

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Winkfield Manor, Ascot,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock and Andy Taylor

Site Code: WMA21/85

(SU 9092 7057)

Land at Winkfield Manor, Ascot, Bracknell, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation for Rectory Homes

by Kyle Beaverstock and Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WMA 21/85

March 2022

Summary

Site name: Land at Winkfield Manor, Ascot, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9092 7057

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th-17th March 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WMA 21/85

Area of site: c.2 hectares

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 29.03.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 29.03.22

Land at Winkfield Manor, Ascot, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock and Andy Taylor

Report 21/85b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Winkfield Manor, Ascot, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 9092 7057) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steven Kerry, for Rectory Homes, Rectory House, Thame Road, Haddenham, HP17 8DA.

Planning permission (21/00780/FUL) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Council for the construction of new housing on the site following demolition of existing structures. The consent is subject to a condition (35) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site, a field evaluation has been requested. The results of this evaluation will determine if further phases of fieldwork are required in relation to this development.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Edward Peveler, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Mike Murray between 16th and 17th March 2022 and the site code is WMA 21/85. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-eastern margins of Ascot and on the southern side of the B3034 (Forest Road) (Figs 1 and 2). It was bounded by fields with a golf course to the west and it comprised the former gardens associated with the manor, to the north. The underlying geology is mapped as London clay (though there may be pockets of plateau gravel locally) and the site lies at a height of *c.* 70m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on land with a gentle slope down from south-west to north-east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Preston 2021). In summary, few sites or finds are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site. A previous summary of the region's archaeology (Ford 1987) revealed few sites, thought perhaps to be indicating a low settlement density due to the indifferent quality of the soils without modern fertilizer. However, areas of East Berkshire in the environs of Bracknell and Wokingham have now witnessed the discovery of a number of sites of Iron Age and Roman date during developer-led investigations, notably at West End, Warfield (Taylor in press), Fairclough Farm, Bracknell (Torrance and Durden 2003) and Park Farm, Binfield (Roberts 1995). A few findspots of Roman and Medieval pottery and prehistoric struck flints are recorded for the general environs of the site.

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 were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits of Iron Age or Roman date are present; and
- to provide information about the archaeological potential in order to draw up a mitigation strategy if necessary.

It was proposed to dig 7 trenches, each between 1.60m and 1.80m wide with four at 25m long and three at 10m long. These were to be dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of any identified archaeological deposits would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The seven trenches were opened as close as possible to their intended locations, although some slight repositioning was required due to trees (Fig. 3). These measured between 10.20m and 25m long and between 0.38m and 0.62m deep.

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 2)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 21.50m long and 0.55m deep. At the NE end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.31m of subsoil overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology. At the SW end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of Tarmac overlying 0.14m of brick rubble made ground. This overlay 0.31m of subsoil overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 25m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of brick rubble made ground. This overlay 0.10m of a brick layer overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 24.20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned NE-SW and measured 24m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of tarmac overlying 0.30m of crick rubble made ground overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 10.80m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.38m of brick rubble made ground overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 10.40m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.16m of subsoil overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology..

Trench 7 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 10.20m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying light brown grey clayey sand natural geology.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for archaeology to be present no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation.

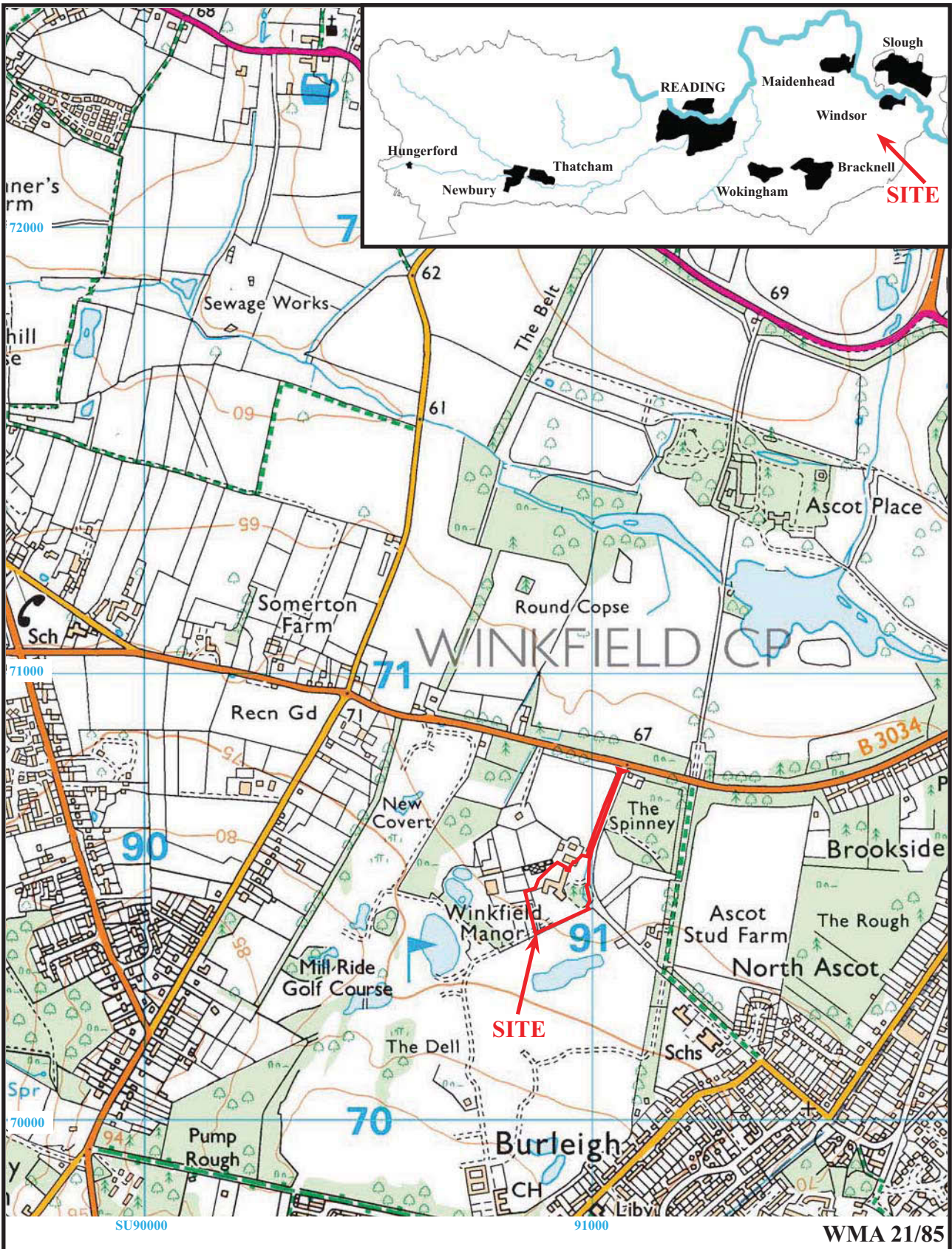
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

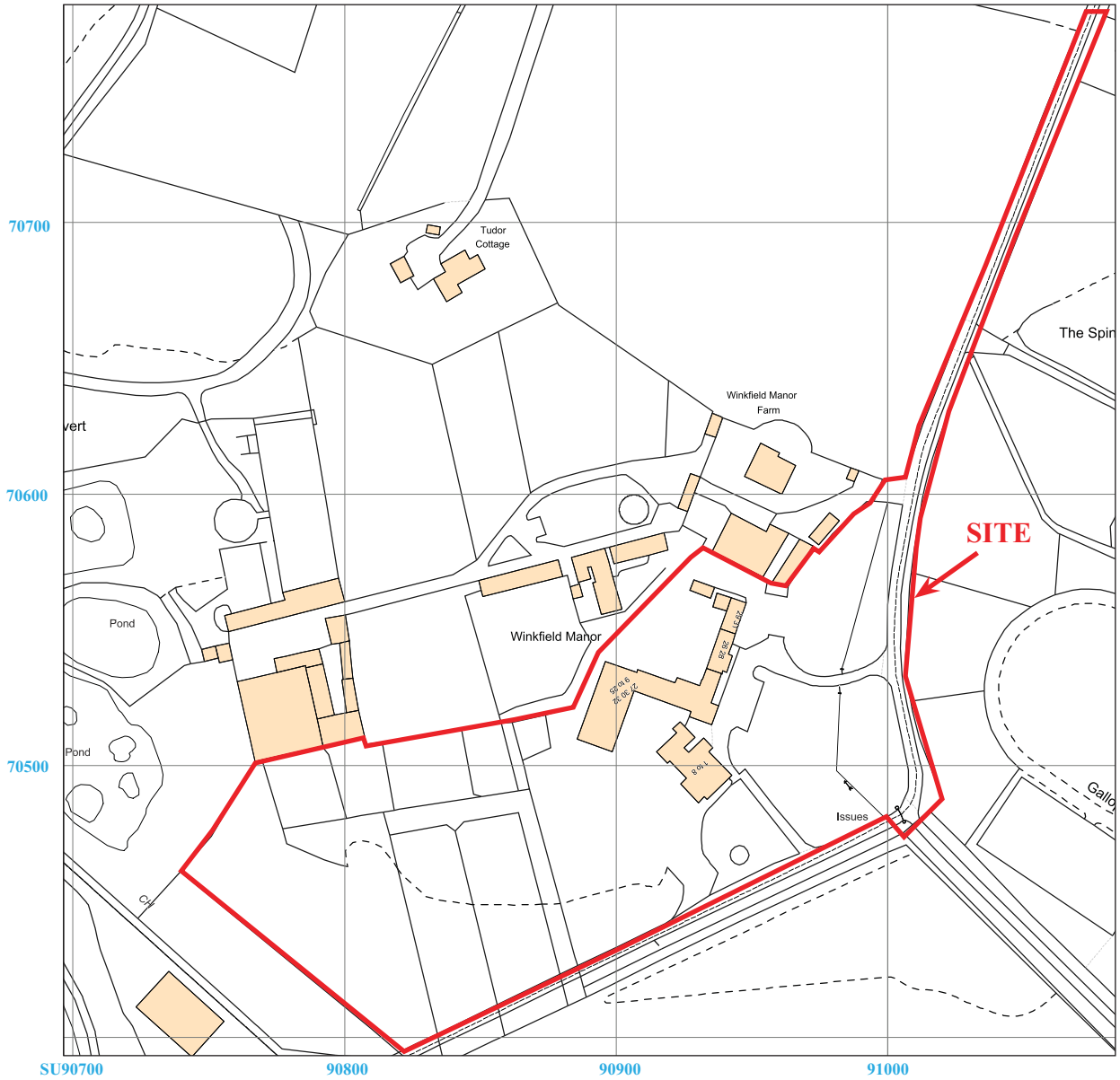
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.50	1.60	0.55	NE End: 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. SW End: 0-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10m-0.24m brick rubble made ground; 0.24m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. Pls.1 and 2
2	25.00	1.60	0.62	0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m-0.46m brick layer; 0.46m-0.62m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. Pl. 3
3	24.20	1.60	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology.
4	24.00	1.60	0.50	0-0.20m Tarmac; 0.20m-0.50m brick rubble made ground; 0.50m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. Pl. 4
5	10.80	1.60	0.54	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology.
6	10.40	1.60	0.38	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. Pl. 5
7	10.20	1.60	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light brown grey sandy silt natural geology. Pl. 6



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Figure 1. Location of site within Ascot and Berkshire

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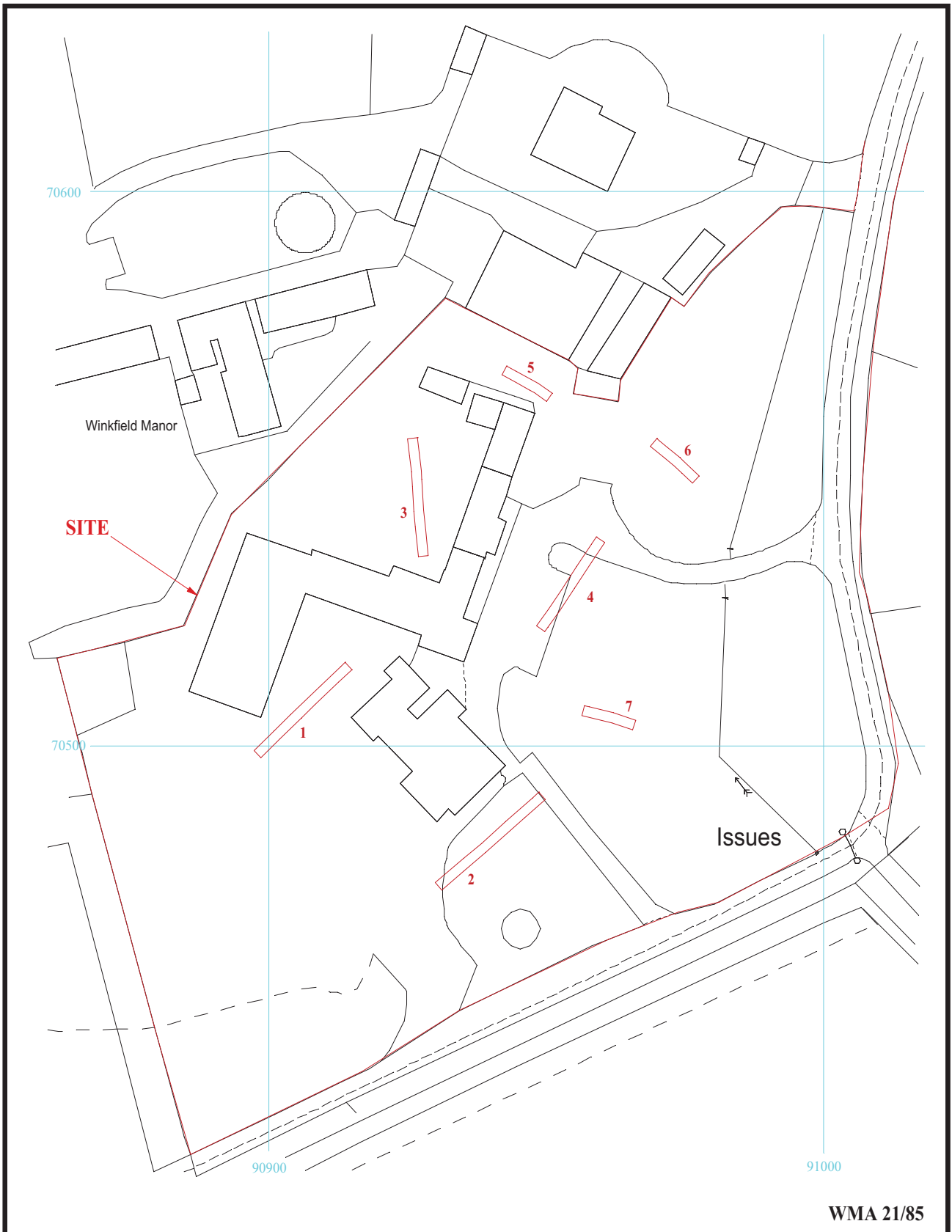
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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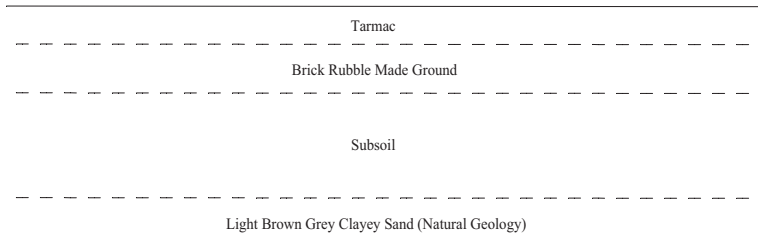
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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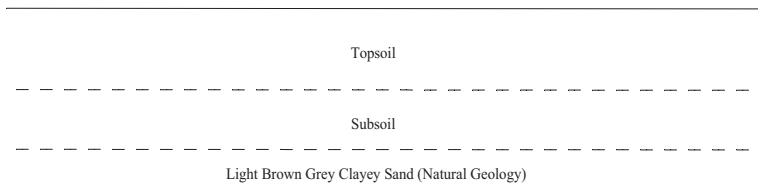
Trench 1

72.50m aOD



Trench 6

71.50m aOD



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1 (north end), looking South West,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 1 (south end), looking North East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking South, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking South West,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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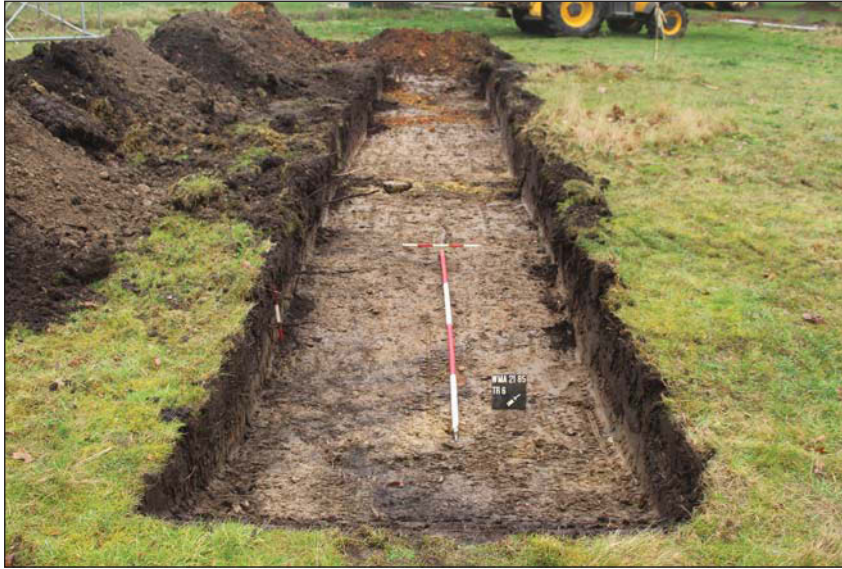


Plate 5. Trench 6, looking South East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 7, looking South East,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

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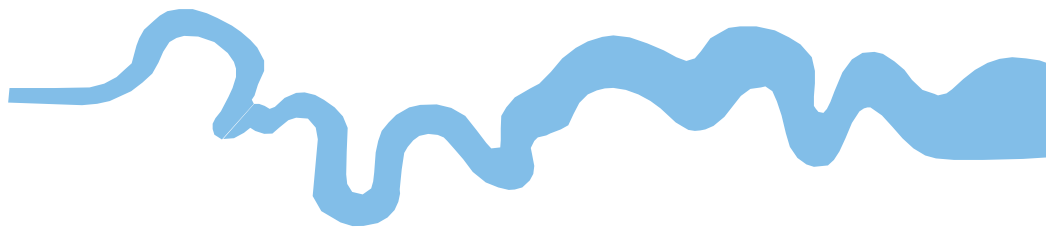
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Plates 5 and 6.**

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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





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