

Appendix 14

Langley Vale Woodland Project, Epsom

Archaeological desk based assessment



1948 Aerial Photograph



Langley Vale Woodland Project, Epsom

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2014, The Woodland Trust acquired 640 acres of land at Langley Bottom Farm, Langley Vale, near Epsom in Surrey, with the intention of it becoming one of four First World War Centenary sites (one in each country of the UK). The site is an arable farm set on rolling chalk slopes and comprises a number of ancient woodlands, including Great Hurst Wood that abuts the M25.

1.2 The proposal is to create a publicly accessible nature reserve for everyone to enjoy, protecting this natural landscape for generations to come. This will include planting trees on approximately 40% of the site and managing approximately 40% of the site as chalk grassland meadows.

1.3 The site is located just south of the village of Langley Vale, close to Epsom. As well as Langley Vale, villages nearby include Headley, Walton-on-the Hill, Tadworth and Ashted. Figures 1 and 2 show the location and layout of the proposal area.

1.4 The Woodland Trust has commissioned the Surrey County Archaeological Unit to prepare the archaeological assessment as part of a wider assessment for the project,

1.5 The assessment is set within the national and local planning policies applicable to heritage in a development context not only because they provide the regulatory framework where applicable but also because they embody generally accepted good practice.

2 PLANNING BACKGROUND

National Planning Policy Framework

2.1 In England, the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) was released in March 2012. The document sets out the Government's planning policies for achieving sustainable development and provides policies (paragraphs 18-149) to lead and manage the decision-making process to enable this. The framework also includes a range of policies to guide local planning authorities on the preparation of local development documents (150-185).

2.2 Chapter 12 of NPPF (126-141) details the policies relating to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. The document replaces Planning Policy Statement 5: *Planning for the Historic Environment*, published in March 2010.

2.3 The policies and principles set out in chapter 12 also apply to the consideration of the historic environment in relation to the other heritage-related consent regimes for which planning authorities are responsible under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

2.4 Underpinning the policy guidance is the concept of the "Heritage Asset", which is defined as: *A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage assets include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).*

2.5 It is therefore necessary to assess the significance of Heritage Assets. The NPPF defines significance as: *The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations*

because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

2.6 Paragraph 128 distinguishes planning tests to be applied where an application affects any Heritage Asset. It states: *In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.*

Epsom and Ewell Local Plan Policy BE17

2.7 Policy BE17 Planning permission will not be granted for development affecting areas of high archaeological potential, or on sites of 0.4 ha or more, unless the application for permission is accompanied by an archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, a field evaluation. on any site where remains have been revealed by a field evaluation or by chance, developers will be required to provide for preservation of important remains in situ. where the remains do not warrant preservation in situ, proper and timely investigation and recording will be required, in accordance with a written scheme approved by the borough council.

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Local Plan Policy Pc8

2.8 The Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Local Plan gives details of the Borough Council's policy on archaeology in respect to large scale development, as follows:

2.9 Chapter 3 – Protection of Existing Character – Ancient Monuments, County Sites of Archaeological Importance and Areas of High Archaeological Potential, Section 3.38 – Policy Pc8: *Where large scale developments occur outside known Areas of High Archaeological Potential, the Borough Council will require an Archaeological Assessment to be submitted, together with the planning application, and may require an agreed scheme for investigation, monitoring and recording.*

Woodland and Planning Legislation

2.10 Planning permission is not required for forestry work (except where there is a Tree Preservation Order) and may not be needed for buildings or uses of land necessary for forestry. However, with large schemes for new woodland, it is likely that consideration of the impact on potential archaeological material is taken into account within the proposal. Planning permission is always required for non-forestry uses of land, buildings or any other form of development.

3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

3.1 In order to assess the effects of the proposed scheme, existing archaeological information within an approximate 1km radius was examined in detail. The extent of this area is shown in figure 4.

3.2 The assessment of the effects of the scheme on archaeology has been based on a variety of sources including

- the Historic Environment Record held by Surrey County Council,
- extensive practical knowledge of the archaeology of the area,
- maps held by the Surrey History Centre,
- examination of secondary historical works and readily available local history materials.

3.3 A walkover survey of the area was not undertaken, but aerial photographs were examined to assess whether any part of the site had already been damaged or disturbed by activities in the modern period and whether any aspects of specific archaeological interest could be identified within the site area.

3.4 Aerial photographs were examined in detail for the Historic Environment Record in the mid-1970's and any sites or features of archaeological interest added to the HER. Further examination of aerial photographs was made for this assessment as detailed in paragraph 6.8.

3.5 The assessment of the impact of the proposed scheme on archaeology is qualitative and considers two issues. The first of these deals with the impact on identified sites within the local study area. The second deals with the potential impact on buried evidence, as yet unidentified.

3.6 Further stages of work may be necessary. There are various options for such work depending on the archaeological potential of the site as defined by the preliminary assessment and the degree of ground impact. These are further considered in parts 8 and 9 of this report.

4 GEOLOGY

4.1 The Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet 286, covering the area, at scale 1:50,000, was consulted for the geological background to the site. The area is located on the Upper Chalk geology, which runs east-west across the county forming the North Downs.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Various written sources were checked for information regarding the archaeology and history of the general area and the site itself. The Historic Environment Record (part 6) illustrates that a range of archaeological evidence has been found within the study area. The proposal area has undergone little formal archaeological investigation owing to its long term use, mostly as arable land.

A starting point for this investigation is the examination of archaeological evidence and its link to the geology of the area. It has been seen that settlement patterns are influenced by the suitability of the land, in terms of subsistence, agricultural productivity and the presence of natural resources. These factors to a great extent depend upon geological conditions.

5.2 Evidence of ancient activity on areas of Chalk downland, dating back to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic, is more likely in the areas where the chalk is overlaid with clay and flint, as this provided a rich source of flint cores for the production of the tools. During the Mesolithic the landscape is thought to have mainly been close, mixed woodland (Ellaby, 1987, 57). Environmental evidence illustrates that woodland on the Chalkland was cleared during the later Neolithic to provide space for farming (Field and Cotton 1987, 72-73). This clearance is more likely to have taken place on the north facing dip slope, rather than the steep valleys that form the south face of the Downs.

A couple of early prehistoric finds have been made from the Sandhill Wood, just east of Great Hurst Wood. These include a Mesolithic tranchet axe HER 908 and a Neolithic adze, HER 909. A broken microlithic point was found in a soil heap about 500 yards south-south-west of the grandstand at Epsom Downs. The heap was probably derived from a shallow quarry-pit by the race-course, about halfway between the starting post and Tattenham Corner (HER 923).

5.3 During the Bronze Age the chalkland does not in general appear to have been a popular settlement area, this is thought to be due, perhaps, to the difficulty in farming the clay-with-flint areas (Needham 1987, 128-29), although this does not necessarily mean that this area was completely unused during this period.

A group of ten ploughed out barrows (remaining as ring shaped ditch cropmarks, HER 254) lie c1.3km south west of the proposal area, near Tyrells Wood. A further group of barrows, including two extant bowl barrows, are apparent to the west, near to Cherkley Court and adjacent to the Roman road, HER 2015-2019. No directly associated settlement evidence has been identified as yet.

5.4 During the Iron Age the distribution of sites is more concentrated in riverine areas and on the dip-slope of the North Downs (Hanworth 1987, 142), whereas the clay-with-flints deposits over a large proportion of the North Downs appear to inhibit settlement (Poulton 2004, 57). An early 1st century BC tin coin (HER 907) was collected from plough soil in a field just west of Round Wood, within the proposal area.

5.5 The Roman road, Stane Street (HER 2975) lies to the west of the proposal area, with the projected line meeting the south west corner of the boundary of the area. Settlement evidence of this period has been found close to the line of the road to the south west of the proposal area comprising stone foundation and tile debris, along with stratified pottery and coins of 4th century date (HER 160). It has been suggested that the building evidence could be a villa site, forming part of a group, with a further two sites, one on Walton-on-the-Hill (HER 3021 and 2520) and another on Walton Heath (Bird 2004). An additional sign of Roman use of this area is indicated by the recovery of numerous 3rd and 4th century coins from Tyrells Wood (HER 125), c2km to the south-west of the proposal area.

5.6 During the sixth century a number of Saxon cemeteries were established such as that on Hawk's Hill, near Leatherhead and at the Goblin Works which lies to the east side of the River Mole near Ashtead (Poulton 1987, 198-199). The Hawk's Hill Early Saxon cemetery (HER 123), contained c40 inhumations along with a range of typical burial goods. To the east of the proposal area a Saxon cemetery, probably dating from the late

6th to 8th centuries AD of 42 shallow inhumation graves arranged in rows, with sparse grave goods, was excavated at Headley Drive, Tadworth.

The HER records a single burial, of probable Saxon date (HER 141), located on woodland just outside the proposal area to the west side at the junction of Downs Road and Headley Road.

5.7 In the Place Names of Surrey volume it equates the place name evidence for Langley to Langleybottom Farm, and Langely is listed as *Langele* in 1317 and *Langleys* in 1548 (EPNS, 1934, 74). The element *lang* derives from the Old English word *leah*, meaning 'forest, wood, glade or clearing'.

The name *hurst*, if not derived from a personal name, means 'wood on a hill' (Gelling, 1984, 197).

5.8 Documentary sources indicate that the area of Langley Vale 'village', located just north of the proposal area, was originally a farm with several tenants and later it became in effect a single farm (Langley Bottom Farm). Records list a series of owners holding this land: they included *William de Langley* in the mid 13th century, *John at Ley* from Headley in the early 14th century and in the early 15th century *John Langley* was the subtenant of *William de Langhead of Epsom*. A manorial survey in the late 15th century suggests it was being farmed as a single holding. The land which comprises the village of Langley Bottom was, until 1877, part of the Ashtead Park Estate, which lies to the north west.

Historic Maps

5.9 The cartographic evidence examined illustrates that the site lay mostly within arable land, from the mid 18th century to the present day. The large area of land lay within a rural landscape outside the medieval core of the nearby towns and villages of Epsom, Ashtead, Walton on the Hill and Headley, and this is well shown on Rocque's map of 1768 (fig 5). The map shows two buildings on the boundary of the proposal area, Walton Hurst Farm at the north west end of Hurst Road and another farm or barn, mid way along Hurst Road. The farms of Langley Bottom and Nohome Farm, which are shown on the Tithe Map are absent from Rocques map. The latter may be a genuinely new development between the two maps, but the absence of the former is surprising given the place-name evidence quoted in paragraph 5.8. Rocque's map is generally held to be a reliable indicator of the medieval settlement pattern within the villages and wider landscape, and it would usually, therefore, be regarded as relatively unlikely that there will be evidence for medieval settlement and development in the proposal area, but the absence of Langley Bottom Farm suggests that caution would be sensible.

5.10 Rocque's map shows that the area is mostly in arable use, although a number of fields are indicated as used for pasture. The tracks and roads that divide up the area show a good general correspondence to those shown on later maps, but the field boundaries seem to be more diagrammatic. Also shown are four areas of woodland, one is no longer apparent, the others are named on the Tithe map as Great Hurst, Little Hurst, and Round Coppice, (although the last named is larger on the Rocque map and looks to incorporate two further parcels of woodland to the east on the Tithe map).

5.11 The Tithe maps (fig 6) show that the proposal area, lies to the south of Langley Vale 'village' and lies largely within Walton on the Hill parish, except for the north west portion of the area, which lies in Epsom and Ashtead parishes. The general pattern of land

use is very similar to that shown by Rocque, and many of the field patterns and farms shown on the Tithe map are still recognizable today. It is interesting to note in the southern part of the map a considerable number of strip divisions of the fields, clearly a remnant of the divisions of the medieval open field system.

5.12 The Ordnance Survey maps (figs 7 and 8) show a very strong continuity in land use and organisation, with the proposal area remaining largely arable land throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, along with surviving parcels of woodland. The principal changes are outside of the proposal area, notably the gradual development of land forming Langley Vale village to the north west, and the expansion of Walton on the Hill to the south-east.

6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD

6.1 The Historic Environment Records of Surrey were consulted to see what sites of archaeological interest were known from the area of the proposed development and its immediate environs Figure 4 illustrates those records within a 1km radius of the site. The references are listed by record number, description and national grid reference.

Archaeological Records

<i>HER No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>NGR / TQ</i>
141	A burial, assumed by Lowther to be Saxon, was found in 1910 in a triangular piece of ground planted with larch trees, just south of Stane Street in Ashted Park. Lowther indicated the general find-site, but no details of the burial are known, it having been brought to his notice many years after the event by a former steward of the manor.	1992 5727
160	A small Roman building at Headley Court was excavated in 1959. It was of flint, tile and timber construction and produced stratified coins and pottery of the 4th century. Signs of similar structures were found in the wood.	19997 55501
900	Roman Villa discovered in 1915. In 1939-40, the building was excavated by S.S. Frere and A.W.G. Lowther. The site was occupied during the latter part of the Iron Age, with a tripartite corridor villa constructed at the site c.250 A.D.. Part of the bath building was also excavated and an isolated circular structure investigated. The villa was partly rebuilt in the late 4th c A.D. The remains had been robbed for stone and mutilated by gravel digging c. 1250-1400 A.D. Scheduled Monument.	22390 55670
907	An early 1st century BC British tin coin found in 1939 on ploughland at Walton on the Hill.	1530 56180
908	Mesolithic tranchet axe found on the edge of Sandhills Wood, Walton on the Hill in 1957.	22000 55200
909	Neolithic adze found at West Sandhill Wood, Walton on the Hill in 1948. Presented to Guildford Museum by Frere.	21900 55200
915	Two strip lynchets upon a north-east facing slope of downland, external from TQ 2179 5663 to TQ 2190 5642. They are best preserved within a wood, where they are up to 4m in width and 1.5m in height. In the open field to the north, the upper lynchet has been spread by the plough, the lower one has been ploughed out.	21850 56550
918	Roman Coin. No further information, the site is within a field under permanent pasture.	20050 57170
923	A broken microlithic point found in a soil heap about 500 yards south-south-west of the grandstand at Epsom Downs. The heap was probably derived from a shallow quarry-pit by the race-course, about halfway between the starting post and Tattenham Corner. Neither the soil heap nor the quarry pit could be located during a field visit in 1965; the Downs are entirely under pasture within the limits of the racecourse, with the exception of a large heap of soil and flints at TQ 2208 5808.	21500 58100

HER No.	Description	NGR / TQ
924	Well House. Said to date from the middle of the 17th century. A very deep well housed in a modern wooden shelter; a notice on the side of which states it was "founded in 1666". In use until 1948.	21460 57360
938	Iron Age pottery sherds at Walton on the Hill. No further information was gathered for a field visit in 1965 (see HER 2520).	22000 55500
2512	An Iron Age occupation site was excavated by S S Frere and A W G Lowther in 1939-40, under a Roman Villa. It had been occupied during the latter part of the Iron Age, and south-east "B" and Patchgrove ware, potsherds circa AD 10-43 were found in an occupation layer of charcoal and burned and worked flint. See also HER 900.	22390 55670
2520	Roman pottery sherds found at Walton on the Hill. See also HER 938.	22000 55000
3021	Sandlands Road, Roman Villa. Excavations revealed that the remains of the Roman buildings were extensively robbed during medieval times and at the same period, there was some digging for gravel. Refuse, including much pottery dating from circa 1250-1400, had been deposited in the pits so formed. This removal of gravel and tiles may have been connected with building work at Walton Manor. See HER 900 and 2512.	22390 55670
4784	Evaluation by SCAU on the site of the new Epsom Downs School. The area evaluated was adjacent to the 18th century, and possibly earlier, hare warren, but no evidence for past activity was revealed in any of the trial trenches.	2140 5750
4795	Watching brief by SCAU during reinstatement works. A flint layer was revealed, possibly the remains of a trackway continuing from Ebbisham lane to the south. No dating evidence for the feature was recovered.	2188 5705 2185 5761
15051	A Tudor clothes fastener and an orange sandy ware handle with stabbed decoration (12th-13th century) were amongst medieval finds discovered during fieldwalking on three fields near Langley Bottom Farm in Ewell (marked A, B, C and D on fig 4). The fieldwalking was undertaken as part of the Ewell Hinterland Project. Other finds including undiagnostic brick and tile, butchered and unbutchered bones, bottle and window glass and domestic pottery were also all found (possibly of post-medieval date). Also possible Romano-British finds.	213 572
17629 & 18101	An aircraft force-landed in fog inbound from France at Epsom Downs. The plane, G-EBOL, a Martinsyde Nimbus of Air Taxis Ltd. Crashed on 7 October 1927. Remains of aircraft stored at Croydon and burnt 1930.	2216 5730
20576	Watney Combe Reid and Co. Large Victorian house set up after WW1 to be a convalescent home to which employees and their families could come and recuperate after illness or accident.	220 560
20929	St Peter the Apostle Memorial Cross. Stone cross set on stone column. First World War (1914-1918). Second World War (1939-1945).	220 560

Historic Buildings

HER No.	Description	NGR / TQ
7569	Late 19th century. Studio house. Red brick. Hipped modern roof. 1 storey, with 2 storey tower.	21495 57520
7616	1720, repaired since. Brick, some buttresses. Boundary wall to the hare warren set up by Lord Baltimore of Woodcote Park. Not complete, but 1 of only 2 known to survive in England.	20983 57508
7617	Cottage. 18th century. Red brick. Pitched slate roof. 19th century stacks. 2 storeys. East and west elevations have 2 ranges each of sashes with glazing bars.	21500 57522
7618	18th century. Brick. Some buttresses. Possibly part of Lord Baltimore's hare warren (Item 41 and 42/360).	21491 57506
7619	Well House. Mid 17th century. Ruinous well house. Opened as rival to well on Epsom Common.	21459 57361

<i>Hurst Farm</i>		
9064, 9719, 9909 1023 8	Farmhouse. 16th century with 17th century additions. Timber frame brick infill and sheathing; plain tiled roof. Truncated projecting wing to left with flint and brick end stack. Two storeys; scattered 20th century casements with 4 windows across the first floor. 20th century door to right of the projecting wing. 19th century additions and outhouse connected to the house by a glazed passage, not included. Listing NGR: TQ2068155950	20681 55950
4245, 9236, 1014 8	Dovecote probably early 19th century, ten yards west of Hurst Farm House, Headley, Banstead. Built of flint with brick quoins and banding; welsh slate roof. It is of two storeys with a single storey catslide to the rear, and is square in plan with a pyramidal roof. The interior walls are lined with wooden nesting boxes.	20625 55943

<i>Wine and coal tax post</i> The London Coal and Wine Duties (Continuance) Act of 1861 redefined the boundary, corresponding to that of the Metropolitan Police District, at which duty was payable on such goods entering London. Posts were set up on transport routes. Most were newly cast, to a standard design, others were earlier markers relocated.		
3591	Tax post. Type 2e 300 yards south of Langley Bottom Farm on the west side of the track to Nohome Farm.	2090 5717
3595	Tax post. Type 2e in wood south of the east end of Beaconsfield Road.	2155 5751
3651 plan)	Type 2e east side of Walton Downs, 250 yards north of Downs Way Close. (as 10203 on	2232 5708
7737	Coal tax post. 19th century cast iron post on square plinth with chamfered sides, panel with chamfered sides,	51542 57513
7748	Coal tax post. 19th century cast iron post on square plinth with chamfered sides	20116 57429
9937	Wine and coal tax post. Circa 1861, by Henry Grissell.	22518 56022
1020 3	Coal and Wine tax post. Circa 1861. Made by Henry Grissell.	22320 57090
3650	Tax Post, Type 2 south side of Motts Hill lane, 100 yards west of The Avenue, behind fence. (as 9937 on plan)	2258 5608

Scheduled Ancient Monument (S.A.M)

6.2 The proposal area does not lie in a S.A.M nor do any exist within the search area.

County Site of Archaeological Importance (CSAI)

6.3 The proposal area does not lie in a CSAI nor do any exist within the search area.

Area of High Archaeological Potential (AHAP)

6.4 One AHAP lies within the proposal area associated with HER 915, the location of two strip lynchets.

6.5 A further AHAP lies just outside and adjacent to the north west corner of the proposal area, which appears to be associated with the adjacent finds site HER 141 (a possible Saxon burial) and HER 918 (a Roman coin)

Conservation Area

6.6 The proposal area does not lie in a Conservation Area

Historic Parks and Gardens

6.7 The proposal area does not lie in a historic park or garden, although several areas of woodland are present within the proposal area, which are shown on the map regression to date back to at least the mid 18th century - Great Hurst, Little Hurst, and Round Coppice and Downs View Wood.

Aerial Photographs

6.8 An inspection of the aerial photos from 1948 and 1999 was undertaken for the preparation of this assessment, but the review did not reveal any additional archaeological information.

7 THE SITE AND DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

7.1 It is proposed to establish a First World War Centenary publicly accessible nature reserve. The total site area is 256Ha (640acres). This will include planting trees on approximately 40% of the site (c102Ha) and managing approximately 40% of the site as chalk grassland meadows (see fig 3).

7.2 The proposal site is an arable farm set on rolling chalk slopes and comprises a number of ancient woodlands, including Great Hurst Wood that abuts the M25 (see fig 9). The areas of ancient woodland will be retained.

8 CONCLUSIONS

Heritage Assets

8.1 A number of Heritage Assets were identified during this assessment within the search area (see sections 5 and 6). One AHAP lies within the proposal area relating to HER 915, a surviving section of strip lynchets. These represent the remains of medieval /post medieval farming practices, and should be preserved. Proposals for new planting should avoid the area of the AHAP, as the siting of trees across this area would damage the earthworks.

8.2 A number of stray finds have been collected across the proposal area either during farming or as a result of a formal fieldwalking survey. There has been no further investigation of these finds spots to determine whether the stray finds relate to buried archaeology of significance, or represent casual losses.

The Archaeological Potential

8.3 The general archaeological potential of this site may be considered to be moderate based on the number of archaeological finds, features and sites that lie within the search area. Only a very small part of the site lies in a designated Area of High Archaeological Potential. The area has seen very little formal archaeological investigation either in association with new developments or as a result of research projects. It is therefore quite probable that the low level of archaeological material found from within it is due to a lack of archaeological survey rather than an absence of archaeological deposits.

The Impact of the Proposed Development

8.4 In general terms, archaeological evidence if it exists may be expected to survive, at, and to a limited depth below, the interface between the topsoil (garden or plough soil)

and the present undisturbed sub surface. Very little of the proposal area has previously seen impacts that would exceed this depth.

8.5 The proposed planting of trees across 40% of the area (c102Ha) will inevitably destroy most, if not all, potential archaeological deposits, through the gradual growth and expansion of the root system.

8.6 The ground impact of other works that may be involved in the creation of the nature reserve and the development of public access to it may also need to be considered as detailed proposals are formulated.

9 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The proposal area lies within the both Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead Borough Councils. The Local Plan policy of each relating to sites outside Areas of High Archaeological Potential is that 'the Council will require that the results of desk-based archaeological assessment' in order that a mitigation strategy can be agreed.

9.2 In view of the scale of the proposed woodland development, consultation by the Woodland Trust with the Surrey County Council Heritage Conservation Team Archaeological Officer also advised that there should be the preparation of a preliminary archaeological assessment.

9.3 The assessment identifies that the proposal area has an archaeological potential and that the change in land use from arable to woodland will have a major impact on any archaeological remains that may survive below ground. The evidence at present is, however, too limited to distinguish the archaeological potential in different parts of the area.

9.4 It is recommended that the AHAP (HER 915) should be excluded from further planting.

9.5 In order to further define the archaeological potential of the proposal area it is recommended that broad landscape survey methods such as fieldwalking, geophysical survey and possibly metal detecting could be undertaken. A combined programme of work would allow any concentration of archaeological finds or buried anomalies to be defined and allow focused areas to be targeted for further investigation.

9.6 The scale of the initial work outlined above is clearly large, but the nature of the project is one of public inclusiveness and it is therefore suggested that there is potential for a number of the elements of fieldwork set out in section 9.5 could be undertaken as part of a Community Archaeology Project. This would have the added benefit of reducing the cost of undertaking any fieldwork that is required.

9.7 The statements and recommendations in section 8 and 9 are the considered views of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit, based on the evidence presented in the earlier part of the report. It must be emphasised, however, that whether, what, and when further archaeological work is required are decisions to be made by the Local Authority (generally acting under the advice of Surrey County Council's Heritage Conservation team), and any further action in response to this report should await their opinion.

References

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