

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Clewborough House School,
Frimley, Surrey**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Phase 3**

by Danielle Milbank

Site Code: CHS07/146

(SU 8890 5840)

**Clewborough House School, St Catherine's Road,
Frimley, Surrey**

An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)

for Banner Homes Ltd

by Danielle Milbank

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeCHS07/146

October 2011

Summary

Site name: Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey (Phase 3)

Grid reference: SU 8890 5800

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 17th October 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: CHS 07/146

Area of site: 3.6ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were encountered during this phase of the evaluation.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 22.10.11 Steve Preston ✓ 21.10.11

Clewborough House School, St Catherine's Road, Frimley, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 3)

by Danielle Milbank

Report 07/146d

Introduction

This report documents the results of the third phase of archaeological field evaluation carried out at Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey (SU 8890 5800) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stuart Forrester of Banner Homes Limited, Penarth House, Otterbourne Hill, Otterbourne, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2EZ.

Planning consent (app no SU/09/0500) has been gained from Surrey Heath Borough Council to construct housing on the site of the former school. The consent is subject to a condition (25) relating to archaeology. Two phases of evaluation were proposed for the site due to the need to work around the demolition of existing buildings and the presence of numerous badger setts on the site; in the event three phases were required. The first two phases have been the subject of previous reports (McNicol-Norbury 2010; Pine 2011). This report deals with the third phase. Based on the results of the evaluation, a mitigation strategy will then be able to be devised as appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Dept for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990; which has since been superseded by *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010)), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigations were all carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork for the third phase was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 17th October 2011. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Guildford Museum in due course. The site code is CHS 07/146.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land west of St Catherine's Road to the east of the historic centre of Frimley, on the slope of Burrow Hill which slopes down east to St Catherine's Road (Fig. 1). The site was previously occupied by the former school and associated structures, some of which have since been demolished, and has a terraced aspect (Fig. 2). The site lies on two geological outcrops comprising downwash gravels to the

west and Barton Sand to the east (BGS 1976) both of which were observed in the trenches. The site rises from 86.77m above Ordnance Datum around the edge of the site to 97.47m AOD in its centre.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was initially highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2007). In summary, the site generally lies within a landscape zone (Surrey heathland) with relatively little recorded archaeology. In medieval times the site is likely to have lain within a deer park which will have placed restrictions on the extent of medieval occupation. The desktop study noted the presence of a few prehistoric flint tools in the area, however. The place name of 'Burrow Hill' may suggest the presence of one or more (presumed) Bronze Age round barrows and the location of one may have been identified within the western portion of the site (outside the area to be developed). Further burial or contemporary occupation deposits may be present elsewhere on the proposal site.

The first phase of evaluation (McNicoll-Norbury 2010) revealed that the northern part of the site has been previously built up especially in the trenches on the eastern side which have multiple layers of made ground above the natural geology, and in Trench 2 these overlay a buried turf line in the section whereas the trenches on the southern part of the site (17 and 18) showing that the area had been stripped of overburden. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered. The second phase (Pine 2011) showed a similar level of disturbance, and no archaeological features were identified.

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 aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of Neolithic or Bronze Age date are present, in particular those associated with the possible round barrow(s) on the site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any other period are present.

Eighteen trenches were dug over the three phases of work. All trenches were to be 17m long and 2m wide. The trenches were to be dug with a JCB-type or 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision and metal detectors were to be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds. All

discrete features of medieval or earlier date were to be investigated by hand with 50% of the volume of each pit and posthole being dug and a 25% sample of linear features, structural features requiring a 50% sample.

Results

Two trenches (10 and 12) were excavated during the phase 3 fieldwork (Fig. 3). The trenches excavated were 1.8m wide, however their lengths could not be increased to make up the deficit in width due to health and safety issues and the presence of live services. The trenches were dug with a 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 10 (Pl. 1)

Trench 10 was aligned north-south and was 13.80m long and 0.40m deep at the west end, to 1.02m deep at the east. The trench location had to be shifted to the east slightly to avoid buried services. At the west end, the stratigraphy consisted of a layer of demolition rubble 0.40m thick, which comprised brown silts, occasional brick and concrete, and redeposited sand and gravel (Fig. 4). This overlay the natural brown/ red/ yellow sands and flint gravel geology. At the east, a layer of hardcore rubble 0.10m thick overlay the demolition rubble layer (as above). This overlay the natural brown/ red sand and flint gravel geology. No archaeological features were identified and the natural geology was truncated by modern disturbance.

Trench 12 (Pl. 2)

Trench 12 was aligned east-west and was 17.5m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy comprised a disturbed subsoil layer with frequent tree roots and demolition rubble which was 0.40m thick (Fig. 4). This overlay yellow sand and mid red/brown sands with gravel patches. No archaeological features or deposits were identified and the natural geology was badly truncated by modern disturbance.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during this phase of works.

Conclusion

Phase 3 of the evaluation took place in areas of the site where once stood the school buildings, and these remaining areas of the site are badly disturbed by these demolished structures, with only the north part of Trench 12 relatively undisturbed. Only one of the trenches showed any evidence of soil profiles, in the form a subsoil layer, though this was fairly disturbed with tree roots and some modern truncation. Overall, these trenches show similar severe truncation to that encountered in the previous phases of evaluation (McNicoll-Norbury 2010, Pine 2011), associated with the landscaping and construction of the former school. This area of the site thus has no archaeological potential.

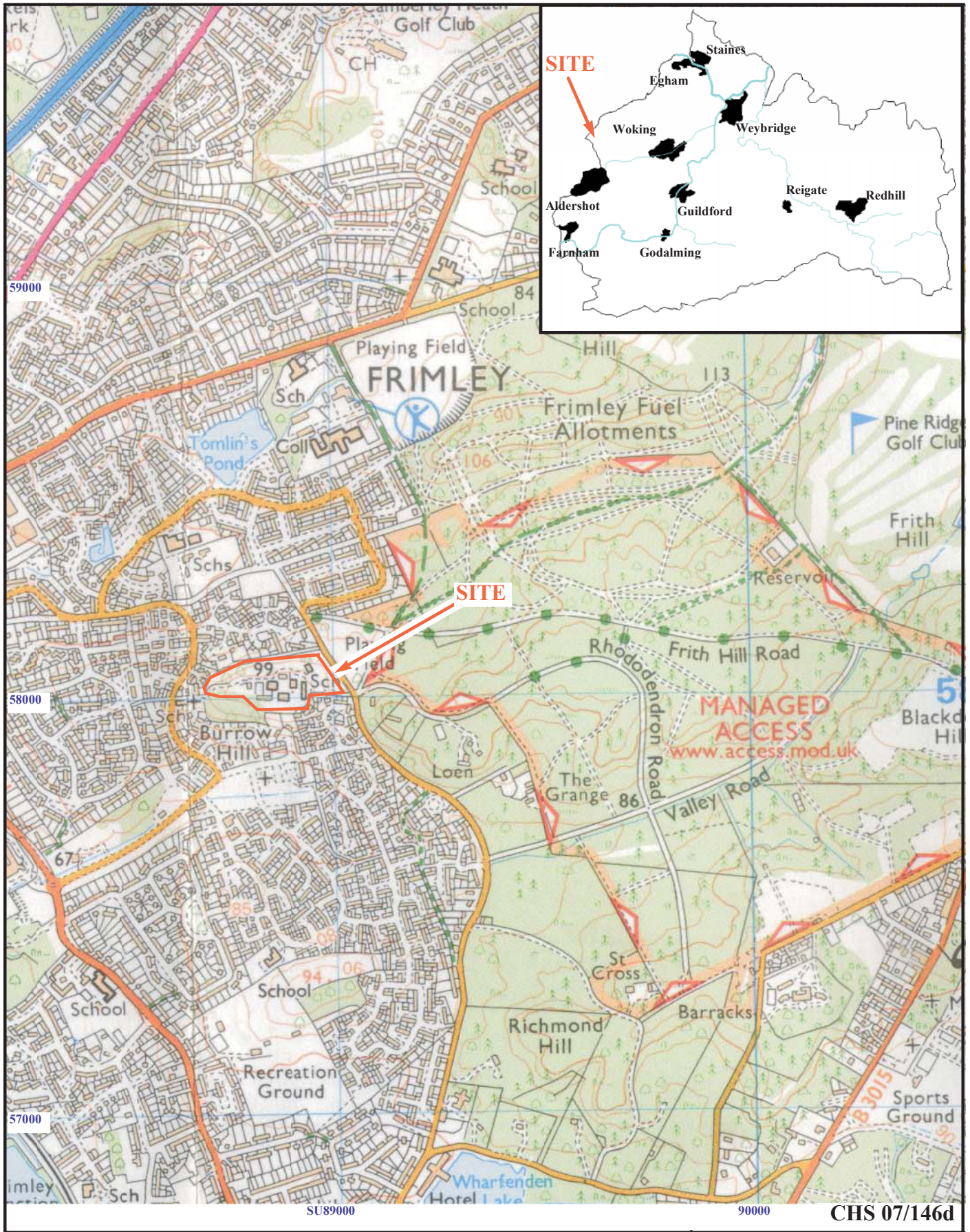
References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Pine, J, 2011, 'Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey, an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2), Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/146c, Reading
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

APPENDIX 1: Trench details (phase 3)

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
10	13.8	1.8	0.40W 1.02E	West end: 0–0.40m demolition rubble; 0.42m+ brown-red sand natural geology East end: 0–0.10m hardcore rubble; 0.10m–1.02m demolition debris; 1.02m+ brown-red sand and gravel natural geology [PI. 1]
12	17.5	1.8	0.62	0–0.62m subsoil and demolition rubble; 0.62m+ brown-red sand and gravel and yellow sand natural geology [PI. 2]



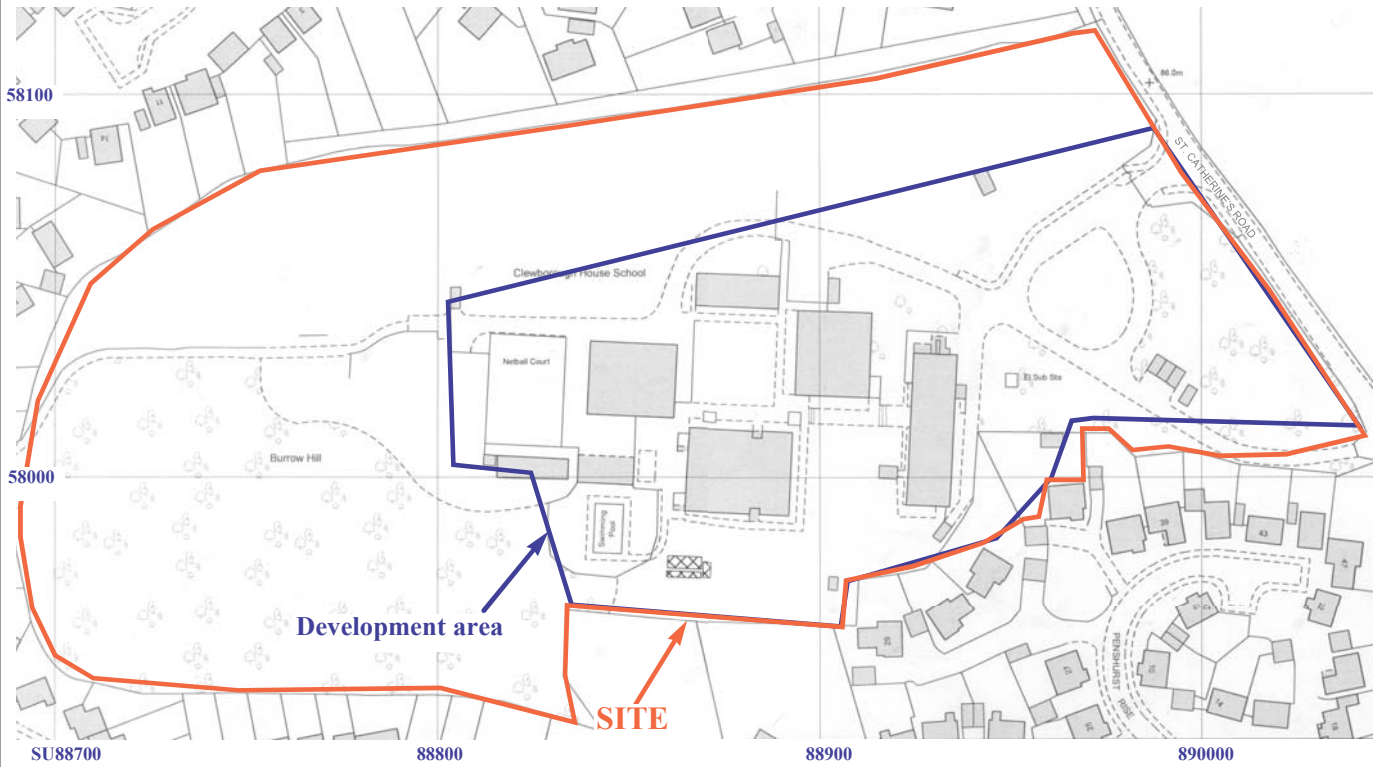
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Figure 1. Location of site within Frimley and Surrey.

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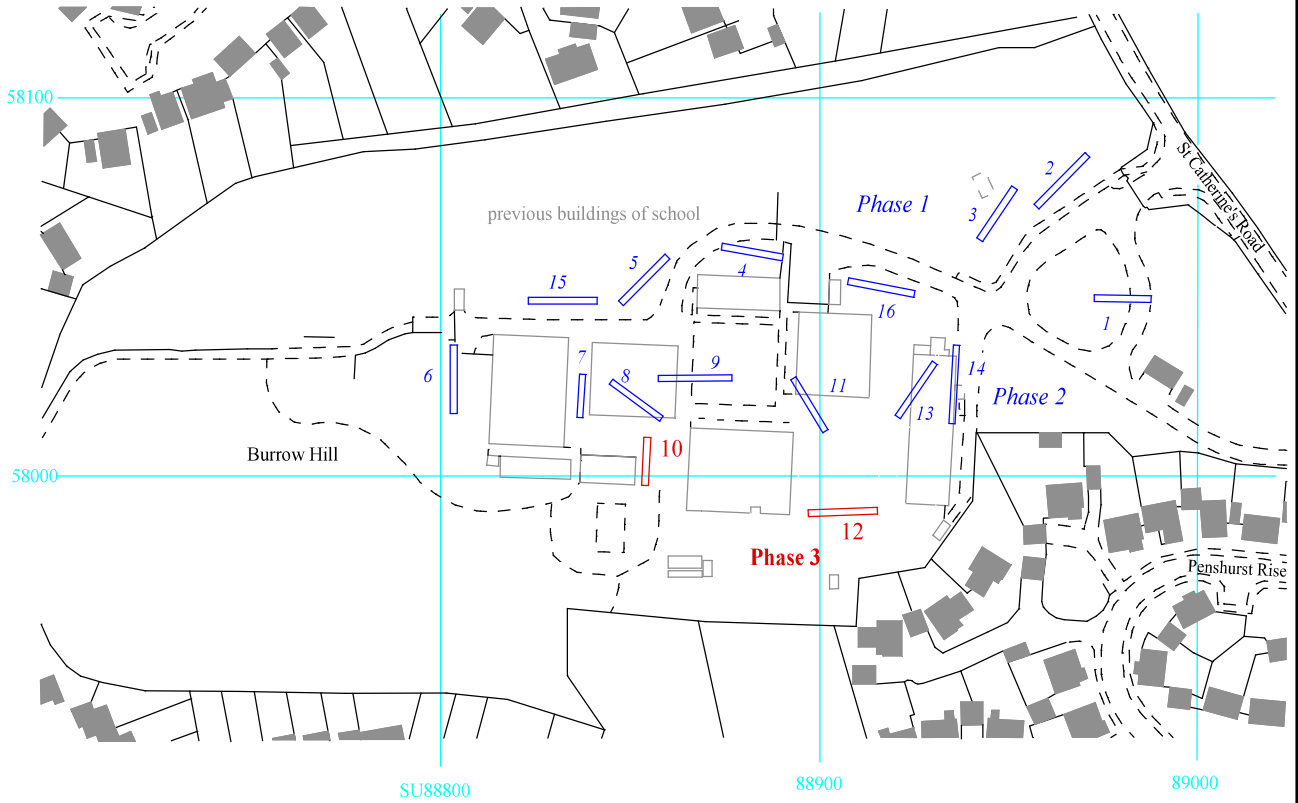


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St Catherine's Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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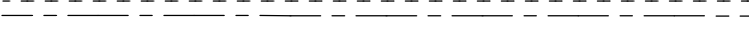
Trench 10

N

S

95.93maOD

Demolition rubble

base of trench  Sand natural geology

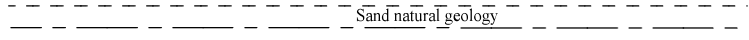
Trench 12

WSW

ENE

98.62m

Demolition rubble

 Sand natural geology base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 3. Trench 10, looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m.

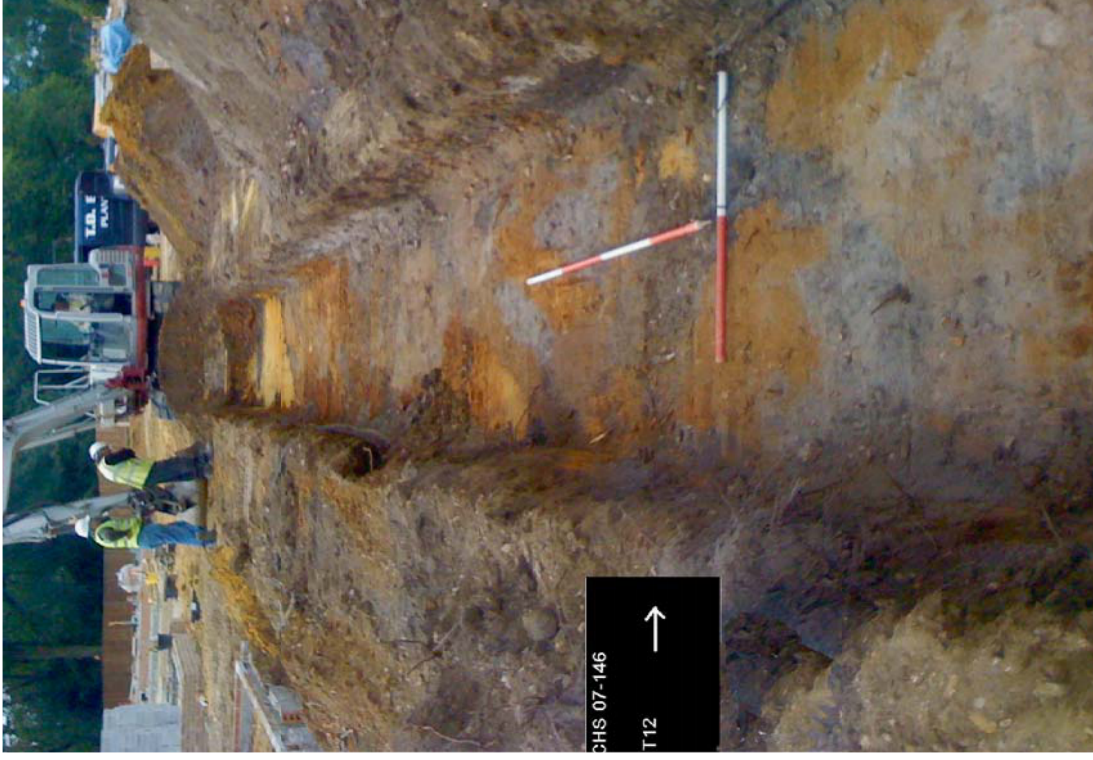


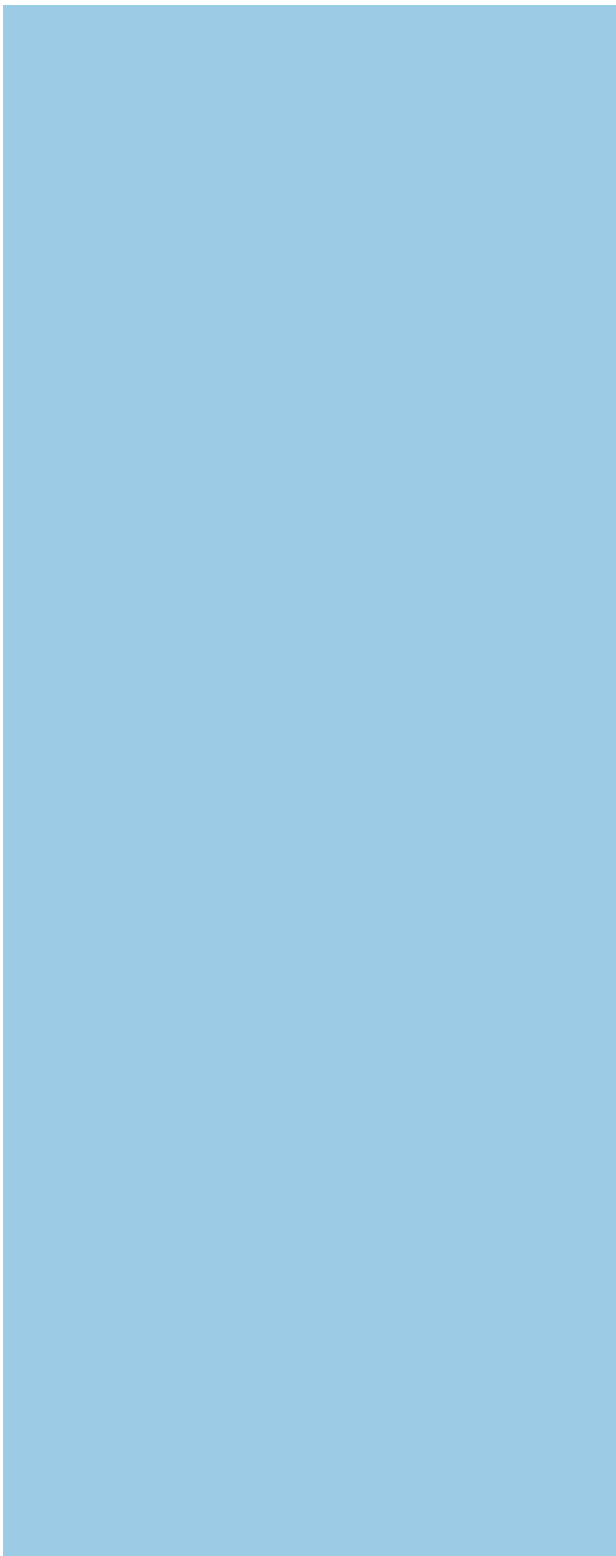
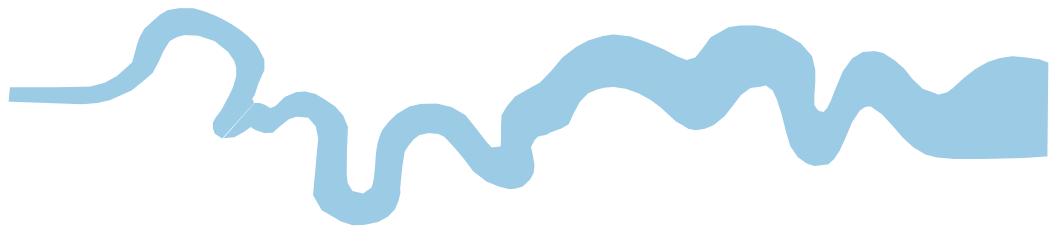
Plate 2. Trench 12, looking west. Scales: 2m, 1m.

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 Plates 1 and 2.

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
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