

**An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1) at Valley End Cricket Club,  
Windlesham, Surrey**

**Site Code: SVEW 07**

**Central National Grid Reference: SU 9490 6370**

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# **1 ABSTRACT**

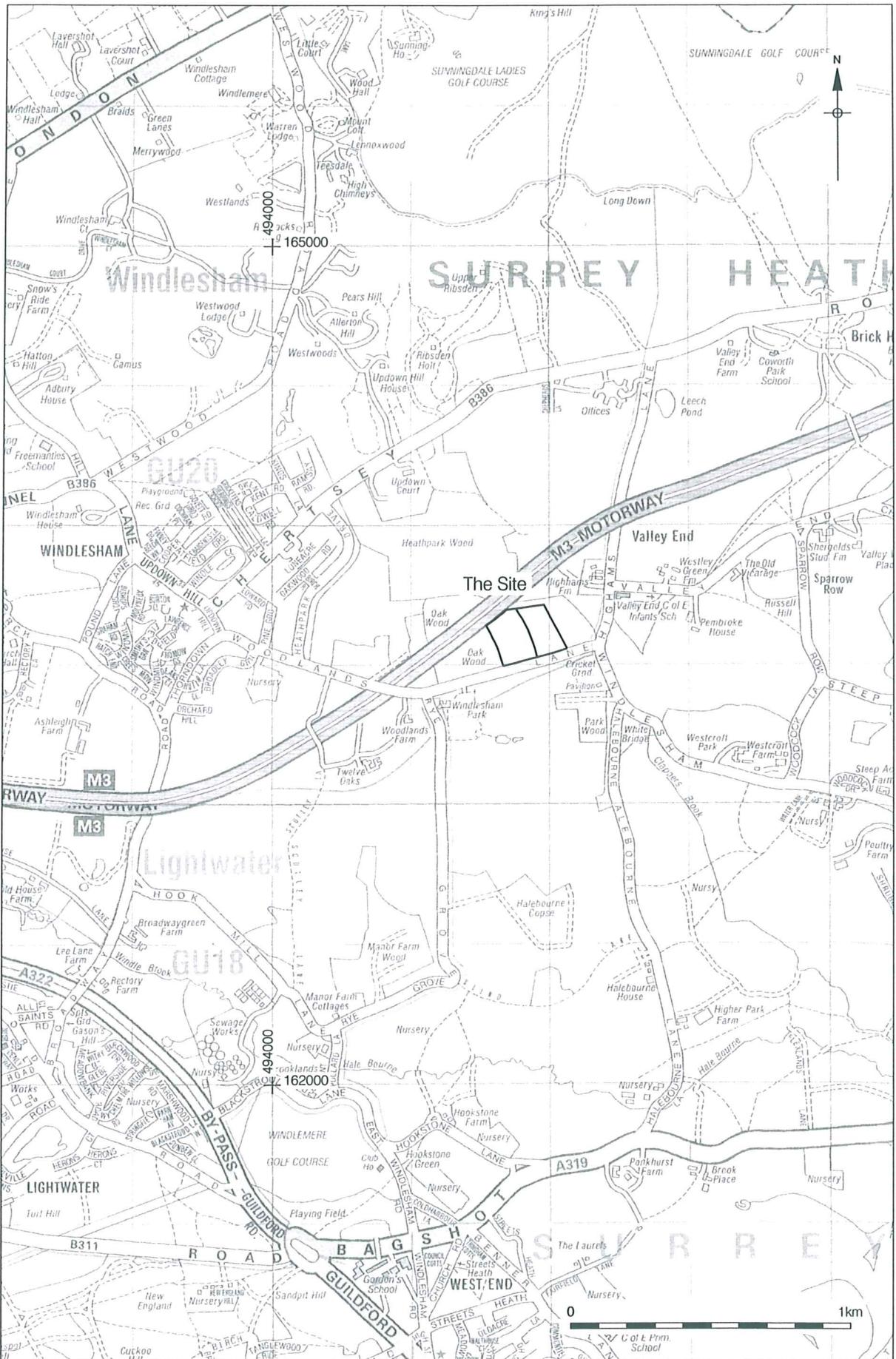
- 1.1 The first phase of an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. on land at the former oakwoods nursery, Windlesham, prior to the redevelopment of the site, which will include the creation of two cricket pitches and the construction of a new pavilion. The evaluation was conducted between 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and undertaken in advance of the redevelopment of the site. The work was commissioned by Murphey Price Partnership on behalf of Valley End Cricket Club.
  
- 1.2 The Phase 1 field evaluation consisted of sixteen trial trenches, spread evenly across the development area's eastern field and within the footprint of the proposed pavilion within Phase 2 area. Natural subsoil was revealed in the base of all of the trial trenches, sealed by topsoil. With the exception of a modern ploughmark and two modern field drains, no archaeological features, deposits or residual finds were revealed in any of the evaluation trenches.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of the Phase 1 archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd on land at the former oakwoods nursery, Windlesham (location map, Fig. 1), prior to the redevelopment of the site, which will include the creation of two cricket pitches and the construction of a new pavilion. The evaluation was commissioned by Murphey Price Partnership on behalf of Valley End Cricket Club.
- 2.2 The Phase 1 evaluation trial trenching was located in the eastern field of the development area, centred on National Grid Reference SU 9490 6370, together with the footprint of the proposed pavilion situated in the western field (Phase 2). Woodlands Lane forms the sites southern boundary and provides access. The site is bound by mature woodland to the west and by fields to the east. The M3 motorway forms the sites northern boundary. The Phase 1 archaeological evaluation involved the excavation and recording of sixteen trial trenches, aimed at comprehensive coverage of the eastern field of the development area (see trench location map, Fig. 2). The results of Phase 1 evaluation will be used to inform a decision on the necessity or otherwise of further archaeological trial trenching in the western field (currently covered by nursery beds of semi-mature trees).
- 2.3 The evaluation was conducted between 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and followed a written specification prepared by Tim Bradley of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.<sup>1</sup>. The fieldwork was supervised by the author, under the Project Management of Tim Bradley. The site was monitored by Tony Howe, Archaeology Officer for Surrey County Council.
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records and artefacts will be deposited at the appropriate local museum.
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code SVEW 07.

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<sup>1</sup> Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2005



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4

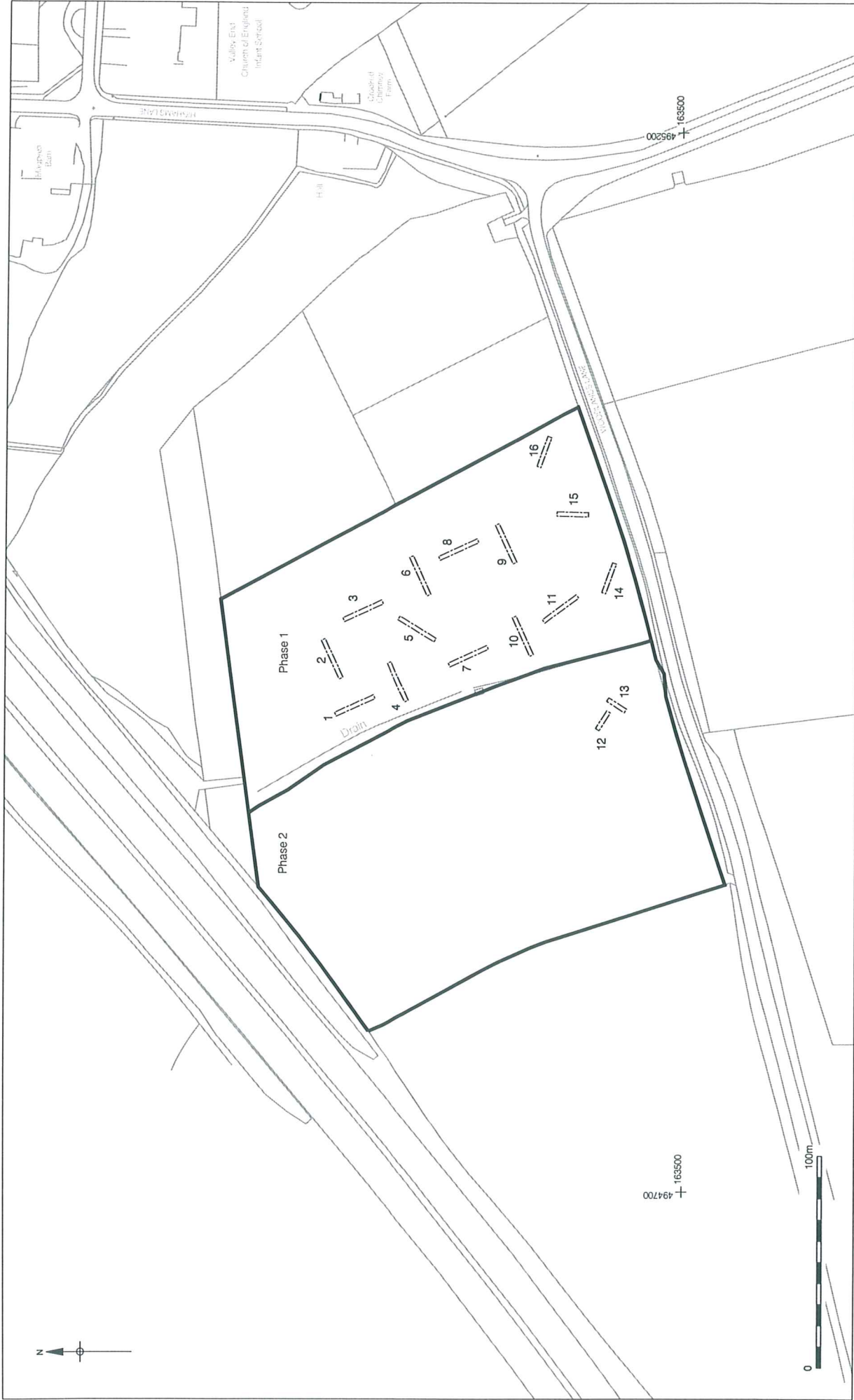


Figure 2  
Trench location  
1:2,500 at A4

### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Murphey Price Partnership on behalf of Valley End Cricket Club, to carry out an archaeological evaluation on land at the former oakwoods nursery, Windlesham, prior to the redevelopment of the site, which will include the creation of two cricket pitches and the construction of a new pavilion. Although the site is not located within an archaeological priority area, its size being over 0.4 hectares automatically triggered the requirement for an archaeological evaluation of the site. The trial trench evaluation, comprising a 4% sample of the eastern field (Phase 1), was undertaken as a condition of the granting of planning permission. The results of the Phase 1 evaluation will be used to inform the decision on the necessity or otherwise for a second phase of evaluation work in the western field (Phase 2) of the development area.
- 3.2 A specification was prepared by Pre-construct Archaeology Ltd<sup>2</sup> in response to a brief provided by the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer.
- 3.3 The evaluation trial trenching aimed to satisfy the objectives of Surrey County Council specifications, which fully recognises the importance of the buried heritage for which they are the custodians. Its UDP mirrors advice contained in the Department of Environment document 'Planning Policy Guidance: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16)'. This document identifies the need for early consultation in the planning process to determine the impact of the construction schemes upon buried archaeological strata. Once the results of the Desktop Assessment are known, and where follow-up trial work is known to be necessary or otherwise, an informed decision on the necessity or otherwise for further archaeological strategies may be taken. These strategies may be preservation *in situ*, excavation, or watching brief. The destruction of archaeological remains should be avoided wherever possible and should never take place without prior archaeological excavation and record.

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<sup>2</sup> Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2005

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 4.1 The proposed development site comprises two fields centred on SU 9490 6370. The eastern portion of the site (Phase 1) comprises an open pasture field with its highest point in the central-western area of the field at 48.44m OD, from which it slopes gently eastwards, northwards and southwards to 43.94m OD, 45.71m OD and 43.41m OD respectively. The western portion of the site (Phase 2 area) is currently covered with nursery beds of semi-mature trees.
- 4.2 The archaeological evaluation revealed natural sand subsoil at the base of each trench, comprising orange and brown green clayey sand, containing occasional small subangular and subrounded stones (Bagshot Beds). Levels at which natural sand was encountered reflected the general topography of the site, varying between 47.87m OD in the west-central area of Phase 1, sloping eastwards and northwards to 43.06m OD and 44.70m OD respectively.



## 5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 The methodology for the excavation of sixteen evaluation trial trenches was outlined in the Specification for the Archaeological Field Evaluation prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd<sup>3</sup>. The fieldwork was designed to address the main project objectives of the evaluation which were outlined in the Specification as follows:
- To define the character and extent of the archaeological remains, and thus indicate the weight which ought to be attached to their preservation. It also provides information useful for identifying potential options for minimising or avoiding damage. On this basis an informed and reasonable planning decision can be taken.
- 5.2 The evaluation strategy was developed in consultation with Tony Howe, Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer. All work was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation* produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2000).
- 5.3 The Phase 1 evaluation comprised 16 trial trenches located within the eastern part of the site, together with the footprint of the proposed pavilion situated in the western field (Fig. 2). Their positions were surveyed prior to excavation with the aid of a total station.
- 5.4 The trenches were machine excavated by a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket, in level spits, under the supervision of an archaeologist, either until the top of the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed natural deposits were reached. Thereafter archaeological deposits and features were manually cleaned and excavated with the use of hand tools.

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<sup>3</sup> Pre-Construct Archaeologist Ltd, 2005

5.5 The maximum dimensions of the trenches are shown in Table 1:

Trench Number	Max Dimensions (m)	Max Height (m OD)	Max Depth (m)
1	20 m x 2m	45.78	0.35
2	20 m x 2m	45.71	0.45
3	20 m x 2m	45.48	0.40
4	20 m x 2m	47.04	0.32
5	20 m x 2m	46.41	0.43
6	20 m x 2m	45.06	0.36
7	20 m x 2m	47.91	0.40
8	20 m x 2m	45.58	0.38
9	20 m x 2m	46.17	0.40
10	20 m x 2m	48.44	0.40
11	20 m x 2m	47.77	0.37
12	10m x 2m	48.44	0.52
13	10m x 2m	47.88	0.50
14	15m x 2m	46.17	0.50
15	15m x 2m	44.74	0.52
16	15m x 2m	43.94	0.50

**Table 1: Trench Dimensions**

5.6 Recording was undertaken using the single context planning method. All features and deposits observed were planned and recorded onto *pro forma* context record sheets. Contexts were numbered sequentially and are shown in this report within square brackets. Plans and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. A general photographic survey of the site and working conditions was taken.

5.7 A temporary benchmark, 43.74m OD, was traversed onto the site from the Ordnance Survey Benchmark of 47.88m OD, located on the northwest corner of the Old Vicarage, Valley End.

## **6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **6.1 Phase 1 – Natural Sands**

- 6.1.1 Natural sand was encountered in the base of all of the excavated trenches. This generally comprised soft, brownish or orange green clay sand, with occasional small and medium sized subrounded and subangular stones. At its highest point in Phase 1 this deposit was recorded at 47.87m OD in Trench 10, sloping eastwards to its lowest point in the southeastern corner of the site at 43.06m OD in Trench 16, and northwards to 44.70m OD in Trench 2.

### **6.2 Phase 2 – Modern Features**

- 6.2.1 In Trench 4 the natural sand was cut by a linear east-west aligned ploughmark with a width of 10mm and an approximate length of 2m running along the centre of the trench. Although it contained no datable finds, it was filled with redeposited topsoil suggesting a relatively recent date. Two gravel filled northeast-southwest aligned modern field drains were recorded in Trench 16.

### **6.3 Phase 2 –Topsoil**

- 6.3.1 Natural sand was sealed by topsoil in all trenches, between 0.22m and 0.25m thick, comprising dark brown grey silty sand, with occasional small subangular stones and rare small abraded modern brick fragments.

## **7 TRENCH SUMMARY**

### **7.1 TRENCH 1**

7.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.2 TRENCH 2**

7.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.3 TRENCH 3**

7.3.1 Trench 3 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.4 TRENCH 4**

7.4.1 Trench 4 revealed natural sand, cut by a modern ploughmark, sealed by topsoil.

### **7.5 TRENCH 5**

7.5.1 Trench 5 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.6 TRENCH 6**

7.6.1 Trench 6 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.7 TRENCH 7**

7.7.1 Trench 7 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.8 TRENCH 8**

7.8.1 Trench 8 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

### **7.9 TRENCH 9**

7.9.1 Trench 9 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.10 TRENCH 10**

7.10.1 Trench 10 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.11 TRENCH 11**

7.11.1 Trench 11 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.12 TRENCH 12**

7.12.1 Trench 12 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.13 TRENCH 13**

7.13.1 Trench 13 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.14 TRENCH 14**

7.14.1 Trench 14 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.15 TRENCH 15**

7.15.1 Trench 15 revealed natural sand sealed by topsoil.

**7.16 TRENCH 16**

7.6.1 Trench 16 revealed natural sand, cut by two modern field drains, sealed by topsoil.

## **8 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.1 The evaluation revealed natural deposits in the base of all trenches comprising green clay sand. This slopes gradually from the highest ground (at 47.87m OD) in the central-eastern area of Phase 1 towards the north, east and south (at 44.70m OD, 44.88m OD and 43.06m OD respectively).
- 8.2 No archaeological features, deposits or residual artefacts were revealed in the evaluation trial trenches, other than three modern features comprising a ploughmark in Trench 4 and two gravel filled field drains in Trench 16, all of which cut through the natural sand.
- 8.3 In all trenches natural deposits and the modern features were overlain by topsoil with a thickness of between 0.22m and 0.25m.



Figure 3: General View of Phase 1, Looking Northeast



Figure 4: General View of Phase 1, Looking East



Figure 5: General View of Phase 1, Looking Southeast



Figure 6: Trench 1, Looking North



Figure 7: Trench 2, Looking East





Figure 8: Trench 6, Looking East



Figure 9: Trench 11, Looking South



Figure 10: Trench 12, Looking Northwest



Figure 11: Trench 14, Looking Southeast



Figure 12: Trench 15, Looking North



Figure 13: Trench 16, Looking Northwest

## **9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Murphey Price Partnership on behalf of Valley End Cricket Club for commissioning the project.
- 9.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would also like to thank Tony Howe, Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer for monitoring the work.
- 9.3 The author would also like to thank Jem Rogers for his site assistance in surveying, excavation and recording. Thanks to Hayley Baxter for the illustrations, Lisa Lonsdale for the logistics, and Tim Bradley for his project management and editing.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2000. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field evaluation*

Pre-Construct Archaeology 2005. Written Scheme for an Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 1) at Valley End Cricket Club, Windlesham, Surrey. Pre-construct Archaeology *unpublished report*

## APPENDIX 1: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-22677**

### Project details

Project name An archaeological evaluation (Phase 1) at Valley End Cricket Club, Windlesham, Surrey

Short description of the project The Phase 1 field evaluation consisted of sixteen trial trenches, spread evenly across the development area's eastern field and within the footprint of the proposed pavilion within Phase 2 area. Natural subsoil was revealed in the base of all of the trial trenches, sealed by topsoil. With the exception of a modern ploughmark and two modern field drains, no archaeological features, deposits or residual finds were revealed in any of the evaluation trenches.

Project dates Start: 08-01-2007 End: 12-01-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes SVEW 07 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Woodland 8 - Other

Monument type NONE Modern

Significant Finds NONE Uncertain

### Project location

Country England

Site location SURREY WOKING WOKING Valley End Cricket Club, Windlesham, Surrey

Postcode	GU 20
Study area	48000.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 9490 6370 51.3639242392 -0.636711927714 51 21 50 N 000 38 12 W Point
Height OD	Min: 43.06m Max: 47.87m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Project design originator	Tim Bradley
Project director/manager	Tim Bradley
Project supervisor	Mark Bagwell
Type of sponsor/funding body	Murphey Price Partnership
Name of sponsor/funding body	Murphey Price Partnership
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Local museum
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local museum

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Survey','Text'

Entered by Tim Bradley (tbradley@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 17 January 2007

### **OASIS:**

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

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