

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

Land at Glenelm and 160 Anyards Road, Cobham, KT11 2LH

JAC28883 Cobham 2 Sept 2023 rpsgroup.com

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Shanly Homes (Southern)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Shanly Homes (Southern) in support of development of land at Glenelm and 160 Anyards Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LH.
- The assessment provides a review of the site's below-ground archaeological potential and addresses the information requirements of national and local planning policy.
- In terms of designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the site or its vicinity.
- There are currently no recorded archaeological remains within the site boundary. This assessment has identified that the site has a generally low potential for significant archaeological remains from all past periods of human activity.
- It would appear that any archaeological remains within the study site boundary would, in the context of the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013), most likely be of overall low/local importance.
- On the basis of the available information, it is suggested that should the Local Planning Authority require further archaeological mitigation measures, these can be secured by an appropriately worded archaeological planning condition attached to any planning consent.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE OF STUDY

- 1.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Shanly Homes (Southern) in support of development of land at Glenelm and 160 Anyards Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LH.
- 1.2 The site, also referred to as the study site, is centred at NGR TQ 10780 60630 and comprises approximately 0.45ha of land.
- 1.3 In accordance with the guidance provided in the NPPF and the requirements of local planning policy, this assessment draws together the available archaeological, topographic and land-use information in order to clarify the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.4 This desk-based assessment comprises an examination of evidence from the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER), published and unpublished material and charts historic land-use through a map regression exercise.
- 1.5 The Assessment therefore enables relevant parties to assess the significance of designated and undesignated archaeological assets on or near the site, to consider the impact of the proposed development on the significance of these assets and to consider the need for design, civil engineering, and/or archaeological solutions to the archaeological potential identified.
- 1.6 The scope of this report addresses below ground archaeology only.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 National legislation regarding archaeology, including scheduled monuments, is contained in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002, and updated in April 2014.
- 2.2 In March 2012, the government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and it was last updated in September 2023. The NPPF is supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG), which was published online 6th March 2014 and has since been periodically updated.
- 2.3 The NPPF and NPPG are additionally supported by three Good Practice Advice (GPA) documents published by Historic England: GPA 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans; GPA 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (both published March 2015). The second edition of GPA3: The Setting of Heritage Assets was published in December 2017.

National Planning Policy

- 2.4 Section 16 of the NPPF, entitled Conserving and enhancing the historic environment provides guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of heritage assets. Overall, the objectives of Section 16 of the NPPF can be summarised as seeking the:
 - Delivery of sustainable development;
 - Understanding the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits brought by the conservation of the historic environment;
 - Conservation of England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance; and
 - Recognition that heritage makes to our knowledge and understanding of the past.
- 2.5 Section 16 of the NPPF recognises that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. Paragraph 194 states that applicants should provide a description of the significance of any heritage assets affected and that level of detail supplied by an applicant should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should be no more than sufficient to review the potential impact of the proposal upon the significance of that asset.
- 2.6 *Heritage Assets* are defined in Annex 2 of the NPPF as: a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. They include designated heritage assets (as defined in the NPPF) and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process.
- 2.7 Annex 2 also defines *Archaeological Interest* as a heritage asset which holds or potentially could hold evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.
- 2.8 A *Nationally Important Designated Heritage Asset* comprises a: World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area.
- 2.9 *Significance* is defined as: The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
- 2.10 *Setting* is defined as: The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a

positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral.

- 2.11 In short, government policy provides a framework which:
 - Protects nationally important designated Heritage Assets;
 - Protects the settings of such designations;
 - In appropriate circumstances seeks adequate information (from desk-based assessment and field evaluation where necessary) to enable informed decisions;
 - Provides for the excavation and investigation of sites not significant enough to merit *in-situ* preservation.
- 2.12 The NPPG reiterates that the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle, requiring a flexible and thoughtful approach. Furthermore, it highlights that neglect and decay of heritage assets is best addressed through ensuring they remain in active use that is consistent with their conservation. Importantly, the guidance states that if complete, or partial loss of a heritage asset is justified, the aim should then be to capture and record the evidence of the asset's significance and make the interpretation publicly available. Key elements of the guidance relate to assessing harm. An important consideration should be whether the proposed works adversely affect a key element of the heritage asset's special architectural or historic interest. Additionally, it is the degree of harm, rather than the scale of development, that is to be assessed. The level of 'substantial harm' is considered to be a high bar that may not arise in many cases. Essentially, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgment for the decision taker, having regard to the circumstances of the case and the NPPF. Importantly, harm may arise from works to the asset or from development within its setting. Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an asset is experienced and may be more extensive than the curtilage. A thorough assessment of the impact of proposals upon setting needs to take into account, and be proportionate to, the significance of the heritage asset and the degree to which proposed changes enhance or detract from that significance and the ability to appreciate it.
- 2.13 In considering any planning application for development, the planning authority will be mindful of the framework set by government policy, in this instance the NPPF, by current Development Plan Policy and by other material considerations.

Local Planning Policy

2.14 The relevant Development Plan framework is currently provided by the Elmbridge Borough Council Local Plan, which consists of the Core Strategy (adopted July 2011) and Development Management Plan (adopted April 2015). The Development Management Plan includes the following policy relevant to archaeology:

DM12: HERITAGE

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENTS THAT PROTECT, CONSERVE AND ENHANCE THE BOROUGH'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT. THIS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING HERITAGE ASSETS:

- LISTED BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS
- CONSERVATION AREAS AND THEIR SETTINGS
- PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS
- SCHEDULED MONUMENTS AND THEIR SETTINGS
- AREAS OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL AND COUNTY SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE (CSAIS)

• LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS AND OTHER IDENTIFIED OR POTENTIAL ASSETS (INCLUDING NON-DESIGNATED LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT ASSETS IDENTIFIED IN THE LOCAL LISTS COMPILED BY THE COUNCIL) ...

E. AREAS OF HIGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

i. PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF HERITAGE ASSETS WITH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE BEING PRESENT ON THE SITE, PROVIDE FOR POSITIVE MEASURES TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY SUCH ASSETS, AND ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR VALUE.

F. LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS AND OTHER NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

i. THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO RETAIN THESE, WHERE POSSIBLE, AND WILL ASSESS PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY IMPACT ON THEM IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AND THE DEGREE OF HARM OR LOSS, IF ANY, WHICH WOULD BE CAUSED.

- 2.15 A new Local Plan is in preparation and is due to be submitted for examination by the Planning Inspectorate by summer 2023.
- 2.16 In terms of archaeological designated heritage assets, as defined above and as shown on Figure 2, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefields or Historic Wreck sites are located on the study site or its immediate vicinity.
- 2.17 In line with exiting national, strategic and local planning policy and guidance, this assessment seeks to clarify the site's archaeological potential and the need or otherwise for additional archaeological mitigation measures prior to the determination of a planning application.

3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 3.1 The British Geological Survey has mapped the solid geology underlying the study site as comprising Bagshot Formation sand, overlain with superficial deposits of Taplow Gravel Formation sand and gravel (BGS 2007).
- 3.2 No site-specific geotechnical information is currently available.

Topography

3.3 In broad terms the study site is located on the low-lying ground of the Mole valley, with the river itself flowing 700m southwest of the site at its closest point. Within the site boundary, the ground has been previously landscaped and shows a very gentle rise west to east from approximately 23m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) to 25m aOD.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND WITH ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Timescales used in this report

Prehistoric		
Palaeolithic	900,000 -	12,000 BC
Mesolithic	12,000 -	4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 -	1,800 BC
Bronze Age	1,800 -	600 BC
Iron Age	600 -	AD 43
Historic		
Roman	AD 43 -	410
Saxon/Early Medieval	AD 410 -	1066
Medieval	AD 1066 -	1485
Post Medieval	AD 1486 -	1799
Modern	AD 1800 -	Present

Introduction

- 4.1 What follows comprises a review of archaeological findspots within a 1km radius of the study site (Fig. 2), also referred to as the study area, as held on the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER), together with an historic map regression exercise charting the development of the study site from the 18th century up to the present day (Figs. 3-12).
- 4.2 In terms of designated heritage assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wreck or Historic Battlefield sites have been identified on the study site or its immediate vicinity.
- 4.3 Chapter 5 subsequently considers the site conditions and whether the theoretical potential identified in this chapter is likely to survive.

Historic Landscape Character

4.4 The Surrey HER records the Historic Landscape Character of the study site as 'Post 1811 & pre-1940 settlement (small scale)'.

Previous Archaeological Work

4.5 The HER has no record of previous archaeological investigation within the site boundary.

Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic)

4.6 The HER records two Palaeolithic hand-axes found at an unknown date in gravel pits beside the Old Portsmouth Road (HER ref: MSE4133).

- 4.7 Residual Mesolithic flints were recovered during archaeological work in 1988 by Surrey County Council's Conservation and Archaeology Section at Cobham Sewage Works, 650m WNW of the study site (MSE3270, TQ 1010 6090).
- 4.8 The presence of Early Prehistoric material is notoriously difficult to predict and although the site is located within a river valley on Taplow gravels, the paucity of finds in the study area and limited size of the site itself would suggest there is a generally low potential for Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains. The presence of isolated, derived worked flint cannot be entirely ruled out.

Neolithic & Bronze Age

- 4.9 The HER records no evidence of Neolithic activity in the study area.
- 4.10 A single sherd of residual Bronze Age pottery was found during an evaluation c.500m west of the site (MSE4739, TQ 10200 60700), and a small cup or crucible, apparently of Late Bronze Age date, was found at the sewage works in the same vicinity in 1963 (MSE2451, TQ 1010 6082).
- 4.11 The portable antiquity scheme (PAS) data records a Bronze Age arrowhead findspot c900m southwest of the site.
- 4.12 Evidence of a possible Bronze Age cemetery is located 900m to the southeast of the study site at Leigh Hill. Two sherds of a Bronze Age Urn were found in a gravel pit (MSE237, TQ 1148 6028) and a further urn was found when laying foundations in the grounds of Leigh Court (MSE252, TQ 1162 6019).
- 4.13 The available evidence suggests settlement was not established in the study area until the Bronze Age and is likely to have been focussed around Leigh Hill c. 900m southeast of the site. As such, a generally low archaeological potential can be identified for these periods on the study site.

Iron Age & Roman

- 4.14 Evidence for Iron Age and Roman settlement, dating from the 3rd century BC to the 1st century AD, is recorded at Leigh Hill 900m southeast of the study site. The site was initially discovered during the cutting of a drive in 1906. Around 40 storage pits, a 'working hollow' and a probable roundhouse site were uncovered, along with numerous domestic artefacts (MSE238, TQ 1144 6026).
- 4.15 Fragments of Roman pottery vessels (50-100 AD), part of a spout of a mortarium and pieces of wattle and daub were found during construction of Cobham Sewage Works in 1932, 650m WNW of the study site (MSE236, TQ 1000 6090/MSE3271, TQ 1010 6090).
- 4.16 Elsewhere in the study area, a Roman coin findspot is recorded c.500m south of the site (MSE250, TQ 1088 6020), and an iron knife blade c700m SSE of the site (MSE2996, TQ 11000 60000).
- 4.17 Iron Age settlement activity appears to have been focussed on Leigh Hill and continued into the Roman period. The remains identified at the sewage works also suggest Roman settlement at that location. Roman material often appears in HERs because of the volume of cultural material relative to most other periods and because much of that material is readily identifiable. The lack of findspots in the immediate vicinity of the study site would therefore suggest the apparent absence of activity may be genuine.
- 4.18 Overall, a low potential can be ascribed to the study site for Iron Age and Roman settlement features. Evidence of agriculture and land management may conceivably be present.

Anglo-Saxon/Early Medieval & Medieval

4.19 The character, extent and location of any post-Roman/Saxon settlement in the area is almost completely unknown. Few finds of Anglo Saxon or Early Medieval date are recorded on the HER within the 1km study area.

- 4.20 A single Saxon artefact is recorded on the HER; a spearhead that was found in a gravel pit at Leigh Hill, c.750m southeast of the study site (MSE241, TQ 1147 6028).
- 4.21 The settlement of Cobham is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 with a population of 35 households (putting it in the largest 20% of recorded settlements) and under the ownership of the abbey of Chertsey (St Peter).
- 4.22 The church of St Andrew, the presumed core of the Medieval settlement and located 900m south of the site, is believed to have been established in the 11th century. The tower and the south door are of Norman date, probably 1150-60, and the spire may have been added in the 13th century. The chancel arcade is late 13th century, as are parts of the walls of the chancel and north chapel (MSE93, TQ 1078 5974). Medieval pottery sherds were found during an excavation at the nearby Lime House, an early 18th century house next to Church Stile House, a timber framed Medieval property which was largely rebuilt in the 17th century (MSE6926, TQ 1081 5980).
- 4.23 The Grade 2 listed Leigh Hill Farm House, located at 7 Leigh Hill Road 750m southeast of the site, is a 16th century structure believed to have origins as a Medieval hall house (MSE7123, TQ 1125 6019).
- 4.24 The PAS data identifies a mixed assemblage of Medieval findspots identified in the fields immediately west of Church Cobham, c 900m southwest of the site, and the HER also records two Medieval sword chapes from the same area (3915, TQ 104 599; 3916, TQ 104 1599). Elsewhere in the study area, Medieval finds are limited to a small number of pottery sherds found during the archaeological excavations at the sewage works, 650m WNW of the study site (MSE3272, TQ 1010 6090) and during an archaeological evaluation 500m west of the site (MSE4738, TQ 1020 6070).
- 4.25 The evidence suggests that the study site was located at a substantive distance from the focus of settlement during these periods (at Church Cobham) and likely lay in its agricultural or unimproved hinterland. As such, a generally low potential can be ascribed to the site for Anglo-Saxon and Medieval settlement remains. Evidence of land division and agricultural activity may be present.

Post Medieval & Modern (including map regression exercise)

- 4.26 There are no Post Medieval or Modern remains recorded on the HER for the study site.
- 4.27 During these periods, our understanding of settlement, land-use and the utilisation of the landscape is enhanced by cartographic and documentary sources, which can give additional detail to data contained within the HER.
- 4.28 The earliest map presented in this assessment is the 1729 Senex Map of Surrey (Fig. 3). The approximate location of the study site can be identified in open ground immediately south of a precursor of the current A307 Portsmouth Road. The settlements of Church Cobham and 'Cobham Street' lie to the south and west, respectively.
- 4.29 The 1768 Rocque Map of Surrey (Fig. 4) provides additional detail of the landscape, with the location of the study site shown in open common ground bordering enclosed, agricultural land to the west.
- 4.30 The 1804 Ordnance Survey Drawing (Fig. 5) indicates large scale enclosure had taken place by this time, and the site is shown within an enclosed field. The 1823 Greenwood and Greenwood Map of Surrey (Fig. 6) provides little detail aside from identifying the site remained as undeveloped land.
- 4.31 The study site can be accurately located on the 1867-68 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 7) which continues to show the site as undeveloped and set within an enclosed field.
- 4.32 The 1896 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 8) shows the first development of the site and includes two buildings in its northwest portion along with rear garden plots. The majority of the site remains undeveloped within a field.

- 4.33 By 1914 (Fig. 9), development had expanded eastwards with dwellings and roads replacing the earlier field parcels south of the Portsmouth Road. The site itself mainly appears to have comprised an open yard area enclosed by garden plots. Additional development within the site includes two small outbuildings and linear boundaries. By 1934 (Fig. 10), there has been some remodelling of the site, with the loss of one outbuilding and removal of boundaries.
- 4.34 The 1968 Ordnance Survey Map (Fig. 11) shows the Glenelm building constructed by this time in the eastern portion of the site, with adjacent ranges of garages located centrally.
- 4.35 There are no further changes up to the present day (Fig. 12).
- 4.36 The available evidence indicates the study site formed part of the unimproved/ agricultural hinterland of Cobham throughout these periods until development was initiated at the end of the 19th century. The potential of the site for archaeologically significant Post Medieval and Modern remains can be defined as low. Evidence of former land division, agricultural activity and an early 20th century outbuilding may survive.

Assessment of Significance

- 4.37 Existing national policy guidance for archaeology (the NPPF as referenced in section 2) enshrines the concept of the 'significance' of heritage assets. Significance as defined in the NPPF centres on the value of an archaeological or historic asset for its 'heritage interest' to this or future generations.
- 4.38 No archaeological designated heritage assets as defined in the NPPF are recorded on the study site or its vicinity.
- 4.39 This assessment has identified that the study site has a low potential for all past periods of human activity.
- 4.40 It would appear that any archaeological remains within the study site boundary would, in the context of the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013), most likely be of overall low/local importance.
- 4.41 As identified by desk-based work, archaeological potential by period and the likely level of importance of any archaeological remains which may be present within the study site is summarised in table form below:

Period:	Identified Archaeological Potential and Likely Level of Importance (if present):
Early Prehistoric (Palaeolithic & Mesolithic)	Low potential, Low (Local) to Moderate (Regional) importance;
Neolithic	Low potential, Low (Local) importance;
Bronze Age	Low potential, Low (Local) importance;
Iron Age/Roman	Low potential, Low (Local) importance;
Anglo-Saxon & Medieval	Low potential, Low (Local) to Moderate (Regional) importance;
Post Medieval	Low potential, Low (Local) importance.
Modern	Low potential, Low (Local) to Negligible importance

5 SITE CONDITIONS, THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS

Site Conditions

- 5.1 The study site is centred at NGR TQ 10780 60630 and comprises approximately 0.45ha of land. The site is an irregular shape located behind residential properties on Portsmouth Road, Anyards Road and Copse Road. Access is located from Anyards Road and Copse Road. The site comprises of a corner retail unit with residential unit above to the northwest, a single storey vacant building and garages to centre. Mature trees are located on the eastern side of the site (Figs. 1 and 12).
- 5.2 Construction of the extant buildings and landscaping within the site can be considered to have had a moderate to severe negative archaeological impact through ground reduction and the cutting of foundations and services.
- 5.3 Historic agricultural activity can be considered to have had a widespread, moderate impact on any earlier archaeological remains present on the site.

Proposed Development

5.4 The current proposals are for the demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 26 residential dwellings, together with the associated access, car parking and landscaping at Anyards Road, Cobham.

Review of Potential Development Impacts on Archaeological Assets

- 5.5 In terms of relevant internationally or nationally important designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Battlefield or Historic Wreck sites lie on or within the vicinity of the study site and therefore there would be no development impacts to any such assets.
- 5.6 This assessment has identified that the study site has a low potential for significant archaeological remains from all past periods of human activity.
- 5.7 Groundworks associated with the construction phase of the Scheme, including site preparation, excavation for roads, foundations, services and landscaping, can be anticipated to have an extensive impact on near-surface archaeological deposits.
- 5.8 It would appear that any archaeological remains within the study site boundary would, in the context of the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013), most likely be of overall low/local importance.
- 5.9 In view of this, the development proposals are considered unlikely to have such a widespread or significant negative archaeological impact that would result in unacceptable harm to the archaeological resource of the site. The potential impact of development could be appropriately mitigated through a programme of archaeological investigation and recording undertaken in advance of construction, if so required by the Local Planning Authority.

6 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 This archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared by RPS for Shanly Homes (Southern) in support of development of land at Glenelm and 160 Anyards Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 2LH.
- 6.2 The assessment provides a review of the site's below-ground archaeological potential and addresses the information requirements of national and local planning policy.
- 6.3 In terms of designated archaeological assets, no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Historic Wrecks or Historic Battlefields lie within the site or its vicinity.
- 6.4 There are currently no recorded archaeological remains within the site boundary. This assessment has identified that the site has a generally low potential for significant archaeological remains from all past periods of human activity.
- 6.5 It would appear that any archaeological remains within the study site boundary would, in the context of the Secretary of State's non-statutory criteria for Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013), most likely be of overall low/local importance.
- 6.6 On the basis of the available information, it is suggested that should the Local Planning Authority require further archaeological mitigation measures, these can be secured by an appropriately worded archaeological planning condition attached to any planning consent.

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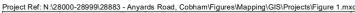
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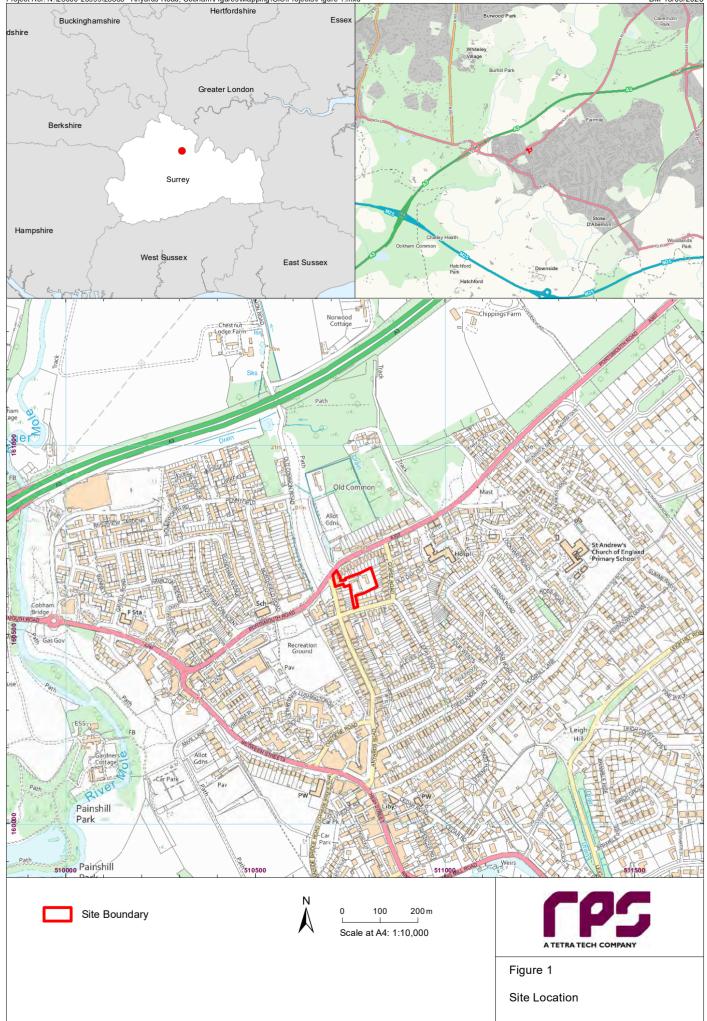
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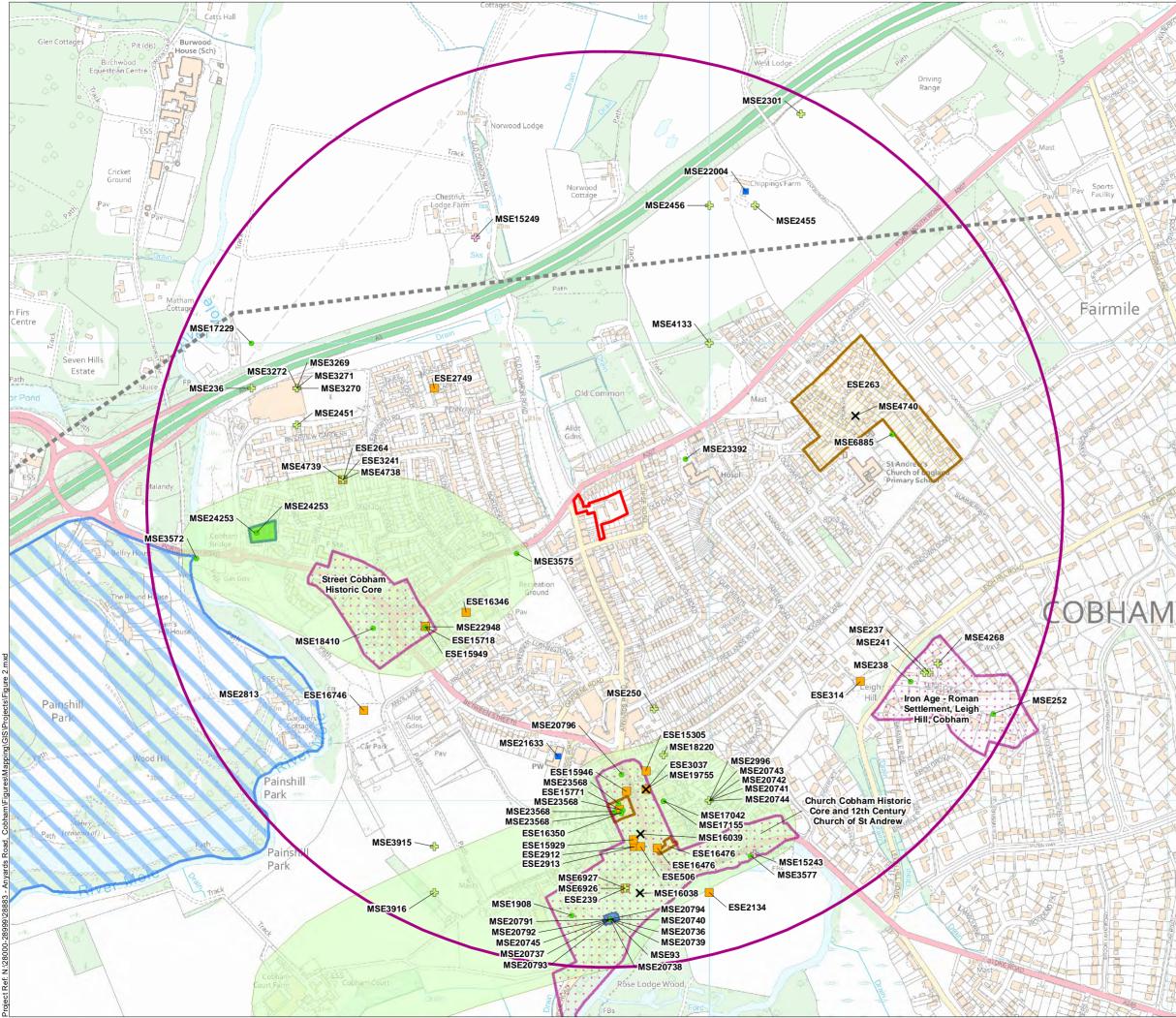
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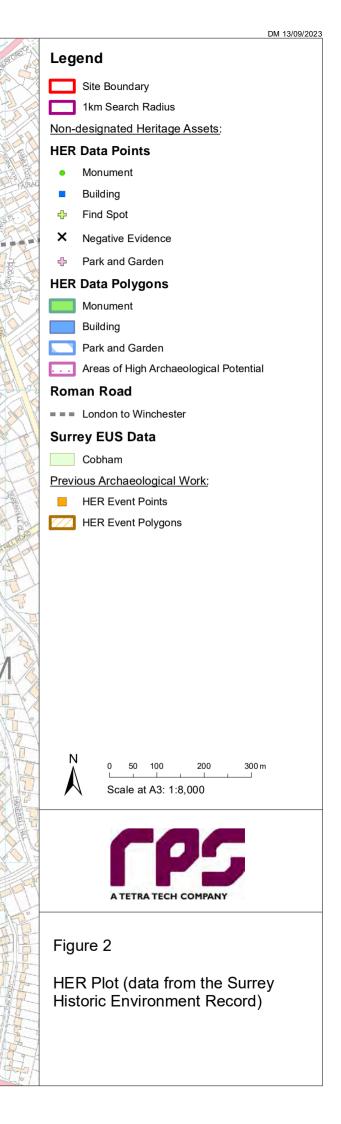
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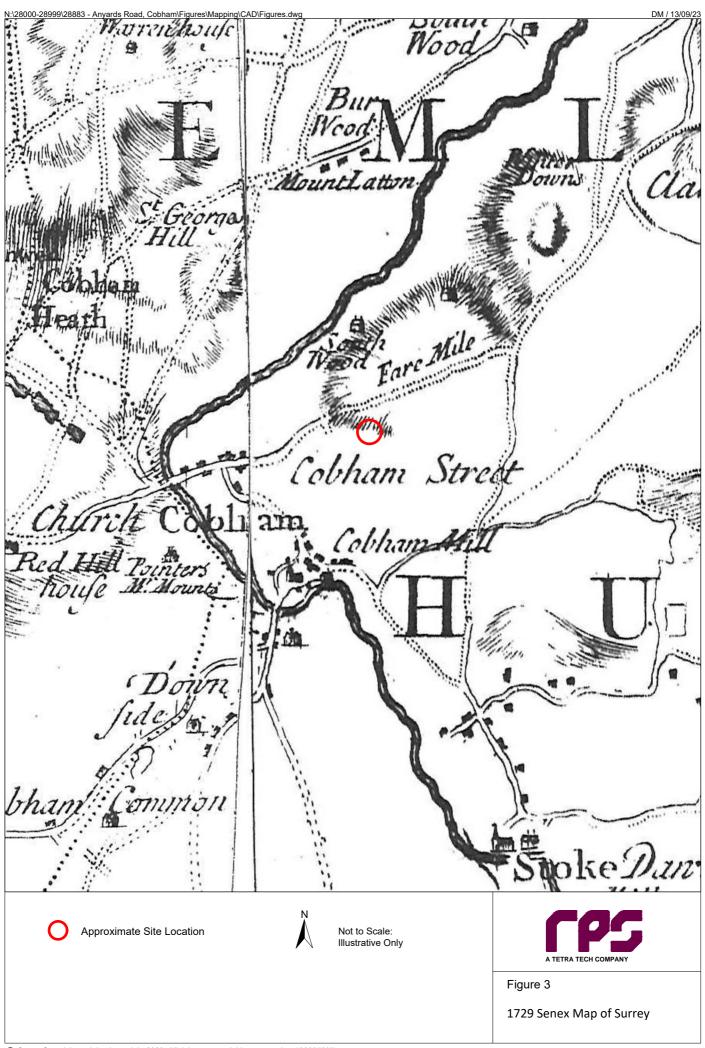


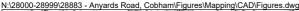




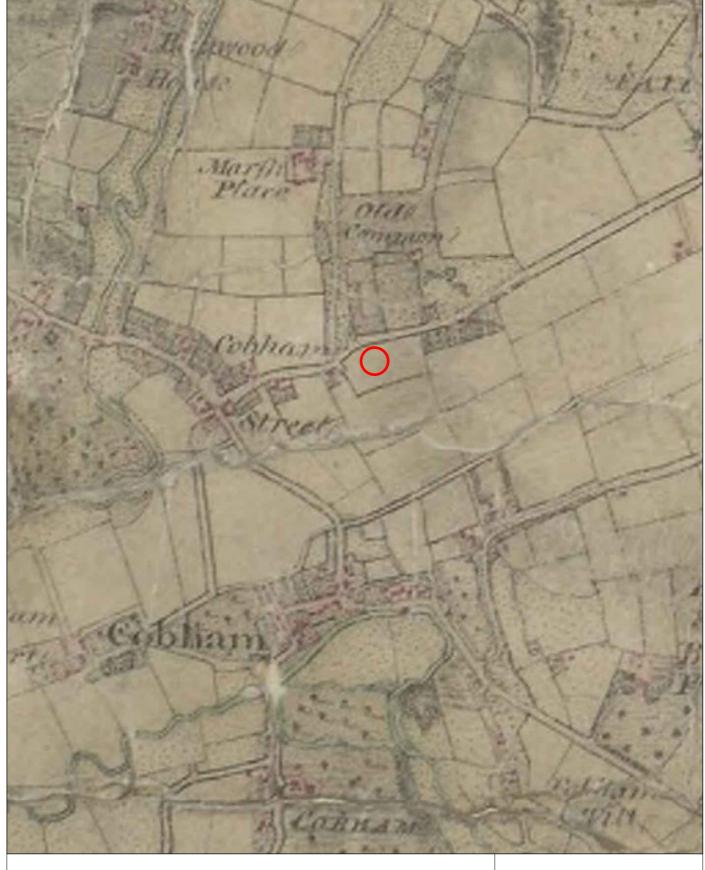
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Approximate Site Location

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Not to Scale: Illustrative Only

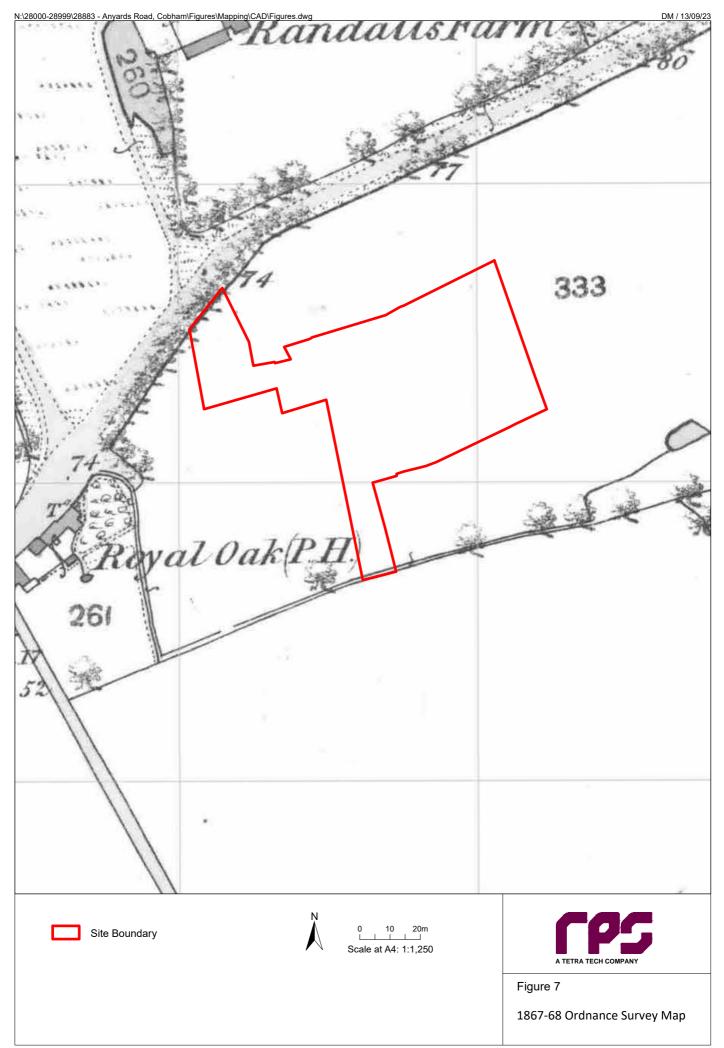


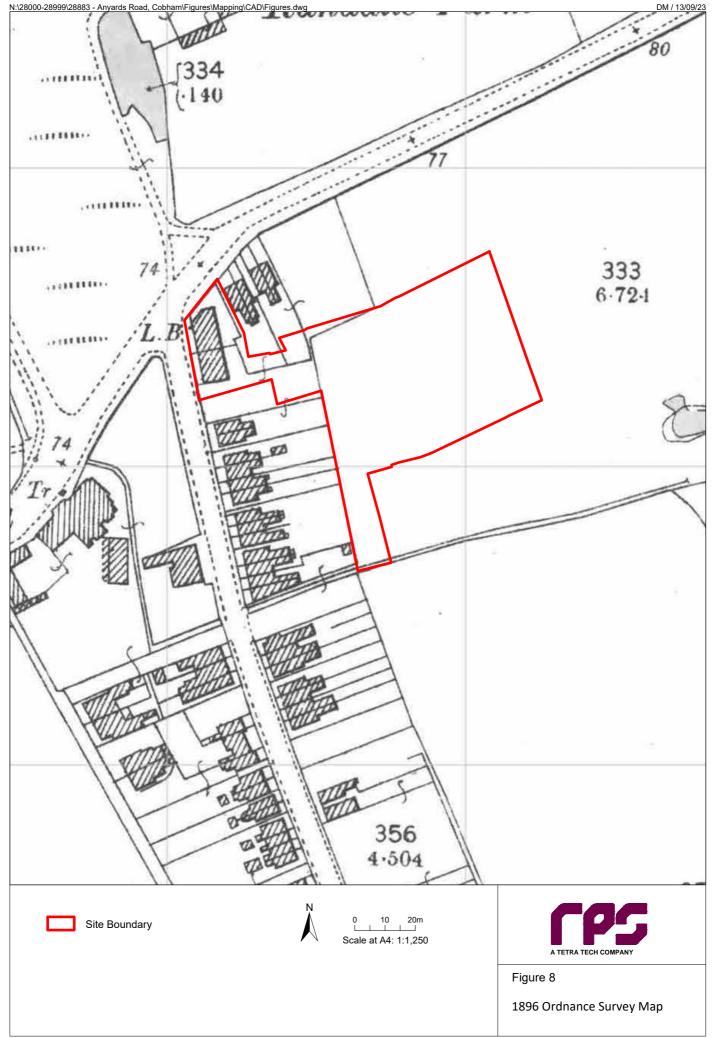
Figure 5

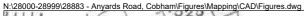
1804 Ordnance Survey Drawing

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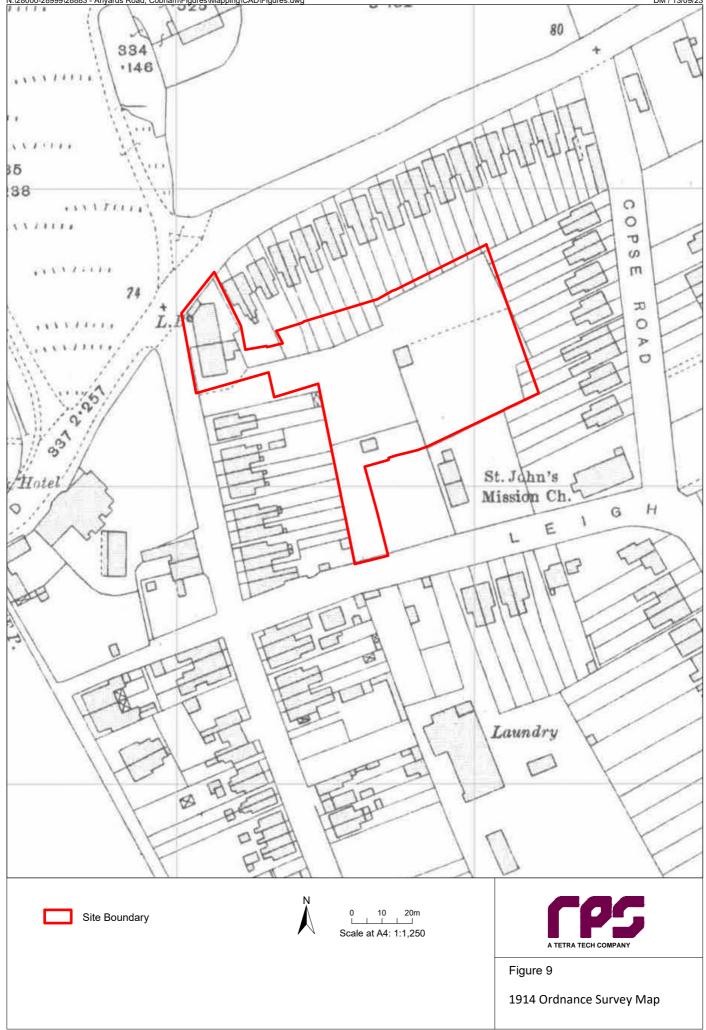


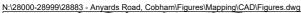












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Figure 12

2021 Google Earth Image

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