THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sánchez

Site Code: BFS20/167

(TQ 0786 5255)

Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Armour Heritage Ltd

by David Sánchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFS 20/167

November 2020

Summary

Site name: Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0786 5255

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11th – 12th November 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: David Sánchez

Site code: BFS 20/167

Area of site: 0.46ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Britains Farm recorded a low volume of features of archaeological interest located on the western area of the site. One pit produced a group of pottery sherds and struck flints of Late Bronze Age date. Two additional possible pits of uncertain date were also recorded in the same area. A large modern truncation was recorded at the south-west corner of the site and no other features were uncovered in the central or eastern areas.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 25.11.20

Steve Preston ✓ 25.11.20

Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sánchez

Report 20/167

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey KT24 6AX (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd., Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DP.

Planning consent (20/P/01430) has been granted by Guildford Borough Council for the construction of five dwellings and associated access and landscaping. This is subject to a condition (17) related to archaeology. As a possibility of the presence of archaeological deposits in the site which could be damaged or destroyed during the groundworks associated to the development a field evaluation was required following the submission of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (Armour Heritage 2020) and Heritage Assessment (Planning Potential 2020). This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, *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. Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer of Surrey County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sánchez and Emily Gibson between 11th and 12th November 2020 and the site code is BFS 20/167. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Guildford Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the southern margins of the village of West Horsley, which is some 5km to the east of Guildford (Fig. 1). The site itself comprises an irregular parcel of land of 0.46ha currently under rough pasture for horses and sheep, enclosed by a boundary of mature trees. It lies to the south-west of Cranmore Lane with small parcels of land to the south (currently under development), west and north-west, and the building of the Royal British Legion to the east (Fig. 2). The topography of the land is slightly uneven with a slope towards the west and south-west and elevations between c.86m above Ordnance Datum at the north and c.85m aOD at its southern edge. The underlying geology is mapped as Lambeth Group (Clay, silt and sand) and the geology observed in the trenches comprised flint gravels in clay matrix gradually changing into sandy clay with occasional small size gravel inclusions at the western boundary.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been assessed by an Archaeological Impact Assessment (Armour Heritage 2020) and Heritage Statement (Planning Potential 2020). In summary the site lies in the proximity of three Areas of High Archaeological Potential (AHAPs), with one which encroaches into the western extent of the site. Evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity is limited, with findspots of one Neolithic flint axe south of the site and an undated flint implement further to the south-east. A group of inhumations associated with Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins was also recorded at Horsley Down in 1800 (Malden 1912).

An Early Medieval manor is first recorded at West Horsley in the 9th century and later in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams 1992). The manor was held by the Windsor family through much of the 12th century and subsequently granted to the Berners family until the end of the medieval period. Fieldwalking to the west of the site recorded a scatter of early medieval pottery (Bird *et al.* 1990, 205) with two medieval buildings situated 50m south-west and 775m north of the site (Moir 2004; Gray 2001). A group of probably medieval earthworks has also been identified in the Sheepleas area, south-east of the site.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

clarify the presence/absence and extend of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;

identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;

assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extend of archaeological survival of buried deposit; and to

produce a report which presents the results of the evaluation in such detail as to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential.

Four trenches were to be dug, each 30m long and 1.8m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The excavation was to be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery or artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers and spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably exposed the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

Four trenches were dug mainly as intended, though Trenches 1 and 4 were relocated slightly to the west as a consequence of the presence of large trees in the proposed location. The trenches ranged in length between 28.00m and 31.30m and were between 0.40 and 0.80m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 31.10m long and between 0.44 and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of between 0.24–0.30m of topsoil and between 0.20–0.34m subsoil overlying mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix natural geology. At the south-west end of the trench a large truncation was recorded covering 6.50m of the trench and was investigated with a machine dug slot (test pit) at the end of the trench. This slot (4) reached a depth of 1.40m with the natural geology uncovered at a depth of 1.30m and was filled with two deposits, consisting of a primary fill (56) of mid reddish brown silty clay with occasional small chalk and gravel inclusions, overlain by a mixed deposit (55) of light yellowish brown sandy clay and mid greyish brown clay silt considered to be partially a dump of redeposited natural clay. One sherd of 'china' pottery suggesting a modern date for this large truncation was recovered from deposit 56 and was retained on site.

Trench 2 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pls 2, 6 and 7)

Trench 2 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 30.80m long and between 0.72m and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and between 0.36–0.80m subsoil overlying light yellowish brown sandy clay with mid-reddish brown clay patches, natural geology. At the southern end of the trench for an extent of 8m towards the north a large truncation was recorded and is likely to be the continuation of feature 4 investigated in trench 1. At 9.50m and 20.50m from the south end of the trench two heavily rooted areas were investigated to clarify the presence of possible features of archaeological interest, shown to be to small pits (2 and 3). Pit 2 was oval in shape with concave base and shallow sides measuring 0.70m long and 0.64m wide with a depth of 0.14m. It was filled with one deposit of mid greyish brown sandy clay (53) with occasional small chalk inclusions and charcoal flecks. Pit 3 had a similar shape and profile, 0.56m long and 0.44m wide with a depth of 0.12m. It was filled with one deposit of mid reddish brown clay (54) with occasional small chalk inclusions and charcoal flecks. After consultation with the Archaeological Officer of Surrey County Council both pits were fully excavated for finds following recording in half section. The excavation of these two possible pits did not return any finds of archaeological interest though 7g of burnt flint were recovered from a sieved soil sample from Pit 2 (53).

Trench 3 (Figs 3, 4 and 5; Pl. 3 and 5)

Trench 3 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 31.30m long and between 0.44m and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of between 0.20m and 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix natural geology. At 4m from the western end of the trench one small pit (1) was recorded with circular shape, steep sides and concave base, measuring 0.53m diameter and 0.23m deep. It had one fill (52) of mid brownish grey silty clay with small gravel inclusions and charcoal flecks. Following recording in half section this feature was fully excavated, returning 32 sherds of pottery of Late Bronze Age date and 16 struck flints along with 421g of burnt flint.

Trench 4 (Figs 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 28.00m long and between 0.40 and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and between 0.12 and 0.20m subsoil overlying mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix with light brownish yellow clay patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed within this trench though one sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from subsoil (51) spoilheaps.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

The pottery assemblage comprised 33 sherds weighing 290g. All of the 32 sherds from pit 1 in trench 3 were in flint fabrics. Of these 30 (266g) were probably from a single vessel in a moderately coarse flint fabric, F1, including three sherds from an upright or incurved slightly tapering rounded rim from an ovoid or bucket form jar with a wall thickness of up to 9mm. The remaining two sherds (10g) were in a finer flint and grog fabric, GF1, which appeared to have a smoothed exterior and had a wall thickness of 7mm. The fabrics and wall thicknesses of all the pottery from the pit are consistent with a late Bronze Age date.

A single 12mm thick body sherd (14g) from the subsoil in trench 4 is in a much softer grog and quartz tempered fabric. Whilst the wall thickness and grog would suit a middle Bronze Age date the grade and colour of some of the quartz suggest that it is Iron Age.

Fabric descriptions

Late Bronze Age

- **GF1** (medium) Moderately hard, dark grey, micaceous fabric with brown to dark grey surfaces including moderate fine (<1mm) and sparse medium (<2mm) burnt sub-angular flint, moderate fine (<1mm) and medium (<2mm) and medium/coarse (<4mm) sub-rounded grog. Surface may be smoothed.
- F1 (medfium/coarse) Moderately hard, grey, slightly micaceous fabric with grey to buff red surfaces including poorly sorted common to abundant fine (<1mm), and sparse to moderate medium (<2mm) and medium/coarse (<4mm) burnt sub-angular flint.

Undated

GQ1 (medium) Moderately soft, grey sandy silt fabric including common to abundant fine (<0.5mm) and sparse medium (<1mm) and rare medium coarse sub-rounded quartz, some iron stained, sparse fine (<1mm), medium (<2mm), medium/coarse (<4mm) and rare coarse (<8mm) mainly sub-rounded pink to grey grog and rare to sparse fine (<1mm) to medium/coarse (<3mm) iron oxides

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of 16 struck flints was recovered from pit 1(52) from Trench 3. Including pieces recorded from sieved samples, the assemblage comprised twelve flakes (three of which were burnt and one was patinated), a core, two core fragments and a scraper.

With the exception of the patinated flake, which looked to be residual, the remaining flintwork was fresh and made from the local gravel. As a collection it had the appearance of being crudely produced- enough skill and knowledge to know how to knap but no specific design nor advanced technique evident. It would be entirely characteristic of a later Bronze Age assemblage as indicated by the associated pottery.

Burnt flint by David Sánchez

Pit 1 contained 421g of burnt flint including sieved material and pit 2 contained 7g

Charred Plant Remains by Elspeth St John-Brooks

Three bulk soil samples <1> to <3> were taken from three pits (1-3) for the recovery of environmental remains. The samples were floated and wet sieved using a 0.25mm sieve and air dried and the flots were retained. The flot was examined under a hand lens and microscope at magnifications between x8 and x60. Identification of charcoal was carried out using online resources (http://www.plantatlas.eu/za.php and http://www.woodanatomy.ch/) and aided by the wood identification guides of Schweingruber (1978) and Hather (2000). Taxa is only identified to genus as charcoal remains lack the defining characteristics to make species identification possible.

Just one sample contained charcoal fragments with features visible for identification <1> with the other two samples contained very small amounts of micro charcoal. No seeds were found in any of the samples.

Sample <1> (Pit 1 (52)) contained mostly coniferous wood type from pine (*Pinus*) with 100+ fragments with a maximum size of 1.7cm but the majority of fragments <0.5cm. A very small selection of oak (*Quercus*) fragments were identified <0.3cm. These are both dryland species.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at Britains Farm revealed a number of features of archaeological interest located on the western area of the site. A small group of Late Bronze Age pottery sherds and struck flints were recovered from one pit at the western end of trench 3 with two more possible pits of uncertain date recorded in trench 2 along the western edge of the site. At least part of the south-west corner of the site showed to be heavily truncated by a large feature of modern date and uncertain nature and the central and eastern areas of the site did not revealed any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

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http://www.plantatlas.eu/za.php - Online Digital Plant Atlas

http://www.woodanatomy.ch/ -

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-411673

Project details

Proiect name Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey

Short description of the project

The archaeological evaluation at Britains Farm recorded a low volume of features of archaeological interest located on the western area of the site. One pit produced a group of pottery sherds and struck flints of Late Bronze Age date. Two additional possible pits of uncertain date were also recorded in the same area. A large modern truncation was recorded at the south-west corner of the site and no other features were uncovered in the

central or eastern areas.

Project dates Start: 11-11-2020 End: 12-11-2020

Previous/future

work

No / Yes

Any associated

project reference codes

BFS20/167 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes

20/P/01430 - Planning Application No.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area

Current Land use Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed

Monument type PIT Late Bronze Age

Monument type PITS Uncertain

Significant Finds **CERAMICS Late Bronze Age**

Significant Finds LITHICS Late Prehistoric Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country

Site location SURREY GUILDFORD WEST HORSLEY Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street

Study area 0.46 Hectares

Site coordinates TQ 0786 5255 51.261374807867 -0.453976367397 51 15 40 N 000 27 14 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 80m Max: 81m

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

Armour Heritage

Project

Tim Dawson

director/manager

Project supervisor David Sanchez

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Armour Heritage

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient

Guildford Museum

Physical Contents

"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive

recipient

Guildford Museum

Digital Contents

Digital Media

"other"

available

"Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient

Guildford Museum

Paper Contents

"Ceramics", "Environmental", "Stratigraphic", "Survey", "Worked stone/lithics", "other"

Paper Media available

"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous

Material", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Sanchez, D

Other

bibliographic

details

2020 Date

Issuer or publisher Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Place of issue or publication

Reading

20/167

Description

A4 comb-bound client report

URL

http://tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp

Entered by

Steve Preston (tvas@tvas.co.uk)

Entered on

5 January 2021

OASIS:

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or SW end

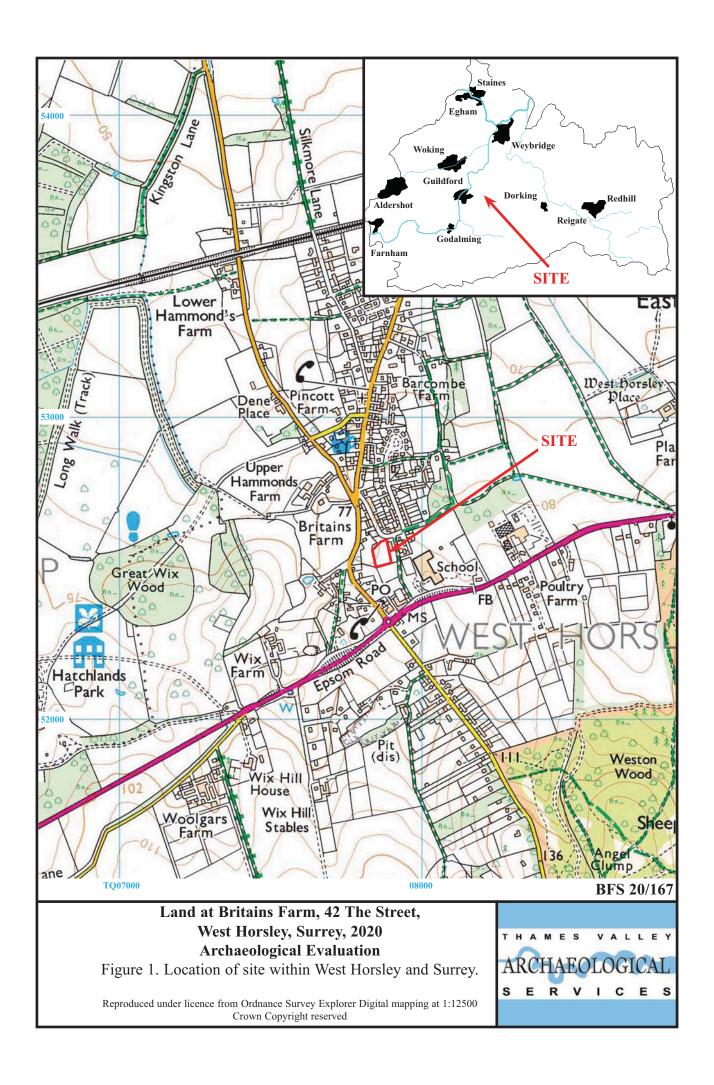
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	31.10	1.80	0.44 - 0.64	0–0.24/0.30m topsoil, 0.24/0.30-0.44/0.64m subsoil, 0.44/0.64m+ mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix natural geology [Pl. 1].
2	30.80	1.80	0.72 - 0.80	0-0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.66/0.80m subsoil, 0.66/0.80m+ light yellowish brown sandy clay with mid reddish brown clay patches natural geology, Pits 2 and 3. [Pls 2, 6 and 7].
3	31.30	1.80	0.44 - 0.50	0-0.20/0.25m topsoil, 0.20/0.25-0.35/0.40m subsoil, 0.35/0.40m+ mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix natural geology, Pit 1. [Pls 3 and 5].
4	28.00	1.80	0.40 - 0.56	0-0.18/0.20m topsoil, 0.18/0.20-0.30/0.40m subsoil, 0.30/0.40m mid yellowish brown gravel in silty clay matrix with light brownish yellow clay patches natural geology [Pl. 4].

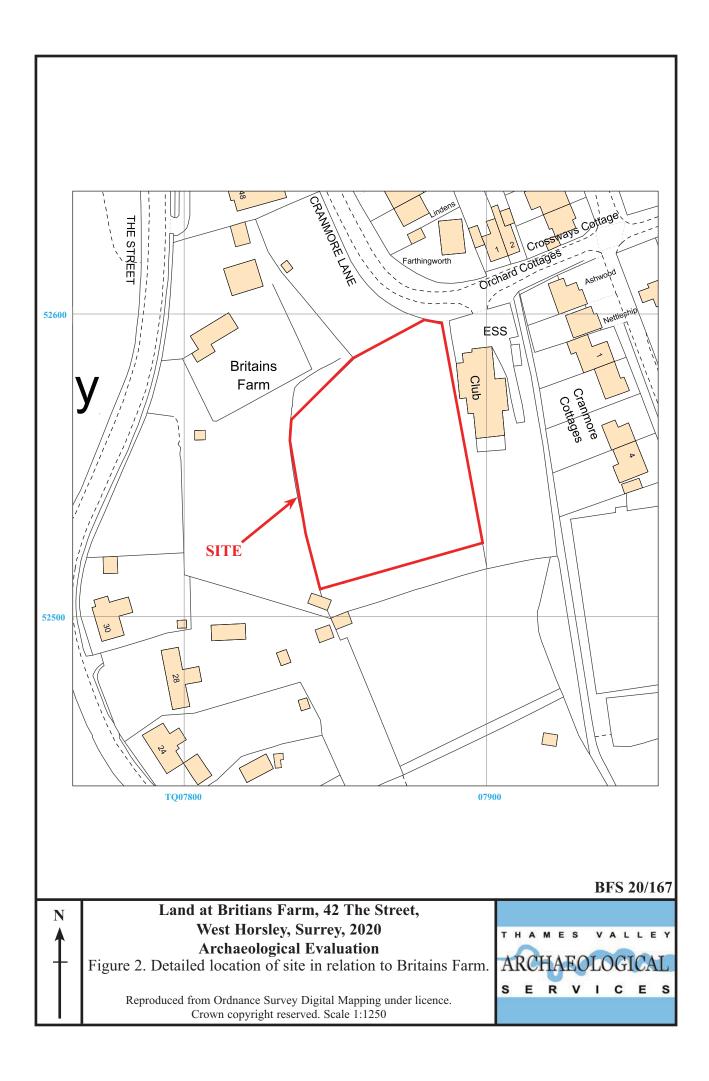
APPENDIX 2: Feature details

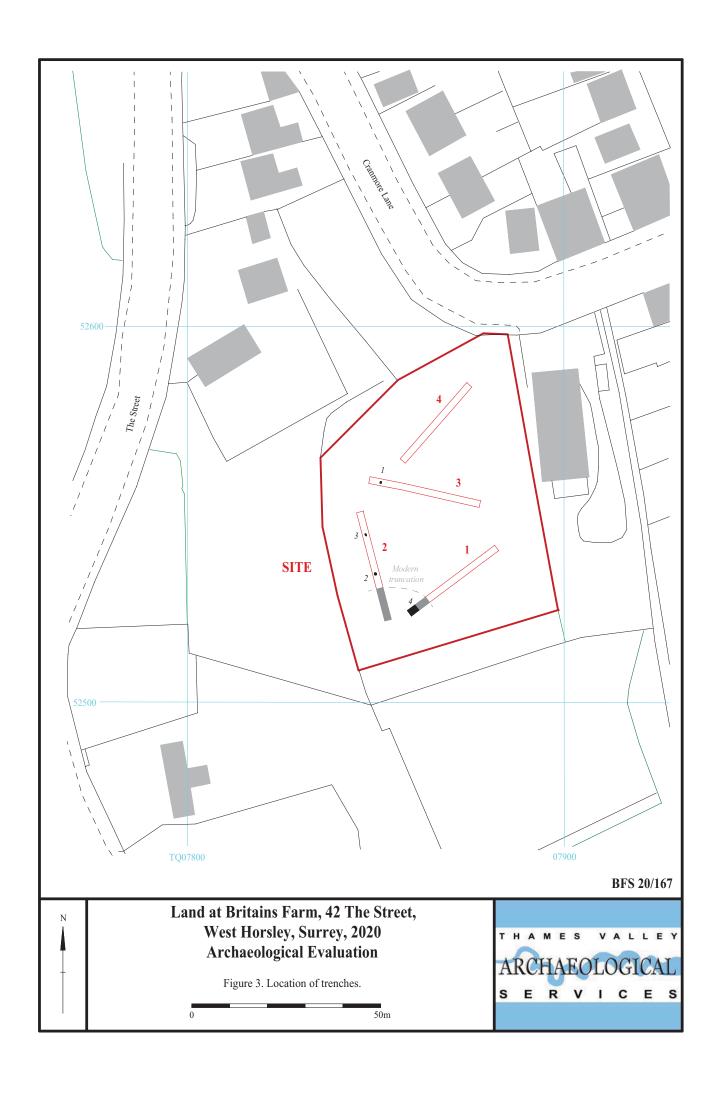
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Туре	Date	Dating evidence
3	1	52	Pit	Late Bronze Age	Pottery
2	2	53	Pit	Undated	-
2	3	54	Pit	Undated	-
1	4	55, 56	Truncation	Modern	Pottery

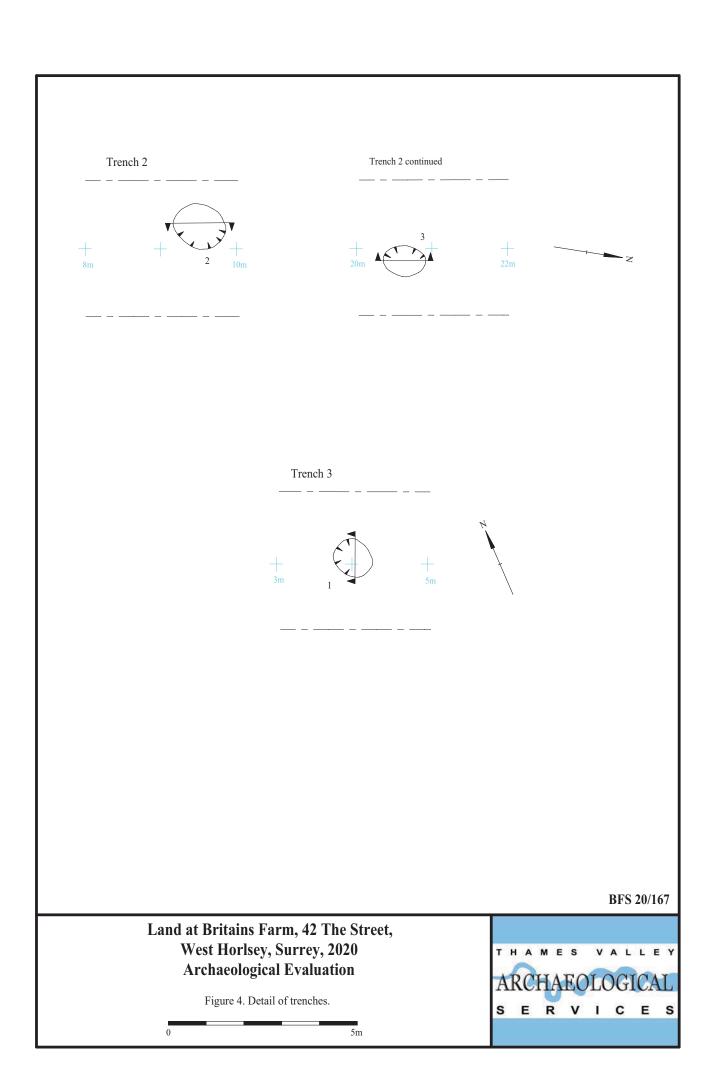
APPENDIX 3: Pottery

Trench	Cut	Fill	Туре	No	Wt (g)
4		51	Subsoil	1	23
3	1	52	Pit	32	287









Trench 3 N S 81.33moOD 1 Trench 2 Trench 2 NNW SSE 81.32m SSE NNW 80.57m 2 3

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Figure 5. Sections.

) lm





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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking South, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 1 and 2.





Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North West, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking North East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 3 and 4.





Plate 5. Trench 3, pit 1, looking South East, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 2, pit 2, looking North East, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 7. Trench 2, pit 3, looking South West, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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Land at Britains Farm, 42 The Street, West Horsley, Surrey, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 5 - 7.



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	AD 0 BC 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
↓	V



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