

Archaeological Evaluation

Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater, West Sussex

NGR: TQ 15621 24998

Planning Ref: DC/21/2180

Site Code: SSO26

794-PLN-HER- 01677

17 April 2026

**Archaeological Evaluation Report
Woodfords, Shipley Road
Southwater, West Sussex**

**NGR: 515585 125028
(TQ 15621 24998)**

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**ASE Project No: 250183
Site Code: SSO26
ASE Report No: 2026054
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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at land at Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater, West Sussex between 2nd and 6th August 2025. The fieldwork was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Limited (RPS) in advance of the residential development of the site.

Twenty-four trenches were excavated. The evaluated areas appeared generally undisturbed, with an intact subsoil horizon, overlain by topsoil, recorded in all trenches. The geological horizon was occasionally disturbed by rutting. Features were only recorded in 3 of the 24 trenches and comprised one post-medieval ditch and two dubious pit-like features – both most likely the result of bioturbation. It is considered that development of the evaluated areas will have no impact upon significant archaeological deposits.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Tetra Tech Consulting Limited (RPS) to undertake archaeological evaluation of land at Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater (NGR: 515585 125028; Figure 1).

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site is approximately 3.76ha in extent and lies within the administrative area of Horsham District Council on the outskirts of Southwater. It is currently occupied by one residential building and associated ancillary buildings, garden, driveway, car parking areas, and fields laid to pasture. The site is bounded to the north by the modern residential development of Rascals Close, agricultural land to the east and south, and Shipley Road to the west, beyond which lie residential buildings and agricultural land.
- 1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology is Weald Clay Formation – mudstone sedimentary bedrock. No superficial deposits are recorded (BGS 2024).
- 1.2.3 The surface topography slopes gently from higher ground in the northwest to lower ground in the southeast.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological evaluation is a requirement of a condition on planning consent for the proposed development of the site (Planning Ref: DC/21/2180) and is based on the original advice of Essex Place Services, acting as archaeological advisers to Horsham District Council, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), reflecting the potential of the site to contain archaeological remains that may be put at risk by the development. The condition states:

‘No development shall take place until a full programme of archaeological work has been secured in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

‘The development hereby permitted shall not be commenced until the archaeological site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under condition [i] and that provision for analysis, publication and dissemination of results and archive deposition has been secured and approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing.’

- 1.3.2 Since this condition was placed on the consent, there has been a change at Horsham District Council, and the LPA no longer receive advice from the team at Essex Place Services, but are now advised by Nick Truckle, Archaeology Officer, Historic Environment Planning Team, Surrey County Council. The advice remains unchanged despite this change of planning adviser.
- 1.3.3 The planning proposals comprise residential development of approximately 73 homes, with landscaping, parking, access, and other associated works. The private residence of Woodfords and its private garden within the central western part of the site will be retained.
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- 1.3.4 An earlier Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (DBA) was produced in support of a previous planning application for the site (Orion, 2020). The DBA concluded that overall, the site held low potential for archaeological remains dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, and a low to moderate potential for archaeological remains of all other time periods. Any archaeological remains present within the site are likely to be of local significance only, although should any archaeological remains associated with Iron Age settlement activity be present, these would be of regional significance.
- 1.3.5 In accordance with the recommended condition, a Written Scheme of Investigation for initial archaeological evaluation of the site (WSI; RPS 2025) was prepared, submitted to and approved by all parties.

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 ASE were commissioned to undertake the evaluation, and this report details the results of the fieldwork which took place between the 2nd and the 6th March 2026.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 As stated above, an earlier DBA (Orion, 2020) provided a detailed archaeological background to the site. This is summarised below.

2.2 Previous archaeological work

2.2.1 An Archaeological Notification Area (ANA) lies to the west of Southwater, c. 730m northwest of the DBA study site. The following records (EWS1170) and (EWS1979) relate to the ANA.

- A geophysical survey recorded probable archaeological features including enclosures, linear field boundaries and pit alignments possible kilns and hearths were also recorded within the central and west parts of the study site (EWS1170).
- An archaeological evaluation comprising 23 no. trenches recorded 11 features of archaeological interest. These comprised five ditches, four burnt features, two postholes, and a possible occupation layer. Residual prehistoric flint was recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. The majority of features recorded date to the Iron Age period, with several undated features also likely to be of Iron Age origin (EWS1979).

2.2.2 There have been no archaeological investigations within the study site, although a number have taken place nearby, generally to the north in and around the historic core of the settlement of Southwater.

2.2.3 A geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation were undertaken at Millfield, Southwater, c.400m northeast of the study site. Three pits of Mesolithic or early Neolithic origin are recorded, in addition to Late Iron Age to Roman occupation evidence and post medieval field systems and ponds (EWS1171).

2.2.4 No archaeological evidence is recorded from a watching brief undertaken directly to the north of the study site (EWS1922).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 Archaeological evaluations on land to the west of Southwater, over 700m to the northwest of the study site, revealed a number of archaeological features, including enclosures, linear field boundaries, and pit alignments, as well as possible kilns and hearths. Excavation confirmed an Iron Age ditch and occupation layer in a small area of the study site (MWS10168).

2.2.2 Archaeological excavations at Millfield, c. 400m to the northeast of the study site, recorded a possible roundhouse and enclosure from the late Iron Age and Roman period. The earliest features were recorded comprise three Mesolithic and/or Neolithic pits (MWS11695).

2.2.3 Evidence of prehistoric settlement activity has been found at several locations within the wider vicinity of the study site, with numerous features being recorded to the northwest and northeast of the study site. However, no prehistoric remains have been recorded on

the study site itself or its immediate vicinity, and, as a result, the potential for the study site to contain finds and features dating from the prehistoric period is deemed to be low to moderate.

2.3 Roman

2.3.1 Roman activity is recorded in the wider landscape setting of Woodfords, with tile production industry evident c. 5km north of the study site at Baystone Farm (11038), and a religious ritual and funerary site is recorded c. 8.5km northeast of the study site at Money Mount, Hammerpond Road (11039). Within a 1km radius, Roman evidence is limited to a series of pits and ephemeral linear features recorded c. 400m northeast of the study site at Millfields (MWS11695).

2.3.2 The potential for the study site to contain archaeological finds and features dating from the Roman period is considered to be low to moderate.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval

2.4.1 The HER records no evidence dating to the Saxon/Early Medieval period, either within the study site, or in the wider vicinity.

2.4.2 The study site is considered to have a low potential to contain archaeological finds and features dating from the Anglo Saxon/Early Medieval period.

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 Woodfords lies within the ancient ecclesiastical parish of Shipley, and the study site may have formed part of the manor of Knepp within Shipley during the medieval period. Knepp Castle is located to the southeast of Shipley, and Cripplegate farmhouse, located to the northeast of Woodfords, is thought to mark the position of one of the entrances to the park that surrounded the castle.

2.5.2 William de Braose held the Knepp estate in the mid-12th century. Comprised mostly of forest, the park was surrounded by a pale ('pale' is a term that generally refers the ditch and bank that formed the boundary of a medieval deer park), mentioned in 1201, and King John, who had seized the park from Lord Braose in the early 13th Century, frequently hunted there. The park was eventually returned to Lord Braose, and in 1326, it was at least 1,000 acres in size.

2.5.3 Medieval field boundaries are recorded at Millfields, c. 400m northeast of the study site (MWS11695).

2.5.4 Medieval field systems may survive within the study site, although as the study site is located in the rural hinterland beyond known settlements in the medieval period, agricultural and cultivation archaeology is likely all that may be recorded within the study site relevant to the medieval period.

2.5.5 The potential for the study site to contain archaeological finds and features dating from the medieval period is considered to be low to moderate. Any such remains which might be present on the study site are likely to be of local significance only.

2.6 Post Medieval & Modern

- 2.6.1 The Knepp estate gradually reduced in size and significance during the post-Medieval period, with significant areas of woodland cleared to accommodate farmland, with the space between Shipley and Southwater, including the study site, comprising part of the new farming landscape.
- 2.6.2 The 1795 Garner and Gream Map of Sussex (not illustrated) shows the study site as comprising parts of three fields, with four buildings situated within the study site, although none are in the location of the Woodfords building. Several farmhouses are shown in the wider vicinity, with Shipley Road and Mill Straight Road forming the main thoroughfares in the area.
- 2.6.3 The 1799 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Figure 7) depicts the study site in greater detail and shows only one building in the approximate location of the Woodfords property. The study site continues to comprise parts of three fields, although these boundaries have changed. Further land division has occurred in the surrounding area, with an increased number of smaller fields depicted.
- 2.6.4 The 1813 Ordnance Survey Old Series Map (not illustrated) shows the study site in less detail. A second building is depicted within the study site on the southern boundary; however, this may be the neighbouring farmstead subject to mapping discrepancy rather than a new building. The study site is shown on the western bank of a small valley of a tributary stream of the River Adur.
- 2.6.5 The 1849 Shipley Parish Tithe Map (not illustrated) shows the study site in more detail, illustrating that the study site was comprised of three plots: two fields and the private residence of Woodfords. Plots 351 and 353 are recorded as ‘house field’ and ‘the four and a half-acre’ respectively, both under arable cultivation. Plot 352 is comprised of the Woodfords building and its private garden. All plots within the study site are recorded as being owned and occupied by a George Langley.
- 2.6.6 The 1875 Ordnance Survey (OS) Map (not illustrated) shows the study site and surrounding area as essentially unchanged, with trees depicted along field boundaries, and a footpath between the Woodfords property and the agricultural buildings to the south of the study site. The building identified as ‘Woodfords’ is labelled ‘The Vagers’. The fields to the southeast of the study site have been amalgamated into one larger field.
- 2.6.7 The 1897 OS Map (not illustrated) shows the southern field of the study site has been partitioned to form four small fields. The surrounding area remains unchanged. The 1947 aerial photograph (not illustrated) shows the study site and immediate surroundings as unchanged, however the post-war built development that comprises the southern area of Southwater is under construction, south of Mill Straight Road and east of Shipley Road.
- 2.6.8 The 1961 – 1962 OS Map (not illustrated) shows the study site as mostly unchanged, with the addition of several small ancillary buildings across the centre of the study site. The modern suburban development that forms the southern part of the village of Southwater has continued to increase in size and density of properties.
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- 2.6.9 The 1976 – 1977 OS Map (not illustrated) shows the field boundaries within the study site have been reduced, amalgamating the study site to two main agricultural fields and the residential property of Woodfords. Five of the ancillary buildings identified on the 1961 – 1962 OS Map (not illustrated) have been demolished, and further infilling modern built development has occurred in the suburban area comprising the southern reaches of Southwater. The 2001 aerial photograph (not illustrated) shows the study site as unchanged.
- 2.6.10 The 2015 aerial photograph (not illustrated) shows the northern field of the study site as containing an equestrian yard surface, and the suburban development of Southwater has expanded further south to flank the northern boundary of the study site.
- 2.6.11 The 2024 aerial photograph (not illustrated) and the 2024 Vector Map (not illustrated) show the study site as containing two new ancillary buildings, and the fields divided to form multiple smaller paddocks likely related to equestrian activity.
- 2.6.12 Historic maps indicate that the study site has historically remained in agricultural use. It is possible that the study site may contain archaeological features relating to the house and its associated outbuildings and gardens and may also contain field boundaries of post-medieval origin. As a result, it is considered that the study site has a low to moderate potential to contain archaeological finds and features dating from the post-medieval and modern periods. Any such features which may survive on the study site are likely to be of local significance only.

2.7 Project Aims and Objectives

- 2.7.1 The principal objective of the evaluation is to establish whether any archaeological remains exist within the site. The evaluation should aim to determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be impacted upon by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains are potentially threatened should be studied, and attention should be given to sites and remains of all periods (inclusive of evidence of past environments).
- 2.7.2 The evaluation should also seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance.
- 2.7.3 The general aims of the project are:
- *To determine the absence or presence of any archaeological remains;*
 - *To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
 - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;*
 - *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
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- *To determine the degree of complexity of any horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;*
 - *To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present;*
 - *To determine the potential of the study site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present; and*
 - *To determine the sequence and dating of any Made Ground/overburden deposits to enable an understanding of the recent history of the study site and its impact on archaeological remains.*
- 2.7.4 The assessment of significance of any surviving remains will be undertaken in the context of the South-East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2025).
- 2.7.5 Within the parameters of the general aims of the project and the relevant research agenda the evaluation presents an opportunity to address the following site-specific research objectives and questions:
1. *Is there any evidence for prehistoric (Palaeolithic to Bronze Age) activity across the study site, and how does this compare with other evidence for prehistoric land use across the wider area?*
 2. *Is there any evidence for Iron Age activity across the study site, and how does this compare with other evidence for Iron Age land use to the northeast and northwest of the study site?*
 3. *How does the landscape of primarily dispersed rural settlement change in terms of development and maintenance over space and time?*
 4. *If present, what date are the earliest archaeological remains surviving within the study site?*
 5. *If present, what date are the latest archaeological remains surviving within the study site?*
 6. *Have previous developmental or cultivation activities compromised the archaeological resource and potentially altered or removed the archaeological potential of the study site?*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Twenty-four trenches were laid out using a GPS survey system and tied into the National Grid. The WSI (RPS 2025) prescribed the trenches to measure 30m x 1.8m. On site constraints, including a horse training area, access routes and services meant that variations from the trench layout prescribed in the WSI (ibid) were made (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 All trench locations were first scanned using a CAT scanner and then mechanically excavated under archaeological supervision using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 3.1.3 Undifferentiated topsoil, subsoil and overburden of recent origin were removed, and kept separately, to the archaeological horizon, or the surface of the underlying natural geology.
- 3.1.4 All exposed archaeological features and deposits were then investigated by hand and recorded to accepted professional standards on Archaeology South-East trench recording sheets and the DiggIt system.
- 3.1.5 All archaeological features / deposits were planned using digital survey technology, with sections drawn by hand and a digital photographic record of all trenches, and features was maintained.
- 3.1.6 On conclusion of the excavation, the trenches were backfilled, but no formal reinstatement was undertaken.
- 3.1.7 All work was carried out in accordance with the WSI (RPS, 2025), the Code, Regulations, Standards and Guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2025), and Sussex Archaeological Standards (CDC, ESCC, WSCC 2019).

3.2 Archive

- 3.2.1 While the documentary archive falls within the collecting area of Horsham Museum, they do not currently have any space to take in any archaeological archives and do not issue accession numbers. The site archive will be held in the short-term at the offices of ASE whilst a suitable repository is found.
- 3.2.2 The site archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in 'Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections' (SMA 2020).

Context sheets	78
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	151
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	0
Trench Record forms	24

Table 1: Quantification of site paper and digital archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Three trenches contained archaeological features and twenty-one were archaeologically negative. A ditch recorded in Trench 4 corresponds to a field boundary represented on the 1799 Historic OS map (Figure 7). Trenches 1 and 23 contained pit-like features are considered more likely to represent bioturbation.

4.2 General Soil Descriptions

- 4.2.1 Natural geology was encountered at a maximum elevation of 50.26m AOD in Trench 1 and minimum elevation of 43.63m AOD in Trench 21 and consisted of Weald Clay Formation (a light-greyish yellow clay and mudstone sedimentary bedrock) across the whole site. This was overlain in all locations by subsoil, a mid-grey silty clay with occasional small manganese flecks, with rooting disturbance. It ranged between 0.06m thick in Trench 7 and 0.29m thick in Trench 23. A dark-grey silty clay topsoil with a lot of rooting and burrowing disturbance overlay the subsoil and ranged between 0.06m thick in Trench 2 and 0.16m thick in Trench 20.

4.3 Trench 1

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
1/001	deposit	topsoil			0.08-0.10	49.46-50.48
1/002	deposit	subsoil			0.14-0.17	49.35-50.40
1/003	deposit	natural				49.19-50.26
1/004	cut	pit	1.00	>0.70	0.17	49.62
1/005	fill	fill, single	1.00	>0.70	0.17	

Table 3: Trench 1 list of recorded contexts

- 4.3.1 A pit, probably the result of rooting, was excavated in Trench 1. An irregular, sub-oval shallow pit [1/004] with gentle straight sides and a gradual rounded base. This was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with moderate small charcoal flecks and moderate medium sub-rounded burnt clay fragments [1/005]. Five fragments of this burnt clay were recovered; however they are amorphous and not indicative of function or date.

4.4 Trench 4

(Figure 4)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
4/001	deposit	topsoil				45.22-46.41
4/002	deposit	subsoil			0.15-0.16	45.13-46.31
4/003	deposit	natural				44.98-46.15
4/004	cut	ditch	>1.80	0.70	0.24	45.11
4/005	fill	fill, single	>1.80	0.70	0.24	

Table 4: Trench 4 list of recorded contexts

- 4.4.1 A single regular, north-south running, u-shaped ditch [4/004] was excavated in Trench 4. This had moderate concave sides and a gradual flat base. This was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay [4/005]. No finds recovered. This ditch aligns with a historic field boundary on the 1799 OS map (Figure 7).

4.5 Trench 23

(Figure 5)

Context	Type	Interpretation	Length m	Width m	Thickness m	Height mAOD
23/001	deposit	topsoil			0.10-0.13	45.62
23/002	deposit	subsoil			0.19-0.29	45.51
23/003	deposit	natural				45.28
23/004	cut	pit	>1.00	>0.80	0.07	45.11
23/005	fill	fill, single	>1.00	>0.80	0.07	

Table 5: Trench 23 list of recorded contexts

- 4.5.1 A pit, probably the result of rooting, was excavated in Trench 23. An irregular, sub-circular shallow pit [23/004] with gentle concave sides and a gradual rounded base. This was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with moderate small to medium manganese flecks and rare small angular to sub-angular sandstone [23/005]. No finds recovered.

4.6 Archaeologically negative trenches

- 4.6.1 Trenches 2-3, 5-22 and 24 were devoid of archaeological features or deposits. See Appendix 1 for recorded contexts.
- 4.6.2 A small assemblage of residual finds was recovered from the subsoil in Trenches 9, 14, 18 and 19. One tiny fragment of Middle or Late Bronze Age pottery was recovered from subsoil [9/002]. A sherd of red-ware pot and a single piece of a clay tobacco stem from subsoil [14/002] both of c. 17th-19th century date. Two pieces of roof tile were recovered from subsoils [18/002] and [19/002] suggesting a post-medieval date range.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of ceramic finds was recovered during the evaluation at Shipley Road, Southwater. Finds (other than those of iron and copper alloy) requiring cleaning were washed by hand and left to air dry as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and bagged by material and context. The hand-collected bulk finds are quantified in Table 6.
- 5.1.2 Conservation of artefacts, where required, has been carried out, or is ongoing. All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA (2014; 2022) guidelines. If conservation recommendations have been made, they are detailed in the relevant material section. The following specialist reports have been prepared in line with the ClfA (2021) toolkit for specialist reporting.

Context	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	CTP	Weight (g)	Fired Clay	Weight (g)
1/005							5	226
9/002	1	1						
14/002	1	6			1	2		
18/002			1	112				
19/002			1	45				
Total	2	7	2	157	1	2	5	226

Table 6: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

5.2 The Pottery by Anna Doherty

- 5.2.1 A tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery, weighing 1g, was collected from subsoil [9/002]. Although one surface is flaked away, it appears to be of fairly thick-walled profile and contains coarse flint temper of at least up to 4mm: elements which are suggestive of a Middle or Late Bronze Age date range.
- 5.2.2 Another sherd of internally glazed post-medieval red ware, of c. 17th-19th century date, weighing 6g, was recovered from subsoil [14/002].

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Rae Regensberg

- 5.3.1 Two pieces of roof tile, collectively weighing 157g, were retrieved during the evaluation at Shipley Road, Southwater. The first fragment was in the pale orange T1 fabric, 11mm thick, well fired and slightly curved. This is probably a piece of hip or ridge tile. The firing, neatness of form and fabric all suggest a post-medieval date range. The fragment was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 19. The second piece was also recovered from the subsoil, but from Trench 18. It was in the T2 fabric, 13mm thick, well fired and had a partial diamond peg hole present. Diamond peg holes are almost exclusively found in post-medieval peg tile.
- 5.3.2 All of the material was recorded by form, weight, complete dimensions (when present) and fabric, and entered into an Excel spreadsheet. Fabrics were identified with the aid of

a x20 binocular microscope, and site specific fabric codes have been applied using the following conventions: frequency of inclusions (sparse, moderate, common, abundant); the size of inclusions, fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (0.25-0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). Fabric descriptions are provided in Table 7.

Fabric	Description
T1	Pale orange fabric with sparse fine quartz and mica.
T2	Orange fabric with yellow streaking and hackly matrix - maybe from siltstone fragments?

Table 7: Ceramic building material fabric descriptions

5.4 The Fired Clay by Trista Clifford

- 5.4.1 A small assemblage of five fragments of fired clay, weighing 226g, were recovered from pit fill [1/005]. The fabric is sand tempered with frequent ferrous oxide inclusions up to 5mm. three large fragments are fairly consistent in thickness of 32-38mm; dished, flattened areas c.25mm wide on two fragments could represent wattle or other impressions however they are not indicative of function and the fragments are otherwise amorphous.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Anna Doherty

- 5.5.1 A single clay tobacco pipe stem fragment, weighing 2g, dating to the 17th-19th centuries was recovered from subsoil [14/002]

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Natural geology overlain by subsoil and topsoil was recorded in all trenches. Features were only recorded in 3 of the 24 trenches and comprised one post-medieval ditch and two dubious pit-like features – both most likely the result of bioturbation.
- 6.1.4 The methodology as outlined in the WSI (RPS 2025) was successfully employed. Conditions on site were generally conducive to confident and efficient identification and recording of archaeological features.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The evaluated areas appeared generally undisturbed, with an intact subsoil horizon, overlain by topsoil, recorded in all trenches. The geological horizon was occasionally disturbed by rutting.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

18th to 19th century

- 6.3.1 A ditch recorded in Trench 4 likely dates to the 18th to 19th century as it aligns well with a boundary shown on the 1799 historic Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7). Along with the residual finds from the general site this suggests some small-scale post-medieval activity. The two other pit-like features are considered to represent bioturbation.

6.4 Potential impact on archaeological remains

- 6.4.1 It is considered that development of the evaluated areas will have no impact upon significant archaeological deposits.

6.5 Consideration of research aims

- 6.5 The general objectives were successfully achieved. The evaluation trenches indicated no significant disturbance to the archaeological horizon and no significant archaeological remains.

6.7 Conclusions

- 6.6.1 Twenty-four trenches were excavated. The evaluated areas appeared generally undisturbed, with an intact subsoil horizon, overlain by topsoil, recorded in all trenches. The geological horizon was occasionally disturbed by rutting. Features were only recorded in 3 of the 24 trenches and comprised one post-medieval ditch and two dubious pit-like features – both most likely the result of bioturbation. It is considered that development of the evaluated areas will have no impact upon significant archaeological deposits.

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Society for Museum Archaeology, 2020 *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections*, available: https://collectionstrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Standards_and_Guidance_in_the_Care_of_Archaeological_Collections.pdf

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches; list of recorded contexts

Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness m	Height mAOD
2/001	deposit	topsoil	0.06-0.08	47.66-48.82
2/002	deposit	subsoil	0.08-0.20	47.58-48.76
2/003	deposit	natural		47.38-48.61
3/001	deposit	topsoil	0.07-0.12	47.08-47.33
3/002	deposit	subsoil	0.12-0.16	47.01-47.25
3/003	deposit	natural		46.85-47.11
5/001	deposit	topsoil	0.09-0.10	49.02-50.11
5/002	deposit	subsoil	0.08-0.22	48.92-50.01
5/003	deposit	natural		48.84-49.84
6/001	deposit	topsoil	0.09-0.11	48.33-48.43
6/002	deposit	subsoil	0.11-0.15	48.22-48.34
6/003	deposit	natural		48.11-48.19
7/001	deposit	topsoil	0.08-0.10	46.83-47.92
7/002	deposit	subsoil	0.06-0.10	46.73-47.84
7/003	deposit	natural		46.64-47.78
8/001	deposit	topsoil	0.08-0.15	46.26-46.36
8/002	deposit	subsoil	0.10-0.14	46.15-46.27
8/003	deposit	natural		46.01-46.17
9/001	deposit	topsoil	0.09-0.12	49.17-49.63
9/002	deposit	subsoil	0.13-0.15	49.05-49.53
9/003	deposit	natural		48.90-49.39
10/001	deposit	topsoil	0.08-0.10	48.70-49.05
10/002	deposit	subsoil	0.12-0.19	48.60-48.97
10/003	deposit	natural		48.41-48.85
11/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.12	46.94-48.06
11/002	deposit	subsoil	0.08-0.13	46.84-47.94
11/003	deposit	natural		46.74-47.81
12/001	deposit	topsoil	0.12-0.14	46.69-47.23
12/002	deposit	subsoil	0.12-0.16	46.55-47.11
12/003	deposit	natural		46.43-46.99
13/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.12	44.97-45.94

Context	Type	Interpretation	Thickness m	Height mAOD
13/002	deposit	subsoil	0.10-0.15	44.85-45.83
13/003	deposit	natural		44.71-45.73
14/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.12	46.57-47.40
14/002	deposit	subsoil	0.10-0.16	46.47-47.29
14/003	deposit	natural		46.37-47.13
15/001	deposit	topsoil	0.09-0.12	45.98-46.68
15/002	deposit	subsoil	0.14-0.22	45.88-46.56
15/003	deposit	natural		45.74-46.34
16/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.12	45.06-45.77
16/002	deposit	subsoil	0.15-0.16	44.95-45.65
16/003	deposit	natural		44.80-45.49
17/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.14	44.55-45.62
17/002	deposit	subsoil	0.12-0.15	44.43-45.52
17/003	deposit	natural		44.28-45.39
18/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.11	45.81-46.62
18/002	deposit	subsoil	0.09-0.14	45.71-46.51
18/003	deposit	natural		45.62-46.37
19/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.12	45.07-45.75
19/002	deposit	subsoil	0.10-0.13	44.98-45.65
19/003	deposit	natural		44.84-45.55
20/001	deposit	topsoil	0.10-0.16	44.34-45.01
20/002	deposit	subsoil	0.09-0.12	44.24-44.85
20/003	deposit	natural		44.15-44.73
21/001	deposit	topsoil	0.09-0.10	43.88-44.72
21/002	deposit	subsoil	0.09-0.15	43.78-44.63
21/003	deposit	natural		43.63-44.54
22/001	deposit	topsoil	0.07-0.13	49.90
22/002	deposit	subsoil	0.08-0.15	49.77
22/003	deposit	natural		49.69
24/001	deposit	topsoil	0.11-0.12	46.28
24/002	deposit	subsoil	0.12-0.21	46.17
24/003	deposit	natural		45.96

Appendix 2: HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	794-PLN-HER-01677					
Site code	SSO26					
Project code	250183					
Planning reference	DC/21/2180					
Site address	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater					
District/Borough	Horsham District Council, West Sussex					
NGR (12 figures)	515585 125028					
Geology	Weald clay formation					
Fieldwork type	Eval					
Date of fieldwork	2 nd to 6 th March 2026					
Sponsor/client	Bellway					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Wiktoria Krzoska					
Period summary						
				Post-Medieval		
Project summary	Twenty-four trenches were excavated. The evaluated areas appeared generally undisturbed, with an intact subsoil horizon, overlain by topsoil, recorded in all trenches. The geological horizon was occasionally disturbed by rutting. Features were only recorded in 3 of the 24 trenches and comprised one post-medieval ditch and two dubious pit-like features – both most likely the result of bioturbation. It is considered that development of the evaluated areas will have no impact upon significant archaeological deposits.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Pottery	Ceramic	Prehistoric to 17 th -19 th c.	7g
CBM	Ceramic	17 th -19 th c.	157g
CTP	Ceramic	17 th -19 th c.	2g
Fired clay	Clay	n/a	226g

Appendix 3: OASIS Form

OASIS ID (UID): archaeol6-541678

Project Name: Archaeological Evaluation at Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater

Activity type: Evaluation

Sitecode(s): SSO26

Project Identifier(s): [no data]

Planning Id: DC/21/2180

Reason for Investigation: Planning requirement

Organisation Responsible for work: Archaeology South-East

Project Dates: 02-Mar-2026 - 06-Mar-2026

HER: West Sussex HER

HER: Surrey HER

Project Methodology: Twenty-four trenches were excavated.

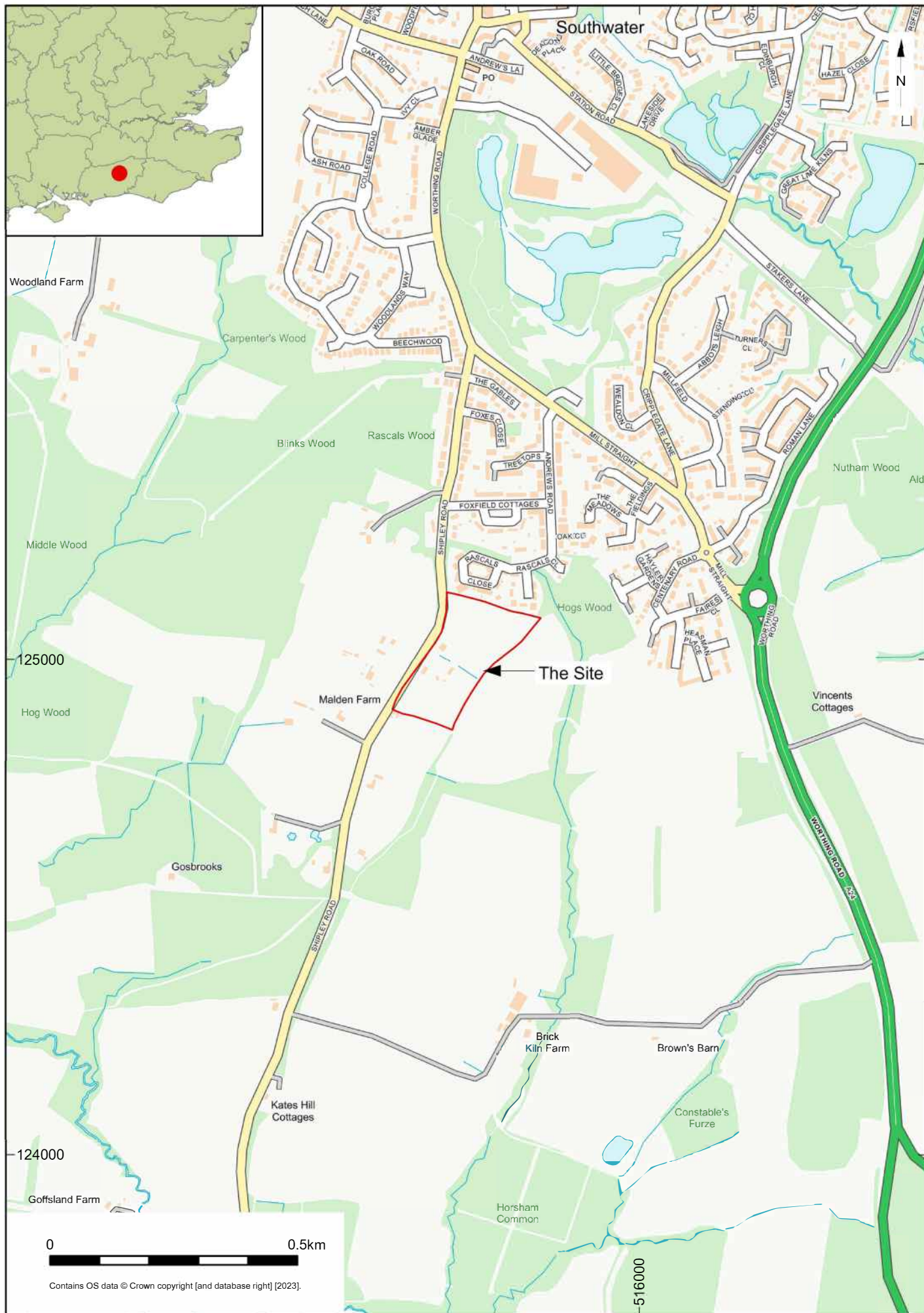
Project Results: The evaluated areas appeared generally undisturbed, with an intact subsoil horizon, overlain by topsoil, recorded in all trenches. The geological horizon was occasionally disturbed by rutting. Features were only recorded in 3 of the 24 trenches and comprised one post-medieval ditch and two dubious pit-like features – both most likely the result of bioturbation. It is considered that development of the evaluated areas will have no impact upon significant archaeological deposits.

Archive: Physical Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Horsham Museum & Art Gallery;

Site name: Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater

Coordinates: TQ 15585 25028

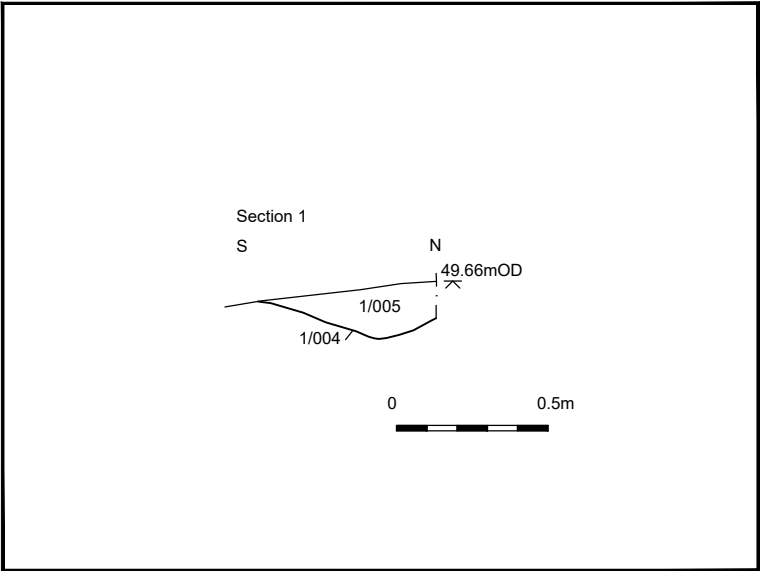
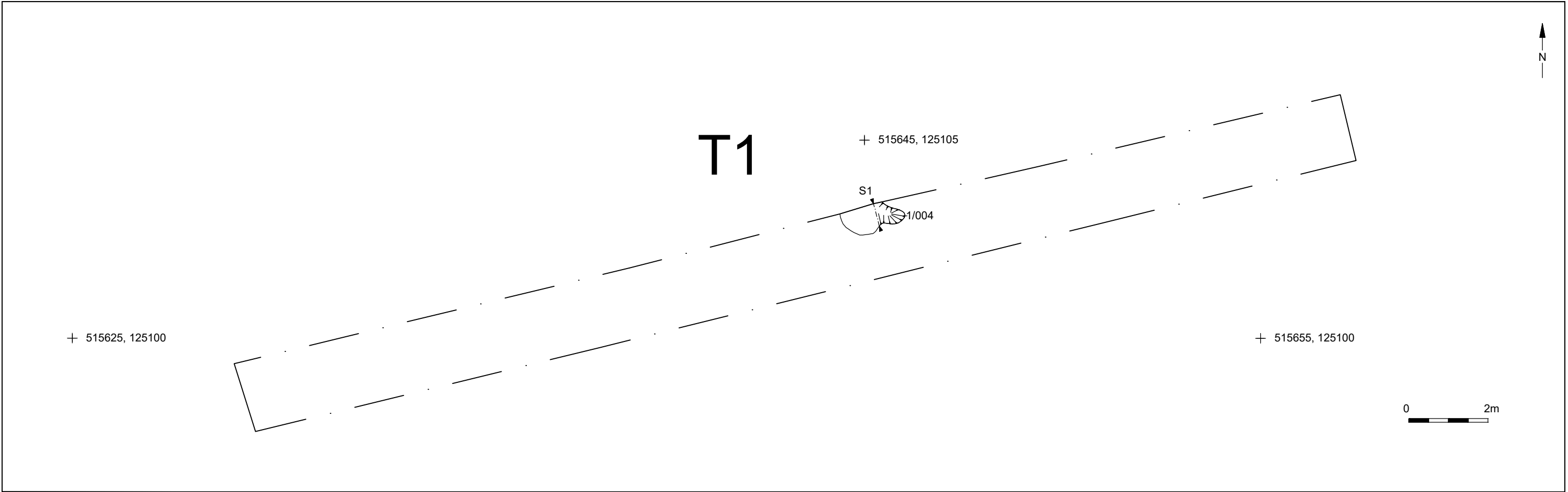
Administrative Areas: Country : England County/Local Authority : West Sussex Local Authority District : Horsham Parish : Shipley



	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater Site location	Fig. 1
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	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater Trench location	Fig. 2
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Pit 1/004 facing west

	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater	Fig. 3
	Trench 1 plan, section and photograph	

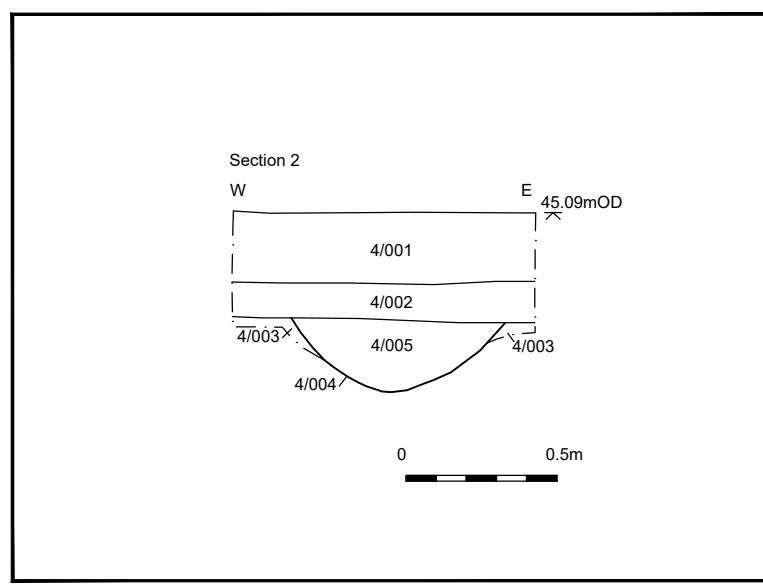
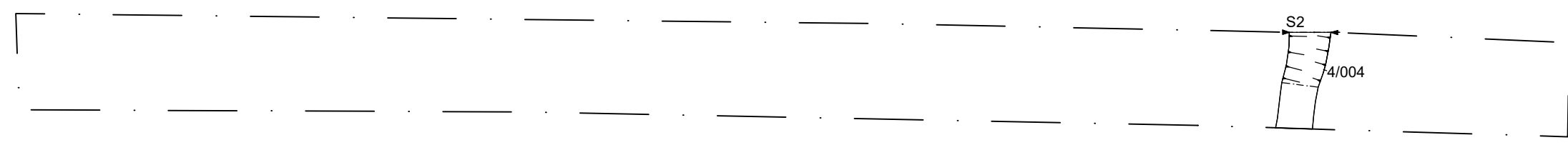


T4

+ 515730, 125075

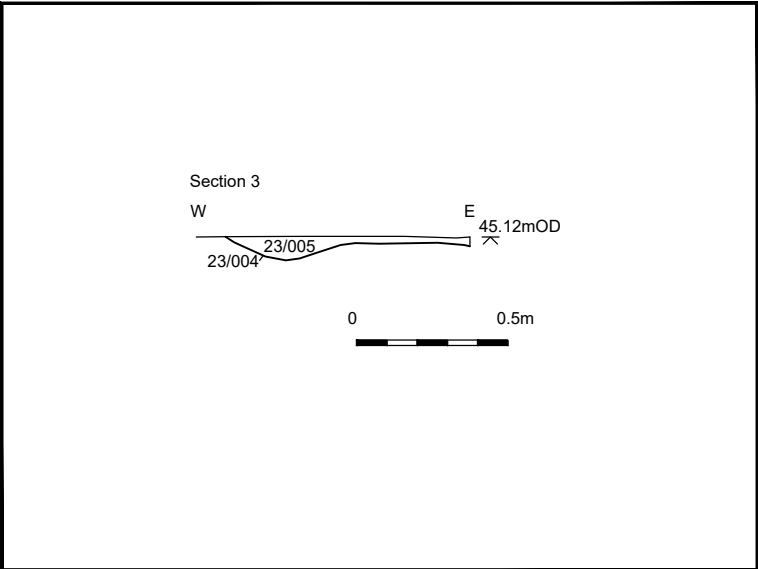
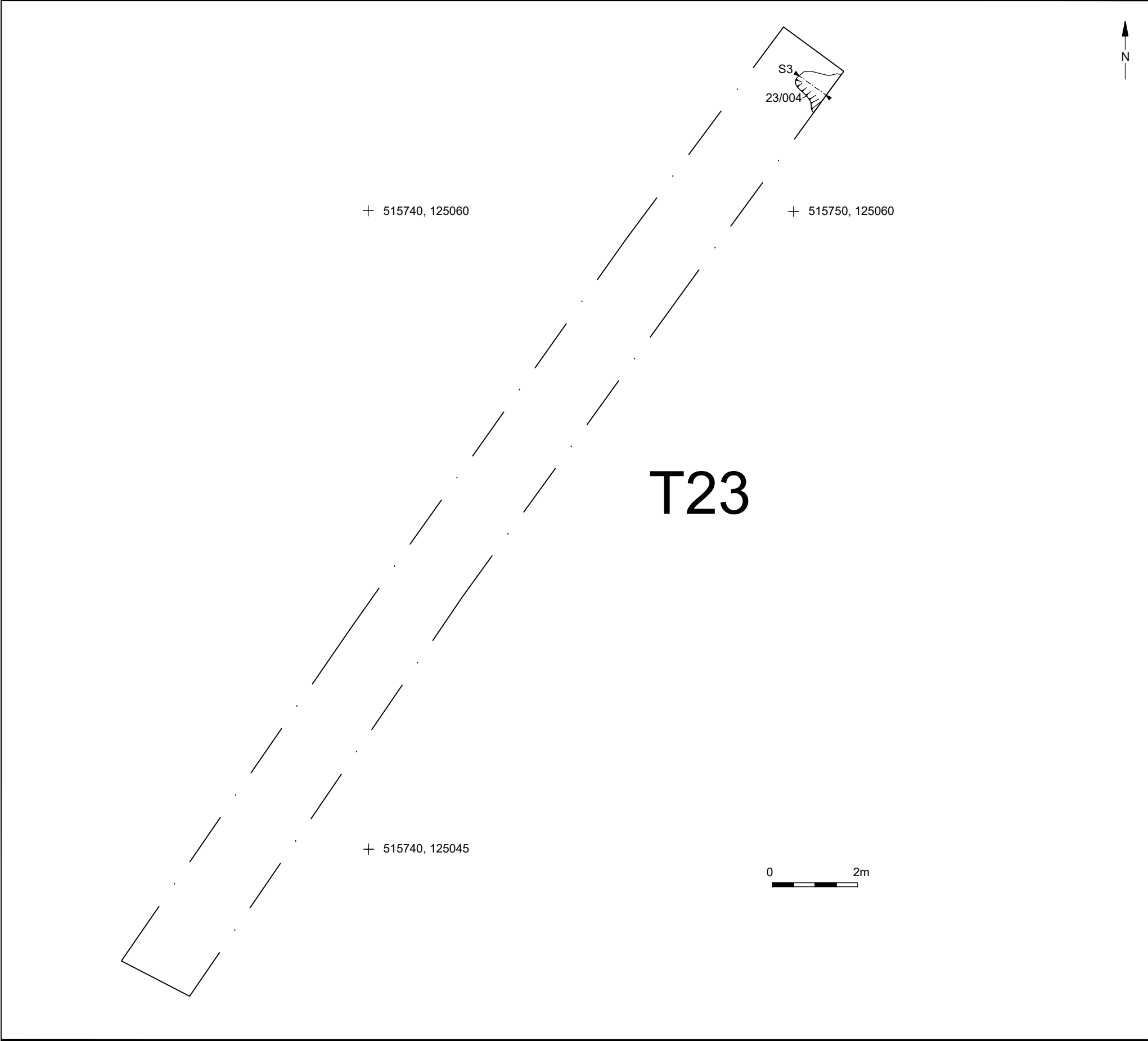
+ 515755, 125075

+ 515745, 125070



Ditch 4/004 facing north

	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater	Fig. 4
	Trench 4 plan, section and photograph	



23/004 facing north



Trench 2 facing south east



Trench 3 facing north east



Trench 5 facing south east



Trench 6 facing north east



Trench 8 facing south west



Trench 9 facing north east



Trench 10 facing south east



Trench 11 facing north west



Trench 12 facing west



Trench 13 facing south east



Trench 14 facing north east



Trench 15 facing south west



Trench 16 facing north east



Trench 17 facing south east



Trench 18 facing north west



Trench 19 facing north east



Trench 20 facing south east



Trench 21 facing north east



Trench 22 facing east



Trench 24 facing south west

	Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater	Fig. 6
	Negative trenches photos	



		Woodfords, Shipley Road, Southwater	Fig. 7
1799 OS map	1:25,000	1799 OS map and plan overlay	
1990s aerial photo	1:10,000		

