

Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: WRC20/155

(TQ 3352 5698)

Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Antler Homes PLC

Planning References: TA/2019/325 and TA/2019/1699

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRC 20/155

November 2020

Summary

Site name: Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 3352 5698

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning references: TA/2019/325 and TA/2019/1699

Date and duration of project: 9th - 10th November 2020

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: WRC 20/155

Area of site: *c*. 1.71 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development of the site for housing. Several of the features recorded were filled with an identical light brownish grey silty clay with gravel inclusions (1, 2, 3, 7 and 9). The sterile nature of these deposits suggests that these features may just be natural geological hollows. A pit (6) in trench 2 and the linear features recorded in trenches 7, 8 and 9 were more convincingly cut features, but yielded no dating evidence. It is likely that the linear features are associated with the former use of the site as a nursery.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 19.11.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 19.11.20

TVAS South, 77a Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton, BN1 7HB

Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/155

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the rear of Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey (TQ 3352 5698) (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris White of Antler Homes Plc, Portland House, Park Street, Bagshot, Surrey, GU19 5AQ.

Planning permission has been granted by Tandridge District Council to re-develop the site for residential purposes. Two planning applications (TA/2019/325 and TA/2019/1699) cover the western (Phase 1) and eastern (Phase 2) parts of the site respectively. Both consents are subject to standard planning conditions relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of the new development. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the development, it was proposed to carry out a field evaluation in order to assess the site's archaeological potential and to inform the preparation of a mitigation strategy if appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Surrey Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Nigel Randall) who advises the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Elisabet Diaz Pila, Virginia Fuentes and Sean Wallis between 9th and 10th November 2020, and the site code is WRC 20/155. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located immediately to the east of Whyteleafe Road, to the north of the historic core of Caterham, Surrey (TQ 3352 5698) (Figs 1 and 2). The site consists of an irregular shaped plot of land which is bounded to the west by properties fronting onto Whyteleafe Road, to the north and east by largely wooded residential gardens, and to the south by St Francis' School. The western part of the site (Phase 1) had previously consisted of back gardens for the houses on Whyteleafe Road, and a number of trees had recently been cut down. The eastern part of the site (Phase 2) was covered in grass, with a few mature trees, and had formerly been part of a large garden. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 177m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Clay-with-flints Deposits (BGS 1978), and this was confirmed during the evaluation.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site derives from its location on the North Downs Plateau, which is an area known to be rich in early Palaeolithic artefacts (Wymer 1987; WA 1993). Stray finds from the later prehistoric periods have been made in the vicinity, and a possible Neolithic flint mine was recorded in Whyteleafe (Farley 1973). War Coppice Camp, a multivallate Iron Age hillfort, is situated to the south of the site, towards the end of Caterham Valley (Hope-Taylor 1950). No evidence of Roman activity is recorded in the close vicinity of the site, but medieval remains were recorded about 1km to the south, to the rear of The King and Queen Public House (Russell 1983). Evaluation immediately to the north revealed no deposits nor artefacts of interest (Attard 2020).

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 the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Sixteen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 20m in length. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Any archaeological features revealed were to be excavated or sampled sufficiently to address the aims outlined above, with the exception of any that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although some had to be moved slightly to avoid trees (Fig 3 and 4). One of the proposed trenches (14) was meant to be dug across the access from Whyteleafe Road, but this would have seriously disrupted the contractors who were clearing the western part of the site of trees and vegetation. Following a discussion with the Surrey County Council Archaeologist it was agreed that trench 14 was not required, based on the fact that nothing of note had been found in the trenches (12, 13 and 15) around its location. Due to the restrictions which were in place due to Covid 19, the site meeting with the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Nigel Randall) was carried out via a video call on 10th November.

The remaining 15 trenches were all 1.80m wide, and measured between 17.20m and 22.70m in length, and between 0.42m and 0.79m in depth (Figs 3 and 4). 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 4 and 8; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 20.50m long and up to 0.44m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 4, 5 and 7; Pls 2, 10 and 11)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 22.70m long and up to 0.57m deep. The natural Claywith-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.29m of topsoil (50) and 0.19m of subsoil (51). A large pit (6) was investigated at the northern end of the trench. The pit measured at least 5m by 1.80m, and was only partially exposed in the trench. An initial hand dug slot revealed a single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (57) with moderate chalk and gravel inclusions. As no finds were recovered from this fairly sterile deposit, the Surrey County Council Archaeologist suggested that further excavation take place by machine, primarily to find dating evidence. Machine excavation revealed that the pit was approximately 2m deep, below the present ground surface, but produced no finds. The pit lay beneath a ceramic land drain which ran the entire length of the trench.

A former trackway was visible as an earthwork, along the entire length of the eastern part of the site. Although covered with grass, this feature was revealed in the southern part of the trench and consisted of concrete and brick rubble. A possible gully (7) was recorded beneath the trackway, and its terminus was excavated by hand. The feature was up to 0.72m wide, but only 0.05m deep, and no finds were recovered from its fill of light brownish grey silty clay (58), which had moderate gravel inclusions. It is possible that the feature could be geological in origin as was the interpretation of similar gravelly patches elsewhere.

Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 20.40m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.12m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 4 (Fig. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 19.90m long and up to 0.48m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 5 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 20.00m long and up to 0.52m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 20.20m long and up to 0.42m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.24m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 7 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 7)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 21.50m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.29m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). Two possible pits (2 and 3) were investigated, but it is likely that both could be geological. Both were sub-circular in plan, and not fully visible within the trench. Feature 2 measured at least 0.55m by 0.50m, and was up to 0.11m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of light brownish grey silty clay (53), which contained moderate gravel inclusions. Feature 3 measured at least 0.65m in diameter, and was up to 0.25m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of light brownish grey silty clay (54).

Trench 8 (Figs 4, 5 and 7)

This trench was orientated approximately NNW-SSE, and was 21.10m long and up to 0.52m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.14m of subsoil (51). A possible sub-circular pit (1) was investigated in the central part of the trench, but again it is likely that this feature could be geological in origin. The feature measured at least 0.65m by 0.48m, but was only 0.07m deep. No finds were recovered from its fill of light brownish grey silty clay, which contained moderate gravel inclusions. Gully 8 was recorded at the northern end of the trench. A hand dug slot through the gully revealed that it was up to 0.62m wide and 0.14m deep, with a single fill of mid reddish brown silty clay (59). No finds

were recovered from the feature, which is probably the same gully as that recorded in trench 9 (5). Two ceramic land drains were also noted within the trench.

Trench 9 (Figs 4, 5 and 7; Pls 8 and 9)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 18.20m long and up to 0.48m deep. The natural Claywith-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.27m of topsoil (50) and 0.13m of subsoil (51). The topsoil contained quite a lot of broken glass, and historic maps indicate that a greenhouse previously stood in this area in the past. Gully 4 was recorded at the southern end of the trench, and a slot was excavated through it by hand. This revealed that the feature was up to 0.93m wide and 0.27m deep, with a single fill of light reddish brown silty clay (55) which produced no archaeological finds. Gully 5 in the central part of the trench is probably the same as that recorded in the trench 8 (8). Gully 5 was up to 0.64m wide and 0.13m deep, with a single fill of light reddish brown silty clay (56). No archaeological finds were recovered from the feature.

Trench 10 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 20.70m long and up to 0.79m deep. It was moved slightly from its original proposed position due to the presence of some trees. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.36m of topsoil (50) and 0.32m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench. There was quite a lot of concrete within the topsoil which probably relates to the greenhouses which once stood in this part of the site.

Trench 11 (Figs 3, 6 and 7; Pls 5 and 12)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 20.10m long and up to 0.52m deep. The natural Claywith-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.31m of topsoil (50) and 0.12m of subsoil (51). A possible gully (9) was recorded at the western end of the trench, and a slot was excavated through it by hand. This revealed that the feature was up to 0.90m wide and 0.21m deep, with a single fill of light brownish grey silty clay (60). A fragment of burnt flint was retrieved from the surface of the feature, but no further finds were recovered during its excavation. The sterile nature of the fill and slightly irregular shape in plan suggests that it may in fact be geological in origin.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 20.50m long and up to 0.63m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.22m of made ground, 0.23m of buried topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench, although the concrete base for a fence post was noted at the northern end of the trench along with a ceramic land drain.

Trench 13 (Figs 3 and 8)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 17.20m long and up to 0.54m deep. The natural Claywith-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.33m of topsoil (50) and 0.15m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench, although a land drain was noted in the central part.

Trench 14

This trench was not excavated as it would have disrupted access to the site.

Trench 15 (Figs 3 and 8; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately NNW-SSE, and was 22.00m long and up to 0.54m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.38m of topsoil (50) and 0.09m of subsoil (51). Some re-deposited natural was present above the topsoil at the southern end of the trench, which probably represents spoil from the nearby swimming pool. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 20.40m long and up to 0.52m deep. The natural Clay-with-flints geology was generally revealed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Finds

Burnt Flint by Sean Wallis

A single fragment of burnt flint, weighing 25g, was found on the surface of feature 9 (60) in trench 11.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation at Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. Quite a few of the features recorded were filled with a light brownish grey silty clay with gravel inclusions (1, 2, 3, 7 and 9). The sterile nature of these deposits suggests that the features may just be natural geological hollows. The pit (6) in trench 2 and the linear features recorded in trenches 7, 8 and 9 were more convincing, but yielded no dating evidence. It is likely that the linear features are associated with the former use of the site as a nursery.

References

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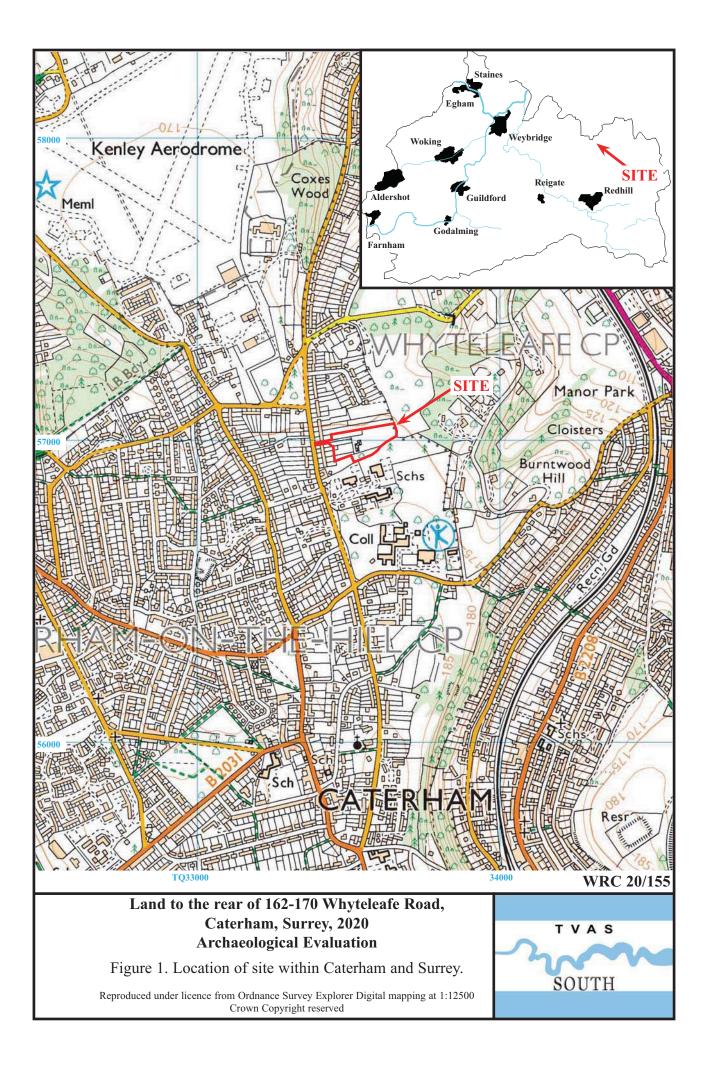
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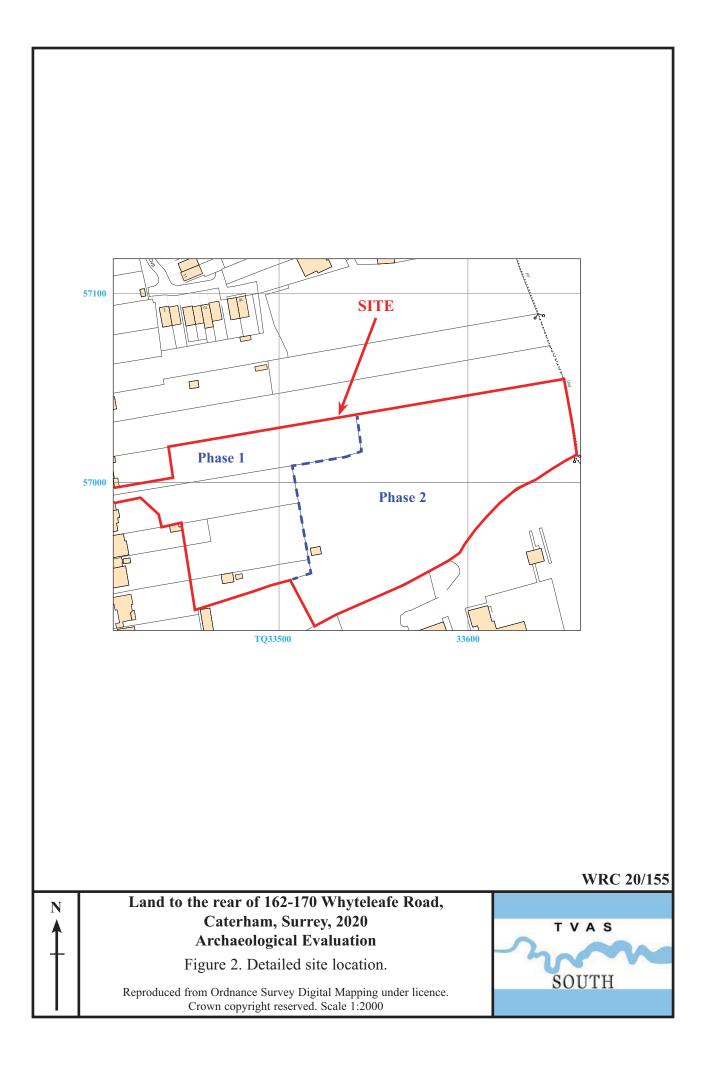
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1 20.50		1.80	0.44	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.44m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Pl. 1
2	22.70	1.80	0.57	0-0.29m topsoil (50); 0.29-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.57m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Pit 6 and gully 7. Pls 2, 10 and 11
3	20.40	1.80	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.50m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints).
4	19.90	1.80	0.48	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.48m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints).
5	20.00	1.80	0.52	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.52m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Pl. 3
6	20.20	1.80	0.42	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34-0.42m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints).
7	21.50	1.80	0.50	0-0.29m topsoil (50); 0.29-0.44m subsoil (51); 0.44-0.50m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Features 2 and 3. Pl. 7
8	21.10	1.80	0.52	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.52m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Feature 1 and gully 8.
9	18.20	1.80	0.48	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40-0.48m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Gullies 4 and 5. Pls 8 and 9
10	20.70	1.80	0.79	0-0.36m topsoil (50); 0.36-0.68m subsoil (51); 0.68-0.79m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Pl. 4
11	20.10	1.80	0.52	0-0.31m topsoil (50); 0.31-0.43m subsoil (51); 0.43-0.52m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Gully 9. Pls 5 and 12
12	20.50	1.80	0.63	0-0.22m made ground; 0.22-0.45m buried topsoil (50); 0.45-0.52m subsoil
				(51); 0.52-0.63m+ natural geology (Clay with flints).
13	17.20	1.80	0.54	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.48m subsoil (51); 0.48-0.54m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints).
14	-	-	-	Not Dug.
15	22.00	1.80	0.54	0-0.38m topsoil (50); 0.38-0.47m subsoil (51); 0.47-0.54m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints). Pl. 6
16	20.40	1.80	0.52	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.36m subsoil (51); 0.36-0.52m+ natural geology
				(Clay with flints).

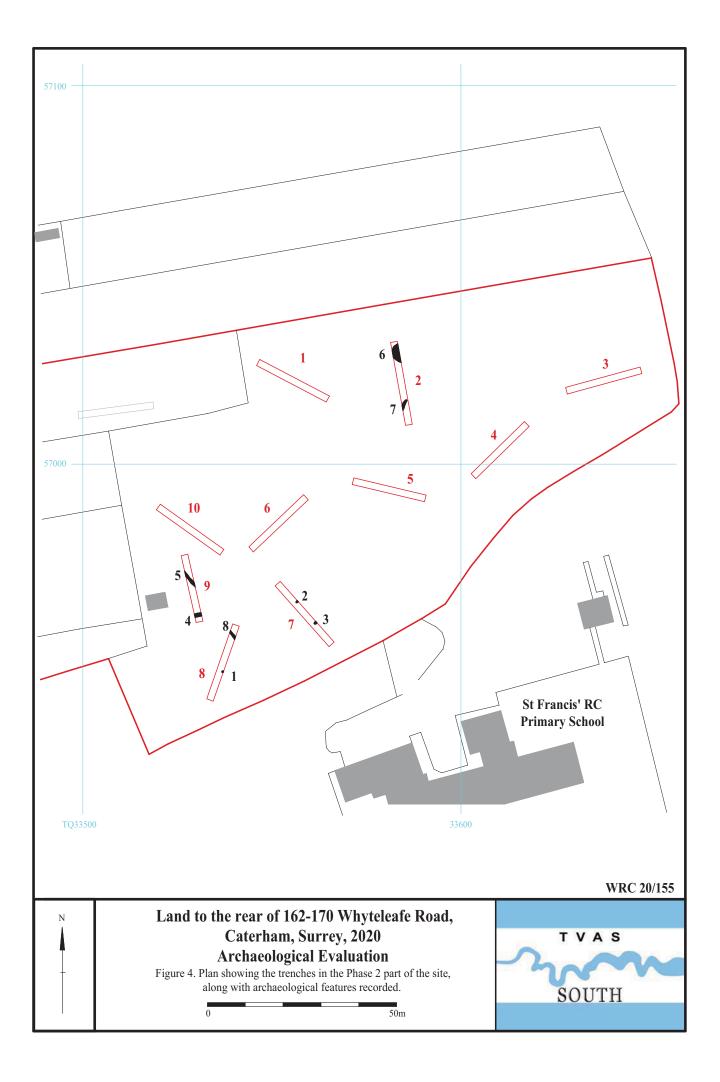
APPENDIX 2: Feature details

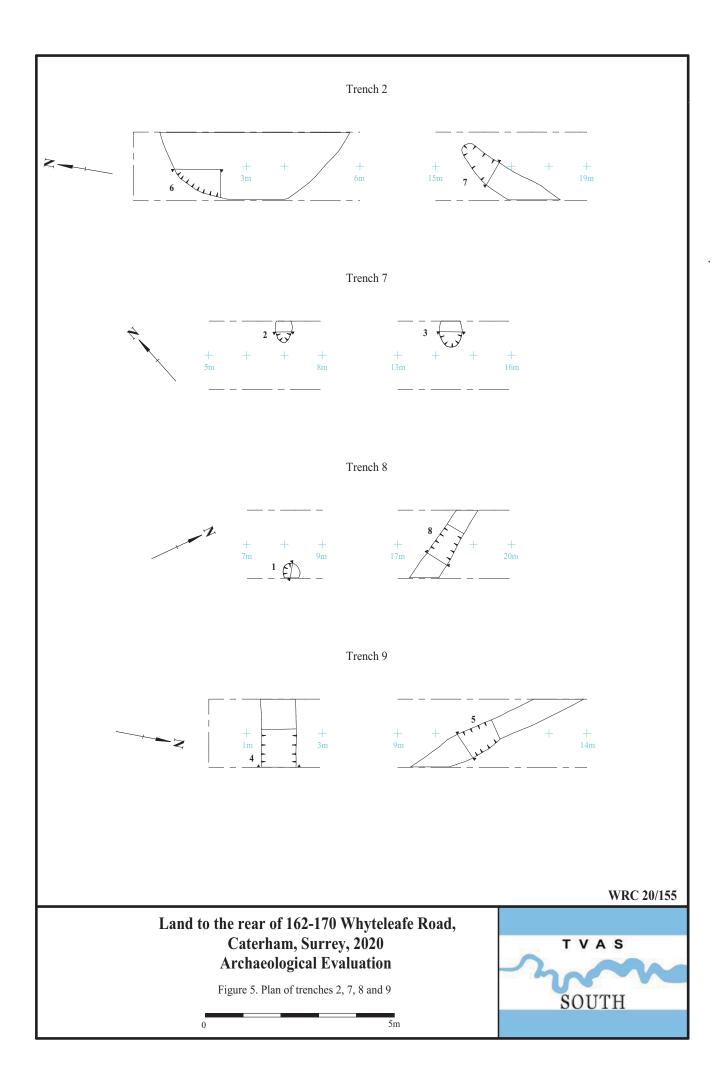
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Туре	Date	Dating evidence / comments
8	1	52	Pit / natural hollow	Undated	
7	2	53	Pit / natural hollow	Undated	
7	3	54	Pit / natural hollow	Undated	
9	4	55	Gully	Undated	
9	5	56	Gully	Undated	Probably the same feature as 8.
2	6	57	Large pit	Undated	
2	7	58	Gully / natural hollow	Undated	
8	8	59	Gully	Undated	Probably the same feature as 5.
11	9	60	Gully / natural hollow	Undated	

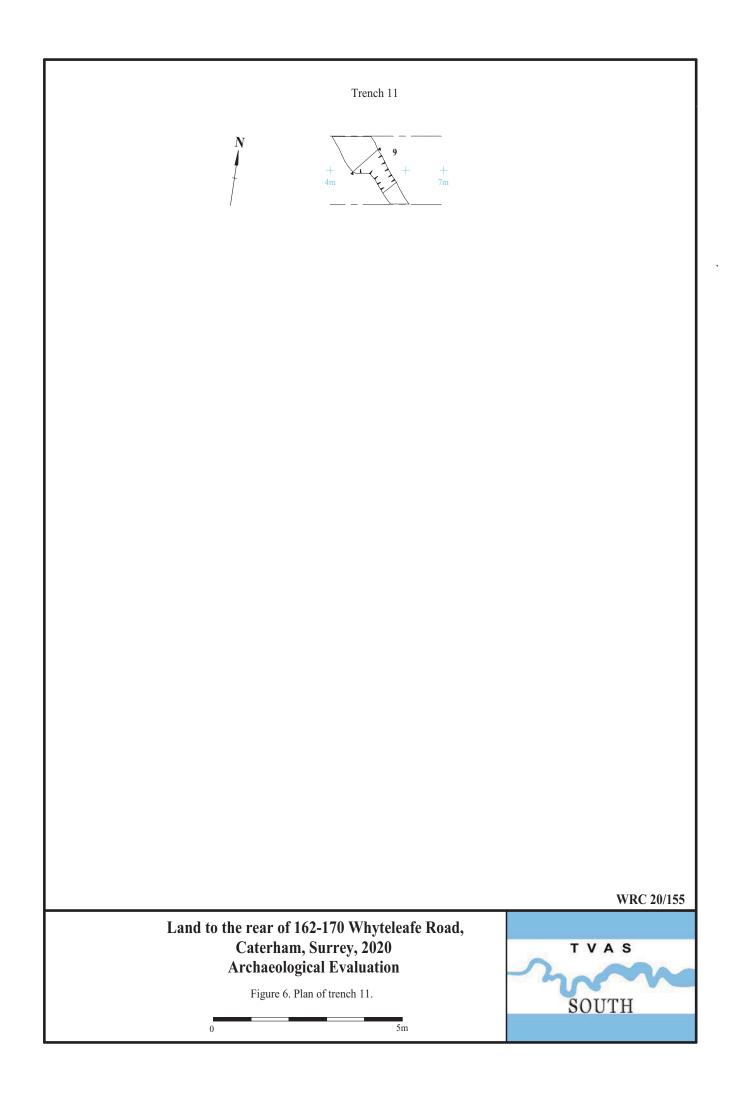


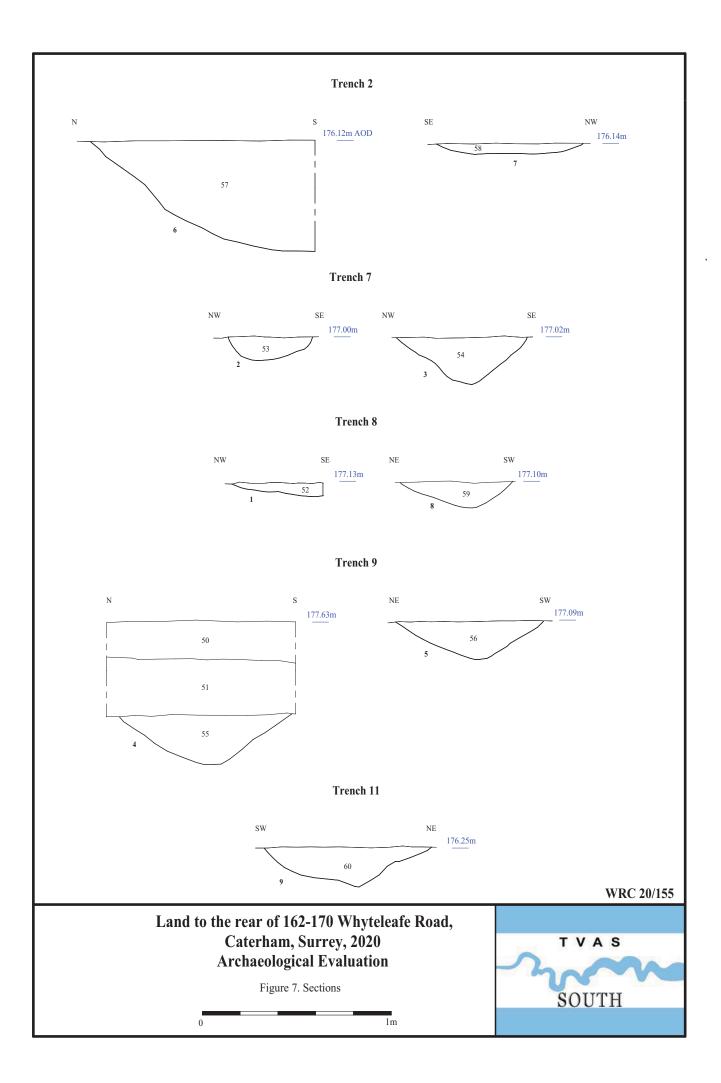












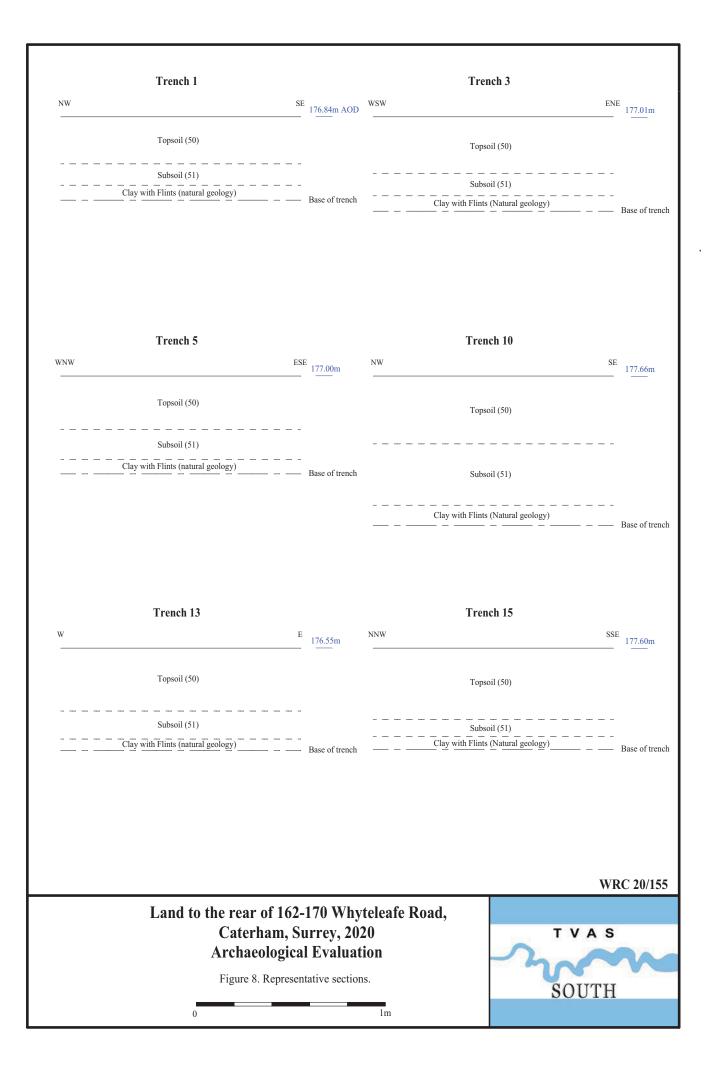




Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South-east. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



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



Plate 3. Trench 5, looking West. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 10, looking South-east. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

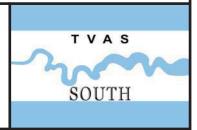


Plate 5. Trench 11, looking West. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 15, looking North-north-west. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 1 to 6.



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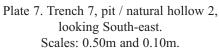




Plate 8. Trench 9, gully 4, looking East. Scales: 1m and 0.10m.



Plate 9. Trench 9, gully 5, looking South-east. Scales: 1m and 0.10m.



Plate 10. Trench 2, pit 6, looking East. Scales: 1m and 0.50m.



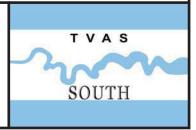
Plate 11. Trench 2, test pit through pit 6, looking South-south-east. Scale: 2m.



Plate 12. Trench 11, gully / natural hollow 9, looking North-west. Scales: 1m and 0.10m.

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Land to the rear of 162-170 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey, 2020 Archaeological Evaluation Plates 7 to 12.



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
\checkmark	*



TVAS (South), 77a Hollingdean Terrace Brighton, BN1 7HB

Tel: 01273 554198 Email: south@tvas.co.uk Web: www.tvas.co.uk/south

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