

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington,
Bibury, Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: RBG12/200

(SP 1072 0666)

Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington, Bibury, Gloucestershire

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Hills Property Limited and Cirencester Housing Society

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RBG 12/200

April 2013

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington, Bibury, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SP 1072 0666

Site activity: Evaluation trenching

Date and duration of project: 28th March 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Aiji Castle

Site code: RBG 12/200

Area of site: 0.38ha

Summary of results: The evaluation trenching has not revealed any finds nor deposits of archaeological interest. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 03.04.13
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Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington, Bibury, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 12/200c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Rozzers, Arlington, Bibury, Gloucestershire (SP 1072 0666) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Colin Woodhouse of Hills Homes, Ailesbury Court, High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 1AA.

Planning permission is to be sought from Cotswold District Council for the construction of eleven new homes with access and parking. The results of a field evaluation have been requested to determine the site's archaeological potential, and, if necessary, produce information on which to base a scheme to mitigate the archaeological impact of the proposed development.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer, Gloucestershire County Council, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aiji Castle and Genni Elliott on 28th March 2013 and the site code is RBG12/200.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the western end of the village of Arlington, c.1km west of Bibury, a village on the River Coln c.9km north-east of Cirencester (Fig. 1). The site itself is located in the south-eastern corner of a larger field, bordered to the east by The Rozzers and the south by the B4425 road from Cirencester. The field in which the trenching was undertaken is at a height of c.129m above Ordnance Datum sloping gradually downhill from the north-west to about 127m AOD in the south-east. It is under rough pasture. The underlying geology is mapped as Signet Member rubbly limestone with mudstone beds (BGS 1998).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment and subsequent geophysical survey (Preston 2013; Buczek and Dawson 2013). In summary, the site does not contain any known heritage assets but it lies within an area of archaeological potential, being close to an Iron Age hillfort (a Scheduled Monument) and other sites including a possible Neolithic henge and long barrow. Various historic elements of the medieval village of Arlington lie to the north-east with the hamlet of Bibury adjacent to the site. The geophysical survey found few anomalies, none of which were obviously of archaeological origin.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The work was to be carried out in a manner that would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warranted preservation in-situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this 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 the geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin.

It was proposed to dig 4 trenches, each 11m long and all 1.6m wide, targeting the footprints of the proposed new houses. A contingency of 44m of additional trenching was a should it be required to clarify the results of the initial findings.

Topsoil and overburden was removed using a JCB-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological deposits or features were encountered these were to be cleaned and excavated using hand tools.

Results

All four trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 2). They ranged in length from 11.0m to 12.15m and in depth from 0.3m to 0.6m. Spoil heaps were checked for finds using a metal detector. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned E-W and was 12.15m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil above 0.13m of brown silty clay loam subsoil overlying reddish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of yellowish white limestone natural geology. No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SW-NE and was 12.0m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil above 0.16m of subsoil above natural geology. A test pit was dug at the south west end to confirm the correct interpretation of the natural geology. Nothing of archaeological interest was present in Trench 2; the geophysical anomaly targeted by this trench proved to be of geological origin.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned E-W and was 11.4m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.2m of subsoil above natural geology. No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 4 (Figs 2-4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 3 was aligned NE-SW and was 11.0m long and 0.6m deep at the NE end. The trench was located across a hollow visible at ground level. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying 0.29m of subsoil above 0.06m of stoney subsoil above natural geology.

Two features cutting the natural geology were observed at the north-east end of the trench. An elongated pit or ditch aligned NE-SW was partially exposed in the trench. It was 0.34m deep and contained a single brown silty clay with charcoal fill (52) from which modern floor tile, an iron nail and some iron slag were recovered. A second feature, pit 2, cut ditch 1. It was 0.55m deep and contained two loose brown silty clay fills (53, 54) from which abundant mass produced transfer printed 19th- or 20th- century pottery ('china'), metal and glass were recovered. These features were not recorded as anomalies by the geophysical survey, probably due to interference from nearby magnetic disturbance (services).

Finds

No pre-modern finds were recorded. The modern finds from Trench 4 were retained on site.

Conclusion

Evaluation of the site revealed has not revealed any finds nor deposits of archaeological interest. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

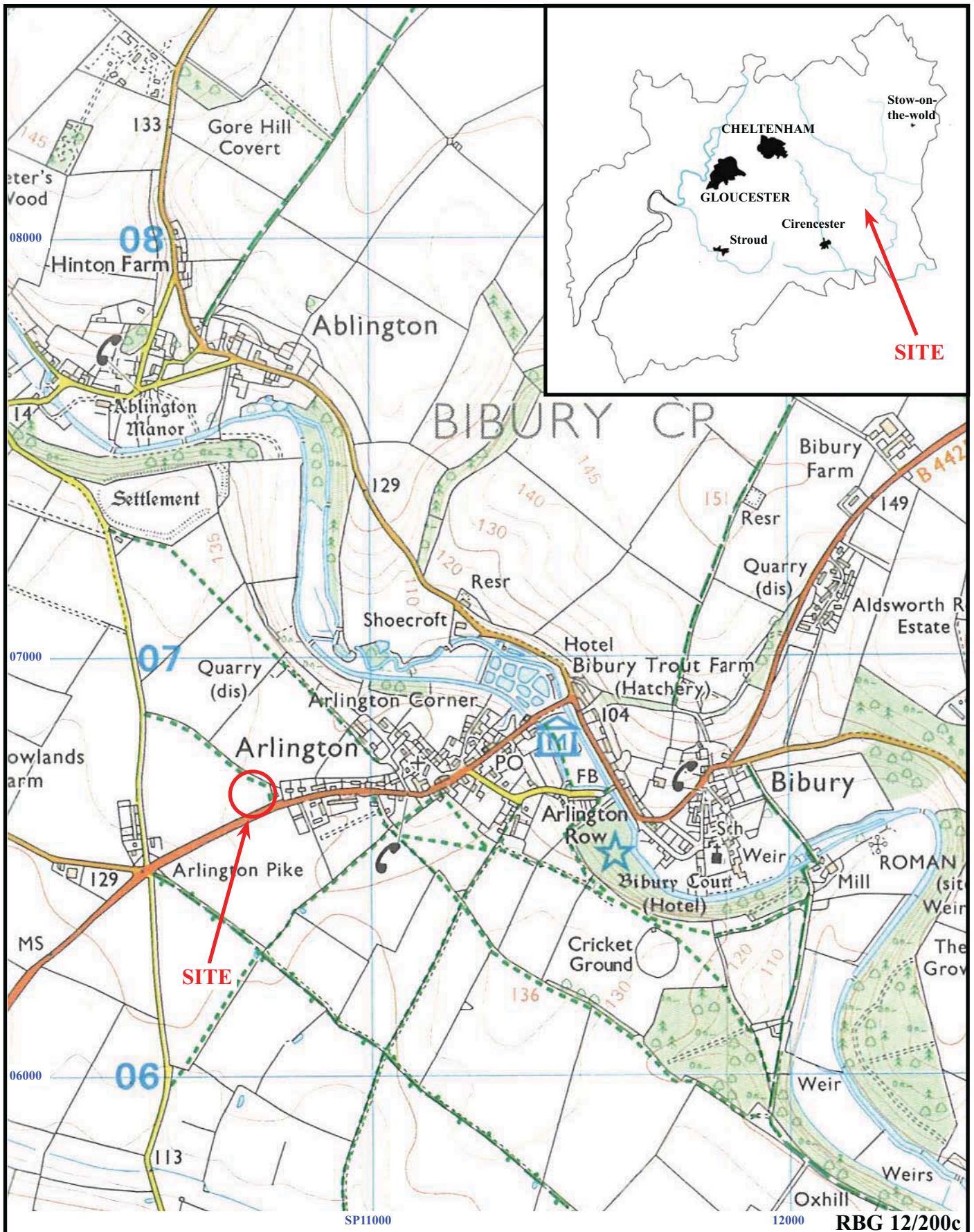
References

- BGS, 1998, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 235, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Buczek, M and Preston, S, 2013, 'Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington Farm, Bibury, Gloucestershire, a geophysical survey (magnetic) report', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 12/200b, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Preston, S, 2013, 'Land adjacent to The Rozzers, Arlington Farm, Bibury, Gloucestershire: a desk-based Heritage Assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 12/200, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south east end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12.15	1.60	0.44	0–0.17m topsoil; 0.17–0.30m brown silty clay loam subsoil; 0.30m+ reddish brown silty clay with a moderate amount of yellowish white limestone(natural geology).
2	12.00	1.60	0.30 (Test pit 0.5m)	0–0.14m topsoil; 0.14–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology. Test pit at 0m
3	11.40	1.60	0.42	0–0.15m topsoil; 0.15–0.35m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology.
4	11.00	1.60	0.60 (SW) 0.46m (NE)	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23–0.51m subsoil; 0.51-0.57m stoney subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology. Modern features 1 and 2. [Pls 1 and 2]

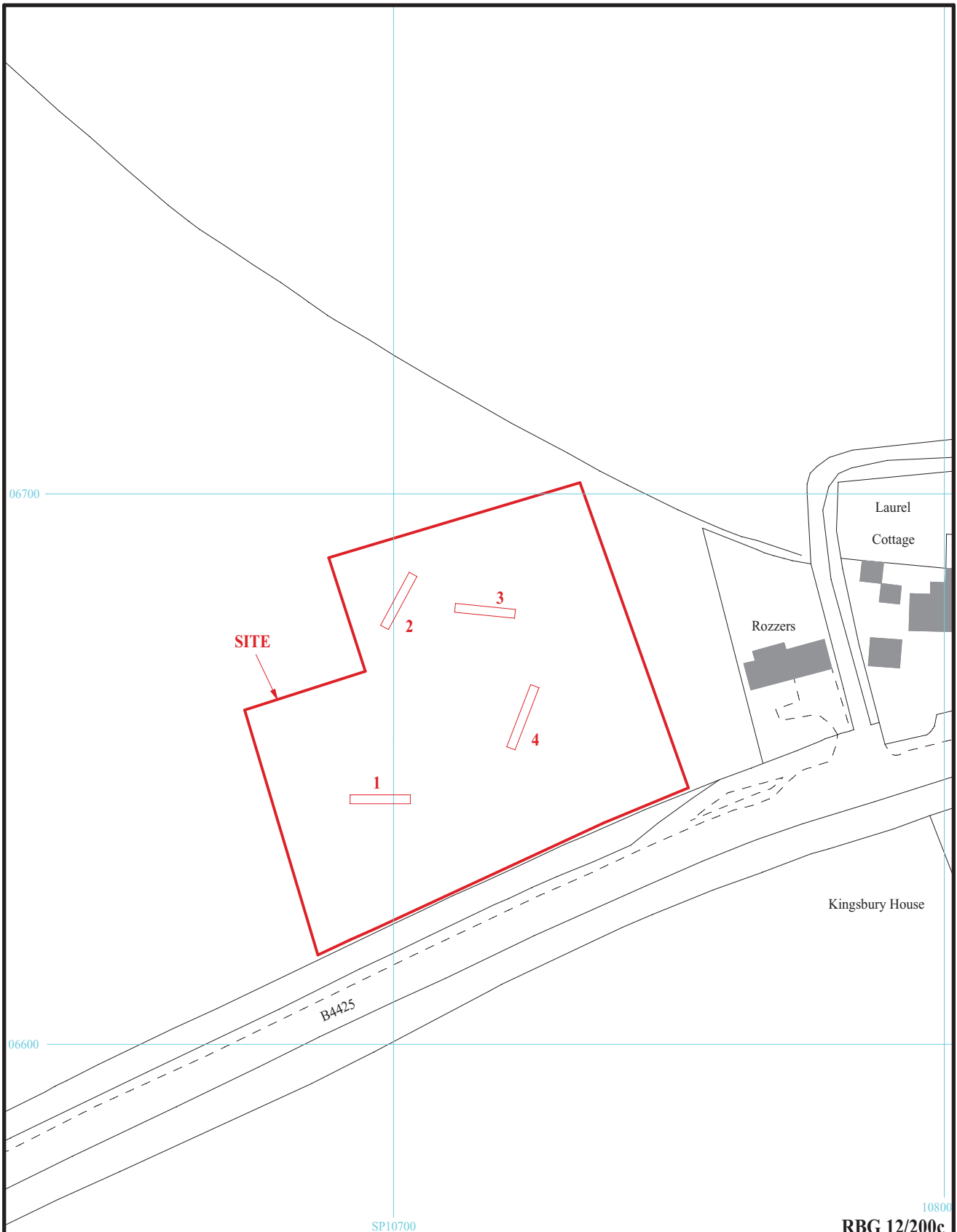


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Figure 1. Location of site within Bibury and Gloucestershire.

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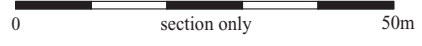
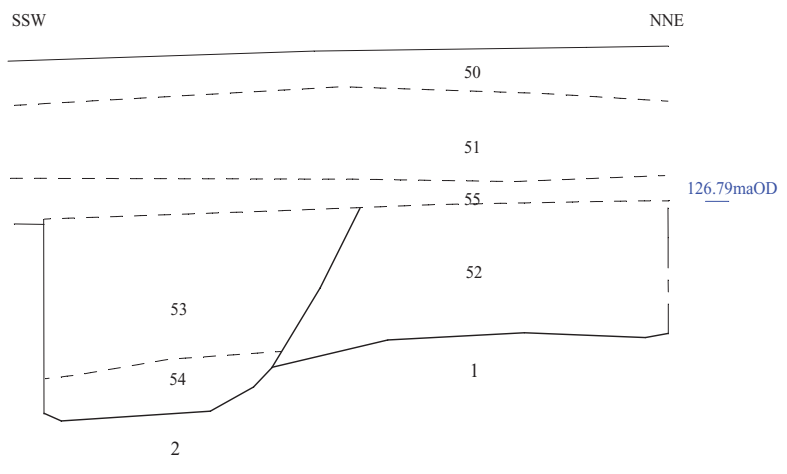
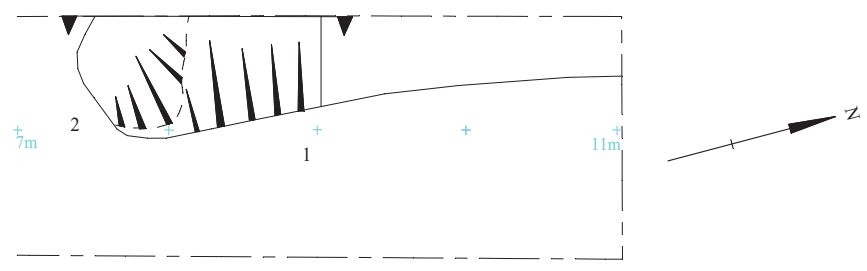
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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Trench 4

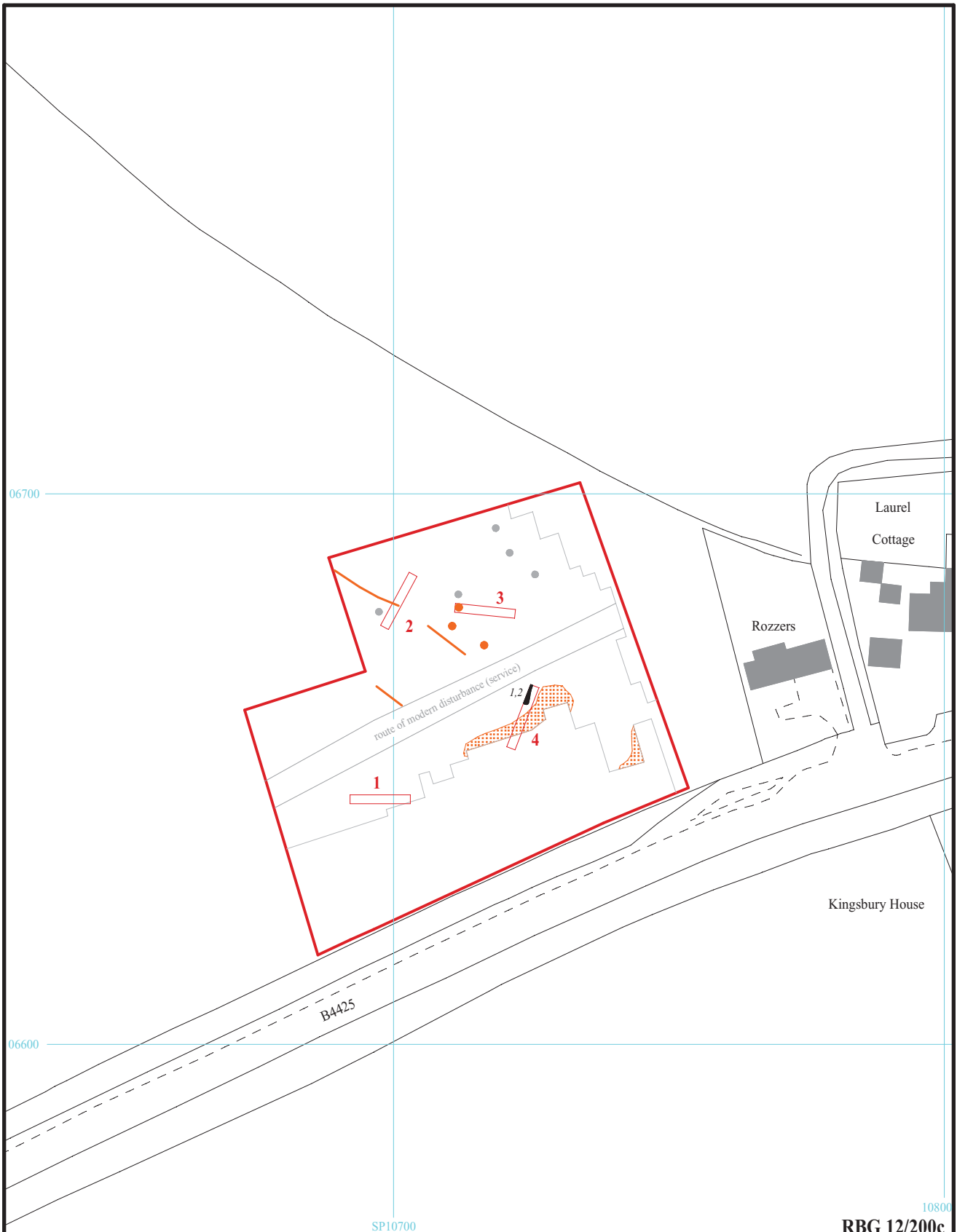


section onl

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Figure 3. Plan and section from Trench 4.





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Figure 4. Location of trenches in relation to geophysical anomalies.



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Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, modern ditch 1 and pit 2, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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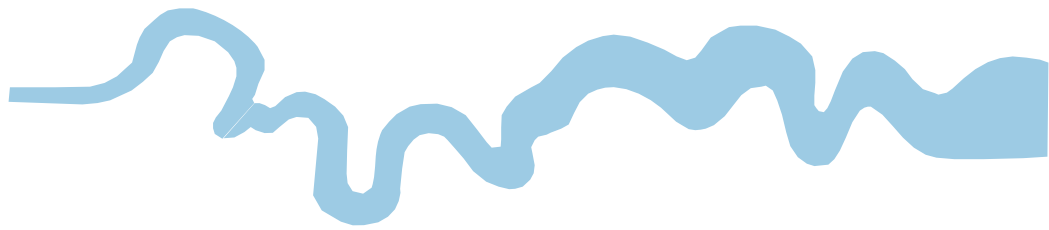
Plates 1 and 2.

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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





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