

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Shepperlands Cottage, Park lane, Finchampstead,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site Code: SFB22/93

(SU 7776 6440)

Shepperlands Cottage, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for Ms Claire Lamkin

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SFB 22/93

May 2022

Summary

Site name: Shepperlands Cottage, Park lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7776 6440

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th and 6th May 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: SFB 22-93

Area of site: c. 69 sq. m.

Summary of results: The watching brief investigated the area affected by groundworks for a proposed cottage extension. This included some ground reduction and the digging of footing trenches. No archaeological features were recorded and no artefacts earlier than the late 19th-20th century were noted.

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

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| | Steve Preston ✓ 11.05.22 |

Shepperlands Cottage, Park lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 22/93

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Shepperlands Cottage, Park lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 4QE (SU 7776 6440) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the owner, Ms Claire Lamkin of the same address .

Planning consent (app 212392) and listed building consent (app 212393) had been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the development of a two-storey rear extension to an existing listed cottage. A condition (7) related to archaeology was attached to the consent which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Council policies on archaeology. The fieldwork took place, following the preparation of a written scheme of investigation approved by the local planning authority (Wokingham Borough Council), in the form of a watching brief during the groundworks phase, as advised by Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse, assisted by Tristan Nisseron between the 4th and 6th May 2022 and the site code is SFB22/93.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 5km south-west of Wokingham, between the villages of Finchampstead and Arborfield Green (Fig. 2). It is a small lawn garden at the back of a listed cottage. It is bordered by woodlands in its immediate vicinity. It lies at a height of approximately 56m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Bagshot Formation, a deposit from the Eocene period, described as fine to medium grained with silt and clay laminae.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Dr. Edward Peveler of Berkshire Archaeology. To sum up the main archaeological interest lies in its close proximity to the grade-II cottage, with elements of the 17th Century. During the erection of a garage on the plot a silver penny of Charles I had been found (Ms Lamkin comm.). It is possible that a late medieval precursor to the actual building exists below ground level. To the north Roman occupation has been found at Hogwood farm while undated earthworks are also known in the vicinity of Shepperlands Copse. To the south runs the Roman road from Silchester to London with a Roman villa recorded nearby.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. Any such deposit will be assessed in light of national (HE 2017) or regional (Hey and Hind 2014) research priorities. Work will follow the recommendations of the CIfA (CIfA 2020) and the guidelines of the 'Berkshire Archaeology general standards for archaeological fieldwork projects (April 2021)'.

Results (Figs. 3-4 ; Pls. 1-2)

Fieldwork took place under good weather conditions and good light.

Ground reduction

An area about 10m by 6.90m was ground reduced directly at the rear of the cottage by 0.35 to 0.70m below ground level using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. This partially revealed the geological horizon, a soft yellow/brown clayey sand, which matches the geological map description. It was overlaid by 0.45-0.50m of topsoil, a dark grey/black loamy silt with common tree roots. A good part of the reduced area still contained a deposit similar to the topsoil and filled with pottery and glass fragments, bricks, toys, scrap metal, plastic, all of fairly recent date (late Victorian to Modern). A metal detector (Minelabs Vanquish 540) was used on and off site to try to enhance finds recovery but failed to find anything significant.

Footing trenches

The footings were dug following the ground reduction. They were 0.65m wide and about 1.10m below actual ground level and revealed the natural geology.. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

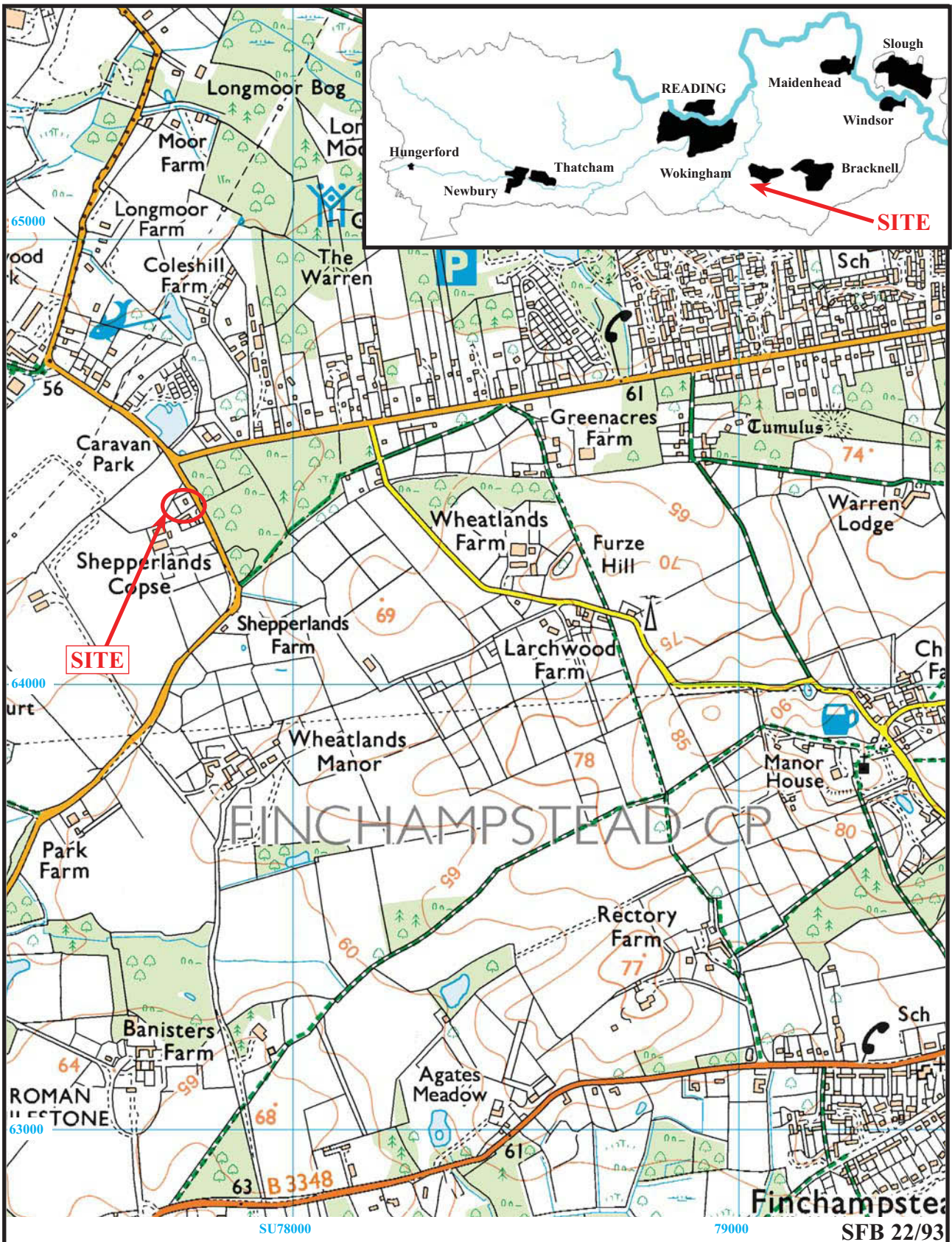
A number of complete vessels in glass or pottery were observed but were all of late 19th or 20th century and thus were retained on site.

Conclusion

Despite the proximity of known heritage assets, the watching brief has not revealed any deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest. The ground reduction and the digging of foundation only revealed modern material from topsoil contexts.

References

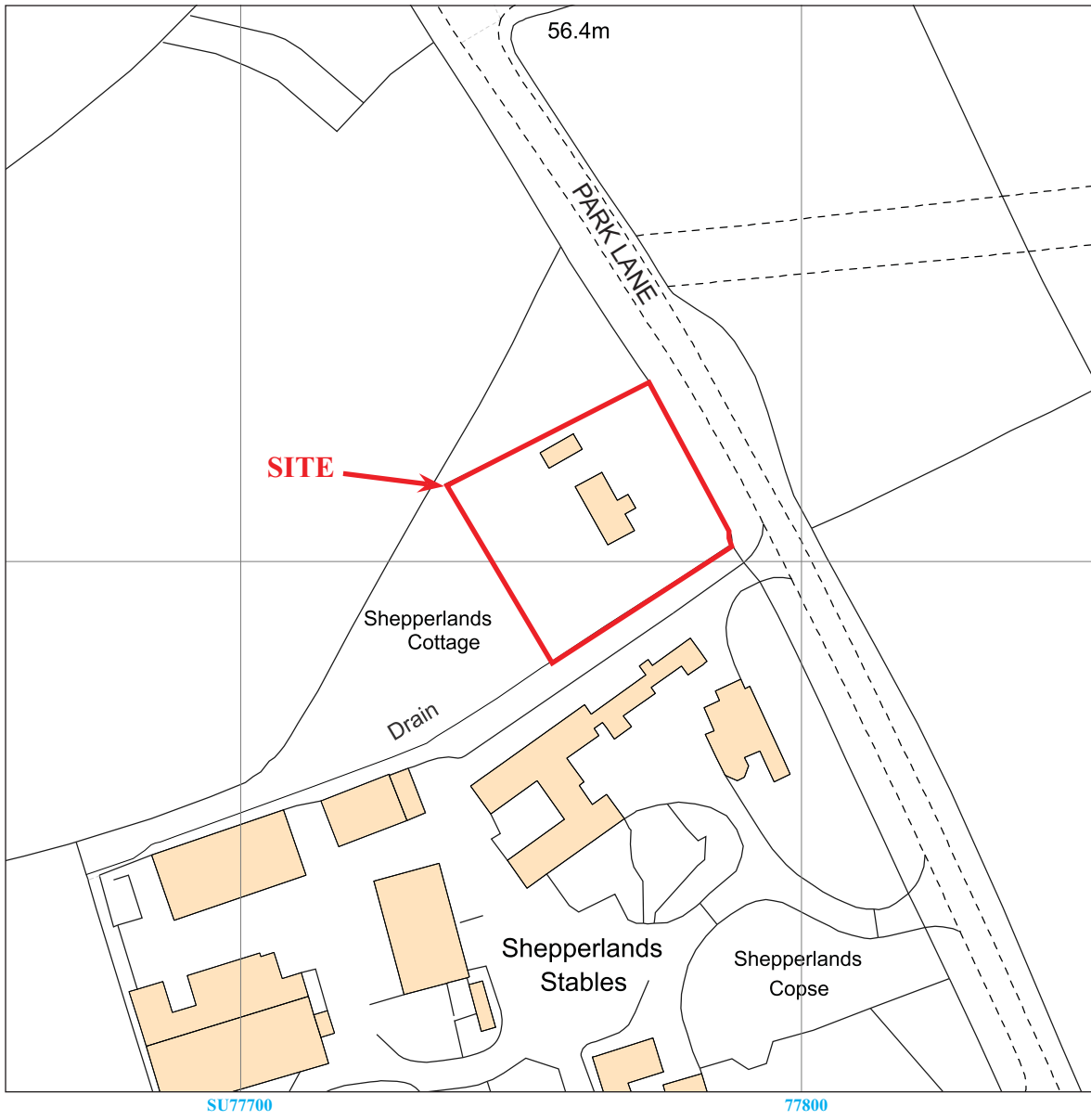
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- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford
- CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- NPPF 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



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 Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Finchampstead, within
 Berkshire.

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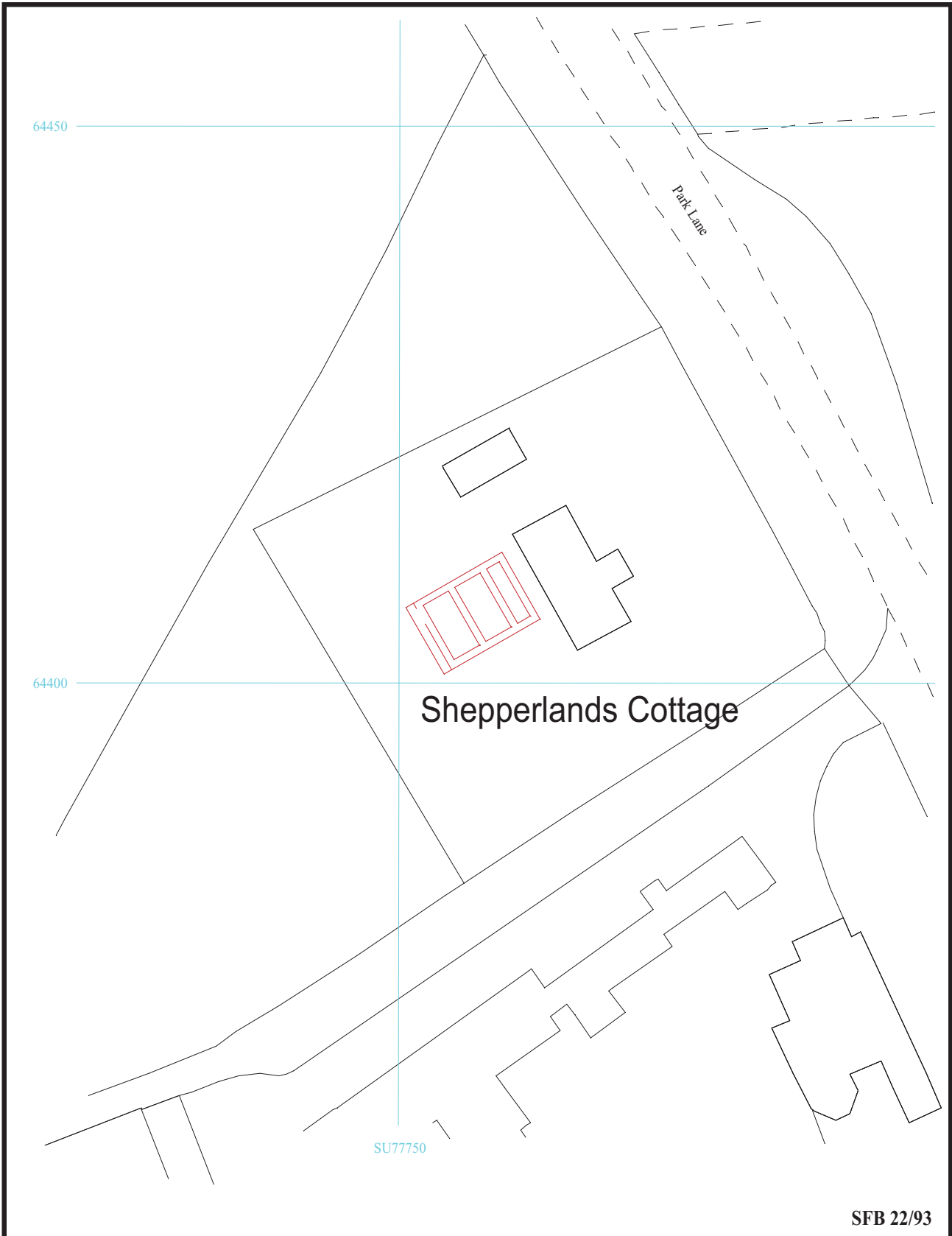





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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Park Lane.

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|  | <p>Shepperlands Cottage, Park Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2022 Archaeological Watching Brief</p> <p>Figure 3. Location of observed footings.</p>  |  |
|---|--|---|

NW _____ SE 61m aOD

Topsoil

Yellow/brown sand natural geology

Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section of the trench excavations



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Plate 1. General view, looking East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Section view, looking south-east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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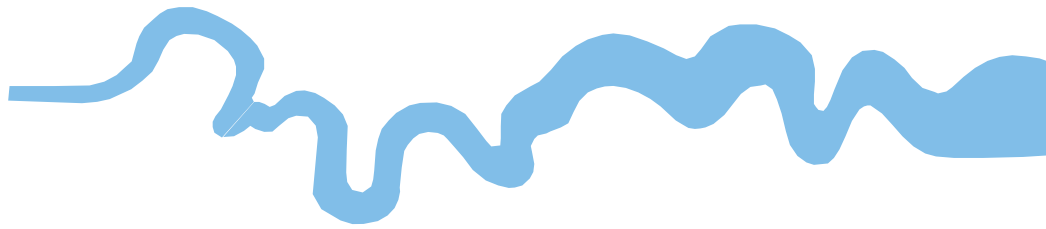
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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