

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**High Warren, The Warren,
Ashted, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: HWK14/24

(TQ 1890 5725)

High Warren, The Warren, Ashted, Surrey

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millgate Developments Ltd**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HWK 14/24

May 2014

Summary

Site name: High Warren, The Warren, Ashtead, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 1890 5725

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th and 8th May 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: HWK 14/24

Area of site: 1.1 Ha

Summary of results: A number of shallow ditch-like features were investigated found but all were found to be of late post-medieval date. They probably reflect episodes of landscaping of the house gardens No finds nor features of archaeological interest were found and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 12.05.14 Steve Preston✓ 12.05.14

High Warren, The Warren, Ashtead, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 14/24

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at High Warren, The Warren, Ashtead, Surrey (TQ 1890 5725) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Chandler for Millgate Developments Ltd, Millgate, Millgate House, Ruscombe Lane, Ruscombe, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JT.

Planning permission (MO/2013/1696) has been granted by Mole Valley District Council for the demolition of the existing house and construction of three new dwellings at High Warren. This is subject to a condition (5) that requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by development, field observation has been requested as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The evaluation forms part of a staged programme of archaeological investigation in order to determine the appropriate mitigation that may be required.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Gary Jackson, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, advising the District, and was monitored by him. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Nick Harper on 7th and 8th May 2014 and the site code is HWK 14/24. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Leatherhead Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the southern extent of Ashtead c. 2km north-east of Letherhead (Fig. 1), and north of the M25. It lies within a residential area on the west side of The Warren and is bordered to the south by Chace Stud Farm (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1978) and this was observed in the trenches. The site was currently used as a single house with landscaped gardens. The site is at an elevation of c.94m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2014). In summary the site lies within a landscape dominated by archaeological finds of the Roman period but with earlier Neolithic occupation also recorded. Roman settlement and a villa have been recorded to the north-east (Bird 1987; 2004a; 2004b; 2014), and finds of late Roman coins are reported from within the site itself (Surrey HER 150), while a major Roman road passes some 750m to the south-east (Margary 1955). Ashted itself is likely to have grown up from these Roman origins with the early medieval church showing evidence for the reuse of earlier building materials (Blair 1991; VCH 1911). The site has only been disturbed by the construction of the present house and gardens raising the possibility that any buried archaeology may have been left largely undisturbed, particularly around the edges of the plot.

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.

The specific research aims of this project were;

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and

to determine if any deposits relating to Roman activity were present.

It was proposed to dig 4 trenches, each 25m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were positioned to target the locations of the 3 proposed house and garage units (Fig 2). Much of the proposal site, particularly around the margins, is to be retained woodland. Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.

Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any that might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Three trenches (1,2 and 4) were dug as intended (Fig. 2) but trench 3 was moved south and rotated to an NW - SE alignment due to site logistical considerations. This change took place in consultation with the monitor. The

trenches ranged in length from 25.0 to 25.20m and in depth from 0.36m to 0.47m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 1, 3 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned north–south and was 25.20m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying natural chalk geology. In total four shallow ditches-like features were observed (1-5) (Pls 3 and 4). These were between 0.03 and 0.08m deep and 0.48m and 0.55m wide. These all contained ceramic building material and coke of post-medieval or modern date: these finds were retained on site. These features were most likely the result of previous landscaping and hedgerows that were prevalent in the grounds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned east–west and was 25.0m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE and was 25.0m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features were observed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 25.0m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying natural geology. A series of four tree holes/ planting holes in a line were observed, which were modern in date as they were also aligned with the trees forming a small orchard that was still present on the site. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were retrieved from the site.

Conclusion

The only features observed during this evaluation were those of post-medieval or modern date relating most likely relating to garden landscaping. This site therefore can be said to have a low archaeological potential.

References

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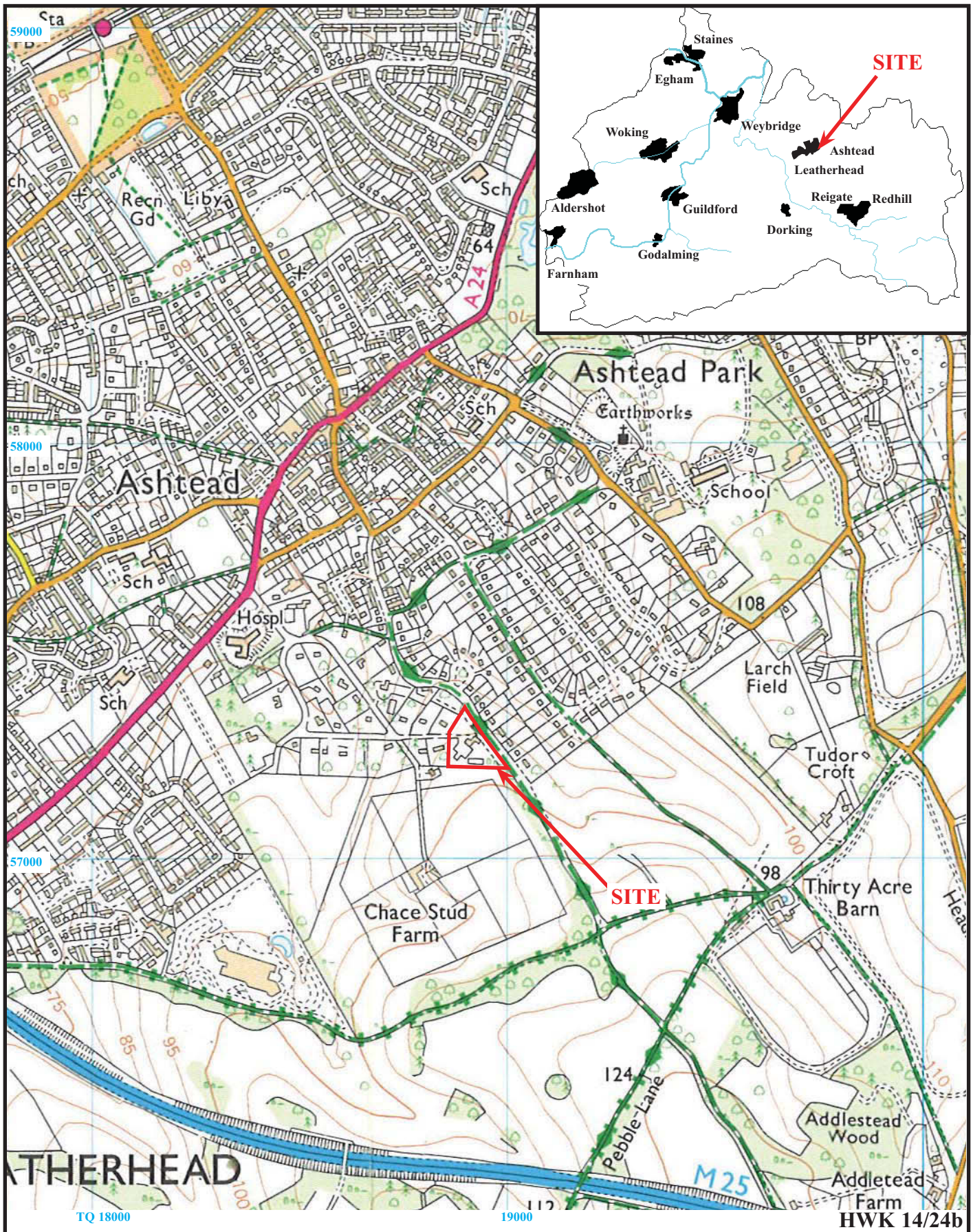
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South, East, SE and ESE end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25.2	1.6	0.36	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19-0.36m subsoil, 0.36m+ natural geology; Post medieval ditch- like features 1–5. [Pls 1, 3 and 4]
2	25.0	1.6	0.45	0–0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.45m subsoil, 0.45m+ natural geology.
3	25.0	1.6	0.47	0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.32m subsoil, 0.32m+ natural geology.
4	25.0	1.6	0.42	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.36m subsoil, 0.36m+ natural geology. Post-medieval treeholes [Pl. 2]

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	Ditch	Late Post Medieval	Coke, brick/tile
1	2	53	Ditch	Late Post Medieval	Coke, brick/tile
1	3	54	Ditch	Late Post Medieval	Coke, brick/tile
1	4	55	Ditch	Late Post Medieval	Coke, brick/tile
1	5	56	Ditch	Late Post Medieval	Coke, brick/tile



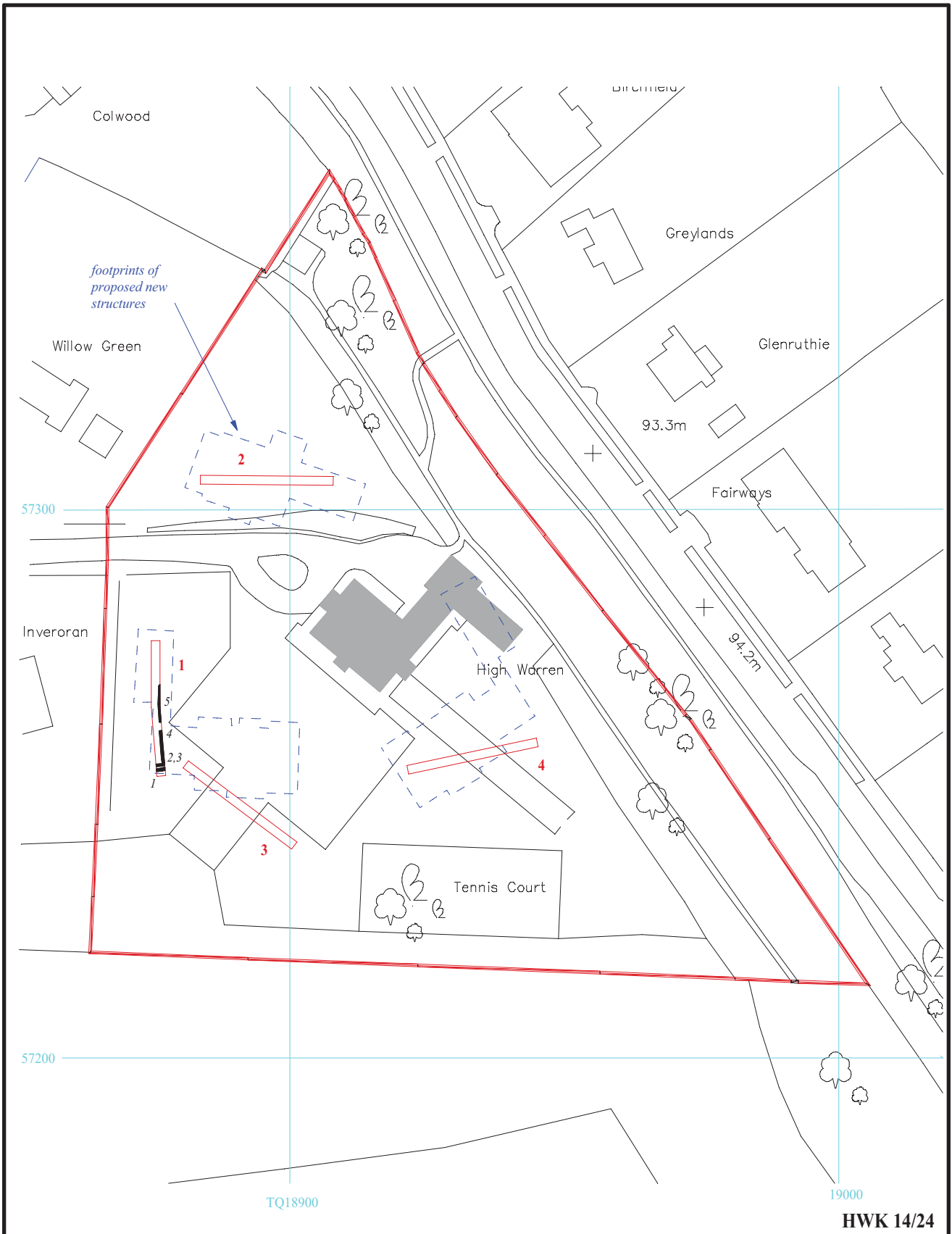
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ashted and Surrey.

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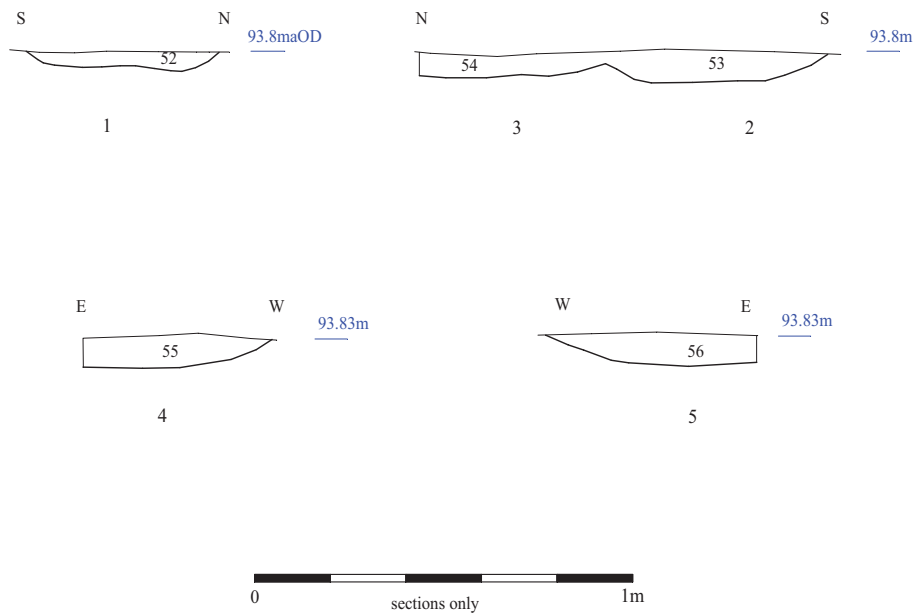
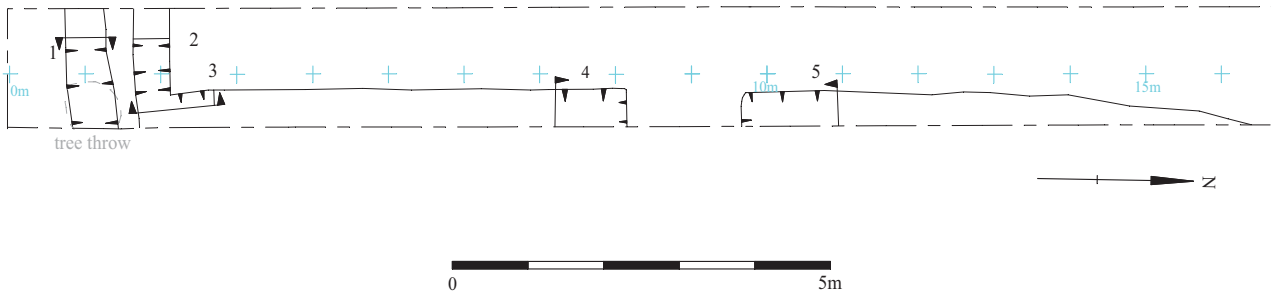


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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



Trench 1



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Figure 3. Detail of Trench 1.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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**High Warren, The Warren, Ashted,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 1, ditch slot section 1, looking west, Scale: 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 1, ditch base slot 5, looking south, Scales: horizontal 0.3m, vertical 0.1m.

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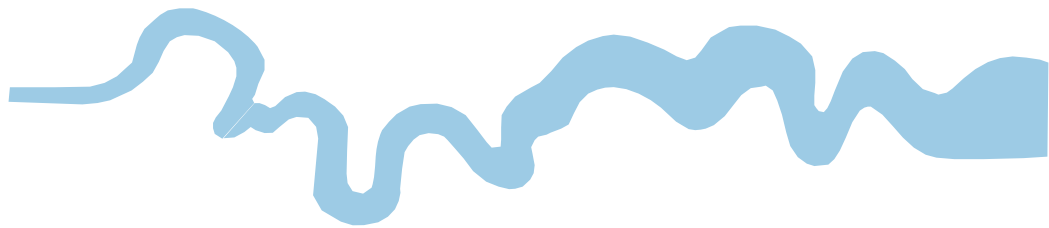
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Plates 3 - 4.

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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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