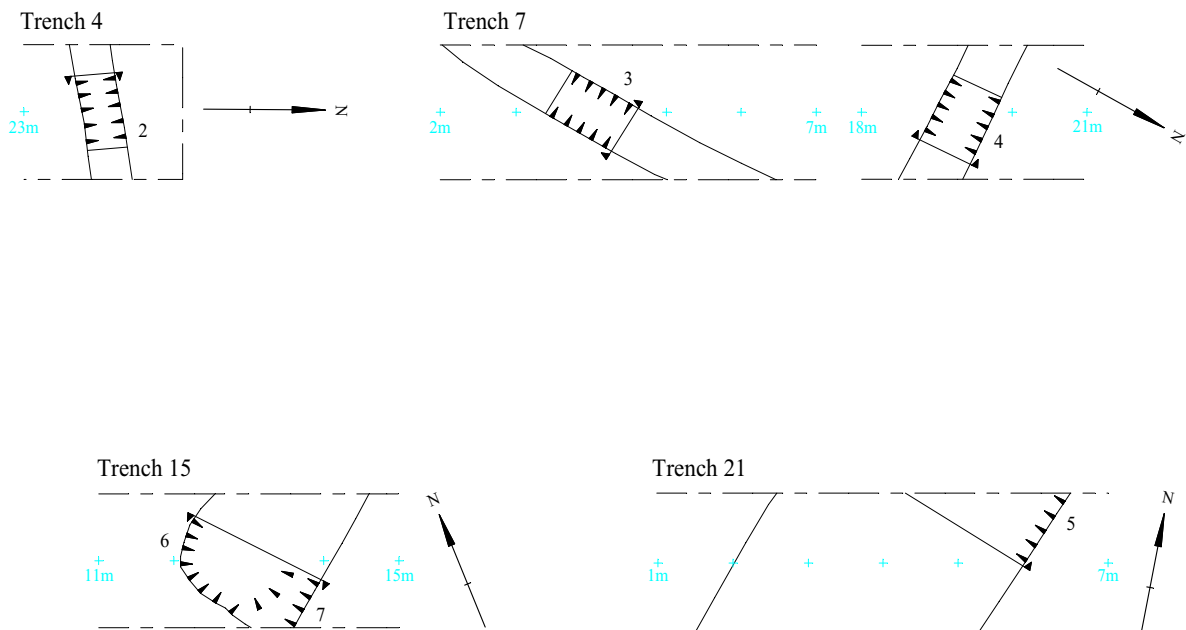
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 100m

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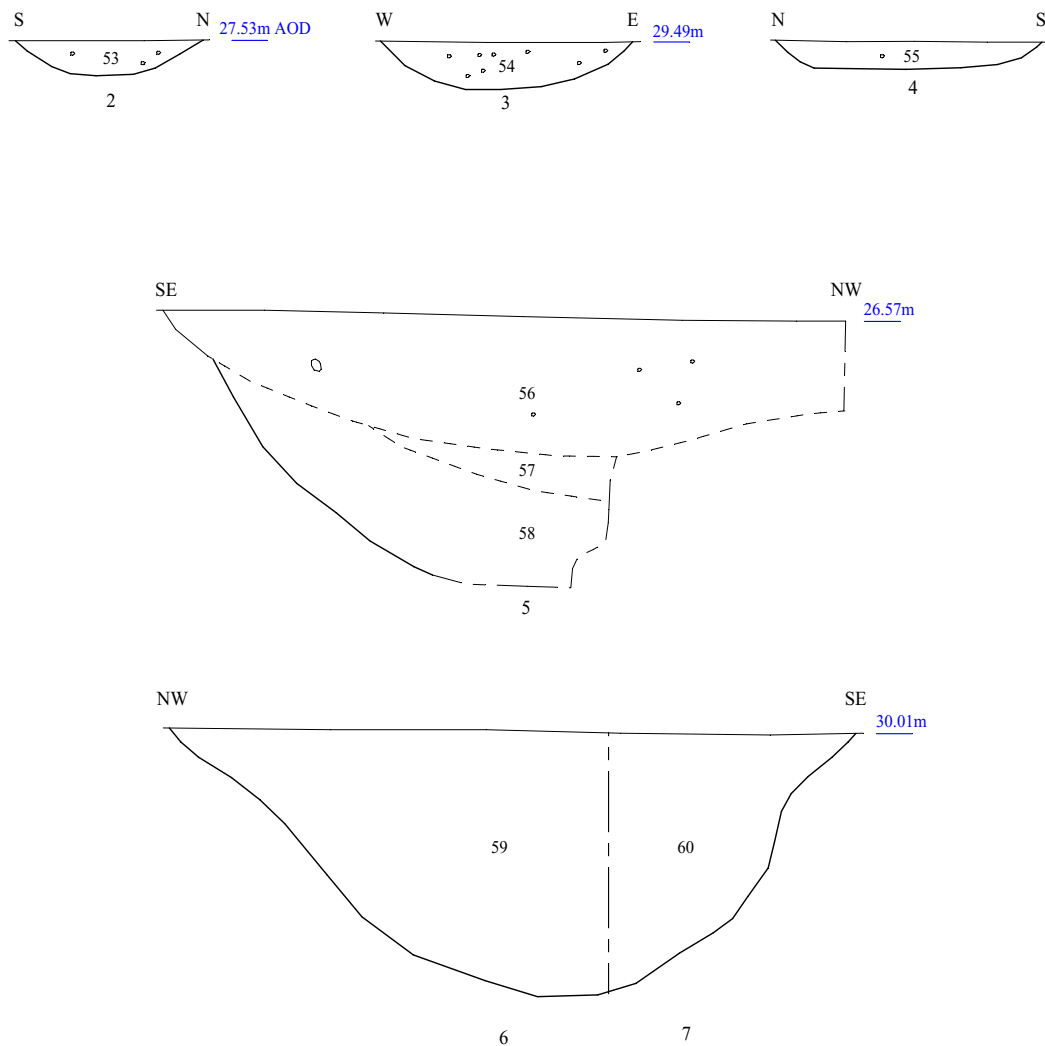
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Figure 4. Trench Plans



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Figure 5. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 7, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 7, ditch slot 3 looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Land to north of Maltings Park,
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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 15, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

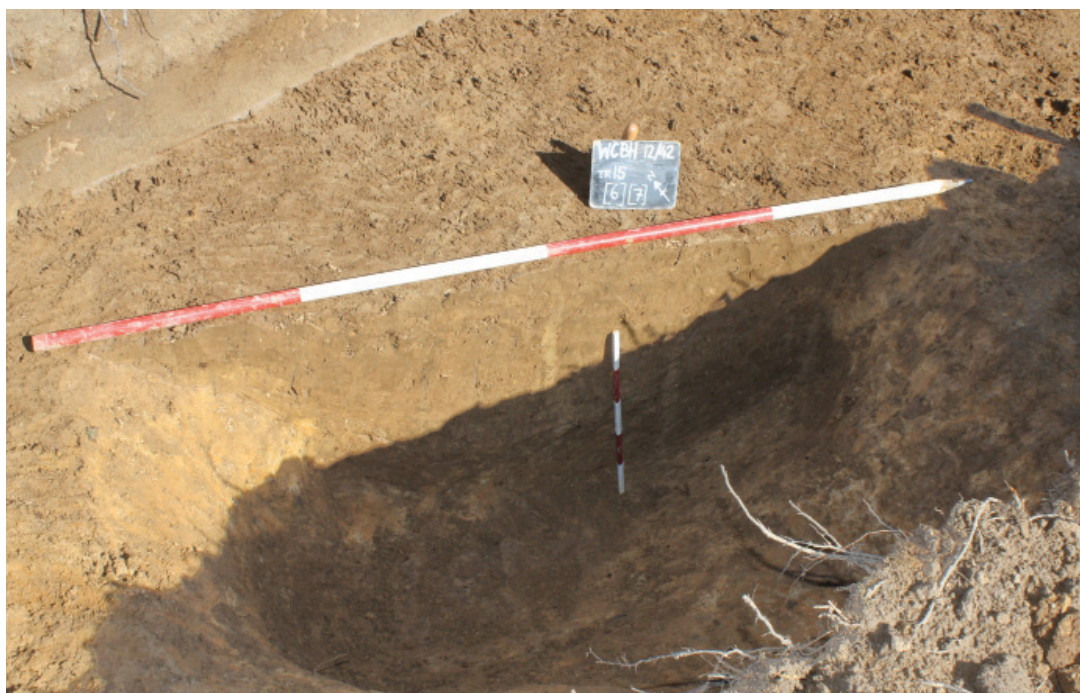


Plate 4. Trench 15, pit 6 or ditch terminus 7, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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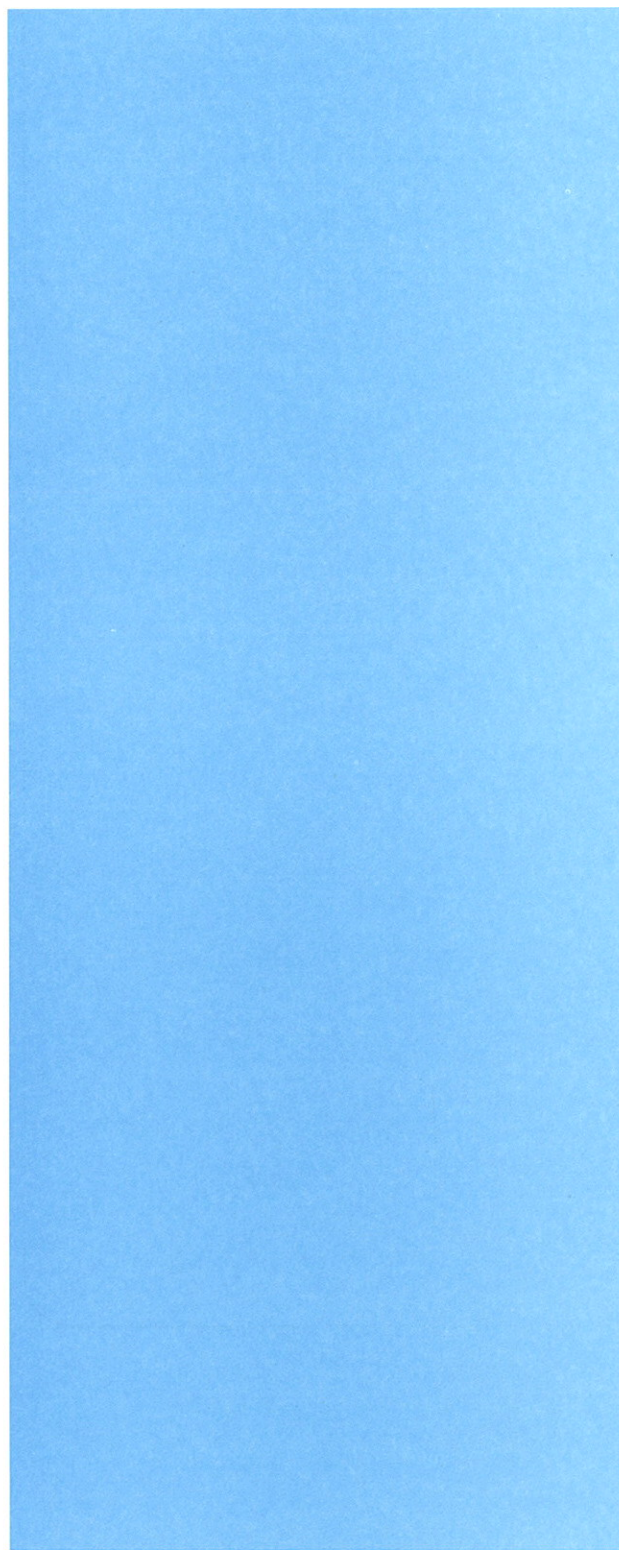
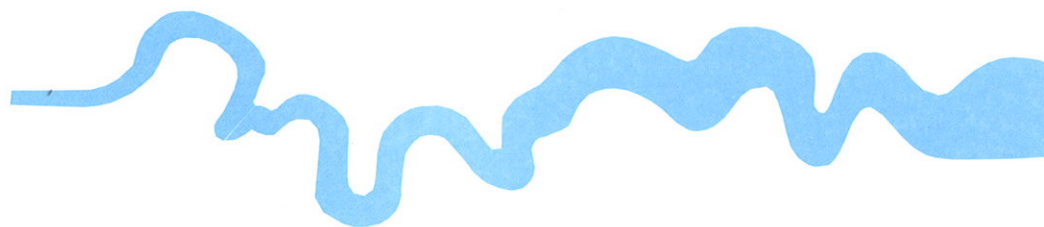
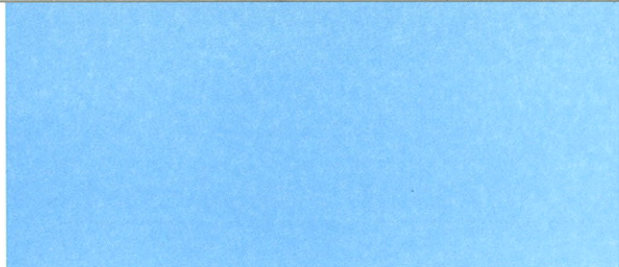
**Land to north of Maltings Park,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex, 2012
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 3 and 4.

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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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