

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School,
Godalming, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Site Code: CHS 19/04

(SU 9655 4478)

New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey

An Archaeological Evaluation

for S & C Slatter Ltd

by Jamie Williams

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CHS19/04

October 2020

Summary

Site name: New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey

Grid reference: SU9655 4478

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 7th October 2020

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Jamie Williams

Site code: CHS 19/04

Area of site: c. 0.4ha (c. 0.14ha of new land)

Summary of results: The evaluation was undertaken successfully. However, no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 13.10.20 Steve Preston ✓ 08.10.20

New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Report 19/04d

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on the site of new tennis courts at Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey (SU9655 4478) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Seymour of S and C Slatter Ltd, Stephen's Yard, Enborne, Newbury, Berkshire, RG20 0HA.

Planning permission (WA/2020/0428) has been sought from Waverley Borough Council for the extension of existing tennis courts. A field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to any archaeological implications, and permit the formulation of a mitigation strategy if required.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), 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 Jamie Williams and Cat Gregori on the 7th October 2020 and the site code is CHS 19/04. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Farnham Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located *c.*2.5km north of Godalming within the grounds of Charterhouse School (Fig. 1). It is located on two roughly rectangular plots of land immediately adjacent to the existing tennis court (Fig. 2). The northern plot has a mound of earth, which was most likely created as a result of constructing the existing tennis courts. The southern plot was relatively flat, with some signs of landscaping in the east with the construction of flowerbeds. The underlying geology is mapped as Bargate Sandstone (BGS 2001), which was observed in all trenches as a yellow-brown sand, and the site lies at a height of *c.* 90m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Rouard 2019). In summary, the archaeological potential of the site has been regarded as high due to the presence in the immediate vicinity of a small Roman cremation cemetery and other features. Elsewhere within the extensive school grounds there are a range of sites and finds dating from Middle Iron Age and Roman times (Whittingham and Edwards 2018; Hall 1999).

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 specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if there is any further evidence of Roman settlement or burial in the vicinity; and
- to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Three trenches were proposed to be dug, each measuring 20m long and between 1.6m and 2m wide. A sufficient sample of any identified deposits would be investigated to satisfy the aims outlined above. The trenches were dug by a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The three trenches were dug as intended. The trenches were all 1.6m wide and measured between 20.1m and 21.1m with natural geology being observed in all three trenches. 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; Pls 1 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 21.1m long and 0.84m deep in the SW end and 0.19m in the NE end due to a mound of soil. The stratigraphy at the SW end consisted of 0.12m of topsoil, 0.53m of mid white-grey silty sand modern mound material, and a modern truncation overlying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology (Pl. 4). No features were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

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

Trench 2 was aligned E - W and was 20.1m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. No features were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

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

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.3m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. No features were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

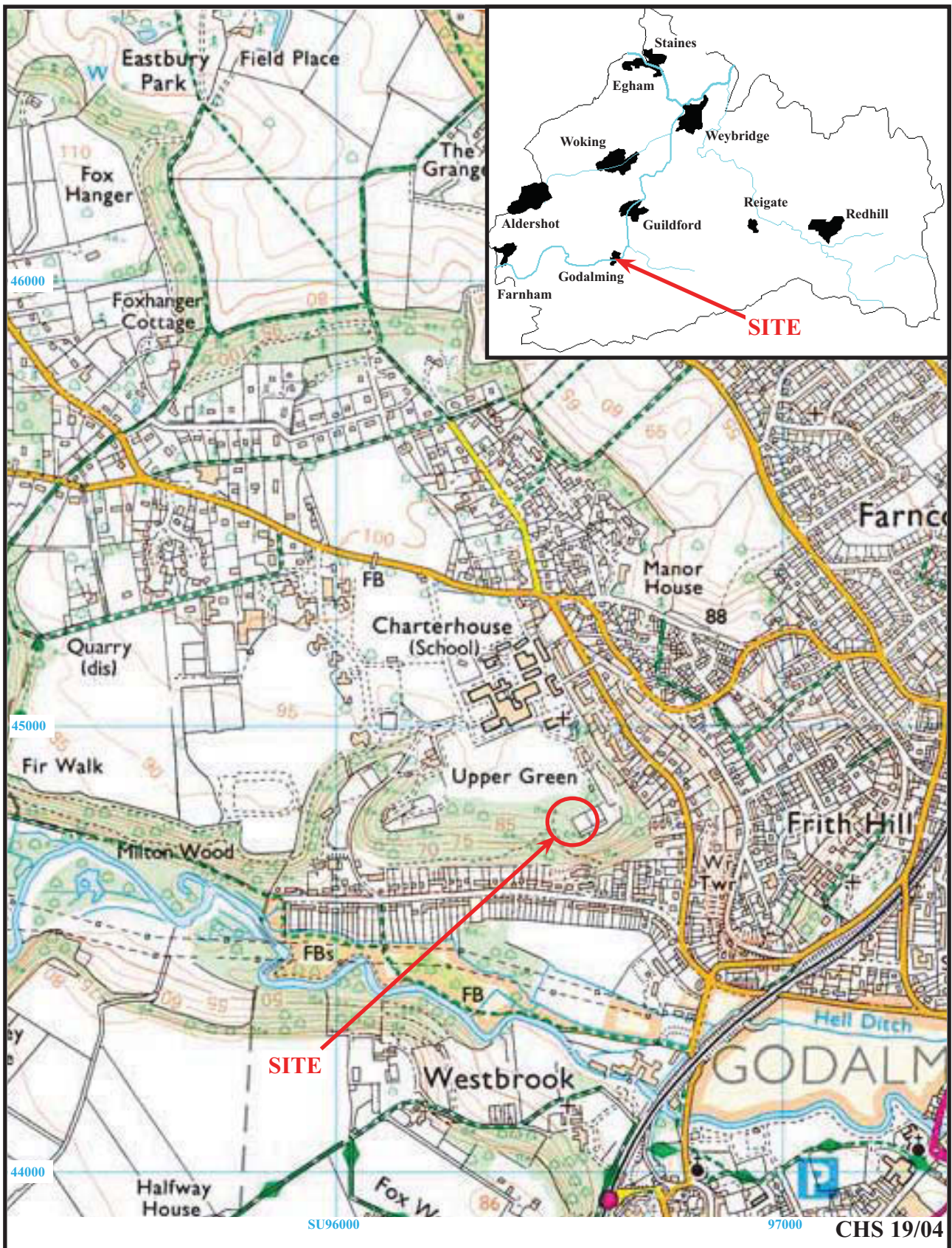
Despite the site's high potential for archaeological remains to be present, especially the proximity to a Roman cremation cemetery, no deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were encountered. Natural geology was observed in all the trenches with a few modern truncations present in trenches 1 and 2, all filled with plastic food wrappers. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 2001, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 285, Solid and 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
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Rouard, O, 2019, 'New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **19/04**, Brighton
- Whittingham, L and Edwards, C 2018, 'Evidence for Middle Iron Age settlement activity at Charterhouse, Godalming', *Surrey Archaeol Collect*, **101**, 65-76

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at SSW and ENE end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.1	1.6	0.19-0.84	In the SW end 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12-0.65m of mid white-grey silty sand modern mound material, 0.65-0.84m modern truncation overlying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. In the NE end 0-0.09m topsoil and 0.09-0.19m subsoil overlying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. [Pls 1 and 4]
2	20.1	1.6	0.46	0-0.10m topsoil and 0.1-0.32m subsoil overlaying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	20.3	1.6	0.39	0-0.25m topsoil and 0.25-0.39m subsoil overlaying mid yellow-brown sand natural geology. [Pl. 3]

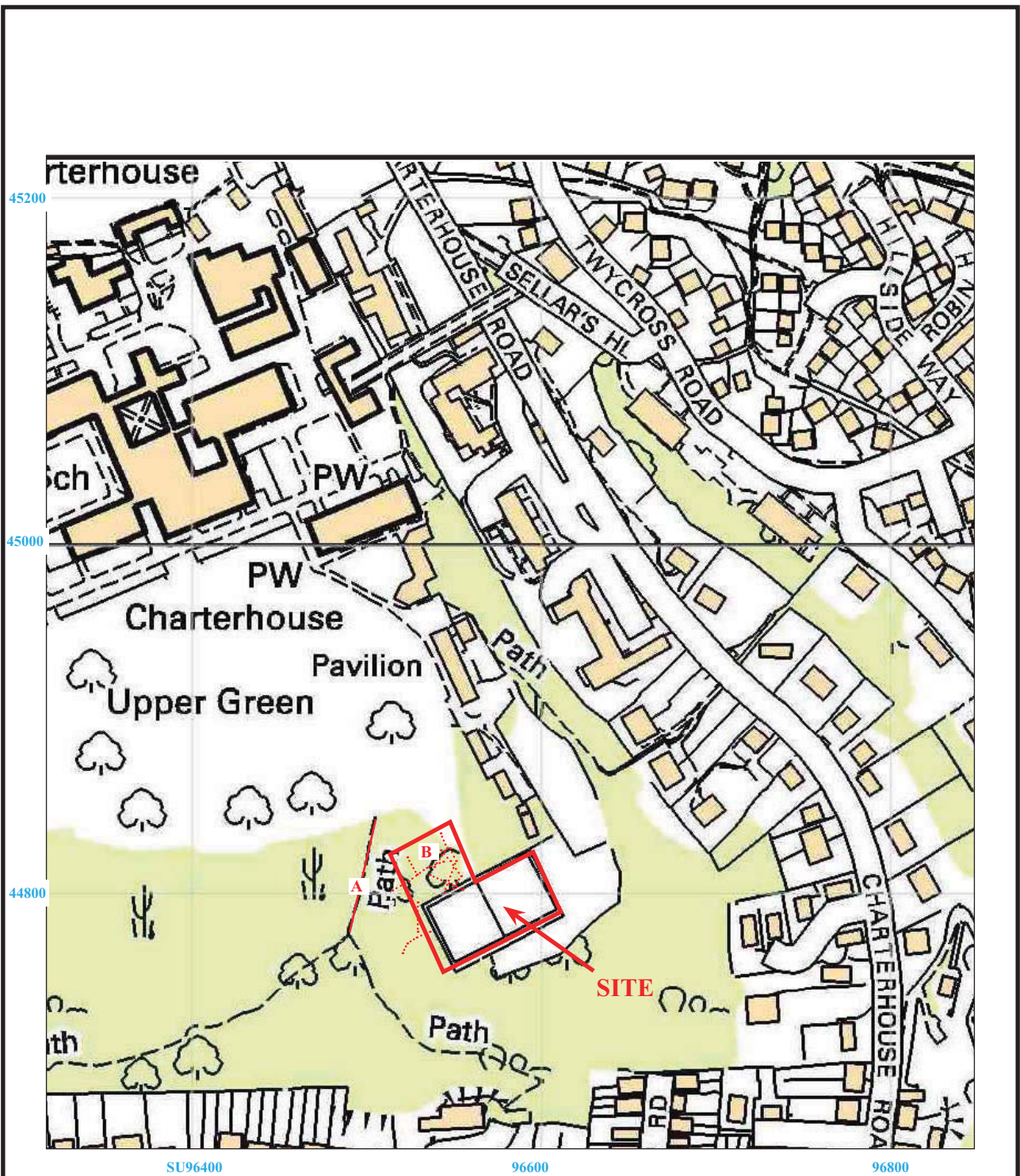


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Figure 1. Location of site within Godalming and Surrey.

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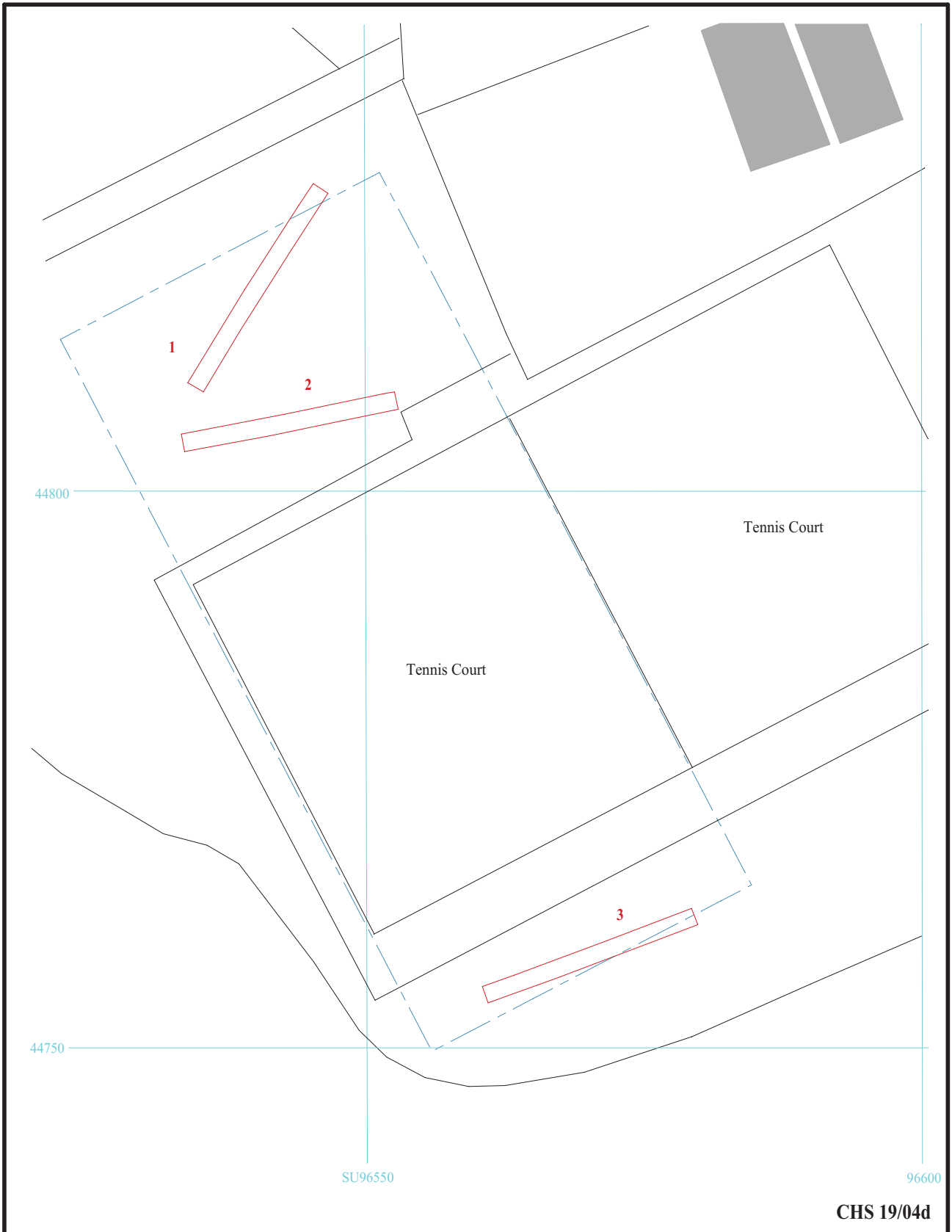
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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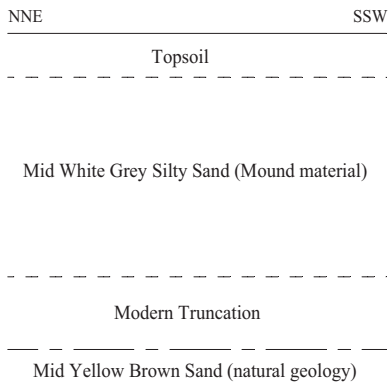


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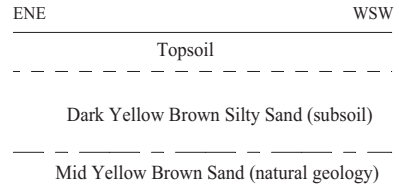
Figure 3. Location of trenches, against outline of new development.



Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



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Figure 3. Representative Sections





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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking SW, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



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



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

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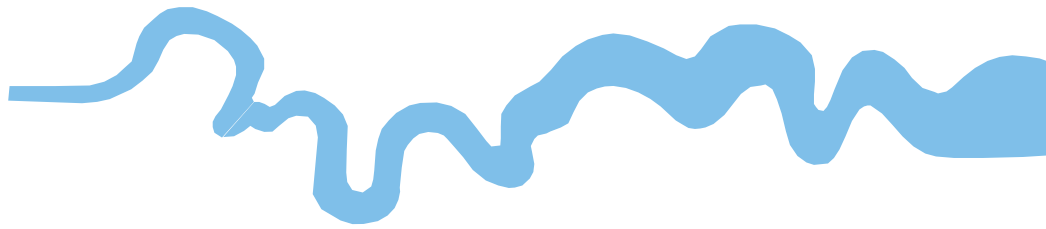
**New Tennis Courts, Charterhouse School,
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Plates 1 to 4.

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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 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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