

**Eastgate House, 225 High Street,
Guildford, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Pilgrim Investment Holdings Limited**

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
225HSG06/138

January 2007

Summary

Site name: Eastgate House, 225 High Street, Guildford, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ00080 49690

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th- 21st December 2006

Project manager: Jo Pine

Site supervisor: Jo Pine

Site code: 225HSG06/138

Area of site: c.87sqm

Summary of results: A single hand dug trench contained post-medieval pits together with layers of 15th through to 19th century date. Medieval layers of 13th-15th century date and a possible medieval feature was located at the base of the sequence.

Monuments identified: Stratified deposits

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

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Eastgate House, 225 High Street, Guildford, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 06/138

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Eastgate House, 225-7 High Street, Guildford, Surrey (TQ00080 49690) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Andrew Colangelo, Oakleaf Building Surveyors, 120 Fairford Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 6QP.

A planning consent (05/P/02060) has been granted by Guildford Borough Council to construct a single-storey rear extension of c.87 sq m, together with an additional storey to an already existing building at Eastgate House. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires a scheme of archaeological investigation in advance of development. This was to comprise a field evaluation in the first instance.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer at Surrey County Council, archaeological adviser to Guildford Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine and Natasha Bennett between the 19th and 21st of December 2006 and the site code is 225HSG06/138. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Guildford Museum Service.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the north-eastern end of High Street, Guildford to the rear of properties 225-227 'Eastgate House' (Fig. 2). To the rear, north, of the buildings is a small yard/garden area with several stone steps leading to a gravelled area. Oil tanks take up part of the site to east and a small outhouse is to the far west of the site. The site lies at approximately 57m above Ordnance Datum, and the underlying geology is Upper Chalk (BGS 1976).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is that it lies within the historic core of medieval and later Guildford. On the High Street a number of properties have been examined during renovation works. These include the examination of a possible late 12th-century synagogue at 50-54 High Street. Several of the High Street properties include stone-lined cellars. Several pits containing 13th-14th century pottery were recorded at 240

High Street together with a possible lime kiln, backfilled with 18th century material (Jackson *et al.* 1997). Medieval pits have been recorded at 192-4 and 196 High Street (Lowe 2004, Pine in prep).

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 are:

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- To determine if archaeological deposits of medieval deposits are present.

A single trench, aligned east-west, was hand excavated located as shown on Figure 3. It was 5m long and 1.5m wide, equivalent to 8% of the new building footprint. Due to health and safety considerations only parts of the trench were excavated beyond a depth of 1.20m employing small sondages. A summary of deposits and features recorded forms Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 (Fig 4 and Plates 1 and 2)

A layer of decorative gravel was first removed onto a thin layer of plastic sheeting. This sealed a made ground deposit (50), c. 0.27m deep, which contained brick and tile rubble (not retained), plastic and glass. This overlay a compact red brick surface (51) within which sherds of 19th- to 20th-century pottery were incorporated. This was observed along the whole length and width of the trench and was possibly a previous yard surface. This sealed a dark sandy silt levelling layer (53) which contained, amongst a wide range of finds, an assemblage of pottery including 19th-20th century mass produced white earthenware.

At the eastern end of the trench a thin dump deposit (56) probably of similar date overlay a mortar dump deposit (57). This deposit was truncated to the west by a cut feature (1) which was at least 1.5m north-south, 1.10m east-west and 0.28m deep. Pit 1 contained finds of mixed date and probably dates no earlier than the 19th century.

Stratigraphically beneath deposit 57 was a dark grey brown silt deposit (59) which contained pottery of mid 16th century-18th century date and a number of clay pipe stems, so is more likely to date to the mid 17th or 18th century. A probable pit (3) was recorded stratigraphically below this and was at least 0.70m by 1.5 and 0.40m

deep. Two of its fills (63 and 65) were a mix of chalk and mortar rubble with tile fragments and occasional flints which contained clay pipe together with pottery produced between the mid 16th century and the 18th century, again, more likely to be towards the end of this range.

This truncated a mid grey/brown layer (66) which was at least 1.30m deep and contained four sherds of medieval whiteware pottery, produced between the 13th and 15th centuries. This in turn sealed the chalk natural at 55.54m AOD.

At the western end of the trench, below layer 53, a small pit (2) was 1.50m by at least 0.70m and 0.46m deep. This contained pottery of mid 16th-18th century date from fill (62) but 19th-20th century material from a later fill (58). Given the similarity of fills and finds, it is possible that cuts 1 and 2 are the same feature.

This pit truncated layer (61) from which mid 16th-18th century pottery together with a single sherd of mass produced white earthenware was recovered. This layer (61) was a mid grey/brown silt and was c.0.40m deep and also contained clay pipe, metal, glass, brick and tile; a 19th century date is most likely but a slightly earlier date is possible if the one sherd of late pottery is intrusive.

In turn stratigraphically this overlay another deposit (67) which was a light grey/brown sandy silt and 0.38m deep. The pottery from this deposit includes white wares of 13th-15th century, red border wares and white wares of mid 16th-18th century date together with six sherds of manganese mottled ware of late 17th-18th century date. A single large sherd of mass produced earthenware was almost certainly accidentally introduced to this deposit during the excavation process and is not thought to provide a *terminus post quem* for it.

Beneath layer 67 observed within the small sondage was deposit 68, which was a mid grey/brown silt c. 0.20m deep. A single sherd of whiteware of 13th-15th century date was recovered from this deposit along with a quantity of animal bone. In turn this overlay what appears to be a dump of unmortared flint rubble in a silty matrix (69). Beneath this the natural geology (chalk) was observed at 55.08mAOD.

The difference in the heights of the natural geology between the eastern and western ends of the trench could be explained by a natural slope in the bedrock but an alternative is there is a cut feature at the western end of the trench not uncovered during these investigations.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 105 sherds with a total weight of 1550g. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 2. Each date should be regarded as a

terminus post quem. The majority of the material was of post-medieval date, although small quantities of mostly residual medieval pottery were also noted. They indicate that there was activity at the site from the 13th century onwards.

Fabric

Where appropriate, the codings and chronology of the provisional type series of the Surrey County Archaeological Unit (Jones 1998, 211-238) were used, as follows:

WW: Whitewares, 13th – 15th century. 12 sherds, 73g.

RW: Post-medieval redwares, mid-16th – 18th century. 40 sherds, 771g.

WW3: Border wares, mid-16th – 18th century. 13 sherds, 139g.

The following, not covered by the Surrey type-series, were also noted:

CIST: Cistercian Ware c. AD1470-1550 (Brears 1969). Hard, smooth fabric, usually brick-red, but can be paler or browner. Few visible inclusions, except for occasional quartz grains. Range of vessel forms somewhat specialized, and usually very thin-walled (c. 2mm). Rare white slip decoration. 1 sherd, 2g.

GSt: Rhenish Stonewares. AD1480+. (Gaimster 1997). A range of hard, grey, salt-glazed fabrics produced at numerous sites in the Rhineland. Main vessel form in Britain mugs, imported into London and other ports in vast quantities from the 16th century onwards. 1 sherd, 41g

MANG: Manganese Mottled Ware late 17th – 18th century (Barker 1999). Fine, buff fabric, with vessels usually covered with a mottled purple and brown glaze, which is generally lighter on the more modern examples. A wide range of domestic vessel forms, but mugs and chamber pots are particularly common. 7 sherds, 80g.

19th: Mass-produced white earthenwares 19th – 20th century. 31 sherds, 444g

The range of fabric types is typical of the region. The earliest medieval pottery types present were Surrey Whitewares, indicating that activity at the site did not begin until the 13th century, with the rest of the assemblage showing that there was more or less continuous activity from then until the present day.

The assemblage was generally fairly fragmented, with a mean sherd weight around 15g, although most sherds were fresh and unabraded. It appears wholly domestic in nature, with no evidence of specialist or unusual vessel forms.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was excavated from eight contexts (Appendix 3). A total of 31 pieces were analyzed, weighing 458g. The majority of bone was fragmented, although fairly well preserved, with little surface damage noted. The minimum number of species present was determined to be three: Cattle, sheep/goat and cat. The identifiable elements were (Appendix 2): a cat humerus (left) and two tibiae (left and right). A sheep/goat sized pelvic fragment (acetabulum) and cranial fragment. A highly fragmented cow skull was identified, along with some cattle sized ribs. Evidence of butchery marks was not observed on any skeletal element.

Other Finds by Natasha Bennett

Glass

Fourteen glass fragments, weighing a total of 387g, were recovered from various contexts (Appendix 4). Of the recovered sherds, seven were generic body sherds of varying shades of green, most likely modern. The remaining consisted of clear partial neck and base sherds from layer (50) the inscription on the base makes it evident that it is a milk bottle. A small square base, was recovered from (56), this is likely to be mould made and therefore post 1660s. Layer (65) contained the remains of a large base of indeterminate age. Deposit (53) contained 2 sherds of clear green glass, one of which is clearly from a lamp.

Clay Pipe

Twenty-three fragments of clay pipe, the majority being stem fragments, weighing a total of 129g were recovered from various contexts (Appendix 5). Of these, the most notable of these was the almost complete pipe from context (50), the spur has the embossed initials 'W' and 'C'. A complete bowl was recovered from deposit (53) and has a decoration, unclear, on the bowl with embossed lettering apparently in Gaelic and including the word 'Erin', the bowl edges are decorated with linear impressions.

Metal

Three metal objects, weighing 71g, were recovered during field work (Appendix 6). From layer (61), two iron nails were recovered and from context (53) an L-shaped iron object, which weighed 47g.

Brick and Tile

Seventy fragments of brick and tile were recovered (Appendix 7) They weighed in total 4094g. The majority are non-diagnostic roof tiles, though a small number of peg roof tiles were identified. No floor tiles, neither plain nor decorated were recovered.

Shell

Two shell fragments were recovered from contexts, (59) and (66), they weighed in total 17g. They are possibly scallop shells.

Stone

Three fragments of slate roof tile were retained from 19th century layers 50 and 51, weighing 56g.

Charred Seed remains

A 10 litre sample from layer 67 was sieved for environmental remains. No charred seeds were observed, however, the sample contained a small quantity of comminuted charcoal.

Conclusion

Within this small evaluation trench a complex sequence of deposits and cut features was recorded, to a depth of 1.85m below the present land surface. Some of the deposits and features were of 19th-20th century date but pit 3 and some of the lower layers appeared to be dated to earlier in the post-medieval period, most likely mid 17th-18th century. There is a possibility of the presence of medieval deposits, as some of the lower layers (66 and 68) contained exclusively medieval sherds of pottery although only in small quantities. As discussed above there is also the chance of an unrecognized cut feature at the south-west end of the trench. The results further illustrated that although there is some 19th-20th century activity, its disturbance of earlier deposits appears minimal and that there is a deeply stratified sequence of archaeological deposits present.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Deposit	Type	Date (Century AD)	Dating evidence
1		50	Layer	19th – 20th	Pottery
1		51	Layer	19th – 20th	Pottery
1		52	Layer	19th – 20th	Stratigraphy
1		53	Layer	19th – 20th	Pottery
1	1	54	Pit	Mid 18th-19th	Stratigraphy
1	1	55	Pit	Mid 16th-18th	Pottery
1		56	Layer	19th-20th	Pottery
1		57	Layer	Late 17th-19th?	Clay pipe, stratigraphy
1		58	Layer	19th-20th	Pottery
1		59	Layer	Late 17th-18th	Pottery, Clay pipe
1	2	60	Pit	19th-20th	Stratigraphy
1		61	Layer	19th?	Pottery, clay pipe
1	2	62	Pit	19th-20th	Stratigraphy
1	3	63	Pit	Mid 16th-18th	Pottery
1	3	64	Pit	Mid 16th-18th	Stratigraphy
1	3	65	Pit	Mid 16th-18th	Pottery
1		66	Layer	13th-15th	Pottery
1		67	Layer	Late 17th-18th	Pottery
1		68	Layer	13th-15th	Pottery
1		69	Layer	(earlier than 68)	Stratigraphy
1	1	70	Pit	Mid 16th-18th	Stratigraphy

APPENDIX 2: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

		WW		GSt		CIST		RW		WW3		MANG		19thC	
Cut	Context	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
	50							2	36	1	10			9	77
	51	2	5					1	2					2	17
	53							4	69			1	10	13	174
1	54	1	2					1	8					1	1
	56							5	46	1	1			1	3
2	58							3	110					3	105
	59							3	17	7	61				
	61			1	41			3	62	1	16			1	29
2	62							1	17						
3	63					1	2	12	272	1	25				
3	65							1	8						
	66	4	9												
	67	4	29					4	124	2	26	6	70	1	38
	68	1	28												
	Total	12	73	1	41	1	2	40	771	13	139	7	80	31	444

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Animal Bone

Cut	Context	No. Fragments	Weight (g)	Cattle Sized	Sheep Sized	Other
2	58	2	13	1	-	-
	59	2	7	-	-	-
	61	3	14	-	-	2 cat tibiae
2	62	1	3	-	-	-
3	63	4	25	-	-	-
	66	1	5	-	1	-
	67	17	387	9	1	-
	68	1	4	-	-	1 cat humerus
	Total	31	458	10	2	3

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Glass.

Cut	Context	Type	Form	Colour	No
	50	Layer	neck and base	Clear	3
	51	Layer	Frag	dark green	1
	53	Layer		Light green	2
	56	Layer	base of square bottle frag	light blue	1
	56	Layer		dark green	1
	58	Layer		olive green	1
	61	Layer	kick frag	dark green	1
2	62	Pit	body sherds	light green/opaque	2
3	65	Pit	part of kick	dark green	1
	67	Layer	body sherd?	light green with opaque	1

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Clay Pipe

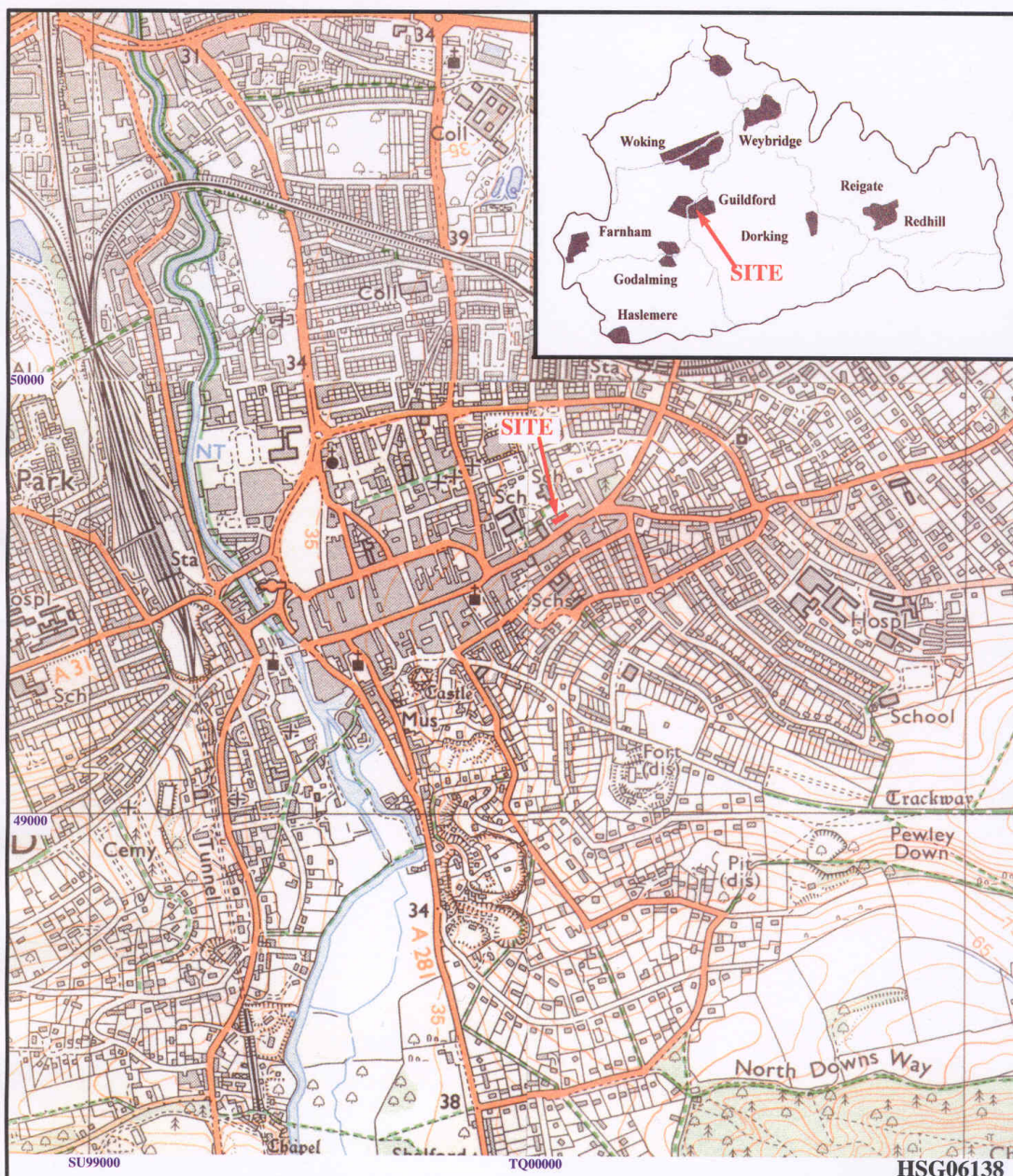
Cut	Context	Type	No Complete	No Stems	No Bowls	Wt (g)	Mark
	50	Layer	1			16	possible
	53	Layer		3	1	30	Yes
1	54	Pit		1		9	
	56	Layer		2		10	
	57	Layer		1	1	7	None
	58	Layer		2		6	
	59	Layer		9		30	
	61	Layer		3		13	
3	63	Pit		1		8	

APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of Metal.

Cut	Context	Type	Cat No	Material	Type	No	Wt (g)	Breadth	Length
	53	Layer	3	Iron		1	47	9mm	70mm
	61	Layer	1	Iron	Nail	1	17	10mm	70mm
	61	Layer	2	Iron	Nail	1	7	5mm	52mm

APPENDIX 7: Catalogue of Brick and Tile.

Cut	Context	Type	No	Wt (g)
	53	Layer	2	7
	57	Layer	1	8
	58	Layer	1	115
	59	Layer	6	154
	61	Layer	7	557
2	62	Pit	9	1384
3	63	Pit	21	1245
3	65	Pit	1	22
	66	Layer	8	216
	67	Layer	14	386

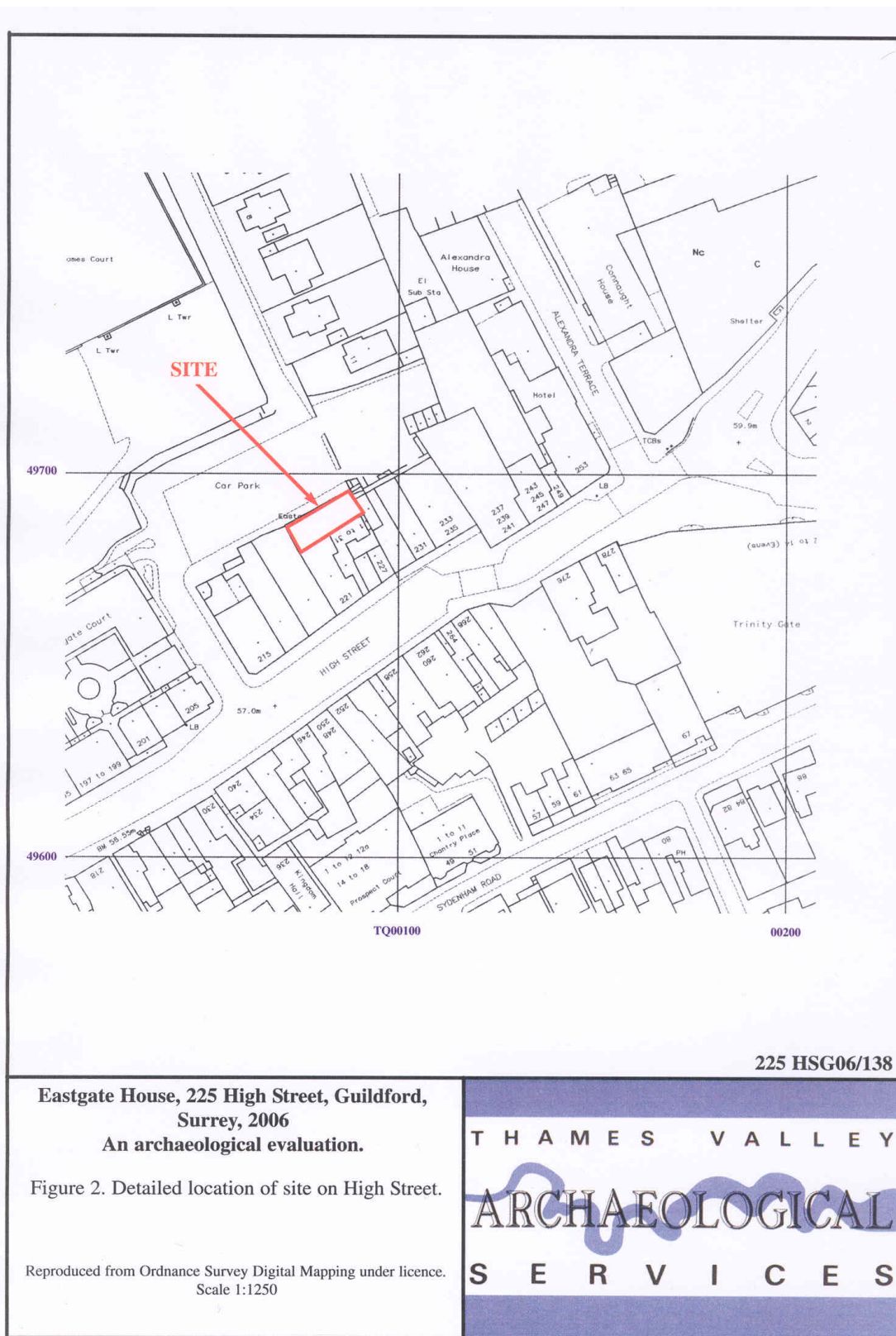


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Figure 1. Location of site within Guildford and
Surrey.

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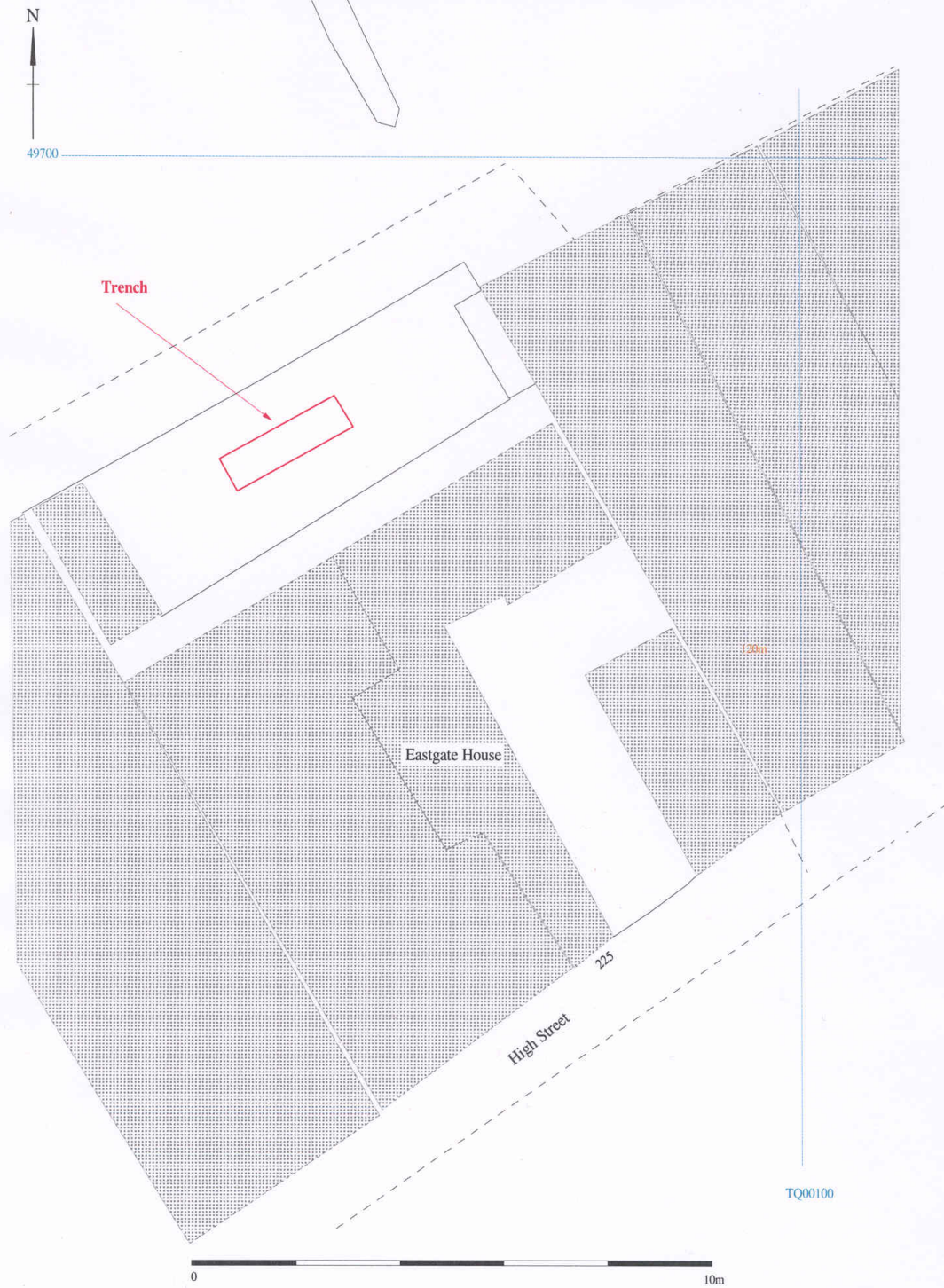


Figure 3. Location of Trench.

225HSG06/138

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Figure 4. North facing section and plan of trench.



Plate 1. Trench looking south-west, Scale 0.3m.



Plate 2. Section at north-eastern end of trench, vertical scale 0.3m.