

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road,
West End, Woking, Surrey**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site Code: WGS16/180

(SU 9436 6175)

**Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road,
West End, Woking, Surrey**

An Archaeological Excavation

For Clive Smith

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WGS 16/180

October 2019

Summary

Site name: Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, West End, Woking, Surrey

Grid reference: SU 9436 6175

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 3/10-2019 - 5/10/2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: WGS 16-180

Area of site: about 400 sq. m.

Summary of results: The excavation was conducted as intended by TVAS. The ditches identified in the evaluation phase were excavated and recorded but no finds nor dating evidence was recovered. It is likely that these undated ditches relate to water management in an area easily flooded.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 23.10.19 Danielle Milbank ✓ 23.10.19
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Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, West End, Woking, Surrey An Archaeological Excavation

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 16/180c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, West End, Woking, Surrey, GU24 9QL (centred on SU 9436 6175) (Fig. 1). The work was originally commissioned by Mr David Nott of Dariston Land and Development, 1 and 2 Studley Court Mews, Studley Court, Guilford Road, Chobham, Surrey, GU24 8EB on behalf of Mr Clive Smith, Woodside House, Hatton Hill, Windlesham, Surrey, GU20 6AD.

Planning permission (17/1207) has been gained from Surrey Heath Borough Council for the construction of three detached dwellings with associated parking and landscaping, following the demolition of the existing golf club. This is subject to a condition (15) relating to archaeology. 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 Ms Alexandra Eggington, archaeological officer with Surrey County Council and adviser to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by project officer Pierre-Damien Manisse, assisted by Anne-Michelle Huvig. It took place between the 3rd and 5th September 2019. The site code is WGS 16-180. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Farnham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the eastern edge of Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, in a rural area north of the village of West End in north-west Surrey (Fig. 1). The site is an irregular-shaped parcel of land adjacent to a golf driving range. The excavation area measured 20m x 20m (Fig. 2) and is currently occupied by meadows. The underlying geology as recorded as Windlesham Formation, a sub-division of the Bracklesham Group, composed of green to brown fine to medium grained sand interbedded with clays towards the base, dating from the Eocene period (56-33.9 Ma, BGS 1999). It lies at approximately 46m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological background is set out in a desk-based assessment (McNamara 2016), supplemented by the results of a field trial trenching programme also by TVAS (Beaverstock & Taylor 2019). In summary, the proposed development site is located in an area with little known archaeological evidence, though a number of presumably Bronze Age barrows occupy a ridge within 1km of the site, and several medieval and post-medieval farmsteads are known from cartographic evidence in the area, which has remained rural agricultural land until relatively recently. The evaluation revealed two ditches, neither of which contained dating evidence. The lack of artefacts suggests that they might be field boundaries located away from any settled areas but their significance is uncertain.

Objectives and methodology

The general purpose of the excavation was to excavate and records all archaeological deposits and features within the area threatened by the proposed development. It aimed to produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for those, establish their character in an attempt to define functional areas on the site (such as industrial, domestic). Additional aims were to produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region. In particular, deposit will be assessed according to the local research priorities (Bird 2006) or more general framework (EH 2005). The specific objectives are to establish the date, nature and extent of the ditches encountered during the field evaluation and check if there is any other associated deposits.

An area about 400 sq. m. was to be stripped of topsoil and any overburden, under constant archaeological supervision by a machine equipped with a ditching bucket. The orientation of the area was adjusted on site as a result of a concrete structure.

Results (Figs. 2-4, Plates 1-3)

The excavation was conducted as intended, however the orientation of the excavation area was adjusted slightly. A JCB 3CX- type machine equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless bucket was used to strip topsoil and subsoil from the excavation area. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds and a metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery. A complete list of features is given in Appendix 1.

The lowest deposit encountered is the natural geology, which matches the map description (BGS 1999), predominantly clay but with yellow sand and gravel. The geological horizon was overlaid by a dark bluish grey clay subsoil 0.20-0.30m thick with few gravel inclusions. Topsoil above was a 0.20m thick dark brown clayey loam, as observed in the evaluation. Two modern drains (aligned southwest-northeast) truncated the natural geology at the north of the area, with a further modern drain aligned southeast-northwest at the southeast of the excavation area.

Only the two ditches previously encountered during the evaluation phase were identified. They were on a slightly different alignment to each other and intercut. Ditch 9 (Pl. 1 and 3) had been seen in trench 3. Two slots (1 and 2) were excavated in the evaluation, and two additional slots were excavated, 4 and 8, showed that there was only a single ditch, with several infilling deposits observed. The overall alignment of the ditch was WNW-ESE and it was recorded as 22m in length. It was up to 1.60m wide in slot 8, and narrower (0.85m) in slot 4, in part due to stripping level in order for the ditch to be clear in plan. The profile is concave overall, with moderate sloping sides and a depth not exceeding 0.34m. The lower fill (59) was a soft light grey sandy clay with frequent gravels and pebbles. This primary fill was overlaid by a soft very dark brownish grey peaty sand (60) with occasional small stones (<0.10m) and occasional root disturbance. This was overlain by a soft mid grey clayey sand with very rare pebbles, (61). This deposit is the same as deposit 55 recorded in slot 4, and a sample of the deposit was processed for finds and environmental evidence but none was obtained. The ditch was truncated by several modern drains or ditch in its western half.

Ditch 10 (Pl. 2) was recorded in evaluation trench 4 (slot 3), and was investigated in the excavation in slot 5. It was aligned WSW-ESE, 16m long as exposed, and extended beyond the limits of excavation. It was 1.10m wide, 0.25m deep and had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was infilled with 56, a firm mid grey clayey sand with occasional pebbles or gravels, which was truncated by a modern drain. A sample of the deposit was processed for finds and environmental evidence but none was obtained and the linear features could not be dated. A slot at the intersection was examined to determine the stratigraphic relationship between the two ditches, however this remained unclear. The area to the southeast of the intersection could not be examined due to the presence of a concrete structure preventing further excavation.

Finds

No finds or dating evidence was recovered in the course of the excavation.

Conclusion

The excavation was carried out successfully, with the two ditches of unknown date observed during the evaluation phase observed but no additional features. The infilling deposits were sampled, however no dating or environmental evidence was obtained from the processed samples, and a stratigraphic relationship between the features could not be determined. On the basis of the infilling deposits, it appears likely that the two features are contemporary with each other. Due to the water-retaining geology and the topography of the site in general, it is likely that the undated ditches represent water drainage in a damp area rather than field boundaries.

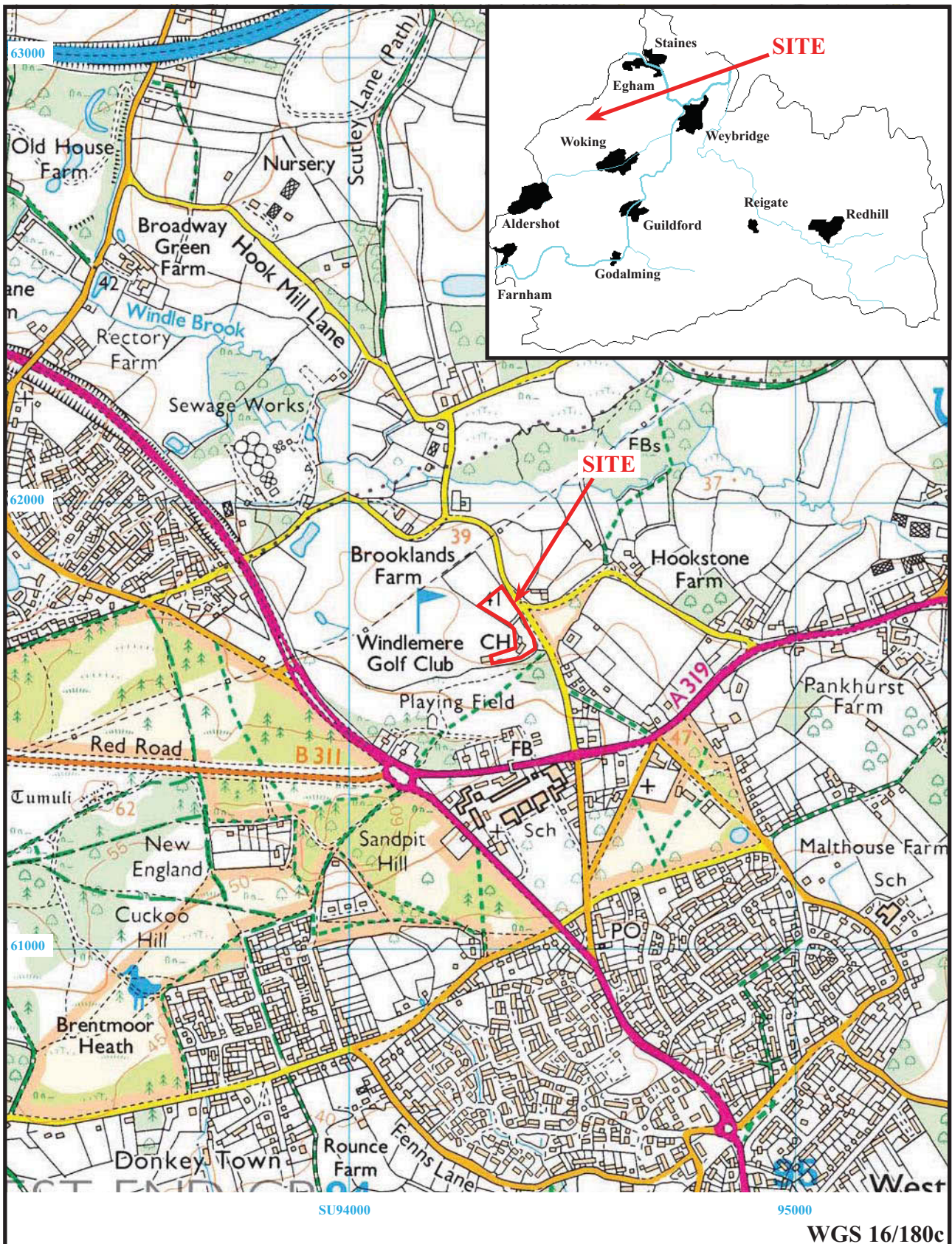
The site archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with guidelines in Management of Archaeological Projects 2 and after consultation with the recipient museum. The records will also be copied onto microfiche and a copy sent to the National Archaeological Record in due course.

References

- Beaverstock, K and Taylor, A, 2019, Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, West End, Woking, Surrey, An Archaeological Evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, unpublished report 16/180b, Reading
- Bird, 2006, *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework*, Surrey County Council / Surrey Archaeological Society, Woking
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- CIfA, 2014, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- EH, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London
- McNamara, M, 2016, Windlemere Golf Course, Windlesham Road, West End, Woking, Surrey - An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, unpublished report 16/180, Reading
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Group</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Dimensions (L x W x D in m)</i>	<i>Date and dating evidence</i>
4	55	9	Ditch	>2 x 0.85 x 0.30	None
5	56	10	Ditch	>1.45 x 1.10 x 0.25	None
6	57	9	Ditch	>0.90 x >0.30 x >0.15	None
7	58	10	Ditch	>0.75 x >0.40 x >0.15	None
8	59-61	9	Ditch	>0.55 x 1.60 x 0.34	None



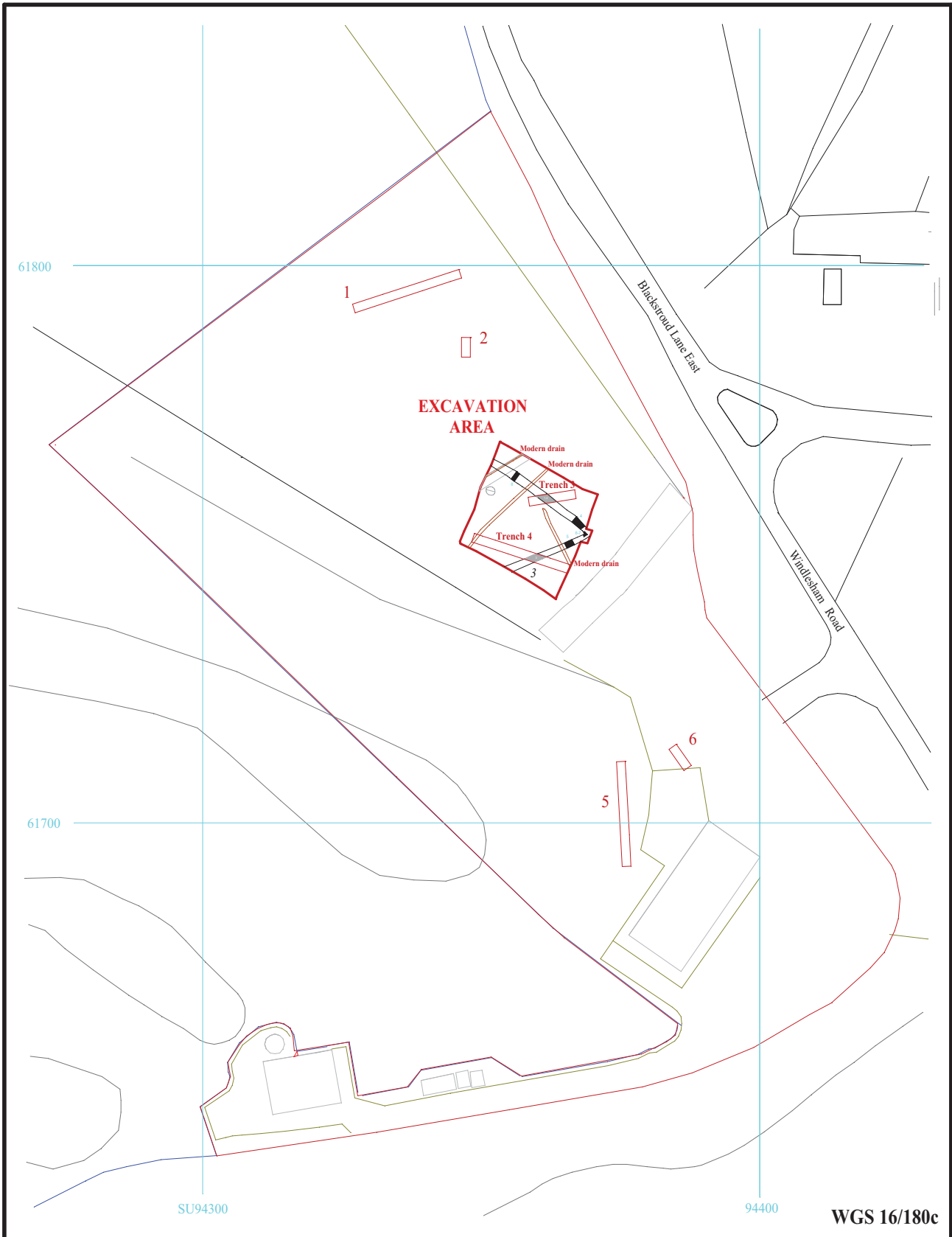
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Figure 1. Location of site within West End and Surrey.

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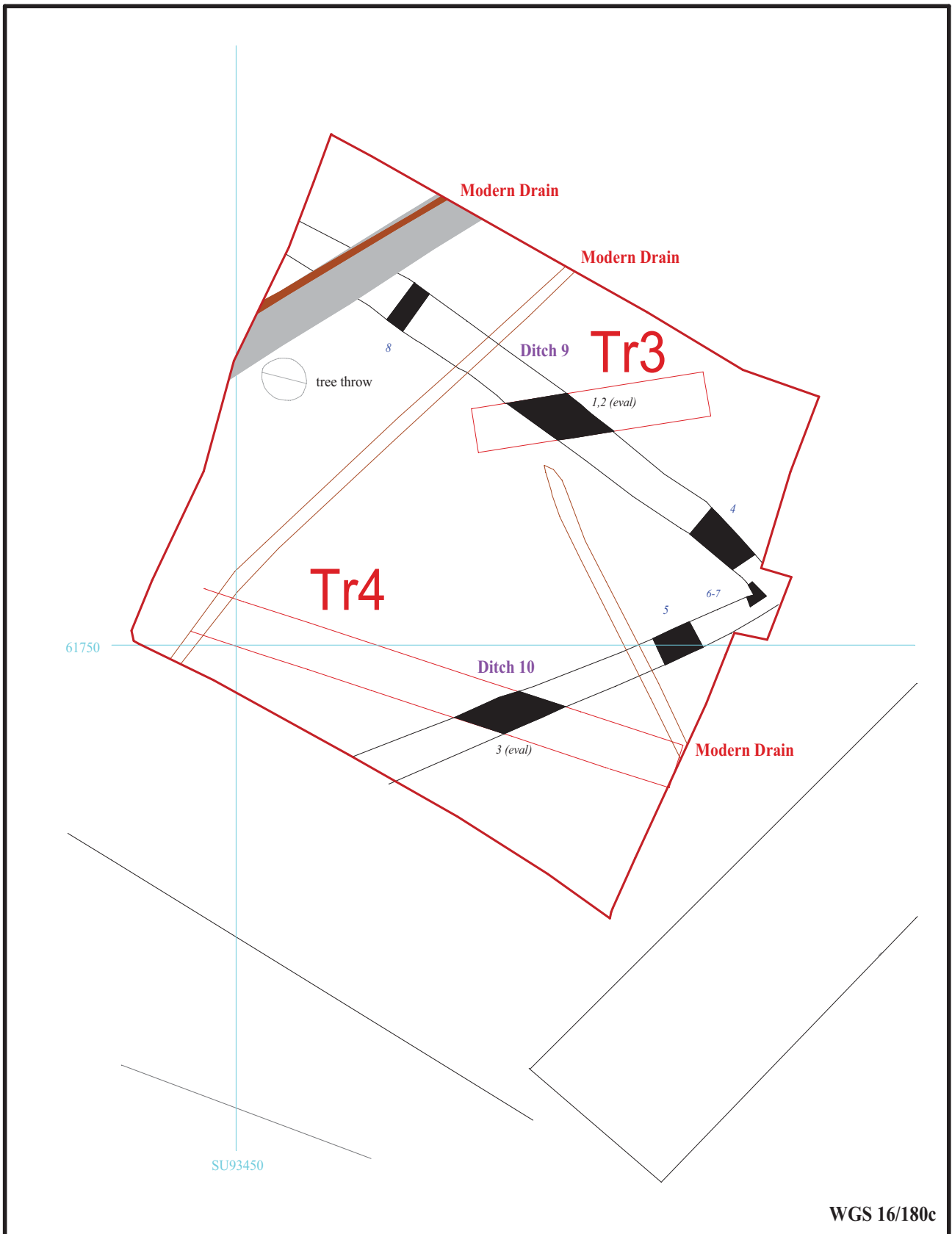
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Figure 2. Location of area.



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Figure 3. Detail of excavation.



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Plate 1. Ditch 9, slot 4, looking south east,
Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Ditch 10, slot 5, looking north east,
Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 3. Ditch 9, looking north west, Scales: 1m x2.

OGC 17/92

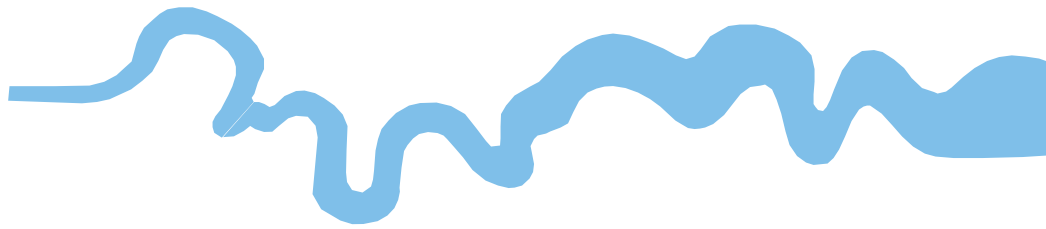
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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