



Woking Park, Hoe Valley Woking, Surrey

Archaeological Evaluation Report





**WOKING PARK
HOE VALLEY
WOKING
SURREY**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

NGR: 500692 157710

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Report reference: 74880

June 2010

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	N/A	ACCESSION CODE	N/A	CLIENT CODE	N/A
PLANNING REF.	PLAN/2006/1241	NGR	500692 157710		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	F	KB	MW/HG		24/06/10	X:\PROJECTS\74880\REPORT\EVALUATION REPORT 74880

* I= Internal Draft E= External Draft F= Final

WOKING PARK HOE VALLEY, WOKING SURREY

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was appointed by VolkerFitzpartick, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land at Woking Park, Woking, Surrey (NGR 500692 157710). The archaeological evaluation was requested by the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, archaeological advisor to Woking Borough Council, as a condition of planning consent.

At the time of the evaluation, the Site east of the Hoe Stream comprised a large area of Woking Park, a leisure centre. The Hoe Stream crosses the Park roughly north-east to south-west. All evaluation trenches were excavated in green field. The fieldwork took place between the 9th, 10th and 11th June 2010.

A low level of previous archaeological investigation has been undertaken in the wider locality, and little is known about the archaeological evolution of the Site. The Site is situated on River Terrace Gravels on the flood plain of the Hoe Stream which increases the potential for the recovery of deposits associated with river exploitation (e.g. hunting, transport and settlement) and management (eg flood defences and crossing sites) from the prehistoric period onwards. Woking Park was established in 1904 and was extended to the south during the 1920s when the 19th century Westfield Tip was relocated further to the south. examination of late 19th and early 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping does not show the former tip site within the Site boundary.

A total of eight evaluation trenches were opened during the three day programme of works to record the presence or absence of archaeological remains. All machine excavation works were monitored under constant archaeological supervision. The initial phase of investigation involved the excavation of **Trenches 1-6**. **Trenches 7** and **8** were opened following on site consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. In addition, a square **Service Trench** opened by the on site contractor was archaeologically recorded.

All trenches recorded topsoil over subsoil over a series of alluvial deposits largely comprising sandy silts. No pre 19th century archaeological features, deposits or finds were recorded. A group of late 19th/early 20th century artefacts including glass, pottery and clinker were recovered from **Trench 6** which lay closest to the modern path of the Hoe Stream. These finds are likely to represent items washed up and deposited by the Hoe Stream. No evidence for the northern extent of the 19th century Westfield Tip was identified during the course of the evaluation.

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Acknowledgments

This project was commissioned by VolkerFitzpatrick. The Site was monitored by Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Mark Williams. The evaluation was undertaken by Sarah Mounce assisted by Steven Rawling. The report was compiled by Katharine Barber and the illustrations were prepared by Ken Lymer.

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Front cover Trench 2 Looking east.

WOKING PARK HOE VALLEY, WOKING SURREY

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been appointed by VolkerFitzpatrick, to carry out an archaeological evaluation at land at Woking Park, Woking, Surrey (NGR 500692 157710) hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The evaluation is to be carried out in respect of flood protection, landscaping and redevelopment proposals for the Site in order to inform the planning application (Planning ref: PLAN/2006/1241).

1.1.2 This programme relates to the first phase of evaluation comprising the excavation of six trenches east of the Hoe Stream. An additional two trenches were excavated following consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. This is part of a wider scheme of archaeological investigations outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Halcrow Group Ltd. A related programme of works is to be undertaken at the site of the former Westfield Tip south of Woking Park which is the subject of a separate planning reference PLAN/2006/1237).

1.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology 2010), which was agreed in advance of the fieldwork by Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2008).

1.1.4 The fieldwork was conducted on the 9th, 10th and 11th June 2010.

1.2 Site description

1.2.1 The site covers approximately 12ha on the Hoe Stream Floodplain (a tributary of the River Wey) on the southern edge of Woking town (NGR 500692 157710). Immediately prior to the evaluation, the Site was in use as a sports and recreation area.

1.2.2 The geology comprises alluvial surface deposits containing sandy clays and silts with some peat and other organic matter overlying River Terrace Gravels. The River Terrace Gravels comprise sandy and clayey gravels and Bagshot beds (Mayer Brown 2006 as referenced in Halcrow Group Ltd 2009).

1.2.3 Topographically the Site occupies a promontory into the Thames Alluvial Floodplain. Similar positions within the Thames Estuary have been proven to be focal points of prehistoric activity and settlement.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background set out below is adapted from the technical chapter in the Environmental Statement written for the overall project (Mayer Brown 2006) presented in the WSI for the works (Halcrow Group Ltd 2009).
- 2.1.2 There are no statutory designations of archaeological, architectural or historic interest within the Site boundary or its wider setting. A single Grade II Listed Building; Elm Bridge Cottage, lies adjacent to the south side of the football pitch at Woking Park and dates to the 17th century; it would be unaffected by the scheme.
- 2.1.3 Very few archaeological find spots were recorded in the wider area. Those that have been identified were located in the adjacent housing estates and were presumably found during their construction in the early 20th century. Prehistoric and Romano-British presence in the area is evidenced by find spots of flint tools and pottery in the wider locality, however the status of any settlement activity remains undefined largely due to the absence of any formal archaeological work having taken place in the general area.
- 2.1.4 The topography of the Site located within a river valley and positioned upon alluvium and floodplain gravels indicates a potential for Prehistoric land use, both for hunter gatherers and for settled communities who may have favoured this location due to ease of access to the river for hunting and transportation.
- 2.1.5 The site and its surroundings are likely to have been under agricultural during the medieval and Post-medieval periods.
- 2.1.6 Woking Park was created during the early twentieth century, soon after 1904 and the Park was almost complete by 1914. The 1915-16 and 1930s Ordnance Survey map editions (not reproduced) show land bordering the river towards the south of the Site as marshland. The Park was expanded to include an area south of the stream in the 1920s following the relocation of the waste tips to a new site at Westfield south of Elmbridge Road. The whole was named Woking Park in 1927. The 6" editions of the Ordnance Survey maps dating from 1872-73, 1897 and 1920 (not reproduced) do not name or show a waste tip within the Site boundary.

3 AIMS

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation, as specified in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010), were:
- To determine or confirm the presence or absence and the general nature of any archaeological remains present that may be threatened by development.

- To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual, sedimentological, environmental or other evidence where development is proposed.
- To assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits.
- To determine the extent of alluvial deposits and their archaeological potential.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following methodology was proposed in order to meet the aims of the evaluation. All fieldwork was conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2010) and carried out in compliance with the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations (2008).

4.2 Service location

4.2.1 Prior to and during excavation, the trenches were scanned to verify the absence of any underground services using a Cable Avoidance Tool (CAT). As a result no underground services were present within the footprint of the trial trenches.

4.3 Fieldwork

4.3.1 A total of eight evaluation trenches were opened during the three day programme of works. The initial phase of investigation involved the excavation of **Trenches 1-6 (Figure 1)**. **Trenches 7 and 8 (Figure 1)** were opened following on site consultation with the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council and in agreement with the client. In addition, a square **Service Trench** opened by the on site contractor was archaeologically recorded (**Figure 1**).

4.3.2 **Trenches 1-8** measured 20m by 2m in plan and were excavated with a JCB excavator using a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision to a maximum depth of 2.06m (maximum depth of sondage).

4.3.3 All trenches, were marked out on the ground using a Global Positioning Survey (GPS) prior to the commencement of work and were scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool to verify the absence of live underground services.

4.3.4 All trenches, on agreement with the Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, were backfilled on completion of the archaeological recording.

4.4 Recording

4.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system.

- 4.4.2 All archaeological features and deposits exposed in the evaluation trenches were hand cleaned and excavated to determine their nature, character and date.
- 4.4.3 A complete drawn record of the evaluation trenches comprises both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections) was undertaken. The plans and sections were annotated with coordinates and aOD heights.
- 4.4.4 Photographs were taken as appropriate, providing a record of excavated features and deposits, and images of the overall trench to illustrate their location and context. The record also includes images of the overall Site. The photographic record comprises black and white, colour images and digital photography. A photographic register of all photographs taken is contained within the project archive.
- 4.4.5 All interventions were surveyed using a GPS tied into the Ordnance Survey.

4.5 Health and Safety

- 4.5.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety regulations 1992 and Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 1997, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 4.5.2 A Health and Safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology (2010), which was read and understood by all staff attending the Site before groundwork commenced.

5 RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section presents the results of the archaeological evaluation. Detailed descriptions of the trenches are included in **Appendix 1**. **Figure 1** shows the overall location of the site works and **Figures 2 to 5** provide illustration of key sections and trench photographs.

5.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

- 5.2.1 Topsoil across the Site comprised a mid greyish brown sandy silt with abundant roots and moderate small rounded stone inclusions. The topsoil ranged in between 0.24m and 0.54m noted at its deepest towards the north of the Site in **Trench 1 (Figure 2)** and the **Service Trench**.
- 5.2.2 Topsoil directly overlay a series of subsoils and alluvial deposits largely comprising clayey sands across all trenches.
- 5.2.3 Gravels, representing natural geology were identified in a single trench (**Trench 8**) at a depth of 1.59m-to 1.75m below present ground level.
- 5.2.4 The only evidence for human occupation was identified in **Trench 6 (Figure 5)** situated closest to the modern course of the Hoe Stream. Several artefacts of late 19th and 20th century date were recovered from alluvial layer

(603). The context comprised a very dark brown grey clayey sand with pockets of light grey clayey sand. Recovered artefacts included three pieces of pottery, two pieces of clinker, three pieces of glass and a single piece of bone. These artefacts are discussed further in section 6 below. No features or deposits were recorded in association with these artefacts.

5.3 Results and Interpretation

5.3.1 The alluvial geology confirms that the Site historically lay on the flood plain of the Hoe Stream. Flood plain environments have the potential to hold evidence for human exploitation of the riverine environment from the prehistoric period onwards (for example crossing points, hunting, fishing and gathering, camp and occupation sites, evidence for transport routes as well as findspots of lost or discarded artefacts. While the exposed alluvial layers proved the situation of the Site on the alluvial flood plain, no significant evidence for occupation or exploitation of this environment was identified. The 1914-1916 (1:2500 Series) and the 1938 1:10 560 Ordnance Survey series (not reproduced) show **Trench 6** situated on marshland immediately east of the historic course of the river. No pre late 19th century archaeological deposits or features were recorded in any of the trenches.

5.3.2 Unstratified late 19th century and early 20th century finds recovered from **Trench 6** between 0.34m and 0.85m below present ground level were not found in association with any archaeological features or deposits. These finds may represent either a small midden or given their proximity to the modern path of the Hoe Stream, may denote items washed up and deposited by the river during documented periods of flooding.

6 FINDS

6.1.1 Artefactual evidence recovered during the evaluation was limited to late 19th and early 20th century material recovered from **Trench 6 (603)**. This finds included one large and two medium fragments of pottery, one small fragment of bone, two pieces of clinker and three fragments of glass including the base of a bottle.

6.1.2 The pottery may be late 19th century in date, but this type of vessel and fabric continued in use well into the 20th century. The assemblage of glass puts the finds firmly in the 20th century. One of the glass fragments originated from a 'Shippams' paste jar and bears the mould number 444681. The jar would have been made in Chichester in the 1920s or 1930s. The other glass fragments originated from a wine bottle and a milk bottle (probably part of the base). These items are not dateable but would certainly be regarded as modern. The single piece of animal bone is part of a sheep/ goat rib and the two pieces of slag/clinker have no diagnostic features.

6.1.3 No features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the evaluation.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 No pre late 19th century archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified in any of the excavated trenches.
- 7.1.2 The limited number of late 19th century and early 20th century artefacts recovered from **Trench 6** are likely to represent items washed up and deposited by the Hoe Stream. No evidence for a waste tip having ever occupied the Site (Refer paragraph 2.1.6) was identified during the course of the evaluation.
- 7.1.3 Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the Site was retained as green field throughout the 19th century and 20th centuries resulting in a low level of previous ground disturbance.

7.2 Confidence Rating

- 7.2.1 This report supports a **high degree of confidence** that archaeological features or significant deposits within the trenches were recognised and recorded where present.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 8.1.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990).
- 8.1.2 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Maidstone office under the site code **74880**, but will ultimately be deposited for permanent storage with an appropriate museum.
- 8.1.3 The paper archive comprises an A4 ring-bound file containing:
- 8 Trench Record Sheets
 - 8 A4 Drawings, and 1 Graphics Register
 - 5 Photographic Records
 - Day Book
 - A copy of the WSI
 - Fieldwork Risk Assessment

9 REFERENCES

Institute of for Archaeologists 2008 Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.

Halcrow Group Limited 2009. Hoe Valley Woking, Surrey – Former Westfield Tip (Planning Ref: PLAN/2006/1237) Written Scheme of Investigation

Mayer Brown Ltd 2006. Former Westfield Tip Community Facility Relocation Woking. Environmental Statement.

Surrey County Council 2009. Hoe Valley Woking, Surrey - Former Westfield Tip Written Scheme of Investigation.

Wessex Archaeology 2010, Hoe Valley, Woking, Surrey-Woking Park, Surrey, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Field Evaluation.

10 APPENDIX 1: TRENCH CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES

Trench 1	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.68m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500799, 157610, 24.18aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
101		Topsoil	0.00-0.41m
102	Compact-Light greyish yellow clayey sand	Subsoil	0.41-0.75m
103	Compact-Light yellowish orange sandy clay	Alluvium	0.75-1.02m
104	Loose-Mid orange sandy clay with rare/medium to very frequent small stone inclusions.	Alluvium	1.02-1.14m
105	Loose-Light bluish green sand	Alluvium	1.14-1.25m
106	Moderately compact-mid orange sand very frequent small stone/grit inclusions.	Alluvium	1.25-1.39m
107	Loose-Dark greyish brown sand. Frequent inclusions of small stones/grit	Alluvium	1.39-1.61m
108	Compact-mid yellowish brown sand	Alluvium	1.51-1.62m
109	Loose-Dark yellowish brown sand	Alluvium	1.61-1.68m

Trench 2	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.98m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500791, 157658, 24.07aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
201		Topsoil	0.00-0.31m
202	Mid grey clayey sand compact moderate rooting	Subsoil	0.31-0.83m
203	Light yellow orange sandy clay compact mottled bluish green	Alluvium	0.83-1.10m
204	Light blue grey moderately compact clayey sand	Alluvium	1.10-1.44m
205	Mid orange clayey sand mottled blue green	Alluvium	1.44-1.78m
206	Mid orange brown compact sand mottled bluish green	Alluvium	1.78-1.92m
207	Dark brown orange compact sand	Alluvium	1.92-1.94m
208	Mid orange brown moderately compact sand	Alluvium	1.94-1.98m

Trench 3	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.66m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500801, 157610, 23.29aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
301		Topsoil	0.00-0.24m
302	Dark brown grey compact lightly clayey sand mottled light grey.	Alluvium	0.24-0.77m
303	Light greenish grey compact clayey sand mottled orange and grey.	Alluvium	0.77-0.96m

304	Light greenish grey compact sandy clay mottled orange.	Alluvium	0.96-1.13m
305	Mid greenish grey moderately compact sandy clay mottled orange with very small stone inclusions. Mottled orange.	Alluvium	1.13-1.26m
306	Light blue grey compact clayey sand mottled orange.	Alluvium	1.26-1.42m
307	Mid blue grey loose clayey sand. Mottled orange with moderately small very frequent stone inclusions.	Alluvium	1.42-1.60m
308	Dark orange brown moderately compact clayey sand mottled blue grey.	Alluvium	1.60-1.66m

Trench 4	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.92m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500687, 157684, 24.10aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
401	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small rounded pebbles and roots	Topsoil	0.00-0.20m
402	Light greyish yellow clayey sand with abundant small and medium round pebbles	Subsoil/Alluvium	0.20-0.39m
403	Mid greyish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional sub rounded stones	Subsoil	0.39-0.82m
404	Mottled light grey green orange sandy clay with occasional light grey sand patches.	Alluvium	0.82-1.40m
405	Mottled dark orange grey clay	Clay lens	1.40-1.46m
406	Mottled mid orange light greyish blue slightly clayey sand	Alluvium (Natural?)	1.46m+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 2.06m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500666, 157605, 24.53aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
501		Topsoil	0.00-0.30m
502	Light yellow brown compact clayey sand mottled orange	Alluvium	0.30-0.70m
503	Mid orange brown compact clayey sand. Mottled blue grey.	Alluvium	0.70-1.54m
504	Dark orange brown sandy clay with very frequent small stone inclusions	Alluvium	1.54-1.86m
505	Mid orange brown moderately compact clayey sand	Alluvium	1.63-1.79m
506	Light blue grey compact clayey sand	Alluvium	1.79-1.85m
507	Mid brown loose slightly clayey sand	Alluvium	1.77-1.87m
508	Dark grey brown sandy clay very frequent small stone inclusions	Alluvium	1.87-1.91m
509	Light orangey brown loose clayey sand	Natural?	1.91-2.06m

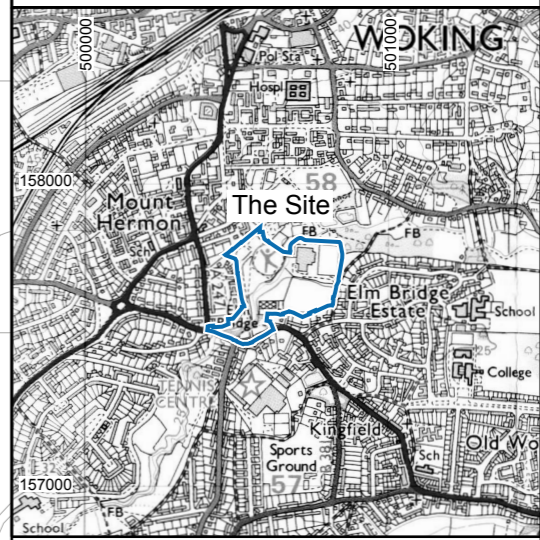
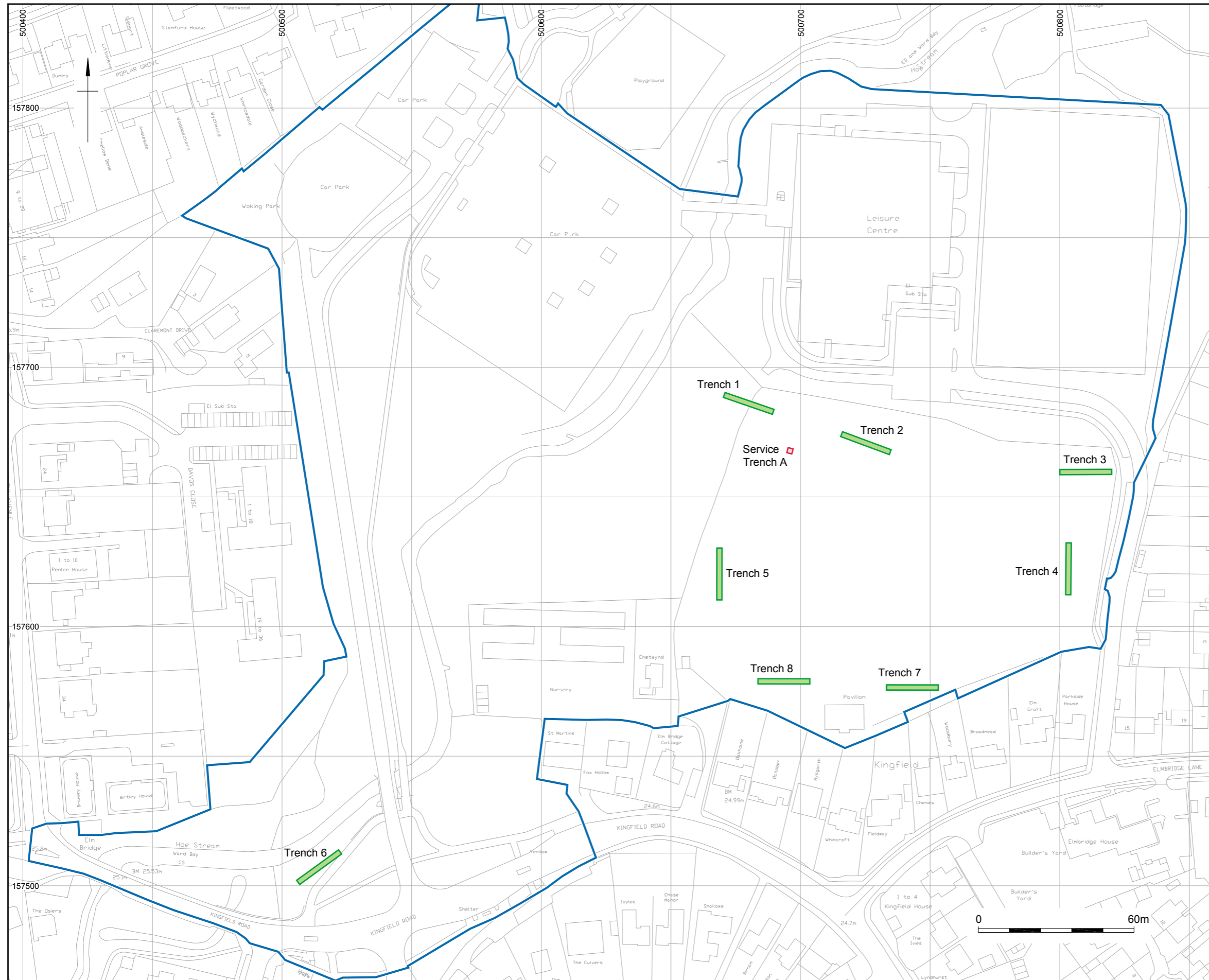
Trench 6	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.64m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500509, 157503, 24.29aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
601	Moderate medium stone inclusions. Heavy rooting.	Topsoil	0.00-0.18m
602	Cark orange brown compact slightly clayey sand mottled light yellow grey with moderate small-medium stone inclusions.	Subsoil	0.18-0.34m
603	Dark brown/grey compact clayey sand with pockets of mottled orange clayey sand.	Alluvium	0.34-0.85m
604	Mid greyish brown compact slightly clayey sand	Alluvium	0.85-0.93m
605	Mid greyish yellow compact slightly clayey sand	Alluvium	0.93-1.01m
606	Mid brownish orange sandy clay, compact grey mottling	Alluvium	1.01-1.15m
607	Mid brownish orange sandy clay, compact grey mottling	Alluvium	1.15-1.43m
608	Light bluish grey compact slightly clayey sand	Alluvium	1.43-1.64m

Trench 7	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.90m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500733, 157581, 24.99aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
701		Topsoil	0.00-0.30m
702	Light yellowish grey compact slightly sandy clay mottled bluish grey.	Subsoil	0.30-0.52m
703	Mid orange brown compact slightly sandy clay mottled bluish grey.	Alluvium	0.52-0.70m
704	Mid orange sandy clay, compact.	Alluvium	0.70-0.82m
705	Light brownish orange slightly clayey sand. Compact.	Alluvium	0.82-1.55m
706	Dark orange brown sandy clay high frequency of small stone	Alluvium	1.55-1.90m

Trench 8	Dimensions: 20m x 2m / Max. depth 1.79m		
	Coordinates (SW corner) 500685, 157579, 24.64aOD		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
801	Mid greyish brown sandy silty, friable with occasional small sub-rounded stones and moderate charcoal flecks.	Topsoil	0.00-0.29m
802	Mottled light brown with greyish brown slightly clayey sand with moderate sub-rounded stones.	Subsoil/Alluvium	0.29-0.56m
803	Mottled mid grey orange sandy clay	Alluvium	0.56-0.90m
804	Mottled light grey orange slightly clayey sand.	Alluvium	0.90-1.59m

805	Abundant small rounded pebbles and grit	Gravel/Alluvium	1.59-1.66m
806	As (804)	Alluvium	1.66-1.75m
807	As (805), also including occasional sub rounded flint nodules	Gravel/Alluvium	1.75m+

Service Trench A	Dimensions: 2m x 1.5m / Max. depth 1.5m		
Context	Description	Interpretation/Process of deposition	Depth (m)
-	Mid greyish brown sandy silt with moderate small sub rounded stones.	Topsoil	0.00-0.54m
-	Mottled mid grey orange slightly clayey sand.	Subsoil	0.54-0.86m
-	Mottled light grey orange slightly clayey sand.	Alluvium	0.86m+



- Woking Park area
- Evaluation trench
- Service trench

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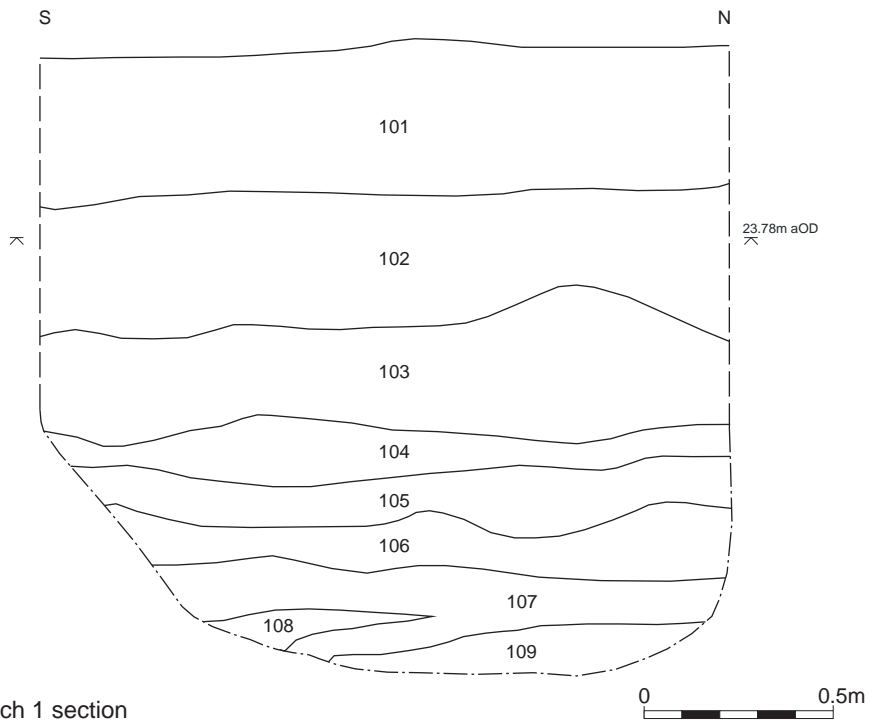
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Site and trench location

Figure 1




Trench 1 section



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking south



Plate 2: Trench 1, east facing section

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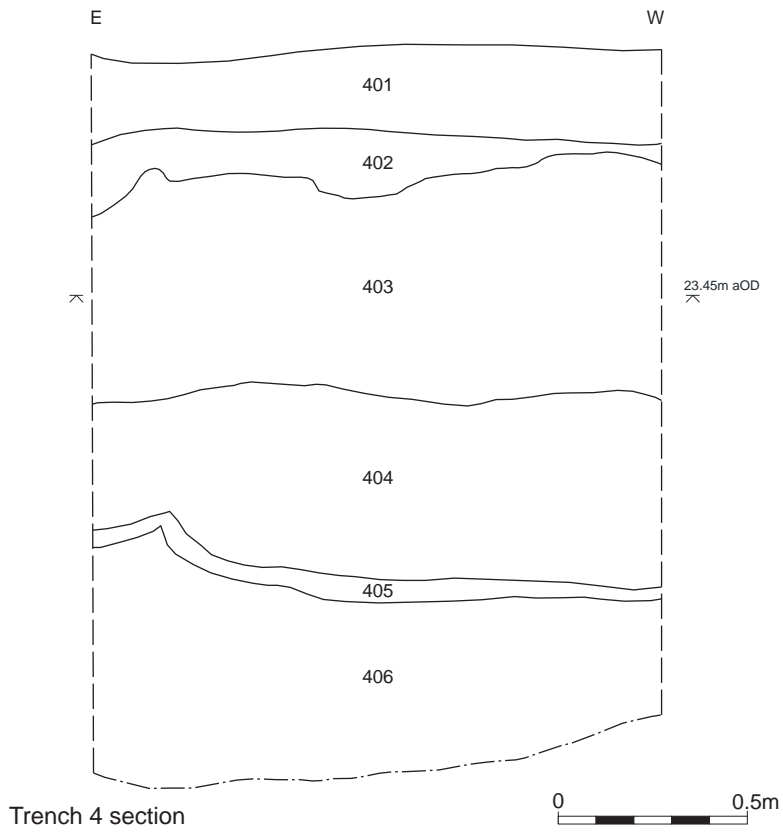


Plate 3: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 4: Trench 4, south facing section

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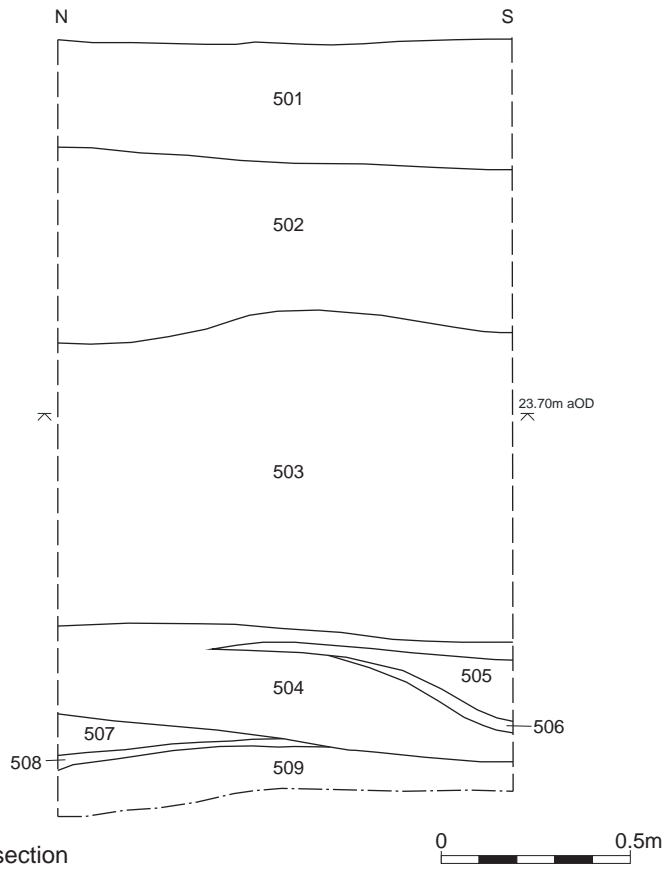


Plate 5: Trench 5, looking north



Plate 6: Trench 5, east facing section

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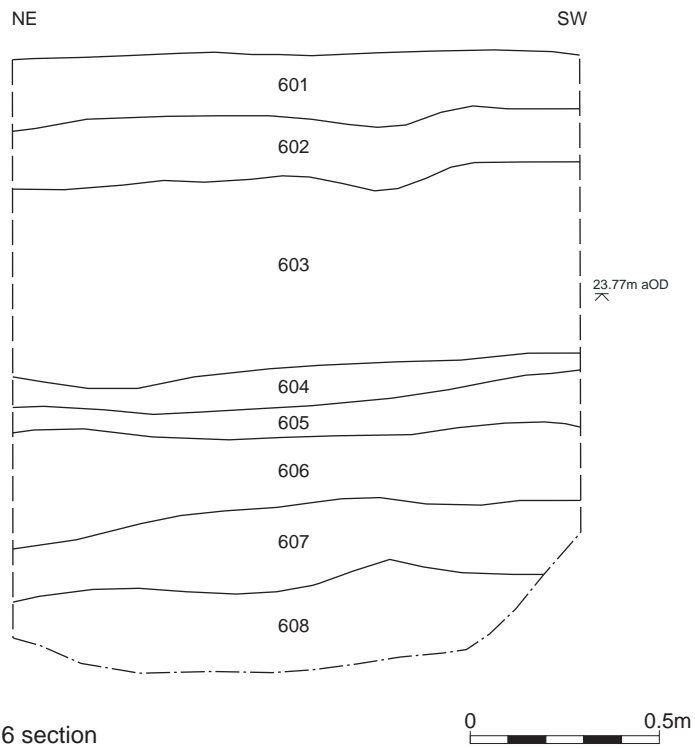
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Trench 6 section



Plate 7: Trench 6, looking north-east



Plate 8: Trench 6, north-west facing section

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