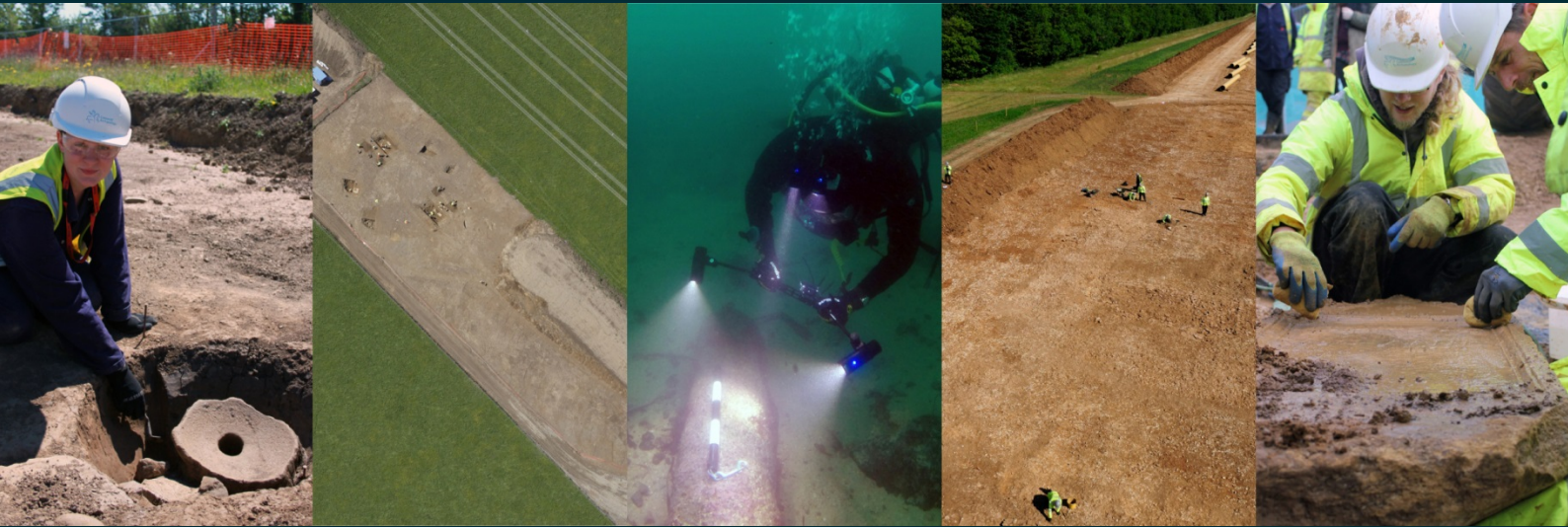


Broadoaks West Byfleet Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation



for
Nexus Heritage

on behalf of
Octagon Developments
Ltd

CA Project: 770431
CA Report: 16540

September 2016



Broadoaks West Byfleet Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770431
CA Report: 16540



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CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	3
2.	ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
3.	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	7
4.	METHODOLOGY.....	7
5.	RESULTS (FIGS 2-9).....	8
6.	DISCUSSION.....	10
7.	CA PROJECT TEAM.....	10
8.	REFERENCES.....	11
	APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS	12
	APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	14

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features
- Fig. 3 Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scales)
- Fig. 4 Section of ditch 306 and Trench 3 side, looking south-east (0.2m scale)
- Fig. 5 Trench 4, looking south-west (1m scales)
- Fig. 6 Excavated intersection of ditches 406 and 408, looking west (0.5m scale)
- Fig. 7 Trench 5, looking north (1m scales)
- Fig. 8 Trench 6, looking north (1m scales)
- Fig. 9 Test pit in southern end of Trench 6, looking south-west (1m scale)

Summary

Project Name:	Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey
Location:	West Byfleet, Surrey
NGR:	TQ 04750 60780
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21-23 September
Location of Archive:	TBC
Site Code:	WBY16

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 at Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey. Six trenches were excavated.

The trenches were located around the perimeter of the site, targeting areas not investigated during previous archaeological work.

An undated ditch was revealed running northwest-southeast across Trenches 3 & 4, truncating an earlier undated ditch. No further features, other than modern disturbance, land drains, and a small number of tree throws were revealed. No artefacts were recovered from the excavated features or excavated spoil.

The evaluation was able to identify significant areas of modern ground disturbance as the result of the construction of a data centre in 2008.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In September 2016, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Nexus Heritage on behalf of Octagon Developments at Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey (centred on NGR: TQ 04750 60780; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken to accompany a proposed for planning application for a residential led development to Woking Borough Council (WBA) – the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out following consultation by Nexus Heritage with the Surrey Heritage Conservation Team (SHCT), the archaeological advisor to the LPA, and in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)* produced by CA (2016) and approved by SHCT. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014)*. It was monitored by Alex Egginton of the SHCT, including a site visits on 23 September 2016.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 15ha, and lies on a very slight slope, dropping slightly from west to east. The western edge of site is at c.27m AOD, and the eastern edge at c. 19m AOD.
- 1.4 The land is presently occupied by Broadoaks House and ancillary buildings and largely laid to managed park, together with the modern Sherwood Data Centre, completed in 2008 located to the south-west of Broadoaks House. Two artificial ponds and a mound were created during the construction of the Data Centre, across the south of the site.
- 1.5 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Bagshot Formation, in this area Sands. Sedimentary bedrock formed in the Palaeogene Period 34 to 56 million years ago. Superficial deposits of Kempton Park Gravel Formation are recorded over the area of Trenches 2 to 4, and Lynch Hill Gravel Member in the area of Trenches 5 to 7. These sands and gravels are riverine deposits formed in the Quaternary Period up to 2 million years ago (BGS, 2016).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A Heritage Statement to support the proposed application has been prepared (NH 2015). A summary of the archaeological and historical evidence, which reviewed an Assessment Area within a 1km radius of the site with data from the Surrey Historic Environment Record (SHER) is presented below.

Prehistoric

2.2 There are a few known prehistoric archaeological remains from within the Assessment Area, with the main evidence for prehistoric utilisation of this area coming from the site itself

2.3 No archaeological features obviously dating to the early prehistoric, Palaeolithic to Neolithic periods, have been found, however, a number of finds have been recovered from pits of an unknown, but likely prehistoric, date. The evidence recovered from the site itself (SCAU 2001a) is not absolutely dateable to any particular period as it comprises 'calcined flint and burnt clay fragments' which are likely 'to be of prehistoric origin'. These appear to have been confined to small pit features. Further prehistoric finds have been found to the north-east of the site, the closest is a Bronze Age/Neolithic tool find site from an excavation on Parvis Road around 500m from the applications site. Further again to the north-east, around 1km distant, a Neolithic Axe was recovered from Dartnell Park near Willow Way In 1906.

2.4 The later prehistoric is represented by only a single find site. This is a pair of small red coarseware bowls of possible Iron Age or Roman date which were found around 600m to the northwest near the railway station in 1910.

2.5 A great number of cropmarks have been seen in the assessment area which cannot, at present, be dated. A number of these are linear and curvilinear features and may represent field systems. All of these appear to pre-date the field systems or common land in place at the time of the first extant tithe map of 1841. As mentioned above, these cannot be dated, but it is now thought that the landscape changed very little in terms of organisation of parcels of land between the Bronze Age and the early 19th century, it is therefore possible that these may be of this age. A second set of cropmarks are the remains of two large oval features, again undated, but again possibly prehistoric.

- 2.6 The presence of calcined flints and coarse ceramics are broadly indicative of a Neolithic-Bronze Age date and for this reason the potential for finds of these periods to occur on site is considered high, but for the other prehistoric periods it is considered low.

Romano-British

- 2.7 Aside from the possible Roman origin of the pottery above, the only entry of this date is relates to a single roman coin of 'the Emperor Alexander' which was found in the road near a rubbish tip at West Byfleet'. The exact find spot is not known and it is only given a 1km grid square location. The potential for finds of this period is considered to be low.

Saxon / early medieval

- 2.8 There are no known Saxon / early medieval archaeological sites within the Site or in the wider Assessment Area.

Medieval

- 2.9 The area of Broadoaks has very little dating to the Medieval period Byfleet is documented as a Manor from at least the 8th century. At the time of the Domesday Survey Byfleet (Biflet) was a settlement of 12 houses with 6 acres of meadow. West Byfleet at that time was not a separate entity and would merely have been the western portion of the main parish. The potential for finds of this period is considered to be low.

Post-medieval and modern

- 2.10 In the post-medieval period, the immediate landscape was still merely a peripheral part of the greater parish of Byfleet populated perhaps by a handful of farms and estates. Very little changed until the industrial revolution caused the creation of canals through this area, this was followed in the 19th century by the coming of the railway which changed the area dramatically.
- 2.11 Broadoaks was built on the site of an earlier settlement, Shephards Farm, which is depicted on the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st Edition of 1870 -80 which shows the site as being comprised of a series of fields bounded by Parvis Road (now A245) to the north. Broadoaks is a large detached country house and was designed in 1876 by Ernest Seth-Smith (1852-1940) for his elder brother Charles Edward Seth Smith (1847-1894), and is first depicted on the OS map of 1896 still set within the previous

landscape of fields. From the OS map of 1914 the grounds had been landscaped into a formal garden and the previous field boundaries had been removed.

- 2.12 In the modern period Broadoaks was extended through the addition of an attached modern office and wooden accommodation buildings in the 1960 and 1970s and the data-centre (never used) was constructed to the south west of the house in 2008. Two large lakes within the southern part of the site were constructed at this time in association with the construction of the data centre.

Previous Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Investigations

- 2.13 The Site itself has been subjected to a previous cultural heritage and archaeological investigation (SCAU 2001a, 2001b and 2002). A desk-based assessment and an archaeological evaluation, followed by an archaeological watching brief was undertaken in 2001 and 2002 (SCAU 2001a, 2001b and 2002) prior to a previous phase of construction. The main findings from the evaluation (SCAU 2001a) were pits of a possible prehistoric date. This date was estimated by the finds of calcined flints and burnt clay from within the pits. These results and the surrounding stray finds suggest a low-level of prehistoric occupation, possibly Neolithic to Bronze Age in the immediate area and spreading for perhaps 750m.
- 2.14 The investigations that took place in 2001 and 2002 recommended that further archaeological work should take place on the grounds before any further development. However, aerial imagery from 2005 to the present appears to show that a large amount of landscaping work took place between 2002 to 2005 image. The SHER contains no record of archaeological works to mitigate this impact. This landscaping probably leaves very little of the potential prehistoric landscape left in situ within the grounds. Groundworks associated with the construction of the data centre resulted in large amounts of material being generated during the excavation of a vast basement beneath the building. This material was dumped in the south west corner of the site creating a mound up to 6m high.
- 2.15 Other investigations undertaken within the vicinity of the site were on the site of West Hall, to the south-east, and on the site of 24-26 Parvis Road.. The work at West Hall produced no dating results, possibly the result of earlier construction and landscaping, and the Parvis Road evaluations produced a single worked flint from a pit, probably dating to the Neolithic/ Bronze Age by its form.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation are to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014). This information will enable Woking Borough Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 5 no 30m; 1 no 25m; 1 no L-shaped 20m (N-S) and 5m (E-W) x 1.8m trial trenches in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was unable to be excavated, due to proximity to ecological sensitive areas with tree protection orders. Trenches 2-4 were slightly adjusted to allow for a 17m buffer zone around protected trees nearby. Trench 6 was extended along its E-W length by 3m, to characterise the depth and nature of the made ground. Trench 7 was shortened to avoid an underlying service and an additional length was excavated from the eastern edge, forming a rough T-shape. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 *Survey Manual*.
- 4.2 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.3 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: *The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites* and, no deposits were identified that required sampling. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 *Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.

- 4.4 The archive and artefacts from the investigation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts along with the site archive will be deposited with a suitable repository. Until such time as one becomes available in Surrey for archaeological archives the archive will be stored at the CA offices in Andover. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-9)

- 5.1 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are to be found in Appendix A.
- 5.2 Trenches 2 and 5-7 each contained evidence of modern disturbance and/or ceramic land drains, but did not reveal any archaeological features. Trench 1 was unable to be excavated, due to ecological concerns. Trenches 3 and 4 revealed a small number of features, which were investigated. The location of the excavated trenches can be seen in Fig. 2.
- 5.3 The composition and horizon depth of the natural substrate varied between the trenches. Trench 2 revealed yellowish-brown clayey sand, with evidence of water infiltration, at a depth of 0.46m below the present ground surface. Trenches 3 & 4 revealed light yellowish-brown silty sand, with occasional rounded stones at an average depth of 0.7m below present ground level. These were overlaid by mid grey silty sand subsoil and a layer of redeposited natural geology, containing modern brick and scrap iron. Trench 5 revealed mid reddish-brown, compact sandy gravel at a depth of 0.28m. The natural geology was not encountered in Trench 6, despite a test pit reaching 2.2m below present ground level. Trench 7 revealed mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, at a depth of 0.44m, overlaid by dark brown sandy silt, containing brick and iron scrap, and a layer of redeposited natural geology.
- 5.4 All trenches were topped by dark brown sandy silt topsoil.



Trench 3 (Figs 3 & 4)

- 5.5 Trench 3 contained land drains and modern disturbance at the north-eastern end (Fig. 3). A large, irregular tree throw 304 was excavated.
- 5.6 Ditch 306 (Fig. 4) was 0.8m wide by 0.25 deep and was on the same north-west/south-east alignment and of very similar dimensions to ditch 408 in trench 4, and is likely a continuation of the same ditch. It had moderately sloping sides, and a rounded base.
- 5.7 No finds were recovered from either excavated feature.

Trench 4 (Figs 5 & 6)

- 5.8 Trench 4 revealed further modern disturbance and land drains (Fig. 5). A single tree throw 404 was excavated, along with an intersection of ditches 406 and 408 - showing ditch 408 (north-west/south-east alignment) cutting ditch 406 (north-east/south-west alignment; Fig. 6). Both ditches were c.0.60m wide by 0.20m deep and had moderately sloping sides and slightly rounded bases.
- 5.9 No finds were recovered from any of the excavated features.

Trench 5 (Fig. 7)

- 5.10 Trench 5 did not contain any archaeological features, but it did reveal the natural geology which was absent in Trench 6 to the south. This indicates the extent of ground disturbance from landscaping and excavation during the construction of the data centre and ponds. A clear horizon was revealed within the trench, between the natural geology 501 and the fine sand aggregate 502, which was revealed at the southern end of the trench and was further revealed in Trench 6.

Trench 6 (Figs 8 & 9)

- 5.11 Trench 6 revealed a consistent layer of fine, light yellow sand 602 (Figs. 8 & 9). This is likely to be a modern deposit of aggregate, associated with the landscaping and development of the site during the construction of the Sherwood Data Centre and its purpose-built ponds. The sand layer is also present at the southern end of Trench 5. A test pit excavated in the southern end of Trench 6 showed its continuation beyond 2.2m from the present ground surface (Fig. 9).

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1 From the six trenches excavated, two possible archaeological features were revealed. Neither produced any artefacts, and remained undated. The alignment of these ditches does not match with that of the modern land drains present and the current layout of the site, so are likely to predate the modern period.
- 6.2 The use of the site prior to the construction of Broadoaks House as land associated with Shephards Farm is attested to by the depiction on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition of 1870-80. The particular use of this land is not recorded, although the ditches detailed above may relate to field boundaries or drainage systems associated with this phase of the use of the site.
- 6.3 The recent construction of the Sherwood Data Centre, along with its associated sub-station, cooling ponds, spoil mound, car park and access routes is likely to have had the greatest impact on any underlying archaeological features. The scale of the landscaping evident on the site suggests the likelihood of any features of archaeological interest surviving to be very low. In particular the identification of the redeposited sand in trench 6 extending to a depth of at least 2.2m below ground level and continuing into the spoil mound indicated that the area beneath the mound is likely to be highly disturbed and devoid of any archaeological features as a result of the major modern ground disturbance.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tony Brown, assisted by Tim Street. The report was written by Tony Brown. The illustrations were prepared by Rosanna Price. The archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Tom Rowley. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.



8. REFERENCES

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Surrey Historic Environment Record (SHER)



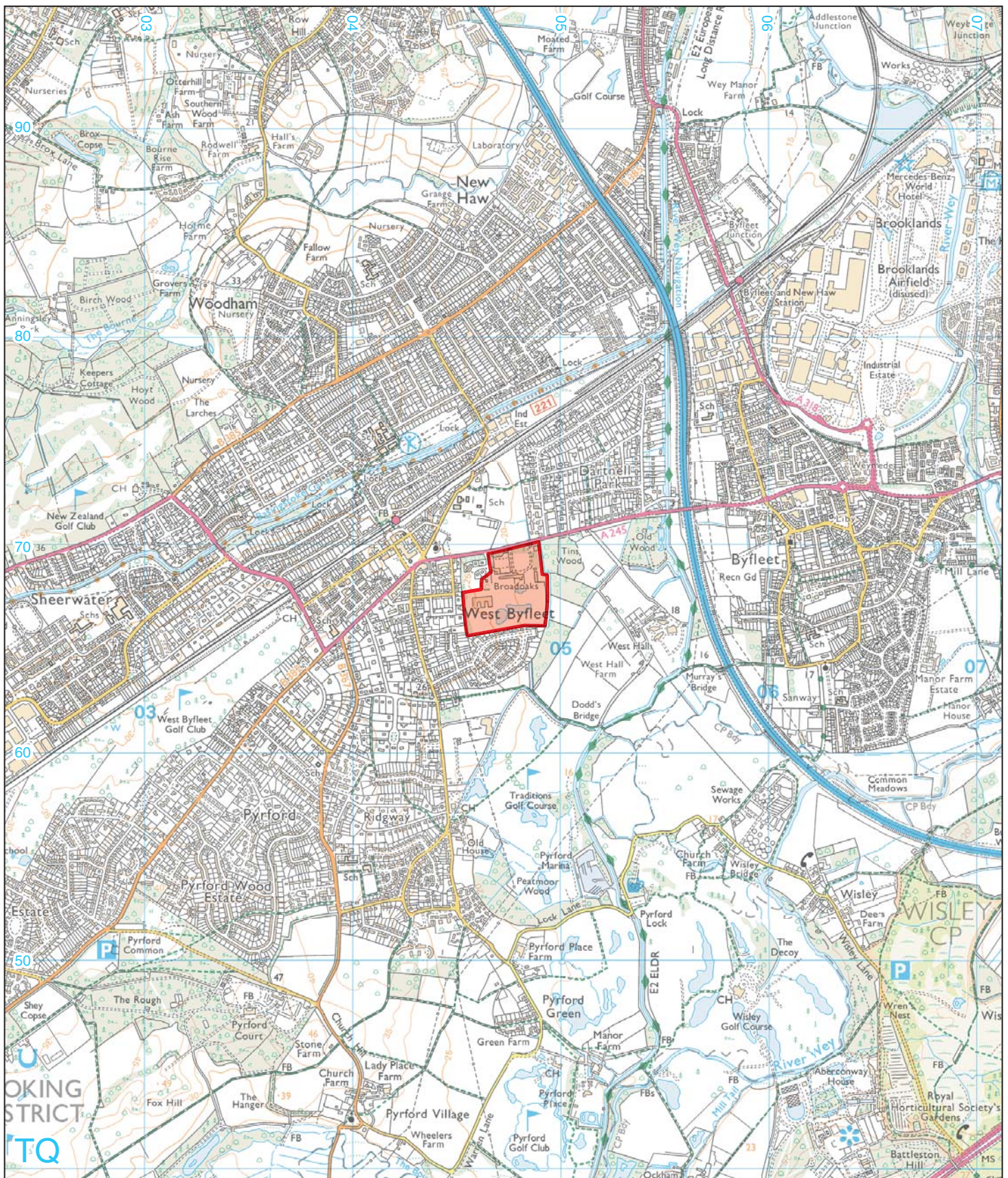
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No	Context	Type	Fill of	Context Interpretation	Context Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Waterlogged.	>29.8	>1.85	0-0.46
2	201	Layer		Natural	Mixed areas of mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, light grey silty clay and mid brown sandy gravel. Compact.	>29.8	>1.85	0.46-0.54+
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable.	>30	>1.85	0-0.28
3	301	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable, loose.	>30	>1.85	0.28-0.44
3	302	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Friable, loose.	>30	>1.85	0.44-0.65
3	303	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish-brown silty sand, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Compact.	>30	>1.85	0.65-0.69+
3	304	Cut		Tree throw	Irregular-in-plan, sides and base.	>1.1	1.4	0.25
3	305	Fill	304	Fill	Mid brownish-grey sandy silt, with occasional stones, charcoal and wood pieces.	>1.1	1.4	0.25
3	306	Cut		Ditch	Linear-in-form, steeply sloping sides, slightly rounded base, running NW-SE. Likely a continuation of modern ditch 408 .	>1.85	0.8	0.25
3	307	Fill	306	Fill	Mid grey compact sand, with occasional, irregular/rounded stones. No finds.	>1.85	0.8	0.25
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable.	>30	>1.85	0-0.18
4	401	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mid yellowish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable, loose.	>30	>1.85	0.18-0.42
4	402	Layer		Subsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Friable, loose.	>30	>1.85	0.42-0.75
4	403	Layer		Natural	Light yellowish-brown silty sand, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Compact.	>30	>1.85	0.75-0.89+
4	404	Cut		Tree throw	Sub-rounded-in-plan, steep sides, uneven base.	0.8	0.7	0.25
4	405	Fill	404	Fill	Mid brown sandy silt, with occasional, irregular stones.	0.8	0.7	0.25

					Compact.			
4	406	Cut		Ditch	Linear-in-form, moderately sloping sides, rounded base, running N-S.	>2.7	0.54	0.19
4	407	Fill	406	Fill	Light greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Friable. No finds.	>2.7	0.54	0.19
4	408	Cut		Ditch	Linear-in-form, gently sloping sides, rounded base, running NW-SE. Likely a continuation of modern ditch 306 .	>2	0.6	0.24
4	409	Fill	408	Fill	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. No finds.	>2	0.6	0.24
4	410	Fill	406	Fill	Light greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, sub-rounded stones. Friable. No finds.	>0.34	0.25	0.09
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable.	>29	>1.85	0-0.28
5	501	Layer		Natural	Mid reddish-brown sandy gravel. Compact.	>29	>1.85	0.28-1.15+
5	502	Layer		Modern made ground	Light yellow fine sand. Only present at southern 5m of trench.	>5	>1.85	0.28+
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown sandy silt, with occasional, rounded stones. Friable.	>27.8	>1.85	0-0.25
6	601	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mid reddish-brown sandy gravel. Compact. Variable thickness 0.2- >0.6m.	>27.8	>1.85	0.2-0.6+
6	602	Layer		Modern made ground	Light yellow fine sand, likely associated with modern landscaping.	>27.8	>1.85	0.25-2.2+
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silt, with common, rounded stones. Friable.	>14.1	>1.85	0-0.15
7	701	Layer		Redeposited natural	Mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, with common, rounded stones. Compact. Variable depth.	>14.1	>1.85	0.15-0.2
7	702	Layer		Modern made ground	Dark brown sandy silt, with common, rounded stones, brick, iron scrap and charcoal. Variable depth.	>14.1	>1.85	0.2-0.4
7	703	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowish-brown clayey sand, with common, rounded stones. Compact.	>14.1	>1.85	0.44-0.52+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey	
Short description	<p>An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in September 2016 at Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey. Six trenches were excavated.</p> <p>The trenches were located around the perimeter of the site, targeting areas not investigated during previous archaeological work.</p> <p>An undated ditch was revealed running northwest-southeast across Trenches 3 & 4, truncating an earlier undated ditch. No further features, other than modern disturbance, land drains, and a small number of tree throws were revealed. No artefacts were recovered from the excavated features or excavated spoil.</p> <p>The evaluation was able to identify significant areas of modern ground disturbance as the result of the construction of a data centre in 2008.</p>	
Project dates	21-23 September 2016	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	<p>Surrey County Archaeological Unit 2001. Dover, M. An archaeological evaluation of land at Broadoaks Estate, West Byfleet, Surrey (SHER 4132)</p> <p>SCAU 2001. Shaikhley, N. 'A preliminary Archaeological Assessment of the Proposed Redevelopment of Broadoaks Estate, West Byfleet' (SHER 4133)</p> <p>SCAU 2002. Shaikhley, N. 'Archaeological Observations at Broadoaks Estate, Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey (SHER 1612)</p>	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Broadoaks, Parvis Road, West Byfleet, Surrey KT14 6LT	
Study area (M ² /ha)	c. 15ha	
Site co-ordinates	TQ 04750 60780	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator		
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Damian De Rosa	
Project Supervisor	Tony Brown	
MONUMENT TYPE		
	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS		
	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical		None
Paper	TBC currently held at CA Andover	Context sheets, trench sheets, photo register
Digital	TBC currently held at CA Andover	Database, digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016 <i>Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report 16540 . Project no. 770431		



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PROJECT TITLE
Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE
Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RP	PROJECT NO.	770431	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	LM	DATE	06.10.16	
APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE	@A4 1:25,000	1



- site boundary
- evaluation trench
- Broadoaks
- 1970s office block
- 21st century development (data centre)
- 21st century artificial mound
- 21st century artificial pond
- archaeological feature
- modern
- field drain
- treethrow



Plan supplied by Octagon

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PROJECT TITLE
Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE
Trench location plan showing archaeological features

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3

3 Trench 3, looking south-west (1m scales)



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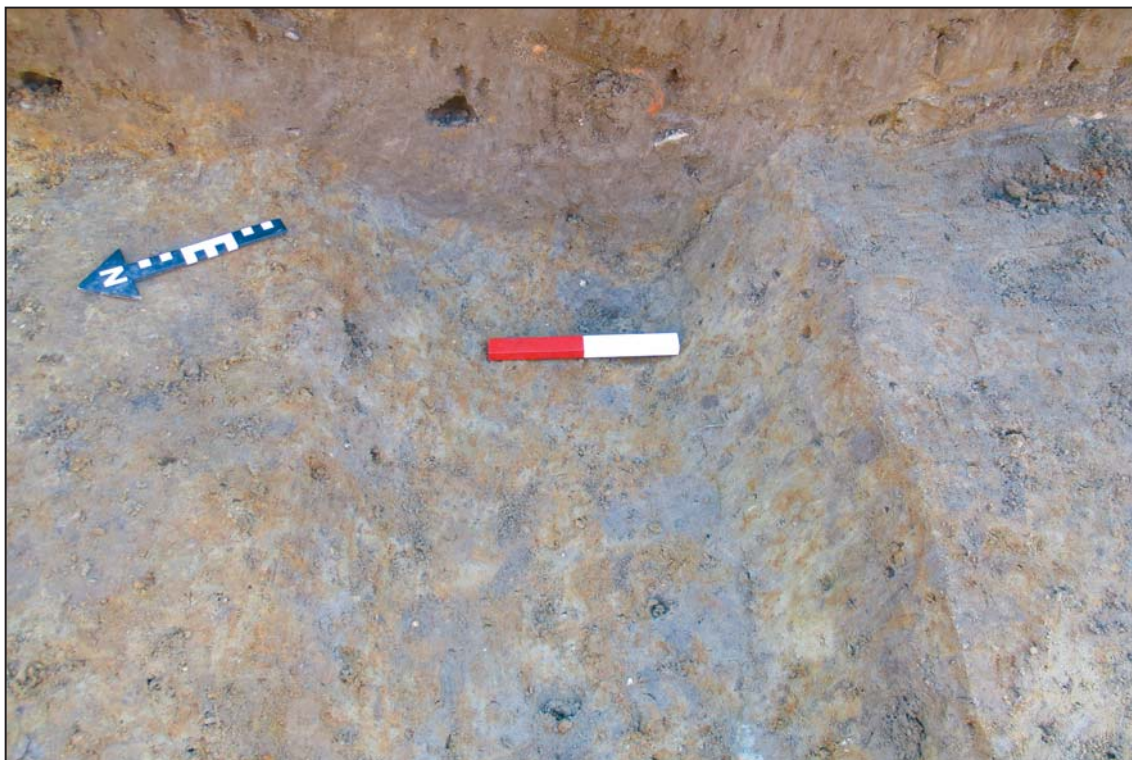
PROJECT TITLE

Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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4

4 Section of ditch 306 and Trench 3, looking south-east
(0.2m scale)



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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5

5 Trench 4, looking south-west (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

Broadoaks, West Byfleet, Surrey

FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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6

6 Excavated intersection of ditches 406 and 408, looking west (0.5m scales)



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FIGURE TITLE

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FIGURE NO.

6



7

7 Trench 5, looking north (1m scales)



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8

8 Trench 6, looking north (1m scales)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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9

9 Test pit in southern end of Trench 6, looking south-west (1m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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