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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Boundary Elms, Burchetts Green Lane,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: BGM16/16**

**(SU 8407 8078)**

# **Boundary Elms, Burchetts Green Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Andrew Morris**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BGM 16/16

**September 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Boundary Elms, Burchetts Green Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8407 8078

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 3rd April 2017 to 9th September 2021

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Rose Calis and Andy Taylor

**Site code:** BGM 16/16

**Area of site:** 373 sq m

**Summary of results:** Five test pits were opened along the route for the new site access with a reduced area for a driveway also observed. No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum willing to accept archive material.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.09.21 Steve Preston✓ 10.09.21
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# **Boundary Elms, Burchetts Green Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Andy Taylor

**Report 16/16**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Boundary Elms, Burchetts Green Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8407 8078) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Morris of Arambol LLP, Remo House 310-312 Regent Street, London.

Planning permission (15/03895/FUL) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new access road. The consent is subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology which requires that a watching brief be carried out during groundworks. This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, formerly of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Rose Calis and Andy Taylor between 3rd April 2017 and 9th September 2021. The site code is BGM 16/16.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum willing to accept archive material.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Burchett's Green is a small village north-west of Maidenhead (Fig. 1). The site is located to the south of Burchett's Green, on the west side of Burchett's Green Lane and the area of ground where the new access road is going to be built is surrounded by woodland (Fig. 2). The house, Boundary Elms, is to the south of this area. The site is bounded by Burchett's Green Lane at its eastern extent and Green Lane at its western extent. The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford and Newhaven formation chalk, an Upper Cretaceous deposit (BGS 2005). Where observed on the site, the geology was a light reddish brown sandy silt with flint gravel and the site lies at a height of between 65-70m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for the site stems from its location in the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a range of sites recorded (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). A number of sites are recorded in the surrounding area with, for example, a suspected Bronze Age round barrow located within Maidenhead Thicket to the east, along with an Iron Age enclosure (Robin Hood's Arbour) and a linear ditch with Iron Age occupation (Cotton 1961; Bowden *et al.* 1983). There was a probable Bronze Age burnt mound to the west (Ford 1987) and prehistoric occupation also to the north-east (Boismier 1995). Observations made earlier in the 20th century on the site itself recorded the presence of Roman finds, though the details of this are scant (Seaby 1932, 34). Fieldwork in the 1960's during creation of a sunken garden also reported further Roman finds and deposits, though no report was ever produced (Anon, 1965-6).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary. All works were undertaken using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

### Access Route (Fig. 3)

Five test pits were dug along the path of the new access route, generally 2m long by 1m wide, and ranging in depth from 0.43m to 0.65m. Full details of measurements can be found in Appendix 1.

### Test Pit 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This measured 0.65m deep and consisted of 0.45m of topsoil directly overlying a light red brown sandy silt natural geology.

### Test Pit 2

This measured 0.57m deep and consisted of 0.34m of topsoil overlying a light red brown sandy silt natural geology.

### Test Pit 3 (Pl. 2)

This measured 0.43m deep and consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying a light red brown sandy silt natural geology.

#### Test Pit 4

This measured 0.60m deep and consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying clayey sand with gravel natural geology.

#### Test Pit 5

This measured 0.41m deep and consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying a light red brown sandy silt natural geology.

#### Driveway (Fig. 3; Pls 3 and 4)

The strip for the driveway was monitored which was reduced by between 0.10. and 0.15m. This only removed topsoil with no natural geology encountered.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in any of the test pits, nor along the reduction for the drive.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

### **Conclusion**

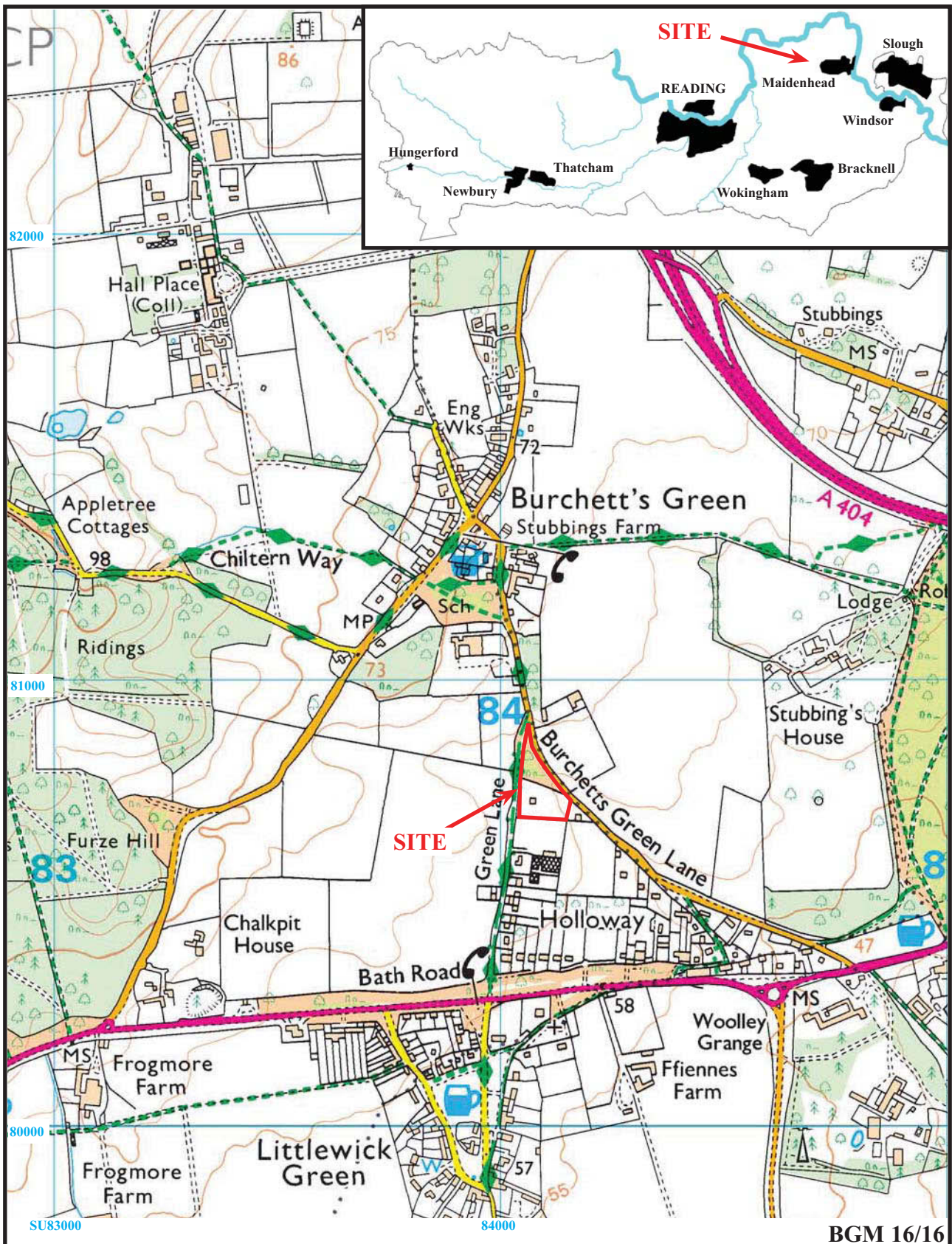
Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

### **References**

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**APPENDIX 1: Test Pit details**

<i>Test Pit</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	2.00	1.00	0.65	0-0.45m topsoil; 0.45m-0.65m+ light red brown sandy silt natural geology. <b>Pl. 1</b>
2	2.00	1.00	0.57	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m-0.57m+ light red brown sandy silt natural geology.
3	2.10	1.00	0.43	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.43m+ light red brown sandy silt natural geology. <b>Pl. 2</b>
4	1.90	1.00	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.60m+ clayey sand with gravel natural geology.
5	2.20	1.00	0.51	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.51m+ light red brown sandy silt natural geology.



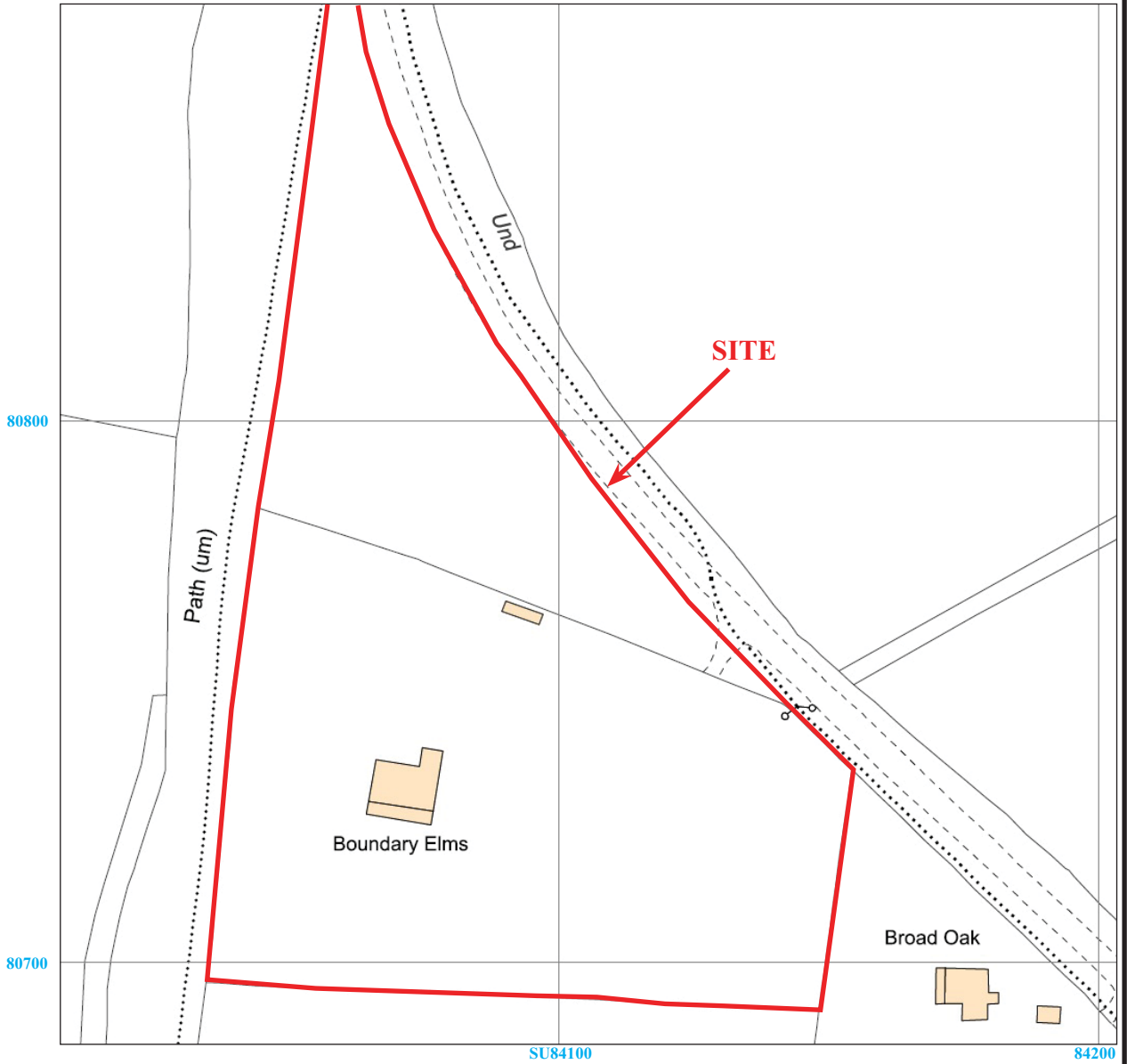
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Maidenhead and within Berkshire.

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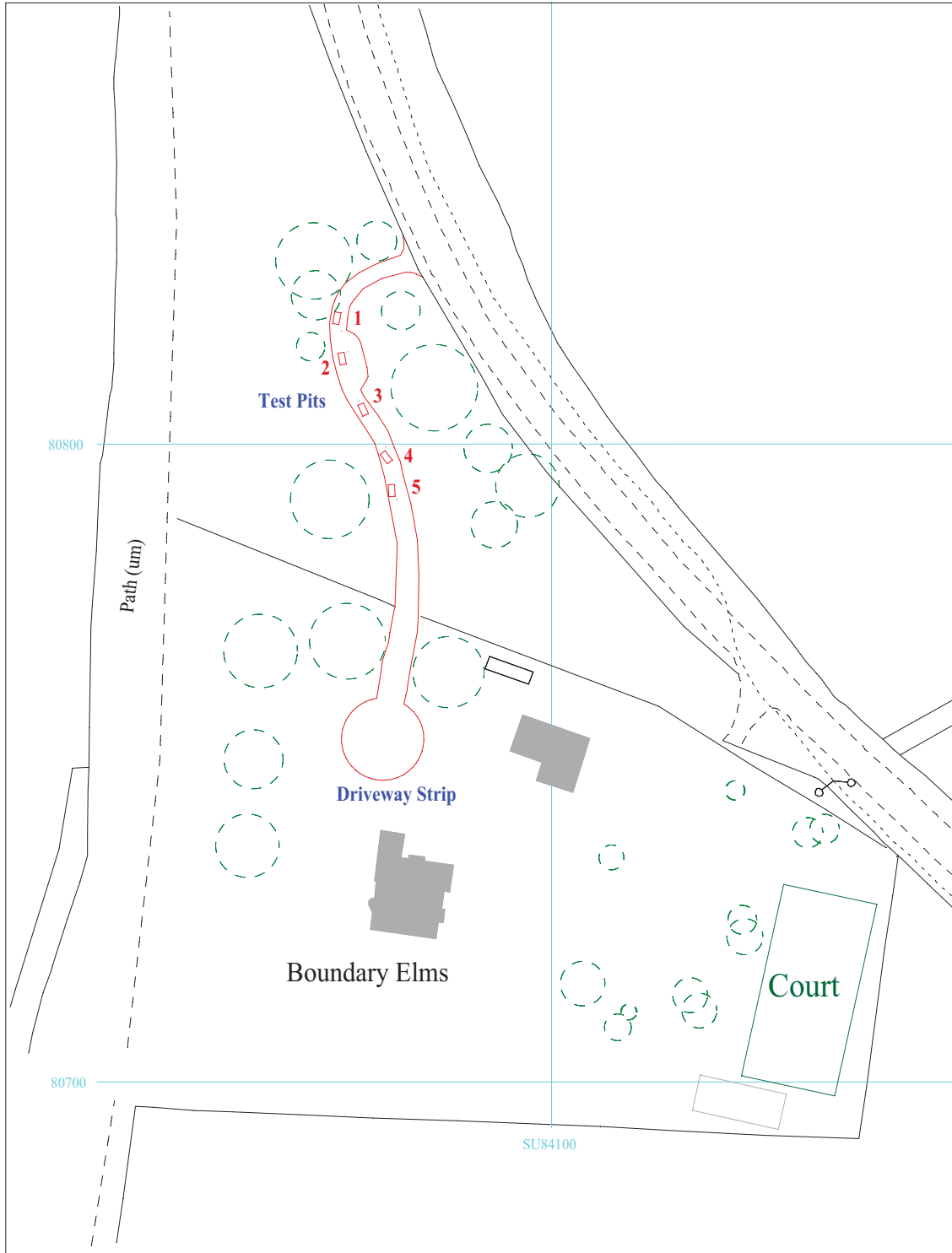
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Burchetts Green Lane.

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Figure 3. Observed areas.



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*Test Pit 1*

SW

NE

62.6maOD

Loose mid to dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent root disturbance

Light reddish brown sandy silt with gravel natural

Base of test pit

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Test pit 1 and line of route shown with other test pits, looking South West, Scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Test pit 3, looking South East, Scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Driveway Strip, looking South, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Driveway Strip, looking North, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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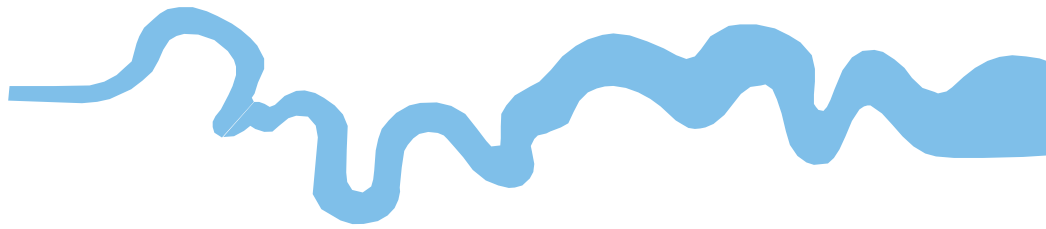
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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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