

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Tudor House, 43 Broad Street,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: THO13/46

(SU8099 8738)

**Tudor House, 43 Broad Street,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Psilogic Ltd**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TH013/46

April 2014

Summary

Site name: Tudor House, 43 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 80980 68738

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 11th April 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: THO13/46

Summary of results: Several pits and postholes were revealed along with several make-up layers. The earliest features present contained pottery of 16th- to 19th-century date though several were clearly from the 19th/20th century. No artefacts nor deposits pre-dating Post-medieval times were recorded. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential for the Medieval, Saxon or earlier periods.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 28.04.14
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Tudor House, 43 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 13/46b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Tudor House, 43 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 80980 68738) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Tony Pudner of Psilogic Ltd, The Barn House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, RG40 3BY. Planning permission (app 2013/2083) and Listed Building Consent (LB2013/2084) have been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the conversion of Tudor House to create two residential units, with a further single-storey addition in place of the current 1970s building at the rear. The consent is subject to a condition (14) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological works. This was to take the form, initially, of an evaluation (trial trenching) based on the results of which further fieldwork may be required in order to mitigate the archaeological impact of the development. A separate report has already addressed the recording of the building prior to alterations (Milbank 2013).

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Paul Falcini, formerly of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Aidan Colyer on 11th April 2014 and the site code is THO13/46. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and it is anticipated that it will be deposited at appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises a rectangular parcel of land to the rear of Tudor House. It lies on a larger triangular portion of land between Broad Street and Milton Road on the margins of the historic core of the settlement. The geology of the site is described as plateau gravels (BGS 1946) with brown sand and occasional veins of red/light blue clay present. The site lies at 72m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of the town close to the Market Place. The place name of Wokingham has Saxon origins but no archaeological finds or deposits of Saxon date have yet been found. Wokingham is not mentioned in Domesday Book but this is probably a quirk of the administrative organization, with its entry subsumed within that for Sonning which was then very large estate forming a detached portion of Wiltshire (Astill 1978). In medieval times the settlement was chosen by the Bishop of Salisbury (who had a palace at Sonning) as the site for a planned town (Astill 2013). The most notable fieldwork within the town took place on Cross Street and revealed a succession of medieval and post-medieval buildings (Morris and Jones 1990). Other fieldwork relatively close to the proposal site on Rose Street revealing additional medieval deposits (WA 1988). Several post-medieval listed buildings are located in the vicinity and on the site itself allowing for the possibility of earlier, medieval deposits to be present.

A detailed record of the building (Milbank 2013) indicates it is of 16th-century origin with 17th-century and later additions.

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 are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Two trenches were to be dug, each 4m long and 1.4-1.6m wide, using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were targeted at the footprints of the proposed new structure. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims above.

Results

The trenches were dug in the locations as intended and were respectively 4.6m and 5.0m long and ranged in depth from 0.54m to 0.95m (Fig. 3). Trenches were lengthened to avoid the presence of several sewers and drains that were

encountered. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1, with details of all excavated features in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3–5; 4; Pls1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned NW–SE and was 4.6m long. It varied in depth from 0.54m to the north-west to 0.95m to the south-east. Below a concrete slab 0.26m thick which had already been removed, the stratigraphy was complex with modern made ground overlying various (redeposited) yellow or grey sand layers (58–66) above yellow clayey sand natural geology.

At the base of the trench was feature 1 (Pl. 4) that was found on excavation to only be a relatively shallow scoop and is possibly no more than a localized undulation in the natural geology occupied by a wider layer (52 and 67). However, it produced a sherd of 16th-19th century pottery which, from its basal position in the stratigraphic sequence, dates the overlying deposits to later in the post-medieval period. Scoop 1 also produced animal bone and tile.

Pit 2, which was squarish in plan with steep sides, contained brick and tile fragments but no other dating evidence. However it was clearly cut from mid-way down the stratigraphic sequence (below layer 62).

Two posthole-sized features (3 and 4) were recorded at the north-western end of the trench. These cut into the natural geology for a short depth but again had been cut from high up in the stratigraphic sequence, either beneath or through the most recent made ground on the site. Both features contained brick/tile fragments with feature 3 containing the base of a wine bottle as dating evidence.

Trench 2 (Figs 3–5; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned NW–SE and was 5.0m long and between 0.5m and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of pea gravel/topsoil above up to 0.3m of 19th- or 20th-century made ground, above light brown sand natural geology. The south-western side of the trench was mostly occupied by the cut for one or more piped drains.

Two features were identified. Cut 6 was a probable pit but only a fraction of it appeared within the trench and its shape is unknown. It lay beneath the main deposit of made ground forming the bulk of this trench. It contained a number of tile fragments but is not otherwise closely dated. Within the centre of the trench was another pit (5), rectangular in plan, which had been cut through the made ground layer (Pl. 5). It contained several large fragments of modern-sized brick and a sherd of 16th- to 19th-century pottery.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 2 sherds with a total weight of 14g. Both sherds were in the same fabric:

Glazed Red Earthenware, 16th – 19th century (Brears 1969). Fine sandy earthenware, usually with an orange- brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century.

The ware is a very common find on sites of the earlier post-medieval period in the region. One sherd (5g) occurred in scoop 1 (52), and the other (9g) in pit 5 (56). Both are in good condition, and are reliably stratified.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a number of cut features and layers all of which date from no earlier than the 16th century with several clearly of later post-medieval (19th century) date. These deposits are broadly contemporary with the use of the extant post-medieval buildings on and adjacent to the site. No finds nor deposits of medieval or earlier date were recorded and the archaeological potential for deposits of these latter periods appears to be low.

References

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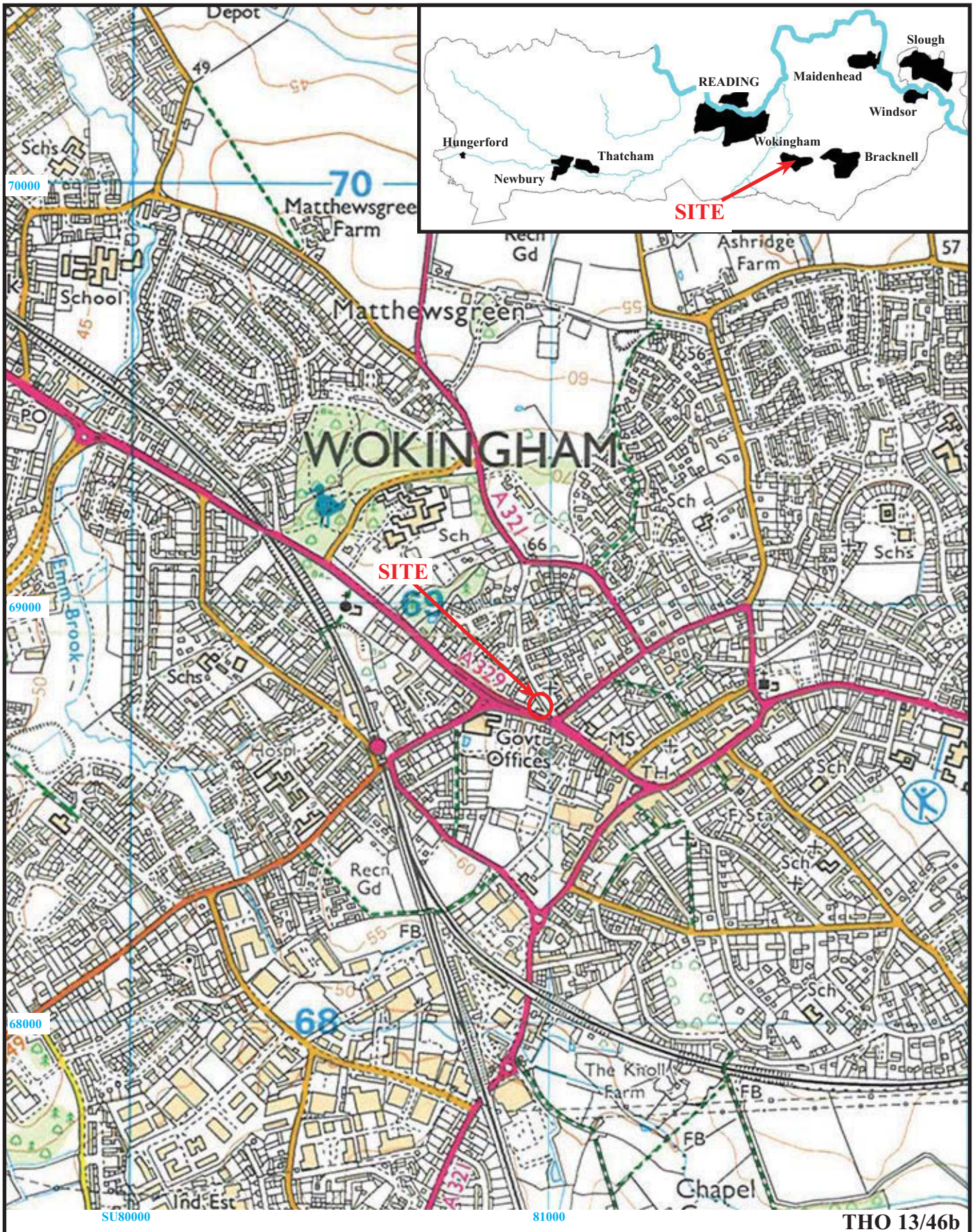
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SE end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	4.6	1.45	0.54(NW) 0.95(SE)	0-0.54m various layers of Post-medieval made ground cut by various features and modern services.; 0.54m+ yellow clayey sand with clay lenses natural geology. Scoop 1, pit 2, postholes 3 and 4 [Pls 1, 2 and 4]
2	5	1.45	0.5 (SE)) 0.63m NW	0-0.05 pea gravel/soil; 0.05-0.3m made ground; 0.3m + yellow clayey sand with clay lenses natural geology. Pits 5 and 6 [Pls 3 and 5]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	55	Scoop or layer	Post-Medieval 16 th century or later	Pottery
1	2		Pit	Later Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
1	3	54	Posthole	Later Post-medieval	Stratigraphy; wine bottle
1	4		Posthole	Later Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
2	5		Pit	Post-Medieval 19 th /20 th century	Pottery; modern brick
2	6		Pit	Later Post-medieval?	tile

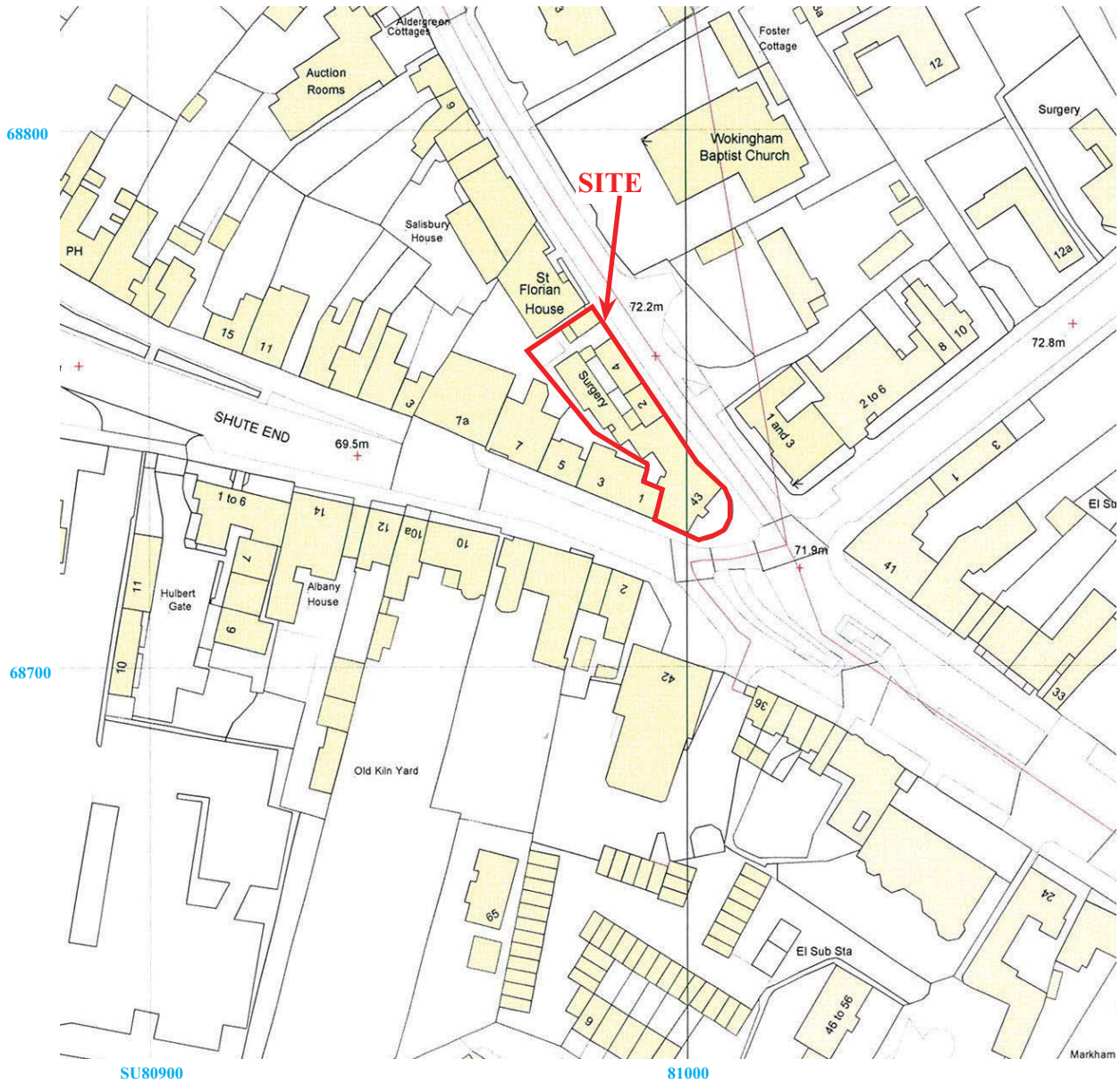


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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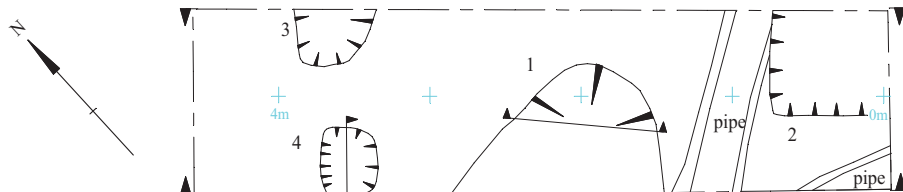
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

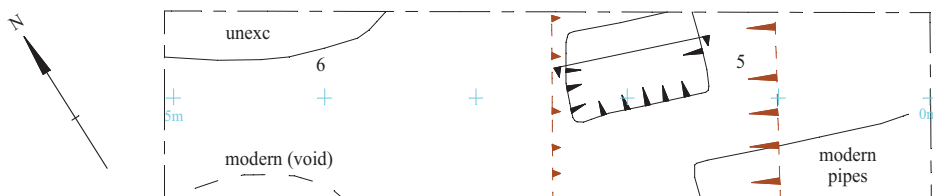


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Trench 1



Trench 2

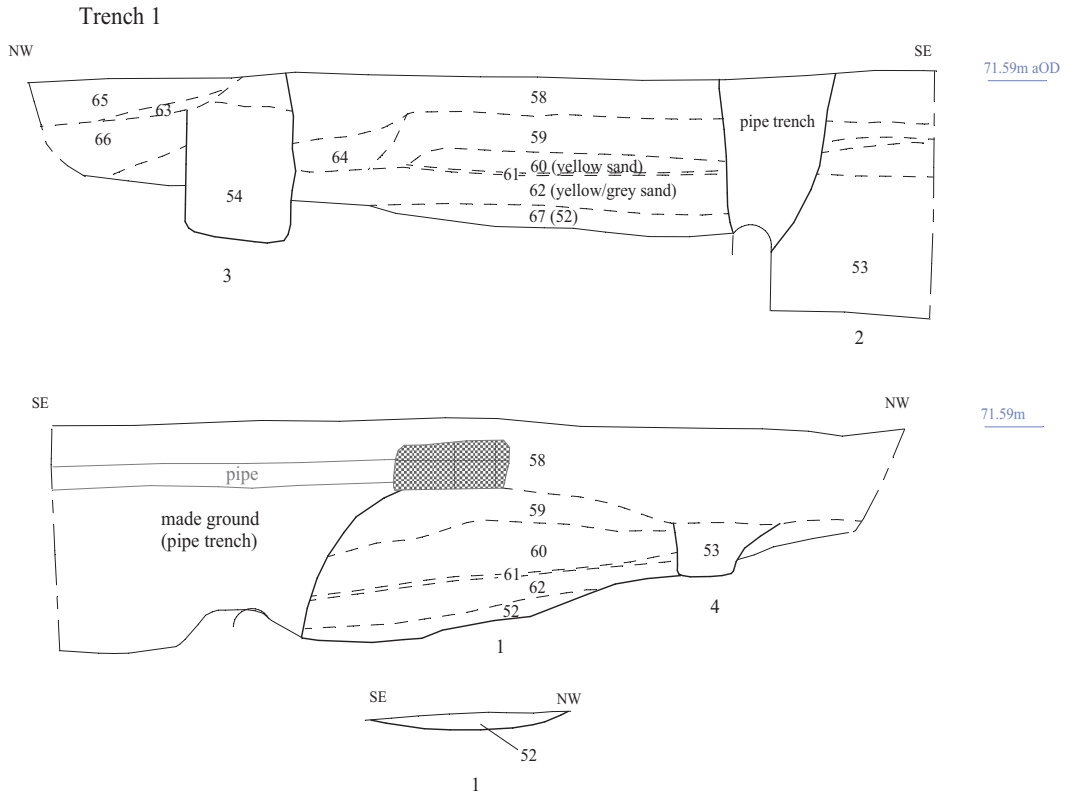


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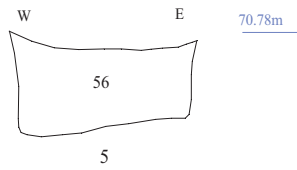
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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.





Trench 2



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Figure 5. Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north west,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 1m.

THO 13/46b

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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 3.**

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Plate 4. Trench 1, pit/spread (cut 1), looking south west, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 5. Trench 2, pit 5. looking north east, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 1m.

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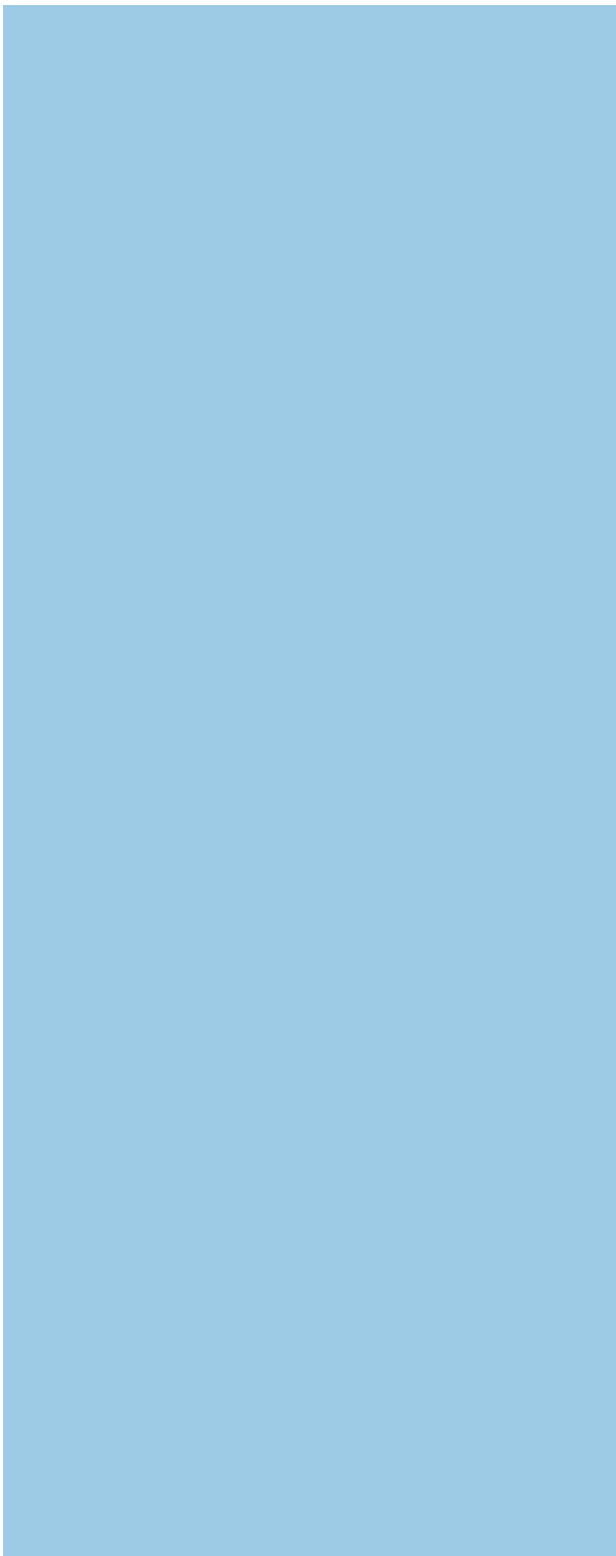
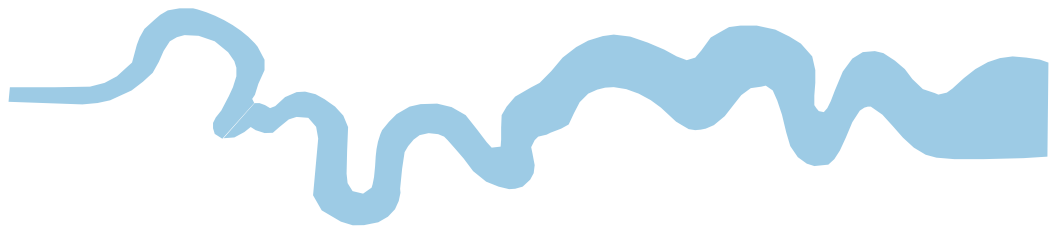
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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