

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey,
Manor Park, Guildford, Surrey**

Terrace 3

Archaeological Recording Action

by Luis Esteves and Andy Taylor

Site Code: MPG15/262

(SU 9725 4905)

**Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey,
Manor Park, Guildford, Surrey**

Terrace 3

An Archaeological Recording Action

for the University of Surrey

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Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MPG 15/262

June 2016

Summary

Site name: Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Manor Park, Guildford, Surrey

Grid reference: SU 9725 4905

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 24th-28th May 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: MPG 15/262

Area of site: c.0.8 hectares

Summary of results: A single undated ditch was observed during the stripping of the site. It may be the terminal of a medieval ditch previously recorded to the east, but contained no independent dating evidence.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.06.16 Steve Preston ✓ 20.06.16

Terrace 3, Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Manor Park, Guildford, Surrey An Archaeological Recording Action

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Report 15/262

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out for the creation of Terrace 3 at Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Manor Park, Guildford, Surrey (SU 9725 4905) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Igor Rukuts, of Fulkers LLP, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London SE1 7SJ on behalf of Professor Stephen Baker, Development Director, University of Surrey, Research Park Office, 30 Frederick Sanger Road, The Surrey Research Park, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7EF.

Planning permission (02/P/02505) from application (04/P/0136) has been granted by Guildford Borough Council for the University to redevelop an area of *c.*60 hectares for new accommodation, research and sports facilities, with this phase covering *c.*2 hectares for a third phase of sports pitches on Terrace 3. An archaeological recording action was required during the construction of the pitches.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves between the 24th and 28th May 2016 and the site code is MPG 15/262. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Guildford Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located approximately 3km south-west of the historic core of Guildford on land close to the ridge known as the Hogs Back (Fig. 1). The site consisted of open grassland and is bounded by further sports pitches to the north, the A3 to the south and a trackway and sporadic housing to the west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1976), which was observed across the site. It lies at a height of *c.*95m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the proposed pitch location has been indicated by a number of archaeological investigations that have taken place around the proposal site during the last decade (Pine 2012) (Fig. 2). Excavations to the north-west of the proposal area indicated prehistoric use of the landscape and include a Bronze Age midden, pits and woodland management. Later prehistoric occupation takes the form of a small Iron Age farmstead and later field system. Excavations to the north indicated Saxon use of the site with the recording of hearth pits. A number of evaluation trenches in the proposal area, together with a small open area excavation to the south east contained medieval linear features. Recording during construction of terrace 2, immediately to the north, revealed additional linear features, pits, postholes and quarry features certainly or probably of medieval date along with a possible Iron Age feature (Bray and Porter 2013). A recording action to the north during the construction of the Veterinary School and a balancing pond did not identify any archaeological deposits (Taylor 2014). These results were anticipated given that the current proposal site lies adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Manor Farm which contains the site of a hunting lodge of the Royal Park of Guildford created in the reign of Henry II (Crocker 2003). The remains there include a moat and limited excavations in the 1970s revealed medieval occupation.

Objectives and methodology

General objectives of the recording action were:

- to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within areas threatened by the development;
- to produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- to establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic etc.; and
- to produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

Specific research aims of the project were to answer the following questions;

- When was the site first occupied?
- When was the site first abandoned?
- Are there further medieval deposits and if so how do they relate to the moated Royal hunting lodge?
- What is the nature and date of and landscape features encountered (eg fields, boundary features, large enclosures) and what is there spatial organisation?
- What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the area?

The area was to be stripped of overburden using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. All archaeological features would then be

planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, with excavation undertaken according to an agreed sampling strategy depending on feature type.

Results

The stripped area measured *c.* 0.8ha in area (Fig. 3) with stratigraphy consisting of *c.*0.20m of topsoil overlying between 0.10m and 0.30m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology.

A single ditch was revealed on the eastern side of the area, extending 12m from the eastern edge of the area then turning sharply north for 2m before terminating. Two slots (1 and 2) were dug across it showing it to measure between 0.50m and 0.70m wide and between 0.21m and 0.30m deep (Fig. 4). However, no dating evidence was recovered from the ditch despite soil samples also being taken and sieved.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the recording action.

Conclusion

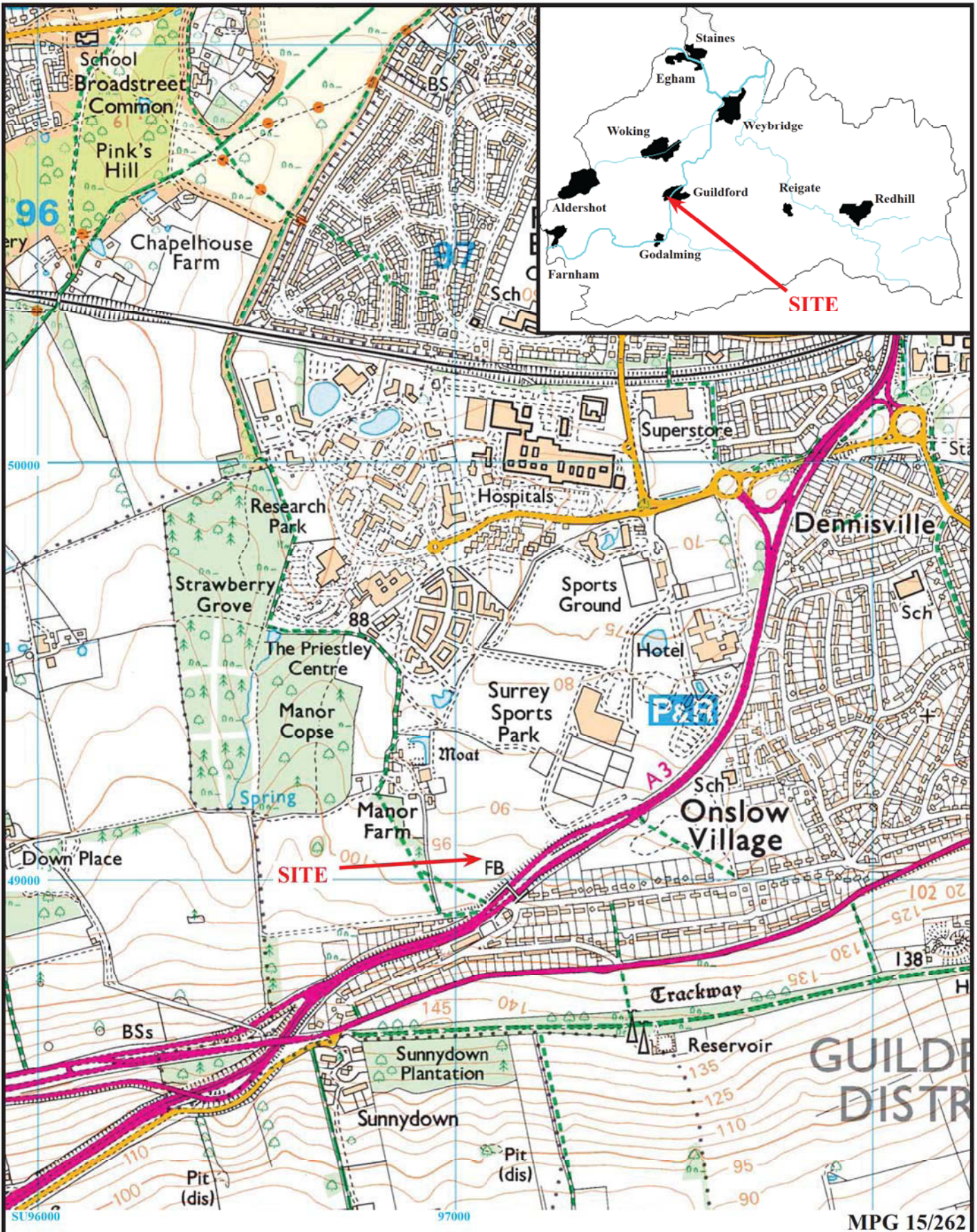
The archaeological recording action identified a single ditch of unknown date. It seems possible that this ditch is the same as a medieval ditch (5020) found in an area strip which took place to the east. (Pine 2012, fig. 4.18). However, both the zone unexcavated between the two areas and the seemingly different alignment of these features causes a degree of uncertainty as to whether they are the same feature.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D and Porter, S, 2013, 'Surrey Sports Park, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, an archaeological recording action', Thames valley Archaeological Services report **13/75**, Reading
- Crocker, A, 2003, 'An analysis of accounts for repairs to buildings in the Royal Park of Guildford in 1514', *Surrey Archaeol Collect* **90**, 211–32
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Pine, J, 2012, 'Multi-period occupation at Manor Park, Guildford (2003–9)', in S Preston (ed), *Archaeological Investigations in Surrey, 1997-2009*, TVAS Monogr **11**, Reading, 38–94
- Taylor, A, 2014, 'Veterinary School, Research Park, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey, an archaeological recording action', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **13/17**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Feature details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	50	Ditch Terminus	Probably medieval
2	51	Ditch	Probably medieval



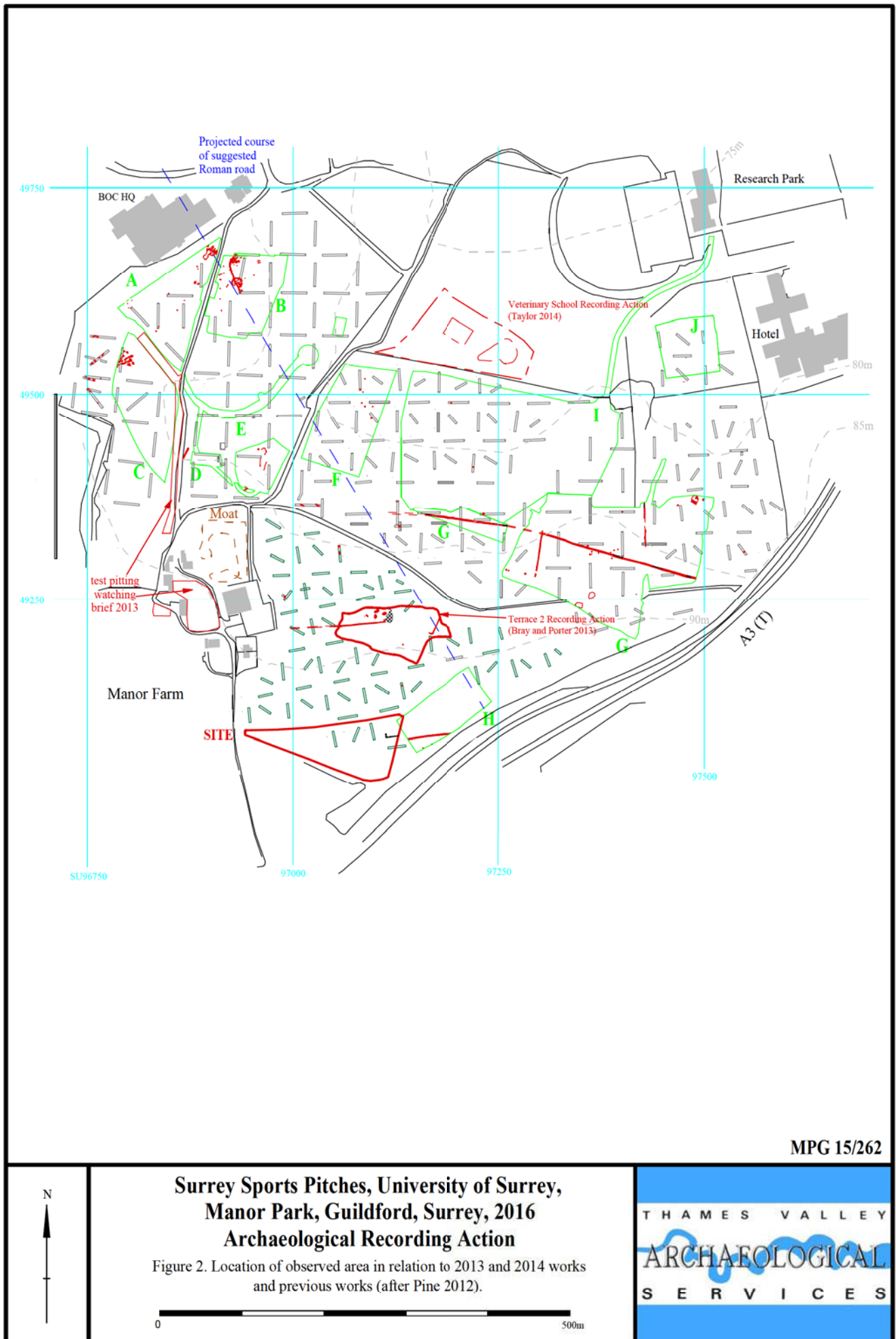
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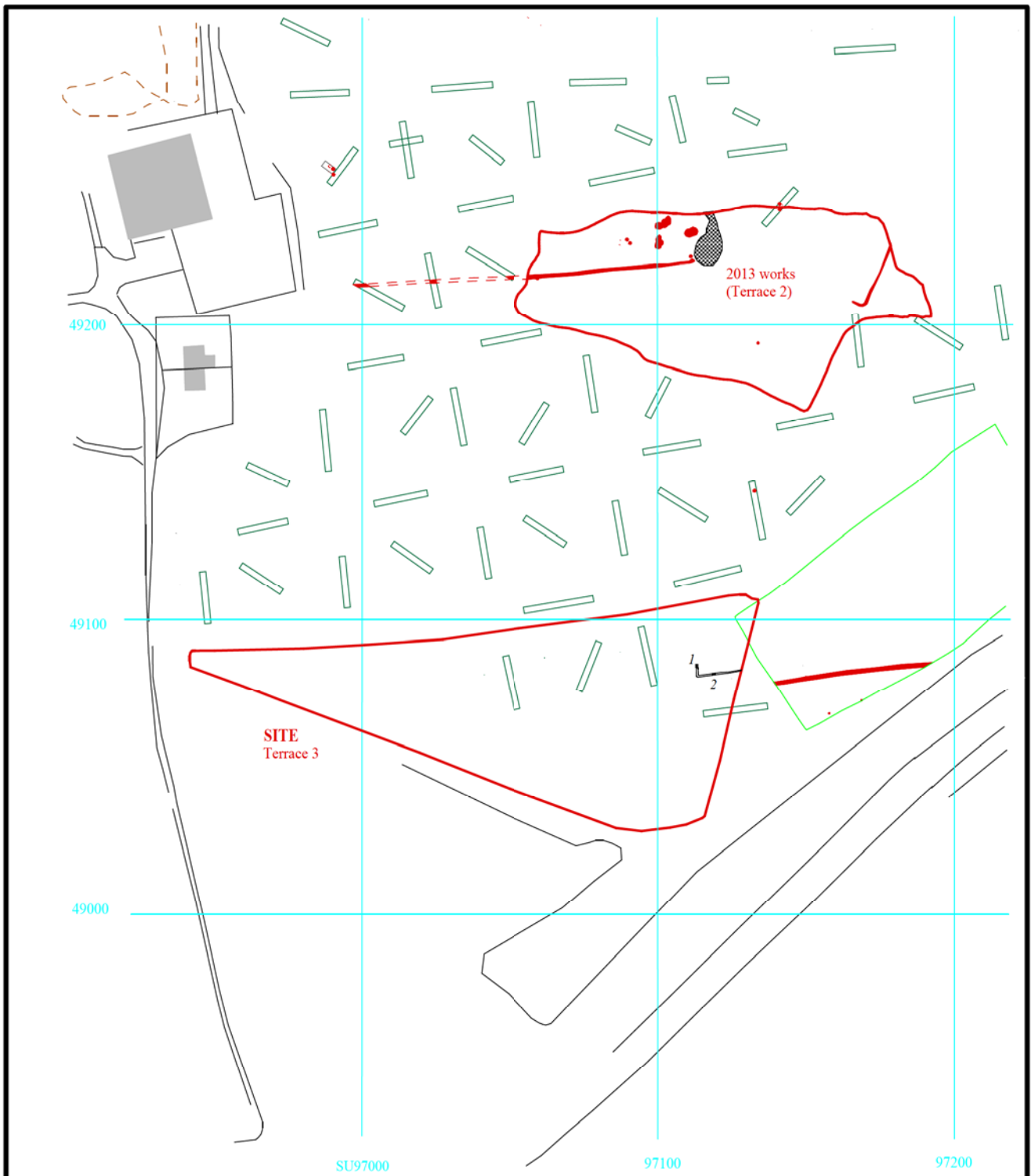
Archaeological Recording Action (Terrace 3)

Figure 1. Location of site within Guildford and Surrey.

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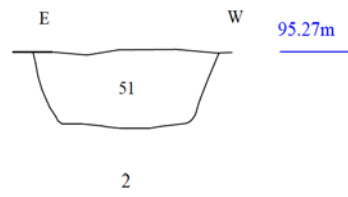
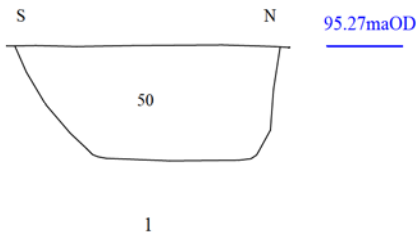
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Figure 3. Detail of 2016 area observed and previous work in the environs.

0 100m

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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Ditch, looking west.



Plate 2. Ditch slot 1, looking south, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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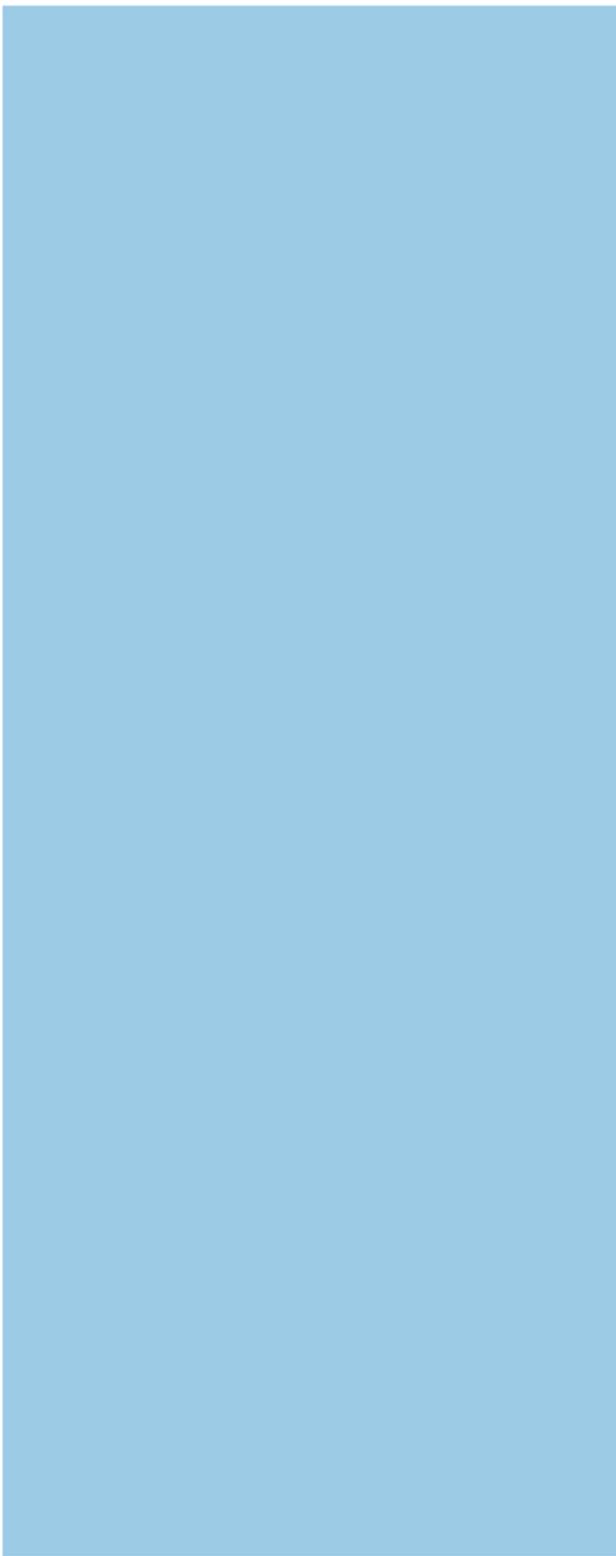
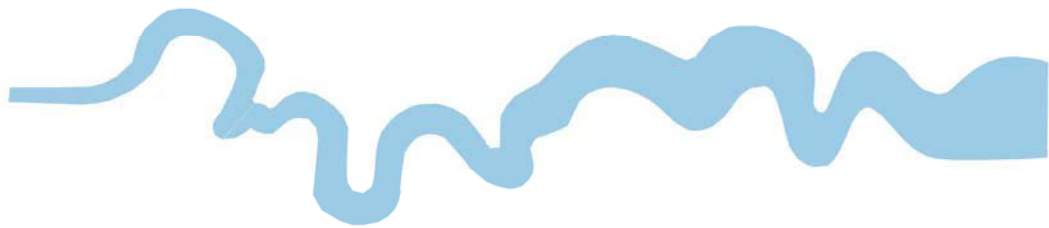
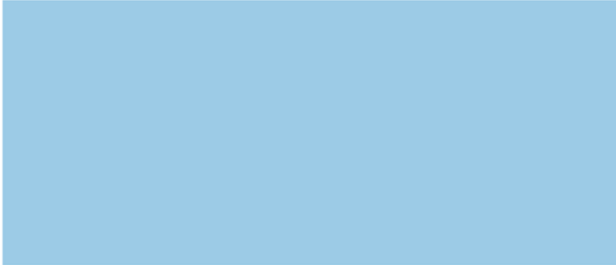
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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