

**Summary of Archaeological evaluation on
Land at Burgess Hill: Northern Arc Phase 1c, RH15 8RA**

ASE Project No: 260262

Site Code: NAP26

Introduction

ASE was commissioned by Hill Holdings to undertake an archaeological evaluation across the site. Fifty-one, predominantly 30m x 2m trenches were excavated across the site (see plans below) during June and August 2026. Archaeology was present in Trenches 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21, 27, 44 and 48. Eighteen cut features were excavated across these 10 trenches. The remaining trenches were archaeologically negative.

Five pits with a basal fill rich in charcoal were recorded in the northern field in Trenches 7, 13, 21 and 27. One further burnt pit was also recorded in the southern field in Trench 44. Several other features were also identified.

Only an initial scan of the finds retrieved from the fieldwork has been undertaken thus far, formal analysis is yet to take place. Several environmental samples were also collected from suitable contexts. These have yet to be processed and may yield further finds.

Initial Results

Northern Field

In Trench 7 a sub rounded pit [7/004] with a charcoal rich fill, and a ditch [7/006] were recorded. Neither feature contained any hand-collected finds.

Trench 12 contained a NW aligned ditch from which 1x iron slag fragment was recovered.

Three further charcoal rich pits were recorded in Trench 13 (see plan below). Pottery retrieved from these 3 pits appears to be late Neolithic /Early Bronze Age. However, pottery of Early Iron Age date was also recovered from the basal fill of pit [13/016], perhaps indicating multiple phases of activity with pit [13/016] cutting possible ditch terminus, [13/013]. This possible ditch was not recorded in Trench 5 to the north, perhaps indicating the ditch turned or that the feature represents an elongated pit with a steep profile.

Trench 15 contained a single tree throw. No hand-collected finds were recovered.

Three NE aligned, parallel ditches [19/004], [19/006], [19/008] and a small pit [19/010] were present in Trench 19. The ditches align with a boundary ditch shown on historic mapping. Two of the ditches appear to extend into Trench 16. Post medieval pottery was recovered from one of the ditches [19/008], and from the pit.

Trench 21 contained a small pit [21/004] and a tree throw [21/006]. The tree throw contained 1x possibly worked flint. No hand-collected finds were recovered from the pit.

Trench 27 contained a pit [27/004] cut through an earlier posthole [27/008]. No hand-collected finds were recovered from either feature. The pit had a charcoal rich basal fill.

Southern Field

Trench 44, located in the southern field, contained a pit [44/007] with evidence of a little burning in situ and charcoal within the fill. No hand-collected finds were recovered from the pit.

Trench 48 contained a colluvial deposit filling a hollow. No finds were retrieved.

