

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**58-60 West Street,
Dorking, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: WSD12/183

(TQ 1642 4939)

**58-60 West Street, Dorking,
Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Plan A Surveys & Design**

by Sean Wallis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code WSD 12/183

January 2013

Summary

Site name: 58-60 West Street, Dorking, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 1642 4939

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th–14th December 2012

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: WSD 12/183

Area of site: c. 325 sq m

Summary of results: The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. A number of pits were recorded, indicating domestic occupation from the mid 12th century to the 19th century.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dorking Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 11.01.13 Steve Preston ✓ 10.01.13

58-60 West Street, Dorking, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 12/183

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 58-60 West Street, Dorking, Surrey (TQ 1642 4939) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jason Aldous of Plan A Surveys and Design, Suite 1, Prince House, Grayshott, Surrey, GU26 6NF.

Planning permission (app no. MO/2011/1577) has been gained from Mole Valley District Council to refurbish and extend the Listed Buildings on the frontage of 58-60 West Street, Dorking, and re-develop the rear of the site for housing, following demolition of some existing structures. The consent is subject to a standard condition (12) relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks. An initial phase of archaeological fieldwork was proposed, namely a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Further fieldwork may be required if significant archaeological deposits were encountered during the evaluation.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, who act as advisers to the District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis on 13th and 14th December 2012, and the site code is WSD 12/183. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Dorking Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of West Street within the historic core of Dorking, and is centred on TQ 1642 4939 (Fig. 2). The site currently consists of the rear garden areas of three properties which front onto West Street. These properties are Listed Buildings, dating from the mid 16th-century onwards. Two structures within the rear gardens had recently been demolished. The site is generally flat and lies at a height of approximately 59m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Lower Greensand (BGS 1978). This was confirmed during the evaluation, with light orange brown sandy clay natural geology being encountered in all three trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of Dorking. In summary, *Dorchinges* (Mills 1993) is first mentioned in Domesday Book (AD1086) as a Royal manor. It also possessed a church which is likely to have been sited close to the current medieval centre. It is possible that a contemporary Saxon settlement was located nearby, although little archaeological evidence has been recorded for this. The settlement grew during medieval times and a market was documented in 1278, which is indicative of the existence of an established town by then. The site lies on West Street which is one of the main streets (Robertson 2004). The present buildings which front onto West Street probably date from the mid 16th century, but may have been built on the site of earlier medieval structures. The building is sometimes known as the William Mullins house: Mullins sold the property in 1619 to sail to America as one of the Pilgrim Fathers. The building is thought to be the only remaining structure lived in by one of the Pilgrim Fathers in England.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present; and
- to determine if any Saxon, medieval or early post-medieval deposits are present.

It was proposed to excavate three trenches, each measuring 6m in length and 1.6m wide. The trenches were to be positioned to target those parts of the site which will be most affected by the new development, but have not been significantly disturbed by past activity. All trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

The three trenches were excavated roughly in their intended positions, although they had to be shifted slightly due to site logistics (Fig. 3). One of the trenches (1) could not be excavated to its full intended length for similar reasons. These changes to the original scheme were discussed with Mr Tony Howe, the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer. The trenches were all 1.50m wide, and measured between 3m and 6.10m in length, and between 1.05m and 1.20m in depth. A list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A list of all excavated features forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned approximately NNW-SSE, and was 3.00m long and up to 1.20m deep. The trench could not be excavated to its full intended length due to site constraints. Up to 0.60m of topsoil (50), containing modern finds and numerous plant roots, was removed to reveal a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt subsoil (51). Layer 51 was 0.55m thick, and lay directly above the underlying sandy clay natural geology.

Pit 1 was partially visible along the eastern edge of the trench, and was at least 1.50m long and 0.30m wide. The pit clearly truncated layer 51, and a small section of the feature was excavated by hand. The upper fill of the pit (54) was 0.42m thick and contained mid 19th-century pottery. It had a mottled appearance due to the amount of re-deposited natural geology within it, and probably reflects the deliberate backfilling of the pit. A lower fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (52) contained nine sherds of mid 19th-century pottery, along with a fragment of oyster shell and several pieces of tile. Pit 1 was not bottomed, but deposit 52 was seen to be at least 0.37m thick.

Another pit (2) occupied much of the northern part of the trench, measuring at least 1.80m by 1.50m. The feature had again clearly been cut through layer 51, but was not excavated. However, eleven sherds of mid 19th-century pottery were recovered from the stripped surface of its fill (53), along with a fragment of clay tobacco pipe stem.

Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 5, Pl. 2)

This trench was orientated approximately N-S, and was 6.10m long and up to 1.15m deep. Up to 0.50m of topsoil (50) and 0.60m of mid brownish grey sandy silt (51) were removed to reveal the underlying light orange brown sandy clay geology. Small areas of possible subsoil (62) were recorded in section. Two intercutting pits (6 and 7) were recorded at the southern end of the trench. A small slot was dug through the pits but the relationship between the two could not be established due to the similarity of their fills. Pit 6 was at least 1m long and 0.30m wide, and a sherd of mid 13th-century pottery was recovered from its fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (58).

Pit 7 was at least 1.40m long and 1.10m wide. Two sherds of mid 12th-century pottery were recovered from its fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (59), along with a struck flint.

Two further pits (8 and 9) were partially exposed along the eastern side of the trench, both of which were sealed by layer 51. Pit 8 was at least 1.20m long and 0.20m wide, with an upper fill of dark greyish brown silty sand (60). This yielded two sherds of late 15th-century pottery. The pit was not bottomed, but was seen to be at least 0.40m deep. Pit 9 was rectangular in shape, and was at least 0.90m long and 0.30m wide. The feature had near vertical sides and, whilst it was not bottomed, was at least 0.32m deep. Four sherds of late 15th-century pottery were recovered from its upper fill of dark greyish brown sandy silt (61), although these are possibly residual as the pit also contained a fragment of clay pipe stem and a small piece of a glass bottle.

Trench 3 (Figs 4 and 6, Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 6m long and up to 1.05m deep. Up to 0.40m of topsoil (50) and 0.55m of mid greyish brown sandy silt (51) were removed to reveal the underlying sandy clay natural geology. Pit 5 was recorded at the western end of the trench, and was at least 1.50m long and 1.3m wide. Whilst the pit was sealed by layer 51, it appeared to have been cut through another deposit (63) which lay directly above the natural geology in this part of the trench. The profile recorded in section suggests that the eastern side of the pit had slumped before it had been fully backfilled or possibly 63 was the fill of another cut. The pit was not bottomed, but was at least 0.45m deep, with an upper fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (57). Several fragments of brick and tile were found within this deposit, along with a small sherd of mid 16th-century pottery.

Two intercutting pits (3 and 4) were recorded between 1.75m and 4m from the west end of the trench also below 51? The earlier of the two (3) was at least 1.1m long and 0.6m wide, with a single fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (55). This deposit was up to 0.35m thick and contained over twenty sherds of pottery dating from the mid 16th-century, along with fragments of tile, animal bone and oyster shell. The eastern end of this pit had clearly been truncated by pit 4, which was at least 1.5m long and 1.15m wide. Pit 4 was not bottomed, but was at least 0.35m deep. Forty-nine sherds of mid 16th century pottery were recovered from its fill of mid greyish brown sandy silt (56), along with fragments of iron slag, animal bone and ceramic building material. It is possible that the strip of natural geology recorded between pits 4 and 5 may represent an early property boundary, with the pits being dug up to the edge of neighbouring properties.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 106 sherds with a total weight of 2,223g. It was quantified using the chronology and coding system of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

BORDG: Green-glazed Border Ware, 1550–1700. 3 sherds, 17g.

KING: Kingston-type ware, 1230–1400. 1 sherd, 13g.

LIMP: Limsfield-type ware, 1150–1300. 2 sherds, 78g.

MPUR: Midland Purple Ware, 1480–1750. 2 sherds, 25g.

PMR: Post-medieval redware, 1580–1900. 6 sherds, 217g.

PMRE: London Area Early Post-Medieval Redware, 1480–1600. 71 sherds, 1703g.

PMSRY: Post-Medieval Slipped Redware, clear yellow glaze, 1480–1650. 3 sherds, 60g.

RAER: Raeren Stoneware, 1480–1610. 2 sherds, 6g.

SWSG: Staffordshire white salt-glazed stoneware, 1720–1780. 1 sherd, 8g.

TPW: Blue Transfer-printed Ware (underglaze), 1830–1900. 13 sherds, 70g.

YELL: Yellow Ware, 1840–1900. 2 sherds, 26g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The pottery types are all well-known in the region. The bulk of the assemblage dates to the end of the medieval period, and there appears to be a break in activity from around the middle of the 16th to the 19th century. This is suggested by the dearth of Border Ware, a common find at sites in the region between 1550 and 1700 (eg. Jones 1998a, 87), and the lack of common 17th century wares such as Tin-Glazed Earthenware (MoL fabric TGW).

The few earlier medieval sherds present are all fairly large and in reasonably good condition, indicating that they are reliably stratified, and that there was activity of such date in the vicinity. One of the sherds from pit 7 (context 59) is a full profile of a shallow bowl, the other a bodysherd from a jar. The sherd of KING is from a jug rim. These are all typical of the respective traditions.

The late medieval/early post-medieval assemblage appears to be of an entirely domestic nature, and the group from pit 4 (context 56) includes the base of a chafing dish, a vessel for keeping food hot at the table. The rest of the group comprises sherds from vessels associated with the storage, transportation, serving and consumption of food and drink. Very few joining sherds were noted, however, indicating that the bulk of the assemblage was the product of secondary deposition, possibly site clearance, given the apparent hiatus in pottery deposition and the relatively short period of time covered by the bulk of the assemblage and the lack of residual pottery other than in the 19th-century groups.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single residual struck flint was recovered from pit 6 (58). It is not closely datable but is likely to be of Neolithic or Bronze Age date.

Animal Bone by Andrew Mundin

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from three separate contexts within the evaluated area. A total of 32 fragments of bone were present for analysis weighing 677g (Appendix 5). The preservation of the remains was generally good, with a moderate amount of fragmentation. Surfaces do not appear eroded from soil acidity.

Initial analyses roughly sorted elements into categories based on size, not by species, into one of three categories: “large”, “medium”, and “small”. Bovine species is represented in two contexts within the large size category, sheep/goat is represented in the medium size category, and any smaller animal (e.g. dog, cat etc.) are designated to the “small” category. Wherever possible, a more specific identification to species was made. The determination of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) both within and between species was investigated.

The whole assemblage was recovered from domestic pit contexts. A minimum of four animal individuals were present within the assemblage: one large animal (probable bovine species), two medium; one a sheep/goat from two long bones and one pig identified from teeth, and a rib fragment. One small animal was also identified in the form of a canine tooth of a dog. Two separate teeth, both from a pig were also found in context 3 and 9 respectively. A proximal end of a metacarpal identifies the bovine species within context 4.

Evidence of butchery practices is present, with one unidentifiable piece heavy burnt, from context 3. In context 9, at least four perpendicular cut marks are present on one piece of a distal shaft of a sheep/goat metatarsal forming a W shape. Other butchery is evident on some of the less readily identifiable pieces as three pieces of long bone have been broken down the shaft for marrow extraction.

Brick and Tile by Sean Wallis

A collection of brick and tile was recorded from the features on the site as detailed in Appendix 4. A variety of fabrics were noted with the brick from pit 4 being particularly soft and silty. Other notable items were a peg tile and a glazed brick fragment from pit 3.

Clay Tobacco Pipe by Sean Wallis

Two small fragments of clay pipe stem, weighing 3g, were recovered during the evaluation from pits 2 (53) and 9 (61). Neither has any diagnostic features, but the large diameter bore (c. 2mm) suggests a relatively early date.

Glass by Sean Wallis

One piece of glass, weighing 20g, was recovered from the fill of pit 9 (61). The fragment is light green in colour and probably came from a bottle.

Oyster Shell by Sean Wallis

Nine fragments of oyster shell, weighing 64g, were recovered during the evaluation from various pits (Appendix 6). The largest assemblage consisted of five fragments, weighing 38g, which were found within the fill of pit 3 (55).

Slag by Sean Wallis

Three small fragments of iron slag, weighing 64g, were recovered from the fill of pit 4 (56).

Conclusion

The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the development, that had not been obviously disturbed by the structures which had recently been demolished. A number of pits were recorded which relate to domestic occupation of the site from the mid 12th century through to the 19th century.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	3.00	1.50	1.20	0.00m-0.60m topsoil (50); 0.60m-1.15m mid brownish grey sandy silt (51); 1.15m+ light orange brown sandy clay natural. Pits 1 and 2. [PL. 1]
2	6.10	1.50	1.15	0.00m-0.50m topsoil (50); 0.50m-1.10m mid brownish grey sandy silt (51); 1.10m-1.15m subsoil (62); 1.15m+ light orange brown sandy clay natural. Pits 6, 7, 8 and 9. [PL. 2]
3	6.00	1.50	1.05	0.00m-0.40m topsoil (50); 0.40m-0.95m mid greyish brown sandy silt (51); 0.95m+ light orange brown sandy clay natural. Pits 3, 4 and 5.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52 and 54	Pit	Mid 19th century	Pottery and tile
1	2	53	Pit	Mid 19th century	Pottery and clay pipe
3	3	55	Pit	Mid 16th century	Pottery and tile
3	4	56	Pit	Mid 16th century	Pottery and brick /tile
3	5	57	Pit	Mid 16th century	Pottery and tile
2	6	58	Pit	Mid 13th century	Pottery
2	7	59	Pit	Mid 12th century	Pottery
2	8	60	Pit	Late 15th century	Pottery
2	9	61	Pit	Post-medieval	Pottery, glass and clay pipe

APPENDIX 3 Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Trench	Date range (century AD)		12th-13th		13th-14th		15th-17th		15th-18th		15th-16th		15th-17th		16th-17th		16th-18th		18th		19th		19th	
	Cut	Fabric	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	1	52																						
1	1	54																						
1	2	53																						
3	3	55																						
3	4	56																						
3	5	57																						
2	6	58																						
2	7	59	2	78																				
2	8	60																						
2	9	61																						
		Total	2	78	1	13	2	6	2	25	71	1703	3	60	3	17	6	217	1	8	13	70	2	26

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Brick and tile

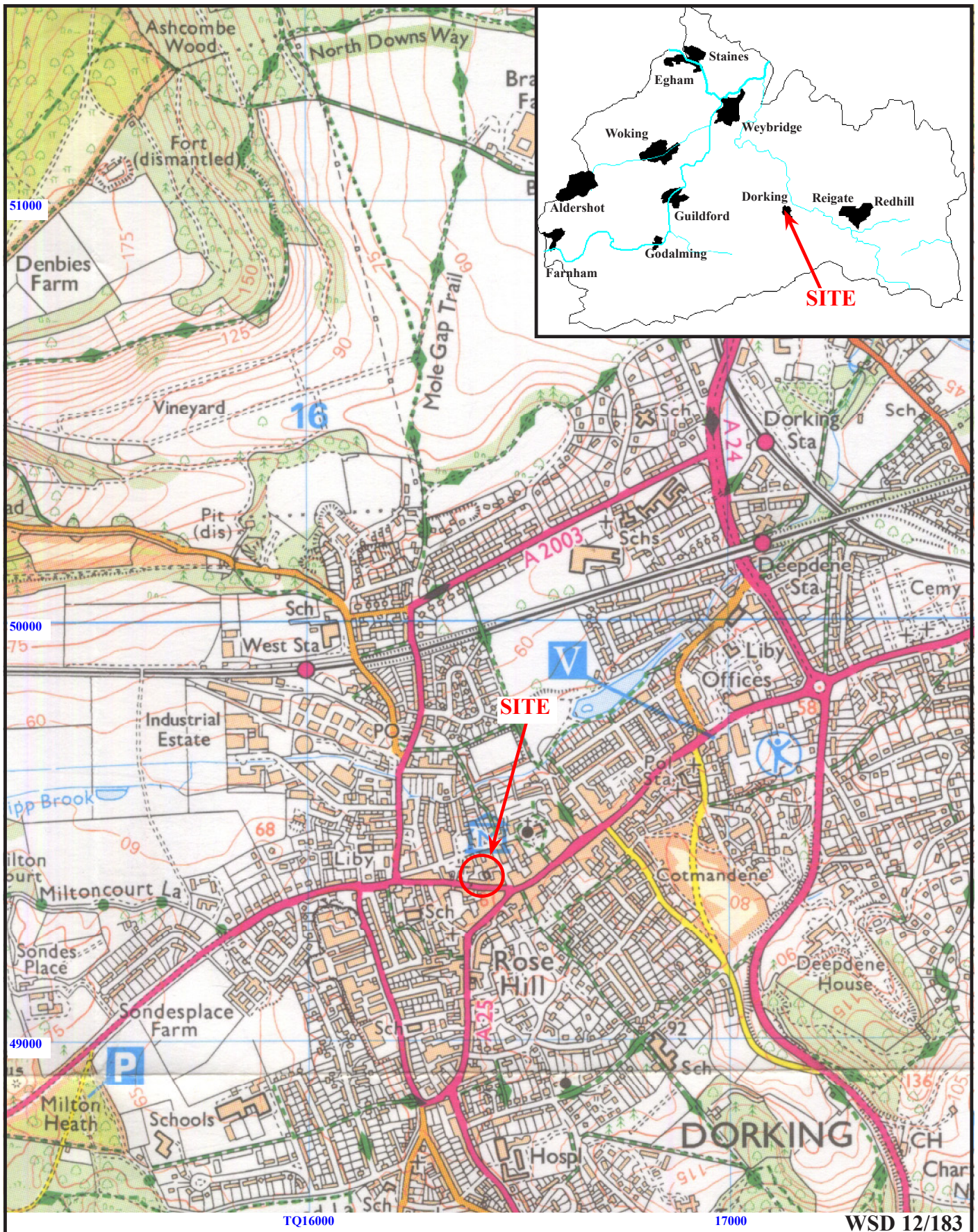
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Brick</i>		<i>Tile</i>	
			<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
1	1	52			5	370
3	3	55	1	117	6	620
3	4	56	4	1115	6	505
3	5	57			5	230

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Animal bone

Context		Number of Fragments	Weight (g)	Identified fragments – by animal size			Unidentified/ Comments
Cut	Deposit			Large	Medium	Small	
3	55	10	152	3	2	1	4
4	56	19	465	4	1	-	14
9	61	3	60	-	2 (sheep/goat)	-	1
Total / MNI		32	677				

APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of Oyster Shell

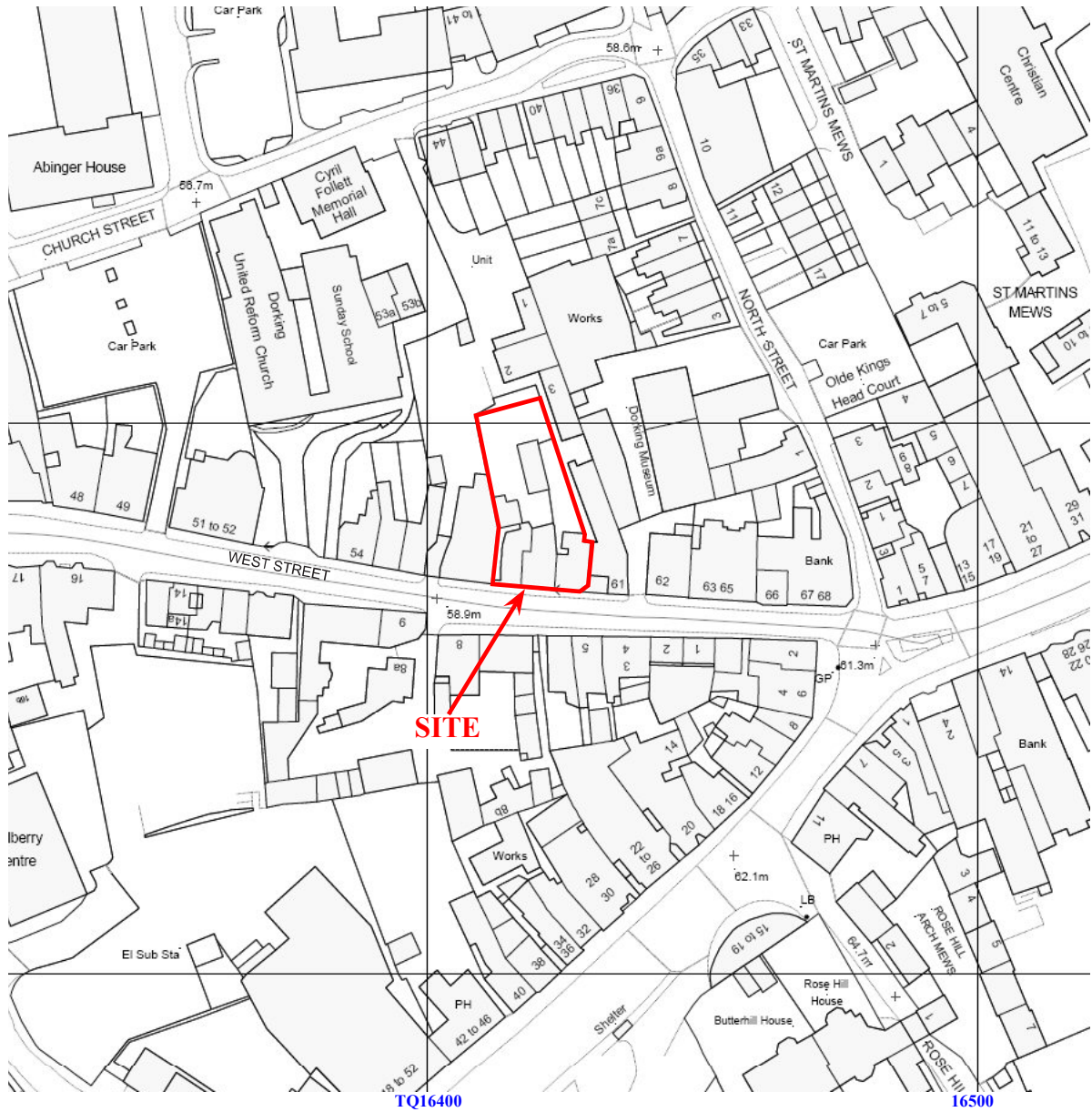
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
1	1	52	1	9
3	3	55	5	38
3	4	56	3	17



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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Dorking and Surrey.

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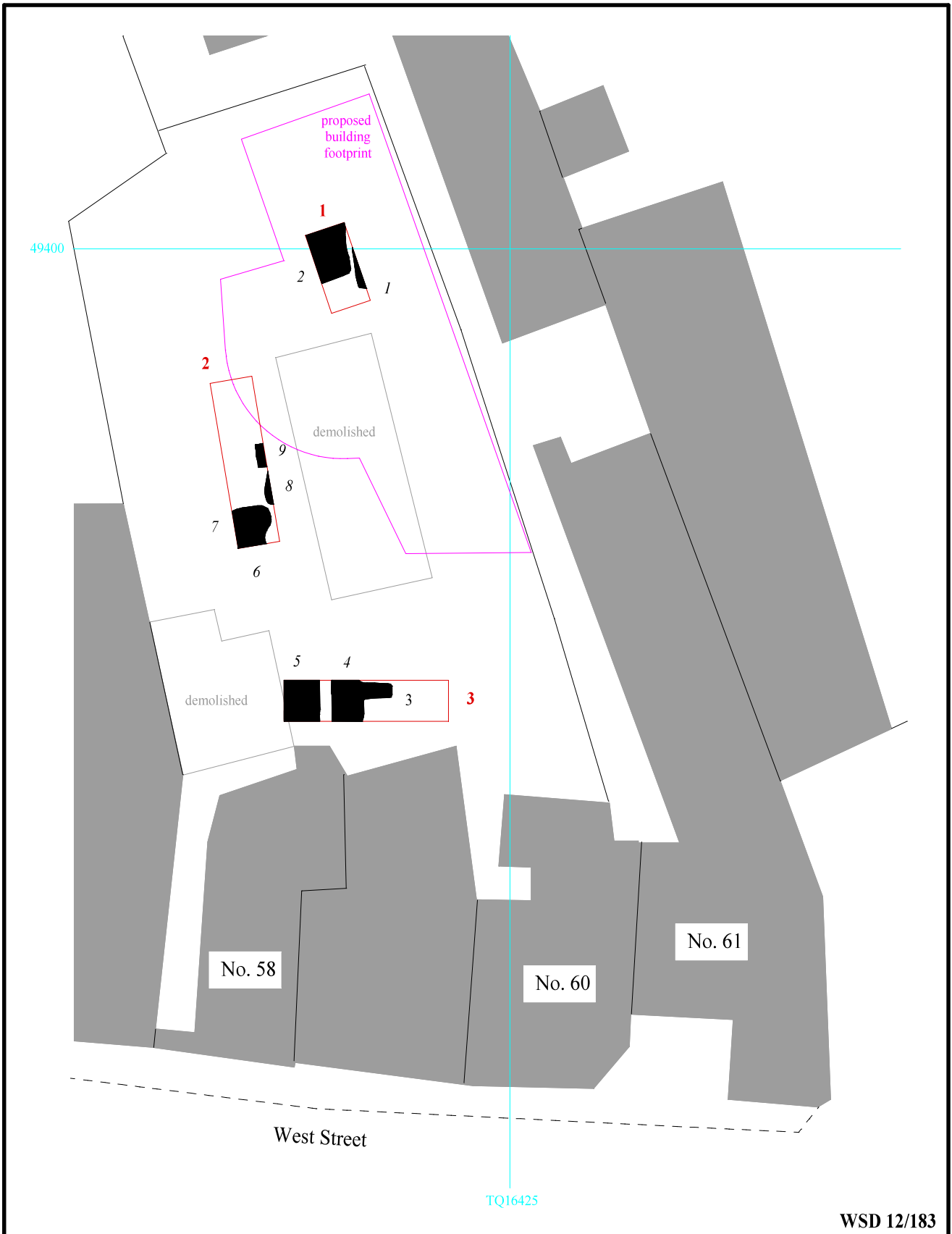


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off West Street.

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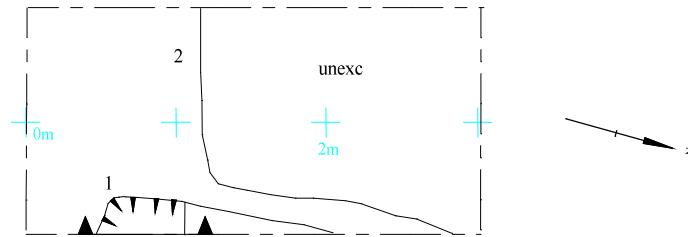
**58-60 West Street, Dorking, Surrey, 2012
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

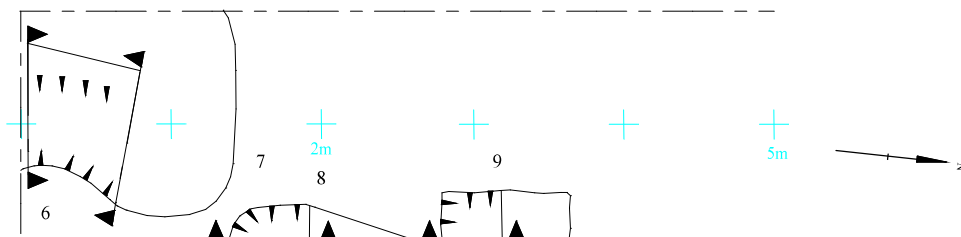


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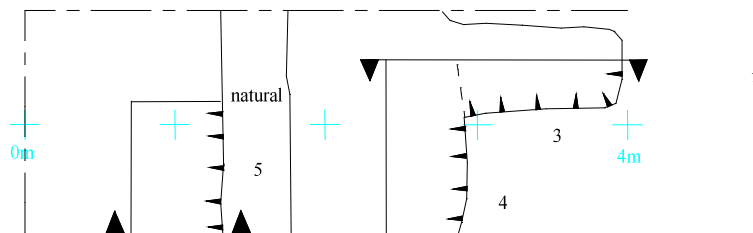
Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



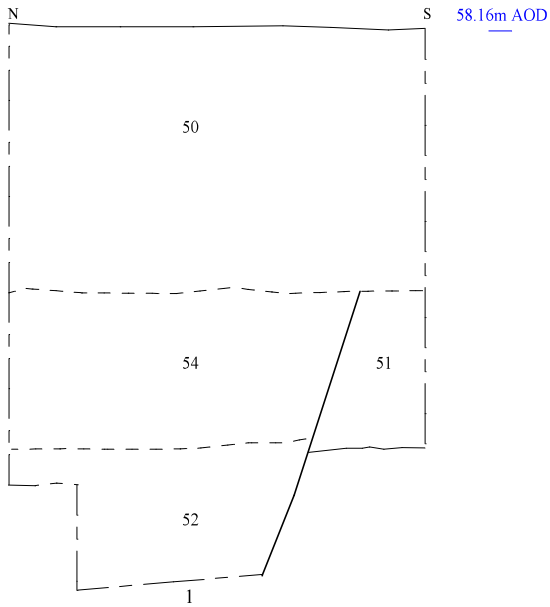
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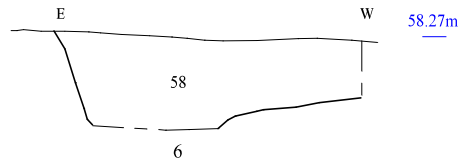
Figure 4. Plan of trenches.



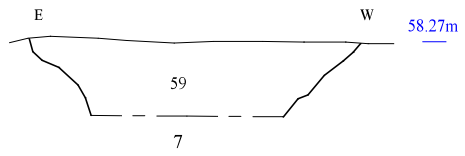
Trench 1



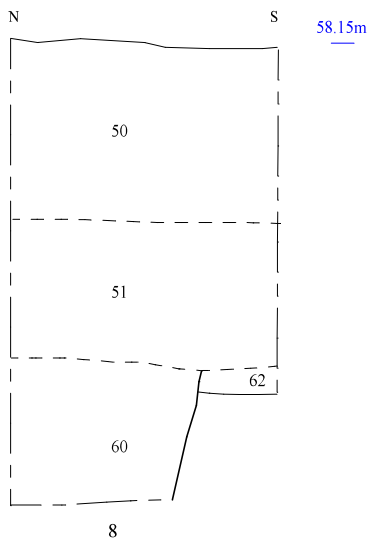
Trench 2



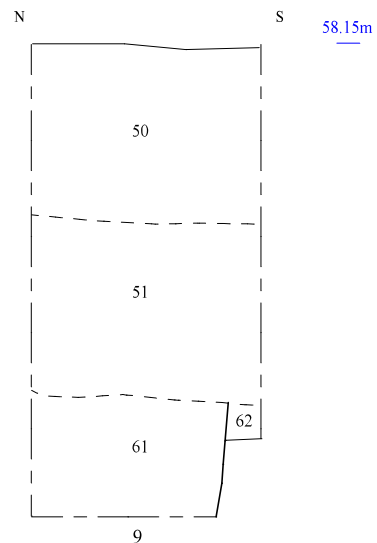
Trench 2



Trench 2



Trench 2



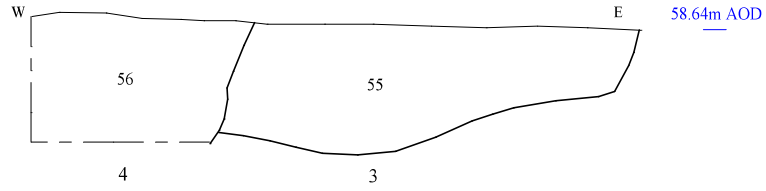
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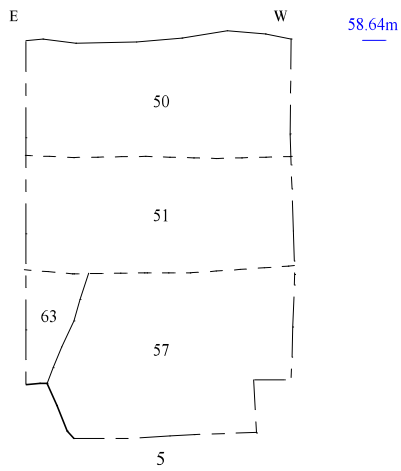
Figure 5. Sections.



Trench 3



Trench 3



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Figure 6. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, Pits 3 and 4 (on left) looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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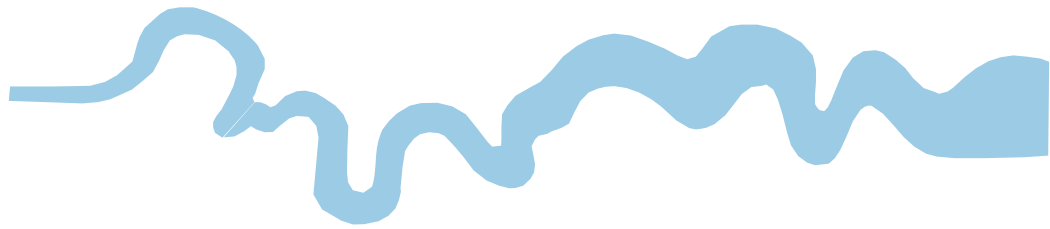
Plates 1 and 2.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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