

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT MARCHANTS HILL, HINDHEAD, SURREY

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION



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Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken on the site of the childrens adventure centre (PGL) at Marchants Hill, Hindhead where it is planned to develop land for additional accommodation and recreational activities on the site. The potential of archaeology in this area was expected to be in the form of “sub-surface remains relating to land division and farming practices if not of Bronze Age origin then medieval/post medieval” (Henderson 2015). Six trial trenches were excavated and no archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered. All trenches revealed a similar natural stratigraphy. It is therefore recommended that no further work is undertaken in relation to this project.

Surrey County Archaeological Unit

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road,
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6ND

Tel: 01483 518779

email: archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk

Project Manager	Nowal Shaikhley
Author	Matt Saywood
Date of fieldwork	29.10.15 – 02.11.15
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NGR	SU 877 372
Site code	HMH15
Consultants	A&M Architectural Partnership LLP
Client	PGL Marchants Hill



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between the 30th of October 2015 and 2nd of November 2015, an archaeological field evaluation was carried out on land at Marchants Hill, Hindhead, Surrey. The site is currently used by PGL Ltd. It was undertaken by staff from the Surrey County Archaeological Unit on the site proposed for a number of new accommodation buildings and the expansion of a lake for use by the adventure centre. It was advised by the Heritage Conservation Team at Surrey County Council that there should be an appropriate archaeological assessment due to the size of the site.

1.2 A Heritage Statement (Henderson 2015) recommended that “a programme of archaeological fieldwork is undertaken during the development to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains.”

1.3 Typically the implementation of a programme of archaeological trial trenching will include an approximate 5% sample by area, with the trenches arranged to provide as balanced a sample across the site as practical. The trial trenching is designed to allow the development and implementation of an appropriate mitigation strategy, and its form and character was defined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Saywood 2015) submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority (acting under the advice of Surrey County Council’s Heritage Conservation Team).

1.4 PGL Travel Ltd through their consultant A&M Architectural Partnership LLP then commissioned the Surrey County Archaeological Unit to undertake the trial trench evaluation in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to sample the proposal area in order to assess the potential for archaeological remains within the development area.

2 Methodology

2.1 The evaluation was carried out using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.

2.2 Six trenches (see figs 2 and 3), measuring between 15m and 30m in length by 1.6m were excavated. Due to the complexity of the site with ziplines and guide wires for various adventure activities, a number of the trenches were moved from their proposed positions in order to work with PGL, as the site was still active with large groups of school children present for the majority of the time. The balance of the sample was not adversely affected by these changes.

2.3 The machining process was carefully watched for the occurrence of any features or artefacts of archaeological interest that might relate to ancient activity in the immediate vicinity. The subsoil, and the natural surface below the subsoil, was examined for evidence of features cutting them, and cleaning and recording was carried out as necessary.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Each of the trenches revealed a similar stratigraphy, as listed below, with the topsoil and subsoil being reasonably uniform. The undisturbed natural was revealed along the length of all trenches.

Trench 1

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	15m	1.6m	50mm	Tarmac
101	15m	1.6m	350mm	Demolition material. Modern CBM. Probably laid down to level up the area for use as a playground.
102	15m	1.6m	300mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose.
103	15m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantities of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavily rooted.

3.2 Trench 1 Cut through a tarmac playground which had clearly been levelled up at some point in the past, but the expected natural subsoils and natural were both present within the trench at the expected levels. A modern service ran through the trench 5.5m from the southern end. Because of this 1.5m was left unobserved. No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered.



Trench 2

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
104	30m	1.6m	100mm	Topsoil – moderately compact dark brown silty clay
105	30m	1.6m	300mm	Very clean levelling up layer, almost exactly mimics 107. Orange sand with some clay element, large quantites of sandstone cobbles throughout.
106	30m	1.6m	300mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose
107	30m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantites of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavilty rooted.

3.3 Trench 2 showed a thick topsoil layer of dark brown silty clay , underneath which was an incredibly clean layer of redeposited natural material almost identical to 107, but lacking the black dark rooting. Under 105 the expected subsoil and natural geology were observed. 1.5m from the southern end a concrete drain surround was discovered and 1m was left unobserved. No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered.



Trench 3

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
108	20m	1.6m	200mm	Topsoil – moderately compact dark brown silty clay
109	20m	1.6m	300mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose
110	20m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantities of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavily rooted.

3.4 Trench 3 displayed nothing of note. The expected natural stratigraphy was revealed. no archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered.



Trench 4

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
111	20m	1.6m	150mm	Topsoil – moderately compact dark brown silty clay
112	20m	1.6m	400mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose
113	20m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantities of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavily rooted.

3.5 The planned location for trench 4 was on ground already occupied by other structures and guide lines, so in order to avoid these obstacles the trench was moved south east. Trench 4 displayed nothing of note except a slight variation in depth of subsoil from trench 3.. The expected natural stratigraphy was revealed. No archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered



Trench 5

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
114	29m	1.6m	150mm	Topsoil – moderately compact dark brown silty clay
115	29m	1.6m	400mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose
116	29m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantities of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavily rooted.

3.6 Trench 5 displayed little of note. A modern cable ran across the trench approximately 10m from it's northern end, leaving 4m in the middle unobserved. Because of this both trenches 5 and 6 had 2m extra added to their southern ends. The expected natural stratigraphy was revealed. no archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered.



Trench 6

Number	Length	Width	Depth	Description
117	27m	1.6m	150mm	Topsoil – moderately compact dark brown silty clay
118	27m	1.6m	400mm	Subsoil – Pale grey sand, fairly loose
119	27m	1.6m	-	Natural geology – Orange sand with some clay element, large quantities of sandstone cobbles throughout. Black dark patches throughout where the ground had been heavily rooted.

3.7 Trench 6 displayed nothing of note except a slight variation in depth of subsoil from trench 3. The expected natural stratigraphy was revealed. no archaeological features were identified and no finds recovered



4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Good coverage of the available area was achieved, despite some adjustments to the size and location of the trial trenches. The site has had some ground formation particularly towards the north and eastern areas with layers of brick and mortar in trench 1 and re-deposition of natural material, probably from the construction of the lake, in trench 2.

4.2 None of the trenches contained archaeological features or finds

4.3 In view of the above information, it is recommended that no further archaeological work will be required in relation to this development

4.4 The statements and recommendations in 4.1-4.3 are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented in the earlier part of this report. It must be emphasised, however, that whether further archaeological work is required, what form it should take, and when it might be scheduled are decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority (generally acting under the advice of the Surrey County Council's Heritage Conservation Team), and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

5 REFERENCES

Henderson, M, 2015 *PGL Marchants, Tilford Road, Hindhead, Surrey, GU26 6RF, Heritage Statement & Archaeological Desk-based Assessment (NGR: SU 877 372)*. HB Archaeology and Conservation, Unpublished Client report.

Saywood, M, 2015 *Proposed works at PGL Marchants Hill, Hindhead. Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological trial trench evaluation*, SCAU unpublished client report

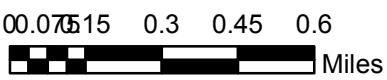
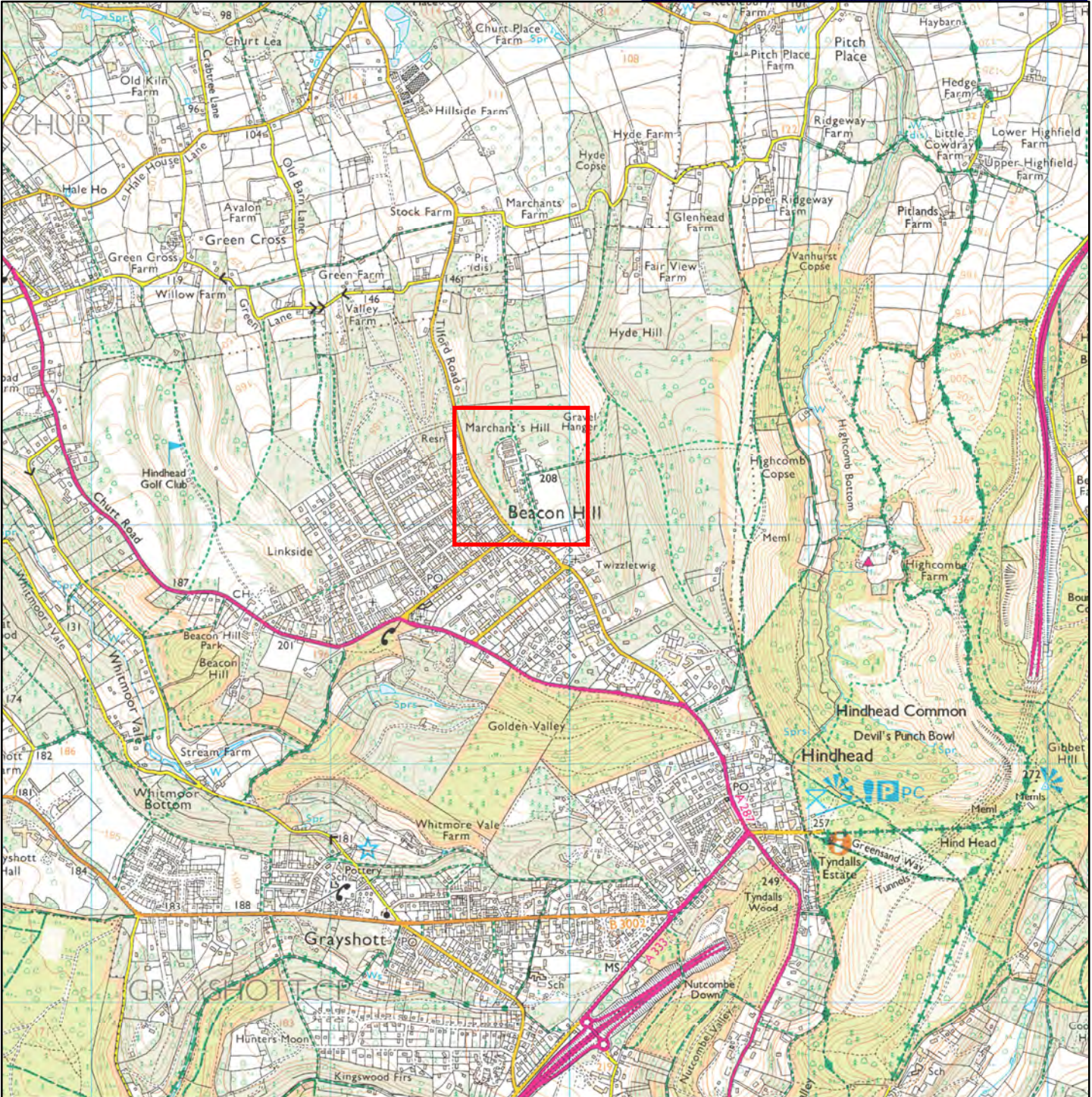
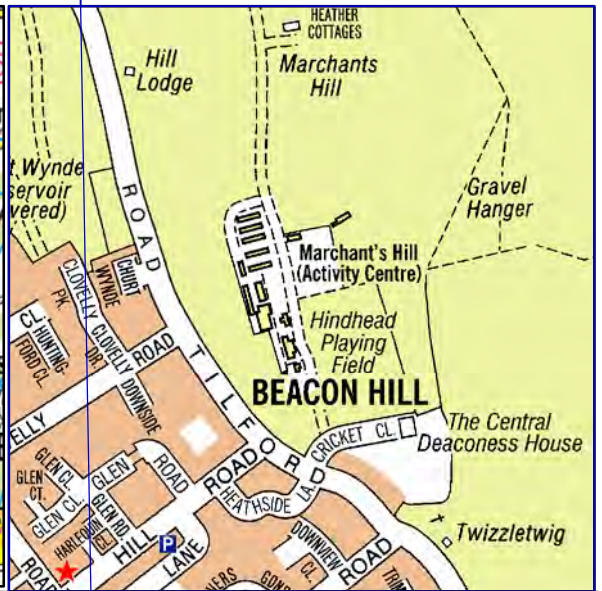
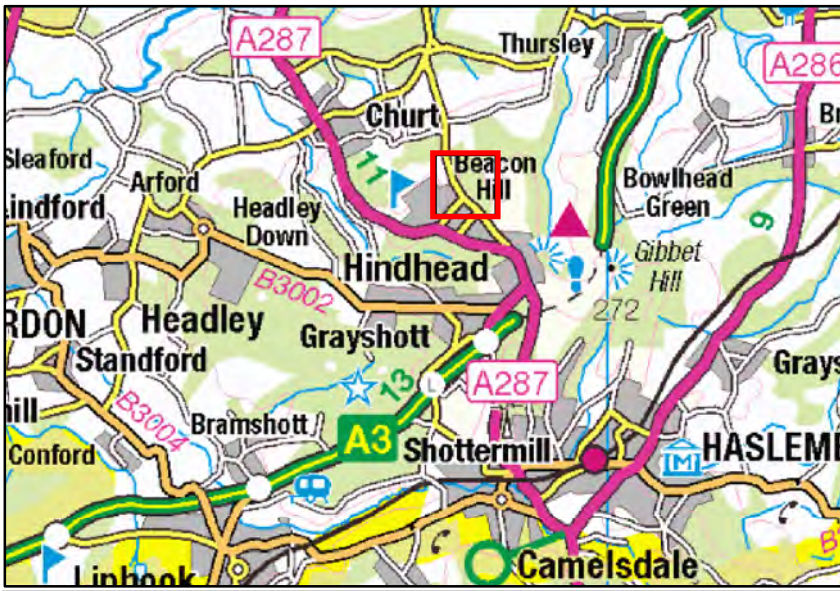


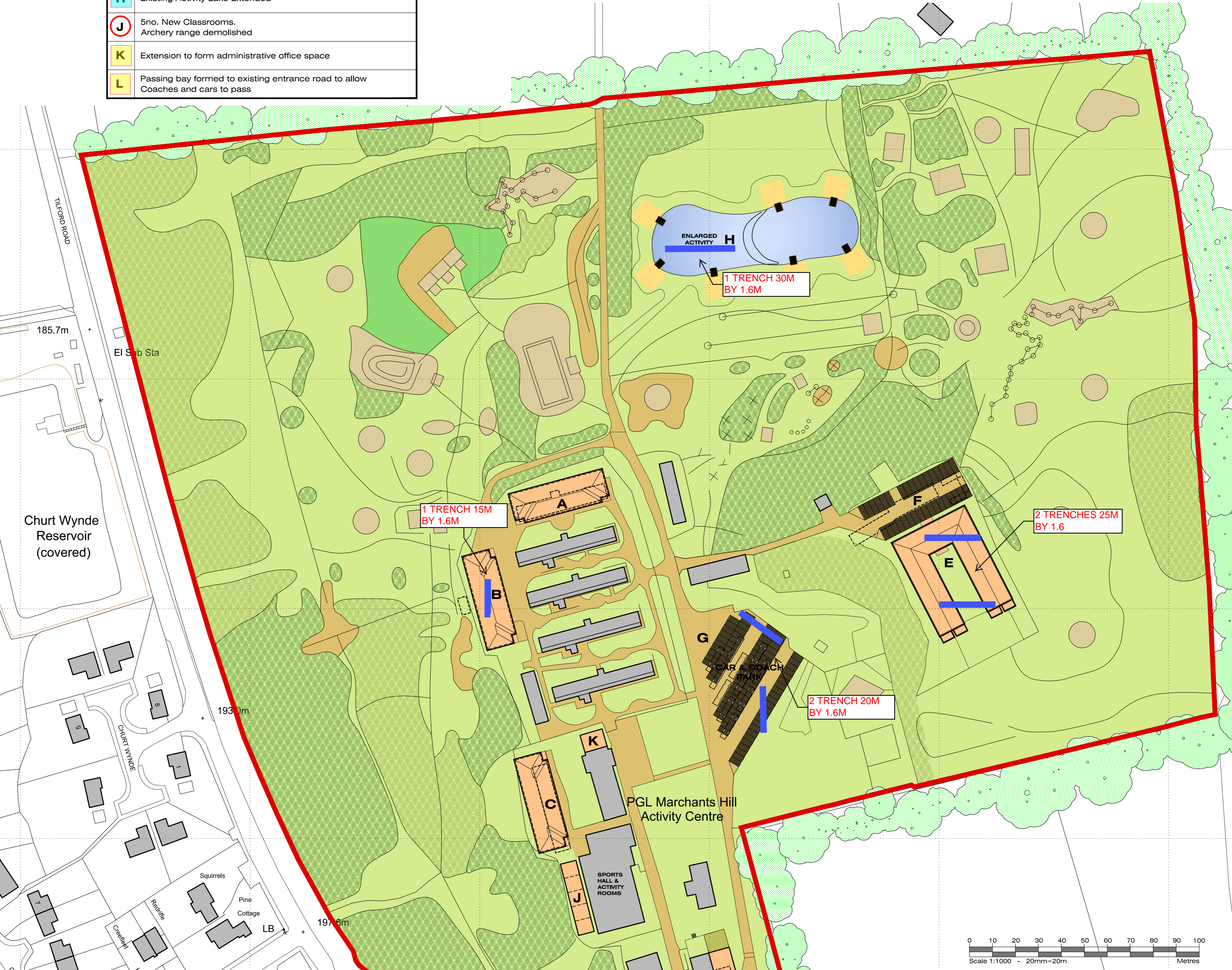
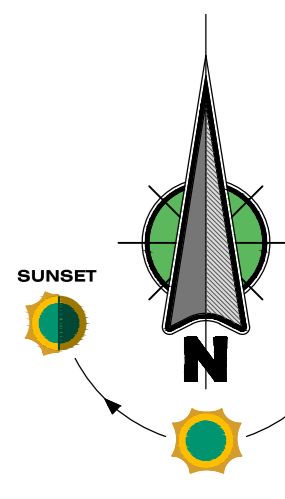
Fig 1 Hindhead, Marchants Hill, Surrey. Location of site

LEGEND

A	Proposed Guest Accommodation 96 No. guest beds plus 12No. Teacher bedrooms Existing 'Punchbowl' single storey Guest Accommodation demolished
B	Proposed Guest Accommodation 96 No. guest beds plus 12No. Teacher bedrooms Existing single storey linen store demolished
C	Proposed Guest Accommodation 96 No. guest beds plus 12No. Teacher bedrooms Existing shop, bar & meeting room demolished
D	Kitchen and Dining Room Extension with new delivery access turning head and parking
E	Proposed New Staff Accommodation 178 No. staff beds
F	Proposed new Car Parking to replace existing. Circa 35 No. car spaces to serve Staff Accommodation
G	Existing Car park extended to provide car & coach parking Car Parking for circa 85 No. cars (when no coaches are parked)
H	Existing Activity Lake Extended
J	5no. New Classrooms. Archery range demolished
K	Extension to form administrative office space
L	Passing bay formed to existing entrance road to allow Coaches and cars to pass

Fig 2 Hindhead, Marchants Hill, Surrey. Proposed trench locations

- new development - area currently developed with a structure - no trial trench proposed
- new development - area currently undeveloped - proposed trial trench
- very small area of new development - no further work



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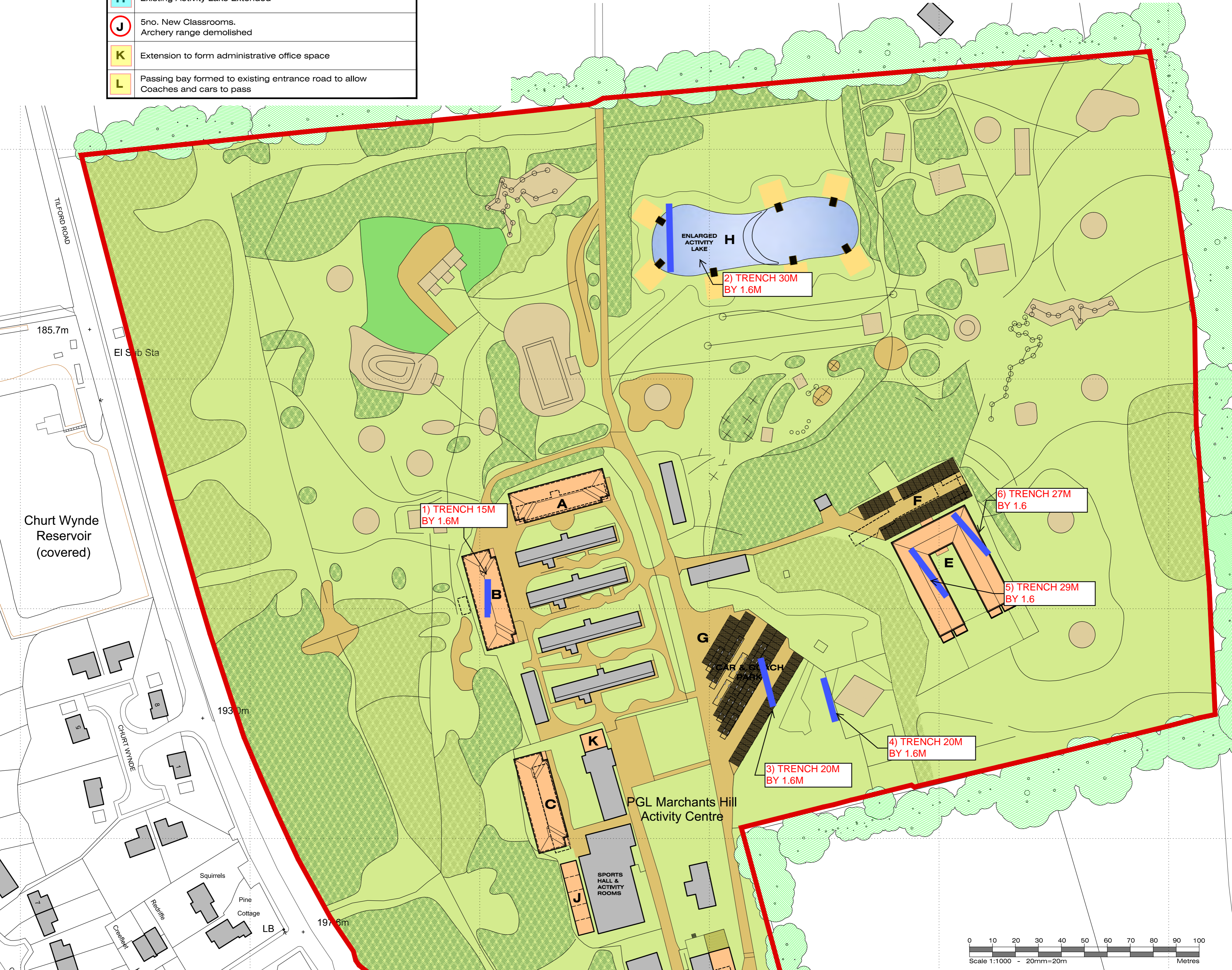
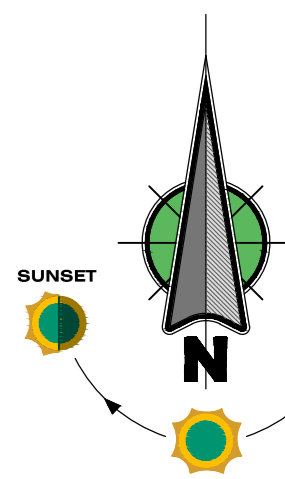
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Fig 3 Hindhead, Marchants Hill, Surrey Actual trench locations

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0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Scale 1:1000 - 20mm=20m Metres

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Tel: 01483 518779

Fax: 01483 518780

Email: archaeology.scau@surreycc.gov.uk

Surrey County Archaeological Unit

Surrey History Centre

130 Goldsworth Road

Surrey GU21 6ND



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