

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**14 Russell Green Close, Purley,
London Borough of Croydon**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: RGP 20/130

(TQ 3126 6221)

**14 Russell Green Close, Purley,
London Borough of Croydon**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Mera Real Estate**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RGP 20/130
London Site Code RGP20

December 2020

Summary

Site name: 14 Russell Green Close, Purley, London Borough of Croydon

Grid reference: TQ 3126 6221

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 21st December 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Maisie Foster

Site code: RGP 20/130

Area of site: 720 sq m

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended and three trenches were successfully excavated, but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. The site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Museum of London or Archaeology Data Service in due course, with accession code RGP20.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.01.21. Steve Preston ✓ 24.12.20
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14 Russell Green Close, Purley, London Borough of Croydon An Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Report 20/130

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 14 Russell Green Close, Purley, London Borough of Croydon (TQ 3126 6221) (Fig. 1.) The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Keen of the Keen Partnership, The Courtyard, Edinburgh Road, Reading, RG30 2UA on behalf of Mera Real Estate, 25 High Street, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 1BP.

Planning permission (19/04607/FUL) has been granted by the London Borough of Croydon for the construction of new flats following demolition of existing structures on site. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological remains by these works, the consent is subject to a condition (6) which requires a programme of archaeological work to be carried out prior to development, namely field investigation by means of machine trenching, to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy if necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Stevenson, the adviser to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster on 21st December 2020. The TVAS site code is RGP 20/130 and the Museum of London code is RGP20.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north east of the centre of Purley which is located within the London Borough of Croydon (Fig. 1.) It is a small residential plot of land on Russell Green Close, a small residential cul-de-sac off the A23. The underlying geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) – chalk (BGS 1974), and lies at a height of *c.* 98m to *c.* 97m above Ordnance Datum, with a slight slope down from north to south .

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Higgs 2019). In summary the site lies within an archaeological priority zone within the Borough with a wide range of sites and finds of various periods represented. In particular, human remains have been recorded at various locations on Russell Hill and are thought to represent parts of a large cemetery of Saxon date. The cemetery may be focused on a Bronze Age round barrow on Russell Hill to the west. There are no recorded finds for the site itself.

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. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if there are any further burials of Saxon or Bronze Age date on the site; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

Three trenches were to be dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were to be two at 10m long and one 4m long, all 1.6m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

Results

All three trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 2) with only a slight widening of Trench 2 due to the unexpected presence of a service trench. The trenches ranged from 4.0m to 10.20m in length and 0.34m to 0.56m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 1 was aligned NW - SE and was 10.1m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology at a height of *c.* 97.86m above Ordnance Datum. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered or observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NW - SE and was 10.2m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.48m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology at a height of *c.* 97.81m above Ordnance Datum. A modern service run was observed along the western side of the site. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered or observed.

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

Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE and was 4.0m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15.m of modern brick rubble made ground overlying natural chalk geology at a height of *c.* 97.01m above Ordnance Datum. No finds or features of archaeological interest were recovered or observed.

Finds

All finds encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the evaluation. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential..

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet **187**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Higgs, K, 2019, '14 Russell Green Close, Purley, Surrey, CR8 2NR, London Borough of Croydon, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Archaeological Solutions report **5893**, Shefford
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.10	1.6	0.48	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ chalk natural geology (97.86m aOD) [PI. 1] .
2	10.20	2.2	0.56	81
3	4.0	1.5	0.34	0-0.15m modern brick rubble made ground; 0.15m+ chalk natural geology (97.01m aOD) [PI. 3]

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-411393

Project details

Project name	14 Russell Green Close, Purley, Croydon
Short description of the project	A 3 trench evaluation prior to the development of a residential plot. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed or recorded.
Project dates	Start: 21-12-2020 End: 21-12-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	RGP20/130 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	19/04607/ful - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches","Visual Inspection","Metal Detectors","Photographic Survey"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
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Site location	GREATER LONDON CROYDON PURLEY 14 Russell Green Close, Purley, London Borough of Croydon
Postcode	CR8 2NR
Study area	750 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 3126 6221 51.343281899289 -0.115192657046 51 20 35 N 000 06 54 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 97.01m Max: 97.86m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
Project design originator	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	Tim Dawson
Project supervisor	Maisie Foster
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	KEEN Partnerhsip

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Museum of London
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Museum of London
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	14 Russell Green Close, Purley, London Borough of Croydon. An archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Foster, M.' 'Preston, S'
Other bibliographic details	RGP20/130
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Place of issue or publication	Reading

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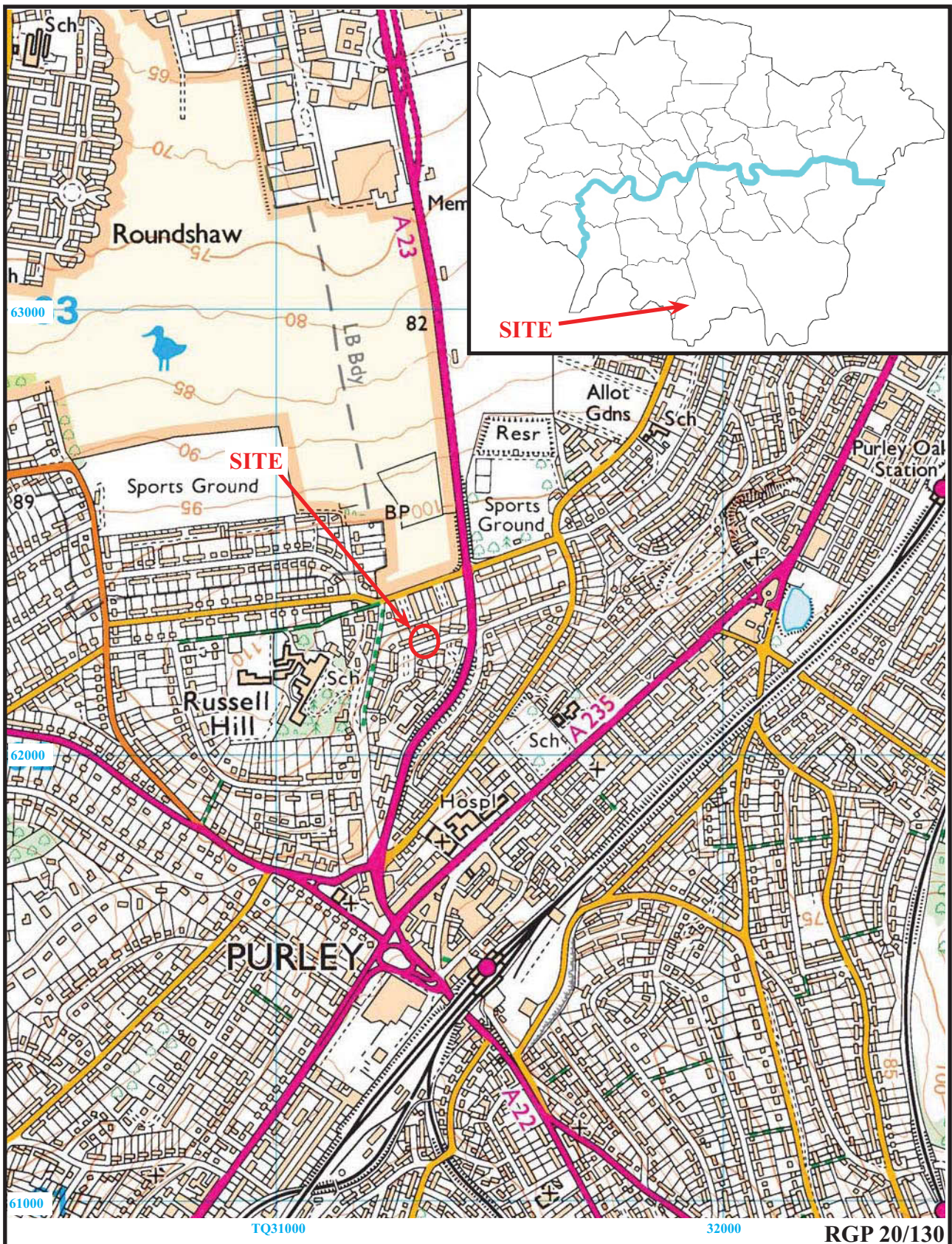
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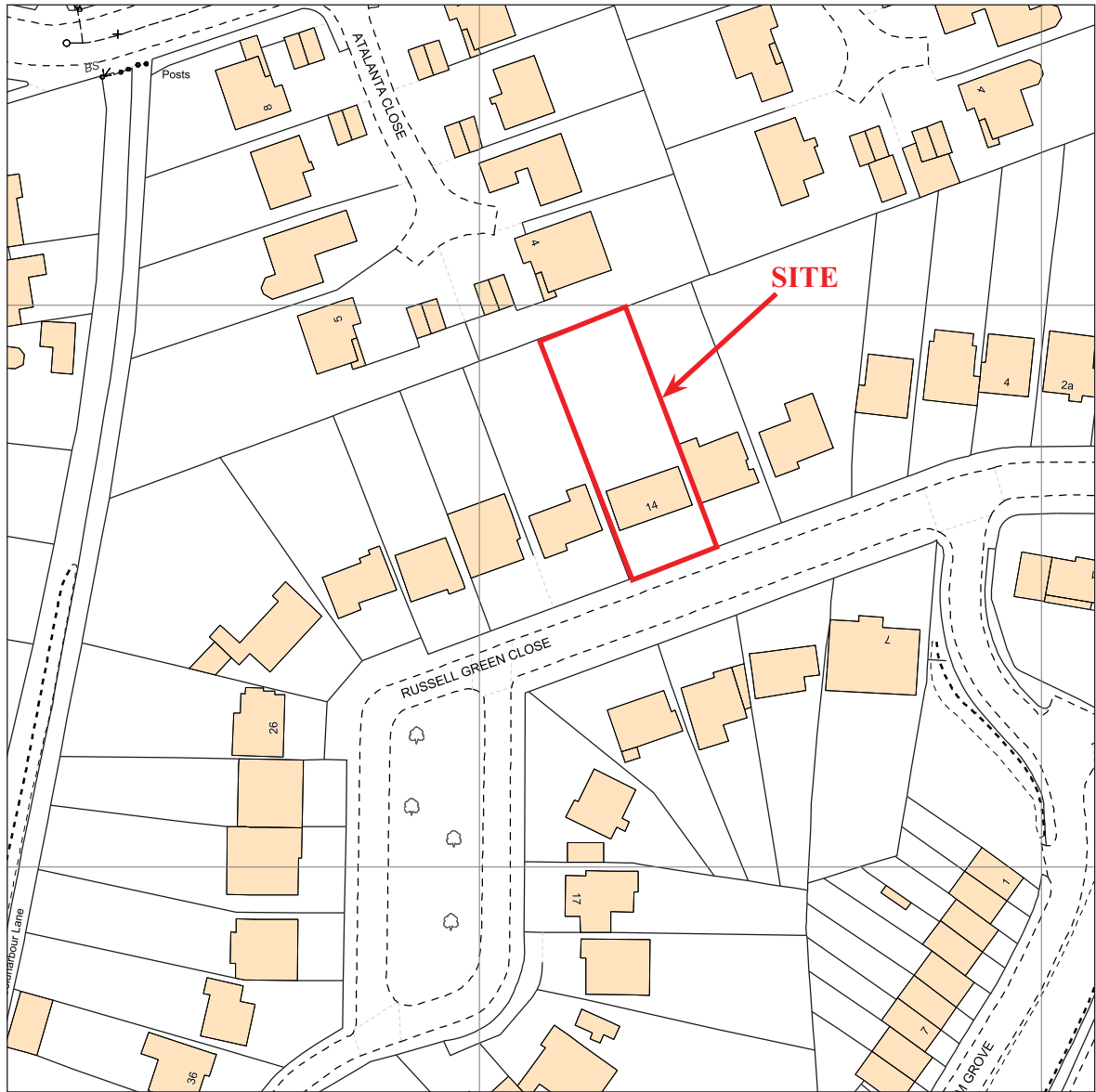
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14 Russell Green Close, Purley,
 London Borough of Croydon, 2020
 Archaeological Evaluation
 Figure 1. Location of site within Purley and
 Greater London.

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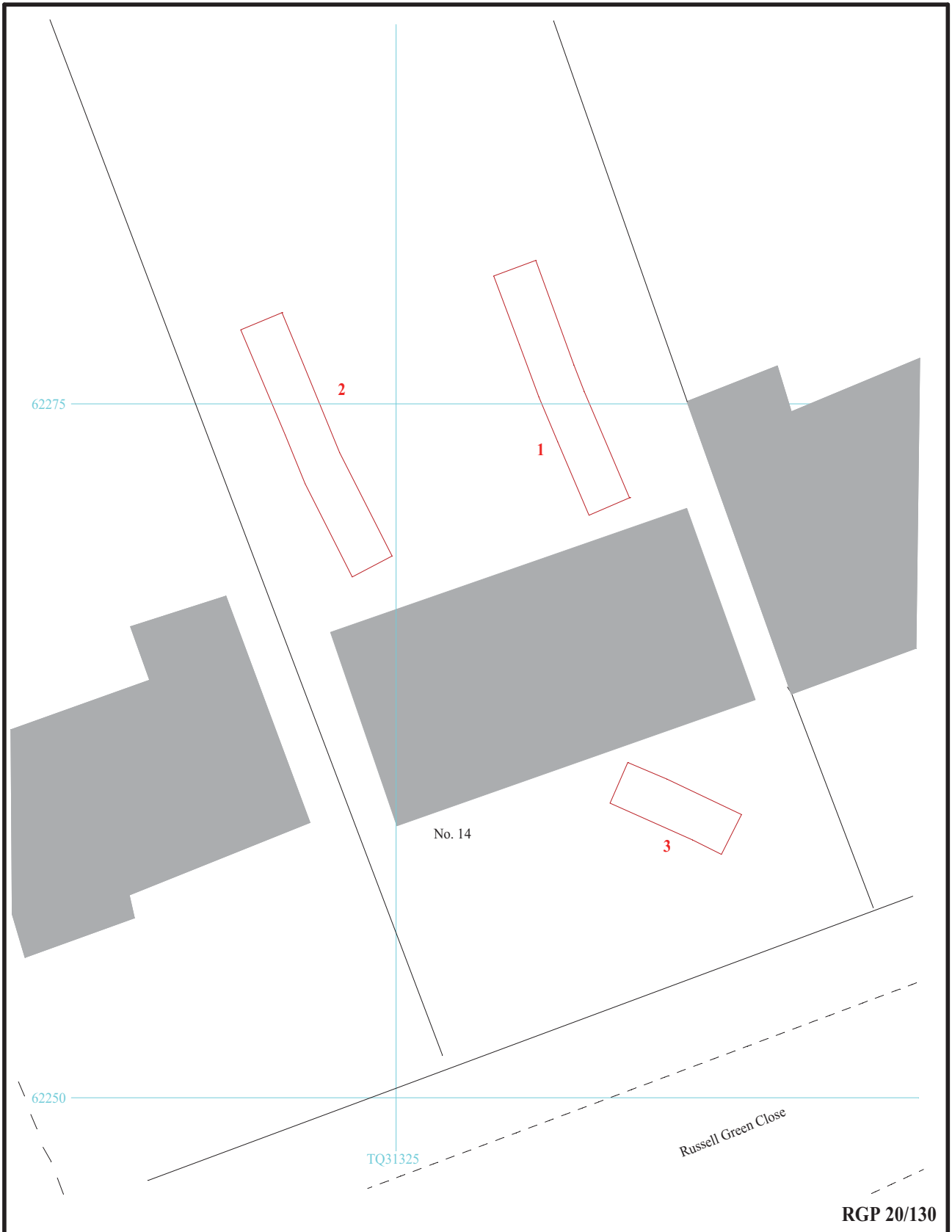
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Russell Green Close.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



N *Trench 1* S 98.16maOD

Topsoil

Chalk (natural geology)

NE *Trench 3* SW 97.16maOD

Made ground

Chalk (natural geology)



SW 16maOD

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Figure 4. Representative sections

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



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



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking South West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

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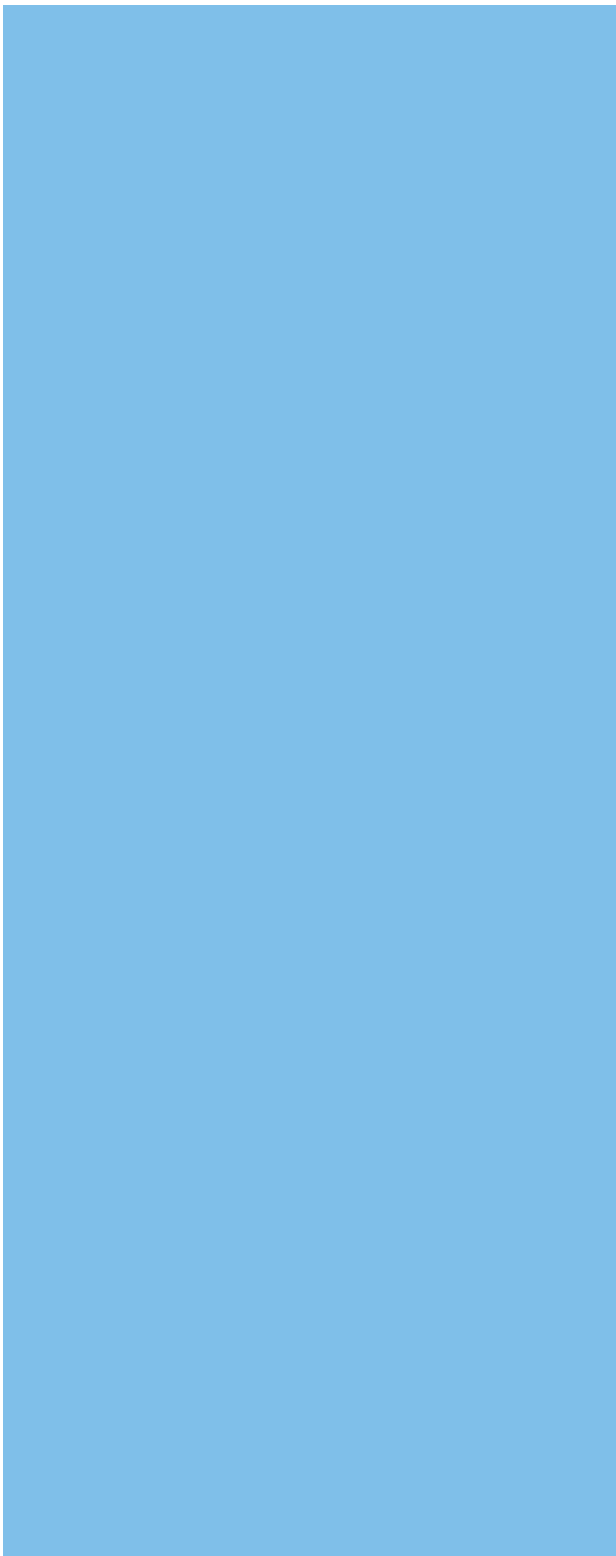
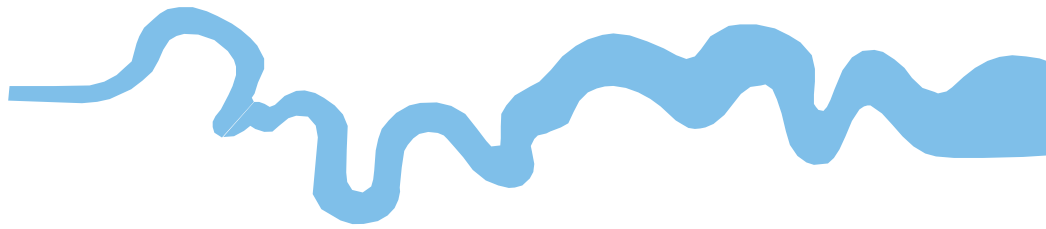
**14 Russell Green Close, Purley,
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Plates 1 - 3.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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