

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Winter Hill Farm, Winter Hill, Cookham,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: WHC14/06

(SU 8748 8628)

Winter Hill Farm, Winter Hill, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for CgMs Consulting

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WHC14/06

February 2014

Summary

Site name: Winter Hill Farm, Winter Hill, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8748 8628

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th February 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: WHC 14/06

Area of site: 0.06ha

Summary of results: A single post hole containing post-medieval tile was found. The site is not considered to have any archaeological potential.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.02.14 Steve Preston ✓ 21.02.14

Winter Hill Farm, Winter Hill, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 14/06

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Winter Hill Farm, Winter Hill, Cookham, Maidenhead Berkshire (SU 8748 8628) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Meager of CgMs, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN on behalf of Mr Peter Phillips of Winter Hill farm, Winter Hill, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Planning permission (ref. 13/02322) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the creation of a tennis court at Winter Hill Farm with a condition (3) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development, a field evaluation was carried out to determine the site's archaeological potential and help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by Richard Meager of CgMs consulting and approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Aiji Castle on 5th February 2014 and the site code is WHC14/06. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located *c.*1km north east of Cookham Dean and *c.*0.3km south of the River Thames (Fig. 1). The site itself is on a flat parcel of land *c.*72m aOD but the ground drops away precipitously to the Thames some 50m below to the north. The mapped geology shows the site located on the border of Seaford and Newhaven Chalk and Winter Hill Gravel (BGS 2005) and the latter was observed in the trenches as a reddish brown sandy gravel.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley, however relatively little is recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment for the immediate environs of the site. A number of sites and finds of various

periods from prehistory to the medieval period are located on the Thames Valley floor including the Bronze Age round barrow cemetery at Cock Marsh 1.5 km to the north east. To the south some prehistoric activity (stray flint finds) have been recorded in both Cookham Dean (Ford 1993) and Cookham Rise. Recent small-scale investigations closer to Cookham village have begun to uncover more about the topography of the Saxon settlement (eg McNicholl-Norbury and Mundin 2013) but the environs of the proposal site remains relatively little explored.

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. This work was to be carried out in a manner which did not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might have been better excavated under conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were to:

establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric and any later activity, and to define the date and nature of such activity;

establish the environmental context of prehistoric and later activity;

establish the presence or otherwise of late medieval/early post medieval activity which has been recorded in the vicinity of the study site, and to define the date and nature of such activity;

evaluate the likely impact of lands use and development; and to

provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy as appropriate.

Results

Both trenches were dug as intended. They ranged in length from 11.5m to 12m and in depth from 0.62m to 0.9m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 11.50m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil and 0.32m subsoil overlying natural geology. A posthole (1) was recorded towards the south of the trench which was 0.30m in diameter and 0.15m deep and filled with a single fill (52) which consisted of a loose mid brown grey silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions (Pl. 2). Two pieces of ceramic building material were found

within the fill of this posthole, both post-medieval in date suggesting that this feature is of limited archaeological interest.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned roughly W - E and was 12.0m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and between 0.30m and 0.57m of dark grey brown clay silt made ground overlying natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed in this trench. A small piece of post-medieval tile came from the made ground.

Finds

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A total of three fragments of tile were recovered during the evaluation. These comprised two fragments of tile from deposit 52, which are a hard, evenly-fired fabric with medium sand inclusions. They are both red (one has a dark core indicating reducing conditions during firing, and a small amount of splashed glaze) and are 13mm and 14mm thick. The form of both is flat and even, are both likely to be peg tile pieces. They are dated to the post-medieval period (probably the earlier part) based on the fabric type. A further piece of tile was recovered from the made ground layer recorded in Trench 2. This comprises a piece of hard, evenly fired red sandy fabric, with one peg hole. The fabric again suggests a broad post-medieval date.

Conclusion

A single posthole containing ceramic building material of post-medieval date was found in Trench 1. Trench 2 had 0.57m of made ground at the east end and 0.30m at the west end. The purpose of this may well have been to level the area and a single piece of tile found within this made ground dates this activity to the post-medieval period or later. The site does not appear to have any archaeological potential,

References

- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, 1993, Harwood House Nursing Home, Cookham Dean, Berkshire. An archaeological Evaluation. Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 93/02, Reading
- McNicol-Norbury, A and Mundin, A, 2013, 'Evidence for the Saxon Topography of Cookham, and some Late Neolithic Grooved Ware Pottery', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **81**, 1–6
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

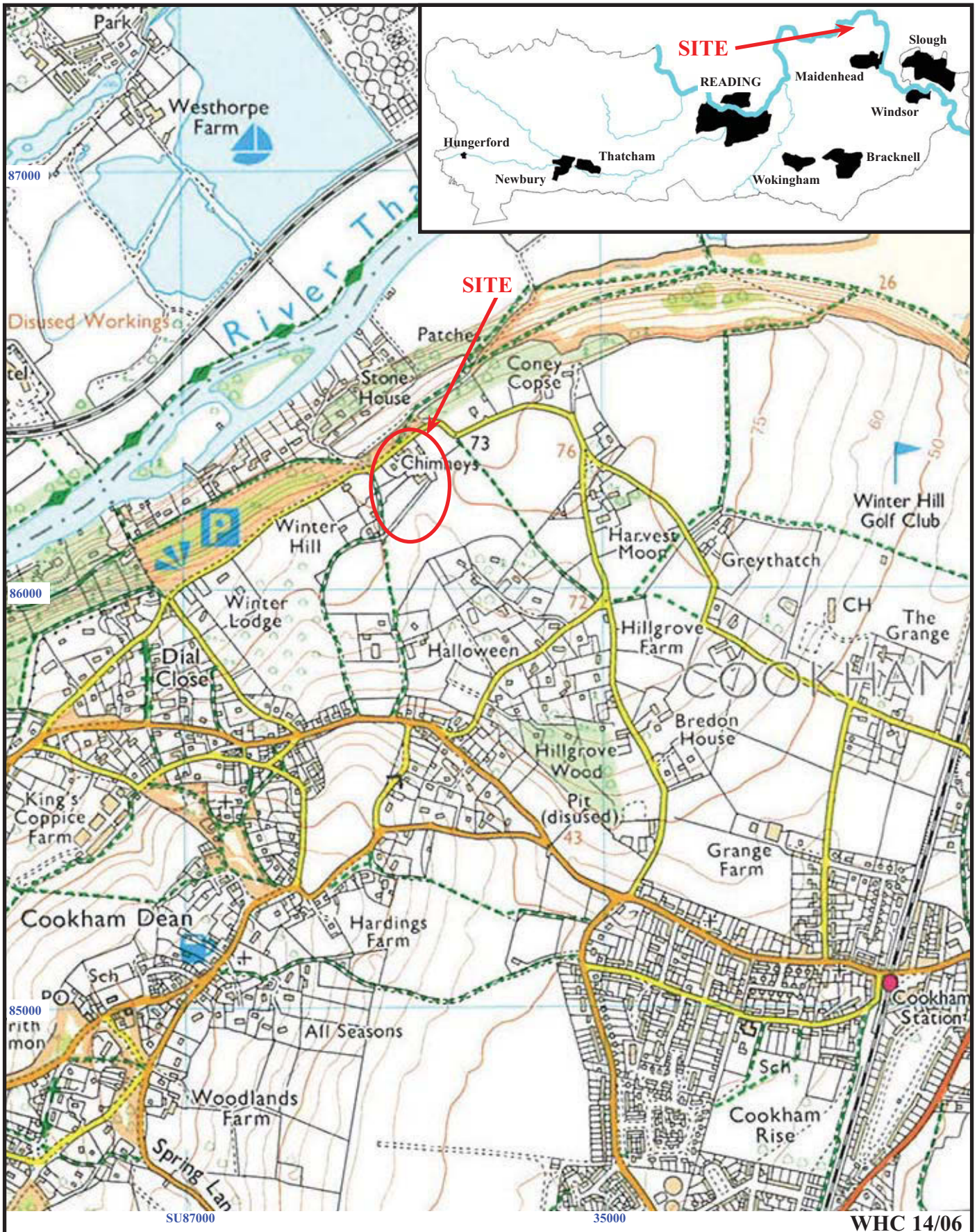
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	11.5	1.6	0.62	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10 – 0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ sandy gravel natural geology. Posthole 1 [Pls 1 and 2]
2	12	1.6	0.90	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15-0.72m made ground; 0.72m+ natural geology

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

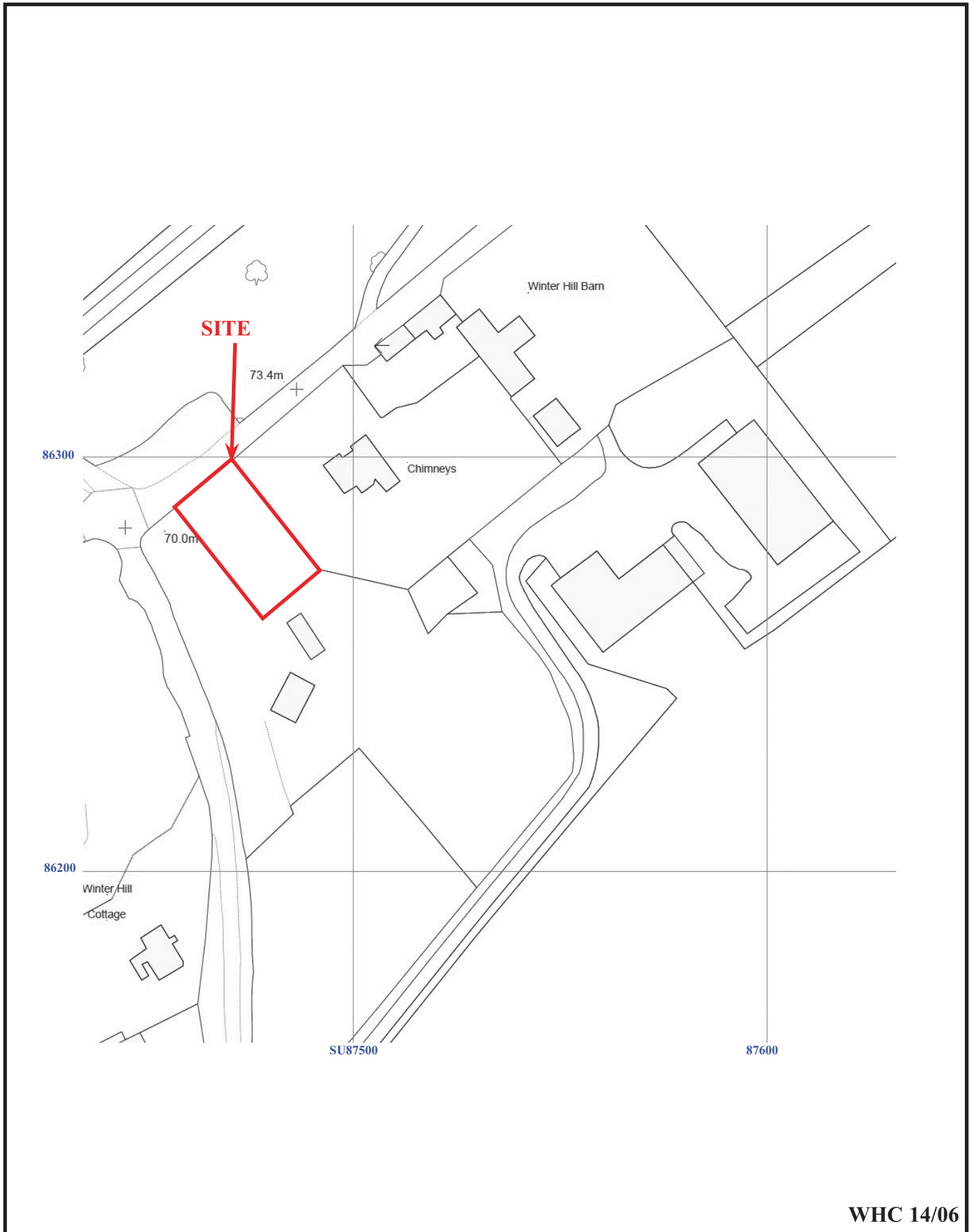
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52	Posthole	Early Post-medieval	Glazed tile



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Figure 1. Location of site within Cookham and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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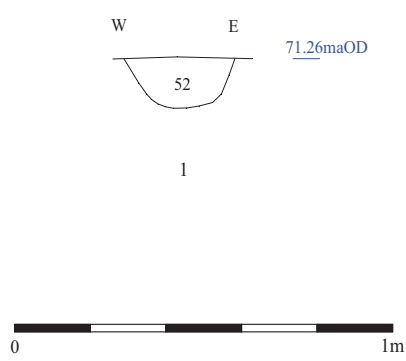
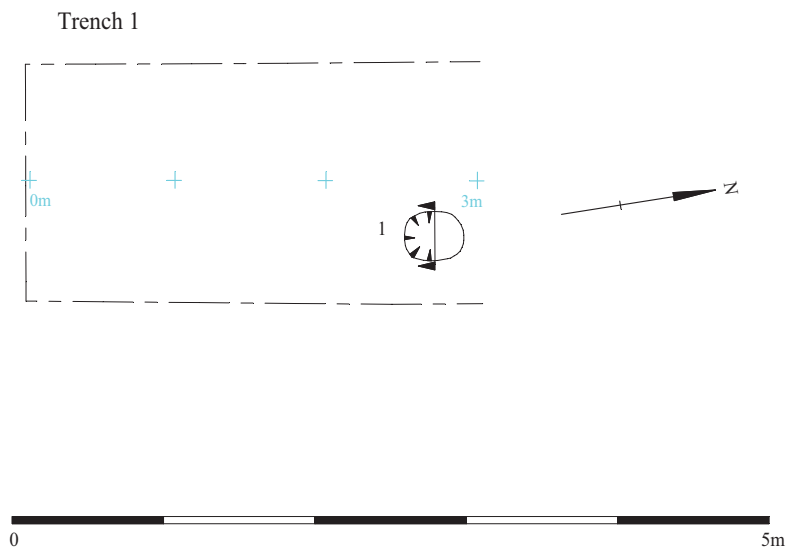
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Plan and section from Trench 1.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, Posthole 1, looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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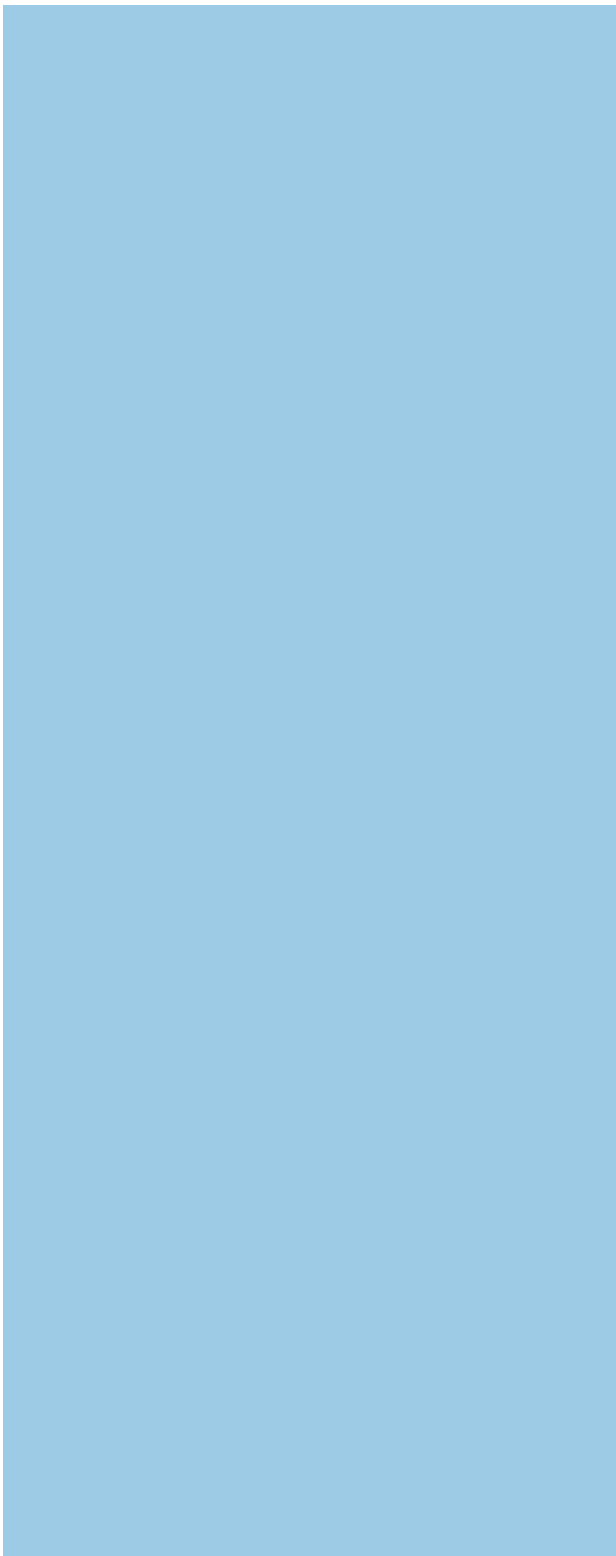
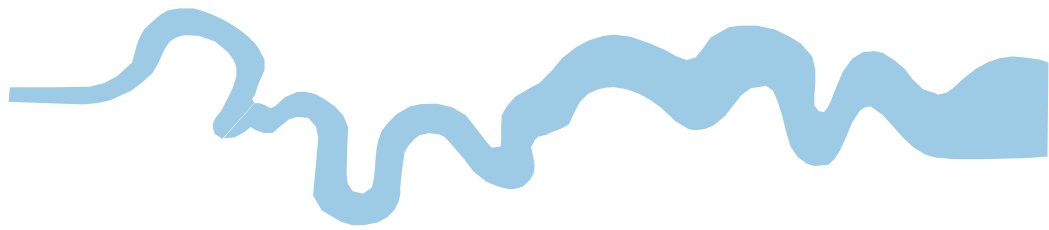
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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