

**Western Bridge and Link Road
Phase 1
Burgess Hill
West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation



for:
The Environment Partnership

CA Project: AN0205
CA Report: AN0205_1

October 2020



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SUMMARY

Project name:	Western Bridge and Link Road,
Location:	Burgess Hill, West Sussex
NGR:	529358 120106
Type:	Evaluation
Date:	21–24 September 2020
Planning reference:	DM/18/5114
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with East Grinstead Museum and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS)
Site Code:	BGHG20

In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the proposed Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. A total of 6 of a planned 7 trenches were excavated.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period was recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the proposed Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 529358 120106 (see Figure 1). This evaluation was undertaken for The Environment Partnership.
- 1.2. The evaluation results will inform the planning application for a proposed development is located within the 'Northern Arc Allocation Site' for which an Outline Planning Application (DM/18/5114) has been submitted to Mid. Sussex District Council. The proposed development is approximately 3.7ha in extent and comprises c. 500m of road corridor and roundabouts, as well as associated infrastructure including minor junctions, pedestrian crossings, and drainage including sewer diversion and attenuation ponds.
- 1.3. The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by CA (2020) and approved by Alexandra Egginton, Archaeological Officer at the Heritage Conservation Team, Surrey County Council (AOSCC), the archaeological advisor to Mid Sussex District Council.
- 1.4. The evaluation was also in line with Sussex Archaeological Standards (2019), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015).

The site

- 1.5. The proposed development site is located to the north-west of Burgess Hill and spans between the present A2300 and Jane Murray Way A273 with new roundabouts where it intersects the existing roads. Goddards Green Water Treatment Works is located a short distance to the north-west and St Pauls Catholic School lies close to the northeast of the development.
- 1.6. The underlying bedrock geology of the site is mapped as mudstone of the Weald clay formation. No superficial deposits are recorded across the site.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. A full archaeological background is given within the Northern Arc Eastern Bridge and Link Road Heritage Desk-based Assessment prepared by AECOM (2019), and a Heritage Summary of the site itself by TEP (2020). A brief summary of the archaeological background is given below.

Prehistoric

- 2.2. Prehistoric lithic scatters have been identified during archaeological watching briefs to the east and south-east of the proposed development site. These include Mesolithic and Neolithic / Bronze Age scatters at West End Farm, Grasmere, and at the Burgess Hill Leisure Centre. Iron Age pottery was also recovered during an archaeological watching brief at Burgess Hill Leisure Centre.

Roman

- 2.3. Most Roman activity within the vicinity of the site is concentrated on the large scale iron extraction in the High Weald 15km to the north. A Roman Road was uncovered to the south of Norman Road and Church Road in Burgess Hill, and its location was confirmed to the south of Lowland Farm through cropmark evidence.
- 2.4. A scatter of Roman pottery was recovered during an archaeological watching brief on land approximately 360m to the south-east near Grasmere, and evidence of Roman settlement activity was recorded at Goddard's Green approximately 1km from the site.

Medieval

- 2.5. Evidence for medieval ridge and furrow has been identified within the southern end of the site during the geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2019).
- 2.6. Medieval pottery was recovered during an archaeological watching brief at West End Farm, and further pottery and tile fragments were recovered 360m to the southeast at Grasmere.

Recent Works

- 2.7. A geophysical survey (Magnitude Survey 2019) of the route of the proposed road corridor and the area to the north of the A2300 was undertaken in November 2019. The survey did not identify any anomalies indicative of archaeological features and characterised the proposed development site as having a weak magnetic

background with small natural variations across the survey area. The survey identified anomalies related to historic agricultural use, which were interpreted as shifting field boundaries. Service lines were identified within the survey area, and anomalies indicative of modern industrial activity or burnt / fired material were noted in close proximity to an existing hedge line which crosses the proposed road corridor in the centre.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation. This information will enable Mid Sussex District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and, if appropriate, develop strategies to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2019).
- 3.2. The specific objective of the evaluation is to investigate the potential archaeological anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Magnitude Survey 2019).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The evaluation fieldwork comprised the excavation of 6 of the planned 7 trenches (Fig. 2):
 - 6no 50m x 1.8m trenches;
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site. Excavation of Trench 1 was abandoned (with the approval of the curator) due to the presence of asbestos. Trench 5 was shortened by 5m to avoid vegetation.
- 4.3. Trenches were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.

-
- 4.4. Records were maintained in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.5. No deposits were identified that required sampling.
- 4.6. CA will make arrangements with East Grinstead Museum for the deposition of the project archive. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014; updated June 2020).
- 4.7. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the evaluation results. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts are given in Appendix A.
- 5.2. **Trenches 2-7** were archaeologically sterile. **Trench 1** was not excavated due to the presence of asbestos within the vicinity of the trench.
- 5.3. **Trench 6** contained an unexcavated modern pit (**603**) filled with a dark grey clay with brown mottling (**604**). It was 3m long and 1.7m wide. It was visibly cut through the topsoil, and contained backfilled material.

6. DISCUSSION

- 6.1. Despite the archaeological potential within the environs of the application area (see Archaeological background, above), the evaluation identified no archaeological remains within the site. The results of the evaluation are, however, in line with the results of the geophysical survey which indicated a low potential for archaeology.

7. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 7.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Francesco Catanzaro, assisted by Katherine Hebbard and Talia Hunt. This report was written by Ray Kennedy. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled by Zoe

Emery, and prepared for deposition by Richard Paxford. The project was managed for CA by Ray Kennedy.

8. REFERENCES

AECOM, 2019, Northern Arc – Eastern Bridge and Link Road, Heritage Desk-based Assessment

British Geological Survey 2020 *Geology of Britain Viewer*

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Accessed 29 September 2020

Cotswold Archaeology 2020 *Western Bridge and Link Road - Phase 1 Burgess Hill West Sussex: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

Magnitude Surveys, 2019, Geophysical Survey Report of Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill Goddards Green, West Sussex

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2019 National Planning Policy Framework

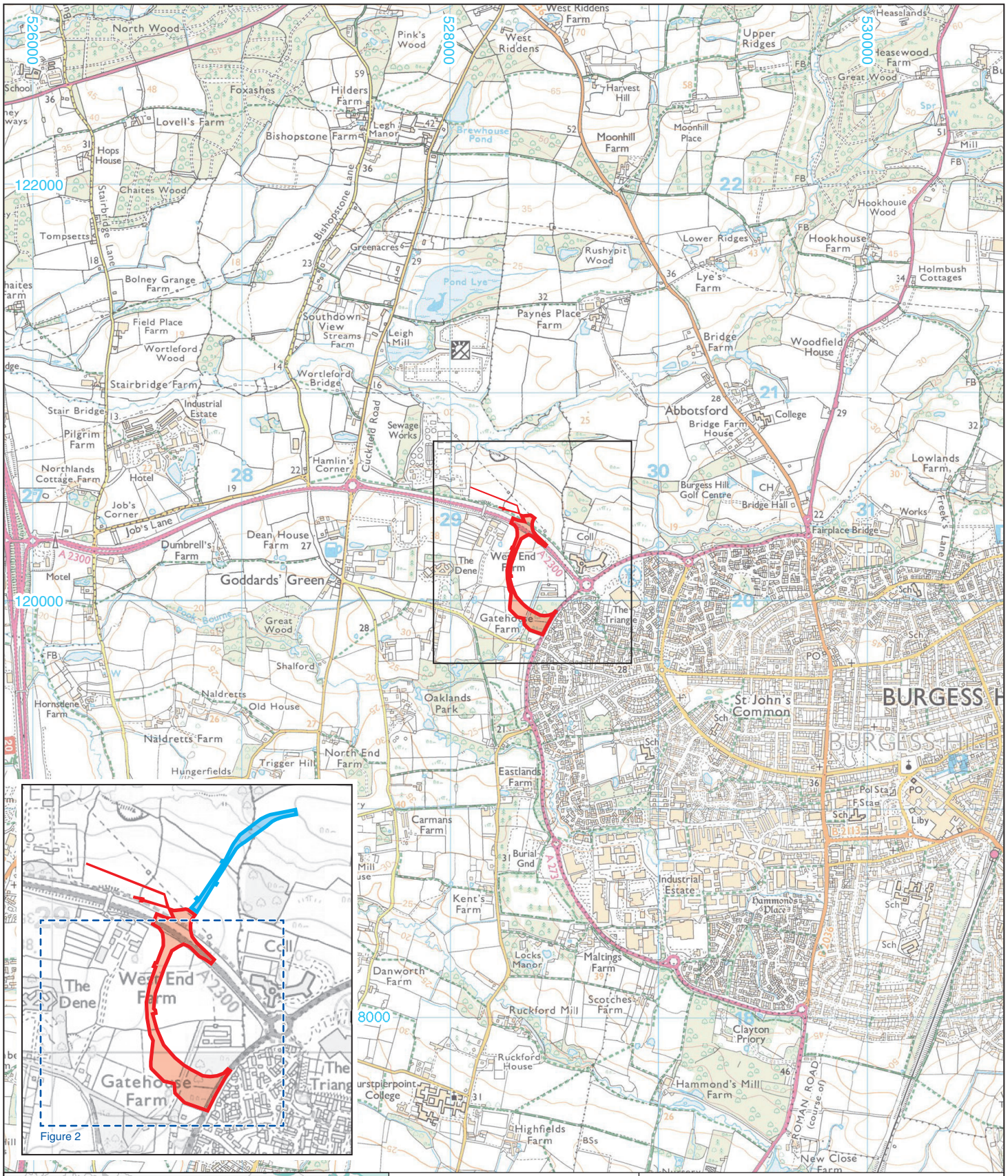
The Environment Partnership (TEP), 2020, Western Bridge and Link Road – Phase 1, Burgess Hill, Heritage Statement

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpretation	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Light grey silty sand	49.8	1.8	0-0.15
2	201	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown sandy clay	49.8	1.8	0.15-0.3
2	202	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown clay with infrequent sandstone specks and occasional manganese	49.8	1.8	0.3+
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Light grey silty sand	51.2	1.8	0-0.1
3	301	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowy brown sandy clay	51.2	1.8	0.1-0.31
3	302	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown clay with occasional manganese	51.2	1.8	0.31+
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Light grey silty sand	49.5	1.8	0-0.13
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowy greyish brown sandy clay	49.5	1.8	0.13-0.3
4	402	Layer		Natural	Mid yellow brown clay with infrequent sandstone specks and occasional manganese	49.5	1.8	0.3+
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Light grey silty sand	45.2	1.8	0-0.15
5	501	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown sandy clay	45.2	1.8	0.15-0.31
5	502	Layer		Natural	Light to mid yellowy brown clay, occasional manganese	45.2	1.8	0.31+
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Light yellowish grey silty sand	50.2	1.8	0-0.19
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light yellowish brown sandy clay	50.2	1.8	0.19-0.32
6	602	Layer		Natural	Mid light yellowish brown clay with light grey mottling, very rare sandstone and occasional manganese flecks	50.2	1.8	0.32+
6	603	Cut		Cut of Pit	Sub-circular in plan, unexcavated	3	1.7	
6	604	Fill	603	Fill of Pit	Dark grey clay with brown mottling	3	1.7	
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Light yellowish grey silty sand	48.1	1.8	0-0.15
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Light greyish brown sandy clay	48.1	1.8	0.15-0.3
7	702	Layer		Natural	Mid yellowy brown clay with mid grey patches, occasional manganese inclusions	48.1	1.8	0.3+

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project name	Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex	
Short description	In September 2020, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at the proposed Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. A total of 6 of a planned 7 trenches were excavated. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts pre-dating the modern period were recovered.	
Project dates	21-24 September	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Magnitude Surveys, 2019, Geophysical Survey Report of Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill Goddards Green, West Sussex	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site location	Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex	
Study area (m ² /ha)	N/A	
Site co-ordinates	529358 120106	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project brief originator		
Project design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Ray Kennedy	
Project Supervisor	Francesco Catanzaro	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES		
	Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.)	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	East Grinstead Museum	
Paper		Context sheets, matrices etc
Digital		Database, digital photos etc
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
Cotswold Archaeology 2020 <i>Western Bridge and Link Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex: Archaeological Evaluation</i> CA typescript report AN0205_1		



N

Site boundary (Phase 1)
 Phase 2

0 1km

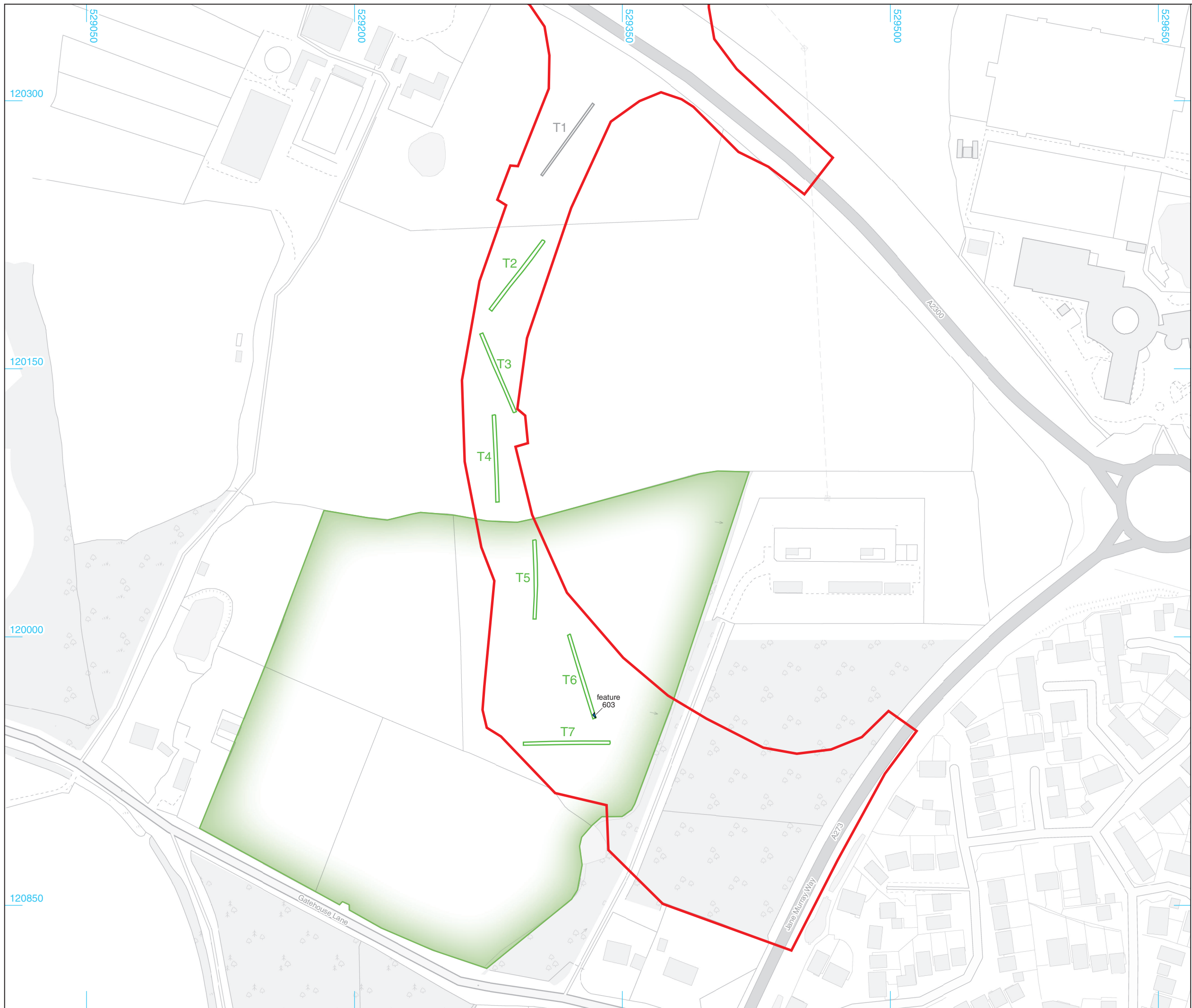
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PROJECT TITLE
 Western Bridge and Link Road
 Phase 1, Burgess Hill, West Sussex

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	AN0205	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/10/2020	
APPROVED BY	FC	SCALE@A4	1:25,000	1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Modern feature
- Unexcavated trench
- Area of ridge and furrow



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PROJECT TITLE
 Western Bridge and Link Road
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FIGURE TITLE
 Trench location plan

DRAWN BY RW	PROJECT NO. AN0205	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY DJB	DATE 08/10/2020	2
APPROVED BY FC	SCALE@A3 1:2000	



Trench 2, looking north-east (1m scales)



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



Trench 4, looking south (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Western Bridge and Link Road
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FIGURE TITLE
 Photograph of Trenches 2-4

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	AN0205	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/10/2020	
APPROVED BY	FC	SCALE@A3	NA	3



Trench 5, looking north (1m scales)



Trench 6, looking north-west (1m scales)



Trench 7, looking east (1m scales)


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PROJECT TITLE
 Western Bridge and Link Road
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FIGURE TITLE
 Photograph of Trenches 5-7

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	AN0205	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	08/10/2020	4
APPROVED BY	FC	SCALE@A3	NA	

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