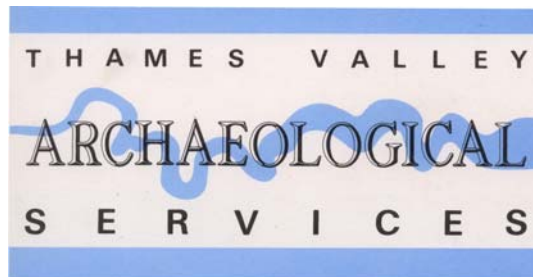


**Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road,
Send, Surrey**

Project specification for an archaeological excavation

6th September 2023



23e110exc

Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey, Phase 1

Project specification for an archaeological excavation

Background

1.1 It is proposed to redevelop a parcel of land (c. 0.66ha) at Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey (TQ 0345 5431) (Fig 1). The redevelopment proposal comprises commercial and industrial development with associated access, parking and amenities. Part of the site has already gained planning permission (22/P/01079) from Guildford Borough Council with a second consent sought for the remaining land parcel. Both parcel of land have been subject to archaeological evaluation and both contain archaeological deposits necessitating further mitigation. This document is intended to implement this mitigation to satisfy the condition on the existing consent and the expected condition on the anticipated new consent.

1.2 The archaeological potential of the site had been initially identified in a desk based assessment (ASL 2020) followed by two phases of evaluation trenching (WA 2023). In summary the site lies in an area with a modest volume of recorded archaeology. A large early prehistoric flint scatter is recorded at a distance to the north west with Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement recorded 750m away to the north east. A single mid-Roman coin is the only find in the study area but was found 1km to the north west. The nearest Medieval site is a moat with other earthworks 900m to the north.

1.3 The evaluations (WA 2023a and b) revealed a range of deposits which included linear and curvilinear ditches and gullies along with postholes of early Roman date. The main concentration lies to the west of the proposal site but with a second component to the north east.

1.4 The site lies on London Clay (BGS 2000) at a height of c. 40m above Ordnance Datum).

2.0 Requirement for Work

2.1 As a consequence of the results of the archaeological evaluation, mitigation is proposed, in the form of archaeological excavation of the site, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Council policies on archaeology, and following consultation with the archaeological advisor to Surrey County Council.

2.2 This is to take place according to a written scheme of investigation approved by the archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

3.0 Aims and Objectives

3.1 A number of countrywide policy documents for archaeological research such as Historic England Research Agenda (HE 2017) and James and Millett (2001); Haslegrove et al (2001) consider the full range of deposits that might be encountered at Send with more regional agendas such as *Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey: Towards a Research Framework for the County* (Cotton et al. 2005) and *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework*, (Bird, 2006).

3.2 One of the principal research topics for the Roman period is the nature of the expansion of settlement in early Roman times, perhaps continuing expansion from the Late Iron Age due to Rome's economic stimulus. For Surrey and the Middle Thames Valley, an important objective is to determine if the disruption of a hostile Roman takeover is mirrored in a disruption of settlement patterns. Many regions of southern England also witness abandonment of Roman settlements in later Roman times and it is an important objective to determine if such as pattern is also present here, especially with regards to the following Anglo-Saxon period and whether such settlement is contested or not.

The general objectives of the project are to:

Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the development.

Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.

Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) and the local or thematic research priorities summarised above.

3.3 The specific aims of the project are:

What is the nature and date of the early Roman occupation on the site? Was there a pre-Roman precursor settlement?

What is the nature and date of any landscape features (e.g., fields, boundary features, large enclosures) and what is their spatial organisation?

How did these landscape features relate to occupied areas?

Are there further occupied areas within the site?

What is the chronology of any Roman use of the site, particularly in terms of the timing and nature of the end of Roman rule?

4.0 Excavation methodology

4.1.0 Two areas of excavation are proposed (Fig. 2). The western Area (A) comprises c. 5600 sq m and the north eastern Area (B) c. 900 sq m.

4.1.1 Topsoil and overburden removal for all phases of work will be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by one or more 360^o diggers fitted with a toothless bucket to expose the uppermost surface of archaeological deposits. Subject to suitable ground conditions it is intended to run machinery over topsoil. but particular care will be taken to ensure that deep rutting does not occur through repetitive tracking over the same area, or movement of machinery in wet conditions. Machines will not be allowed to track over the stripped areas until the fieldwork has been completed in these areas.

4.1.2 Where appropriate and necessary, hand cleaning of the stripped surface will take place.

4.2 All archaeological features will be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.

4.3 Isolated, discrete features such as pits and postholes under 2 sq. m in area and up to 1m deep not belonging to structures or activities discussed in para 4.5 (below) will be fully dug. Isolated features of any size containing complete or largely intact urn-type remains will be fully dug.

4.4. Sampling of linear features such as ditches and gullies relating to agricultural activity will be a minimum of 15-25% of their length. The linear features will be excavated in 1-3 m. wide slots. All termini and intersections will be examined. A greater proportion of any ring ditches, will be examined (between 75 and 100% of the encircling ditch). Linear features unambiguously of late post-medieval date will be sampled at 1% of their length after discussion with the archaeological advisor. The level of sampling may be altered with the agreement of the archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

4.5 Any deposits relating to funerary/ritual activities such as burials and cremation deposits and domestic/industrial activity such as walls, postholes floors, middens, walls, hearths, ring gullies) will be fully excavated. Discrete features such as cremation deposits will be 100% sampled for subsequent analysis.

4.6 Area deposits such as buried soils will be hand excavated to a minimum of 10%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

4.7 Area deposits such as large, artefact-rich, prehistoric middens or burnt mounds will be hand excavated to a minimum of 50%. Subsequent excavation by machine will be considered in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

4.8 The recently issued 'General Standards for Archaeological Projects in Surrey' (SCC 2023) will be followed.

5.0 Recording Methodology

5.1 The recording system adopted during the investigations will be as detailed in the TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018) and will be fully compatible with those most widely used elsewhere.

5.2 A single context recording system will be used in accordance with the TVAS recording manual. Descriptions of individual deposits and features will be recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets.

5.3 Plans will be made digitally using an accurate real time GPS unit. Where appropriate, eg. for the recording of inhumations, more detailed plans will be hand drawn on film at a scale of 1:10 or by vertical overlapping photography with reference points. The locations of plans and sections will be accurately located in relation to the National Grid. Sections will be drawn in pencil on drafting film, normally at scales of 1:10 or 1:20 respectively.

5.4 Heights above OD will be taken and recorded on all plans and sections.

5.5 The locations of the plans and sections will be tied into the national grid.

5.6 A Harris matrix stratification diagram will be employed to record all stratigraphic relationships.

5.7 The photographic record will consist of digital image. It will record the principal features and finds discovered, both in detail and in their general context. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' and, where applicable, aerial photographs to illustrate the nature of the archaeological fieldwork programme. All feature shots will include appropriate scales and a photo board, the latter positioned in such a way that the writing is legible and including the context number and site code. Digital images are taken on Canon EOS 4000D cameras with APS-C sensors taking 16-megapixel images.

5.8 Discovery of any human remains will be reported to the coroner and the Surrey County Archaeological Officer will be excavated following guidelines issued by the Ministry of Justice. Recovery and recording methodologies for human remains follow standard procedures identified by (Mitchell and Brickley 2017). and TVAS Field Recording Manual (8th edition 2018). Any human bone recovered of archaeological significance will be deposited with an approved Museum and will not be reinterred.

6.0 Finds retrieval

6.1 In general, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained, though all but a sample of some classes of building material will be discarded after recording. The decision to discard any material will be taken in consultation with the archaeological advisor to the Borough Council.

6.2 Metal detectors will be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds both prior to topsoil removal and from excavated features. All gold, silver, prehistoric base metal and any associated objects will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner and finds liaison officer according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act (1996) and its subsequent amendments. Where removal cannot be affected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. No title will be assumed by the finder of any items of value or archaeological interest.

6.3 Spoil heaps will be monitored for finds.

6.4 Finds recovered from fills of cut features will simply be recorded under the appropriate context number.

6.5 All finds discovered in layers and surfaces will be recorded in two horizontal dimensions. This spatial distribution will generally be within a 1m grid square, but for particularly sensitive areas, a grid of 0.1m will be used.

6.6 According to our standard practice, features will be spot-dated by their finds on-site, so that any appropriate adjustment can be made to excavation or retrieval strategies, in order to maximise the information available to answer the research aims of the project.

6.7 Conservation on-site will follow guidelines in First Aid for Finds with any other specialist conservation work sub-contracted to the project conservator (para 9.2 below).

6.8 Should deposits with high paleoenvironmental potential be encountered, an appropriate scheme and sampling programme will be discussed in consultation with the archaeological advisor to Surrey County Council, our specialist advisors and the Historic England Scientific Advisor. Sampling will follow Historic England guidelines (HE 2015b).

6.8.1 Environmental sampling and scientific dating

6.8.2 Well-defined, closely-dated contexts will be bulk sampled for the recovery of carbonised botanical remains.

6.8.3 Sieving will take place to enhance the recovery of small bones and artefacts as advised by our faunal remains specialist. Up to 40 litres of their fill will be wet-sieved using a 2mm mesh. Charred plant remains will be recovered using floatation and a 0.25mm sieve. In addition, unusual and rich contexts will be sieved in a similar manner.

6.8.4 Samples for pollen analysis and micromorphology will be taken under the guidance of the appropriate specialists on-site if appropriate.

6.8.5 Where appropriate, samples will be taken for radiocarbon dating, dendrochronology, thermoluminescence, archaeomagnetic dating or for any other less common scientific analyses as necessary.

7.0 Post-Fieldwork and archive preparation

7.1 Finds and sample processing and analysis will commence immediately following the completion of the fieldwork in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a), CifA guidance (CifA 2020a) and TVAS post-excavation procedures (6th edition 2013).

7.1.1 Prepare an orderly archive of the records of the fieldwork.

7.1.2 Clean, conserve and prepare artefacts/ecofacts and environmental samples for long term museum storage.

7.1.3 Prepare specialist reports on the artefacts recovered. Particular attention will be paid to tying in the pottery recovered to the local or regional fabric sequences that are available such as at the Museum of London or compiled for Surrey (cf Jones 1998).

7.1.4 Prepare a report describing the basic nature of the archaeological deposits discovered and place the significance of the findings in their local, regional and national setting as appropriate.

7.1.5 Prepare reports on the specialist analyses.

7.1.6 Define any research priorities relevant for future investigation.

7.1.7 A digital map of the excavation will be supplied to the Surrey HER on disc in a compatible format (.dxf or .ecw or shapefile) if requested.

7.2 The finds and site archive will be prepared in accordance with guidelines in MoRPHE (HE 2015a) and after consultation with the recipient museum. Guidance produced by the Museum and Galleries Commission's Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1992), the Society of Museum Archaeologist's Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections (1993) and the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed.

7.3 All digital data produced by this project, both raw and processed, will be archived according to the TVAS digital archiving and backup policies.

7.5 With the consent of the landowner, the finds will be deposited with Guildford Museum.

8.0 Post-fieldwork assessment

8.1 Following the ordering of the site archive, a short summary will be prepared giving a preliminary account of the excavation findings and brief outlines of the artefactual and environmental data collected, as set out in MORPHE (HE 2015a). Post-fieldwork will be completed according to TVAS post-fieldwork manual (6th edition 2013).

8.2 Discussion will take place between all specialist members of the Project Team (see 10.0 below), to assess the quality, character, and significance of the various data collected, and the degree to which it will enable the research aims to be addressed. The data will be used to address any new research aims that may have emerged subsequent to the beginning of the project, such as those prepared for the Heathrow Airport expansion project.

8.3 At this stage it may be possible to identify classes of material which will not fulfil their potential for information retrieval and allow resources to be re-allocated where they will be most beneficial.

8.4 Formal post excavation assessment documents or interim report will be produced following completion of each phase of the fieldwork depending on the scale of any findings made. This will be submitted to the archaeological advisor to Surrey County Council for approval before completion of analysis and publication. It will be submitted within 6 months of each phase of fieldwork being completed.

9.0 Publication and dissemination

9.1 Within 12-15 months of the completion of the final phase post-excavation assessment, a comprehensive report to publication standard will be produced. This will comprise a descriptive text and illustrations of the stratigraphic sequence with its interpretation, catalogues, specialist reports, distribution plans of the finds, and any available environmental information followed by a discussion and interpretation of the results.

9.2 The findings will be published in an appropriate journal such as *Surrey Archaeological Collections* or the TVAS monograph series.

9.3 A sum will be allocated within the resourcing of the project for full editing and publication costs.

10 Team composition

10.1 The project will be managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (S. Ford, J. Pine or A Taylor).

10.2 The fieldwork on-site will be supervised by (one of) Mr. Andy Taylor, Mr. Will Attard, Ms Maisie Foster, Mr. Kyle Beaverstock, Mr. Jamie Williams, Dr Pierre Manisse, Ms Anne Huvig, Mr David Sanchez

The specialists likely to be required for post-fieldwork analysis are listed below.

Pottery	Dr Jane Timby, Ms Sue Anderson, Dr Phil Mills, Dr Barbara Mcnee, or Mr. Luke Barber (consultants) or Dr Cristin Mateos-Leal (TVAS)
Tile	Ms Danielle Milbank (TVAS)
Struck flint	Dr Steve Ford or Mr. William Attard (TVAS)
Palaeolithic struck flint	Professor Nick Barton (Oxford University)
Human bone	Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Cremated human bone	Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Animal bone	Dr Matilda Holmes (consultants) or Dr Ceri Falys (TVAS)
Slag	Dr David Dungworth or Luke Barber (consultants)
Metalwork	Ms Sophie Peng (TVAS) or Dr Robin Taylor (consultant)
Coins	Dr Pierre Manisse (TVAS)
Environment (general)	Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University)
Charred seeds	Professor Mark Robinson (Oxford University) or Ms Rossy McKenna (consultant) o
Pollen	Quest, University of Reading
Conservation	Wiltshire County Council Conservation Centre

11.0 General Items

11.1 Standards

11.1.1 The project will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation (2020b), Code of Conduct (2019) and the quality control mechanisms set out in the TVAS fieldwork and post-fieldwork manuals.

11.1.3 The fieldwork and post-fieldwork will be monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to Surrey County Council and all reasonable access will be provided to the works. Any changes in the agreed project design will be discussed and agreed with the Archaeological Advisor before implementation.

11.2 Health and safety

11.2.1 Safe working practices will be adopted as set out in the TVAS health and safety manual and /or the principal contractor's requirement. Current health and safety standards will be adhered to. A risk assessment will be prepared before a start on site.

11.3 Insurance cover

Our insurance cover comprises £10 million for public liability, £10 million for employee liability, cover for any hired-in plant, and professional indemnity cover of £5m.

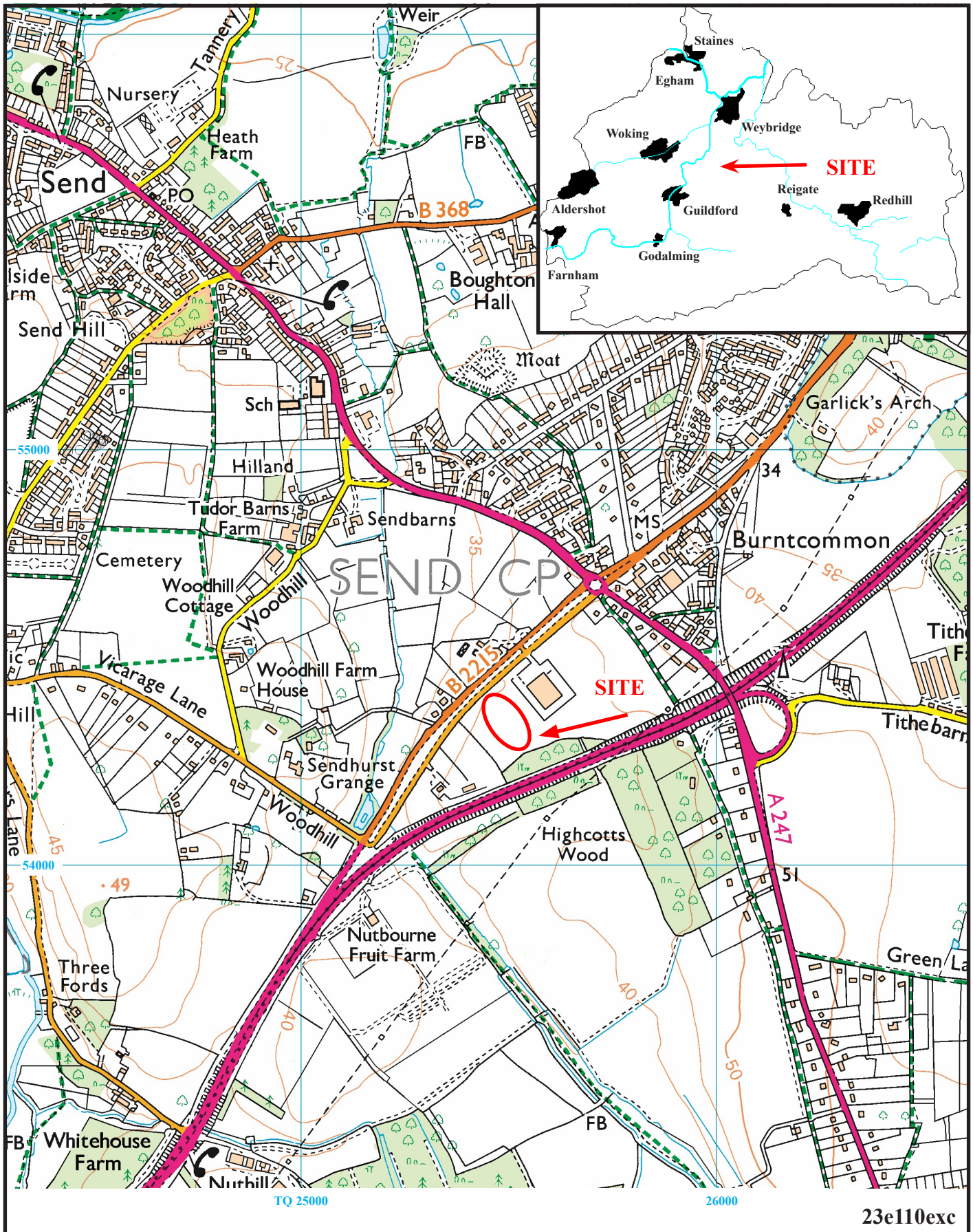
11.4 Press Release and public access

Should any significant archaeological deposits be located, a press release will be prepared in consultation with the Archaeological Advisor and the client. Provision will be made for the following, where the results of the archaeological excavations merit; popular publication with colour illustrations aimed at the general public; provision for site visits for planning officers/councillors, local amenity or heritage/archaeological societies and/or public based on the results; provision for a small exhibition at a local public hall.

12.0 References

- ASL 2020, An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for Burnt Common Nurseries, Send, Guildford, Surrey, Archaeology Services, Lewes, report 8224A, Lewes
- Bird, D, 2006, *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework*, Surrey County Council/Surrey Archaeological Society, Woking
- BGS 2000, *British Geological Survey* sheet 285, Keyworth
- CIFA, 2019, Code of Conduct, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading

- CIfA, 2020a Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- CIfA, 2020b, Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Reading
- Cotton, J, Crocker, G and Graham A 2005, *Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey: Towards a Research Framework for the County*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford
- Haselgrove, C, Armit, I, Champion, T C, Creighton, J, Gwilt, A, Hill, J D, Hunter, F and Woodward, A, 2001, *Understanding the British Iron Age: An Agenda for Action*, Salisbury
- HE, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE project planning*, Historic England, London
- HE 2015b, *Environmental Archaeology*, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines 1, English Heritage, Portsmouth, 3rd edn
- HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
- James, S and Millett, M, (eds), 2001, *Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda* CBA Res Rep **125**, York
- Jones, P, 1998, 'Towards a type series of medieval pottery in Surrey to c AD 1700', *Surrey Archaeol Collect* **85**, 211–38
- Mitchell, P D, and Brickley, M (eds), 2017, *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains*, CIfA and BABAO, Reading
- NPPF 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- SCC 2023, *General Standards for Archaeological Projects in Surrey*' Surrey County Council Historic Environment Planning, Woking.
- WA 2023a, Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey, Phase 1, Archaeological evaluation, Wessex Archaeology, report 278410.03, Salisbury
- WA 2023b, Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey, Phase 2, Archaeological evaluation, Wessex Archaeology, report 278410.04, Salisbury

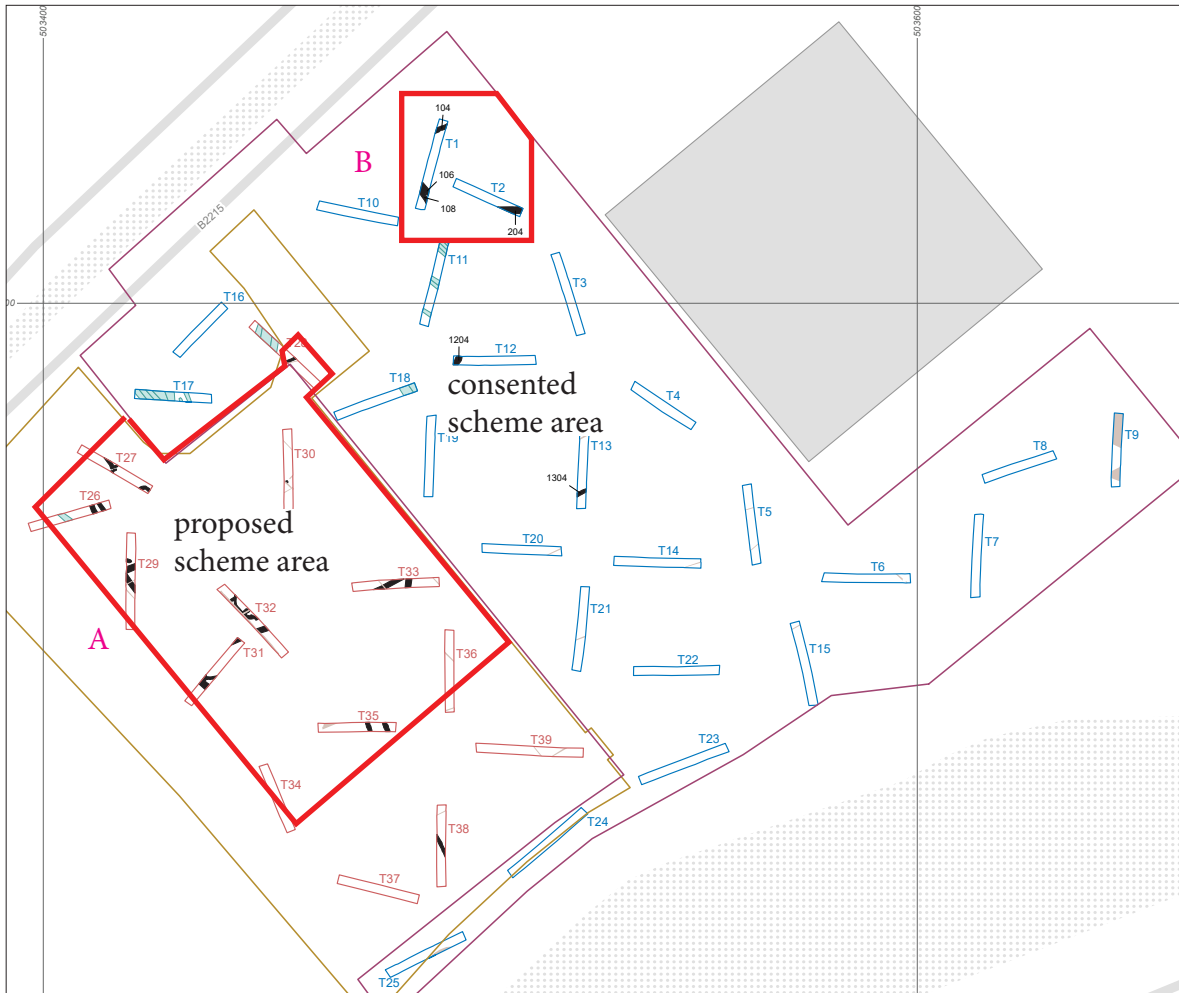


**Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey.
Phase 2**

**Proposal for an Archaeological Excavation
Figure 1. Location of site**

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital mapping at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



23e110exc



**Burnt Common Nurseries, London Road, Send, Surrey.
Proposal for an Archaeological Excavation**

Figure 2 Location of proposal site (after WA2023)