

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane,  
Farnham, Surrey**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Luis Esteves**

**Site Code: OHF15/171**

**(SU 8559 4638)**

**Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane,  
Farnham, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr & Mrs M Lamb**

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OHF15/171

**March 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey

**Grid reference:** SU 8559 4638

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 6th – 7th March 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Luís Esteves

**Site code:** OHF 15/171

**Area of site:** c.1ha

**Summary of results:** Three trenches were dug as intended, however no features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered during the course of the evaluation.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.03.17 Steve Preston✓ 09.03.17
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# Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

**Report 15/171c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey (SU 8559 4638) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Carole Stellman of JKL Planning, 12 Rushmore Close, Fleet, Hampshire GU52 7LD, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Max Lamb of 63 Broomleaf Close, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8DQ.

Planning consent (WA/2016/0267) has been sought from Waverley Borough Council for the construction of a new house on a parcel of land at Overwood House. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the groundworks, a field evaluation has been required as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Maisie Foster on 6th-7th March 2017 and the site code is OHF15/171. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reigate Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site lies approximately 1.5km to the east of the centre of Farnham and directly south-west of the hamlet of Compton. The area spans two meadows with the proposed access extending north-westwards to Old Compton Lane, giving a total area of c.1ha (Fig. 1 and 2). The main site area is flat and thickly wooded around its fringes with mixed deciduous and coniferous trees, with a more open space towards the centre of the site. The underlying geology is mapped as Folkstone Formation sandstone (BGS 1976) and this was observed in the trenches as silty sand with gravel. The site slopes up from c.90m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the eastern corner to c.97m aOD at the western edge.

## **Archaeological background**

A desk-based assessment was undertaken for the site which details the historical and archaeological background to the area (Dawson 2015). In summary, there are no designated heritage assets on the site itself although a Roman pottery kiln was excavated in the 1920s, one of several in the area. Early Ordnance Survey maps plot the location of this just outside the site, immediately adjacent to the north-western corner, but recent mapping shows it just within the site's boundaries. This kiln is part of the early Alice Holt tradition of pottery making and considered to be of some significance. As a result, the entire field falls within an Area of High Archaeological Potential in the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER). Besides this specific potential, Stoneyfields gravel pit, to the south-west, has produced flint finds of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic date, along with an extensive urnfield (cremation burials) of Middle Bronze Age date and further cremations of Roman date. These findings were made in the first half of the 20th century.

As part of the current project, a geophysical survey was carried out across the accessible parts of the present site (Beaverstock and Dawson 2016). This revealed four anomalies considered to be of potential archaeological origin: possibly three pits and an area that appeared to reflect thermoremnance (burning) that might indicate another kiln. The area in which the known kiln is thought to have lain was under thick woodland and was not surveyed.

## **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 work was to be carried out in a manner that would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warranted preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were;

- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived in this site; and
- to determine if any kiln feature or deposits are present on the site.

It was proposed to dig three trenches, each 10m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were positioned to target the footprint of the new building and an anomaly identified during the geophysical survey (Beaverstock and Dawson 2016) (Fig. 3). Overburden was to be removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were 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 outlined above.

## **Results**

All three trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 10.5m to 11.5m and in depth from 0.45m to 0.5m and all were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 11m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.31m of light orange/brown silty sand subsoil overlying a light orange silty sand with stones natural geology. No archaeological features were present.

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

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 10.5m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil and 0.27m of light orange/brown silty sand subsoil overlying a light orange silty sand markedly fewer stones, natural geology. No archaeological features were present.

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

Trench 3 was aligned S - N and was 11.5m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.21m of light orange/brown silty sand subsoil overlying a light orange silty sand with stones natural geology. No archaeological features were present.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation trenching of the site was carried out as intended. However, neither archaeological deposits nor finds were revealed, even in the area where the anomaly was identified during the geophysical survey. It appears that this was caused by only a change in the natural geology to a localized, less gravelly patch. Therefore, the area of proposed development within the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

## References

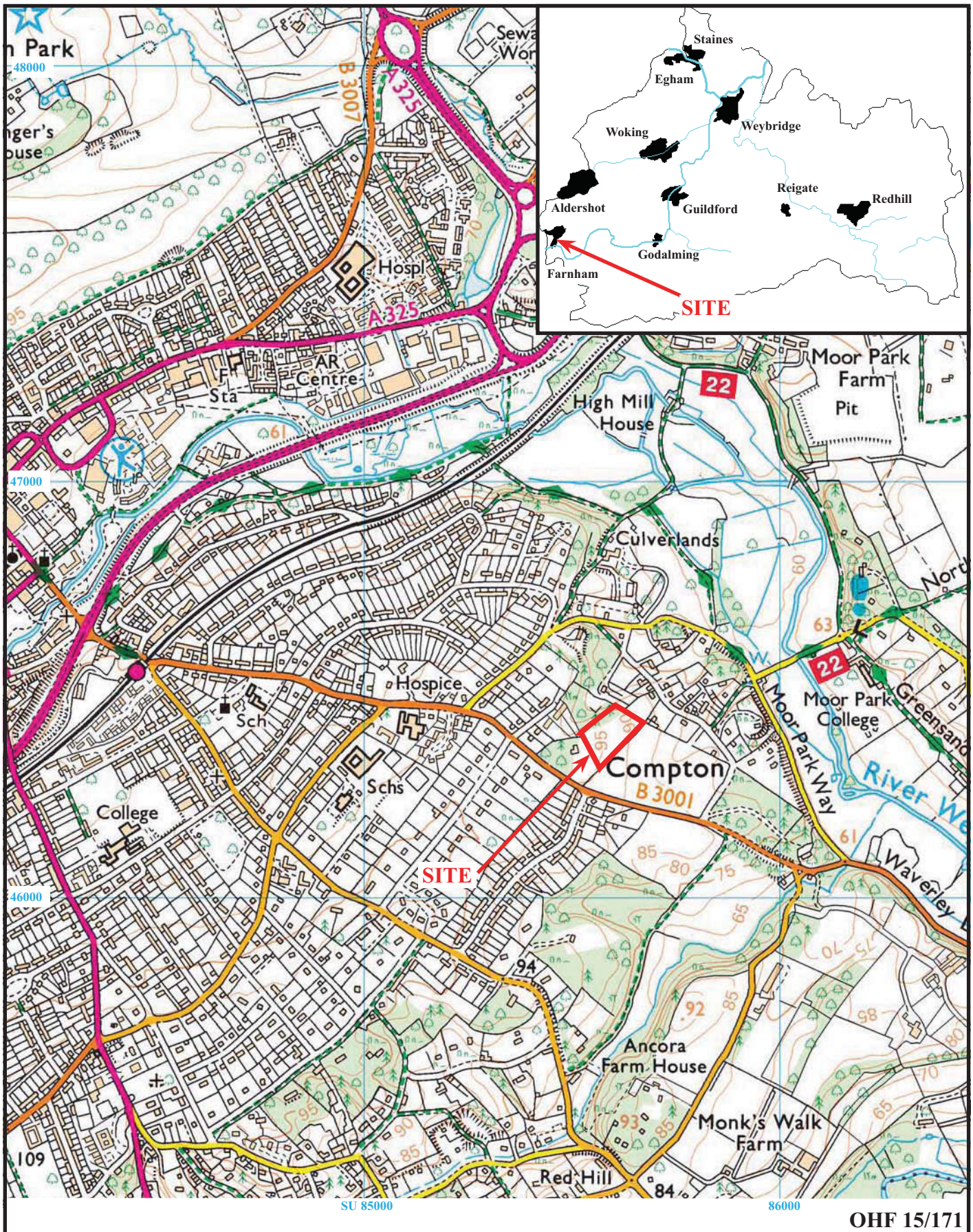
- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T, 2015, 'Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey: An archaeological deskbased assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **15/171**, Reading
- Dawson, T, Beaverstock, K, 2016, 'Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane, Farnham, Surrey: A Geophysical Survey (magnetic)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **15/171b**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south, southeast and southwest end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11.0	1.6	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.46m light orange brown silty sand subsoil; 0.46m+ light orange silty sand with gravel natural geology. <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	10.5	1.6	0.45	0–0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.4m light orange brown silty sand subsoil; 0.4m+ light orange silty sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	11.5	1.6	0.45	0–0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.35m light orange brown silty sand subsoil; 0.35m+ light orange silty sand with gravel natural geology. <b>[PI. 3]</b>

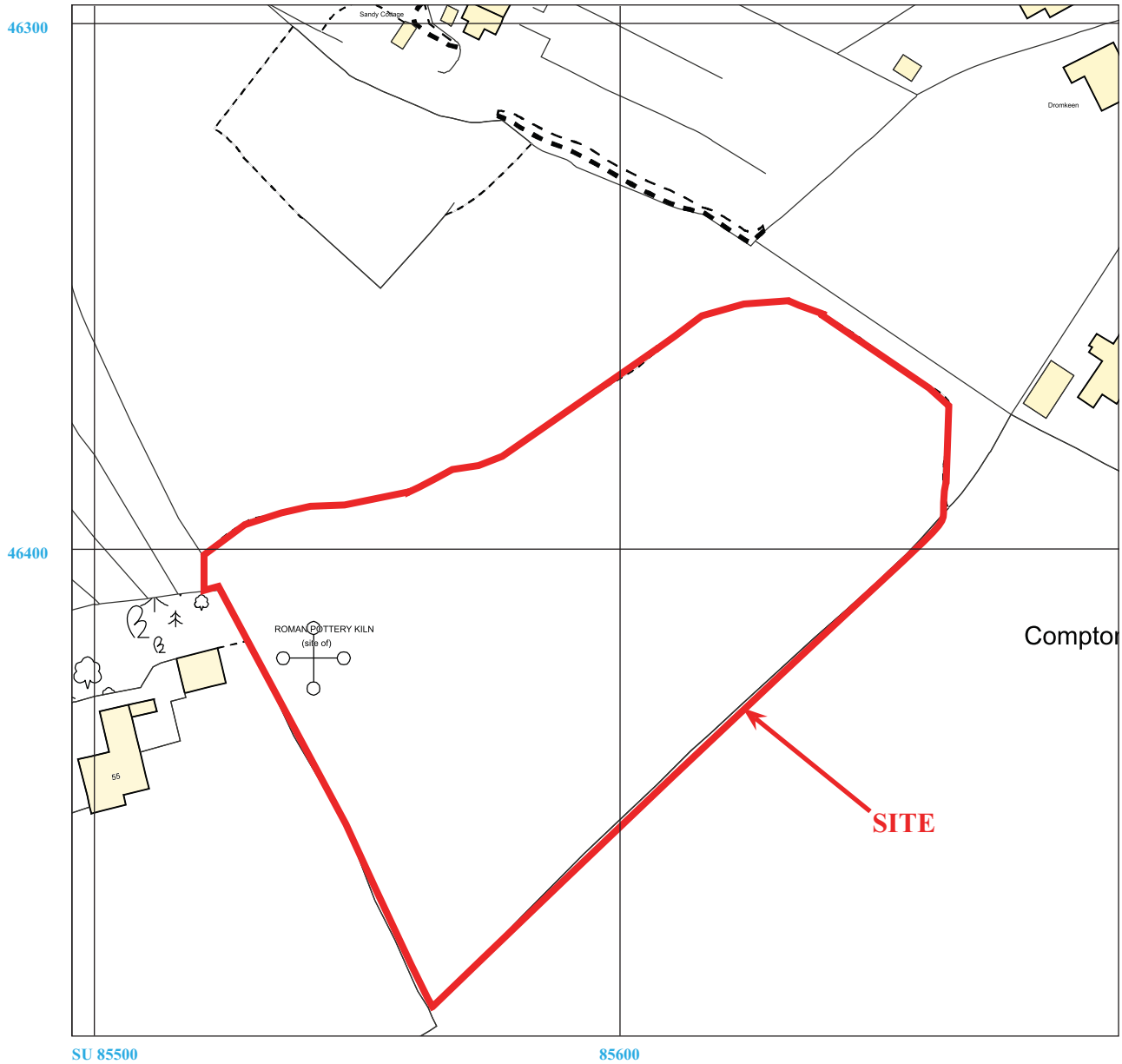




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Figure 1. Location of site within Farnham and Surrey.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Old Compton Lane.

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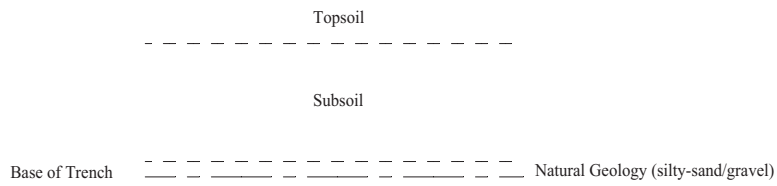
Figure 3. Location of trenches overlaid onto geophysics interpretation.



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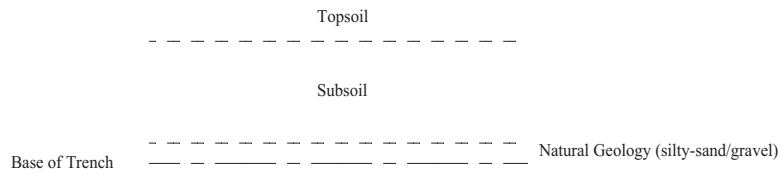
**Trench 1**

[93.39m](#)



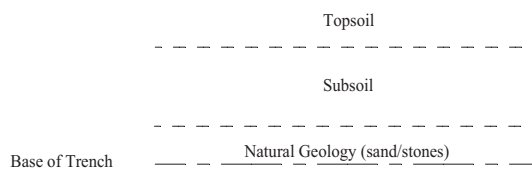
**Trench 2**

[94.38m](#)



**Trench 3**

[95.16m](#)



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Figure 4. Trenches sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plate 1.

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Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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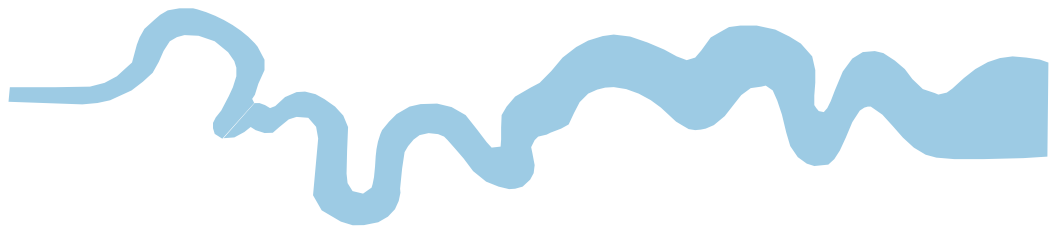
**Land at Overwood House, Old Compton Lane,  
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Plates 2 - 3.**

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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