

**Codling Cottage, Pockford Road,
Chiddingfold, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Hickory Construction**

By Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CCS 07/103

October 2007

Summary

Site name: Codling Cottage, Pockford Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey

Grid reference: SU 9634 3552

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 9th–26th July 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: CCS 07/103

Area of site: 1054 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological finds nor deposits were uncovered during groundworks.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 31.10.07
	Steve Preston ✓ 31.10.07

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Report 07/103b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Codling Cottage, Pockford Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey (SU 9634 3552) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr R W Knibb of Hickory Construction, The Tannery, Tannery Lane, Gosden Common, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0AJ

Planning consent (WA/2006/1281 has been granted by Waverley Borough Council to construct two new dwellings on the site of the original land and associated cottage for Codling Cottage. The existing dwelling is of Grade II listed status, and listed building consent (WA/2006/1282) has also been gained to demolish the existing cottage, subject to a condition (2) requiring building recording prior to demolition (reported separately: Ford 2007). This report deals with a condition (13) relating to archaeological works required during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out by to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer at Surrey County Council, adviser to the Borough in matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt between 9th and 26th July 2007. The site code is CCS 07/103.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Godalming Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the southern part of Chiddingfold village, just to the south east of the main concentration of settlement. The site of Codling Cottage lies on the north side of Pockford Road, on land that rises to the north, with up to a 7m rise from road level. The road level is recorded at 61.3m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) (Fig. 2). The existing cottage was positioned on the western part of the site. The underlying geology is Weald Clay (BGS 1981), and this characteristic clay was noted as the natural geology during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of this site stems from the lands location within the historic medieval core of the settlement. A number of houses have 15th-century features. The environs of the site show noteworthy prehistoric and Roman occupation to the east of the site near Prestwick Manor Farm, with a Mesolithic flint scatter, possible Bronze Age barrows, and a Roman villa, the latter excavated in the late 19th century (Bird and Bird 1987).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, with particular attention paid to any ground reduction, and if natural was not uncovered, any footing trenching and service runs. Any archaeological deposits were to be recorded. Specific attention was to be paid in relation to any prehistoric or Roman remains uncovered, with provision for rescheduling of groundworks if needed.

Results

After the demolition of the existing cottage, and the area cleared of undergrowth, the ground was reduced over the entire site of the proposed new structure. This covered an area 22.5m by 13.6m and was levelled into the northern slope up to a depth of 1.7m on its northern edge (Fig. 3). Natural geology was uncovered over the whole site with no sign of intrusive cuts into the natural. The stratigraphy comprised garden topsoil directly overlying natural clay (Fig. 4). Some truncation of the natural geology had occurred previously for construction of the recently demolished structures.

As the archaeologically relevant horizon for the whole of the area of the site was exposed and inspected, there was no further need to examine deeper foundation and service trenches for this area.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the groundworks.

Conclusion

No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were observed during this watching brief. As the archaeologically relevant horizon for the whole of the area of the site was available for examination, unusually, one can be confident that no archaeological deposits were present within the site area.

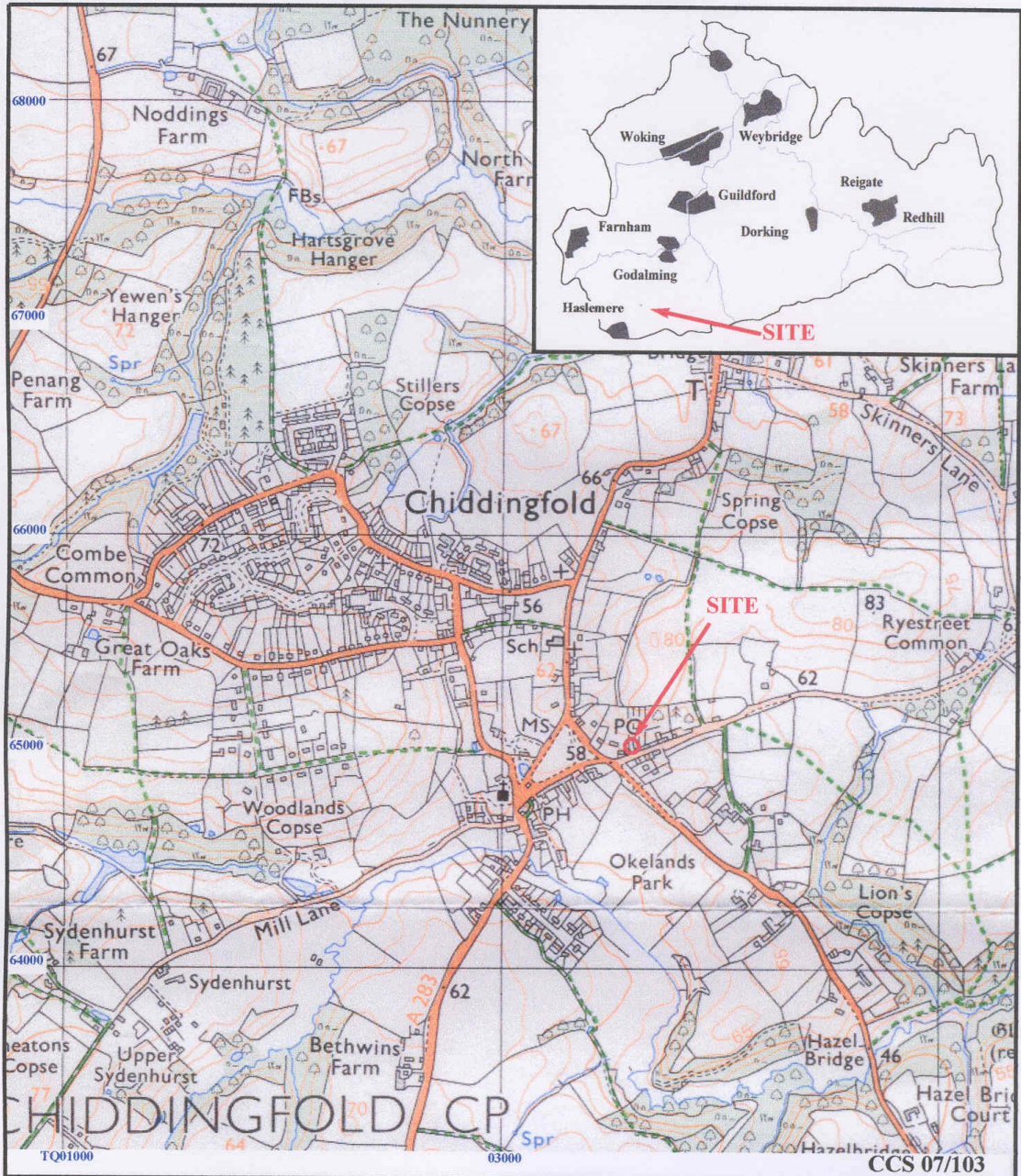
References

Bird D G and Bird, J (eds), 1987, *The Archaeology of Surrey*, Guildford

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 301, Solid & Drift Edition, Keyworth

Ford, 2007, 'Codling Cottage, Pockford Road, Chiddingfold, Surrey, building recording', Thames Valley
Archaeological Services rep 07/103a, Reading

PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

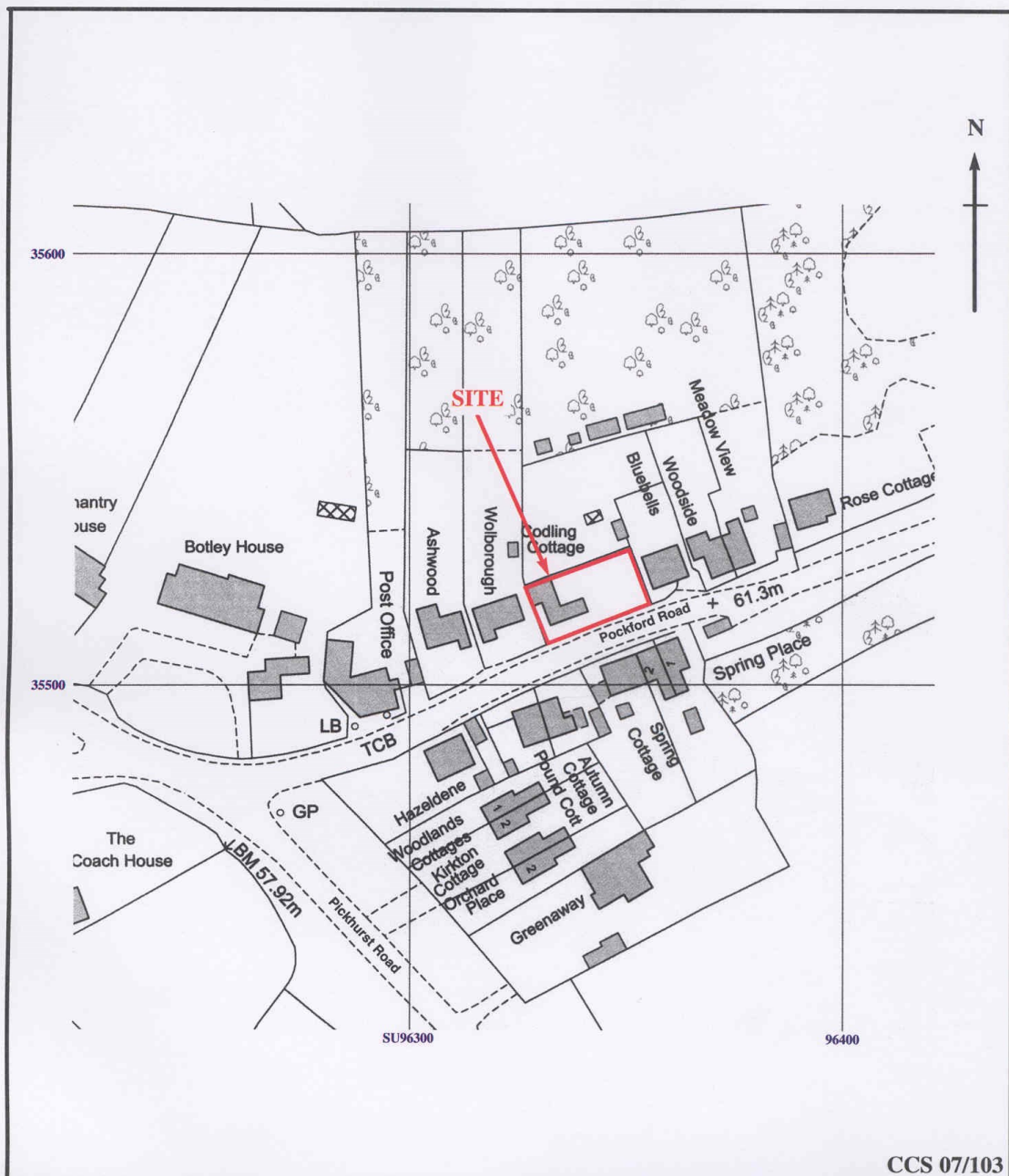


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Figure 1. Location of site within Chiddingfold and Surrey.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Pockford Road.

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Figure 3. Location of area observed.

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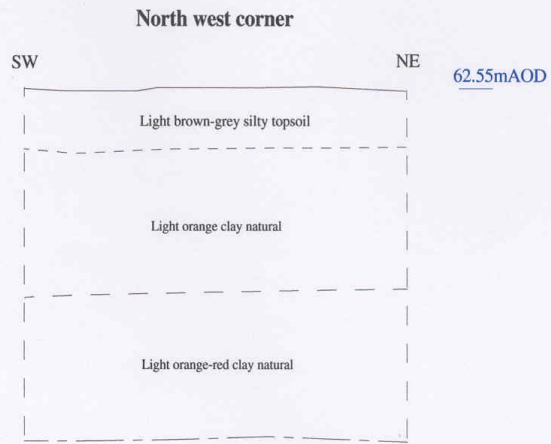


Figure 4. Representative section