

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: HPR13/05

(TL 0350 2464)

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Bellcross Limited

by Daniel Bray and Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code HPR 13/05

February 2013

Summary

Site name: Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire

Grid reference: TL 0350 2464

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th – 30th January 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: HPR 13/05

Area of site: 14.16ha

Summary of results: The evaluation has confirmed the archaeological potential of the site revealing a range of archaeological deposits mostly of Iron Age date. The most notable feature is that of a rectilinear enclosure identified by prior geophysical survey and now confirmed as being of Iron Age date. Other linear features were of similar date and presumably form elements of a paddock and enclosure system in the surrounding landscape. Other undated linear features were also recorded. A small amount of pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date points to some activity of these periods being present in the vicinity.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Luton Museum in due course, with accession code LUTNM 2012.13.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 11.02.13 Steve Preston✓ 11.02.13

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis, Dunstable, Bedfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and Kyle Beaverstock

Report 13/05

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land north of Houghton Regis near Dunstable, Bedfordshire (TL 0350 2464) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Isabel Lisboa of Archaeoloigca Ltd, 7 Fosters Lane, Bradwell, Milton Keynes, MK13 9HD on behalf of Bellcross Ltd, 48–50 Reginald Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7QZ. Planning permission (CB/12/03613/OUT) is to be sought from Central Bedfordshire Council for residential development.

In order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications of development on the site, a two-phase evaluation has been proposed, to consist of geophysical survey followed by targeted trenching. Based on the results of these investigations, a strategy could then be devised to mitigate the effects of development on any archaeological remains that might be discovered. The geophysical survey has already been reported on (Lisboa and Bartlett 2012) and this report deals with the trenching component of the evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Lisboa 2012) approved by Mr Martin Oake, Archaeologist with Central Bedfordshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray, along with Kyle Beaverstock, Aiji Castle, Chris Crabb, Anna Ginger, David Platt and Andy Taylor between 15th and 30th January 2013 with the site code HPR 13/05. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Luton Museum in due course with accession code LUTNM 212.13.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern edge of the Chilterns to the north of Houghton Regis (Fig. 1). The trapezoidal parcel of land is 2km north of Dunstable and the M1 can be seen to the east. The site is split into three fallow fields defined by hedges and water filled ditches. The site is bounded by a school and associated playing fields to the north, Houghton Park Road housing estate to the east and arable fields to the west and south (Fig. 2). The natural geology is recorded as lower chalk with a thin head deposit bisecting the site on a NW – SE alignment (BGS 1992). The geology observed was mainly chalk with orange brown silt patches, although in the northern

field a light grey silty natural was seen and a single trench in the south-eastern corner revealed a gravel natural geology. The site slopes gently from 125m above Ordnance Datum in the northern field down to 121m above Ordnance Datum in the middle field and then rising gently towards the southern field which has a height of 122m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a written scheme of investigation (Lisboa 2012). In summary, the site lies in an archaeologically rich area which has been investigated using mainly non-intrusive archaeological techniques. Small scatters of prehistoric flintwork dating from the Mesolithic through to the early Bronze Age have been found during field walking to the north and south and to the east in advance of the M1 widening. Fieldwalking to the north, south and east of the site recovered Roman pottery, roof tiles and slag, synonymous with industrial activities, which could represent a number of small Roman farmsteads. However trial trenching to the north only revealed unstratified finds of pottery and metal finds but no clear archaeological features.

The first phase of the evaluation of the proposal site consisted of magnetometer survey which indicated the presence of several anomalies which may be of archaeological origin (Lisboa and Bartlett 2012). In particular to the north of the site were a sub-rectangular enclosure and irregular curving features, and anomalies that might be pits. In the centre and south of the site were numerous long linear anomalies.

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 research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if there are any Iron Age or Roman deposits present on the site; and
- to determine the extent to which geophysical anomalies represent archaeological deposits.

It was proposed to excavate 32 trenches all measuring 50m long and 2m wide to offer a maximum sample of *c.* 5% of the site area, which included a 2% contingency held in reserve in case features or deposits required further investigation. The trenches were positioned to target features that appeared in the geophysical survey; to test for

the possible presence of extensions of previously recorded sites; to test areas where modern dumping may have hampered the geophysical survey; and also to examine the 'blank areas'.

A machine equipped with a ditching bucket was to be used to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels. This work was to be supervised at all times by an archaeologist. Spoil heaps were monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were exposed they were to be cleaned and excavated by hand.

Results

All 32 trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended positions (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 43m to 57.50m and in depth from 0.30m to 0.70m. Where some trenches had to be shortened due to site constraints, others were lengthened to compensate. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Half of the trenches revealed features or potential features of archaeological interest and these are described in more detail below.

The remainder of the trenches (1–3, 6–7, 13–15, 17, 19, 22–4, 27–9) were devoid of archaeological interest. Their stratigraphy consisted of generally 0.3–0.4m of topsoil above usually around 0.1m of subsoil, above the natural geology. Subsoil was absent from trenches 1, 2, and 15. The geology consisted of light brown-grey silt in Trench 1; silty chalk or chalky silt in Trenches 2, 3, 6, and 27–9; chalky clay in Trench 7, clay silt with various patches of silt, clay, chalk or pea grit gravel in Trenches 13–15, 17, 19; and clay banded with chalk or gravel in Trenches 22–4.

Trench 4 (Figs 4 and 7; Pl. 1)

Trench 4 was aligned E - W and was 57.50m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying a light grey silt natural geology. Ditch 106 was recorded at the east end of the trench (Pl. 5). It was aligned NW–SE, 2.05m wide and 0.7m deep and contained two fills (164 and 165) which produced Iron Age pottery and fragments of animal bone. This ditch corresponded to the enclosure ditch found by the geophysical survey. Ditch 113 which represented the other side of the enclosure was recorded at 5m from the west end of the trench, aligned north–south and measured 1.08m wide and 0.46m deep. It was filled with (170) which produced two sherds of late Iron Age pottery. Gully 111, aligned NW–SE, was recorded at 10m from the west end of the trench and measured 0.9m wide and 0.21m deep. Its fills (166 and 167) contained one sherd of Iron Age pottery. Another gully, 112, was aligned NE–SW at 26m along the trench, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.23m deep and filled with (168) and (169). Another single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from this feature. Both gullies correlate with irregular features in the geophysical plot, however the

anticipated return of the more westerly gully 111 was not apparent in the trench. The possibility that 111 and 112 represent a single feature was not suggested by the geophysical results.

Trench 5 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 5 was aligned SW–NE and was 49m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil and 0.13m of subsoil overlying light grey silt natural geology. Ditch 107 which was a continuation of the enclosure found in Trench 4 was recorded at 41m, aligned roughly west–east. It was 1.8m wide and 0.8m deep and contained two fills (152 and 153) (Pl. 6). Iron Age pottery was found in both deposits of the ditch.

Trench 8 (Fig. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned NE – SW and was 52m in length and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil above a light grey brown clay silt subsoil overlying light brown grey silt natural geology. Linear features 136, 137, 138 and 139 were noted but unexcavated due to the trench being under water. These were all aligned virtually due east–west and may match with excavated E – W linear features in Trenches 9 and 10 but were not apparent as geophysical anomalies.

Trench 9 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 2)

Trench 9 was aligned NE – SW and was 56m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying light brown/white silt natural geology. A north–south gully, 132, was recorded which measured 0.50m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with (192). No finds were recovered. At 30m from the south end of the trench, large pit 133 had three fills (191, 193 and 194). The pit cut an earlier posthole or pit, 134, and was cut by ditch 135 (Pl. 7). Both the large pit and the ditch produced pottery fragments of Iron Age date. Linear features 140, 141 and 142 were not excavated due to trench flooding.

Trench 10 (Figs 4 and 8)

Trench 10 was aligned N – S and was 55m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying a light grey clay silt natural geology. Gully 128 was recorded at 13m, aligned north–south, and measured 0.50m wide and 0.06m deep and was filled with (188). No finds were recovered. Two parallel east–west gullies, 129 and 130, were recorded at 52m and produced no archaeological finds. Gully 129 appeared to cut gully 130.

Trench 11 (Figs 4 and 8)

Trench 11 was aligned NW – SE and was 50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying a mid grey yellow clay silt natural geology. Gully 127 was aligned north–south and may be a continuation of gully 128 in Trench 10, although it was considerably more substantial than 128. It measured 0.70m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled with (187). No finds were recovered.

Trench 12 (Figs 5 and 8)

Trench 12 was aligned NE – SW and was 43m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying a light brown grey clay silt natural geology. A single feature was present in this trench. Gully 131 was aligned NW–SE and measured 1.05m wide and 0.30m deep. No finds were recovered from its single fill (186).

Trench 16 (Figs 5 and 8)

Trench 16 was aligned E – W and was 45m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology which here was yellow-brown clay silt mottled with patches of light grey silt. Four linear features were present, none of which was an especially close match to the geophysical anomalies which this trench was located to intercept. At 4m from the west end of the trench, ditch 121 was aligned NW–SE and measured 0.8m wide and 0.21m deep. Its fill (179) contained no finds. Ditch 120 almost intercepted ditch 121 but any junction between them was just outside the trench. Ditch 120 was aligned NE–SW and measured 1.05m wide and 0.29m deep and its fill (178) also produced no finds. At 25m along the trench, ditch 126 was 1.40m wide and 0.42m deep and aligned NW–SE (Pl. 8). It was filled with (185), from which no dateable finds were recovered. Ditch 119 was recorded at 38m from the west end of the trench, aligned NW–SE and measured 0.78m wide and 0.35m deep and was filled with (177 and 184). A copper alloy key plate, a tiny fragment of ceramic building material, and a single sherd of Iron Age pottery were recovered. The pottery (a tiny sherd) must be considered residual and does not date the ditch, as the key plate and the brick/tile fragment are both likely to be post-medieval.

Trench 18 (Figs 5 and 8; Pl. 3)

Trench 18 was aligned NE – SW and was 50m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying a mid orange brown clay silt with frequent chalk natural geology. Two parallel ditches, 117 and 118, were aligned north–south at 9m from the south-west end. Ditch 117 measured 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep and was filled with (175), while ditch 118 measured 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep and was filled with (176). Ditch

118 cut 117; no finds were recovered from either. These lay on the line of a geophysical anomaly which continued into Trench 21 to the south (as ditch 124).

Trench 20 (Figs 5 and 8)

Trench 20 was aligned NE – SW and was 48m long, 0.40m deep at the NE end and 0.80m deep at the SW end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil above 0.40m of subsoil overlying natural geology, here consisting of brown/white chalk with irregular lines of white/orange/brown clay silt. No subsoil was observed at the NE end. A ditch, 116, was aligned NW–SE, 34m from the south end of the trench, and measured 1.04m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with (174). No finds were recovered and this ditch does not obviously match the expected geophysical anomaly.

Trench 21 (Figs 5 and 8)

Trench 21 was aligned E – W and was 46m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying the light brown white clay silt natural geology. Four parallel (NNW–SSE) features were revealed in this trench, one of which corresponded with a geophysical anomaly. No finds were recovered from any of the features excavated in this trench. Towards the west end of the trench, gully 122 was 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep. Gully 123, at 16.5m, measured 0.70m wide and 0.22m deep. at 26.7m along the trench, gully 124 was 0.60m wide and 0.09m deep and matched the geophysical anomaly continuing from Trench 18. A fourth linear feature, 125, was recorded but not excavated.

Trench 25 (Figs 5 and 7)

Trench 25 was aligned NW – SE and due to a public footpath was split into two segments, A and B. The total length measured 53m and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology of brown-yellow clay silt. Two north–south features were revealed within the northern section of the trench (25b), gully 114 measured 0.80m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled with (171). Ditch 115 measured 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep and was filled with (172) and (173). No finds were recovered from either feature, neither of which corresponded with geophysical anomalies.

Trench 26 (Figs 6 and 7)

Trench 26 was aligned E – W and was 48m long, 0.45m deep at the W end and 0.90m deep at the E end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.60m of subsoil at the E end and 0.15m of subsoil at the W end overlying natural silt geology. Ditch terminus 108 was recorded from 20m to 24m along the trench, aligned

broadly west–east which measured 0.80m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with (161), which produced a single sherd of Iron Age pottery. Two parallel /recut north–south ditches 109 and 110 were recorded at 36m. A stratigraphic relationship could not be determined. Animal bone was recovered from ditch 109. None of these features correlate with geophysical anomalies.

Trench 30 (Figs 6 and 7)

Trench 30 was aligned NE – SW and was 46m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying the natural geology (silt with bands of gravel). North–south ditch 105 was 2.26m wide and 0.41m deep; its fills (160 and 197) contained no finds. It is possible it represents a continuation of ditches from further north, and probably continues into Trench 31 to the south, but the geophysical survey had not registered anomalies extending this far south.

Trench 31 (Figs 6 and 7)

Trench 31 was aligned N – S and was 48m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology (as in Trench 30). Gully 103 was aligned broadly east–west, was 0.30m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled with (157). Ditch 104, broadly north–south, measured 0.60m wide and 0.44m deep and was filled with (158). Ditch 104 cut gully 103, but no finds recovered from either feature.

Trench 32 (Figs 6 and 7; Pl. 4)

Trench 32 was aligned NE – SW and was 51m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying a gravel natural geology. Two substantial north–south aligned features were present; no finds were recovered from either. Ditch 101 measured 2m wide and 0.20m deep. Ditch 102 measured 2.20m wide and 0.38m deep.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 39 sherds with a total weight of 239g. It was all Iron Age in date. The following fabric types were noted:

F1: Flint-tempered. LBA/EIA. Sparse to moderate angular white flint up to 3mm, sparse to moderate sub-angular quartz up to 1mm, rare iron ore fragments. 6 sherds, 50g.

F2: Shell-tempered. MIA/LIA. Sparse to moderate shell platelets up to 3mm. Includes scored vessels. 19 sherds, 67g.

F3: Grog-tempered. MIA. Hand-built. Sparse to moderate white and pink sub-angular grog up to 2mm. Includes scored vessels. 7 sherds, 50g.

F4: Sparse mixed. Iron Age. Few visible inclusions other than very sparse grog, flint and shell. 3 sherds, 11g.

F10: Grog-tempered. 'Belgic'. Wheel-thrown. Moderate to dense dark grey and red sub-angular grog up to 1mm, sparse flecks of fine mica. 4 sherds, 51g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The range of fabric types is typical of sites of the period in the region (eg. McSloy 1999, 70), and suggests that there was activity at the site throughout the Iron Age.

The assemblage consisted entirely of bodysherds, although a few had diagnostic decoration. The sherd of F1 from context (170) is from the shoulder of a jar with a row of fingertip impressions, a trait typical of the early Iron Age (Knight 2002), and sherds from middle Iron Age scored ware jars (Elsdon 1992) in fabrics F2 and F3 were noted in context 153.

Metalwork by Danielle Milbank

A single piece of metal weighing 4g was recovered from deposit 119 (177). It is a copper alloy (possibly brass) keyplate, 22mm by 14mm and 1mm thick. It is a rectangular shape, with a rounded top and base. The keyhole has a fairly large upper part for the shank of the key, and a short, flared lower part for the bit. There are two small pins at the back to attach it to the door (or box). It is small, and of a simple, undecorated style. Based on the form it is likely to date to the early 18th to early 19th century (Hall 2005), though it could conceivably be earlier.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A single small piece of brick or tile was recovered from ditch 119 (177) which was examined under x10 magnification. The fabric is a hard, evenly fired clay with occasional small rounded grog and angular white (possibly flint) inclusions. The colour is a slightly pale red, and the fragment could be only very broadly dated to the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from six separate contexts within the evaluated area. A total of 42 pieces of bone were present for analysis, weighing 336g (Appendix 4). The overall preservation of the

remains was generally fair, although the external surface of the cortical bone was largely weathered and etched. A moderate amount of fragmentation was also noted. Initial analyses roughly sorted elements into categories based on size, not by species, into one of three categories: “large”, “medium”, and “small”. Horse and cow are represented by the large size category, sheep/goat and pigs are represented in the medium size category; no bones were designated to the “small” category.

A minimum of two individuals were represented in the assemblage: one large and one medium sized animal. The large animal was a cow and was represented by a right distal tibia in ditch 5 (153), which displayed a minimum of two oblique butchery cut marks across the anterior surface of the shaft. The medium sized animal, a sheep/goat, was identified through the presence of a left tibial midshaft fragment in ditch 4 (165) and a sheep/goat sized tooth in another fill of the same ditch (170). No further information could be retrieved from these remains.

Sieved samples

Eight samples [features 106(164); 112(169); 114(171); 116(174); 119(177); 133(194); 122(180); 126(185)] from between 10 and 20 litres were floated and sieved using a 0.2mm mesh. Only two, 126(185) and 119(177) contained charred remains, amounting to no more than 1 and 2 charred weed seeds, respectively. No charcoal was present but numerous snail shells were present.

Conclusion

The trenching exercise reported here has confirmed the archaeological potential of the site suggested by the geophysical survey. It has, in particular, revealed that a ditch which formed a rectilinear enclosure is of Iron Age date with additional linear features also of Iron Age date perhaps forming part of a broadly contemporary enclosed landscape. Many, but not all linear features encountered had been previously identified by the geophysical survey. Several of these were undated or of post-medieval date and point to additional subdivision of the landscape at various times in the past. The recovery of a small amount of pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date hints at an earlier phase of activity on the site and some of the undated or stratigraphically early features may belong to these periods.

References

- BGS, 1992, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 220, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Elsdon, S M, 1992, 'East Midlands Scored Ware', *Trans Leicestershire Archaeol Hist Soc*, **66**, 83–91
- Hall, L, 2005, *Period house fixtures and fittings 1300–1900*, Newbury
- Knight, D, 2002, 'A Regional Ceramic Sequence: Pottery of the First Millennium BC between the Humber and the Nene', in A Woodward and J D Hill (eds), *Prehistoric Britain, The Ceramic Basis*, Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group Occas Publ n 3, 119–42
- Lisboa, I, 2012, 'Trenching scheme for an archaeological evaluation at land north of Houghton Regis, Houghton Regis, Central Bedfordshire', Archaeologica report AC3194/D2, Milton Keynes
- Lisboa, I and Bartlett, A, 2012, 'Geophysical survey at land north of Houghton Regis, Houghton Regis, Central Bedfordshire', Archaeologica report AC3194/D1, Milton Keynes
- McSloy, E, 1999, 'Iron Age Pottery', in M Luke, 'An Enclosed Pre-Belgic Iron Age Farmstead at Hinksley Road, Flitwick', *Bedfordshire Archaeol* **23**, 70–1
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	50.00	1.60	0.42	0-0.36m topsoil; 0.36m+ light brown grey silt (natural geology)
2	49.40	1.60	0.36	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ light brown grey silt chalk (natural geology)
3	50.00	1.60	0.44	SW end: 0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ light yellow grey silt chalk (natural geology) NW end: 0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ (natural geology)
4	57.50	1.80	0.48	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ light grey silt (natural geology) Ditch 106, 113, Gully 111, 112 [Pls 1 and 5]
5	49.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.34m topsoil; 0.34m-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ light grey silt natural geology Ditch 107 [Pl. 6]
6	51.00	1.60	0.43	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ light grey brown chalk silt (natural geology)
7	54.00	1.60	0.37	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ light orange brown chalk and clay (natural geology)
8	52.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.45m light grey brown clay silt subsoil; 0.45m-0.50m+ light brown white silt (natural geology) Ditch 136, 137, 138, 139
9	56.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.35m light grey brown clay silt subsoil; 0.35m+ light brown white silt (natural geology) Ditch 135 140, 141, 142 Gully 132, Pit 133, pit/posthole? 134 [Pls 2 and 7]
10	55.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35+ light grey clay silt (natural geology) Gully 128, 130, Ditch 129
11	50.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ mid grey yellow clay silt with frequent patches of pea grit (natural geology) Gully 127
12	43.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-0.45m mid orange brown clay silt subsoil; 0.45m+ light brown grey clay silt with small patches of mid orange brown gravelly silt (natural geology) Ditch 131
13	48.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.25m mid orange brown clay silt subsoil; 0.25m+ mid yellow brown clay silt mottled with light grey silt patches (natural geology)
14	48.00	1.80	SE:0.30 NW: 0.45	NW end: 0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ alternate bands of mid grey yellow clay silt and brown orange clay silt (natural geology) SE end: 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.3m+ (natural geology)
15	50.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ mid grey yellow clay silt with patches of pea grit (natural geology)
16	45.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m mid orange brown clay silt subsoil; 0.40m+ mid yellow brown clay silt mottled with patches of light grey silt (natural geology) Ditch 119, 120, 121[Pl. 8]
17	47.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.35m mid orange brown clay silt with occasional patches of pea-grit subsoil; 0.35m+ light white brown clay silt with occasional chalk lumps (natural geology)
18	50.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ mid orange brown clay silt with frequently occurring chalk blocks, (natural geology) Ditch 117, 118 [Pl. 3]
19	52.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.35m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-grit subsoil; 0.35m+ mid orange brown clay silt with frequent chalk blocks (natural geology)
20	48.00	1.80	SW: 0.80 NE: 0.40	SW end: 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.70m mid orange brown clay silt with occasional pea-grit subsoil; 0.70m+ light brown white chalk with white orange brown clay silt irregular lines (natural geology) NE end: 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ (natural geology) Ditch 116
21	46.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ light brown white clay silt (natural geology) Gully 122, 123, 124, 125, 126
22	50.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.40m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-grit subsoil; 0.40m+ mid red/orange brown with parallel regular bands of chalk (natural geology)
23	48.00	1.80	0.5	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.35m-0.45m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-grit subsoil; 0.45m+ light brown yellow clay silt with bands of white brown sandy gravel (natural geology)
24	49.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-gravel subsoil; 0.50m+ red/orange brown clay silt with regular bands of chalk (natural geology)
25 a	17.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ light brown yellow clay silt (natural geology)
25 b	36.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.35m yellow brown clay silt with occasional pea-grit subsoil; 0.35m+ light brown yellow clay silt and gravel (natural geology) Gully 114, ditch 115
26	48.00	1.80	W: 0.45 E: 0.9	W end: 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m light orange brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.35m+ mixed mid white brown silt with occasional chalk. E end: 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m+ (natural geology) Ditch 108, gully 109, 110
27	53.00	1.80	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m orange brown sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks subsoil; 0.50m+ mixed mid white brown silt with chalk (natural geology)
28	53.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-grit subsoil; 0.40m+ mid white brown silt with occasional chalk (natural geology)
29	49.00	1.80	0.70	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.60m mid orange brown clay silt with moderate pea-grit

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
				subsoil; 0.60m+ mid white brown silt with occasional chalk (natural geology)
30	46.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m mid yellow grey clay silt subsoil; 0.35m+ light brown yellow silt with bands of light brown sandy gravel (natural geology) Ditch 105
31	48.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m light yellow brown silt clay subsoil; 0.35m+ light brown yellow silt with bands of light brown sandy gravel (natural geology) Ditch 104, gully 103
32	51.00	1.80	0.45	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional pea-grit subsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown yellow sandy gravel (natural geology) Ditch 101, 102 [Pl. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

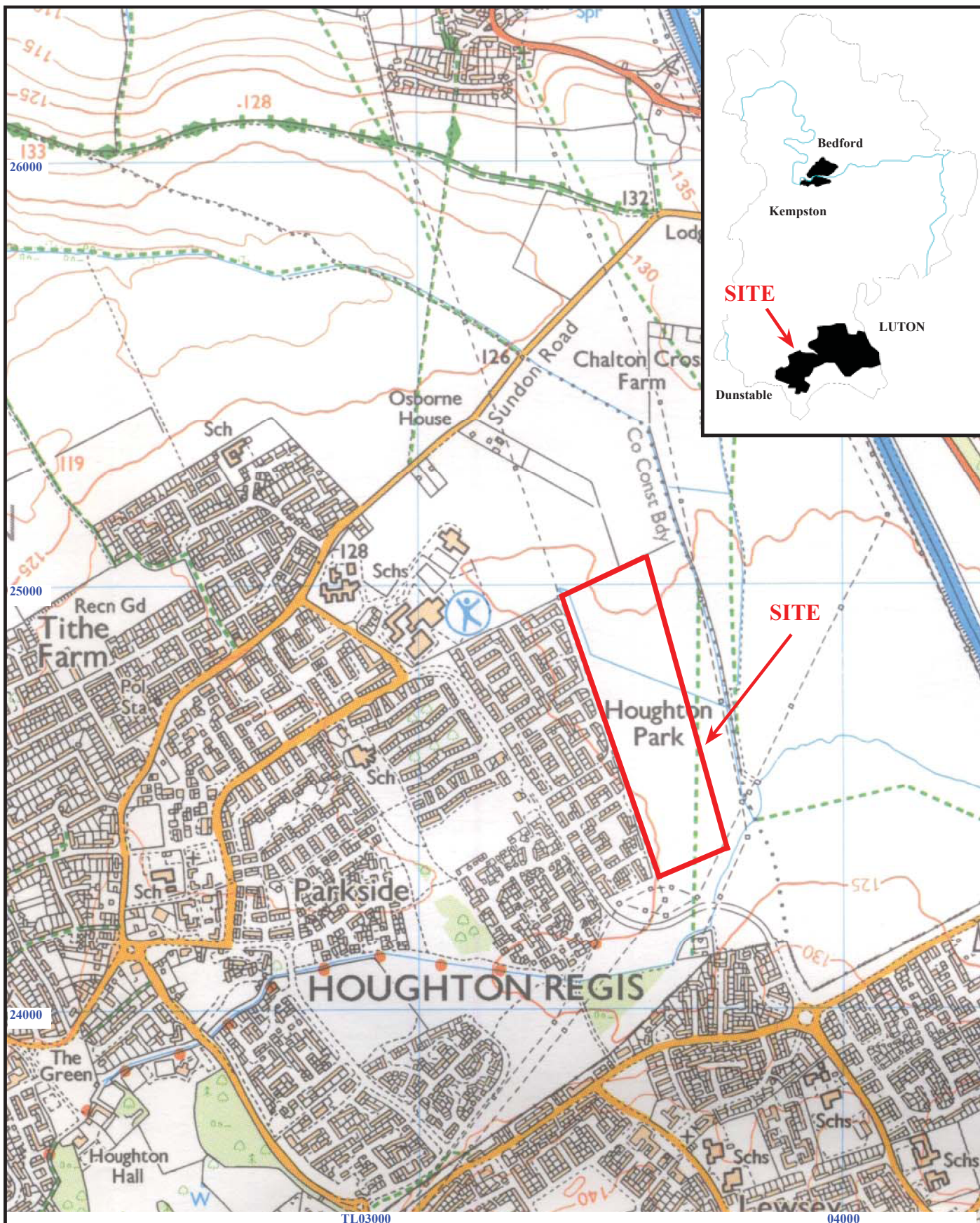
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
32	101	154	Ditch		
32	102	155, 156	Ditch		
31	103	157	Gully		
31	104	158	Ditch		
30	105	159	Ditch		
4	106	164, 165	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
5	107	152, 153, 197	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
26	108	160, 161	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
26	109	162	Gully		
26	110	163	Gully		
4	111	166, 167	Gully	Iron Age	Pottery
4	112	168, 169	Gully	Iron Age	Pottery
4	113	170	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
25	114	171	Gully		
25	115	172, 173	Ditch		
20	116	174	Ditch		
18	117	175	Ditch		
18	118	176	Ditch		
16	119	177, 184	Ditch	Post-medieval	Tile and metalwork Residual Iron Age pottery
16	120	178	Ditch		
16	121	179	Ditch		
21	122	180	Gully		
21	123	181	Gully		
21	124	182	Gully		
21	125	183	Ditch (not excavated)		
16	126	185	Ditch		
11	127	187	Gully		
10	128	188	Gully		
10	129	189	Ditch		
10	130	190	Gully		
12	131	186	Ditch		
9	132	192	Gully		
9	133	191, 193, 194	Pit	Iron Age	Pottery
9	134	195	Pit/posthole?		
9	135	196	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
8	136	198	Ditch (not excavated)		
8	137	199	Ditch (not excavated)		
8	138	250	Ditch (not excavated)		
8	139	251	Ditch (not excavated)		
9	140	252	Ditch (not excavated)		
9	141	253	Ditch (not excavated)		
9	142	254	Ditch (not excavated)		

APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogue

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>F1</i>		<i>F2</i>		<i>F3</i>		<i>F4</i>		<i>F10</i>	
		<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>
106	165	2	2	7	21	-	-	-	-	1	4
107	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6
107	153	2	19	9	42	5	48	-	-	-	-
108	161	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
111	167	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
112	169	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
113	170	1	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	41
119	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
133	194	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
135	196	-	-	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
	Total	6	50	19	67	7	50	3	11	4	51

APPENDIX 4: Inventory of Animal Bone

Cut	Deposit	No. frags	Wt (g)	Large	Medium	Unidentified
107	152	5	60	1	-	4
107	153	2	96	2	-	-
109	162	2	46	1	-	1
106	164	2	18	-	2	-
106	165	27	104	5	2	20
113	170	1	6	-	1	-
133	194	3	6	-	-	3
Total / MNI		42	336	1 cow	1 sheep/goat	-

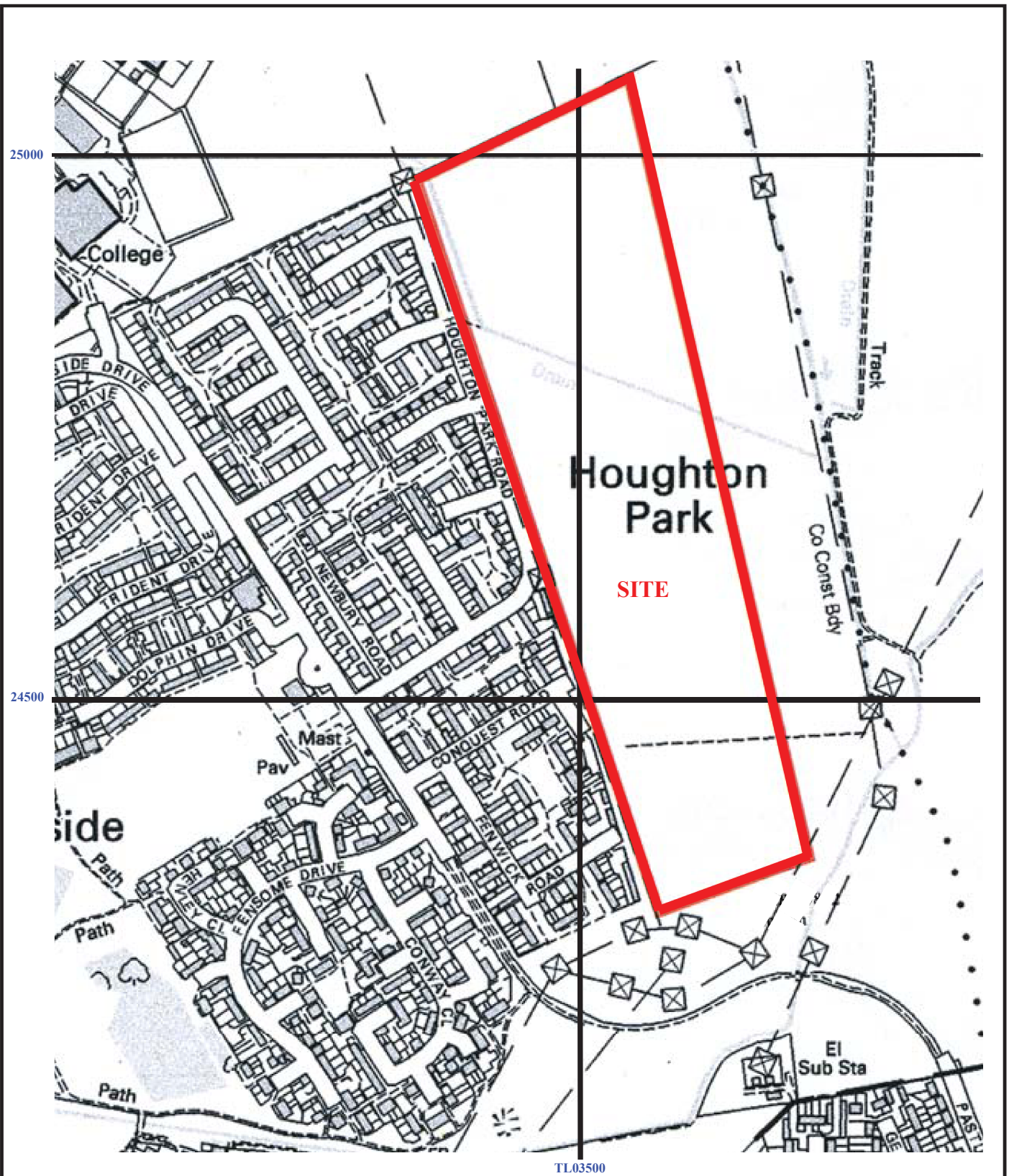


HPR 13/05

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Houghton Regis and Bedfordshire.

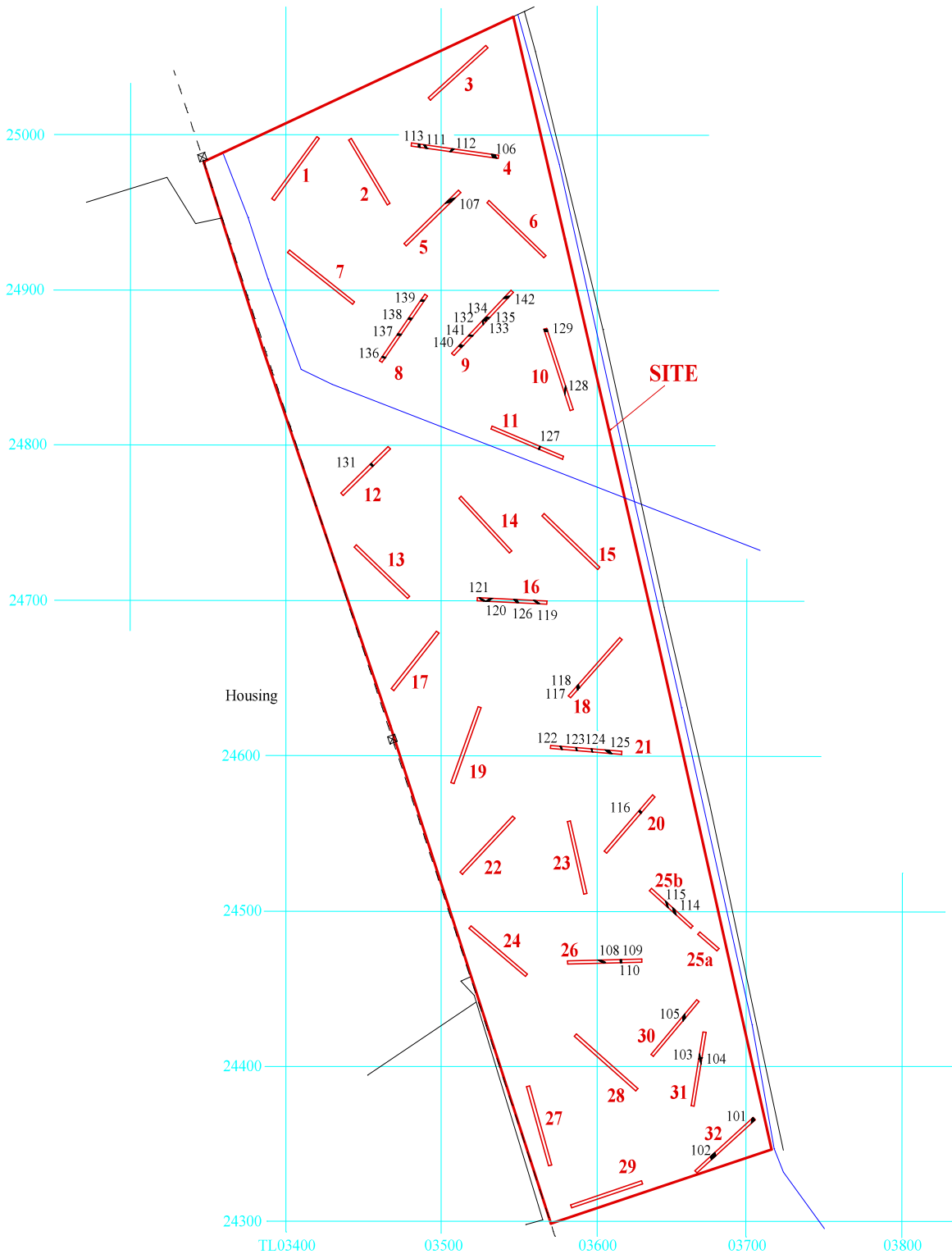
Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 193 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



HPR 13/05

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
 Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Houghton Park.



HPR 13/05

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**



Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

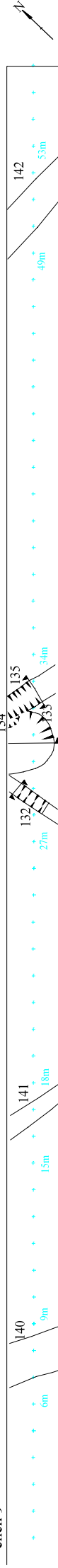
Trench 5



Trench 8



trench 9



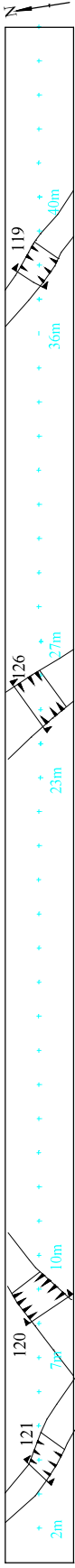
trench 10



Trench 11



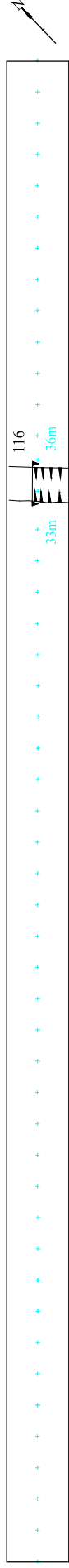
Trench 16



Trench 18



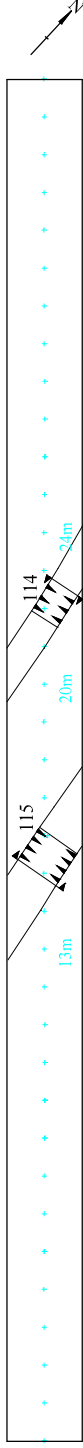
Trench 20



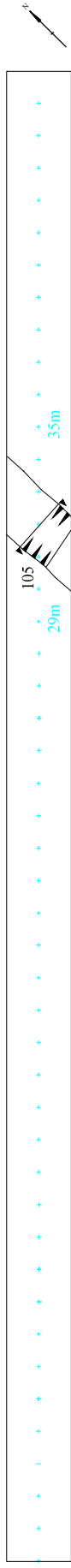
Trench 21



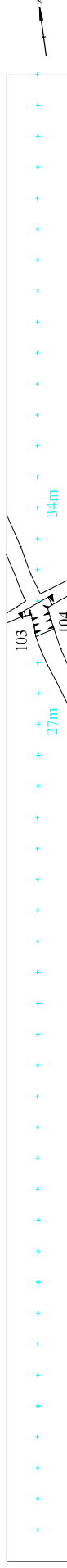
Trench 25b



Trench 30

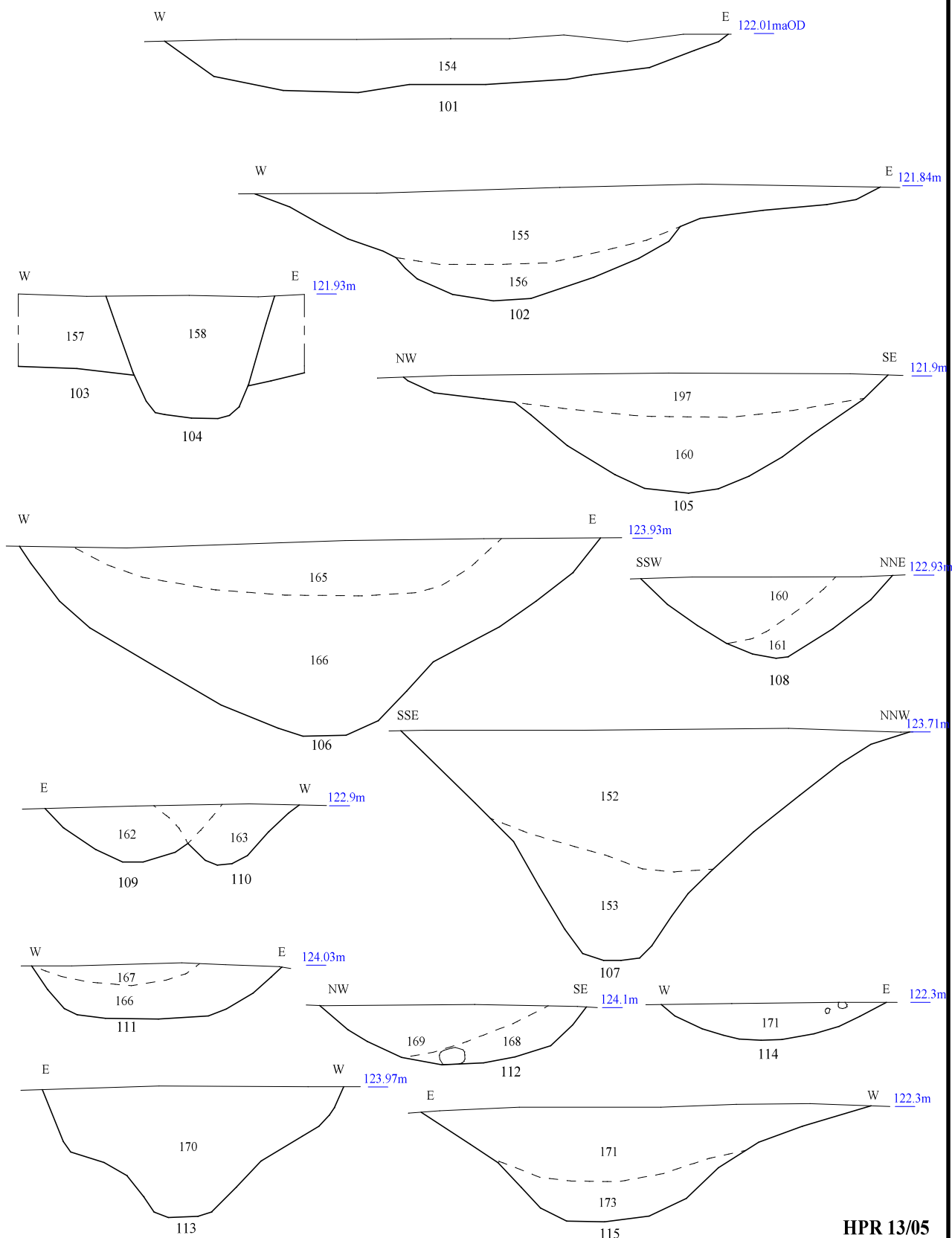


Trench 31



Trench 32





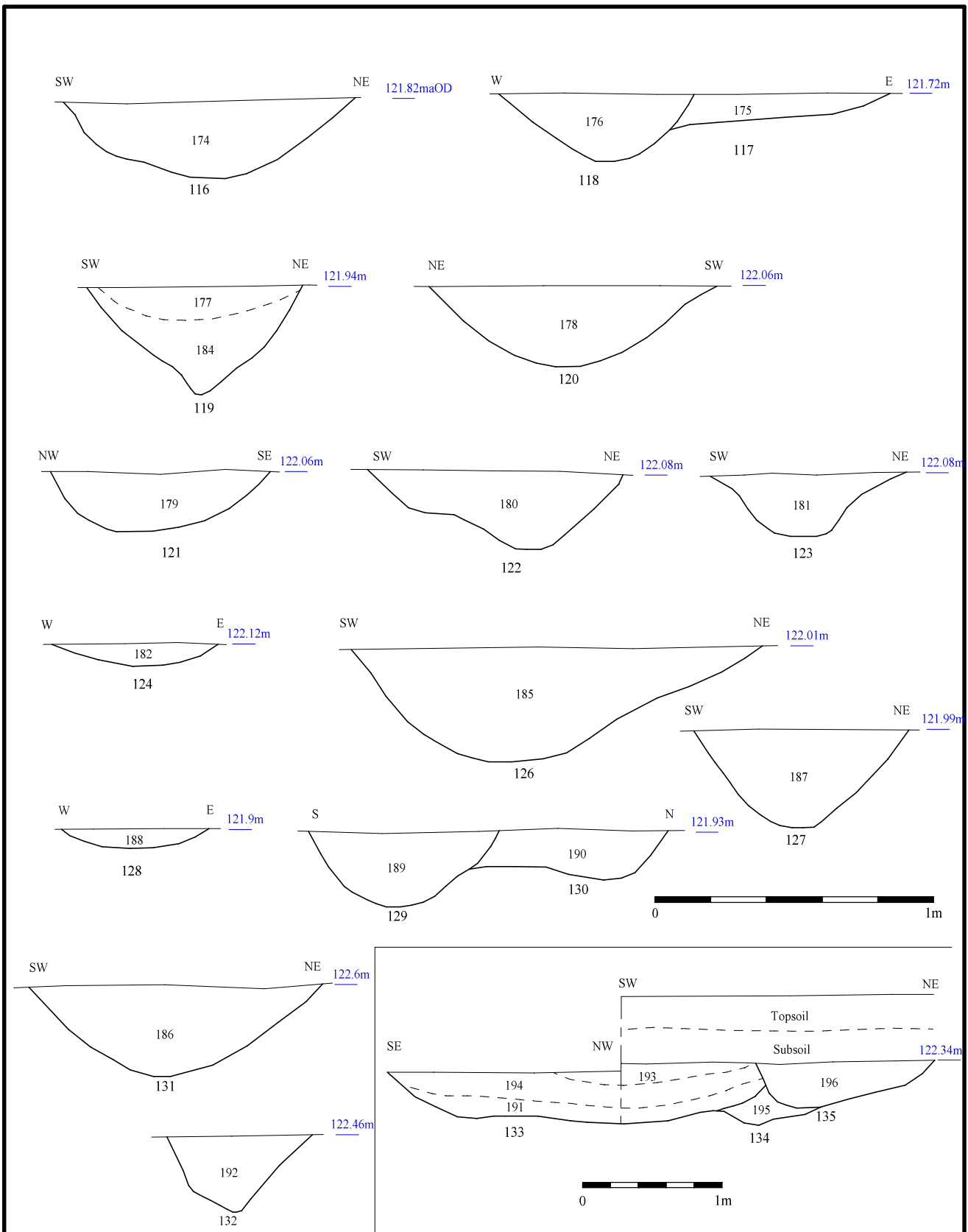
HPR 13/05

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 7. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



HPR 13/05

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 8. Sections.



Plate 1. Trench 4, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 9, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

HPR 13/05

**Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 18, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 32, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

HPR 13/05

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 5. Trench 4, Enclosure ditch slot 106, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 5, Enclosure ditch slot 107, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

HPR 13/05

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 5 and 6.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 7. Trench 9, pit 133 on left; pit 134, ditch 135 and trench section, looking west, Scales: 2m, 1m, 0.5m, and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 16, ditch slot 124, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

HPR 13/05

Land at Houghton Park, Conquest Road, Houghton Regis,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Evaluation

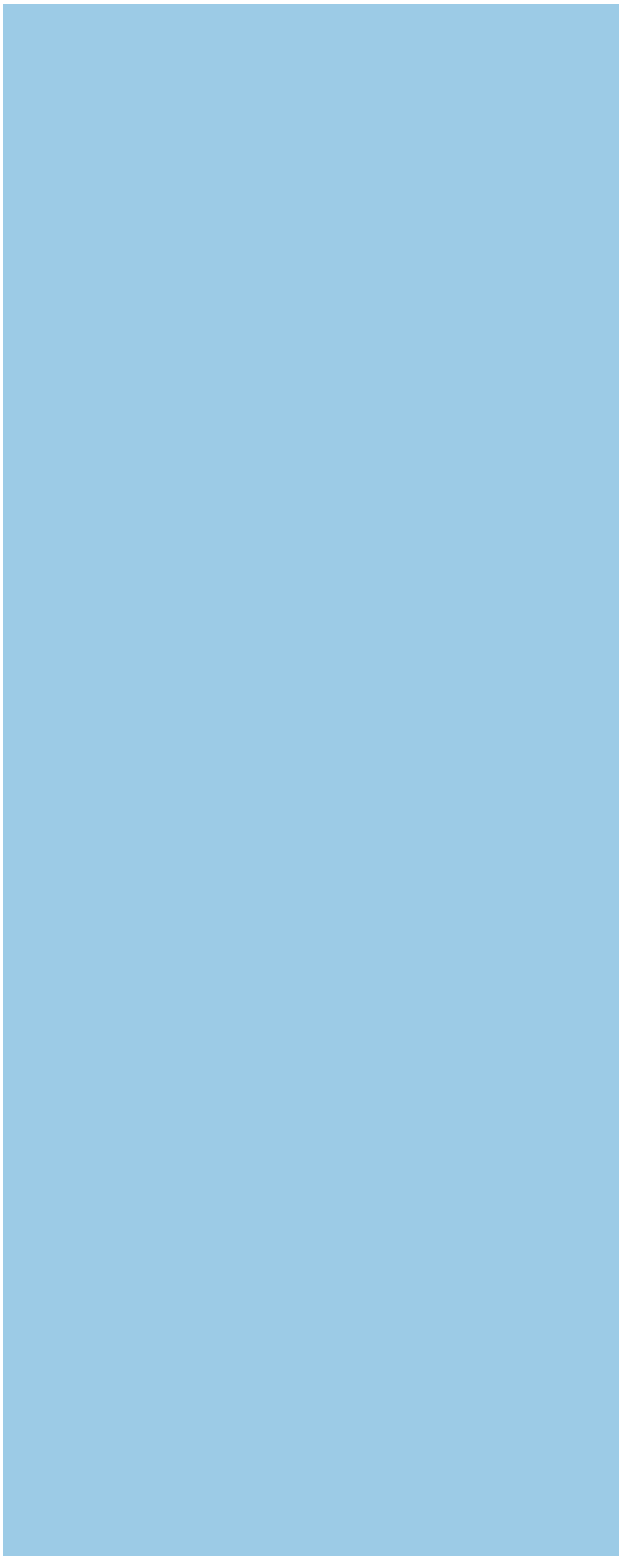
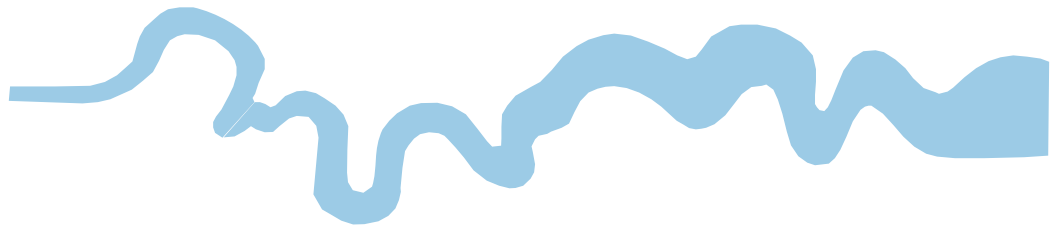
Plates 7 and 8.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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**