# Archaeological Evaluation

## Land at Carter Drive, Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex

NGR: TQ 14890 30970

Site Code: WGB26

Oasis ID: archaeol6-540816

Project Reference
794-PLN-HER-00732

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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
# LAND AT CARTER DRIVE, WICKHURST GREEN
# BROADBRIDGE HEATH
# HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX

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**ASE Project No: 250181**
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**By David Brown**

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***Abstract***

*This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeology South-East at Carter Drive, Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex in February 2026. The fieldwork was commissioned by RPS Group on behalf of Vistry in advance of housing development.*

*Five trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the site. For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is intact, except for modern truncation at the southern end of Trench 5 and some evidence of rooting. A total of nine archaeological features were identified across four of the six proposed trenches. These consisted of linear ditches containing Saxo-Norman/High Medieval pottery and residual prehistoric flintwork, and an undated gully and posthole in Trench 6.*

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# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East was commissioned by RPS Group on behalf of their client Vistry to undertake archaeological trial trenching on land at Carter Drive, Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex (Figure 1).

## 1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The proposed area for development is located within the northern extent of Wickhurst Green at Broadbridge Heath.

1.2.2 The local geology of the site comprises Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone with no known superficial deposits.

1.2.3 The topography of the site is uneven and undulating with a general south-easterly slope.

## 1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 The current area of the site was originally designated and reserved for a primary school. A subsequent planning application comprised a proposal for construction of an additional 80 homes with associated access, landscaping and infrastructures (Figure 2).

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation of the site (RPS 2025) was prepared in accordance with Sussex Archaeological Standards (CDC / ESCC / WSCC 2019).

## 1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 The scope of this report is to set out the findings of the trial trench evaluation.

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## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section presents a summary of pertinent finds and data from archaeological works supplemented with findings from Desk Based Assessments presented by RPS (2024). The site is not located within the locally designated Archaeological Notification Area, but part of that area is located to the west and to the north across Broadbridge Way.

### 2.2 Palaeolithic

2.2.1 No Palaeolithic finds have been recorded for the study area.

### 2.3 Mesolithic

2.3.1 A number of Mesolithic flint scatters have been identified during works on the line of Sargent Way. One scatter designated 'Hunting Camp 1' contained 49 pieces of worked flint including a piecer, blades and bladelets and five microliths. A second scatter within three infilled tree throws, designated 'Hunting Camp 2' produced 632 pieces of worked flint but considerably fewer microliths which suggested a similar date.

### 2.4 Neolithic

2.4.1 Neolithic finds from Wickhurst Green were primarily residual pieces of worked flint and fragmented sherds of possible Peterborough Ware within a post-medieval pit. A small possible mortuary or monumental enclosure or possible small square "houses" of earlier Neolithic date were identified; some located 300m south of the site but were later dated to later prehistoric period.

### 2.5 Bronze Age

2.5.1 Evidence for Bronze Age activity in Wickhurst Green is limited to a small number of pit features located c.150m south-west and c.380 south-south-west as well as finds including pottery, worked flints and a small Arreton class axe redeposited in a medieval pit.

### 2.6 Iron Age

2.6.1 The Wickhurst Green site demonstrated extensive occupation from the Middle Iron Age, comprising of four roundhouses in the central area of the site, c.250m south-west of the current site. A spiral gully-defined structure was also identified as being a possible workshop and two additional four post structures (possible granary and/or hay ricks) which truncated the ring ditch of another possible roundhouse in the vicinity. One further area of occupation was identified south-east of the current site with a ring gully of a round house located in the corner of an enclosure ditch.

### 2.7 Late Iron Age and Romano-British

2.7.1 The Late Iron Age into the early Romano-British period represents the most evidence for occupation on the site with the laying out of trackways, enclosures and field systems and structures associated with stock enclosures and two further round houses located to the south and south-east respectively. A cremation cemetery was identified in the vicinity of these locales which included two small square barrows and a number of cremations.

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2.7.2 The Romano-British period saw the continued occupation of Wickhurst Green with modification of the noted structures and the installation of substantial field systems. However, no material culture finds for this date were recovered from the site indicating chiefly pastoral and arable activity.

## 2.8 Medieval

2.8.1 Evidence for Anglo-Saxon and medieval occupation of the site and wider area is known. There is little mention of the area in Anglo-Saxon Chronicles or Domesday. As such, it is thought that lands reverted to woodlands with few scattered settlements yet were still attached to manors and parishes. Aside from a small number of surface finds, there is very little evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation of the site before the 11th century.

2.8.2 The site is located near Old Wickhurst Lane. Margetts (2018) phased a holloway to the west of Old Wickhurst Lane from the Late Saxon period through to the medieval period. This was interpreted as the former and oldest alignment of Wickhurst Lane and used as a droveway to Sullington. The site is peripheral to identified Saxo-Norman and medieval farms with Old Wickhurst Lane located nearby.

## 2.9 Post-Medieval

2.9.1 During previous works, a small area of post-medieval ridge and furrow was investigated with the furrows containing 17th-18th century pottery. More field boundaries were also identified immediately west and east of the site.

2.9.2 Cartographic evidence from this period shows a succession of moving and removing of field boundaries with very few built structures but with the inclusion of a pond by the late 19th century with said pond being filled in by the early 20th century. However, it would appear the area of the site has remained largely open ground with minimal disturbance.

# 3.0 Project Aims and Objectives

3.1 The general objective of the evaluation was to provide further information on the likelihood of any archaeological remains within the proposed area to enable Horsham District Council to identify and assess their significance, 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 proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (DCMS, 2024).

3.2 A further objective of the project was to compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.

3.3 The following general objectives for the evaluation were:

- *To identify the nature, character, extent and possible date of any archaeological sites and/or features within the areas subject to evaluation*
- *To assess the survival, quality, condition and significance of any archaeological remains*

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- *To ensure the preservation by record of all archaeological remains revealed during the course of the archaeological evaluation*

- *To prepare an appropriate archaeological archive including the treatment and preservation of any artefacts.*

3.4 Further specific aims are as follows:

- *Are any archaeological remains present cut into the basal geology, following investigation and recording, can these findings contribute to local or regional research priorities as set out in the South-East Research Framework (SERF; KCC 2025)?*

- *Is there any further evidence for Mesolithic activity at the site, similar to the flint scatter found to the west of the proposed development?*

- *Is there any evidence for Neolithic activity at the site, perhaps associated, in terms of territory, occupation or landscape utilisation?*

- *Are there archaeological features or sites of Bronze Age date present that may further contextualise the local landscape?*

- *Is there any evidence for Iron Age or Roman activity, field-systems, or activity: particularly any further evidence of Middle or Late Iron Age occupation?*

- *What evidence is there for Roman, early Medieval and Medieval utilisation of this site in terms of further contextualising the important Medieval settlement pattern at Wickhurst Green and can the holloway along the eastern edge of the site be identified and more closely dated?*

3.5 An updated SERF is currently in preparation and this will establish the regional historic environment research agenda for the area within which the site is located. Draft chapters for the research agenda have been subject to consultation but not yet published in final form. The programme of archaeological investigations undertaken in connection with the project may produce results which could contribute to several of the themes and issue identified within the draft research agenda.

3.6 In the event of positive results from the evaluation these aims will be updated for a second stage WSI.

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## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Evaluation Methodology

3.1.1 The evaluation consisted of six trenches (Figure 3).

3.1.2 Trenches were set out and recorded, along with archaeological features, using survey grade GNSS equipment and SMARTNET correctional data enabled.

3.1.3 Upon stakeout, the trench locations had to be adjusted slightly to compensate for the very heavy bramble and thicket cover to prevent problems for the machine and general site movement.

3.1.4 Trench 1 could not be opened due to being inaccessible to the machine. This was agreed with RPS. It was located beyond a stream and Heras fence and there was no safe alternative access point.

3.1.5 Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 6 measured c.30m x 1.8m while Trench 4 measured c.16m x 1.8m. Following opening of Trench 2, a small extension on the north-eastern side of the trench was agreed to better characterise the linear feature identified therein.

3.1.6 Prior to mechanical excavation, a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT) scanner was utilised to scan for any additional services that may not have been previously identified. No additional services identified during the evaluation.

3.1.7 The trenches were then opened under archaeological supervision using a tracked excavator with a toothless bucket.

3.1.8 Trenches were excavated to the top of the geological horizon, or to the top of archaeological deposits – whichever was uppermost. Spoil was bunded around the edges of trenches, separating topsoil and subsoils for reinterment.

3.1.9 All deposits, features and finds were recorded using standard ASE *pro forma* trench records and the Diggit mobile digital recording application.

3.1.10 Once recording was complete, the trenches were mechanically backfilled, but no formal reinstatement was undertaken.

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## 3.2 Archive

3.2.1 ASE informed Horsham Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and the contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1 and 2).

3.2.2 The site archive will be deposited at Horsham Museum in due course and assembled in accordance with guidelines set out in *Standards and Guidance in the Care of Archaeological Collections* (SMA 2020).

| | |
|---|---|
| Context sheets | 0 |
| Section sheets | 2 |
| Plans sheets | 0 |
| Colour photographs | 0 |
| B&W photos | 0 |
| Digital photos | 45 |
| Context register | 0 |
| Drawing register | 1 |
| Watching brief forms | 0 |
| Trench Record forms | 5 |

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 | 4 |
| Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides) | 0 |
| Waterlogged wood | 0 |
| Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples | 4 |

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

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## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Trenches 2-3 and 5-6

4.1.1 Of the six proposed trenches, Trench 1 was abandoned due to access issues and Trench 4 was archaeologically negative. Four of the trenches contained archaeological remains.

4.1.2 All trenches were excavated to the top of the geological horizon and exhibited similar stratigraphy of natural Weald Clay overlain by subsoil, a mid-grey-brown silty clay and topsoil, a mid-brown silty clay with turf line.

### 4.2 Trench 2 (Figure 4)

| Context | Type | Interpretation | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness (m) | Height (m AOD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/001 | Deposit | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.09 | |
| 2/002 | Deposit | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.28 | 39.45 |
| 2/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | 0.15 | 39.16 |
| 2/004 | Cut | Ditch | 20 | 0.75 | 0.26 | 39.31 |
| 2/005 | Fill | Primary fill | 20 | 0.60 | 0.08 | |
| 2/006 | Fill | Secondary fill | 20 | 0.75 | 0.18 | |
| 2/007 | Cut | Ditch | 10 | 0.85 | 0.27 | 39.34 |
| 2/008 | Fill | Single fill | 10 | 0.85 | 0.27 | |

Table 3: Trench 2 list of recorded contexts

4.2.1 Trench 2 contained two intersecting ditches on north-south alignments, likely indicating a recutting of a previous feature. The ditches are in broad alignment with a ditch recorded in Trench 3 [3/006] to the east.

4.2.2 The lower fill (2/005) of the earlier ditch [2/004] showed evidence for possible waterlogging and yielded a blade-like worked flint possibly of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date. The upper fill (2/006) yielded a denticulated flint scraper unlikely to post-date the Neolithic period and a sherd of Saxo-Norman pottery. The flintwork in the ditch is therefore considered to be residual.

4.2.3 The single fill (2/008) of the later ditch [2/007] also yielded a prehistoric flint flake and 2 sherds of High Medieval pottery. The flintwork in the ditch is therefore considered to be residual.

### 4.3 Trench 3 (Figure 5)

| Context | Type | Interpretation | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness (m) | Height (m AOD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3/001 | Deposit | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.10 | 39.73 |
| 3/002 | Deposit | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24 | 39.68 |
| 3/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24 | 39.50 |
| 3/004 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8 | 1.95 | 0.35 | 39.53 |
| 3/005 | Fill | Fill | 1.8 | 1.95 | 0.35 | |
| 3/006 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8 | 0.98 | 0.20 | 39.49 |
| 3/007 | Fill | Fill | 1.8 | 0.98 | 0.20 | |

Table 4: Trench 3 list of recorded contexts

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4.3.1 Trench 3 contained two ditches [3/004] and [3/006] which appear to probably meet at a right-angle just beyond the trench. Both ditches contained single fills of a similar nature consisting of silty clay with flecks of manganese.

4.3.2 Fills from both ditches produced dateable finds of Mesolithic or Neolithic flintwork, Saxo-Norman and High Medieval pottery. Ditch fill (3/007) from ditch [3/006] yielded small and medium mammal bone and teeth.

### 4.4 Trench 5 (Figure 6)

| Context | Type | Interpretation | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness (m) | Height (m AOD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5/001 | Deposit | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.08 | 39.36 |
| 5/002 | Deposit | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.24 | 39.25 |
| 5/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | 0.19 | 38.97 |
| 5/004 | Deposit | Made ground | 10 | 1.8 | 0.25 | 38.97 |
| 5/005 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8 | 1.4 | | 39.16 |
| 5/006 | Fill | Fill | 1.8 | 1.4 | 0.30 | |
| 5/007 | Cut | Ditch | 1.8 | 0.76 | | 39.18 |
| 5/008 | Fill | Fill | 1.8 | 0.76 | 0.18 | |

Table 5: Trench 5 list of recorded contexts

4.4.1 Trench 5 contained two parallel ditches [5/005] and [5/007]. Both had single fills.

4.4.2 Ditch [5/005] produced no finds; however, the fill of ditch [5/007] produced 3 sherds of High Medieval pottery.

4.4.3 Modern disturbance containing quantities of plastic was identified at the south-western end of the trench.

### 4.5 Trench 6

| Context | Type | Interpretation | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness (m) | Height (m AOD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6/001 | Deposit | Topsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.12 | 39.07 |
| 6/002 | Deposit | Subsoil | 30 | 1.8 | 0.17 | 38.90 |
| 6/003 | Deposit | Natural | 30 | 1.8 | 0.26 | 38.75 |
| 6/004 | Cut | Gully | 1.80 | 0.69 | 0.21 | 38.78 |
| 6/005 | Fill | Fill | 1.80 | 0.69 | 0.21 | |
| 6/006 | Cut | Posthole | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.18 | 38.81 |
| 6/007 | Fill | Fill | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.18 | |
| 6/008 | Cut | Ditch | 1.80 | 1.36 | 0.39 | 38.92 |
| 6/009 | Fill | Fill | 1.80 | 1.36 | 0.39 | |

Table 6: Trench 6 list of recorded contexts

4.5.1 Trench 6 contained a gully, a posthole and a ditch.

4.5.2 The ditch [6/008] contained a sherd of High Medieval pottery

4.5.3 The gully and the posthole are undated and both features exhibited evidence of root disturbance.

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### 4.6 Trench 4

4.6.1 Trench 4 was archaeologically negative. The topsoil deposit consisted of the same silty clay and turf line seen elsewhere on site overlying the same mid grey-brown silty clay subsoil. Topsoil exhibited varying thicknesses between 0.05-0.08m. Similarly, the subsoil exhibited varying thicknesses between 0.22-0.25m (Appendix 1).

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## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the evaluation at Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath. Finds (other than those of iron) 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 7; material recovered from the residues of environmental samples is quantified in Appendix 3.

5.1.2 All metal objects were x radiographed according to Historic England guidelines (Fell et al 2006). Conservation of artefacts, where required, has been carried out, or is ongoing. All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA (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 CIfA (2021) toolkit for specialist reporting.

| Context | Lithics | Weight (g) | Pottery | Weight (g) | CBM | Weight (g) | Iron | Weight (g) | Fired Clay | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/005 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 2/006 | 2 | 124 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | |
| 2/008 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 3/002 | | | 1 | 4 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 39 |
| 3/005 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 31 | 1 | 44 | | | | |
| 3/007 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 50 | | | | | | |
| 5/008 | | | 3 | 17 | | | | | | |
| 6/009 | | | 1 | 10 | | | | | | |
| **Total** | **6** | **132** | **20** | **119** | **1** | **44** | **1** | **2** | **1** | **39** |

Table 7: Quantification of hand-collected bulk finds

### 5.2 **Worked Flint** by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 A total of six worked flints, weighing 132g, were recovered (Table 8).

| Context | Parent | Context type | Category | Total no |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/005 | 2/004 | Ditch, primary fill | Blade-like flake | 1 |
| 2/006 | 2/004 | Ditch, secondary fill | Denticulated scraper | 1 |
| 2/006 | 2/004 | Ditch, secondary fill | Irregular waste | 1 |
| 2/008 | 2/007 | Ditch, single fill | Flake | 1 |
| 3/005 | 3/004 | Ditch, single fill | Flake | 1 |
| 3/007 | 3/006 | Ditch, single fill | Bladelet | 1 |

Table 8: The worked flint

5.2.2 The small assemblage appears to be residual in four ditch interventions (two in Trench 2 and two in Trench 3). It consists of two flakes, a blade, a blade-like flake, a piece of irregular waste and a denticulated scraper. The small bladelet fragment exhibits

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parallel lateral edges and parallel ridges that reflect a blade-based industry. This suggests a presence during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. The blade-like flake is also likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. It is difficult to date the flakes with confidence, but they are mostly characteristic of the Mesolithic or Neolithic. The denticulated scraper is also unlikely to post-date the Neolithic period.

### 5.3 **The Pottery** by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological work recovered 24 sherds of pottery, weighing 121g, from seven individually numbered contexts. The material has been fully listed in Table 9 as part of the visible archive. Medieval fabrics have been allocated the fabric codes as used at the nearby excavations at Broadbridge Heath (Barber 2018) as well as a descriptive name. Overall, the pottery consists of small to medium-sized sherds with variable degrees of abrasion. Whereas some sherds have clearly been subjected to some reworking, usually the earlier lower fired examples, a number are in fresher condition despite the acidic burial environment.

| Context | Fabric | Period | No | Weight (g) | **Comments** (including estimated number of different vessels represented by form. ? = undiagnostic of form) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/006 | SS1 Moderate/abundant shell | SN | 1 | 5 | ?x1 (oxidised, worn) |
| 2/008 | Q10 Medium quartz | HM | 1 | 2 | ?x1 (reduced, worn) |
| 2/008 | Q8 Earlswood fine/medium quartz | HM | 1 | 2 | ?x1 (oxidised) |
| 3/002 | Q10 Medium quartz | HM | 1 | 4 | Cooking pot x1 (reduced) |
| 3/005 | FQ1 Abundant fine flint sand | SN | 1 | 6 | ?x1 (oxidised) |
| 3/005 | SS1 Moderate/abundant shell | SN | 3 | 4 | ?x1 (oxidised, worn) |
| 3/005 | SS2 Sparse/moderate shell & quartz | SN | 1 | 2 | ?Cooking pot x1 (oxidised, external sooting) |
| 3/005 | Q4 Fine/medium quartz | SN | 2 | 8 | ?Cooking pot x1 (oxidised) |
| 3/005 | FQ3 Abundant quartz, sparse flint | HM | 3 | 9 | ?x1 (oxidised) |
| 3/005 | Q5 Fine quartz | HM | 1 | 1 | ?x1 (oxidised, very worn. Rather silty) |
| 3/007 | SS1 Moderate/abundant shell | SN | 1 | 1 | ?x1 (oxidised) |
| 3/007 | FQ3 Abundant quartz, sparse flint | HM | 3 | 40 | Cooking pot x2 (oxidised) |
| 3/007 | Q15 Earlswood coarse quartz | HM | 1 | 9 | ?x1 (oxidised) |
| 5/008 | Q8 Earlswood fine/medium quartz | HM | 3 | 17 | Jug x1 (oxidised, white slip line, patchy green glaze exterior) |
| 6/009 | Q10 Medium quartz | HM | 1 | 11 | Cooking pot x1 (oxidised, beaded rim?) |

Table 9: Pottery assemblage
(SN – Saxo-Norman c. 1050-1200/25; HM - High Medieval c. 1200/25-1350/75)

5.3.2 All of the pottery is of medieval date with, surprisingly, no post-medieval material being present. The earliest post-Roman pottery is of the Saxo-Norman period, probably dating to the 12th to very early 13th centuries (9/26g). Most of this material consists of small, often abraded, featureless body sherds in shelly or flinty fabrics (Table 9) that is sometimes residual in later deposits. Despite this its presence demonstrates the onset

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of activity probably occurred in the mid/later 12th century. The bulk of the assemblage (15/95g) consists of typically quartz tempered fabrics of the High Medieval period. Again, feature sherds are rare, though cooking pots and glazed jugs are represented. Although some of these fabrics are from uncertain sources, many derive from Surrey, most notably the Earlswood industry. This is not uncommon for this area of the Weald, where trade connections often looked northward due to difficulties in transportation and certainly these Surrey wares are a common find in the area (Barber 2008; 2018). The High Medieval assemblage suggests activity throughout the 13th century, possibly extending to the mid-14th century, though no sherds have to post-date *c.* 1300.

5.3.3 The pottery assemblage is small, mixed and of types well known of in the area. Although the current assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis beyond that already taken for the current report, it is recommended the assemblage be retained and assessed in the light of any further material from the site should mitigation excavation be undertaken.

### 5.4 Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Rae Regensberg

5.4.1 One fragment of flat roof tile, weighing 44g, was recovered from the single fill of ditch [3/004]. The tile had an orange fabric with frequent cream streaking. The tile has a medieval to post-medieval date range.

### 5.5 The Fired Clay by Stephen Patton

5.5.1 A single piece of fragmentary structural daub (39g) was recovered from subsoil [3/002]. It is made from a fine silty clay with iron rich inclusions and has been exposed to heat sufficiently to become mostly ceramic. It can be identified as a piece of daub due to one more certain and one probable wattle impression. Most of the fragment is oxidised, with an indent running through this part approximately 10mm in diameter. This is the less certain wattle impression, whereas the more certain impression, also 10mm in diameter, runs through an area that is unoxidized. The two impressions run in differing directions, with one possibly vertical and the other horizontal. Unfortunately, as the piece was recovered from subsoil there is no indication where the structure it originated from could have been. The fragment is very abraded too and so it could have been rolled quite some distance before being found. It has been retained in case of further work onsite so that it can be included in a potential larger assemblage. If no further work is undertaken it can be discarded.

### 5.6 The Magnetic Material by Luke Barber

5.6.1 A very small quantity of material initially identified as potential slag was recovered from the site (Table 10).

| Context | Sample | Fraction | Type | Weight (g) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/005 | 1 | Magnetic | 1a Magnetic fines | 1 |
| 2/008 | 2 | Magnetic | 1a Magnetic fines | 1 |
| 3/007 | 4 | Magnetic | 1a Magnetic fines | 3 |
| 6/009 | 3 | Magnetic | 1a Magnetic fines | 1 |

Table 10: The slag assemblage

5.6.2 All was recovered as the magnetic fraction from four environmental samples. Each of these was carefully examined under x10 magnification to establish the

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presence/absence of micro slags. Due to the small size of the particles involved the material was quantified by weight only. It should be noted that although a number of the magnetic fractions contained under 1g of material 1g was the minimum weight recorded during listing.

5.6.3 In all cases no micro slags were noted – the magnetic fraction being composed of only 'magnetic fines'. These mainly consist of granules of local ferruginous siltstone, that either has its own inherent magnetism or, more often, has had that magnetism enhanced through burning. They are not diagnostic of any industrial activity as such heating can occur in a domestic hearth or bonfire. As such the evaluation has produced no evidence of metal working in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches.

5.6.4 The magnetic fines are not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and have been discarded.

### 5.7 **The Bulk Metalwork** by Trista Clifford

5.7.1 A single iron nail stem, weighing 2.4g, was recovered from Trench 3 subsoil [3/002]; the stem is from a general-purpose nail of Roman to early post medieval date. The head is missing.

### 5.8 **Animal Bone** by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

5.8.1 A small assemblage of animal bone, weighing approximately 3g, was assessed from the evaluation. Faunal material was solely recovered from a single environmental sample, bone preservation was mostly moderate, with some evidence of taphonomic alterations.

5.8.2 The assemblage has been recorded onto an Excel spreadsheet by context following Historic England guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019). Specimens that could not be confidently identified to species, such as long bone, rib, cranial and vertebral fragments, have been categorised by taxa size (large/ medium/ small) and type (mammal/ bird/ fish). Refitting specimens were counted as one. Heat exposure was recorded by type and location where the whole bone was not affected. Evidence of taphonomic agents such as weathering was noted.

5.8.3 A total of 21 specimens were recovered, identifiable to taxa size/type, recovered from sample <4> the single fill [3/007] of ditch [3/006]. Most of the small assemblage comprised medium mammal loose dentition fragments of unerupted/recently formed teeth; the enamel is in a fragile state. Heat exposure consistent with high temperature burning (approaching calcined) was noted in a medium mammal long bone fragment. A single vertebra fragment was classified as small mammal in size.

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## 6.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES by Elsa Neveu

6.1 Four bulk samples, measuring each 40 litres, were taken from ditches [2/004], [2/007], [3/006] and [6/008] during the evaluation at the site. Sampling aimed to retrieve dating evidence, environmental remains, such as charcoal, charred plant macrofossils, fauna and mollusca, as well as assist find recovery. This report assesses the significance and potential of the plant macrofossils and wood charcoal to inform on crops, agrarian practices and local vegetation environment.

6.2 Samples <1> and <4> were sub-sampled: 10 litres were retained, and 30 litres were processed by flotation using a 500 µm mesh for the heavy residues and a 250 µm mesh for retention of the flot, then the residues and the flots were air dried and passed through 8, 4 and 2mm sieves. Residues were sorted for artefacts and ecofacts, which were quantified in Table 11. Then, 2 litres from the retained samples were subsampled to be processed, as well as the geoarch samples, by wet sieving using a stack of 4, 2, 0.5 and 0.25mm sieves and the wet-sieved fractions were retained in bottles with water. Samples <2> and <3> were processed by flotation following the same methodology described above. A stereo-zoom microscope at 7-45x magnifications was used to scan flots and wet residues, and identify remains, their contents were recorded in tables 2, 3 and 4. The identification of plant macrofossils was based on observations of gross morphology and surface cell structure and the remains were compared to a botanical modern reference collection and published atlases were also consulted (Cappers et al. 2006). The nomenclature follows Stace (2010) for the wild taxa, and Zohary and Hopf (2000) for the domesticated plants and the quantification was based on approximate number of individuals.

6.3 Charcoal fragments per feature were randomly selected and identified; they were each fractured by hand to get three sections: transverse, tangential longitudinal and radial longitudinal according to standard procedures described by Gale and Cutler (2000), Hather (2000) and Leney and Casteel (1975). Charcoal fragments were observed with the use of a metallurgical reflected light microscope at magnifications up to 400X and reference atlases (Hather 2000, Schoch et al. 2004, Schweingruber 1990) were consulted to refine identifications. The nomenclature follows Stace (2010).

6.4 An array of archaeological environmental remains was noted and included burnt animal or human teeth and bone, fishbone and microfauna, land snail shells, charcoal and plant macrofossils. The residues also produced magnetic material which may be of natural or industrial origin. The finds have been incorporated into the relevant finds reports.

6.5 Charred plant remains

All flots yielded a variable percentage of uncharred seed and root remains, which indicated a moderate level of disturbances. Results were limited: fills of ditches [2/004], [2/007] and [6/008] were sterile in plant macrofossil, while fill of ditch [3/006] yielded a unique grain of oat (*Avena* sp.; table 12).

6.6 Waterlogged fractions

Waterlogged plant macrofossils were lacking or scarce in wet fractions, preservation was poorly and the sole taxon recorded in table 12 was bramble (*Rubus* sp.).

6.7 Charcoal

Preservation of charcoal was poor with signs of encrustation; some fragments presented radial cracks, which could indicate presence of moisture in the wood, while a few showed signs of vitrification. This phenomenon implies that the wood anatomy

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fuses and seems glossy; McParland et al (2010) examined factors that could provoke vitrification of charcoal concluding that vitrification is not caused by exposure to high temperatures. Experiments suggest it may be a result of several factors in combination such as the type and age of wood, dynamics of the depositional environment prior to, during and after charring.

Charcoal fragments were uncommon to modest in fills of ditches [2/004], [2/007], [3/006] and [6/008]; these assemblages appeared dominated by oak (*Quercus* sp.) and very few fragments of diffuse to semi-ring porous woods including possibly beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and perhaps maloideae/cherry (*Maloideae*/*Prunus* sp.; table 12). Nevertheless, charcoal fragments were mostly <4mm and these assemblages were too small to warrant identification and conduct a full analysis.

6.8 Sampled ditches produced limited to modest assemblages of plant macrofossils and charcoal fragments. Their paucity in fills of these features could be explained by poor conditions of preservation and infrequence of activities related to firing, crop husbandry and processing near these contexts. The botanical material was residual and likely derived from scattered background noises. The retrieved charcoal fragments likely corresponded to secondary deposits containing amalgams of fuel waste dominated by oak. The abundance of this taxon is not surprising since oak was known as being an excellent fuel and frequently use as timber for joinery (Taylor 1981).

| Sample Number | Context | Context / Deposit Type | Sample Volume (L) | Charcoal >4mm | Weight (g) | Charcoal 2-4mm | Weight (g) | Charred Botanicals (other than charcoal) | Weight (g) | Burnt Bone Animal/Human 4-8mm | Weight (g) | Fishbone and Microfauna | Weight (g) | Land Snail Shells | Weight (g) | Other (quantity */ weight [g]) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2/005 | Ditch | 40 | * | <1 | ** | <1 | | | | | | | | | Mag. Mat. >2mm (*/<1g); Mag. Mat. <2mm (***/<1g) |
| 2 | 2/008 | Ditch | 40 | | | * | <1 | | | | | | | | | Mag. Mat. >2mm (*/<1g); Mag. Mat <2mm (**/<1g) |
| 3 | 6/009 | Ditch | 40 | ** | 4 | ** | <1 | | | | | | | | | Mag. Mat. >2mm (***/1g); Mag. Mat. <2mm (***/<1g) |
| 4 | 3/007 | Ditch | 40 | ** | 8 | *** | 3 | * | <1 | * | <1 | * | <1 | * | <1 | Mag. Mat. >2mm (**/1g); Mag. Mat <2mm (***/1g) |

Table 11: Residues quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and weights in grams

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| Sample Number | Context | Context / Deposit Type | Parent Context | Weight (g) | Flot volume (ml) | Volume Scanned | Uncharred (%) | Sediment (%) | Seeds Uncharred | Charcoal >4mm | Charcoal 2-4mm | Charcoal <2mm | Crop Seeds Charred | Identifications | Preservation | Further work on macros |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2/005 | Ditch | 2/004 | 89 | 120 | 75 | 5 | 80 | *Polygonaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Rubus*, rootlets | | | *** | | | | N |
| 2 | 2/008 | Ditch | 2/007 | 35 | 45 | 100 | 5 | 80 | *Polygonaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, rootlets | | | *** | | | | N |
| 3 | 6/009 | Ditch | 6/008 | 6.3 | 60 | 100 | 2 | 80 | *Polygonaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, rootlets | | | *** | | | | N |
| 4 | 3/007 | Ditch | 3/006 | 4.3 | 10 | 100 | 2 | 60 | *Polygonaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, rootlets | | | *** | * | Oat (1) | + | N |

Table 12: Flot quantification (* = 1-10, ** = 11-50, *** = 51-250, **** = >250) and preservation (+ = poor, ++ = moderate, +++ = good)

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# 7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

## 7.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

7.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the site was relatively homogenous with topsoil and turf overlying subsoil and then Weald Clay natural. A total of nine archaeological features were identified across four of the six proposed trenches. These consisted of linear ditches containing Saxo-Norman/High Medieval pottery and residual flintwork, and an undated gully and posthole in Trench 6.

## 7.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

7.2.1 For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is intact, except for modern truncation at the southern end of Trench 5 and some evidence of rooting.

## 7.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Mesolithic and Neolithic

7.3.1 A number of residual prehistoric, worked flint fragments were recovered from ditch fill deposits from Trenches 2 and 3, 5. All lithics were dated to the Mesolithic - Neolithic periods.

Saxo-Norman/High Medieval

7.3.2 Saxo-Norman and/or High Medieval pottery was recovered from 7 ditches. This would be consistent with other local findings at Wickhurst Green and with the location of the current site near Old Wickhurst Lane; a holloway in use from at least the Late Saxon period (Margetts 2018) and used as a droveway between Broadbridge Heath and its parent manor of Sullington. The other features, a gully and a posthole, while undated, may reasonably be assumed to be contemporaneous and form part of this program of land division. The ditches share broad alignment with the orientation of landscape features shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 9) which have been shown to evolve locally from at least the medieval period.

## 7.4 Consideration of research aims

7.4.1 The evaluation has successfully addressed the general objectives.

7.4.2 The evaluation was also able to address some of the more specific objectives.

Residual flintwork of Mesolithic – Neolithic date was recovered although the original deposition of this material is unclear, it attests to the use of the landscape during these broad periods.

Ditches, representing probable Saxon-Norman / High Medieval land division, may be related to farms that utilised the nearby holloway which became Old Wickhurst Lane.

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## 7.5 Conclusions

7.5.1 Five trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the site. For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is intact, except for modern truncation at the southern end of Trench 5 and some evidence of rooting. A total of nine archaeological features were identified across four of the six proposed trenches. These consisted of linear ditches containing Saxo-Norman/High Medieval pottery and residual prehistoric flintwork, and an undated gully and posthole in Trench 6.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Appendix 1: Archaeologically negative trenches; list of recorded contexts

| Context | Type | Interpretation | Length (m) | Width (m) | Thickness (m) | Height (m AOD) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4/001 | Layer | Topsoil | 16.00 | 1.80 | 0.05-0.08 | 39.04-39.42 |
| 4/002 | Layer | Subsoil | 16.00 | 1.80 | 0.22-0.25 | 38.99-39.34 |

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## HER Summary

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Site code** | WGB26 | | | | | |
| **Project code** | 250181 | | | | | |
| **Planning reference** | DC/09/2101 | | | | | |
| **Site address** | Carter Drive, Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath, Horsham | | | | | |
| **District/Borough** | Horsham District | | | | | |
| **NGR (12 figures)** | TQ 14890 30970 | | | | | |
| **Geology** | Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone | | | | | |
| **Fieldwork type** | Eval | Excav | WB | HBR | Survey | Other |
| **Date of fieldwork** | 17-19/02/2026 | | | | | |
| **Sponsor/client** | RPS Group/Vistry | | | | | |
| **Project manager** | Paul Mason | | | | | |
| **Project supervisor** | David Brown | | | | | |
| **Period summary** | | Mesolithic | Neolithic | | | |
| | | Anglo-Saxon | Medieval | | | |
| **Project summary** | Five trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the site. For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is intact, except for modern truncation at the southern end of Trench 5 and some evidence of rooting. A total of nine archaeological features were identified across four of the six proposed trenches. These consisted of linear ditches containing Saxo-Norman/High Medieval pottery and residual prehistoric flintwork, and an undated gully and posthole in Trench 6. | | | | | |

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## OASIS Summary

**OASIS ID (UID):** archaeol6-540816

**Project Name:** Evaluation at Carter Drive, Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath

**Activity type:** Evaluation

**Sitecode(s):** WGB26

**Planning Id:** DC/09/2101, DC/09/2101

**Reason for Investigation:** Planning: Between application and determination

**Organisation Responsible for work:** Archaeology South-East

**Project Dates:** 17-Feb-2026 - 19-Feb-2026

**Project Methodology:** Trial trenching with mechanical excavator. Hand digging and recording of archaeological features.

**Project Results:** Five trenches were excavated in the eastern part of the site. For the most part, the integrity of the archaeological horizon is intact, except for modern truncation at the southern end of Trench 5 and some evidence of rooting. A total of nine archaeological features were identified across four of the six proposed trenches. These consisted of linear ditches containing Saxo-Norman/High Medieval pottery and residual prehistoric flintwork, and an undated gully and posthole in Trench 6.

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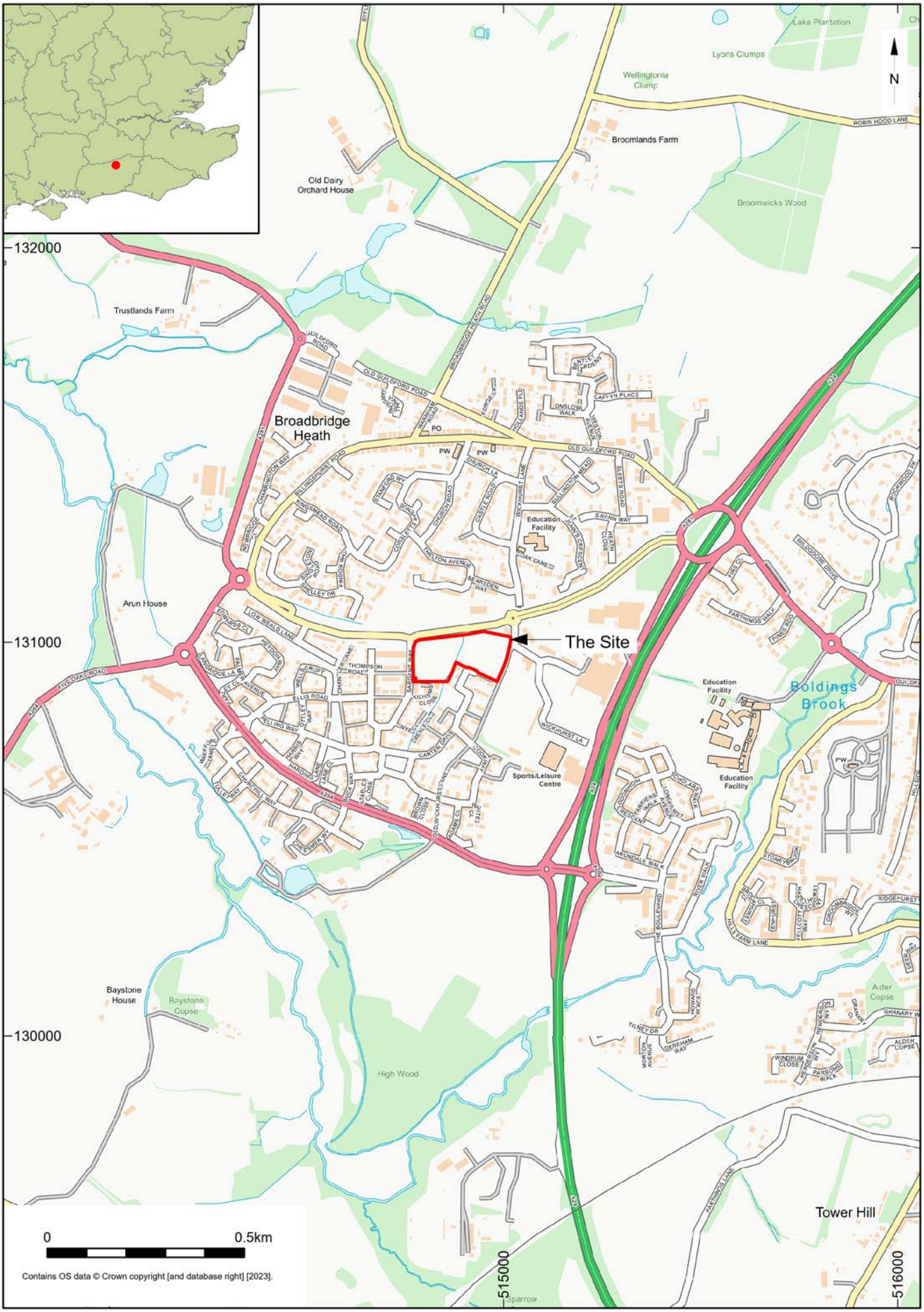


| © Archaeology South-East | | Broadbridge Heath: Wickhurst Green | Fig. 1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Site Location | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC | | |

514707, 131088

N

Broadbridge Way

Sargent Way

T2

T4

T3

T5

T6

514707, 130839

0 20m

515041, 130839

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| © Archaeology South-East | | Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath | Fig. 2 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Plan showing trenches/features overlying development plans | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC/HF | | |

514707, 131088

N

Broadbridge Way

Sargent Way

Wickhurst Lane

TR1

T2

T4

T3

T5

T6

514707, 130839

0

20m

515041, 130839

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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Original (blue) and actual (black) trench locations | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC/HF | | |

514900, 130994

514932, 130994

N



Trench 2 looking north-west

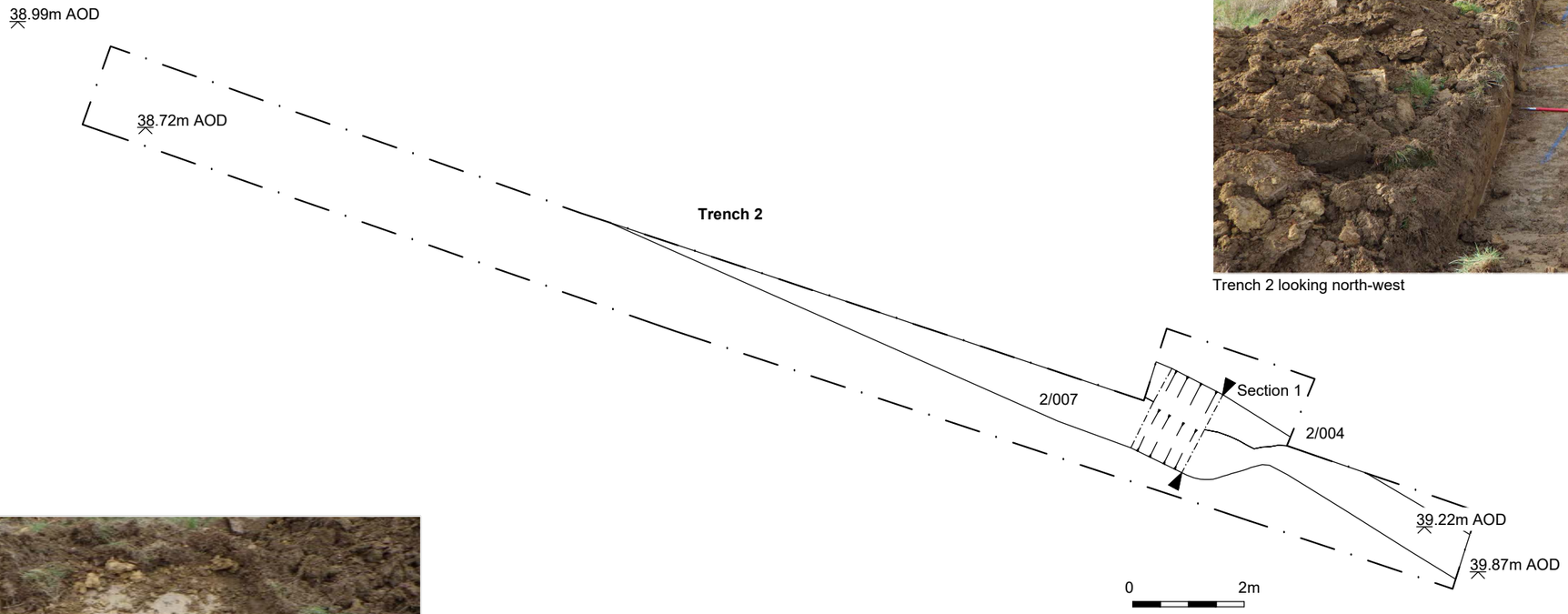


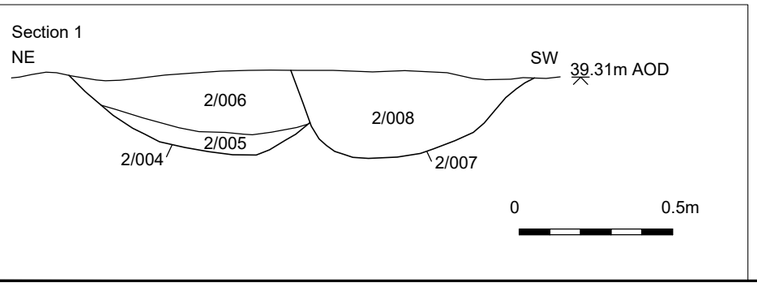
Photo of extension to trench 2



2/004 and 2/007 looking south-east

514932, 130970

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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Plan of trench 2 with features, photographs and sections | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC,HF | | |

514966, 130978

514986, 130978

N



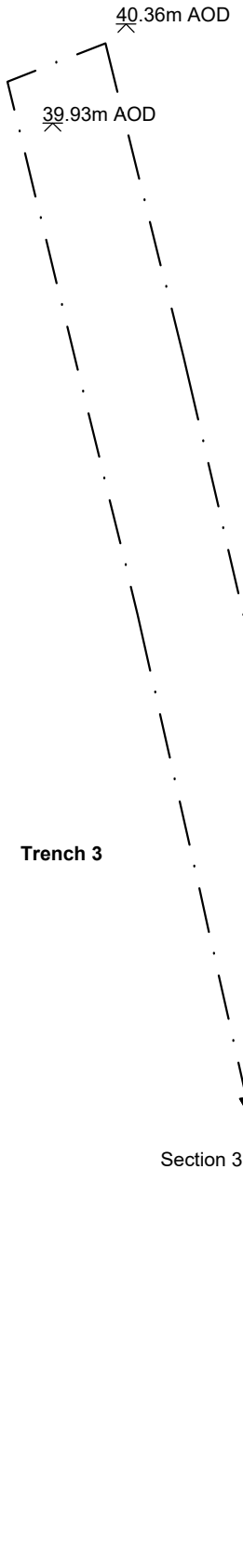
Trench 3 looking north

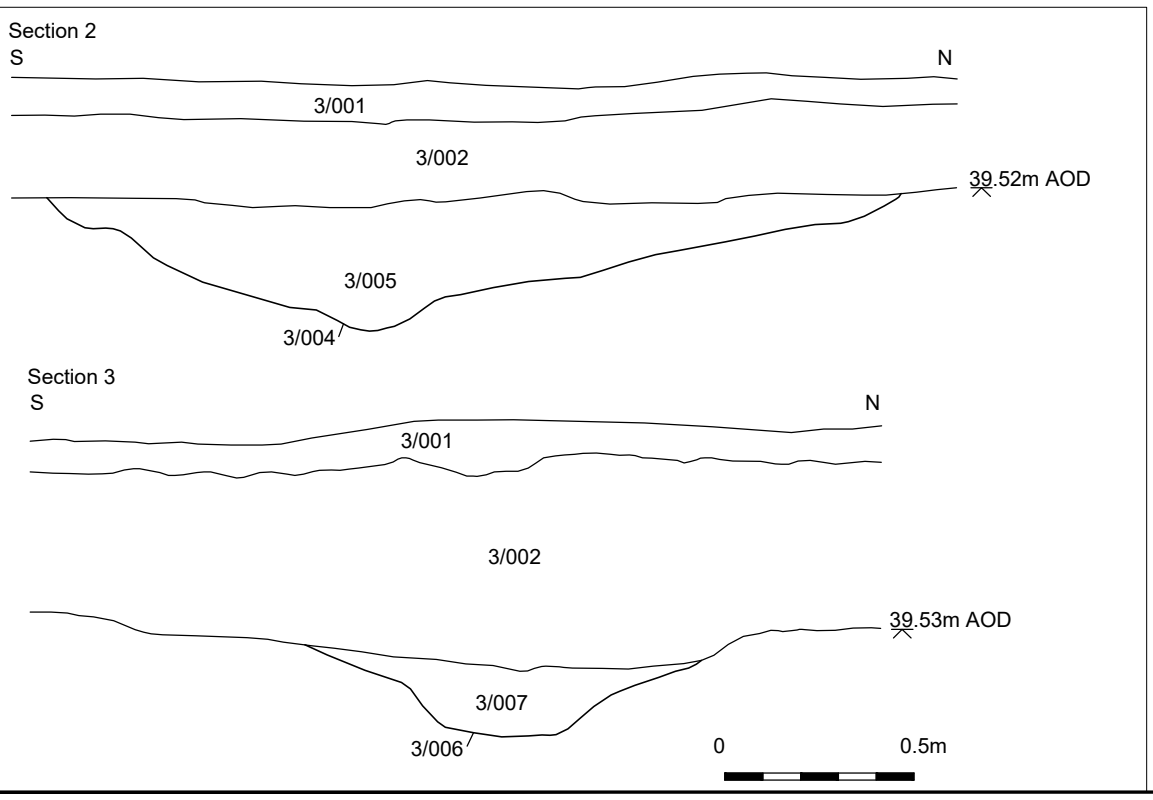


3/004 looking west



3/006 looking west




514986, 130942

0 2m

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| © Archaeology South-East | | Broadbridge Heath: Wickhurst Green | Fig. 5 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Plan of trench 3 with features, photographs and sections | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC | | |

514933, 130960



Trench 5 looking south-west

514953, 130960

N

39.81m AOD

39.31m AOD

**Trench 5**

5/007

Section 4

Section 5

5/005

0 2m

39.05m AOD

39.35m AOD




5/005 looking north-west

Section 4

SW NE

5/001

5/002

39.16m AOD

5/006

5/005

Section 5

NE SW

5/001

5/002

39.17m AOD

5/008

5/007

0 0.5m




5/007 looking south-east

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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Trench 5; plan, sections and photographs | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC | | |

514949, 130934

514981, 130934

N

39.34m AOD

38.93m AOD

Section 8

Trench 6

6/008

Section 7

6/006

Section 6

6/004

38.68m AOD

39.07m AOD

0 2m



Trench 6 looking north-west



6/004 looking north-east

Section 6

NW SE

6/001

6/002

38.75m AOD

6/005

6/004

Section 7

NW SE 38.79m AOD

6/007

6/006

Section 8

NW SE

6/001

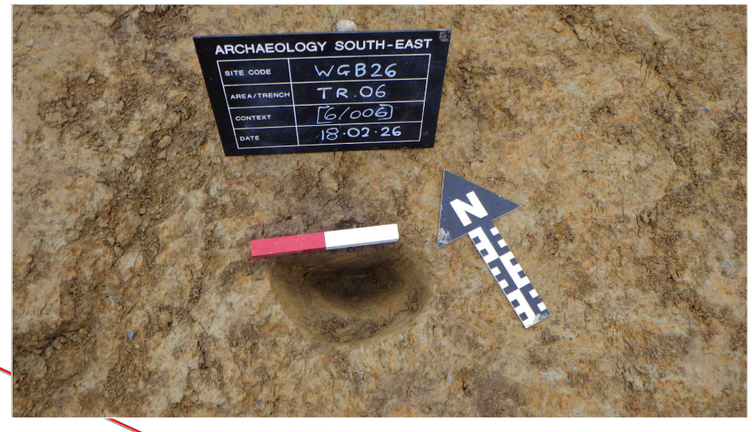
6/002

38.88m AOD

6/009

6/008

0 0.5m




6/006 looking north-east




6/008 looking north

514981, 130909

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|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Trench 6; plan, sections and photographs | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC | | |



Trench 4 looking south

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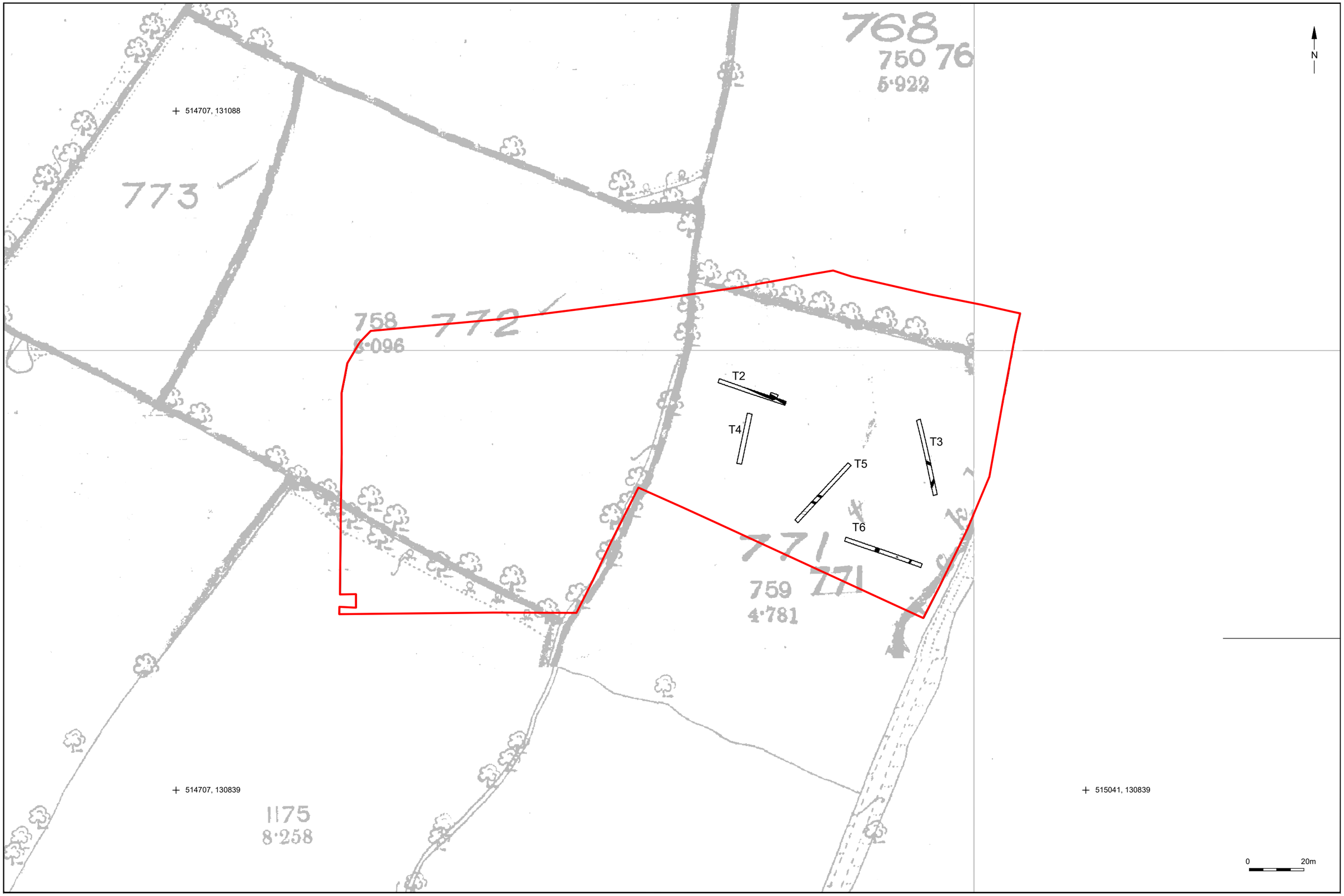
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Blank trench shots | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: HF | | |

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| © **Archaeology South-East** | | Wickhurst Green, Broadbridge Heath | Fig. 9 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Ref: 250181 | Feb 2026 | Site plan overlying 1st edition Ordnance Survey | |
| Report Ref: 2026053 | Drawn by: AC/HF | | |

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