THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

SOUTH

Land at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BGH12/75

(TQ 1301 2707)

Land at Barns Green, Two Mile Ash Lane, Horsham, West Sussex

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
BGH 12/75

October 2013

Summary

Site name: Land at Barns Green, Two Mile Ash Lane, Horsham, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1301 2707

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 26th September to 2nd October 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisors: Sean Wallis

Site code: BGH 12/75

Area of site: *c*. 2.8 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation has investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the planned housing development. A modest number of archaeological features were recorded, mostly in the western half of the site, including a pit and ditch dating from the late medieval period. The late medieval ditch was observed in two evaluation trenches, and appears to run parallel to the present main road. The only trace of Mounter's Farm was the late 19th century track which once led to the farm. This track was identified in several trenches and also survived as a partial earthwork within the site. A single prehistoric struck flint was recovered from an undated ditch.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.10.13

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Land at Barns Green, Two Mile Ash Lane, Horsham, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 12/75b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex (TQ 1301 2707) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jon Neville on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd, Berkeley House, Summer Place, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9GN.

Planning permission (DC/12/1894) has been gained from Horsham District Council to construct new housing on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (8) relating to archaeology. The consent also relates to the demolition and construction of a new school on another site nearby, although a separate report will relate to that site in due course.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed redevelopment, a field evaluation was carried out to better inform the planning process and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District 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, who act as archaeological advisors to the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell, Odile Rouard and Sean Wallis between 26th September and 2nd October 2013, and the site code is BGH 12/75. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Horsham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies to the north-east of the village of Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex (TQ 1301 2707). The new development comprises an area of c. 2.8 ha. The site currently consists of a relatively flat field which has been used as pasture for many years, and lies at a height of approximately 34m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay (BGS 1972) and this was confirmed during the evaluation as a light yellow blue clay, which was recorded in all the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2012). In summary, the site lies on the Weald Clay, a geological outcrop not noted for its wealth of archaeological deposits, at least until medieval times (Brandon 1978). However, recent development led investigations have begun to locate archaeological sites of pre-medieval periods (eg. Wallis 2012). A post-medieval farm complex (Mounter's Farm) is noted on early historic maps in the north-eastern fringes of the site, and this may have had medieval origins.

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 proposed 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.

Thirty-five trenches were to be dug, each measuring 20m in length and 2m in width, targeting those parts of the site that would be most affected by the proposed development. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

Due to various site restrictions, most notably an overhead high power line which ran across the site and tree protection zones around the perimeter, a number of trenches had to be moved from their original planned positions. These variations to the agreed scheme were approved by John Mills during a telephone conversation prior to the commencement of the evaluation. Mr Mills requested that three trenches (5, 6 and 7) be shifted westwards to see whether any deposits relating to Mounter's Farm were present, although this was hampered by the presence of a tree protection zone and public footpath. Three additional short trenches (36, 37 and 38) were excavated to trace a linear feature recorded in trenches 28 and 29. As a result, the trenches measured between 3.90m and 22.50m in length, and between 0.37m and 0.74m in depth. The trenches where archaeological features were recorded are described below, and a complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Numerous modern features, largely land

drains, were noted on the trench record sheets, but not recorded in detail. The only recent feature of note was the old track to Moulter's Farm, which survived as an earthwork in the southern part of the site, and was recorded in trenches 13, 14 and 18. In these trenches it was seen to consist of layers of imported material, including chalk and ceramic building material, which had been placed on the surface of the subsoil horizon. Fragments of late 19th or early 20th century pottery and glass were also noted within the make-up of the trackway, but were retained on site. No earlier archaeological deposits features were observed beneath the feature.

Trench 22 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately SE-NW, and was 21m long and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). A sub-circular post-hole (3) was recorded at 4.4m, which was 0.15m deep and 0.26m in diameter. No finds were recovered from its fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt (54).

Trench 28 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately SSW-NNE, and was 20m long and up to 0.55m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.40m of topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51). A ditch (2) was recorded at the northern end of the trench, between 14.30m and 18m. This feature was up to 0.62m wide and 0.44m deep, and had a single fill of light orange grey silty clay (53). Despite a two metre long slot being excavated through the ditch, no finds were recovered. This is the same feature as that noted in trenches 29, 36, 37 and 38.

Trench 29 (Figs 2-4; Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately S-N, and was 18.20m long and up to 0.45m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.06m of subsoil (51). Ditch 1 was recorded at the northern end of the trench, between 16m and 18m. This feature was up to 0.90m wide and 0.42m deep, and had a single fill of light orange grey silty clay (52). A metre long slot was excavated through the ditch, which yielded a single struck flint. This is the same feature as that noted in trenches 28, 36, 37 and 38.

Trench 33 (Figs 2-4; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately SSW-NNE and was 21.20m long and up to 0.47m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). A shallow gully (6) was observed at the southern end of the trench, which was up to 0.65m wide and 0.05m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of mid yellow grey silty clay (57), although some charcoal was noted. The gully merged with a sub-rectangular pit

(5), although the relationship between the two features could not be ascertained. Pit 5 was up to 2.25m long and 1.35m wide, with an irregular rounded base. A single fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt (56), up to 0.28m thick, was recorded within the pit. This deposit contained moderate amounts of charcoal and ash, along with three sherds of late medieval pottery.

A ditch (8) was recorded between 5.30m and 7.70m, but was not excavated. The ditch was up to 1.50m wide, with an upper fill of light greyish brown silty clay (59). Four sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit. This is probably the same ditch as that investigated in trench 34 (4).

A sub-circular post-hole or pit (7) was excavated at the northern end of the trench. This feature measured 0.52m in diameter and was 0.14m deep, with a rounded base. Its fill of mid brownish grey clayey silt (58) produced no archaeological finds.

Trench 34 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately SW-NE and was 22.50m long and up to 0.54m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.19m of subsoil (51). A ditch (4) was recorded between 10.20m and 12.40m, that was up to 1.65m wide and 0.42m deep. A slot through the feature identified a single fill of light orange grey silty clay (55) which yielded over twenty sherds of late medieval or early post-medieval pottery, along with a large fragment of a possible stone roof tile. This is probably the same ditch as that noted in trench 33 (8).

Trench 36 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 4.50m long and up to 0.40m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.27m of topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51). Ditch 9 was recorded between 2m and 3.70m, but was not excavated. It was up to 0.60m wide, and no finds were recovered from the surface of its upper fill of light orange grey silty clay (60). This is the same feature as that noted in trenches 28, 29, 37 and 38.

Trench 37 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 4.50m long and up to 0.53m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.31m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). Ditch 10 was recorded between 1.70m and 4m, but was not excavated. It was up to 0.65m wide, and no finds were recovered from the surface of its upper fill of light orange grey silty clay (61). This is the same feature as that noted in trenches 28, 29, 36 and 38.

Trench 38 (Figs 2-4)

This trench was aligned approximately S-N and was 3.90m long and up to 0.42m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). Ditch 11 was recorded between 1.30m and 3.30m, but was not excavated. It was up to 0.65m wide, and no finds were recovered from the surface of its upper fill of light orange grey silty clay (62). This is the same feature as that noted in trenches 28, 29, 36 and 37.

Finds

Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 28 sherds with a total weight of 157g. It was all medieval or later. The following fabric types were noted:

SFC: Local Coarseware, 13th – 14th century (Barton 1979, 172-3). Moderate to dense sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, most 0.5mm or less. Rare ironstone. 5 sherds, 35g.

BIN: Binstead/Horsham-type Ware. ?14th century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 322). Grey sandy fabric with orange-brown surfaces, glossy olive green glaze. 18 sherds, 104g.

RAER: Raeren Stoneware, late 15th – early 17th century (Gaimster 1997). 1 sherd, 7g.

LMW: Late Medieval Ware. Fine slightly sandy dark grey fabric with pale buff surfaces, few visible inclusions. Glossy internal yellow-green glaze. 15th – 16th century. 4 sherds, 11g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Generally, the sherd size is quite small and the sherds abraded to some degree, indicating that they are all the product of secondary deposition. The group of pottery from context 55 includes an horizontal handle from a skillet or dripping dish and a fragment from the rim of a Raeren Stoneware mug. Both are typical late medieval vessel forms.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint, a scraper, came from ditch 1(52) . It is not closely datable other than to a broad neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Other Finds by Sean Wallis

Some late 19th – early 20th century material (pottery, glass, brick and tile) was noted within the farm track way and topsoil, but was not retained. A large fragment of stone, possibly a roof tile, was recovered from the fill of ditch 4 in trench 34, and was retained on site.

Conclusion

The evaluation has successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. A small amount of archaeological deposits were identified in the western half of the site. These included an undated ditch and several late medieval features close to the western edge of the site. A ditch observed in two of the evaluation trenches (33 and 34) appears to mirror the alignment of the present main road (Two Mile Ash Lane). The only trace of Mounter's Farm recorded during the project was the old farm track, which still survives as an earthwork in certain parts of the site.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	20.60	2.20	0.37	0-0.21m topsoil (50); 0.21-0.29m subsoil (51); 0.29m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
2	20.20	2.20	0.45	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
3	20.00	2.20	0.56	0-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
4	20.00	2.20	0.45	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.45m subsoil (51); 0.45m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
5	20.10	2.20	0.43	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
6	20.00	2.20	0.46	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
7	20.20	2.20	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
8	20.00	2.20	0.42	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
9	21.00	2.20	0.44	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.39m subsoil (51); 0.39m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
10	18.20	2.20	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
11	20.50	2.20	0.50	0-0.31m topsoil (50); 0.31-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
12	20.30	2.20	0.41	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.35m subsoil (51); 0.35m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
13	19.60	2.20	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Farm track.
14	20.80	2.20	0.46	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Farm track.
15	20.40	2.20	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
16	20.60	2.20	0.44	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
17	20.00	2.20	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **[PL. 1]**
18	20.10	2.20	0.49	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Farm track.
19	20.00	2.20	0.49	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.39m subsoil (51); 0.39m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
20	20.40	2.20	0.47	0-0.29m topsoil (50); 0.29-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
21	20.00	2.20	0.43	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
22	21.00	2.20	0.48	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Post-hole 3.
23	20.60	2.20	0.46	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
24	19.60	2.20	0.42	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
25	20.40	2.20	0.52	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.52m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
26	20.60	2.20	0.51	0-0.34m topsoil (50); 0.34-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
27	20.00	2.20	0.50	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
28	20.00	2.20	0.55	0-0.40m topsoil (50); 0.40-0.47m subsoil (51); 0.47m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 2.
29	18.20	2.20	0.45	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 1. **[PL. 4]**
30	21.20	2.20	0.50	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **[PL. 2]**
31	20.30	2.20	0.74	0-0.50m topsoil (50); 0.50-0.72m subsoil (51); 0.72m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
32	20.40	2.20	0.52	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.45m subsoil (51); 0.45m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
33	21.20	2.20	0.47	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Pit 5, gully 6, post-hole 7 and ditch 8. **[PL. 3]**
34	22.50	2.20	0.54	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.49m subsoil (51); 0.49m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 4.
35	21.30	2.20	0.40	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).

36	4.50	2.20	0.40	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 9.
37	4.50	2.20	0.53	0-0.31m topsoil (50); 0.31-0.45m subsoil (51); 0.45m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 10.
38	3.90	2.20	0.42	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Ditch 11.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
29	1	52	Ditch	Undated	Struck flint
28	2	53	Ditch	Undated	Same feature as 1.
22	3	54	Post-hole	Undated	
34	4	55	Ditch	Late medieval	Pottery
33	5	56	Pit	Late medieval	Pottery
33	6	57	Gully	Undated	
33	7	58	Pit / post-hole	Undated	
33	8	59	Ditch (Unexcavated)	Late medieval	Pottery
36	9	60	Ditch (Unexcavated)	Undated	Same feature as 1.
37	10	61	Ditch (Unexcavated)	Undated	Same feature as 1.
38	11	62	Ditch (Unexcavated)	Undated	Same feature as 1.

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Medieval Pottery

		SFC		BIN		RAER		LMW		
Trench	Cut/fill	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	Date
4	4(55)	4	31	16	100	1	7			L15thC
5	5(56)	1	4	2	4					14thC
8	8(59)							4	11	15thC
	Total	5	35	18	104	1	7	4	11	

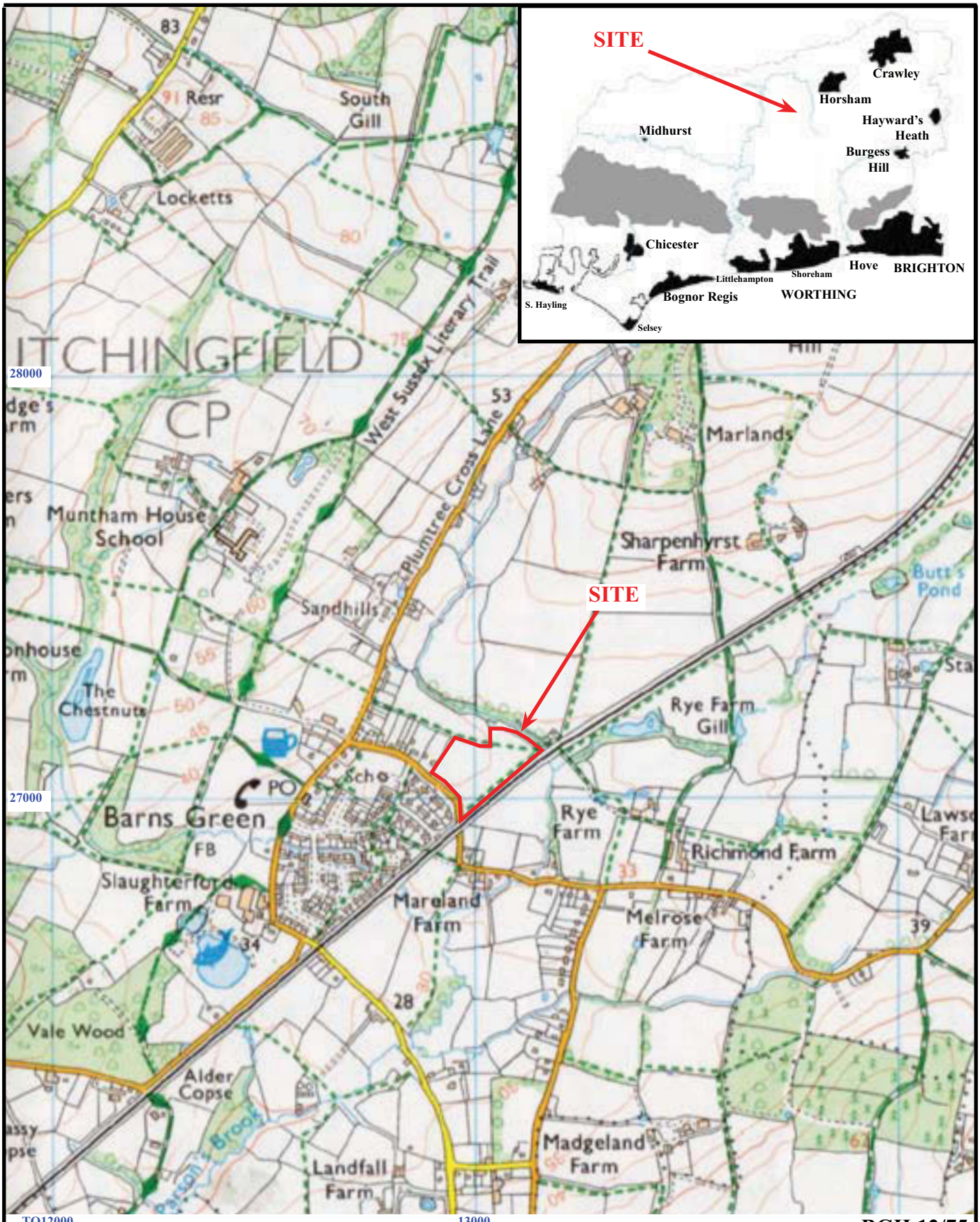

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Figure 1. Location of site within Barns Green and West Sussex.

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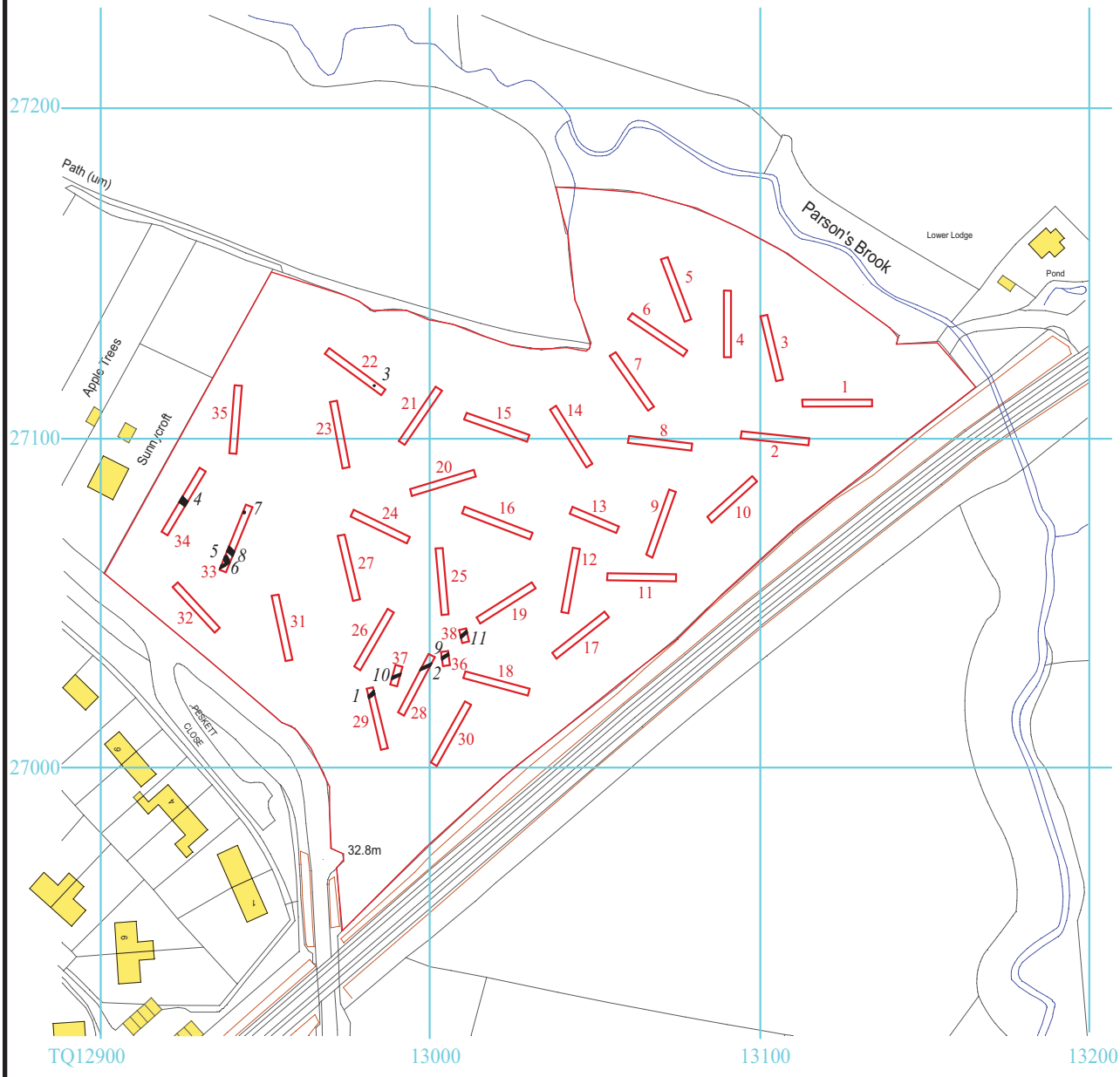

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Land at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex, 2013 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Location of trenches and excavated features.

0 100m

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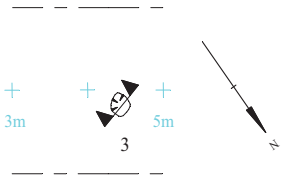
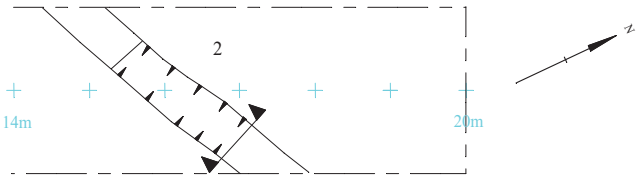
Trench 22



Trench 28



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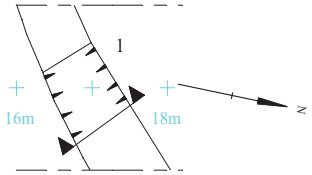

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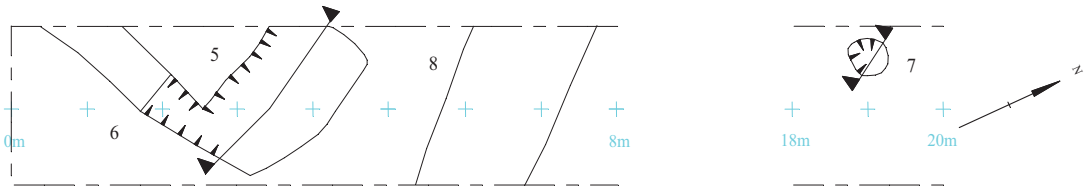

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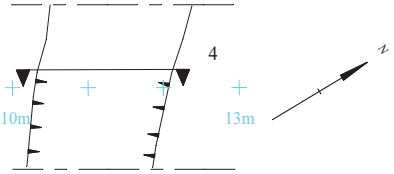

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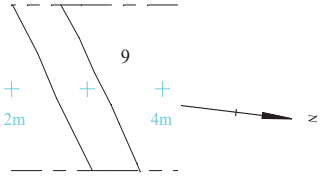

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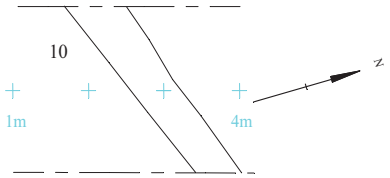

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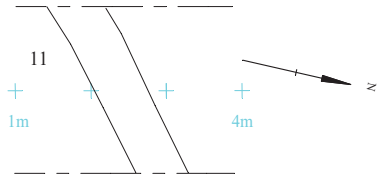

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Figure 3. Plans of trenches containing features

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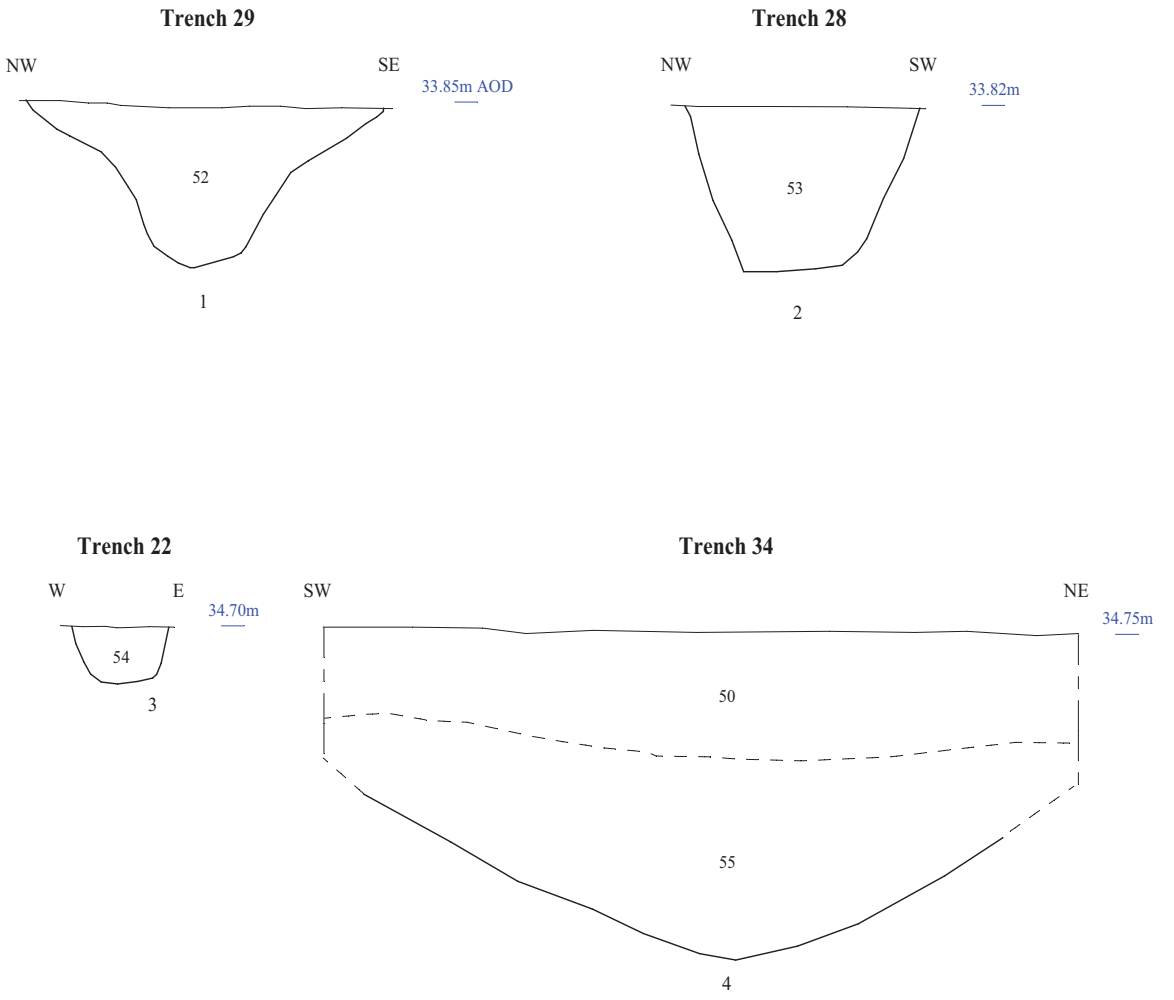

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Figure 4. Sections

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 17 looking south west,
Scales: 2m,1m and 0.3m.

Plate 2. Trench 30 looking north,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

Plate 3. Trench 33, Features 5 and 6, looking north east.
Scales 0.5m and 0.1m.

Plate 4. Trench 29, Ditch 1, looking north east.
Scales 0.5m and 0.1m.

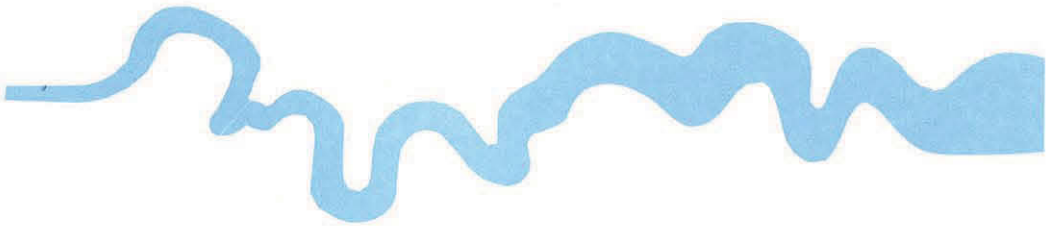
**Land at Barns Green, Horsham,
West Sussex, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 1 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH

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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