

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Ripley Police Station, High Street,  
Ripley, Surrey**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andrew Muddin and Steve Ford**

**Site Code: RPS12/26**

**(TQ 0506 5652)**

**Ripley Police Station, High Street,  
Ripley, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Merlin Danesmount**

by Andrew Mundin and Steve Ford  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code RPS 12/26

**September 2012**

## Summary

**Site name:** Ripley Police Station, High Street, Ripley, Surrey

**Grid reference:** TQ 0506 5652

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd August 2012

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Steve Ford

**Site code:** RPS 12/26

**Area of site:** c. 900 sq m

**Summary of results:** Three trenches and five test pits were dug on the site. No archaeologically relevant deposits or finds were recorded and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

**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](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 04.09.12
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# **Ripley Police Station, High Street, Ripley, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Andrew Munding and Steve Ford

**Report 12/26b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the former Police Station, High Street, Ripley, Surrey (TQ 0506 5652) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martyn Guess, of Merlin Danesmount, Anyards House, 14A Anyards Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 2JZ.

Planning permission (12/P/00713) has been gained from Guildford Borough Council to redevelop the site for housing, following the demolition of the existing police station building. This development will also include the creation of new parking areas and back gardens. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of the groundworks. This was in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. This evaluation followed a desk-based assessment of the archaeological potential of the site (Dawson and Munding 2012).

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Senior Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was carried out by Steve Ford and Tim Dawson on 23rd August 2012 and the site code is RPS 12/26. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Guildford Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Ripley is located approximately midway between Weybridge and Guildford. The site is located to the south of the High Street (B2215) and contains the extant building of the disused police station and surrounding plot (Fig. 2). The site is flat, consisting of parking at the front and a small garden at the rear. An attached garage stands to the west. A number of buried live services were also present. The underlying geology is Lower Terrace River Gravels with a change to London Clay immediately to the south of the proposal site (BGS 1976). It is at a height of approximately 24m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The preliminary desk-based assessment has highlighted the presence of possible heritage assets both on the site and in the immediate vicinity (Dawson and Munding 2012). In summary, there is a potential for prehistoric features and further finds, due to a collection of flintwork being recovered from the garden of the police station in 1908. Only a broad prehistoric date was given to this flintwork. Mesolithic flints were also separately found west of the village (Dawson and Munding 2012). Cropmarks visible from the air have also been identified outside the village; which are thought to be broadly of prehistoric date.

Archaeological works have also been carried out close to the current site. Just to the east at Church Row, human burials of considered to be of medieval date were uncovered, though no dating evidence was retrieved. It was thought these were associated with the adjacent church of St Mary Magdalene; and represented part of an originally larger graveyard prior to the 18th century (Poulton 2004).

## **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 development was to be mostly centred on the location of the extant building with the current garden to be retained. The trenching was therefore placed as close to the new building footprint as possible. This focused trenching on the parking at the front of the building and to the rear. In addition a programme of test pit digging and sieving was implemented to assess the potential for the recovery of lithic artefacts. It was proposed that two 10m long trenches were to be dug along with five test pits. The trenches were to be excavated by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Any possible archaeological deposits were to be examined using hand tools. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

The specific research aims were to:

- determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;

- determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and

- determine if any deposits relating to prehistoric flintwork and settlement deposits, or medieval settlement and post-medieval settlement deposits are present.

## Results

Three trenches were eventually dug as shown on Figure 3. The presence of numerous live buried services caused the trenches to be shortened and relocated and an extra trench was dug to compensate for the loss of trench length. A description of the trench details is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl.1)

Trench 1 was aligned roughly north - south and was 7.8m long and 0.83m deep. This trench was dug to the east of the extant building. The stratigraphy consisted of a thin layer of pea gravel and coarse Tarmac hardstanding. 0.16m deep. This in turn, overlay a dark brown grey sand with brick rubble inclusions which reached a depth of 0.44m (50). This overlay a brown-grey sand with some gravel pieces to a depth of 0.76m (51). Finally this overlay an undisturbed natural geological deposit of yellow clayey sand with angular gravel inclusions at the base of the trench (52). No archaeological deposits nor artefacts were noted for this trench. A modern brick-filled soakaway extending through the base of the trench, cut from the top of deposit 50 was present towards the southern end of the site.

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

This trench was 4.4m long and 0.81m. This trench was dug to the rear of the current building, aligned approximately SE-NW. The stratigraphy was similar to that of Trench 1. Gravel and Tarmac 0.13m deep overlay dark brown grey sand (50) to a depth of 0.52m. Below this was brown-grey sand with some gravel pieces (51) to 0.81m deep. This overlay the natural sandy gravel geology at the base of the trench. A waste water pipe was present at the southern end of the trench, No archaeological deposits nor artefacts were noted in this trench.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 3 and 4; Pls 3 and 4)

This trench was dug to the front of the extant building, aligned SW-NE. This trench was 5.4m and 0.67m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.14m of Tarmac above a dark brown grey clayey sand with brick inclusions (made ground) to a depth of 0.54m. This overlay the natural sandy gravel geology at the base of the trench.

Four conjoining cut features, markedly rectilinear in shape, were recorded at the base of the trench, forming a rectangular plan. The cuts were 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep with a shallow bowl-shaped profile and contained modern items such as clinker and late 19th- or 20th-century glazed earthenware pottery. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from this trench.

### Test pits

Five test pits were dug to assess the artefact content of the topsoil/subsoil on the site (The location of the test pits is shown on Figure 3). Due to the presence of made ground and hard standing, the latter overburden was

removed by machine to allow examination of a sample the underlying subsoil layer (51). A proposed test pit intended for the front of the site was abandoned as no subsoil was present in that location. For each test pit, 96 Litres of spoil were dry sieved using a 5mm mesh. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

No deposits of archaeological interest were recorded during the evaluation and no artefacts recovered either from inspection of the spoilheaps or during the sieving programme. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

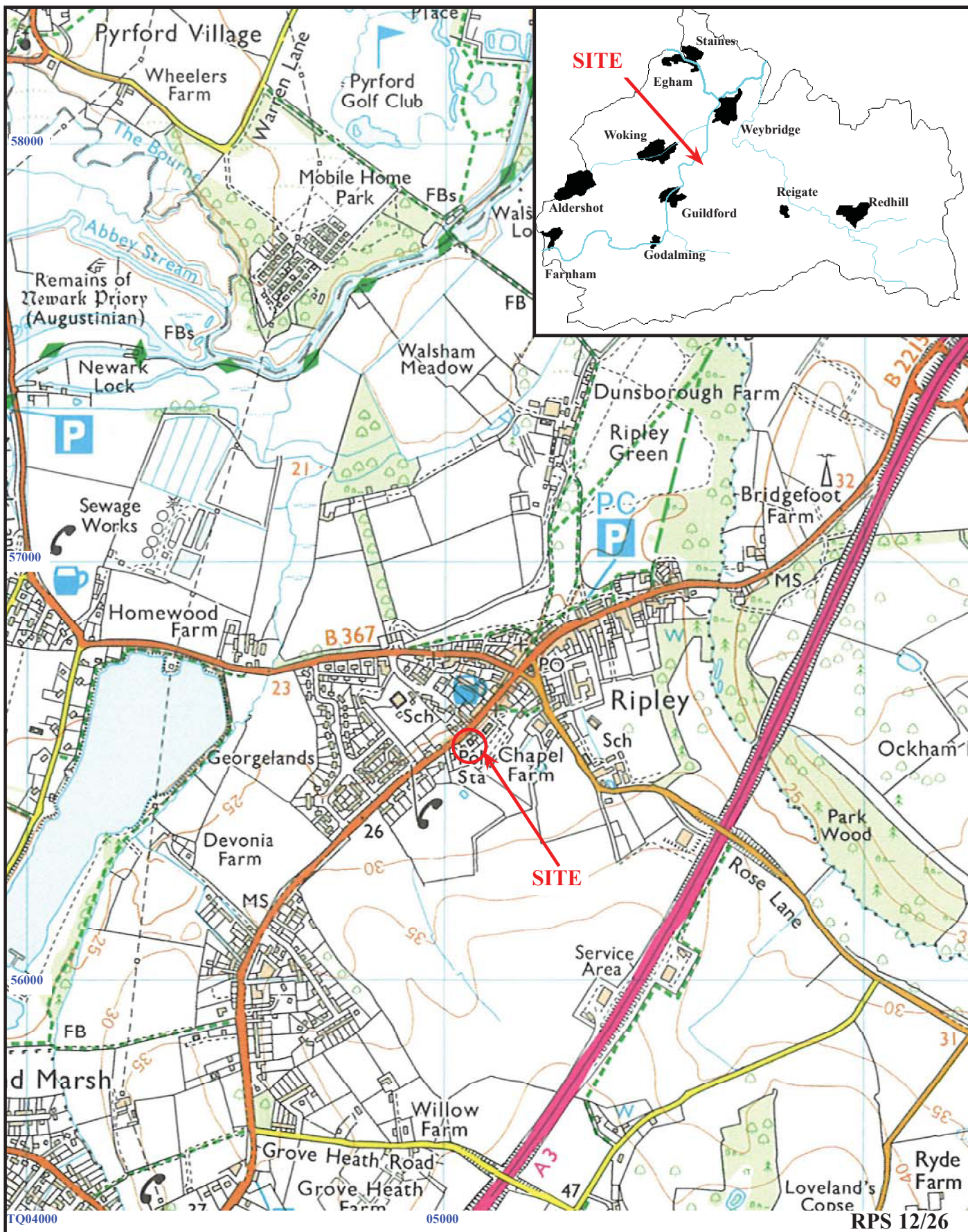
## **References**

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 285, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T and Muddin, A, 2012, 'Ripley Police Station, High Street, Ripley, Surrey, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/26**, Brighton
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Poulton, S, 2004, 'An archaeological evaluation at Rio House and Rio Cottage, Church Row, High Street, Ripley', Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU) rep **17/03/04**, Woking

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	7.8	1.6	0.83	0–0.03m.pea gravel, 0.03-0.16m coarse Tarmac, 0.16-0.44m dark brown grey sand, 0.44-0.76m brown yellow sand, 0.76m+ yellow clayey sand (natural geology). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	4.4	1.6	0.81	0–0.02m.pea gravel, 0.02-0.13m coarse Tarmac, 0.13-0.52m dark brown grey sand, 0.52-0.81m brown yellow sand, 0.81m+ natural geology. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
3	5.4	1.6	0.67	0-0.14m Tarmac, 0.14-0.54m dark brown grey clayey sand, 0.54m+ natural geology. Modern building footings? <b>[Pls 3 and 4]</b>





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Figure 1. Location of site within Ripley and Surrey.

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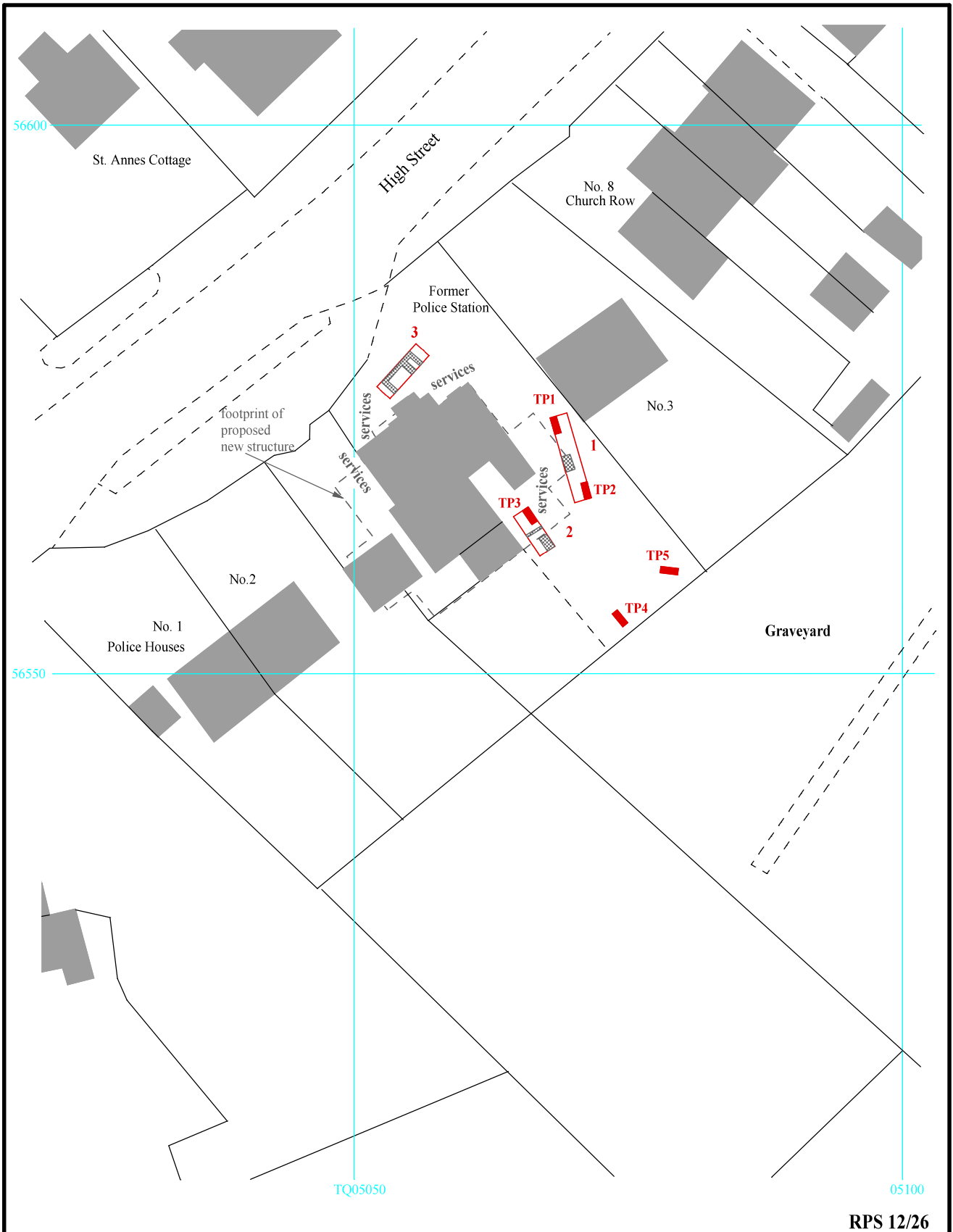
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off the High Street.

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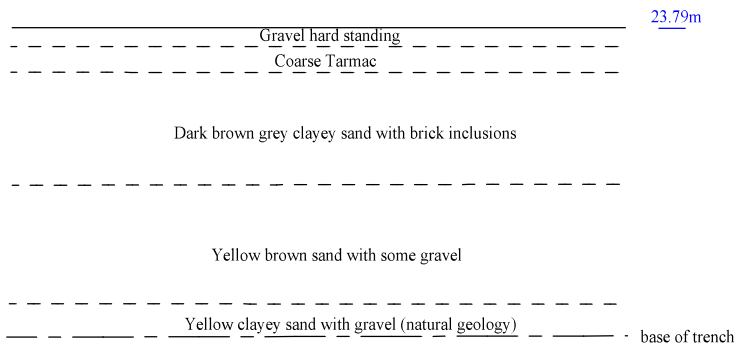
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

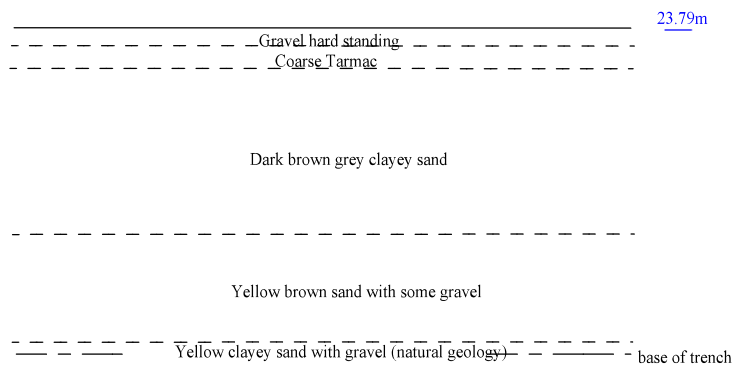


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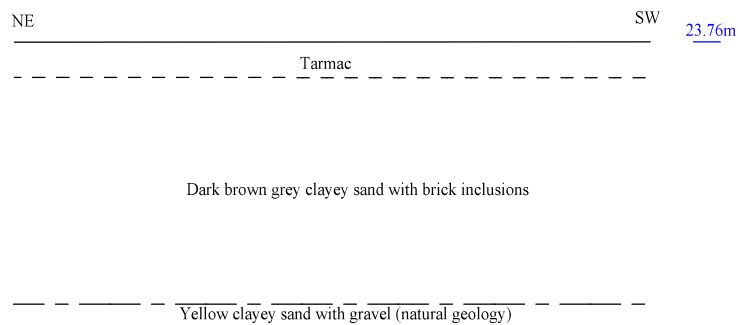
### Trench 1



### Trench 2



### Trench 3



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



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



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m,

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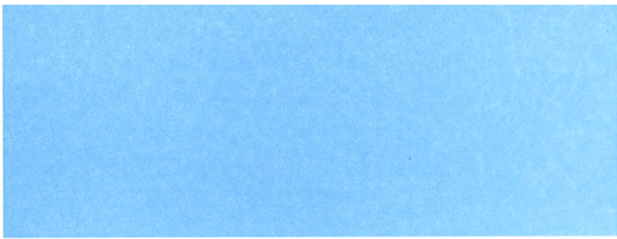
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Plates 1 to 4.

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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





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