Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, Phase 2

Archaeological Evaluation Report

March 2019

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Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, Phase 2

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

In March 2019 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a second phase of archaeological evaluation for Dacorar Southern Ltd/Glenbeigh Developments Ltd on land at Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, as part of a proposed new industrial development. Five trenches were dug to investigate the archaeological potential of the site targeting possible features that were identified in the previous geophysical survey.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features and the geophysical anomalies were shown to be the result of variations in the natural geology. The evaluation has shown the site to be of low archaeological potential.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Coiln Whelan of Dacorar Southern Ltd/Glenbeigh Developments Ltd for commissioning this project. Thanks are also owed to Alexandra Egginton, who monitored the work on behalf of Surrey County Council, for her advice and guidance.

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Carl Champness. The fieldwork was directed by Mariusz Gorniak. Survey and digitizing were carried out by Mariusz Gorniak and Matt Reynolds. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that prepared the archive under the management of Nicola Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Dacorar Southern Ltd/Glenbeigh Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the north-east of Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The proposed scheme is to build a new business unit (Unit 3), with the current site comprising the second of the proposed development plots.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of planning permission (planning ref. 13/01618/OUT). A brief was set by Alexandra Egginton, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the local authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition (OA 2019). This document outlines the results of the second phase of evaluation of the site.

1.1.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site is located on land south of the A2300, an east-west road which links the A23 (located 1.7km to the west) to the town of Burgess Hill (located 1km south-east of the site). The site is located 400m north-east of a branch of the Pook Bourne, a tributary of the River Adur (NGR TQ 28614 20316: Fig 1). The site is located on a gentle slope which rises from west to east from *c* 27.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) to *c* 30m aOD.

1.2.2 The development area is bounded to the north by the A2300, to the west by Cuckfield Road, to the south-west by an industrial estate, to the south by an open field, to the south-east by The Dene healthcare centre and to the east by an open field. The area of the proposed development currently consists of one grassed field with a drainage ditch marking the northern boundary and a hedgerow marking the southern boundary.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the area consists of Weald Clay Formation mudstone with several bands of clay - ironstone running north-east to south-west. There are no superficial deposits mapped on the site (British Geological Survey Online Viewer).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been detailed in the WSI (OA 2019) and is summarized below:

Prehistoric (650,000 BC-AD 43)

1.3.2 There is little evidence of Palaeolithic activity on the Wealden Clay within the vicinity of the site.

1.3.3 There is limited evidence of Mesolithic activity or finds within Low Weald Clay areas. Previous archaeological investigations within the study area have found Mesolithic flakes, suggesting limited activity during this period. These were located 650m east of the site during a watching brief at West End Farm in 1998 (HER MWS6705) and during an evaluation 500m west of the site (HER MWS4457). Small assemblages of worked flint have also been found 2km east of the site during archaeological investigations at Maltings Farm and 1.8km south-east of the site near Locks Manor and 2.6km south-east of the site at Hammonds Mill Farm.

1.3.4 The Low Weald was probably heavily wooded throughout the Neolithic period. Some of the flintwork found 650m east of the site at West Farm indicates activity in this period. At West End Farm and Hammonds Mill Farm, Neolithic/early Bronze Age flintwork was found in addition to the Mesolithic artefacts.

1.3.5 There are no known finds or archaeological features from the Iron Age within the site. Within 3km of the site the only evidence of Iron Age activity was one sherd of pottery found at Hammonds Mill Farm, 2.6km south-east of the site. Ditchling Beacon, an early Iron Age hillfort, is located 8.5km south-east of the site. The High and Low Weald produces limited evidence for permanent Iron Age settlement. The closest identified Wealden Iron Age settlement was identified in the vicinity of Chelwood Gate village, 23km north-east of the site (MoLA 2013).

Roman period (AD 43-410)

1.3.6 There are no known finds dated to this period within the site or a 1km radius, although there is moderate amount of activity in the near vicinity.

1.3.7 The closest known Roman settlement was discovered during archaeological investigation near Locks Manor (1.4km south-east of the site), which found ditches, hearths and a corndrying oven, suggestive of a small agricultural settlement of 1st-4th century date.

1.3.8 The nearest Roman road to the site is the E-W Greensand Way, 4.4km south of the site, which linked settlements at Pulborough and Hassocks with two important N-S roads: the London to Brighton Way 2.3km east of the site and the London to Lewes road 15km to the east (MoLA 2013).

Medieval period (AD 410-1499)

1.3.9 During the medieval period the site probably lay within woodland that was gradually cleared to make way for farmland. There are no known finds from this period within 1km of the site and only a few Saxon sherds of pottery have been found in the near vicinity, at Maltings Farm 2km south-east of the site and near Locks Manor site 1.4km south-east of the site.

1.3.10 The Domesday Book suggests that there were no significant settlements anywhere near the site, although place names on the Weald can be hard to identify. The site lies within the historic parish of Hurstpierpoint, named in the Domesday Book as Herst, as one of the 'vills' making up Buttinghill Hundred. By the time of the Domesday Book it was held by Robert de Pierpoint of William de Warenne; prior to the conquest it had been held by Earl Godwin.

1.3.11 A settlement at Burgess Hill, *c* 2km south-east of the site, can be traced back to the 13th century through a farm named Burgeyseslond, first recorded in 1440 and associated records of lay subsidies from 1296, 1327 and 1332 (MOLA 2013).

Post-medieval to modern (AD 1500-1900)

1.3.12 It is possible that the site previously lay in land belonging to the manor of Hurstpierpoint and, later, within the Danny Estate, but this cannot be stated with certainty.

1.3.13 The Tithe map of 1842 and apportionment book show the site under arable cultivation, except the north-western field which was under pasture. The north-easternmost field was named 'Pit field' and during a site visit in 2013 earthworks were observed in this field as well in the field at the south-eastern corner of the site. The name suggests that clay pits might have been dug in the field at some time in the past (MoLA 2013).

1.3.14 The 1874 Ordnance Survey map shows the site lying within open farmland and most of the field boundaries on the site today appear to have been in existence by this date. To the west was a north-south road and to the south of the site was a road running to St John's Common. The site itself had no buildings located on it at that time but there were several within the vicinity, including Dean House to the west, the Sportsman Inn to the south-west, Gothard Green to the south, Gatehouse Farm to the south-east and Lower Barn to the north. A small north-south track appears to have led from Gothard Green to the Lower Barn across the centre of the site.

1.3.15 The Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1912 suggests clearance of the hedgerows between the fields, with the only tree lines remaining being those bounding the southern and eastern edges of the site.

1.4 Previous phases of archaeological investigation

Geophysical survey

1.4.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken across the site (Magnitude 2017). The results primarily reflect agricultural activity, including field drains and ephemeral ploughing trends, and natural variations. No obvious archaeological features were identified, but an undetermined linear feature and ferrous spreads were targeted by the trenching within the investigated field (Fig. 2).

Phase 1 evaluation

1.4.2 In June 2017, a twelve trench evaluation was undertaken by OA South as part of the first phase of the development (OA 2018). Linear anomalies indicated by the geophysical survey were targeted and shown to be variations in the natural geology, root disturbance or metal intrusions. The evaluation identified low archaeological potential.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present;
ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
iii. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence;
iv. To provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site to enable the archaeological implications of any proposed developments to be assessed;
v. To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of any proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.

2.1.2 Site-specific research questions were:

vi. To confirm the presence of clay pits in the north-eastern part of the site;
vii. To determine if any pre-post-medieval archaeological remains were present;
viii. To investigate the features identified within the geophysics survey;
ix. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any other remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of five trenches were excavated, equating to a 3% sample of the proposed development area. Three trenches measured 30 x 1.6m but two had to be shortened because of surface obstructions (a drainage ditch and newt protection zone) and represented. One trench was targeted on a geophysical linear anomaly, whilst other trenches provided a representative coverage of the 'blank' areas of the geophysical survey (Fig. 2).

2.2.2 All trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Machining continued in spits down to the top of the undisturbed natural geology. Any possible features were investigated by hand excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches. The full details of all trenches, including dimensions and depths of all deposits, can be found in Appendix A.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the trench numbers, e.g. layer 1300 is a layer within Trench 13, while layer 1401 is a deposit within Trench 14.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence was consistent in all trenches. The natural geology of yellowish orangey clay with grey mottling was overlain by a 0.1-0.2m thick subsoil and a modern ploughsoil 0.25-0.30m thick.

3.2.2 In Trench 15 the natural geology exposed two patches of more yellowish material that extended north and south beyond the trench (Plates 5 and 6). These could explain the linear undetermined anomaly from the geophysical survey (Fig. 2)

3.2.3 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were variable and the trenches were partially flooded on the second and third days. Visibility was good and any archaeological features present would have been easily identified (Plates 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9).

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 No archaeological features were identified within any of the trenches. The variations in natural geology in Trench 15 roughly corresponded with the linear geophysical anomaly (Magnitude Surveys 2017).

3.4 Finds and environmental summary

3.4.1 No finds or features suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The trenches were excavated in fairly reasonable weather, and conditions were sufficiently good in allow the presence or absence of archaeological features to be confidently assessed. The absence of archaeological features in the evaluation trenches therefore provides an accurate reflection of the archaeological potential of the site as a whole.

4.2 Evaluation results

4.2.1 The evaluation concluded that the geophysical anomaly were the result of variations in the natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

4.2.2 Based on the evaluation results, the site is believed to have low archaeological potential.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay. The trench had to be shortened because of drainage ditch running across northern end of the proposed trench location.					**Length (m)**	27.8
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1300	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil/ploughsoil: Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions (occasional rounded pieces of quartzite), overlaying 1301.	-	-
1301	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil/B-Horizon: Firm, light greyish brown slightly silty clay – gradual change between overlaying 1300 and underlying 1302	-	-
1302	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: Firm, compact, light yellowish orange clay with light grey mottling	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1400	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil/ploughsoil: Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions (occasional rounded pieces of quartzite), overlaying 1401.	-	-
1401	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil/B-Horizon: Firm, light greyish brown slightly silty clay – sharp and clear change between overlaying 1400 and underlying 1402 layer	-	-

1402	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: Firm, compact, light yellowish orange clay with light grey mottling	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench set across an undefined geophysical linear anomaly; devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay. The trench had to be shortened because of a newt protection fence running across eastern part of the proposed trench location. Two patches of slightly different geological horizon within the trench.					**Length (m)**	19.5
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1500	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil/ploughsoil: Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions (occasional rounded pieces of quartzite), overlaying 1301.	-	-
1501	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil/B-Horizon: Firm, light greyish brown slightly silty clay – gradual change between overlaying 1300 and underlying 1302	-	-
1502	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: Firm, compact, light yellowish orange clay with light grey mottling	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE - SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.80
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1600	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil/ploughsoil: Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions (occasional rounded pieces of quartzite), overlaying 1601.	-	-
1601	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil/B-Horizon: Firm, light greyish brown slightly	-	-

				silty clay – sharp and clear change between overlaying 1600 and underlying 1602 layer		
1602	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: Firm, compact, light yellowish orange clay with light grey mottling	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. The soils sequence consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.6
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1700	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil/ploughsoil: Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with almost no inclusions (occasional rounded pieces of quartzite), overlaying 1701.	-	-
1701	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil/B-Horizon: Firm, light greyish brown slightly silty clay – sharp and clear change between overlaying 1700 and underlying 1702 layer	-	-
1702	Layer	-	-	Natural geology: Firm, compact, light yellowish orange clay with light grey mottling	-	-

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

CIFA 2014 Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation

Magnitude Surveys, 2017 Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex: geophysical survey report

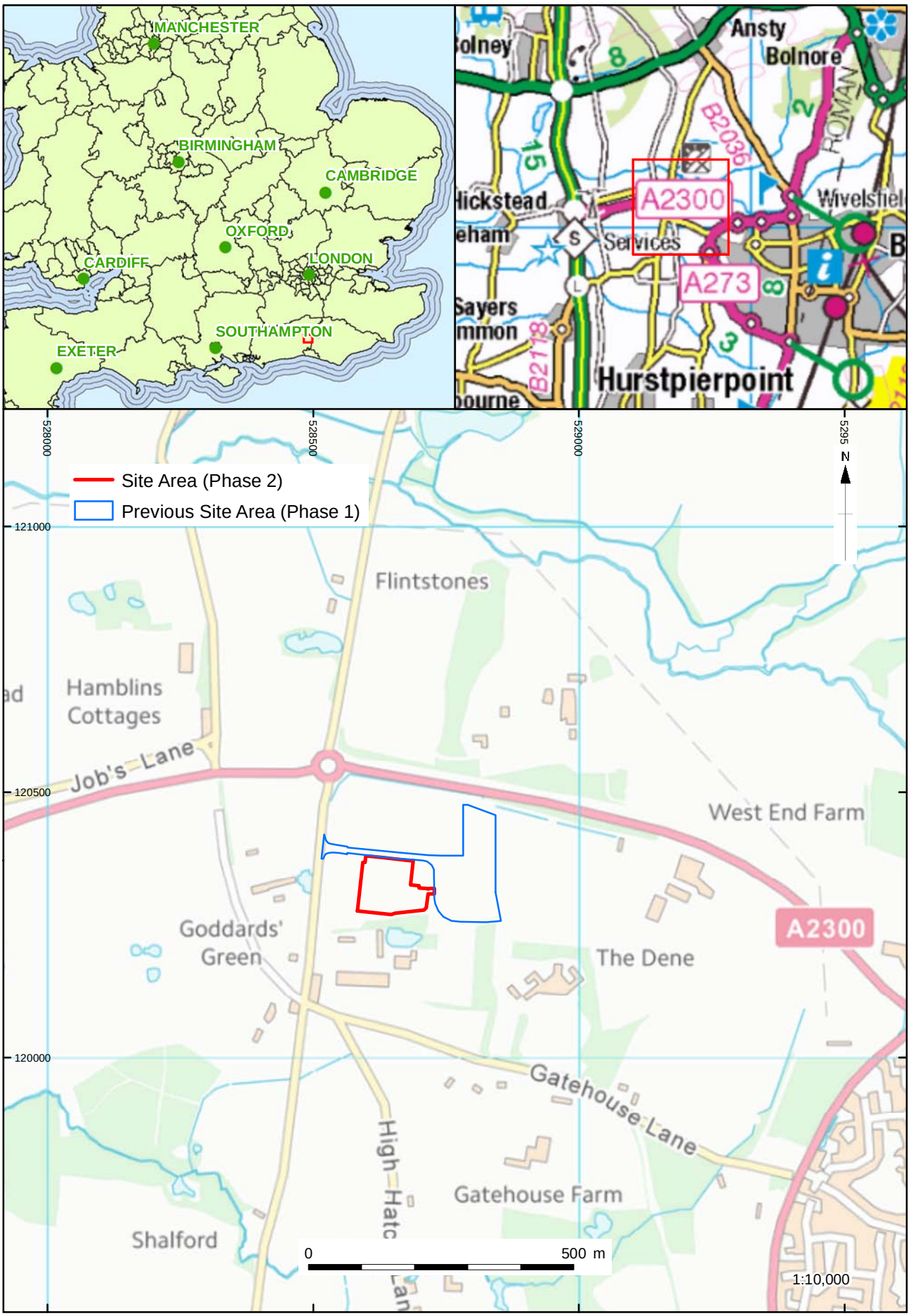
MoLA, 2013 Goddards Green, Burgess Hill: Historic environment assessment, Museum of London Archaeology unpublished report

Oxford Archaeology, 2018 Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, Phase 1: archaeological evaluation report, Oxford Archaeology unpublished report

Oxford Archaeology, 2019 Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, Phase 2: written scheme of investigation for archaeological evaluation, Oxford Archaeology unpublished report

APPENDIX C SITE SUMMARY DETAILS

Site name:	Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex
Site code:	BUGG19
Grid Reference	TQ 28614 20316
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	11th-13th March 2019
Area of Site	1.2 Ha
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with West in due course, under the following accession number: TBC
Summary of Results:	In March 2019 Oxford Archaeology South undertook a five trench evaluation for Dacorar Southern Ltd/Glenbeigh Developments Ltd on land at Goddards Green, Burgess Hill, West Sussex. The investigation was the second phase of archaeological evaluation work at the site. Similarly to the first phase of evaluation, the current fieldwork revealed no archaeological features and one linear anomaly was shown to be the result of variation in the natural geology. The evaluation has shown the site to be of low archaeological potential.



X:\b\Burgess hill Goddard Green Ev\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Figure1_Master.mxd**18/03/2019

Figure 1: Site location

X:\b\Burgess hill Goddard Green Ev\010Geomatics\03 GIS Projects\Burgess Hill_proposed trench plan_2019-02-22_Figure_2.mxd**18/03/2019

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Site Area (Phase 2)
Excavated Phase 2 trenches
Previous evaluation area (Phase 1)
Previous evaluation trenches (Phase 1)
Ferrous Spike
Agricultural (Trend)
Drainage Feature (Trend)
Service
Undetermined (Trend)
Ferrous (Dipolar)
Ferrous (Spread)
Natural (Spread)
Natural (Strong)
Nettles & Thistles
Undetermined (Strong)
Undetermined (Weak)

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

0 1:1,500 @ A3 150 m

Figure 2: Trench Locations and geophysical survey results

Plate 1: Trench 13, facing north

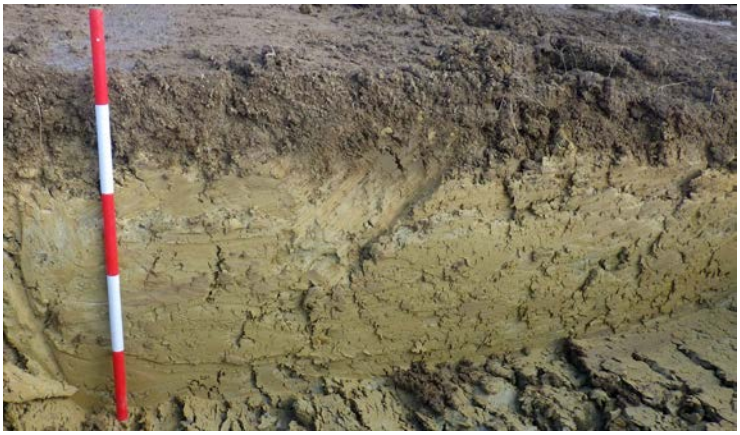

Plate 2: Trench 13 geological test pit section, facing west

Plate 3: Trench 14, facing west

Plate 4: Trench 14 sample section, facing north

Plate 5: Trench 15, facing west

Plate 6: Trench 15, facing north

Plate 7: Trench 15 sample section, facing north

Plate 8: Trench 16, facing north

Plate 9: Trench 17, facing east

Plate 10: Trench 17 sample section, facing south

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