

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Everland Road, Hungerford,
West Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Will Attard

Site Code: ERH22/238

(SU 3400 6865)

**Everland Road, Hungerford,
West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Sir Edward Troup**

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ERH 22/238

October 2022

Summary

Site name: Everland Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 3400 6865

Site activity: Evaluation trenching and test pits

Date and duration of project: 24th October 2022

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: ERH 22/238

Summary of results: Three trenches and six test pits were opened as intended. A small collection of prehistoric struck flints was recovered from the topsoil, but no other artefacts, horizons or features of archaeological significance were encountered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 31.10.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 31.10.22

Everland Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Will Attard

Report 22/238

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Everlands Road, Hungerford, West Berkshire, RG17 0DX (SU 3400 6865) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter Tompkins of Edge Architecture, Boames Farm, Enborne, Newbury, RG20 0JT, on behalf of Sir Edward Troup, c/o Edge Architecture, Boames Farm, Enborne, Newbury, RG20 0JT.

Planning consent (21/01722/FULD) has been refused by West Berkshire Council for the construction of three new houses at the site, one of the reasons being that insufficient information was provided on the proposal's potential impact on the area's archaeological resource. In anticipation of a further application, and due to the site's potential to contain archaeological deposits, a field evaluation has been requested in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to inform the planning process. A single component of work was proposed - field evaluation by means of machine trenching. 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 Ms Sarah Orr, Senior Archaeologist for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard and Edmund Cush on 24th October 2022 and the site code is ERH 22/238.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site consists of a roughly rectangular plot of land located on the north-east side of Hungerford in West Berkshire (Fig. 1). It is bounded by Everland Road to the east, a Tesco store to the south and by residential plots to the west (Fig. 2). Hungerford Station lies 130m south-east of the site, and Hungerford High Street 200m to the west. A canalized portion of the River Kennet runs immediately to the north, with the rivers Dun and the Kennet proper lying roughly 150m and 200m beyond, respectively. The site lies on the margins of the Kennet

floodplain, and the underlying geology is recorded as Alluvium and Gravel (BGS 2006) and the site lies at a height of c.100m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Kennet Valley (Lobb and Rose 1996; Dils and Yates 2013; Froom 2021). The Kennet Valley is particularly notable for evidence of extensive Mesolithic presence, with numerous sites spanning the Upper Palaeolithic through to the late Mesolithic on the valley floor between Hungerford and Thatcham. A predictive mapping study for Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic remains within the Kennet Valley (Barnett *et al.* 2020) does not extend as far west as Hungerford, but the location on the valley floor and on the margins of the floodplain suggests a likely position for Mesolithic (and later) occupation. The site is also located on the margins of the historic core of Hungerford (Astill 1978), which has late Saxon origins (though not recorded in Domesday Book). The town itself developed in the 12th century. The site lies to the rear of properties fronting Bridge Street, at the rear of former burgage plots associated with these properties.

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.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if there are any earlier prehistoric (Mesolithic) deposits or artefact scatters are present.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in Historic England's Research Agenda (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent-Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014)

It was proposed to dig three trenches, each measuring 10m long and 1.60m wide. At each end of each trench a 1.6x 0.5m topsoil test pit was to be excavated, with 40L of the spoil sieved through a 10mm mesh to recover lithics or other finds. All machine excavation was undertaken with a JCB backhoe fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were carefully monitored for finds. All sieving for lithics was undertaken by staff with relevant experience with early Holocene

archaeology. Sufficient of any identified archaeological deposits revealed would be investigated to address the aims outlined above.

Results

The three trenches were dug, measuring between 12.6m and 13.4m in length along with the 6 test pits. Minor repositioning was required to avoid potential damage to protected trees. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 12.6m long and 0.85m deep. Observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.47m of clay-rich gravelly subsoil. Natural geology was observed at a depth of 0.72m, and consisted of flint gravel in a mid brown-grey clay-sand matrix. No archaeological features or horizons were observed within this trench; a few worked flints were recovered during sieving of the topsoil from the test pits at each end, and are detailed below.

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

Trench 2 was aligned NE-SW and measured 13.4m long and 0.69m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.39m of topsoil overlying 0.29m of subsoil overlying natural flint gravel in a mid orange-brown clay-sand matrix at a depth of 0.68m. No archaeological features or horizons were observed within this trench; a few worked flints were recovered during sieving of the topsoil from the test pits, and are detailed below.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 measured 13.0m long and 0.80m deep. The observed stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil overlying 0.66m of subsoil. Natural gravel in a mid orange-brown clay-sand matrix was observed at a depth of 0.73m. No archaeological features or horizons were observed within this trench; a few worked flints were recovered during sieving of the topsoil from the northern test pit, and are detailed below.

Finds

Struck Flint by Will Attard

A modest assemblage of 25 struck flints was recovered from the sieving of topsoil from the test pits. All three trenches produced flints. Eleven of the pieces recovered are small chips, less than 20mm in maximum

length/width. Chips like this can result from agricultural activity as easily as being the result of flint knapping, and as such these pieces should not be counted as firm evidence of prehistoric activity.

The remaining 14 flints primarily consist of non-diagnostic struck flakes, with only two small blades and one broken blade being tentatively assigned to the Mesolithic.

Conclusion

The field evaluation at Everland Road was carried out as intended, with three trenches and six test pits opened and recorded. No archaeological horizons, deposits or features were present within the trenches; sieving of sediment from the test pits produced a small collection of struck flints, with three pieces tentatively assigned to the Mesolithic. However the low density and composition of this collection is such that it is likely that it represents no more than use, casual loss or discard of flints across the wider landscape over a long period of time from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

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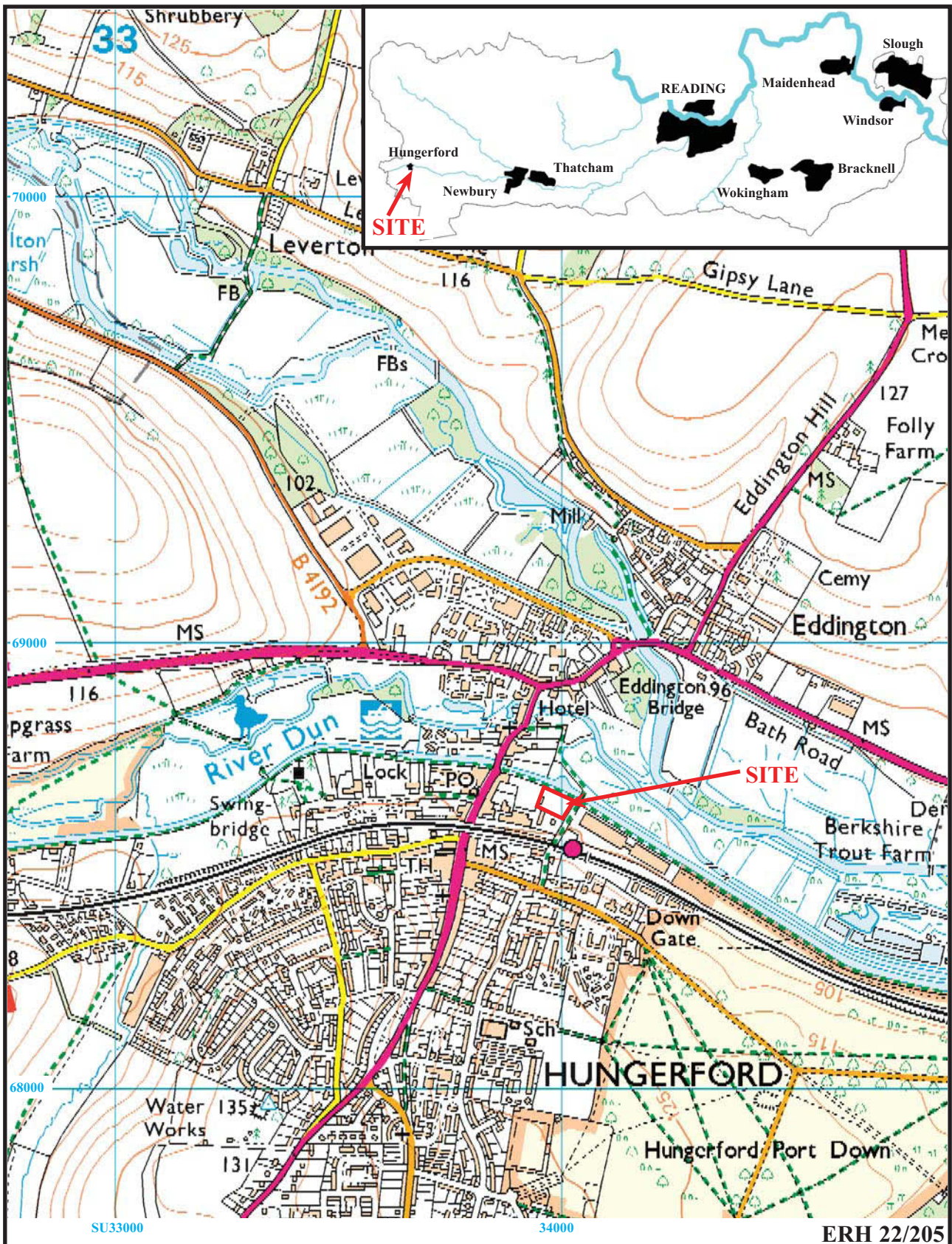
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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	12.6	1.60	0.85	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.72m subsoil; 0.72m+ mid brown-grey clay-sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeology in trench. Struck flints from topsoil. [Pl. 1]
2	13.4	1.60	0.69	0-0.39m topsoil; 0.39-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m+ natural mid orange-brown flint gravel in a sandy clay matrix. No archaeology in trench. Struck flints from topsoil. [Pl. 2]
3	13.0	1.60	0.80	0-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.73m subsoil; 0.73m+ natural mid orange-brown gravel in a clay-sand matrix. No archaeology in trench. Struck flints from topsoil. [Pl. 3]

APPENDIX 2: Struck Flint

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Test Pit</i>	<i>Flakes</i>	<i>Blades</i>	<i>Chips</i>	<i>Broken flake</i>	<i>Broken blade</i>	<i>Total:</i>
1	East	3	1	2	1	-	7
1	West	-	-	2	-	1	3
2	North	6	-	-	-	-	6
2	South	1	-	2	-	-	3
3	North	-	1	5	-	-	6
3	South	-	-	-	-	-	-

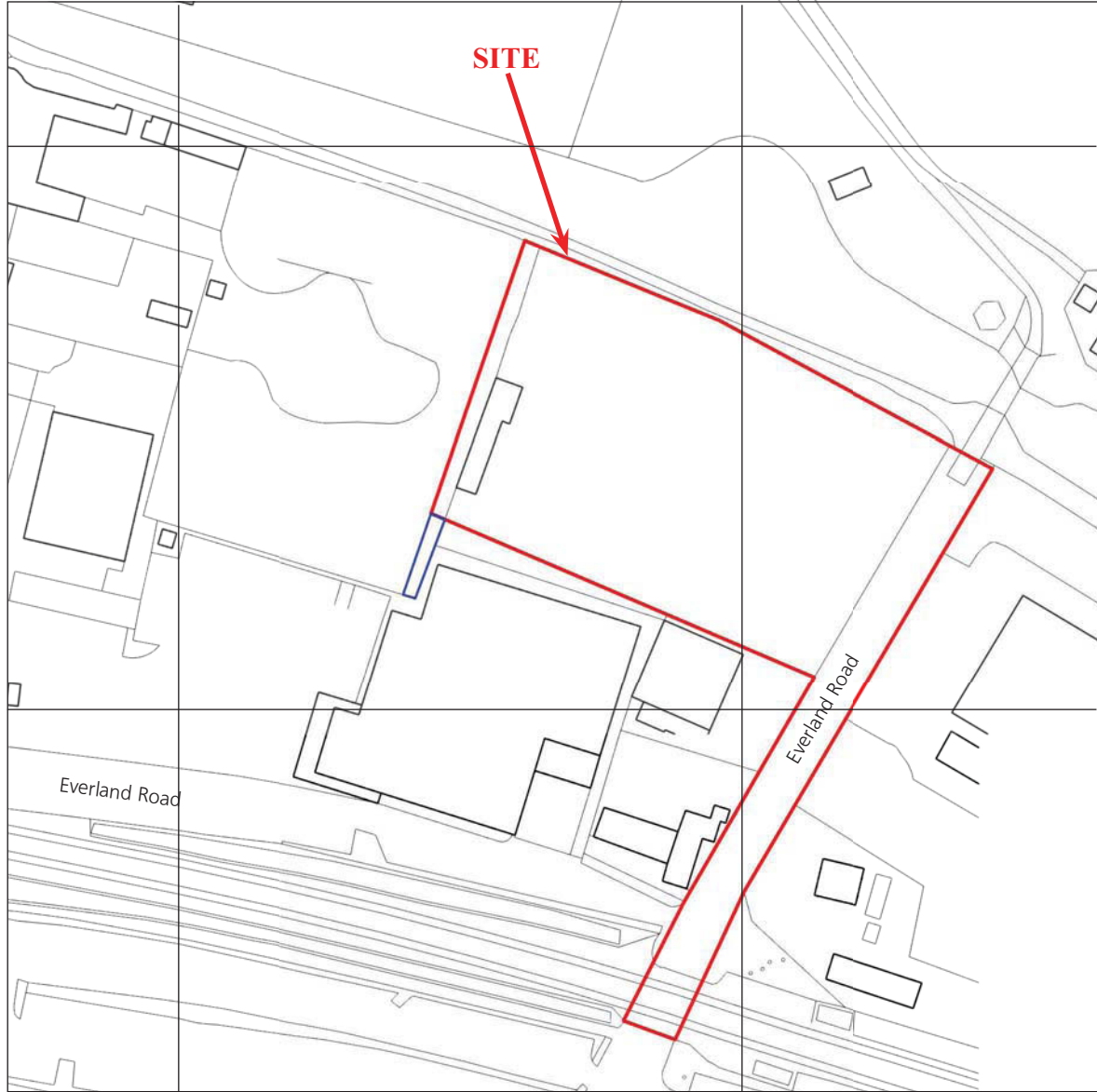


**Everland Road, Hungerford,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hungerford and Berkshire.

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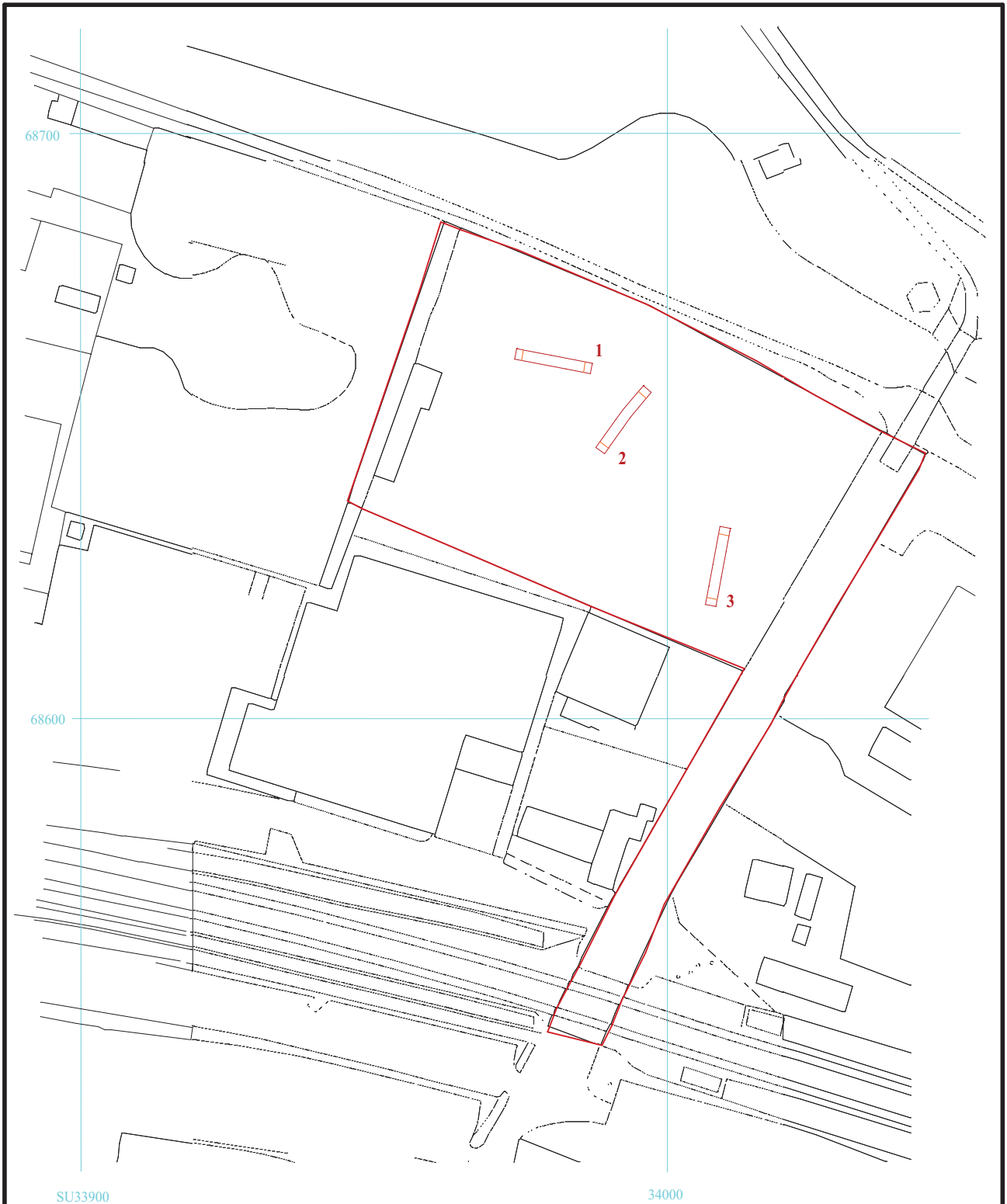


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Everland Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 2

SSW

NNE

97.5maOD

Topsoil (Dark brown sand silt)

Subsoil (Mid orange brown clay sand matrix)

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking East, Scales: 1m and 2m (horizontal), 0.4m (vertical)



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking North east, Scales: 1m and 2m (horizontal), 0.4m (vertical)



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North, Scales: 1m and 2m (horizontal), 0.4m (vertical)

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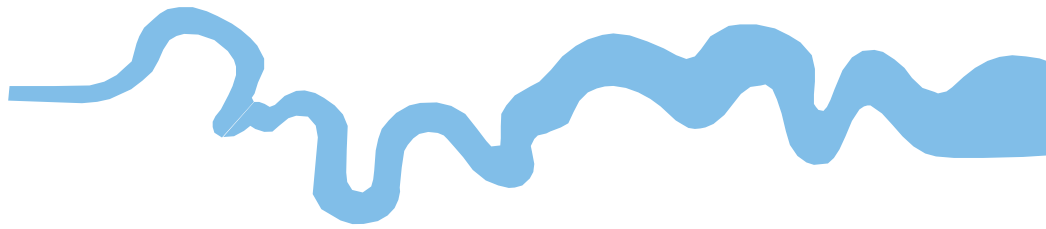
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Plates 1 - 3.

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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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