

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the south of Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road,
Hindhead, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

**Site Code: CPR20/91
(SU 8739 3432)**

**Land to the south of Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road,
Hindhead, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Structure Group LLP**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CPR 20/91

August 2020

Summary

Site name: Land to the south of Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road, Hindhead, Surrey

Grid reference: SU 8739 3432

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 3rd-4th August 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: CPR 20/91

Area of site: c.1.4 hectares

Summary of results: A single, undated, feature, possibly a posthole but more likely a burnt-out tree root, was identified. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

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

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Land at the south of Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road, Hindhead, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 20/91

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land south of Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road, Hindhead, Surrey (SU 8739 3432) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scott Coveney of Structure Group LLP, 10 New Boundary House, London Road, Sunningdale, SL5 0DJ.

Planning permission (WA/2017/1044) has been gained from Waverley Borough Council for a residential development on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (20) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to development.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenches, based on the results of which further work might be required. 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 Andy Taylor and Richard Dewhurst between 3rd and 4th August 2020 and the site code is CPR 20/91. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at East Surrey Museum, Caterham.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies *c.*17km south-west of Godalming (Fig. 1) and is located on a roughly square parcel of land consisting of scrubland (Fig. 2). Portsmouth Road is on its south-east side with hedges and large residential properties on its other three sides. The underlying geology is mapped as Lower Greensand (Hythe Beds) (BGS 1978), which was observed in all the trenches and the site lies at a height of *c.*190m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (SCAU 2017). In summary, there are no known archaeological deposits on the site itself and few of pre-modern date nearby. There

are a range of Roman and prehistoric sites in the wider area. However, the lower Greensand has long been notable for its association with Mesolithic occupation (Rankine 1954; Mellars and Rienhardt 1978; Jones 2013). Nearby areas were evaluated prior to new road construction but little of interest was recovered (Dyer 1994).

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.

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;
- to search for any Mesolithic sites or finds preferentially associated with the greensand outcrop; and
- to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

In total, 16 trenches were to be dug measuring 25m long and between 1.60m and 2m wide. This was to be done using a 360° type machine fitted with toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Any archaeological features uncovered were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

All 16 trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations measuring between 23.60m and 27m long and between 0.30m and 0.45m deep (Fig. 3). They were all 2.1m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1; Fig. 5)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 27m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of grey silty sand with sandstone subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 2

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.50 long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.11m of topsoil overlying 0.18m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 26.30m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.18m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 4 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 25.60m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 23.60m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 6 (Fig. 5; Pls 3 and 6)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 25.40m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology. A possible posthole [1] was noted at 14m measuring 0.42m wide and 0.11m. It is quite likely that this in fact was part of a burnt out tree root.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 25.60m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 8

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 25.50m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.11m of topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 9

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 25m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 10

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 25.70m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying 0.23m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 11

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 24m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.23m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 12 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 25m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 13

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 25.30m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 14 (Fig. 5)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 25m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.14m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 15 (Pl. 5)

This trench was aligned approximately NE-SW and measured 26.50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil overlying 0.13m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Trench 16

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 24m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil overlying 0.22m of subsoil overlying sand and sandstone natural geology.

Finds

No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present, no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. A possible posthole was observed and investigated but is considered more likely to be a burnt tree root. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

References

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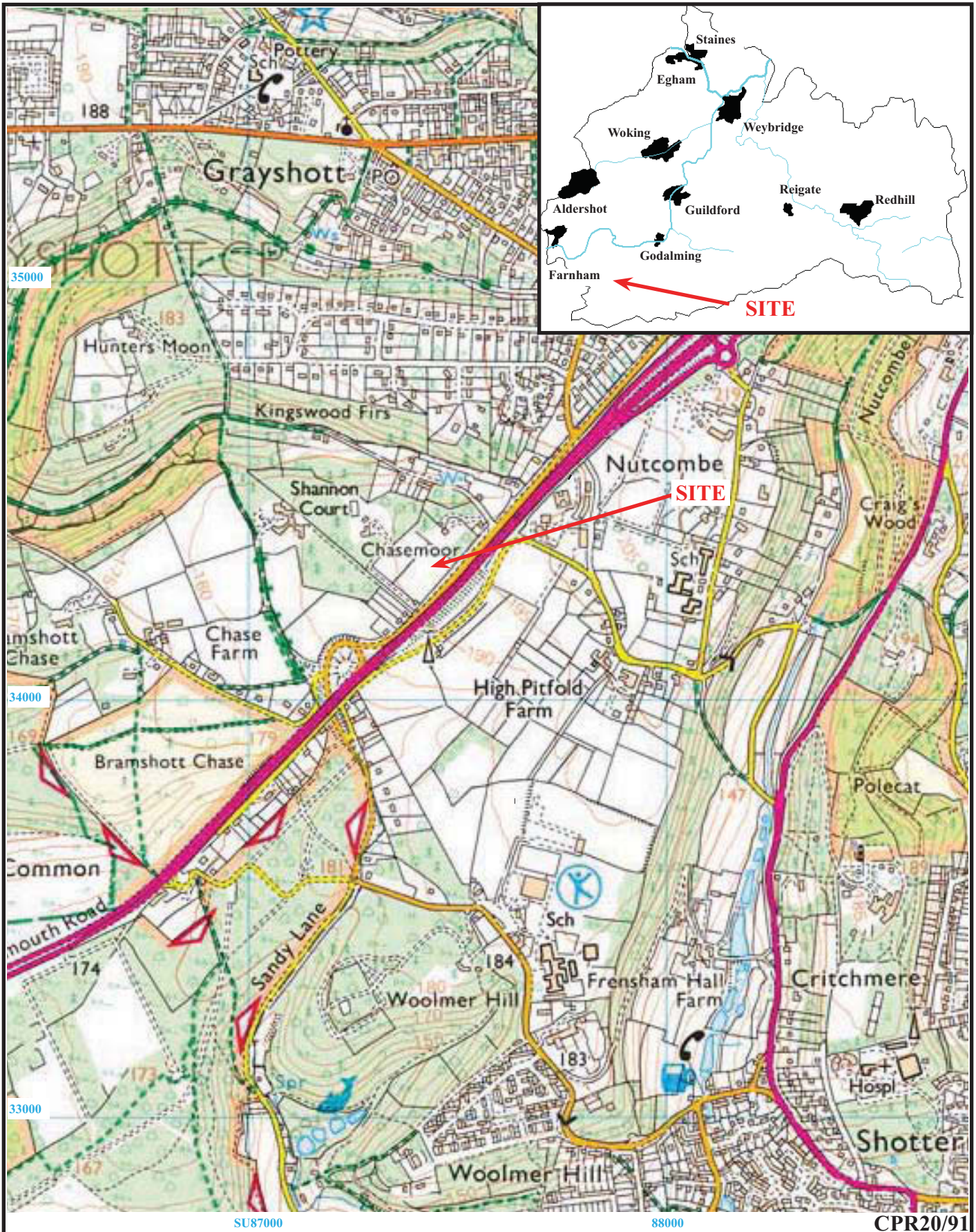
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	27.00	2.00	0.44	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.40m subsoil (grey silty sand with sandstone); 0.40m-0.44m+ sand and sandstone natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	25.50	2.00	0.32	0-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m-0.32m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
3	26.30	2.00	0.35	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
4	25.60	2.00	0.31	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.31m+ sand and sandstone natural geology. [Pl. 2]
5	23.60	2.00	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m-0.40m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
6	25.40	2.00	0.32	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.32m+ sand and sandstone natural geology. Posthole?[1; [Pls 3 and 6]
7	25.60	2.00	0.38	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m-0.40m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
8	25.50	2.00	0.35	0-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
9	25.00	2.00	0.36	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m-0.36m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
10	25.70	2.00	0.37	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
11	24.00	2.00	0.45	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m-0.45m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
12	25.00	2.00	0.36	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ sand and sandstone natural geology. [Pl. 4]
13	25.30	2.00	0.34	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.34m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
14	25.00	2.00	0.31	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m-0.31m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.
15	26.50	2.00	0.30	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.29m subsoil; 0.29m-0.30m+ sand and sandstone natural geology. [Pl. 5]
16	24.00	2.00	0.36	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ sand and sandstone natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
6	1	52	Posthole or burnt roothole	Unknown	-



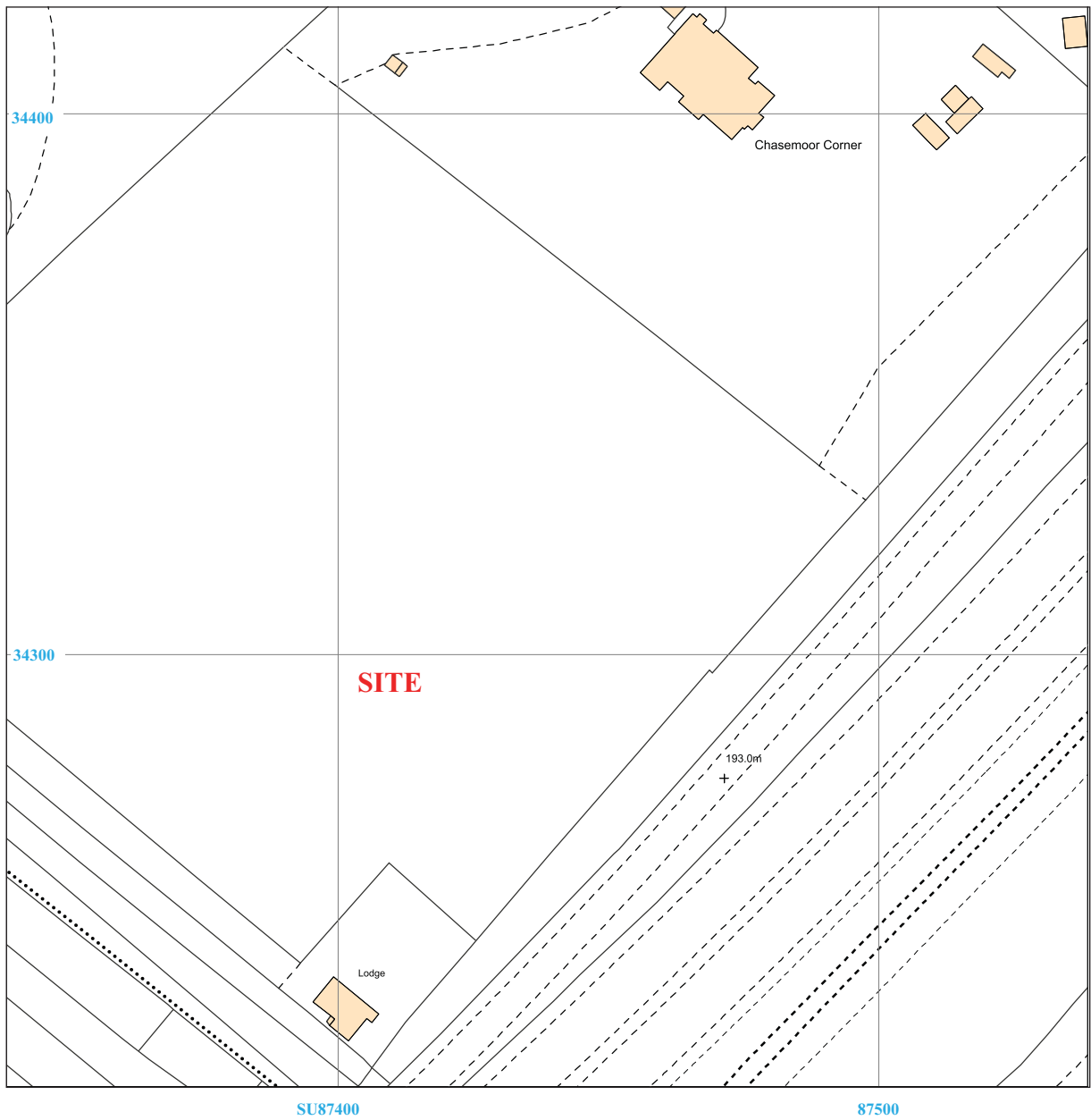
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Proposal for an Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Hindhead and Surrey

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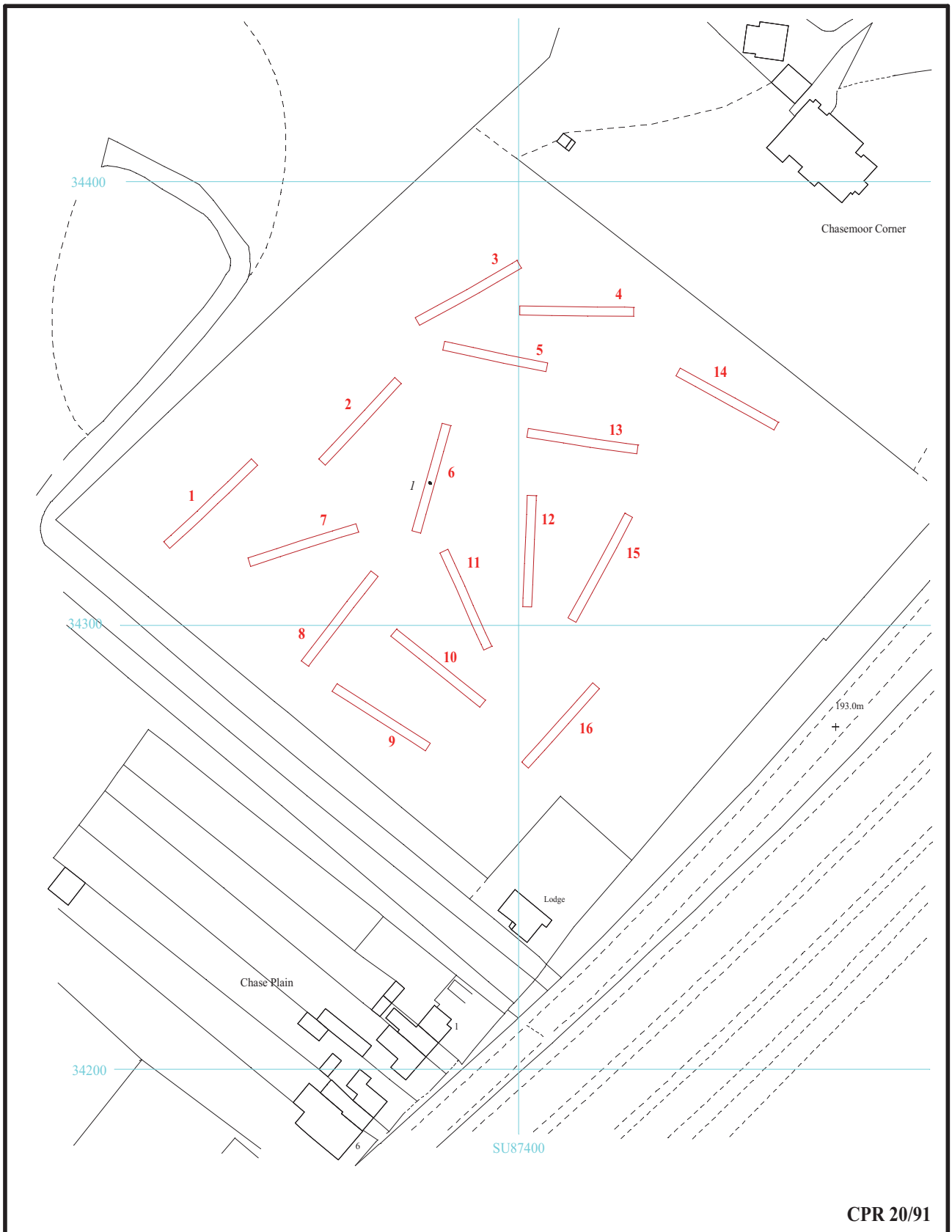
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Figure 2. Location of site within Hindhead and Surrey.

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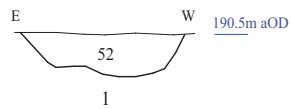
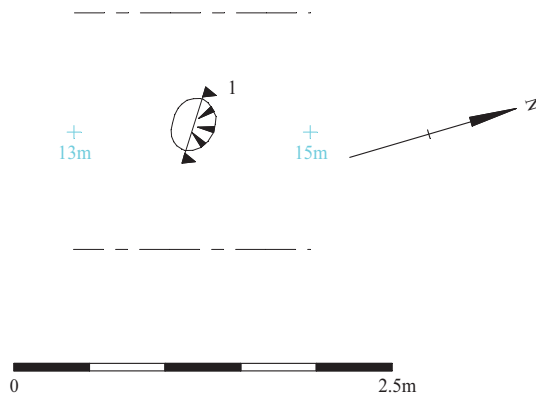
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 6



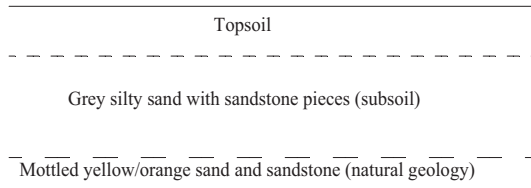
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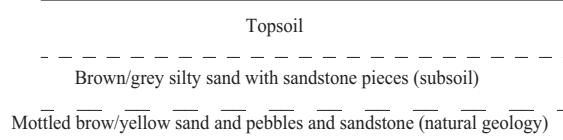
Figure 4. Trench Plan and Section

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Trench 1



Trench 14



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Figure 5. Representative Sections



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking NE,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking E,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking N,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 12, looking S,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 to 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 15, looking SW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Posthole 1, looking S, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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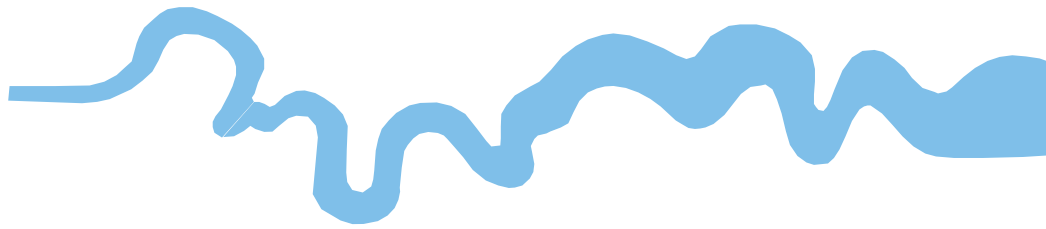
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Plates 5 and 6.

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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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough
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