

Land to the
Rear of Linden Way
Send
Surrey



**Archaeological
Excavation Report**



Client: Latchmere Properties

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OA Job No.: 4712
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1	Gerry Thacker (Project Officer) and Andrew Simmonds (Project Officer)	William Bedford (Senior Project Manager)	Edward Biddulph (Senior Project Manager)	

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263800

e: oasouth@thehumanjourney.net

f: +44 (0) 1865 793496

w: oasouth.thehumanjourney.net

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Land to the Rear of Linden Way, Send, Surrey

Archaeological Excavation Report

Written by Gerry Thacker and Andrew Simmonds

*with contributions from John Cotter, Geraldine Crann, Denise Druce and David Mullin
and illustrations by Hannah Kennedy*

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Summary

During April and May 2010 Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of investigations on land to the rear of Linden Way, Send, Surrey, comprising a strip, map and sample excavation and watching brief. A small group of features was identified, which comprised two ditches, a pit and two postholes. The precise nature of the activities represented by these remains is uncertain, but the associated pottery indicates that they date to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, a period for which little evidence has previously been found in Surrey.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 During April and May 2010 Oxford Archaeology carried out a programme of archaeological investigations on land to the rear of Linden Way, Send, Surrey (TQ 038 550, Fig. 1). These investigations were commissioned by Latchmere Properties in relation to a development comprising the construction of 12 residential units and an access road. The results of a field evaluation undertaken during February 2010 by Surrey County Archaeological Unit had indicated that prehistoric archaeological remains were present within the site that were likely to be impacted by the development, and consequently Guildford Borough Council attached a planning condition to the development requiring archaeological mitigation to be carried out, in accordance with PPG16 and the district's local plan policies (Planning App. 08/P/00196).
- 1.1.2 The mitigation took the form of a strip, map and sample excavation and accompanying watching brief.
- 1.1.3 The strip, map and sample excavation was carried out where groundworks exceeded 0.5 m in depth, comprising the area of the access road and nine soakaway pits and associated trenches (Fig. 2).
- 1.1.4 The watching brief was maintained during groundworks that might affect or expose archaeological deposits in other areas of the site, and comprised the footprints of the house platforms, foundation trenches, manholes and service trenches less than 0.5 m deep.
- 1.1.5 There was no archaeological presence during the digging of soakaway pits RS2 and SK6 and the stripping of the footprints of house plots 8/9, 10/11 and 12, in the southern part of the site, since groundworks commenced before Oxford Archaeology was informed. However, this had no overall impact on the archaeological understanding of the site, as the strip, map and sample and subsequent watching brief indicated that these areas were devoid of remains.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site lies at 34 m OD. The underlying geology is London Clay overlain by Lynch Hill Gravel, a river terrace deposit consisting of sand and gravel (Geological Survey of Great Britain, Guildford, Sheet 285).



1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological background, presented at length in a preliminary archaeological assessment compiled by Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU 2009), is summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The Surrey Historic Environment Record lists only two finds of flint implements in this area, one each of Mesolithic and Neolithic date. No Iron Age material and only one find of Roman date are recorded on the Historic Environment Record.
- 1.3.3 The manor of Send was first mentioned in the tenth century, when Athelstan sold lands that he held in Send to the Archbishop of Canterbury. At the time of the Domesday Book the tenant in chief was Alured de Merlerbergh. Send was assessed at 20 hides, both at the time of the Domesday Book survey and prior to this. The Domesday Book also mentions the presence of a watermill at Send, which in the thirteenth century was recorded as the property of Tom and Alice de Send. There is negligible archaeological evidence of early medieval activity outside the narrow strip of river gravel alongside the river valleys. It is thought that the main reason for late development in this area is the poor soil quality along with the proximity of the royal forest of Windsor.
- 1.3.4 In 1359 the Prior of Newark and Roger, son of John de la Warren, are mentioned as lords of Send. Henry VIII granted the manor, then called Send and Jury, to Sir Anthony Browne in 1544.
- 1.3.5 During February 2010 Surrey County Archaeological Unit carried out an evaluation on the site (SCAU 2010). The evaluation recorded three features: a shallow pit, a gully and a ditch. These features were dated by pottery to the Iron Age, although residual finds of Mesolithic or Neolithic worked flint, Bronze Age pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were also recovered from the upper fills of the features. Unstratified finds recovered from the trenches included one Bronze Age and one Iron Age pot sherd, medieval or post-medieval tile, as well as struck flint of which three are believed to be of Mesolithic or Neolithic date.

2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological evidence within the investigation area was identified, excavated and recorded.
- 2.1.2 Additional aims were:
- to determine (so far as possible) the stratigraphic sequence and dating of the deposits or features identified;
 - to disseminate the results through deposition of an ordered archive at Guildford Museum, the deposition of a detailed report in the Sites and Monuments Record, and publication at a level of detail appropriate to the significance of the results.
- 2.1.3 Specific objectives were:
- to clarify the extent and significance of the prehistoric remains found during the evaluation;
 - to identify the nature, date and areas of activity (e.g. residential, industrial, agricultural, etc.);



2.2 Methodology

Strip, map and sample

- 2.2.1 An archaeologically controlled strip was carried out on the footprint of the access road and each of the soakaway pits (Plate 1). Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in shallow layers by a machine until the natural geology was revealed or archaeological features were exposed. Machine stripping was undertaken with a machine using a toothless ditching bucket. Machined areas were then cleaned by hand and any archaeological features revealed were hand excavated and recorded.

Watching brief

- 2.2.2 A continuous archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks that might affect or expose archaeological remains (Plate 2). Where service trenches were too narrow, and hindered proper observation, spoil heaps were monitored for artefact recovery.

Hand excavation and recording

- 2.2.3 Discrete features were half-sectioned, while a sufficient proportion of each linear feature was excavated to characterise and date the feature. All archaeological deposits were allocated a unique context number. Plans and sections of individual excavated slots were drawn at a scale of 1:20. The locations of the individual plans and section lines were tied in to the overall digital site plan using the total station. Features were also recorded by colour and monochrome photography.
- 2.2.4 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.
- 2.2.5 Environmental bulk samples were taken from ditch 118 and pit 120 for the recovery of charred plant remains and charcoal.
- 2.2.6 All recording followed procedures detailed in the Oxford Archaeology Fieldwork Manual (Wilkinson 1992).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Description of deposits

- 3.1.1 The archaeological features were sealed by two subsoil layers (101 overlying 102), each with a thickness of 0.3 m, and these were in turn overlain by the current topsoil, which had an average depth of 0.12 m.

Strip, map and sample

- 3.1.2 The only area of the strip, map and sample excavation where archaeological features were encountered was soakaway pit RS3, where two ditches and two postholes were identified (Fig. 3, Plates 3 and 4).
- 3.1.3 Ditch 118 was a shallow linear feature that extended across the area of soakaway RS3 on a NNE-SSW orientation, continuing beyond the limits of the soakaway in both directions. Two interventions were excavated into this feature (104 and 116), which showed that the ditch had a concave profile filled by a single deposit of bluish grey sand (104=117). In both interventions the fill yielded late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery.



- 3.1.4 Ditch 111 was more substantial, though was only partially exposed within the area of the northern corner of the soakaway pit. It appeared to be orientated NW-SE, and this alignment suggests that it intersected ditch 118 a short distance beyond the north-eastern edge of the soakaway. The ditch contained four fills (112-115) all of which derived from natural silting. Pottery dated to the early Iron Age was recovered from the uppermost fill (115). A dark reddish brown sandy layer (110), up to 0.22 m thick and interpreted as representing the remains of a ploughed out bank, sealed both this ditch and ditch 118.
- 3.1.5 Two postholes (106 and 108) were identified in the north-eastern half of the soakaway. Neither feature contained any artefactual material.

Watching brief

- 3.1.6 The only feature identified during the watching brief was a pit (120) located within a drainage trench south of house plot 1 (Fig. 2; Plate 5). The pit contained four fills (121-124), all of which were derived from natural silting. The second fill (122) contained pottery dated to the early Iron Age, while the fill overlying it (123) contained pottery attributed to the late Bronze Age.

3.2 Summary of finds

- 3.2.1 A total of seven sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fills of ditches 111 and 118, and pit 120 (Appendix B.1). Four pieces of worked flint were recovered from the fills of ditches 111 and 118 and from the modern topsoil (Appendix B.2). A single piece of ceramic building material weighing 48 g was recovered from the modern topsoil (Appendix B.3). A single fragment of burnt flint was recovered from fill 117 of ditch 118. A further 157 fragments of burnt flint were recovered from environmental samples 1 and 2 (Appendix B.4).

3.3 Summary of environmental evidence

- 3.3.1 The samples were taken from fill 105 of ditch 118 and fill 124 of pit 120 (Appendix C.1). Both contained charcoal that is likely to represent the remains of spent fuel dumped with other domestic waste, but only very low quantities of charred seeds and other plant remains.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The investigations revealed a small number of features of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. The relative paucity of features and the small size of the artefactual assemblage are consistent with the impression gained from the evaluation that “the frequency of the occurrence of features across the site was low” (SCAU 2010, 7). It is likely that the substantial ditch 111 was part of the same feature as the ditch recorded in Trench 7 of the evaluation as ditch 104 (SCAU 2010, 3-4), while pit 120 was situated in the same area of the site as the feature recorded in Trench 3 of the evaluation as pit 106 (SCAU 2010, 2-3). The general absence of archaeological remains from the rest of the site is consistent with the results of the evaluation, which had identified only one other feature, a ditch recorded in Trench 5 that was located in an area north of soakaway pit SK6 that was not affected by significant groundworks during the watching brief.
- 4.1.2 In spite of the character of the remains, the results of the investigation provide a small but valuable contribution to the understanding of the prehistoric occupation of Send. The pottery recovered from ditch 118 appears to date from the late Bronze Age and pit



120 contained pottery that dated from both the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age, while the pottery from ditch 111 dated from the transition from the late Bronze Age to the early Iron Age. The fragmented nature of the pottery makes identification difficult, however, and it may be preferable to assign all deposition a broad late Bronze Age/early Iron Age date. Evidence for occupation dating from the earliest part of the Iron Age is rare in the county (Bird 2006), and no evidence from the Iron Age has previously been identified in the vicinity of these investigations (SCAU 2009, 7).

- 4.1.3 Due to the small number of features present it is difficult to interpret the nature of the activities that they represented. The paucity of artefacts may indicate that the ditches formed part of a complex of field boundaries, remote from associated areas of domestic occupation. However, the presence of two postholes, if correctly identified, suggests the presence of some form of structure. It is, of course, entirely possible that more than one episode of activity is represented, and in this context it is unfortunate that the intersection of the two ditches lay beyond the area of the investigation, as it may have provided some indication as to whether these features were contemporary.

5 ARCHIVE

- 5.1.1 To disseminate the results of the investigation, the report will be submitted to the Surrey Historic Environment Record, a summary will be published in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, and the report will be made available via the Oxford Archaeological e-library (<http://library.thehumanjourney.net/>).





APPENDIX A. ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Type	Depth (m)	Width (m)	Length (m)	Comments	Finds	Date
100	Layer	0.12	-	-	Topsoil	Tile, flint	Medieval
101	Layer	0.32	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
102	Layer	0.3	-	-	Subsoil	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	-	Natural	-	-
104	Cut	0.22	0.64	7	Ditch	-	Late Bronze Age
105	Fill	0.22	0.64	7	Fill of 104	Pot	Late Bronze Age
106	Cut	0.08	0.34	0.4	Posthole	-	-
107	Fill	0.08	0.34	0.4	Fill of 106	-	-
108	Cut	0.1	0.18	0.28	Posthole	-	-
109	Fill	0.1	0.18	0.28	Fill of 108	-	-
110	Layer	0.1-0.22	2	2	Ploughed out bank material	-	-
111	Cut	0.48	1.1	2	Ditch	-	Early Iron Age
112	Fill	0.06	0.5	0.5	Fill of 111	-	-
113	Fill	0.12	0.5	0.5	Fill of 111	-	-
114	Fill	0.11	0.5	0.5	Fill of 111	-	-
115	Fill	0.2	2	2	Fill of 111	Pot, flint	Early Iron Age
116	Cut	0.32	1.04	7	Ditch	-	Late Bronze Age
117	Fill	0.32	1.04	7	Fill of 116	Pot, burnt flint	Late Bronze Age
118	Group	0.22-0.32	0.64-1.04	7	Ditch segments 104, 116	-	Late Bronze Age
119	Layer	0.3	-	-	Modern Levelling deposit	-	Modern
120	Cut	0.8	1	5.48	Pit	-	Late Bronze Age - Early Iron Age
121	Fill	0.2	0.5	1.18	Fill of 120	-	-
122	Fill	0.22	0.5	1.9	Fill of 120	Pot	Early Iron Age
123	Fill	0.24	0.5	5.48	Fill of 120	Pot	Late Bronze Age
124	Fill	0.8	1	5.48	Fill of 120	-	-



APPENDIX B. FINDS

B.1 Pottery

by David Mullin

A total of seven sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from five contexts (Table 1). One sherd (7 g) was recovered from fill 105. This is well-fired and contains grog and quartz sand. Two sherds in a sand and occasional shell fabric were recovered from context 115 and another small sherd (2 g) in a similar fabric was recovered from context 117. Two large re-fitting sherds (119 g) in a sand and flint fabric were recovered from context 122, while another sherd (10 g) in a flint and sand fabric was recovered from context 123.

The sherds from contexts 105 and 123 are likely to be late Bronze Age in date, as is that from context 117. The sherds from contexts 115 and 122 are likely to be early Iron Age. Those from context 122 appear to be from a large globular fine ware vessel. The small and fragmented nature of the pottery makes identification difficult, however, and it is possible that all the material dates from the late Bronze Age-early Iron Age transition.

While Surrey has good evidence for late Bronze Age activity, including a reasonable assemblage from Manor Farm, Guildford (HER 5162) and the large assemblage from the Petters Sports Field (O'Connell 1986), early Iron Age material is less well-known (Bird 2006). The material from Linden Way is a small, but significant, addition to the material from the county, where assemblages tend to be small and fragmentary.

Early Iron Age pottery and other material was recovered from pits at Farnham (HER 1697), whilst late Bronze Age/early Iron Age occupation at the High Street, Egham (HER 5332) comprised a section of ditch, pits and circular structure. Further structures, pits and gullies associated with late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was recovered from Guildford (HER 5871) and transitional late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery, similar to that from Send, was retrieved from an occupation site at the former Marconi site, Addlestone. Flint tempered late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery was also recovered from excavations at Beddington (Howell 2005).

O'Connell (1986) has identified a tendency towards sandier fabrics in the early Iron Age, along with increased use of decoration and development of the biconical bowl form. The sandy fabric and the bowl form of the material from Send fit well within this tradition.

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

Context	No. of sherds	Weight (g)	Date
105	1	7	Late Bronze Age
115	2	5	Early Iron Age
117	1	2	Late Bronze Age
122	2	119	Early Iron Age
123	1	10	Late Bronze Age



B.2 Worked flint

by David Mullin

Four pieces of worked flint were recovered. These comprised a tertiary flake and a utilised secondary flake from the modern topsoil (100), a secondary flake from fill 105 of ditch 104, and a secondary flake from fill 115 of ditch 111. None of these pieces is closely datable and could belong anywhere in date between the late Mesolithic and early Bronze Age

B.3 Ceramic building material

by John Cotter

A single piece of ceramic building material weighing 48 g was recovered from the modern topsoil (100).

The piece is a worn edge fragment (13 mm thick) from a medieval peg tile in a sandy orange-brown fabric with a distinct grey core. It also has distinctive lenses and inclusions of hard grey clay pellets ('grog') up to 7 mm long. There may be a trace of the peg hole but the piece has broken at this point and is now worn. A 13th- to 14th-century date is likely, possibly extending as late as the 15th century.

B.4 Burnt unworked flint

by Geraldine Crann

A single fragment of burnt flint was recovered from context 117. A further 157 fragments were recovered from environmental samples 1 and 2 (Table 2).

Burnt flint is the product of a range of possible activities carried out in the prehistoric period, for example cooking food or heating water. Given that the flint was redeposited in ditches 104 and 116 and pit 120 and therefore removed from its original context, its precise function cannot be determined. No further analysis is possible, although it is worth noting that the flint provides further evidence of settlement in the vicinity of the site.

Table 2: Quantification of burnt, unworked flint

Context	Description
117	1 fragment of burnt flint weighing 82 g
105 (sample 1)	138 fragments weighing 247 g
124 (sample 2)	19 fragments weighing 46 g



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

C.1 Charred plant remains

by Denise Druce

Two bulk samples taken during the excavation were processed for the analysis of charred plant remains (CPR) and charcoal. One of the samples, sample 1, fill 105, came from a ditch (group 118) dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age. The other sample, sample 2, came from fill 124 of pit 120, which was of similar date. The purpose of the study was to determine the presence of any CPR or charcoal in the samples in order to provide information on any associated agricultural/economic activities and to inform on the surrounding environment and local resources.

Methods

Forty litres of material from each of the features were processed by flotation in a modified Siraf-type machine. The resultant flots were collected in a 250 micron sieve and the heavy residues were retained in a 0.5 mm nylon mesh. Both were then air dried. The heavy residues were hand sorted and any CPR, or charcoal fragments over 4mm in size, were extracted. The flots and the hand-sorted material was then analysed using a Leica MZ60 stereo microscope during which any CPR and charcoal was quantified and identified. Plant remains and charcoal were scored on a scale of abundance of 1- 4, where 1 is rare (up to 5 items) and 4 is abundant (>100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted and quantified. Identifications were made with reference to Schweingruber (1990) and classification and nomenclature follow Stace (1997).

Results

The results of the analysis are shown in Table 3. Sample 1, from pit 120, was devoid of CPR but contained abundant charcoal fragments. Fragments larger than 2 mm in size consisted primarily of *Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana* roundwood (alder/hazel), with a few *Quercus* sp. (oak) and indeterminate fragments. No distinction could be made between *Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana* as the fragments were heavily encrusted with mineral material, which tends to obscure the distinguishing characteristic between the two species. Sample 2 contained one medium (2-4 mm) sized *Poaceae* (grass) seed, and one culm node. Charcoal was abundant and was dominated by *Quercus* sp., with few *Alnus*/hazel and *Prunus* sp. (blackthorn/cherry) fragments.

Both samples contained abundant rooty material and wood fragments. Sample 2 also contained buds, leaf fragments and common uncharred seeds, which may have been preserved through waterlogging. One of the seeds, however, looked extremely well preserved; therefore it is possible that the uncharred element in this (and the other) sample was relatively modern.

Table 3: The charred plant remains and charcoal

Sample	Context	Feature	Flot volume (ml)	Charred Plant Remains	Charcoal	Other remains
1	105	Pit 120	10	None	(4) >2 mm (2) Mostly <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> roundwood, some <i>Quercus</i> ,	Modern roots (2), wood frgs (2), insect frgs (1), uncharred seeds (1), straw (1), coal (2), havm (1)



Sample	Context	Feature	Flot volume (ml)	Charred Plant Remains	Charcoal	Other remains
					some indeterminate	
2	124	Ditch, Grp 118	120	(1) <i>Poaceae</i> (2-4 mm), culm node	(4) >2 mm (3) Dominated by <i>Quercus</i> . Also contained some <i>Alnus/Corylus</i> roundwood and <i>Prunus</i> sp.	Moss (1), wood frgs (4), rooty material (4), leaf frgs (1), buds (1), insect frgs (1), uncharred seeds (2): <i>Rubus</i> , <i>Chenopodium</i> , small legume, coal (2), havm (2)

Discussion

The charcoal contained within both fills is likely to represent redeposited spent fuel, which derived from a settlement of unknown location outside the area of investigation. The wood collected for the fuel was probably gathered from easily available resources nearby, which may have included oak and alder/hazel woodland. Such woodland would have been common in the region during the Bronze Age/Iron Age (Druce in press). The presence of blackthorn-type wood charcoal suggests that some of the area contained scrub or hedgerows. The very low quantities of charred seeds and other plant remains in the two samples means that very little can be gleaned about the agriculture and economy of the site.



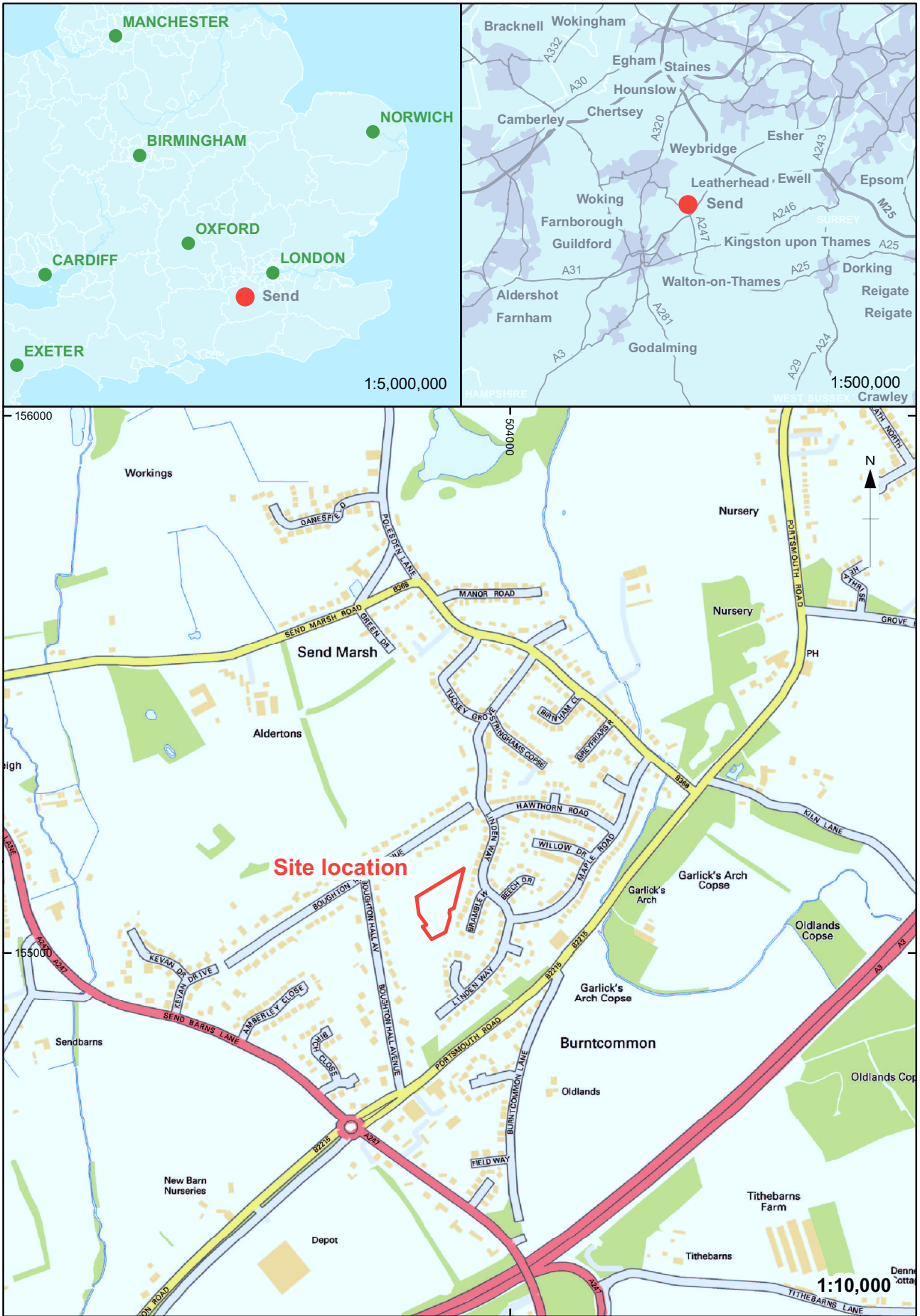
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APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Land to the Rear of Linden Way, Send, Surrey
Site code:	SEND10
Grid reference:	Centred at NGR TQ 038 550
Type of project:	Strip map and sample excavation and watching brief.
Date and duration of project:	April – May 2010
Area of site:	0.43 ha
Summary of results:	A small group of features was identified, which comprised two ditches, a pit and two postholes. The precise nature of the activities represented by these remains is uncertain, but the associated pottery indicates that they date to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age, a period for which little evidence has previously been found in Surrey.
Location of archive:	The archive is currently stored at Oxford Archaeology, and will be deposited in due course at Guildford Museum



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 3

- Strip, Map, Sample
 - Watching Brief
 - Already stripped
 - Pipe trench
 - PLOT 1 House plot
 - SK2 Soakaway pit
 - RS3 Soakaway pit
- 0 20 m
- 1:500

Figure 2: Plan of the archaeological investigations

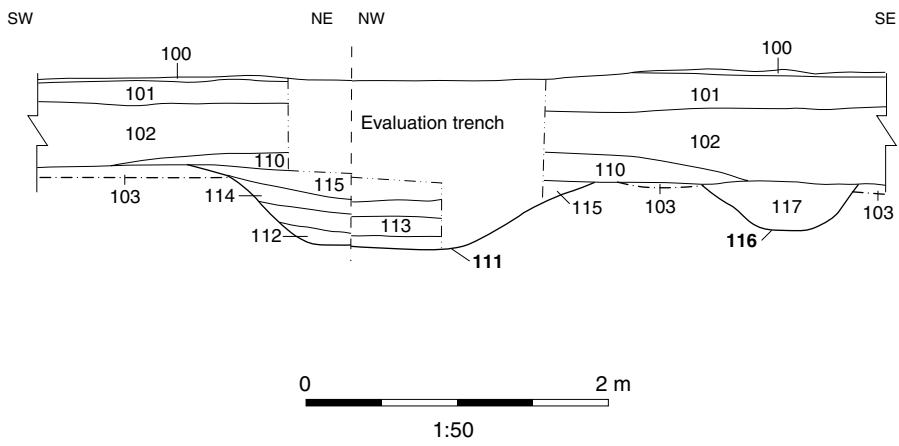
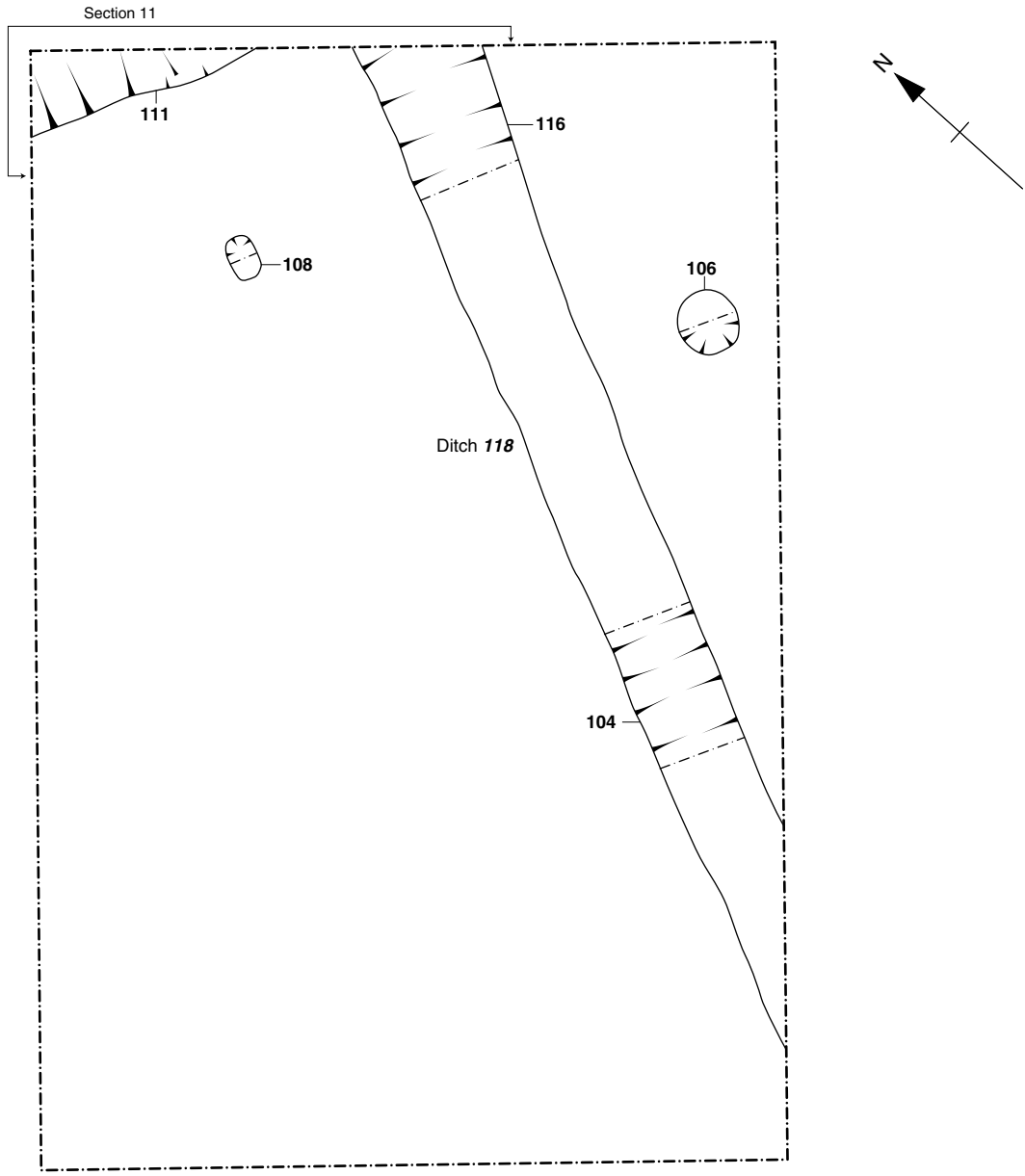


Figure 3: Plan and section of archaeological features exposed in soakaway pit RS3



Plate 1: General view of the northern end of the access road strip, map and sample area



Plate 2: General view of the site after excavation of foundation trenches



Plate 3: Soakaway pit RS3 from the south-west



Plate 4: Soakaway pit RS3 from the north-west



Plate 5: Pit 120 exposed within a drainage trench south of House Plot 1 (composite photo)



Head Office/Registered Office/ OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
f: +44 (0) 1223 850 599
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

OA Méditerranée

115 Rue Merlot
ZAC La Louvade
34 130 Mauguio
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93
e: [oamed@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oamed@thehumanjourney.net)
w: <http://oamed.fr/>

OA Grand Ouest

7 Rue des Monderaines
ZI - Ouest
14650 Carpiquet
France

t: +33 (0) 249 88 01 01
f: +33 (0) 249 88 01 02
e: [info@oago.fr](mailto: info@oago.fr)
w: <http://oago.fr>



Director: David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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