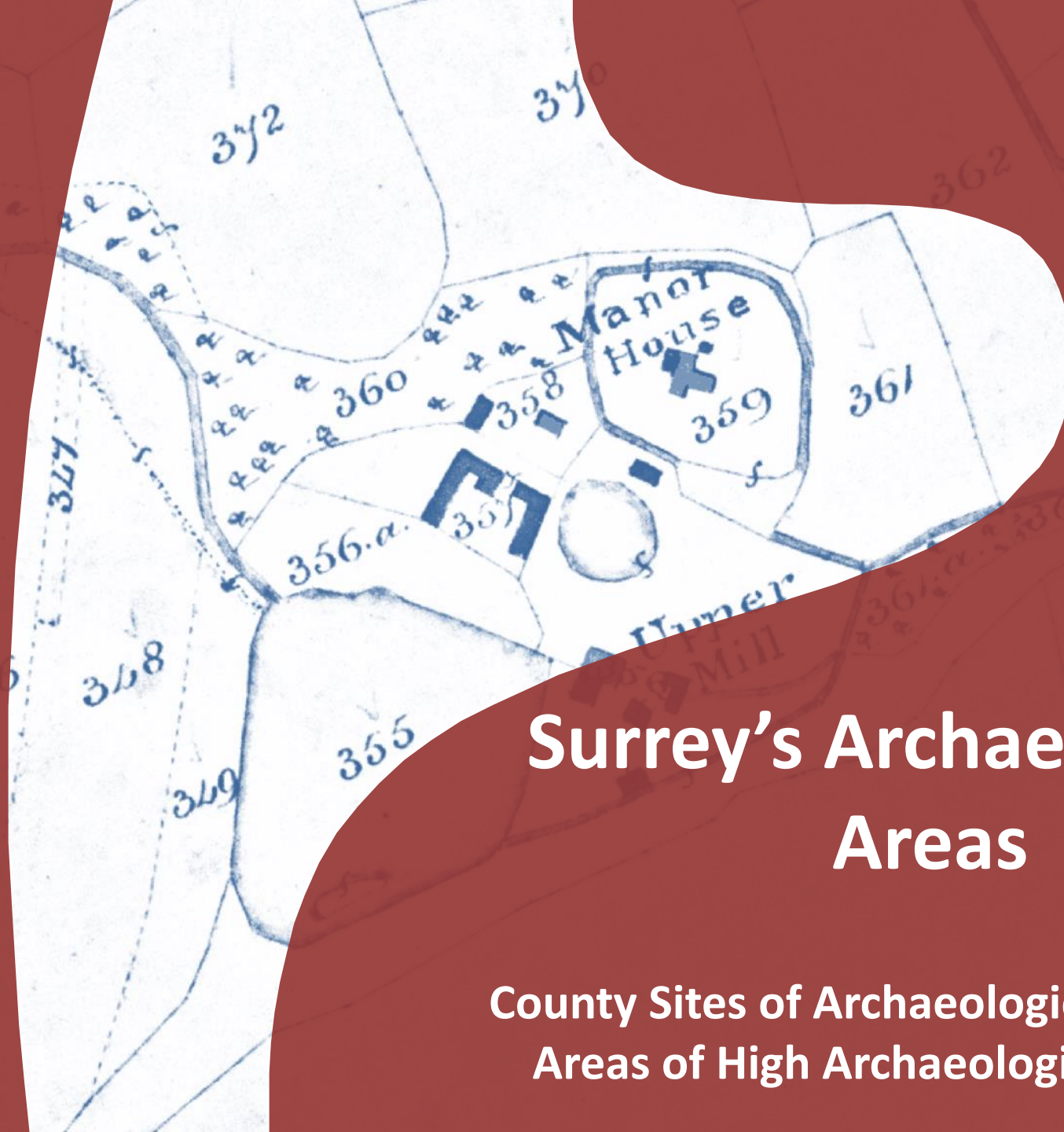




SURREY



Surrey's Archaeological Areas

County Sites of Archaeological Importance
Areas of High Archaeological Potential

Archaeology in the Planning Process

- Archaeology is very difficult to accommodate within planning, due to the huge unknowns.
- Only Scheduled Monuments have any statutory or legal protection.
- The vast majority of archaeology in the UK is undesignated and unprotected, and therefore under threat by development.

Archaeology in the Planning Process

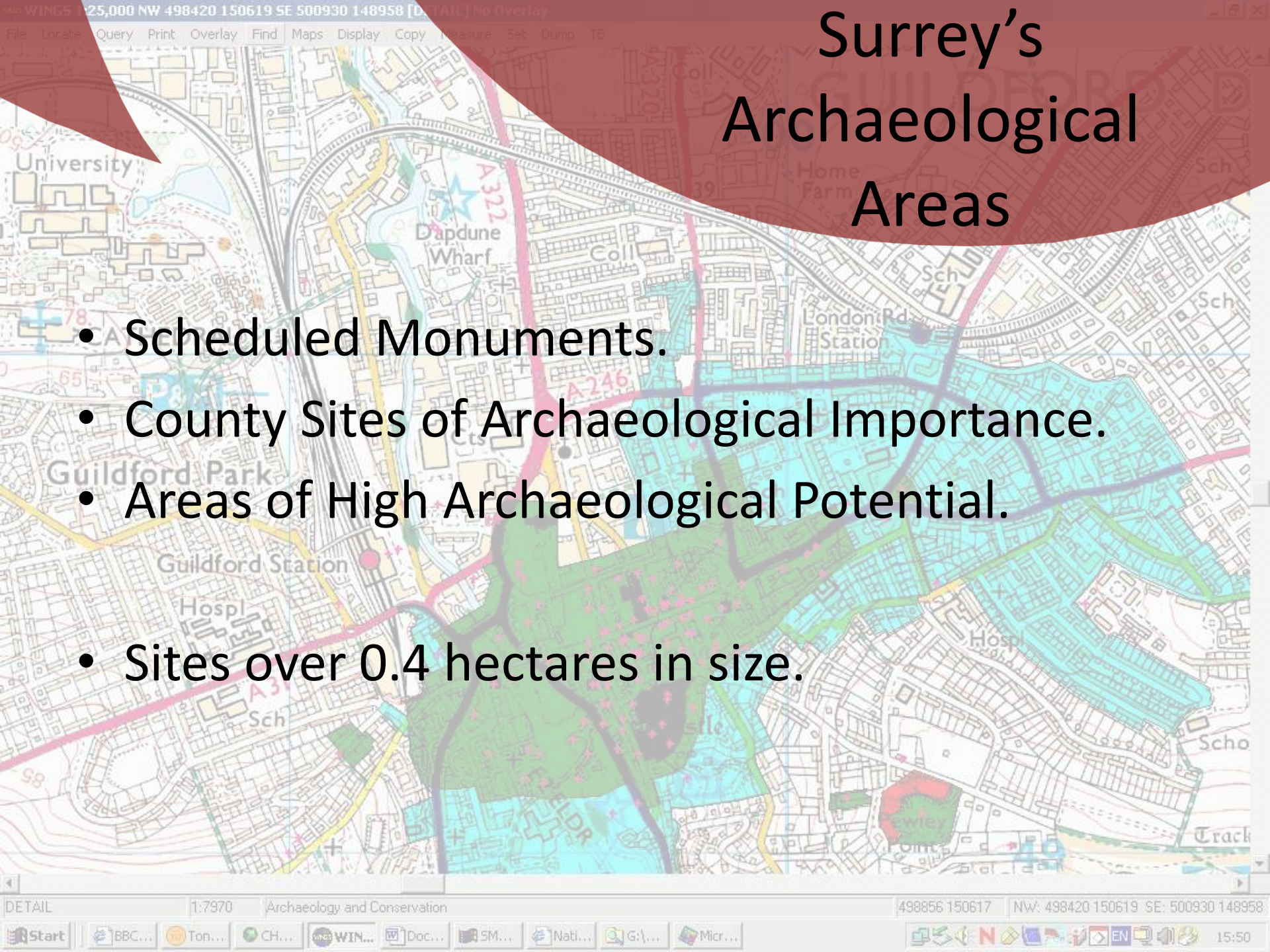
- Archaeology could be anywhere. What should we do about this threat?
- We could just blanket require archaeological work on **every** planning proposal
- We could assess every planning application individually to determine risk
- Would these responses be proportionate or workable however?

Archaeology in the Planning Process

- Back in 1989/90 (PPG16 Days) it was decided a sensible way would be to zone the county into specific areas to manage this risk.
- Zoning allows for the highest priority areas to be targeted whilst screening out likely less productive sites.
- The planning system might have changed but this system persists, and it still works.

Surrey's Archaeological Areas

- Scheduled Monuments.
- County Sites of Archaeological Importance.
- Areas of High Archaeological Potential.
- Sites over 0.4 hectares in size.





County Sites of Archaeological Importance

Definition:

“A County Site of Archaeological Importance is a known archaeological heritage asset within Surrey, which is significant in either a National or Regional context and should be preserved.”



Areas of High Archaeological Potential

Definition:

“An Area of High Archaeological Potential is a defined area where it is strongly suspected that there is an increased likelihood of archaeological remains (finds or features) being revealed should ground disturbance take place.”

Assessment Criteria



Sources of Evidence

A photograph of an archaeological excavation site. Four people are kneeling on the ground, working with tools. The site is enclosed by a concrete wall and a red safety fence. The ground is sandy and shows signs of digging. A black bucket is visible in the foreground.

- Historic Environment Record
- Cartographic Sources
- LiDAR
- Excavation/Site Reports
- Local Studies
- PAS Data

AHAP/CSAI Review, 2014-17

- A decision was taken to review the Surrey areas in 2014, as they were too far out of date to be reliable
- Every single AHAP and CSAI was reappraised
- All the available sources listed previously were reconsulted for new areas
- A “call for sites” was sent out
- New categories of site were included
- A standard table for consistent assessment was created

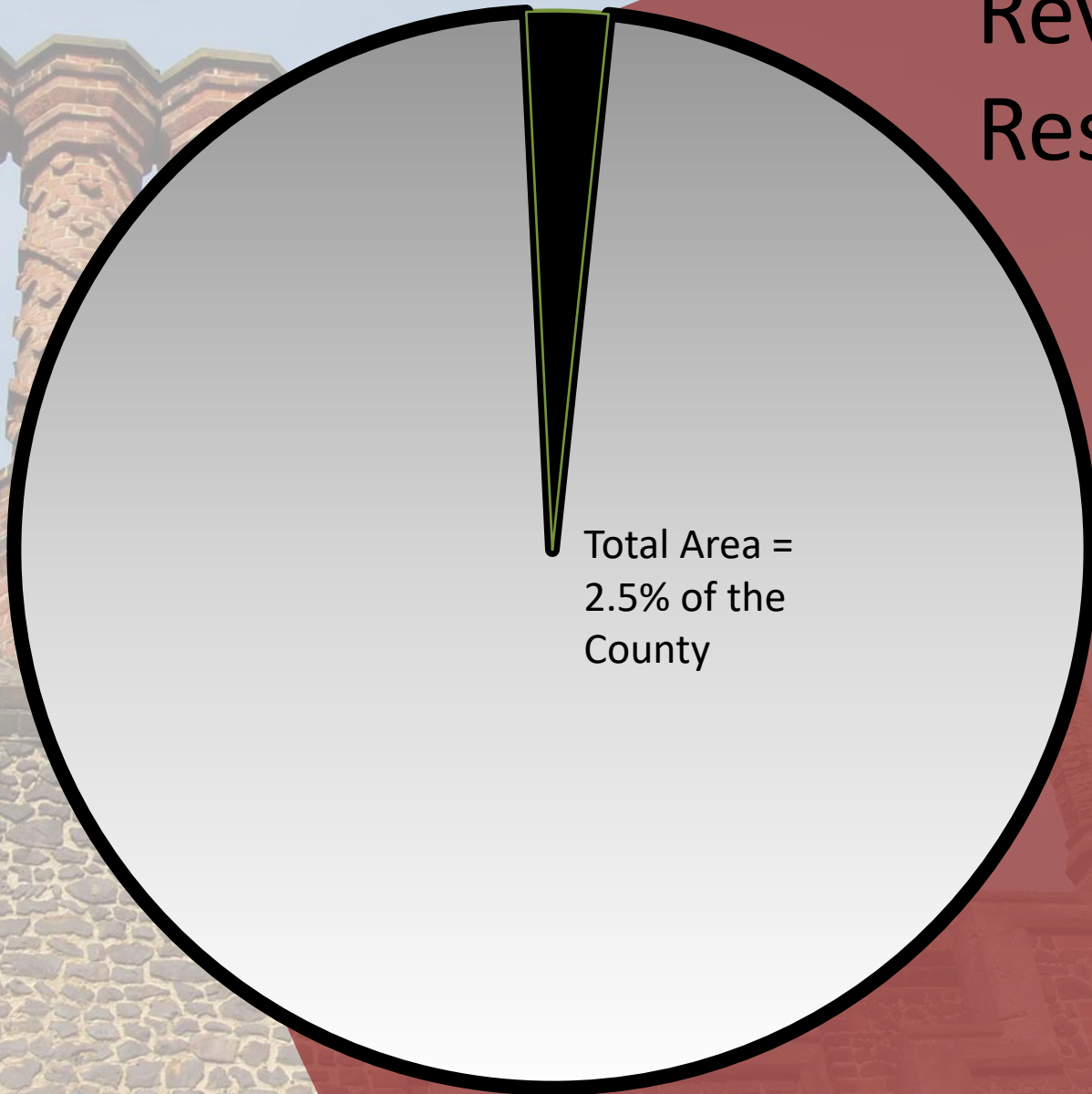
Selection Criteria

Archaeological Evidence	Evidential Value	
	Single or Fragmentary Piece of Evidence	Multiple Evidence
Palaeolithic Flint Artefact	Low	Moderate
Any other Palaeolithic Artefact (eg. Bone)	Very High	National
In-situ Palaeolithic Material of Any Kind or Date	National	National/ International
Palaeolithic Environmental Evidence	National/International	
Palaeolithic/Mesolithic Transition Period Evidence of Any Kind	National	
Mesolithic Flint Artefact	Low	Moderate
Any Other Mesolithic Artefact (eg. Bone)	High	Very High
In-situ Mesolithic Material of Any Kind	High	Very High
Mesolithic Feature (Pit/Posthole/Ditch)	High	Very High
Mesolithic Occupation/Ritual Site	Very High	National
Mesolithic Environmental Evidence	National	
Mesolithic/Neolithic Transition Period Evidence of Any Kind	National	

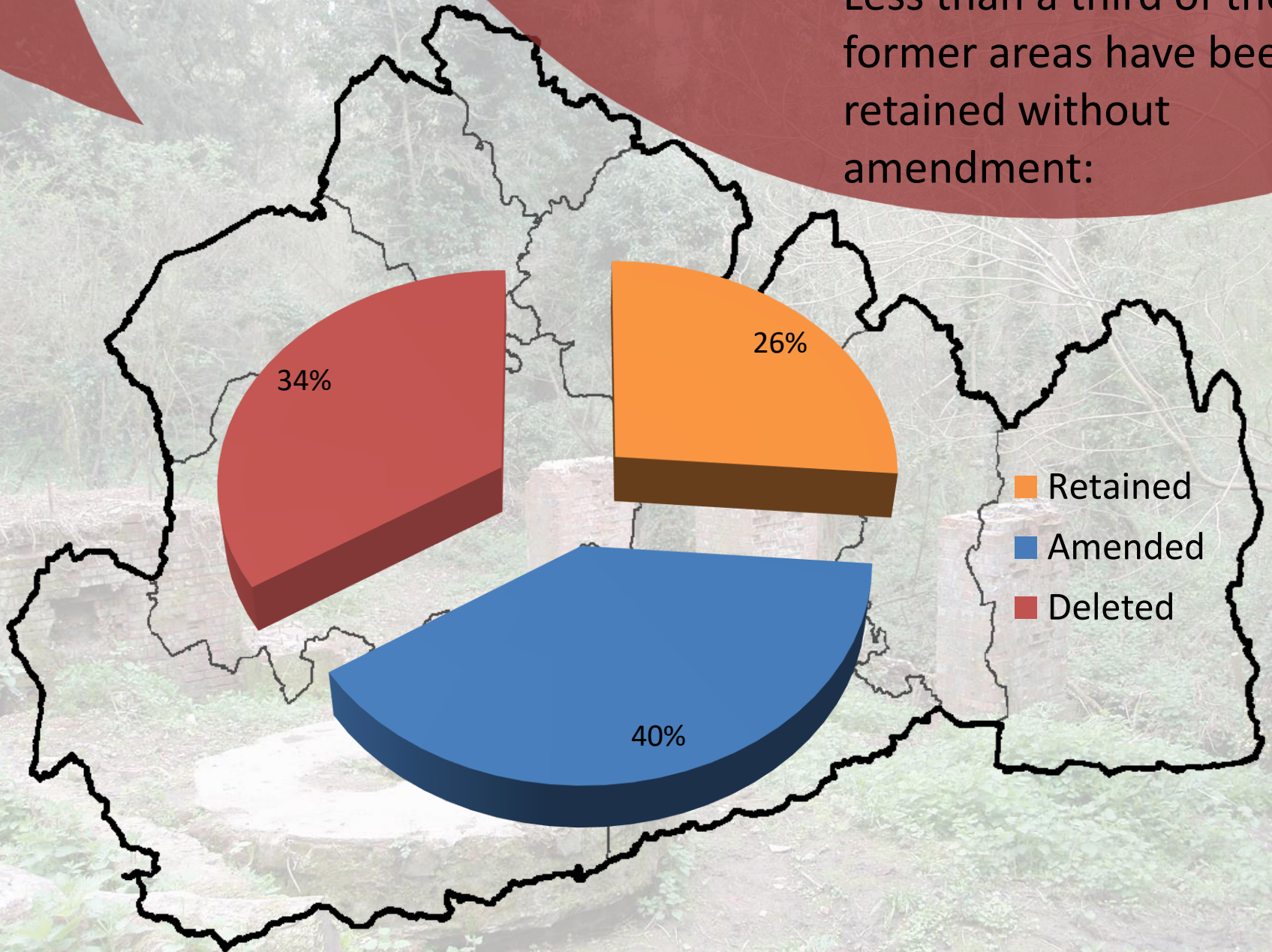
Assessment Table for the earlier prehistoric periods.

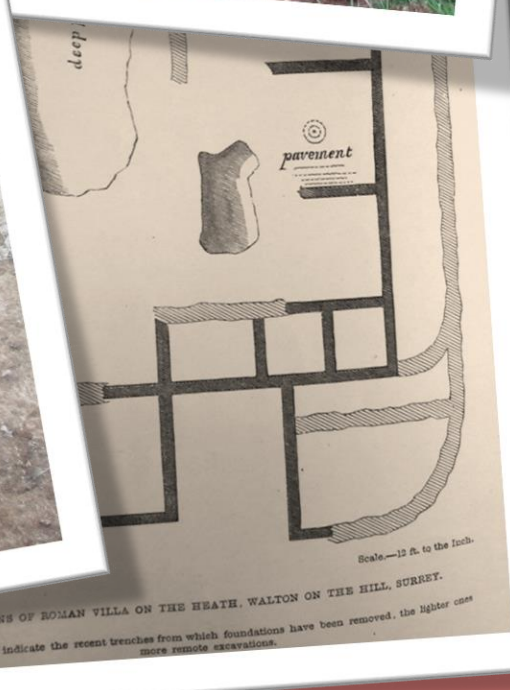
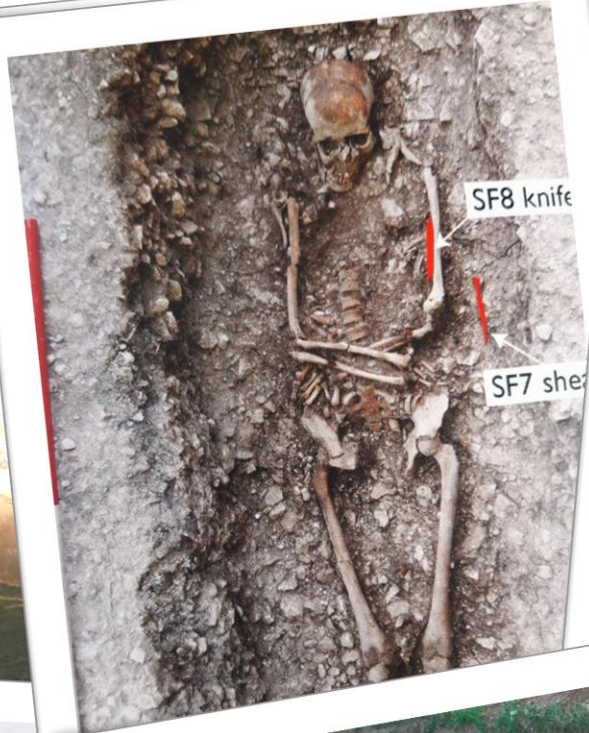
The definition of “Evidential Value” is based on the standard EIA definitions of effects, of *Negligible, Low, Moderate, High, and Very High*. Archaeological definitions of “*National*” and “*International*” significance have been added. The exact meaning of these terms was also defined in the process to provide clarity.

Review Results



Less than a third of the former areas have been retained without amendment:





Final Notes

- Zoning only works if you can supplement the coverage with the ability to explore outside the areas – which is why Surrey also has a policy to cover large scale developments outside these areas (“0.4ha policy”).
- CSAIs and AHAPs are not truly archaeological areas – they are areas of notification used for planning purposes, with rules attached
- CSAIs and AHAPs have no added protection from casual damage outside of the planning process, (unlike Scheduled Monuments)
- The system isn’t 100% effective – it can’t be as we don’t look at everything. It is however (we think), the best we can do within the planning rules and regs.
- Do we miss things? Probably, but that’s where the society and its members can help, by reporting finds to the HER