

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green,
Horsham, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: BGH12/75B

(TQ 1280 2708)

Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BGH 12/75

February 2014

Summary

Site name: Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 1280 2708

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28-29th January 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisors: Sean Wallis

Site code: BGH 12/75

Area of site: c. 1.27 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation at Itchingfield Primary School, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by construction of the new school building. A modest number of archaeological features were recorded, including a pit, post-hole and gully dating from the medieval period. It is possible that these represent occupation of the site during the medieval period, and the close proximity of Two Mile Ash Road may be significant in this respect.

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.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.02.14
	Steve Preston ✓ 07.02.14

Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 12/75c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex (TQ 1280 2708) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jon Neville on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd., Summers Place, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9GN.

Planning permission (DC/12/1894) has been gained from Horsham District Council to construct a new school building on the site, and demolish the existing structure. The consent is subject to a standard condition (8) relating to archaeology. The consent also relates to the construction of new residential dwellings on another site nearby (Site A on Fig. 1), for which a separate report (Wallis 2013) has already been prepared.

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 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 advisers to the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell, Odile Rouard and Sean Wallis on 28th January 2014, 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

Despite its name, the school actually lies within the village of Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex, and the development area is centred on TQ 1280 2708. The whole school site comprises an area of *c.* 1.27 ha, although only the northern part of the area will be affected by the new development. The site currently consists of a relatively flat grassed area to the north of the existing school building, which forms part of the school's playing field, and lies at a height of approximately 36m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological

Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay (BGS 1992), and this was confirmed during the evaluation as a light bluish yellow 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 (e.g. Wallis 2012). An evaluation carried out nearby last year revealed a small number of later medieval features. These included a ditch that appeared to run parallel to Two Mile Ash Road, which suggests that Two Mile Ash Road may have medieval origins (Wallis 2013).

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.

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

The five trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 2) and measured between 18.20m and 20.80m in length, between 2.20m and 2.40m in width, and between 0.40m and 0.48m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

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

This trench was aligned approximately WNW-ESE, and was 19.70m long, 2.30m wide, and up to 0.40m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (150) and 0.10m of subsoil (151). A probable sub-

circular pit (100) was recorded at 13m, but was only seen partially in plan [Pl. 2]. The feature was up to 0.20m deep and 1.20m wide, and had a single fill of mid greyish yellow silty clay (152). Over eighty sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit, providing a reliable date, along with two small fragments of burnt flint. Two pottery sherds of similar date were found within the subsoil layer.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately WSW-ENE, and was 20.30m long, 2.20m wide, and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.31m of topsoil (150) and 0.08m of subsoil (151). A possible post-hole (101) was partially visible in plan against the northern edge of the trench, between 2m and 3m. This feature was at least 0.40m long and 0.40m wide, and had a single fill of mid greyish blue silty clay (153), up to 0.10m thick. Two small pieces of fired clay were found within this deposit, but there were no closely dateable finds. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the subsoil layer within the trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 18.20m long, 2.40m wide, and up to 0.42m deep [Pl. 1]. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (150) and 0.10m of subsoil (151). No archaeological finds or features were recorded within the trench.

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

This trench was aligned approximately WSW-ENE and was 19.00m long, 2.20m wide, and up to 0.44m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (150) and 0.07m of subsoil (151). A shallow gully (104) was observed between 8m and 11m, and a 1m long slot was hand dug through it [Pl. 3]. The feature was up to 0.60m wide and 0.12m deep, with a single fill of light yellow grey silty clay (156). Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately W-E and was 18.50m long, 2.40m wide, and up to 0.45m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (150) and 0.10m of subsoil (151). Two possible post-holes (102 and 103) were observed in the western part of the trench, between 4m and 5m. Post-hole 102 was sub-circular in plan, and was 0.34m long and 0.21m wide. It had a single fill of mid greyish blue silty clay (154), up to 0.23m thick, but contained no archaeological finds. Post-hole 103 appeared to be similar in size, but could not be excavated due to localised flooding.

Finds

Medieval Pottery by Malcolm Lyne

The pottery assemblage comprised 88 sherds (408g) from four contexts (Appendix 3). This material spans the periods between *c.*1150 and 1350, but could conceivably start a little bit earlier and go on a bit later. We are, however, hampered by the fact that there is only one diagnostic rim sherd: this comes from context 152 and is a cooking pot form to *c.*1250-1350. The fresh nature of several of the sherds suggests that they are from occupation on the site, rather than field marling.

Fabrics

- M1. Coarse brown/black fabric with profuse 0.50 < 2.00mm alluvial flint, multi-coloured quartz-sand and ironstone filler.
- M2. Less coarse red/brown/black fabric with profuse <0.50mm multi-coloured quartz-sand filler
- M3. Cream-buff fabric with profuse <0.20mm multi-coloured quartz-sand and black ferrous inclusions, fired pink with splashed apple-green glaze.

Other Finds by Sean Wallis

Two small fragments of burnt flint, weighing 25g, were recovered from the fill of pit 100 (152) in Trench 1. The possible post-hole 101 (153) recorded in Trench 2 contained two small pieces of undiagnostic fired clay, weighing 6g. Some late 19th – early 20th century material (pottery, glass, brick and tile) was noted within the topsoil across the site, but was not retained.

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. A modest amount of archaeological deposits were identified, including a pit and gully dating from the medieval period, and post holes which could be contemporary, suggesting that the site has some modest archaeological potential. The fresh nature of some of the medieval pottery recovered indicates that these features may relate to occupation of the site, and the close proximity of Two Mile Ash Road may therefore be significant, as previous work has already suggested that it may have medieval origins.

References

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- Dawson, T, 2012, 'Land at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex, archaeological desk-based heritage assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 12/75, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
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- Wallis, S, 2012, 'Middle/Later Bronze Age Occupation at Manor Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, draft publication report', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 10/93, Reading
- Wallis, S, 2013, 'Land at Barns Green, Horsham, West Sussex, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 12/75b, Brighton

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

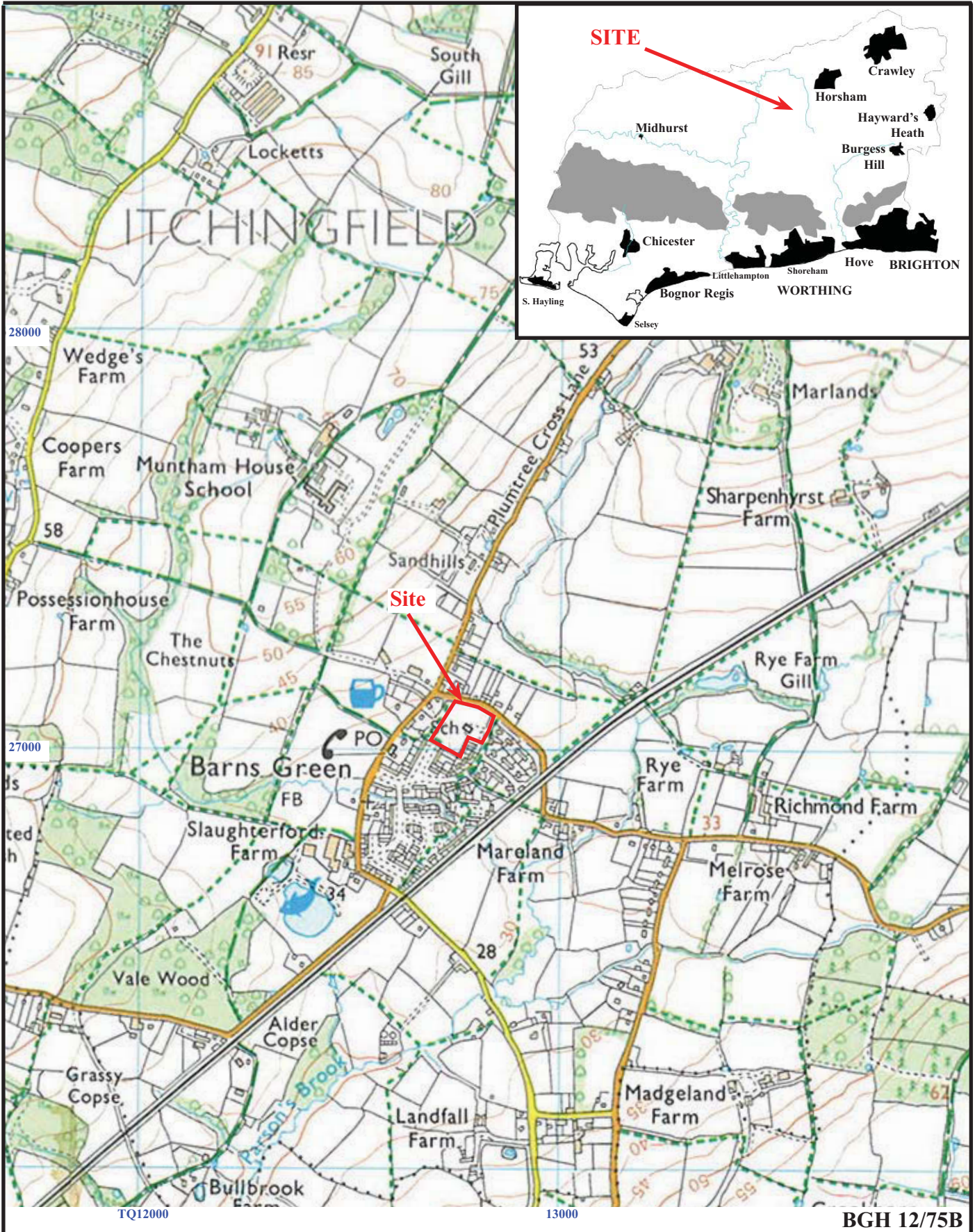
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.70	2.30	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil (150); 0.20-0.30m subsoil (151); 0.30m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Pit 100. [PI. 2]
2	20.30	2.20	0.48	0-0.31m topsoil (150); 0.31-0.39m subsoil (151); 0.39m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Post-hole 101.
3	18.20	2.40	0.42	0-0.25m topsoil (150); 0.25-0.35m subsoil (151); 0.35m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). [PI. 1]
4	19.00	2.20	0.44	0-0.26m topsoil (150); 0.26-0.33m subsoil (151); 0.33m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Gully 104. [PI. 3]
5	18.50	2.40	0.45	0-0.30m topsoil (150); 0.30-0.40m subsoil (151); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). Post-holes 102 and 103.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	100	152	Pit	Medieval	Pottery
2	101	153	Post-hole	Medieval?	Pottery from nearby
5	102	154	Post-hole	Undated	
5	103	155	Post-hole	Undated	
4	104	156	Gully	Medieval	Pottery

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Medieval Pottery

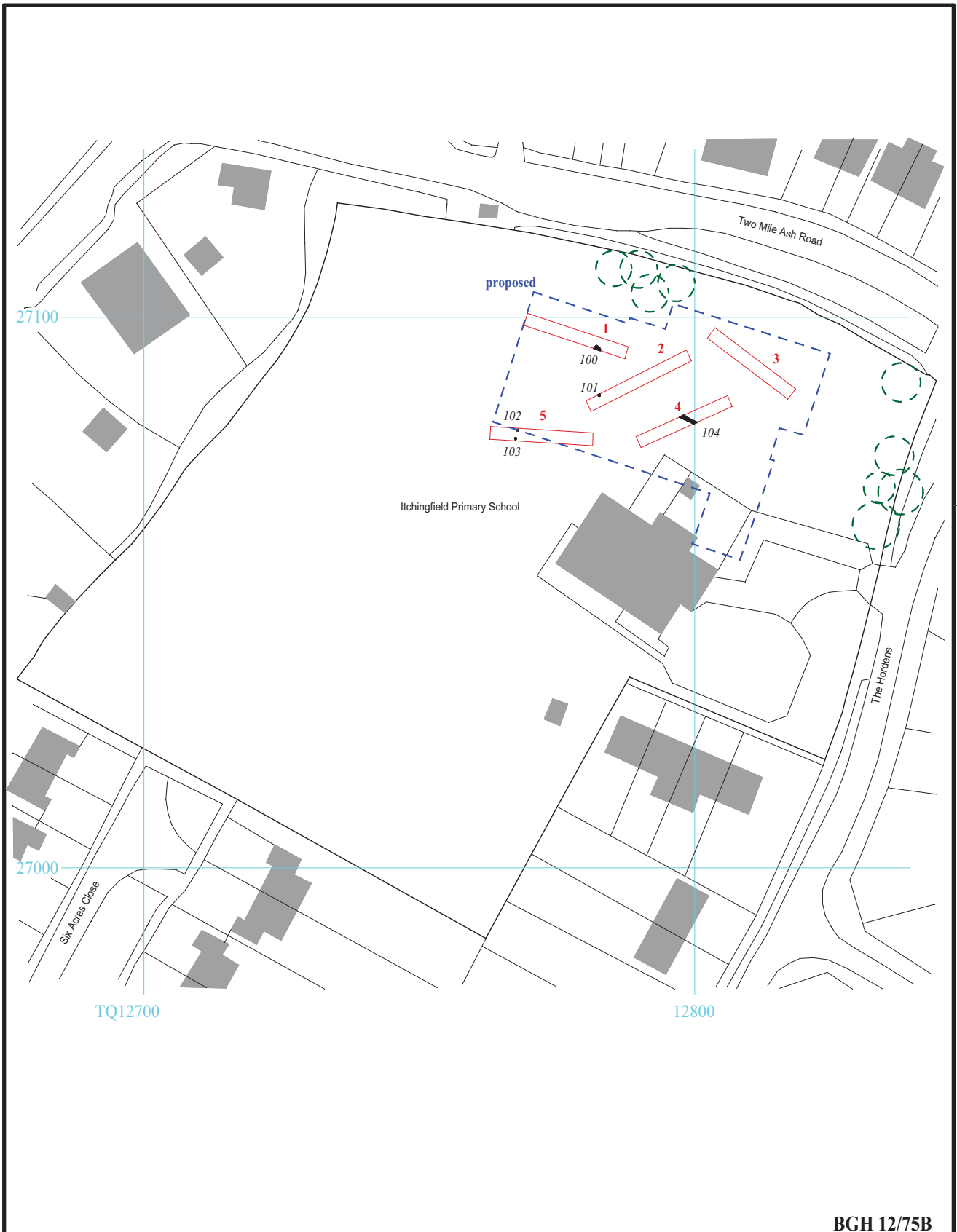
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Form</i>	<i>Date-range</i>	<i>No sherds</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	-	151	M1	Cooking-pots	c.1150–1250	2	12	Abraded
1	100	152	M1	Cooking-pots	c.1150–1250	24	136	Fresh and abraded
			M2	Cooking-pots	c.1250–1350	51	201	Fresh and abraded
			M3	Jugs	c.1250–1350	6	18	Abraded
2	-	151	M1	Cooking-pots	c.1150–1250	3	30	Fresh.
4	104	156	M2	Cooking-pots	c.1250–1350	2	11	Abraded



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

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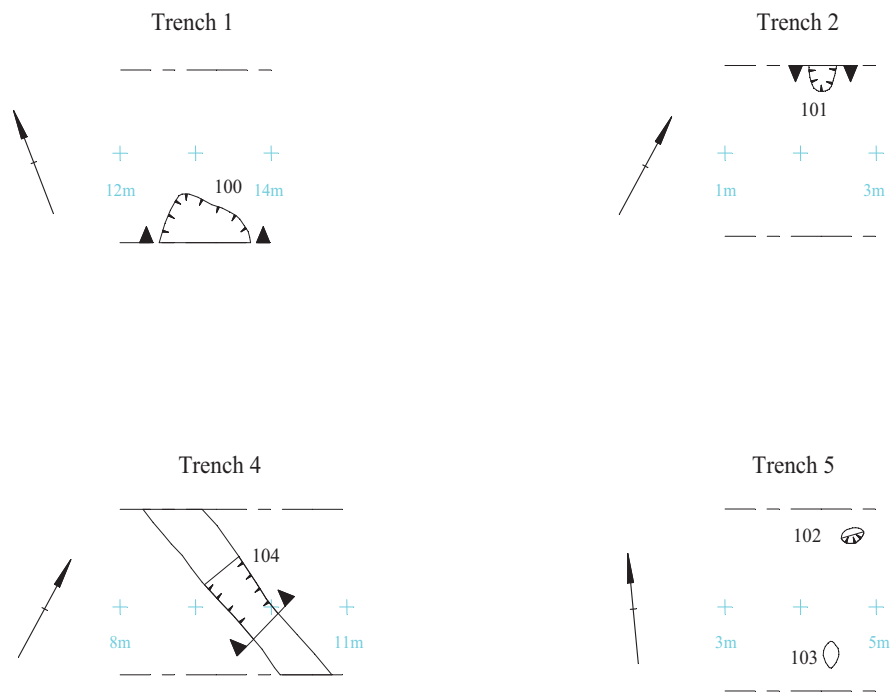
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Figure 2. Location of trenches showing features.



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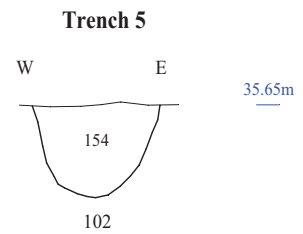
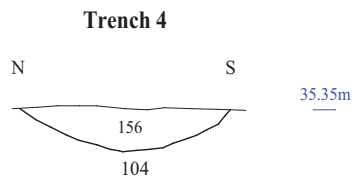
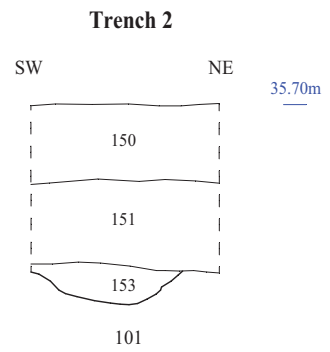
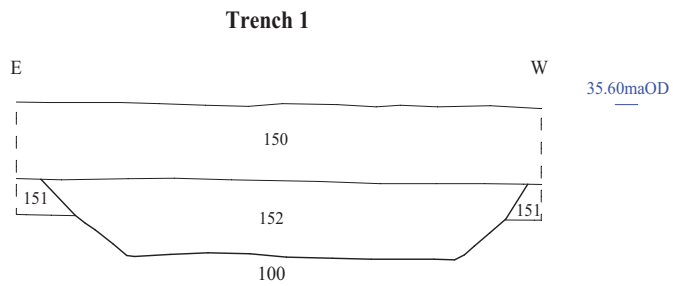
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Figure 3. Plan of trenches.



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, pit 100, looking south,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 4, gully 104, looking south east,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

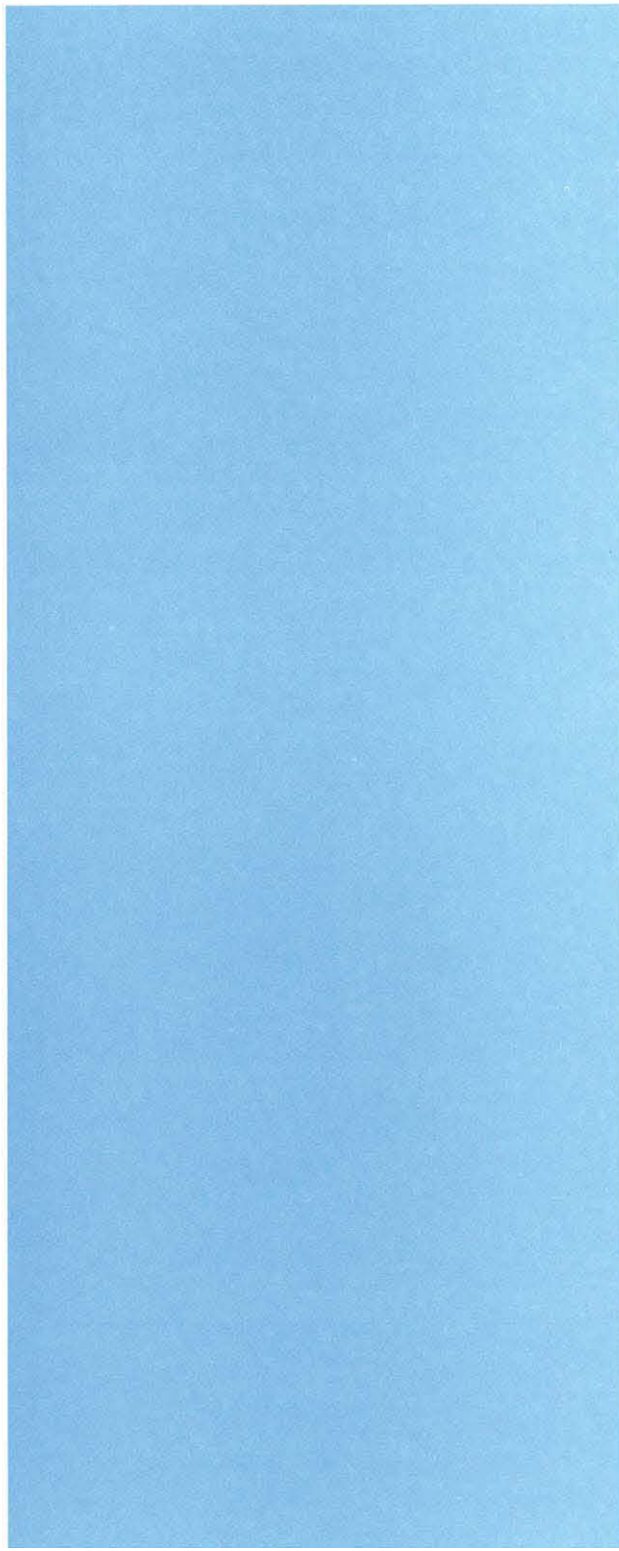
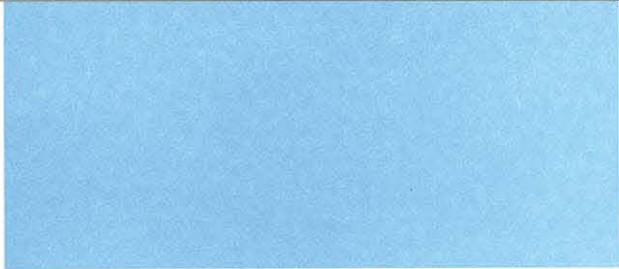
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**Itchingfield Primary School, Barns Green, Horsham,
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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