

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**New Museum/Science Block Extension, Charterhouse
School, Godalming, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Site Code: CSG16/156

(SU 9642 4515)

**New Museum/Science Block Extension,
Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Charterhouse School**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSG
16/156

December 2016

Summary

Site name: New Museum/Science Block Extension, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey

Grid reference: SU 9642 4515

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 30th November 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: CSG 16/156

Area of site: c. 250 sq m within overall site of 0.4ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Charterhouse School revealed that the northern part of the development site had been significantly truncated in the past, possibly to create adequate drainage for the nearby playing field. Based on site levels and previous use, it seems likely that this truncation extends throughout the entire development area. As a result, any archaeological deposits which might ever have been present are likely to have been destroyed by previous groundworks.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 09.12.16 Steve Preston✓ 09.12.16

New Museum/Science Block Extension, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 16/156

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey (SU 9642 4515) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Christine Dadswell of ASP, Old Bank Chambers, London Road, Crowborough, TN6 2TT, on behalf of Charterhouse School.

Planning permission (WA/2015/2051) has been gained from Waverley Borough Council for the construction of a new museum/science block extension. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, requiring a programme of archaeological work. It was determined that this should take the place, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenches, based on the results of which, further mitigation might be required.

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 of Surrey County Council, who advises Waverley Borough Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Jim Webster on 30th November 2016, and the site code is CSG 16/156. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with Reigate Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Charterhouse School is located to the north-west of the historic core of Godalming, with the two places being separated by the River Wey which flows to the south of the present site (Fig. 1). The development site is centred on NGR SU 9642 4515, and is within the school grounds, bounded to the north by playing fields, to the west by New Block, to the east by the Beveridge Centre, and to the south by a car park and the existing museum block (Fig. 2). The area where the evaluation trenches were dug was occupied by part of the car park, three small buildings which are to be demolished, and a small area of grass immediately south of the playing field. The area was generally flat, although there was a pronounced drop between the grassed area to the north and the car park to the south (Pl. 1). As a result, the height above Ordnance Datum varies between approximately 95m and 96m.

According to the British Geological Survey the site is located on the Lower Greensand, close to the junction between Bargate Beds and Folkestone Beds (BGS 1976). The natural geology observed during the evaluation consisted of light yellow brown clayey sand.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Price 2015). In summary, the site lies in a location which is noted for the presence of Roman archaeology. Several stray finds have been noted for the environs of the school, with a number of sites and finds being recorded in formal investigations associated with earlier construction work at the school, such as to the west (Hall 1999, fig. 1). These finds include cremation burials and various ditches and pits, typical of settlement deposits. One record is for an Iron Age pit. Charterhouse School was established on the site in the 1870s, having relocated from London. The school complex grew throughout the 19th, 20th and early 21st centuries. Historic maps indicate that the central and southern parts of the present development site were previously occupied by a number of buildings, some of which have been demolished.

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 proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present.

Two trenches were to be dug, each measuring 10m in length and 1.60m in width. The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the development site which had not obviously been disturbed by previous activity. The 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.

Results

It became apparent early on that the northern part of the development site had been heavily disturbed by various services, which had to be treated as being "live". In an attempt to avoid these services, it was decided to subdivide the trenches and only dig in areas where no known services were expected. Thus four trenches were

eventually excavated, measuring between 1.50m and 5.50m in length, all 1.6m wide, and between 0.44m and 1.15m in depth. These changes to the agreed scheme were confirmed in a telephone conversation with the Surrey County Council Archaeological Officer (Mr Nick Truckle), once it became apparent that the area had been severely truncated in the past. A complete list of the trenches, giving lengths, breadths, depths, and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 5.50m long and up to 0.44m deep. Excavation ceased when two services were uncovered, running across the trench. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil (50) above at least 0.24m of mid orange brown silty sand (51). The subsequent excavation of Trench 2 indicated that deposit 51 was probably a made ground layer. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was 2.50m long and up to 1.15m deep, and was orientated approximately SW-NE. Excavation ceased when a telecommunications cable was uncovered along the southern edge of the trench. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.24m of topsoil (50), 0.76m of mid orange brown silty sand (51), and 0.15m of loose chalk rubble (52). The chalk rubble lay directly above the natural geology, which consisted of light yellow brown clayey sand. It was obvious from the stratigraphy and site levels that the area had been significantly disturbed in the past, with made ground deposits being recorded directly above the truncated natural geology. The reason for this truncation is unclear, but it is possible that the chalk rubble was laid down for drainage purposes, due to the close proximity of the playing field. Unsurprisingly, no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was 4.20m long and up to 1.15m deep, and was orientated approximately SE-NW. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.89m of mid orange brown silty sand (51). Although the area had clearly been truncated in a similar way to that recorded in Trench 2, no trace of the chalk rubble deposit was recorded in this trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4)

This trench ended up as a test pit to establish the possible extent of the truncation noted in Trenches 2 and 3, and was 1.50m long and 1.00m deep. The natural geology was revealed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50), 0.55m of mid

orange brown silty sand (51) and 0.20m of loose chalk rubble (52). No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

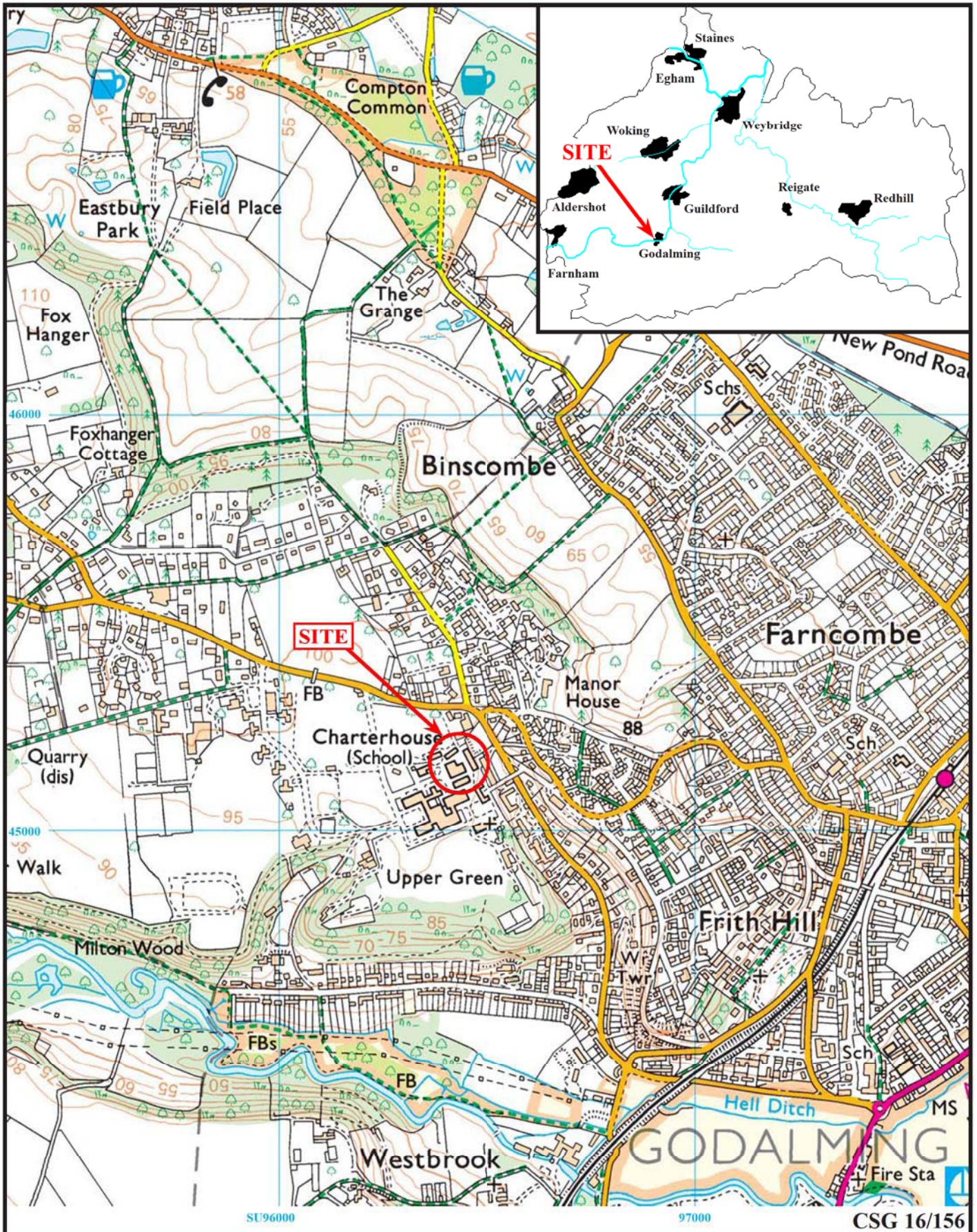
The archaeological evaluation at Charterhouse School revealed that the northern part of the development site had been significantly truncated in the past, possibly to create adequate drainage for the nearby playing field. Based on site levels and previous use, it seems likely that this truncation extends throughout the entire development area. As a result, any archaeological deposits which might ever have been present are likely to have been destroyed by previous groundworks.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Drift Edition, Keyworth.
- Hall, M, 1999, 'Excavation of part of a Roman settlement at Charterhouse, near Godalming, Surrey, 1994', *Surrey Archaeol Collect* **86**, 151–61
- Price, S, 2015, 'Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey - historic environment desk-based assessment', Archaeology South East unpublished report **2015193**, Portslade.
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	5.50	1.60	0.44	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.44m+ mid orange brown silty sand made ground (51). [Pl. 1] Several live services present
2	2.50	1.60	1.15	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24-1.00m mid orange brown silty sand made ground (51); 1.00-1.15m chalk rubble made ground (52); 1.15m+ natural geology (light yellow brown clayey sand). [Pl. 2] . Live service present
3	4.20	1.60	1.15	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-1.15m mid orange brown silty sand made ground (51); 1.15m+ natural geology (light yellow brown clayey sand). [Pl. 3]
4	1.50	1.60	1.00	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.80m mid orange brown silty sand made ground (51); 0.80-1.00m chalk rubble made ground (52); 1.00m+ natural geology (light yellow brown clayey sand).

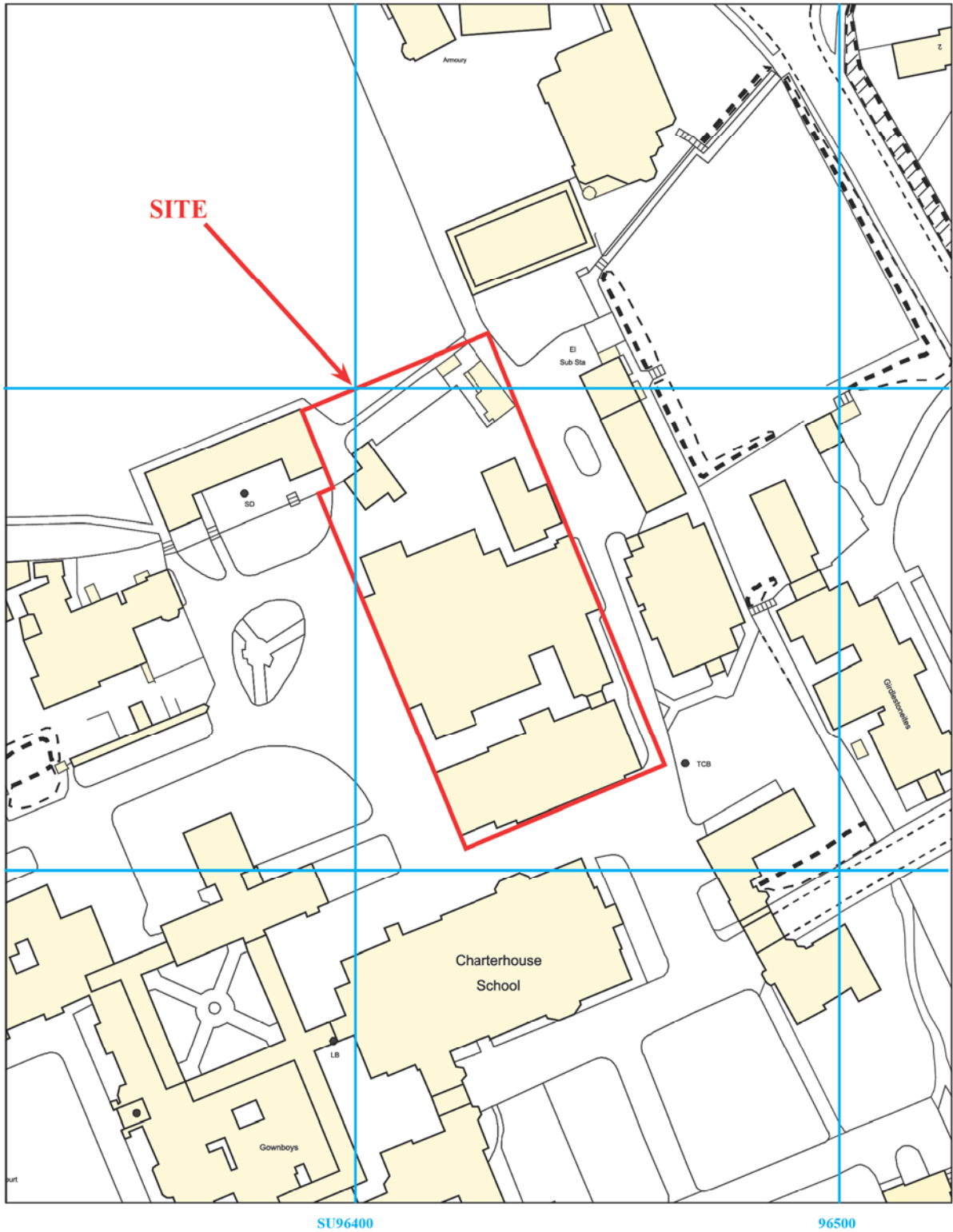


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Figure 1. Location of site within Godalming and Surrey

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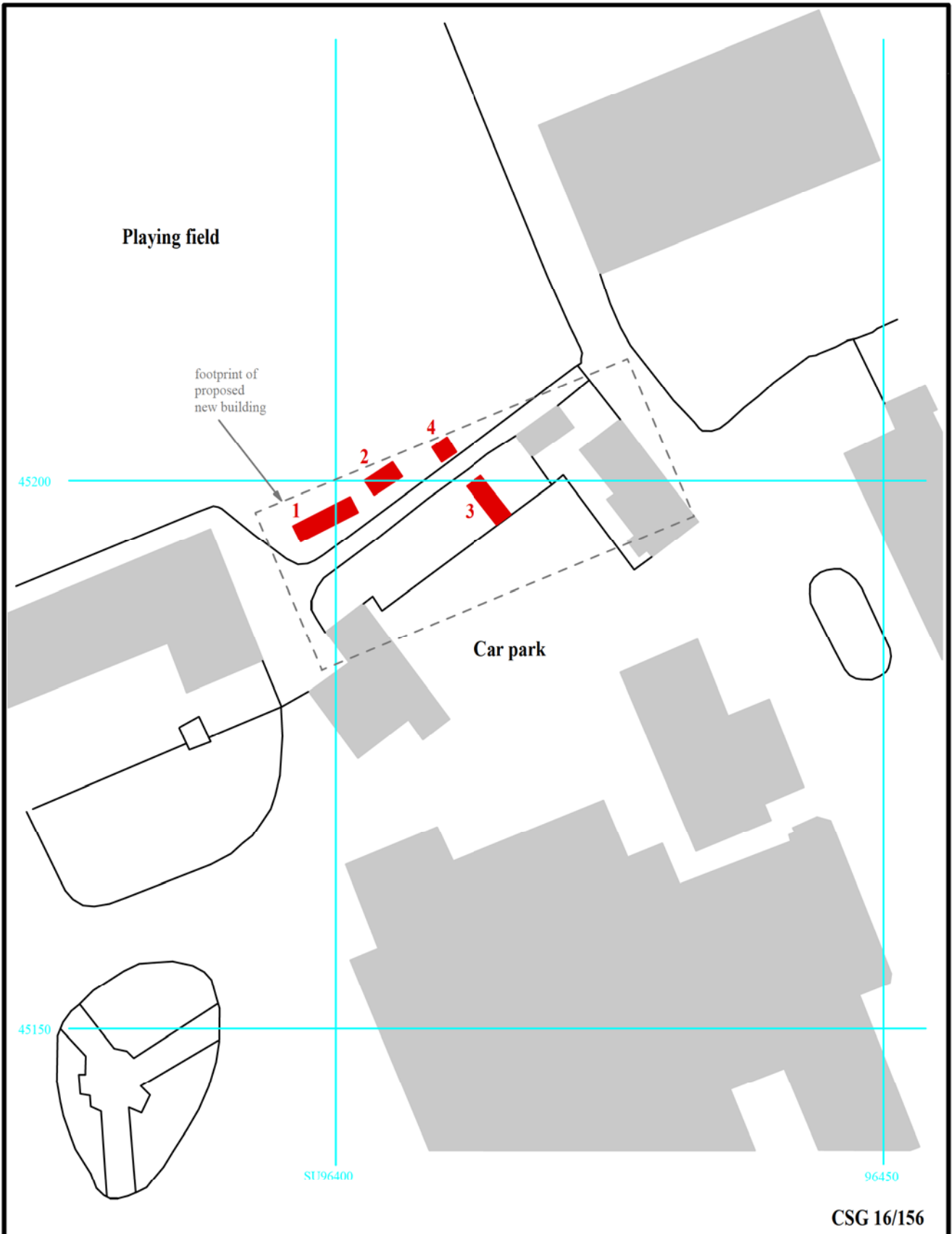


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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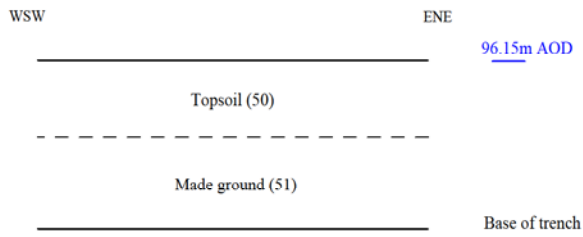
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

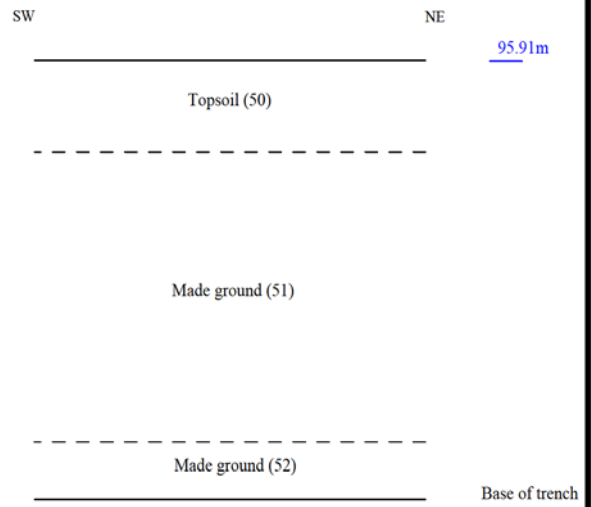


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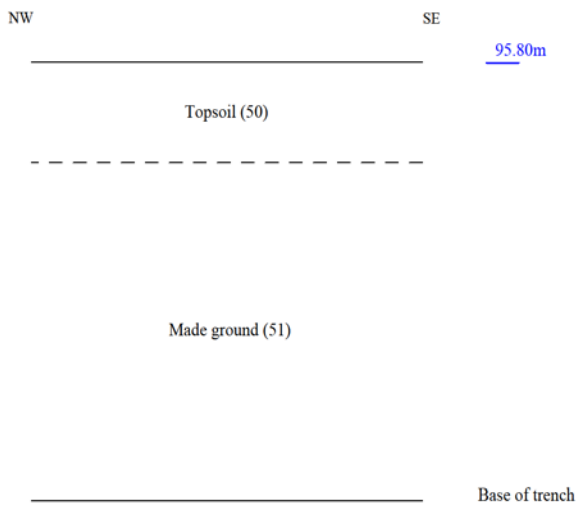
Trench 1



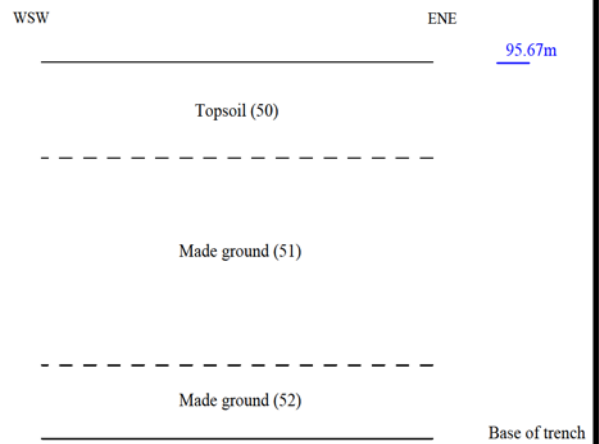
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. General view of site prior to evaluation, looking South West.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking North East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking South West. Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking North West. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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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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