

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Tetchwick Farm, Ludgershall,
Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by David Platt

Site Code: TFL11/28

(SP 6790 1885)

**Tetchwick Farm, Tetchwick, Ludgershall,
Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Recording Action

for Mr and Mrs Taylor

by David Platt

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeTFL11/28

May 2011

Summary

Site name: Tetchwick Farm, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 6790 1885

Site activity: Archaeological recording action

Date and duration of project: 11th May 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: TFL 11/28

Area of site: c. 100 sq m

Summary of results: No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were found. A part of the site had been truncated in recent times

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 31.05.11

Tetchwick Farm, Tetchwick, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Recording Action

By David Platt

Report 11/28

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Tetchwick Farm, Buckinghamshire (SP 6790 1885)(Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Harvey and Sarah Taylor, Tetchwick Farm, Kingswood, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0RD.

Planning permission (10/01381/APP) has been gained from Aylesbury Vale District Council to construct a new property at Tetchwick Farm. The consent is subject to a condition that ‘no development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This is in order to approve and safeguard any archaeological evidence that may be present at the site and to accord with policy GP. 59 of the Aylesbury Vale District local plan’. This is also in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010). The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Eliza Alqassar, Archaeological Planning and Conservation Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt on 11th May 2011 and the site code is TFL 11/28. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum or Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 0.5km to the west of the hamlet of Kingswood and 1km north-east of Ludgershall, within the county of Buckinghamshire. The site is in close proximity to the Tetchwick Brook (Fig. 1). The natural geology is Lower Oxford Clay (BGS 1994) and this was observed in the excavation area as a mid yellowish colour with mottled patches of pale yellowish blue. The site is approximately 67m above ordnance datum and located on level ground between two hills, Sharps Hill, (88m AOD) to the North and Tittershall Wood (85m) to the south.

The land had been previously used as a rubble storage area for excess farm hardcore, prior to this the area was associated with a cowshed approximately 100m to the north, which has now been converted into a bungalow (Fig. 2).

Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic core of the hamlet of Tetchwick, which has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin, 2002). The hamlet of Tetchwick was formerly held by Alwin and was assessed in 1086 as a manor of 2 hides and was later given to the Knights Hospitallers. In medieval times it lay within the Forest of Bernwood. The Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record notes that to the south-west of the site lies a (presumed) medieval moated site with possible traces of house platforms as earthworks to the south (Fig. 2). Tetchwick Moat Farmhouse which lies just to the south of the proposal site is a listed building with 17th century origins. The hamlet is surrounded by medieval ridge and furrow field systems.

Tetchwick lies within Ludgershall parish, with Ludgershall itself located 1km to the south-west. Ludgershall along with Brill and Boarstall is known for its production of Medieval tile and pottery which was traded widely in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and beyond. A Roman road (Akeman Street) lies to the north of the settlement.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the archaeological recording action 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 address the following research questions:

- Are there any archaeological deposits on the site?
- When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?
- What is the nature and extent of Medieval occupation on the site?
- What is the nature of Medieval property boundaries and how do they develop through time? If such boundaries are present, is there any evidence of zoned use of a plot?
- What is the nature of the transition from Saxon to medieval to post-medieval on the site?
- What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the area?
- Was there any medieval pottery production on the site?

An area of approximately 100 sq m was to be stripped using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under continual archaeological supervision. The area to be stripped was to follow the footprint of the new building.

Results

An area measuring approximately 12.40m x 8.00m was stripped to expose the footprint of the new building as intended (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). All topsoil and surface rubble was removed down to the top of the natural geology (Oxford Clay). In the north and east of the site the stratigraphy revealed a layer of building rubble approximately 0.11m deep, which overlay a layer of dark brownish grey clayey silt, which was 0.09m deep. This in turn sealed a layer of pale greyish blue clay with frequent mixed building rubble inclusions, this was approximately 0.17m thick (Pl. 2). At 0.37m below the surface level the mottled yellowish grey and blue natural clay was revealed (Fig. 4). No archaeology was revealed in this exposed area

In the south and west of the site the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of dark brownish grey clayey silt lying above a layer of building rubble which was approximately 0.11m in depth. After the building rubble had been exposed a large modern pit could be observed in plan covering the majority of the south and east of the site. This pit was not fully exposed but was at least 8.0m in length and 3.00m in width and extended beyond the limit of excavation to the south-east. This modern pit was filled with a mixture of yellowish brown silty clay and building debris including modern brick and metal. The top of this pit was observed 0.60m below the current surface and was cut into the natural clay. Across the north side of the site a modern drain ceramic drain was also uncovered. Again in this area no archaeological deposits were seen cutting the exposed natural geology. The spoil placed adjacent to the area being stripped and was searched in order to locate any artefacts of archaeological interest.

Finds

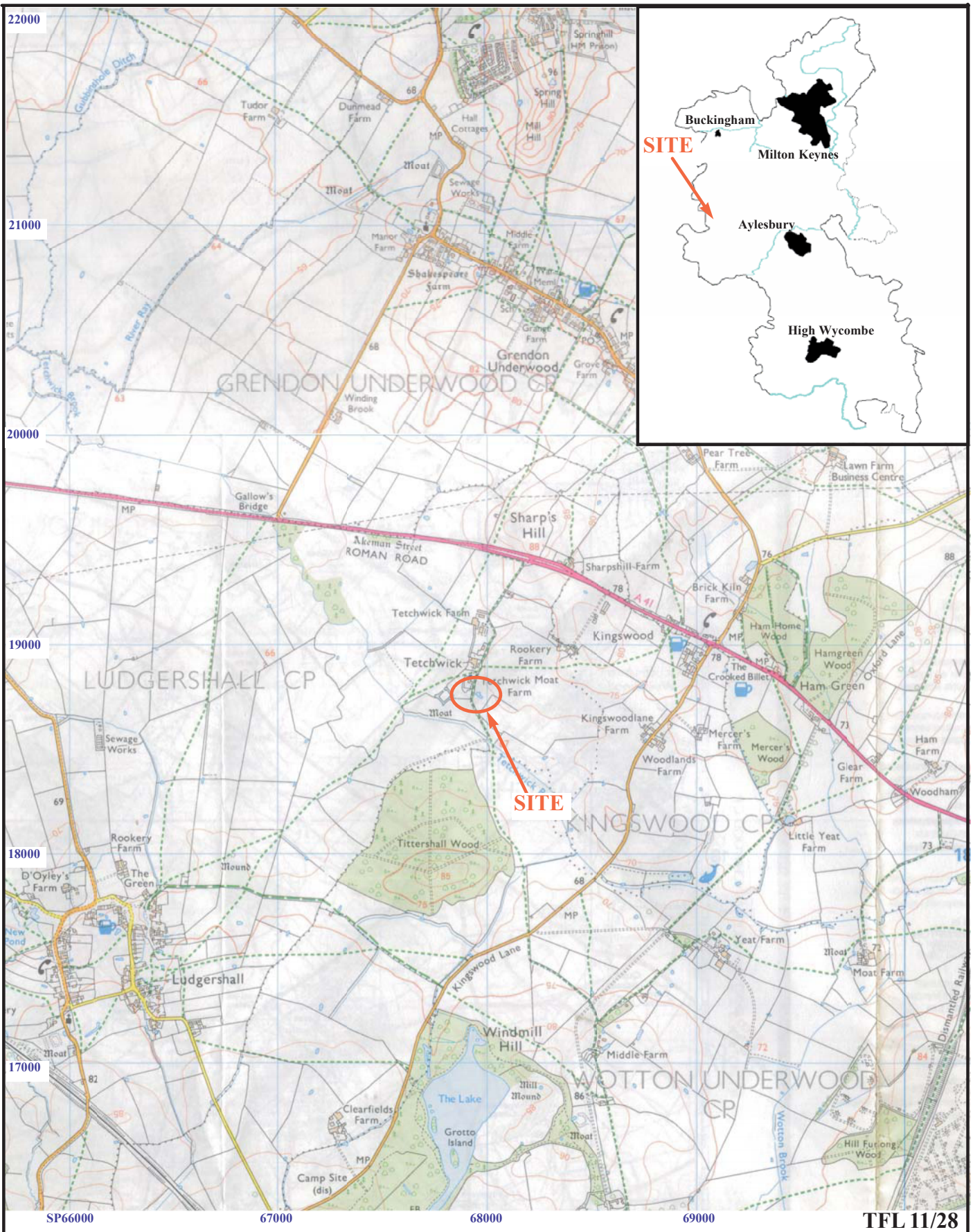
The only finds encountered during the recording action were clearly 20th century in date and included metal, plastic-sheathed metal and modern bricks and building rubble. No finds were retained.

Conclusion

The result of this fieldwork has shown that this area of the farm has been partly disturbed in the recent past. The lack of top- and subsoil with modern rubble, directly overlying the natural geology, could indicate that any archaeology previously present in the area of excavation may have been removed. However it is considered that any truncation was superficial (apart from the area of the modern pit) and thus the lack of archaeological deposits is not a result of truncation, but just not present.

References

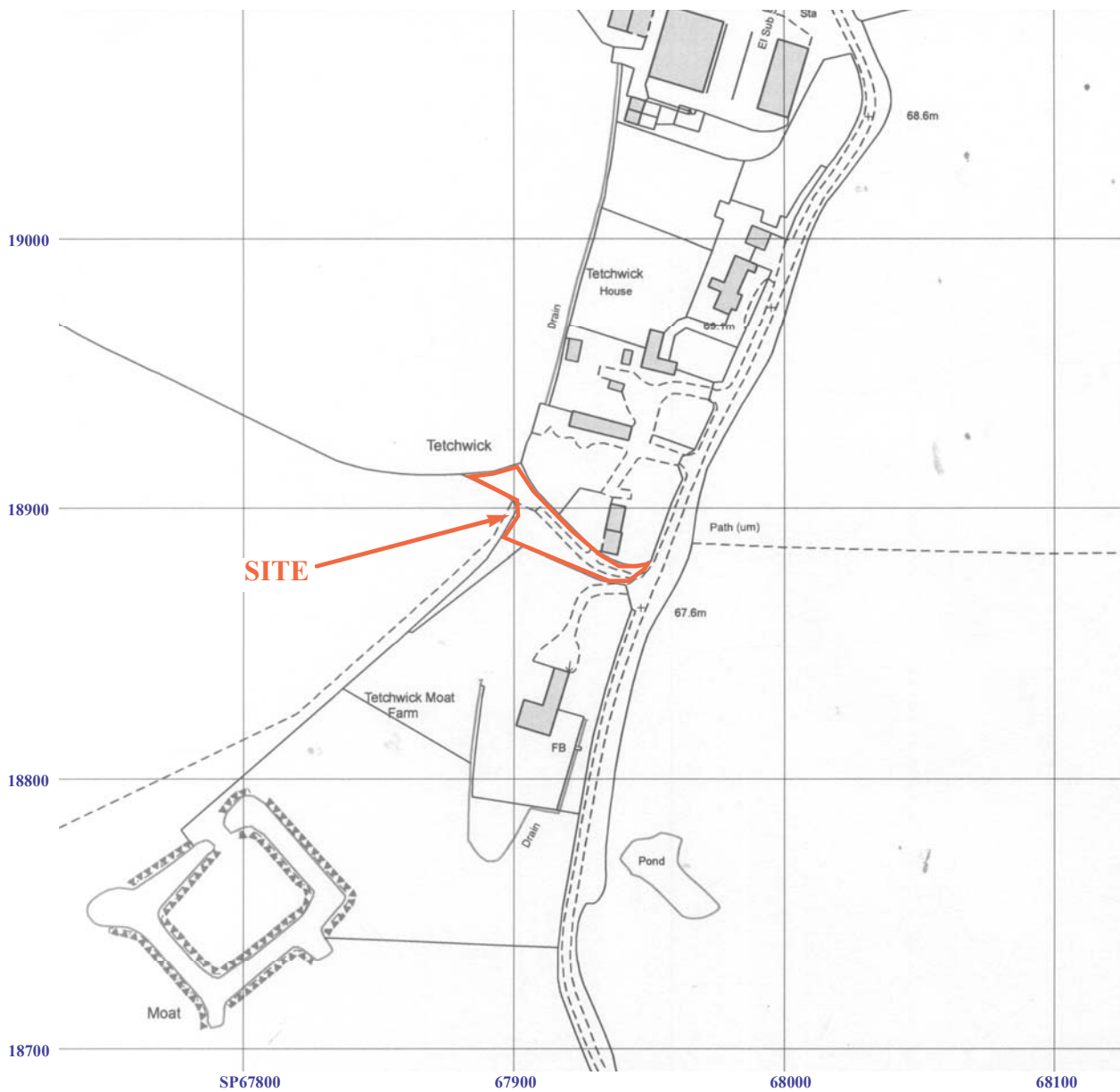
- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 237, 1994 Edition, Keyworth
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Doomsday Book, a complete translation*, London



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Figure 1. Location of site at Tetchwick, in relation to Ludgershall and within Buckinghamshire.

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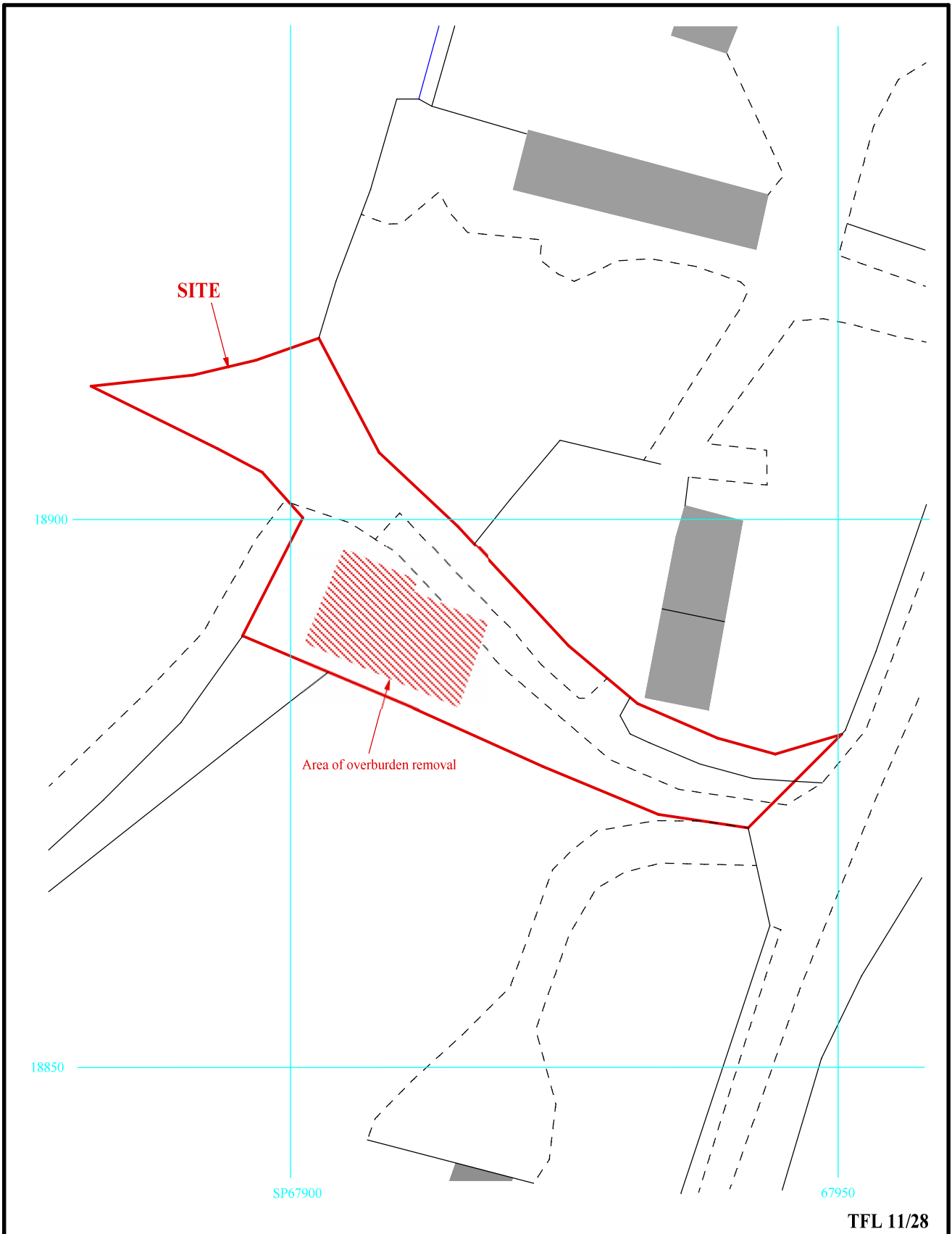


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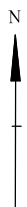
Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Tetchwick.

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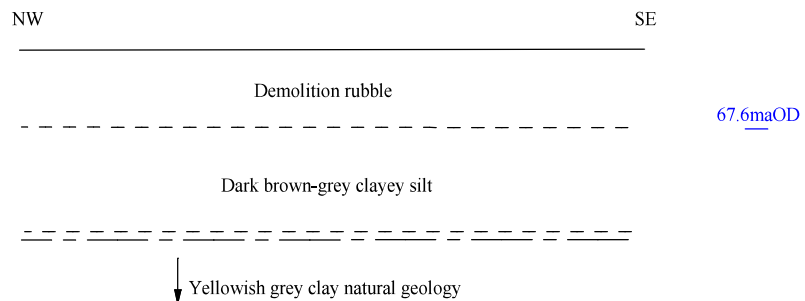


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Area of overburden strip looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Profile of stratigraphy, looking north west, Scale: 1m.

TFL11/28

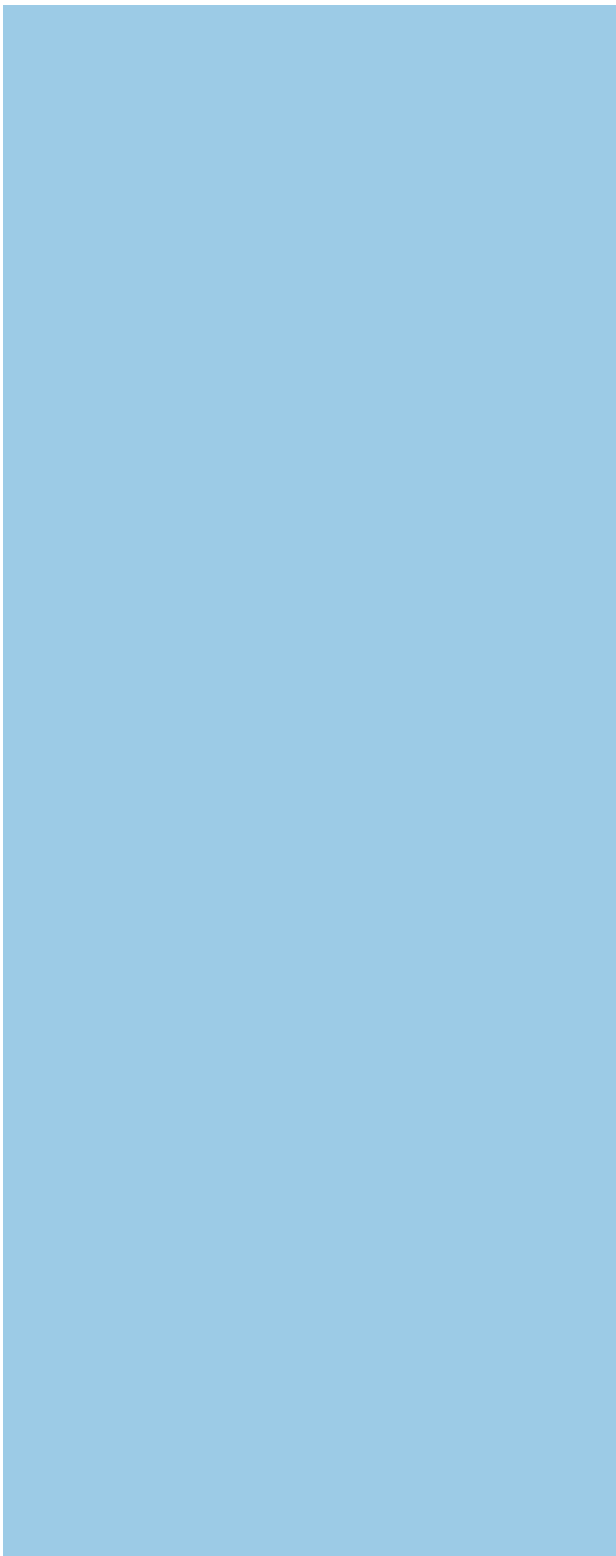
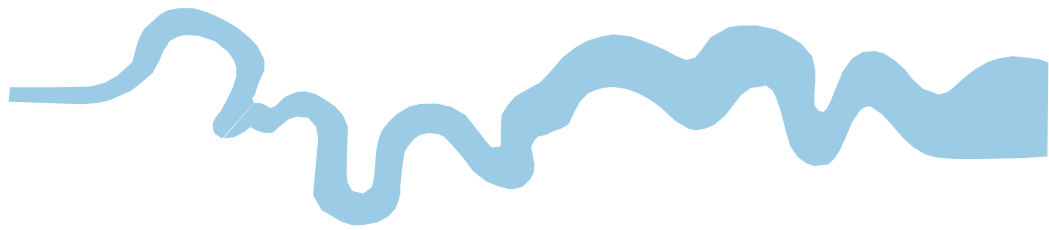
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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
↓	↓



**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**