

Geophysical survey and trial trenching at New Barn Field, Green Lane, Wanborough, 2016

The well-known Roman temples site at Wanborough lies north of the Hog's Back between Farnham and Guildford. The site was first excavated in 1979, again in 1985/6 following large scale treasure hunting and most recently in 1999 when David Williams directed an excavation that revealed a second earlier circular temple (*Surrey Archaeological Collections* vols 75, 82 and 93 respectively).

The immediate site of the two temples is now a scheduled monument and the field in which they are partially set has been subject to geophysical surveys and test trenching. However, immediately to the west is a second field, New Barn Field, centred at SU 91845 49515 – triangular in shape, where three test trenches were excavated in 1999, two of which produced Late Iron Age and Roman pottery and, in one case, exposed a charcoal-filled pit.

In August 2016 a small team from Surrey Archaeological Society carried out a magnetometer survey of New Barn Field using equipment that was not available in 1999. This revealed an 8m-wide straight double-ditched linear feature running roughly north–south parallel to and slightly in from the eastern boundary of the field. The survey also showed numerous anomalies and signs of ridge-and-furrow ploughing.

With the kind permission of the landowners two test trenches were excavated in September that year - the first (5m x 1.5m) over the eastern ditch and halfway across the linear feature and the second near the top of a rise in the field and over one of an apparent group of three large geophysical anomalies (fig 1).

The linear feature was found to consist of an 8m wide agger with a shallow ditch to the east (figs 2 and 3, trench 1, context 102) and, from the geophysics, a second one to the west. Ploughing had damaged the feature, but there was no sign that it had ever had a metallised surface. The ditch produced a light scatter of sand and flint tempered pottery and a few fragments of thinnish red tile. The pottery (fig 4) appears to be Late Iron Age or early Roman in date and the tile could be Roman, but could equally be much more recent though not modern. On balance it is likely that the linear feature is early Roman in date, but the pottery could be residual and only further work could resolve the question of date. In any event the feature is most likely to be a formally-laid trackway and, being very straight, perhaps associated with one phase of the nearby temples site.

The second trench (2m x 2m), near the top of the rise (fig 1, trench 2) commands clear views over the site of the temples and the geophysical anomaly turned out to be a shallow, but deeply buried, fire pit with reddened edges and filled with charcoal and ash (fig 2). No physical dating evidence was found but samples of charcoal were collected and radiocarbon dated to between AD 1210 and 1275 at 95% probability (see report below). Whether this dating applies to all the magnetometer anomalies on the slope is unknown, but certainly in this case the fire appears to be medieval in date. The field was part of the manor of Wanborough that belonged to Waverley Abbey at the time, so this may be the result of clearing and burning scrub and trees to create the ancestor of the current field. This does not

preclude the possibility of Roman activity elsewhere on the slope given the other finds of Roman material in the area.

As a final note the field has been closely checked for metal objects over the years and none found.

The finds will be offered to Guildford Museum.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the SyAS team for their hard work under difficult conditions and to the landowners and farm manager for their help.

David and Audrey Graham

December 2016

Finds catalogue

Context	Find type	Period	No	Wt (g)	Retained
TRENCH 1					
Topsoil 101	Tile	Roman	4	60	No
	Pottery	IA - flint tempered	1	8	Yes
	Pottery	Roman	4	11	No
	Pottery	handle - Medieval?	1	15	Yes
	Burnt flint	-	3	62	1 sample
	Iron	Sickle?	1	27	No
Ditch fill 103					
	Flint waste flake	Prehistoric	1	25	Yes
	Tile	?	5	27	No
	Pottery frags	?	10	13	No
	Pottery	IA - flint tempered	9	82	Yes
	Pottery	Roman greywares	7	34	1 sample
	Burnt flint	-	2	31	No
TRENCH 2					
Pit fill 203	Charcoal	1210-1275 ¹⁴ C date			No

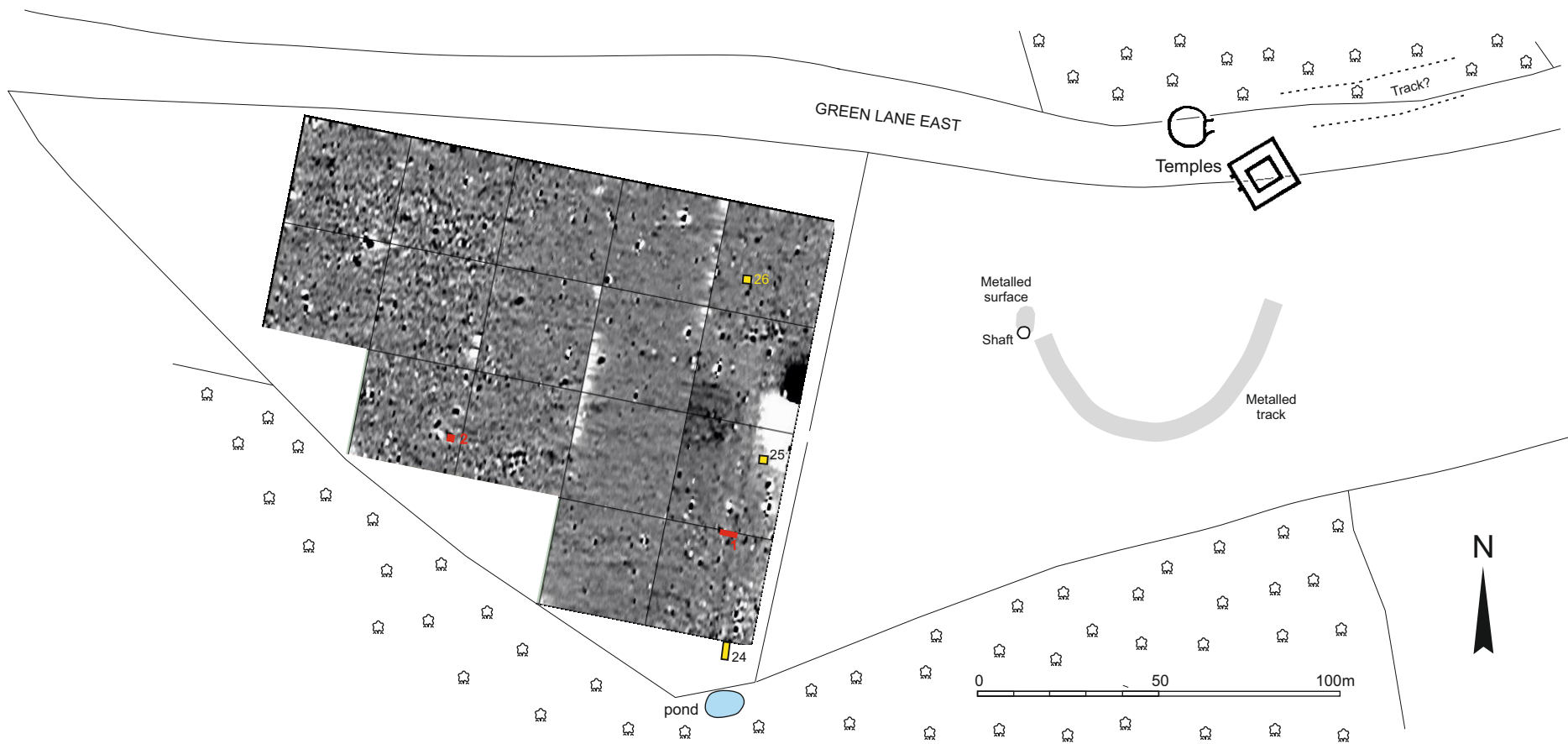
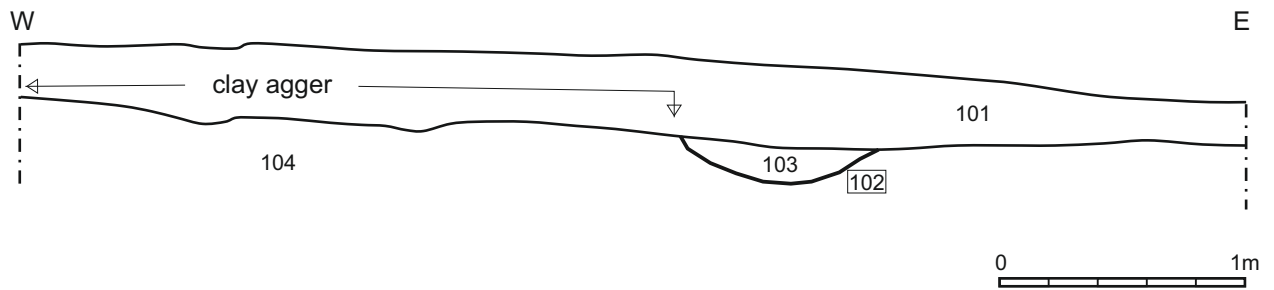
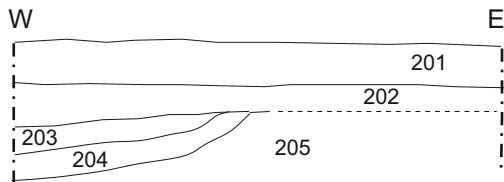


Fig 1 Survey and trial trench (red = 2016; yellow = 1998) location plan in New Barn Field, Green Lane, Wanborough, 2016



Trench 1 north section. Topsoil (101); ditch cut (102); ditch fill (103); natural clay (104)



Trench 2 north section. Topsoil (201); lower ploughsoil (202); charcoal layer (203); reddened clay/charcoal (204); natural clay (205)

Fig 2 Trench sections



Fig 3 Trench 1 north section

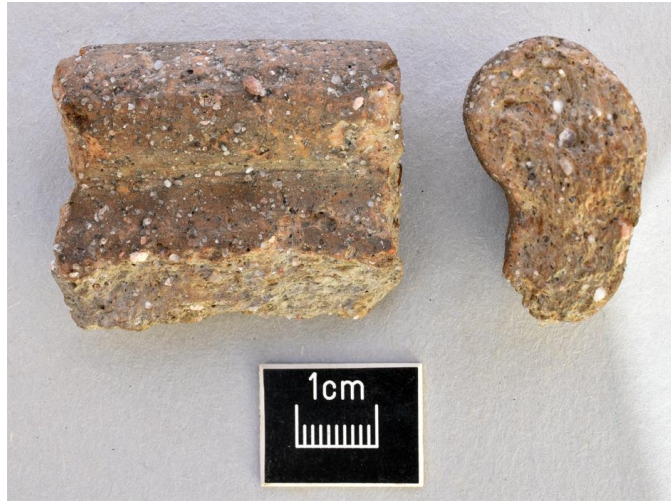


Fig 4 Flint-tempered rim sherd from trench 1, context 103 (ditch fill).



REPORT OF RADIOCARBON DATING ANALYSES

Mr. K. D. Graham

Report Date: 11/21/2016

Material Received: 11/2/2016

Sample Data	Measured Radiocarbon Age	Isotopes Results o/oo	Conventional Radiocarbon Age(*)
Beta - 449410 SAMPLE: WAN16/203 ANALYSIS: AMS-Standard delivery MATERIAL/PRETREATMENT: (charred material): acid/alkali/acid 2 SIGMA CALIBRATION : Cal AD 1210 to 1275 (Cal BP 740 to 675)	770 +/- 30 BP	d13C= -23.5	790 +/- 30 BP

CALIBRATION OF RADIOCARBON AGE TO CALENDAR YEARS

(Variables: C13/C12 = -23.5 o/oo : lab. mult = 1)

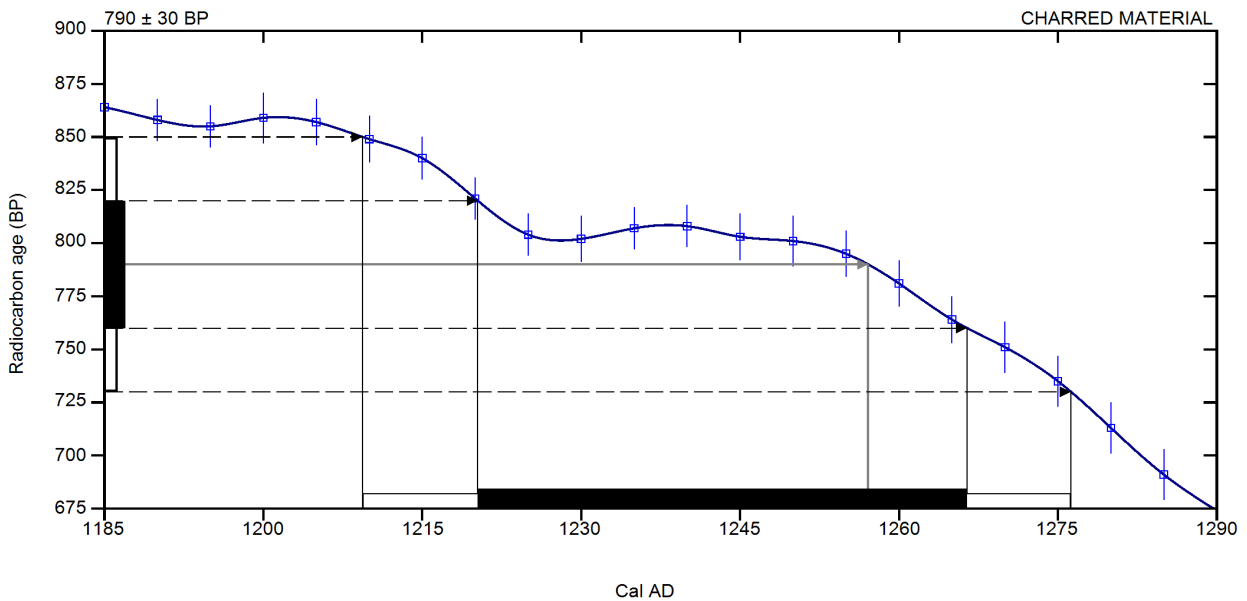
Laboratory number **Beta-449410 : WAN16/203**

Conventional radiocarbon age **790 ± 30 BP**

Calibrated Result (95% Probability) **Cal AD 1210 to 1275 (Cal BP 740 to 675)**

Intercept of radiocarbon age with calibration curve Cal AD 1255 (Cal BP 695)

Calibrated Result (68% Probability) Cal AD 1220 to 1265 (Cal BP 730 to 685)



Database used
INTCAL13

References

Mathematics used for calibration scenario

A Simplified Approach to Calibrating C14 Dates, Talma, A. S., Vogel, J. C., 1993, Radiocarbon 35(2):317-322

References to INTCAL13 database

Reimer PJ et al. IntCal13 and Marine13 radiocarbon age calibration curves 0–50,000 years cal BP. Radiocarbon 55(4):1869–1887., 2013.

Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory

4985 S.W. 74th Court, Miami, Florida 33155 • Tel: (305)667-5167 • Fax: (305)663-0964 • Email: beta@radiocarbon.com