

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield,  
Bracknell, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Susan Porter**

**Site Code: MEW12/124**

**(SU 9282 7240)**

# **Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Bloor Homes Ltd**

by Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MEW 12/124

**May 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9282 7240

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 22nd April to 7th May 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Susan Porter

**Site code:** MEW 12/124

**Area of site:** c. 0.87ha

**Summary of results:** A single undated ditch was recorded but which may be of relatively modern date. No other deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered. The site is considered to have little or no archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) 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 Ford ✓ 09.05.14 Steve Preston ✓ 08.05.14
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# Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 12/124b

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire SU 9282 7240 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew West of Bloor Homes Ltd, Fulmar House, Votec Centre Hambridge Lane, Newbury, RG14 5TN.

Planning consent (13/00242/FUL) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the construction of seven new houses following demolition on a parcel of land at Mayfield Industrial Estate, Winkfield, Bracknell, Berkshire SU9282 7240. The consent is subject to an archaeological condition (11), which requires a programme of archaeological works to be carried out on site. This was to take the form, initially, of a field evaluation by means of machine trenching. Further fieldwork may be required if archaeological deposits were encountered which could not be preserved *in situ*.

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 Roland Smith, of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter, Anna Ginger, Dan Strachan and Tom Stewart between 22nd April and 7th May 2014 and the site code is MEW 12/124. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the west side of Hatchet Lane to the north of Winkfield in eastern Berkshire, north of Bracknell and close to the edge of Windsor Forest (Fig. 1). The site was previously an industrial estate comprising light industrial units and containers set on a Tarmac and concrete surface on the east, with a gravelled area used as a scrap yard to the west. Hatchet Lane, to the east, is separated from the site by housing, with further housing (Cranbourne Cottages) to the south, with open fields surrounding the rest of the site. The site lies at a height of *c.*70m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as London Clay (BGS 1981); this was observed in all trenches as a firm orange/brown clay with dark grey/green patches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been investigated in a desk-based assessment (Dawson 2012). In summary the site lies in a region previously thought to be only sparsely populated, in part due to the characteristics of the underlying geology, with prehistoric and Roman settlement more frequent to the north (Ford 1987). However, it is possible that this impression results from a lack of fieldwork relative to neighbouring areas. To the west, excavations at the former RAF Staff College in Bracknell revealed evidence of Middle Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age occupation, medieval activity and lime kilns of post-medieval date (Lowe 2013). To the north of Bracknell, at Fairclough Farm, a Middle Iron Age settlement has been excavated (Torrance and Durden 2003), and to the south-west of Bracknell at Jennett's Park and Easthampstead Park, settlement evidence of Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman date has been recorded, as well as later medieval and post-medieval features (Simmonds *et al.* 2009; Simmonds 2011; Ford 1988).

## **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 specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if any deposits representing earlier prehistoric occupation were present, and if so their date and nature; and
- to provide sufficient information to provide a mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig nine trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m wide targeted at the footprints of the proposed new structures but where possible to avoid the footprints of the former buildings on the site and buried services. A contingency of 25m (length) of trench was included should this be required to clarify findings made in the initial evaluation.

Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a JCB-type mechanical excavator fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. This work was to be carried out in a manner that would not compromise the

integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

## **Results**

All nine trenches were dug as intended but varied in length width and location (Fig. 3). The presence of live buried services, other obstructions and the equipment provided by the client forced these changes which were discussed and agreed with the archaeological monitor. The trenching took place following demolition. The eventual sample size was larger than originally proposed. Six trenches (1-3 and 5-7) were 3m wide and three trenches (4, 8 and 9) were 1.60m wide. The trenches ranged in length from 16.7m to 21m and in depth from 0.50m to 0.96m. 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; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned east–west and was 3.0m wide, 19.0m long and 0.92m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of loose Tarmac and stone, overlying 0.42m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.18m very dark brown black clay, overlying firm mid orange brown clay with dark grey green patches (natural geology).

A possible ditch (1) was recorded at 6.6m from the west end, diagonally across the trench, aligned approximately NE–SW. It was 0.74m wide and 0.31m deep and filled with a single deposit (50) comprising firm mid-light grey blue clay. No finds were recovered.

### Trench 2 (Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and was 3.0m wide, 20.4m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of loose Tarmac and stone overlying 0.15m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.15m very dark brown black clay, overlying the same natural geology as in Trench 1 (and all trenches). No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

### Trench 3 (Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned NW–SE and was 3.0m wide, 16.7m long and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of Tarmac overlying 0.31m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.36m very dark brown black clay, over natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Pl. 5)

Trench 4 was aligned ESE–WNW and was 19.0m long, 1.6m wide and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac overlying 0.18m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.38m of very dark brown black clay, above the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 5 (Pl. 6)

Trench 5 was aligned NW–SE and was 3.0m wide, 20.9m long and 0.96m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of loose Tarmac and stone overlying 0.34m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, with in turn overlay 0.32m very dark brown black clay, overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 6 (Pl. 7)

Trench 6 was aligned roughly east-west and was 3.0m wide, 20.5m long and 0.94m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.09m of Tarmac overlying 0.45m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.40m very dark brown black clay overlying firm mid orange brown clay with dark grey green patches (natural geology). No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 7 (Pl. 8)

Trench 7 was aligned NW–SE and was 3.0m wide, 19.1m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of loose Tarmac overlying 0.15m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, above 0.20m very dark brown black clay, overlying the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned SE–NW and was 19.2m long, 1.6m wide and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions, overlying 0.30m very dark brown black clay, over the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds recovered.

#### Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned ENE–WSW and was 21.0m long, 1.6m wide and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m loose dark grey brown made ground with brick and tile inclusions overlying 0.39m very dark brown black clay which in turn overlay the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and no finds were recovered.

## Conclusion

Although a possible feature (1) was excavated in trench 1, it yielded no finds for dating purposes. Its overall alignment, parallel to the modern road and on the same basic axis as the modern layout suggests it is of no great antiquity, although it does not match any boundary shown on historic maps (Dawson 2012). No further deposits no artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered; as such the site has very low archaeological potential.

## References

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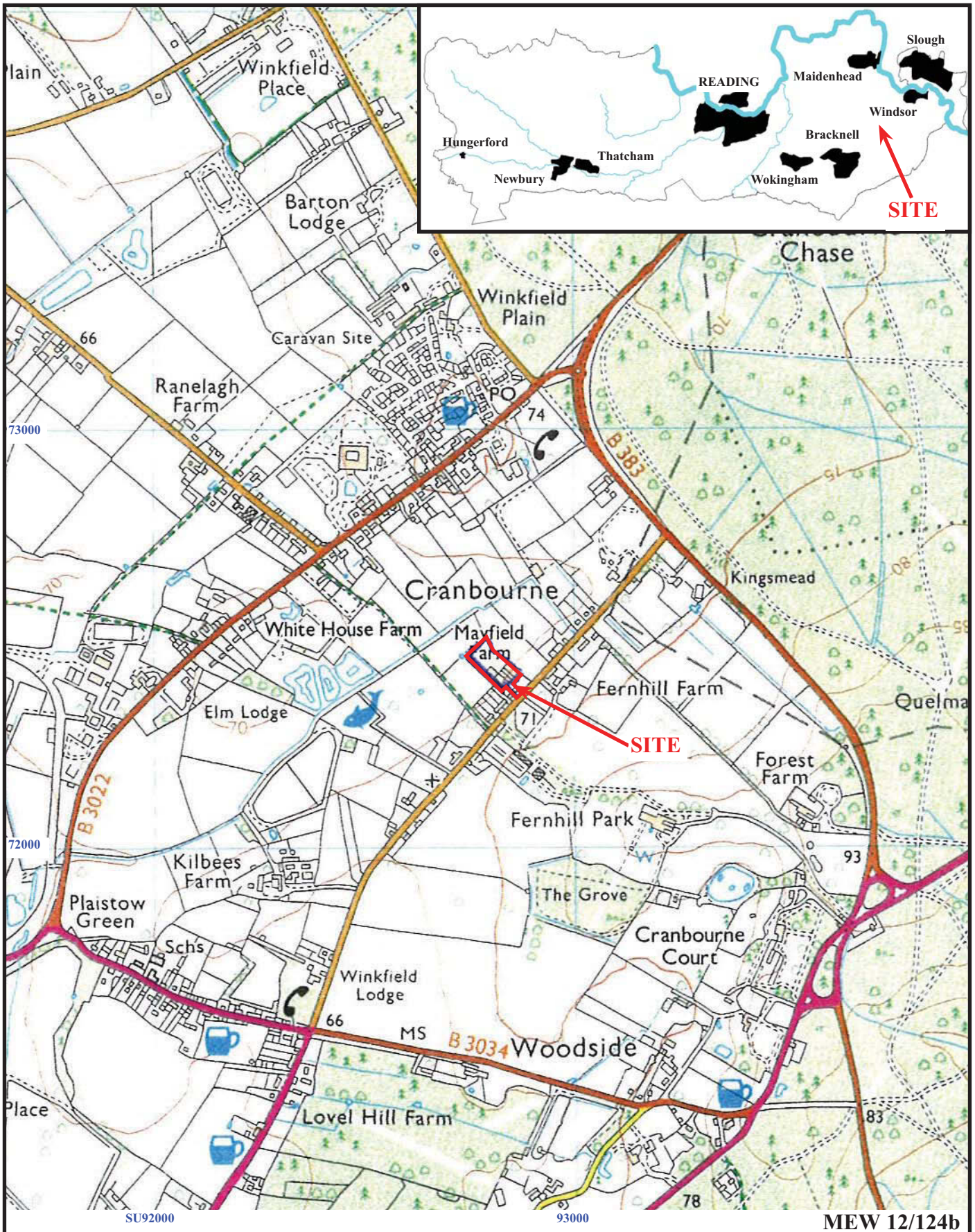
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south east or eastern end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.00	3.00	0.92	0–0.20m loose Tarmac/stone; 0.20-0.62m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.62-0.80m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.80+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. Possible ditch (1) <b>[Pls 1 and 2]</b>
2	20.40	3.00	0.65	0–0.25m loose Tarmac/stone; 0.25-0.40m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.40-0.55m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.55+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
3	16.70	3.00	0.73	0–0.06m Tarmac; 0.06-0.37m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.37-0.73m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.73+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
4	19.00	1.60	0.64	0–0.08m Tarmac; 0.08-0.26m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.26-0.64m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.64+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
5	20.90	3.00	0.96	0–0.30m loose Tarmac/stone; 0.30-0.64m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.64-0.96m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.96+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 6]</b>
6	20.50	3.00	0.94	0–0.09m Tarmac; 0.09-0.54m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.54-0.94m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.94+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
7	19.10	3.00	0.68	0–0.23m loose Tarmac; 0.23-0.38m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.38-0.58m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.58+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest. <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
8	19.20	1.60	0.63	0–0.33m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.33-0.63m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.63+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest.
9	21.00	1.60	0.50	0–0.21m dark grey brown made ground with brick, tile and Tarmac inclusions; 0.21-0.50m very dark brown black oxidized clay; 0.50+m mid-dark orange brown clay with grey green patches natural geology. No features of archaeological interest.

**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	50	Ditch	unknown	None



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Figure 1. Location of site within Winkfield and Berkshire.

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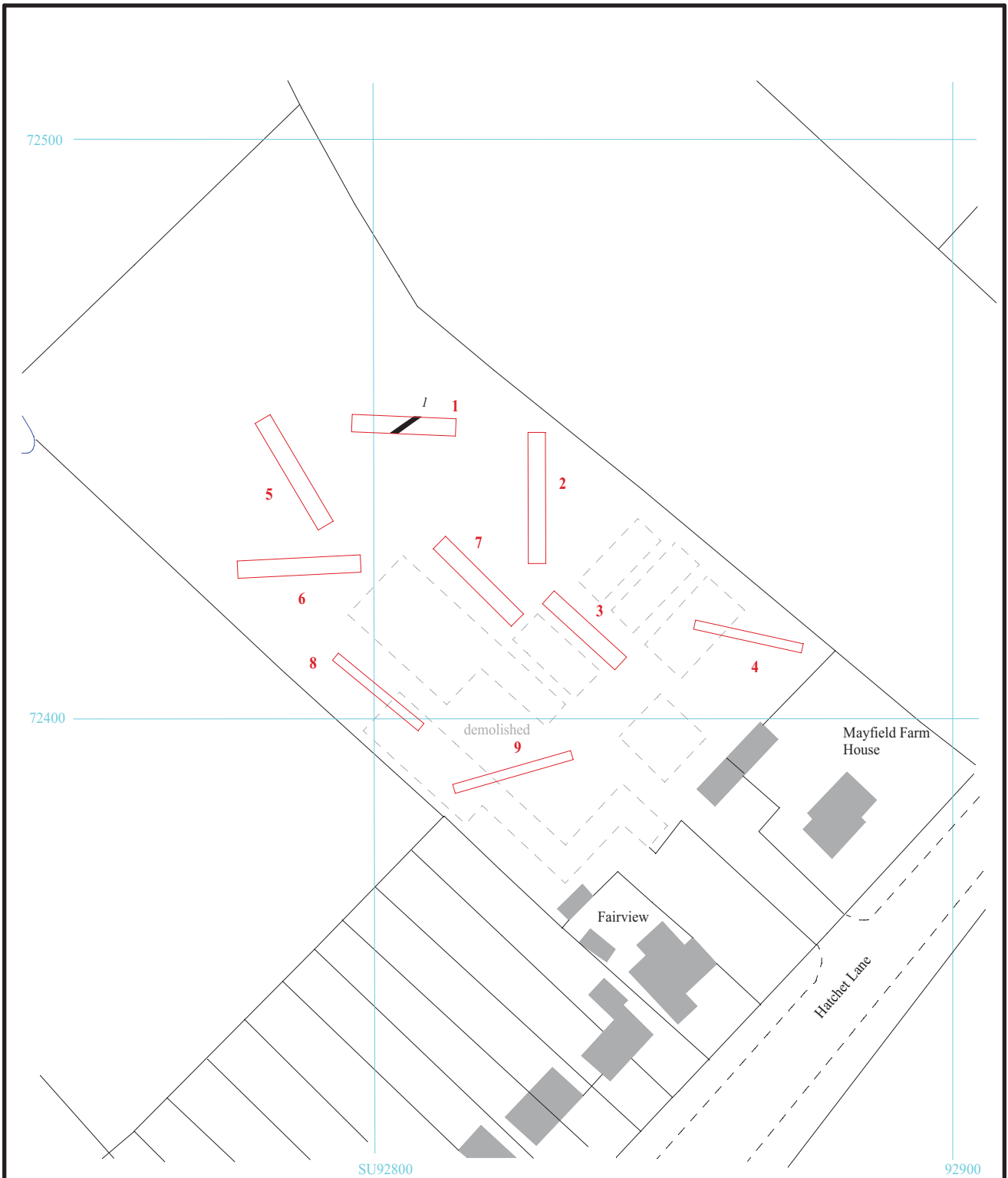
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hatchet Lane.

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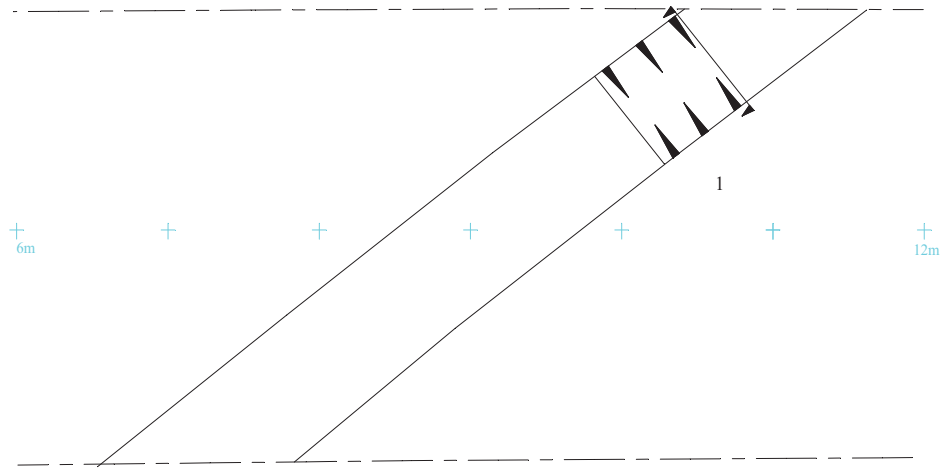
Figure 3. Location of trenches, and demolished buildings.



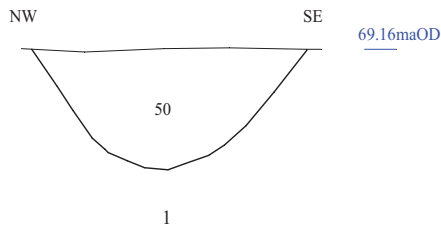
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Trench 1



0 5m  
plan only



0 1m  
section only

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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1.

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



Plate 2. Trench 1, ditch 1, looking north east,  
Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking north west,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 4, looking north west,  
Scales: 2m and 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 5, looking north west,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Trench 6, looking north east,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 7, looking north west,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 5 - 8.**

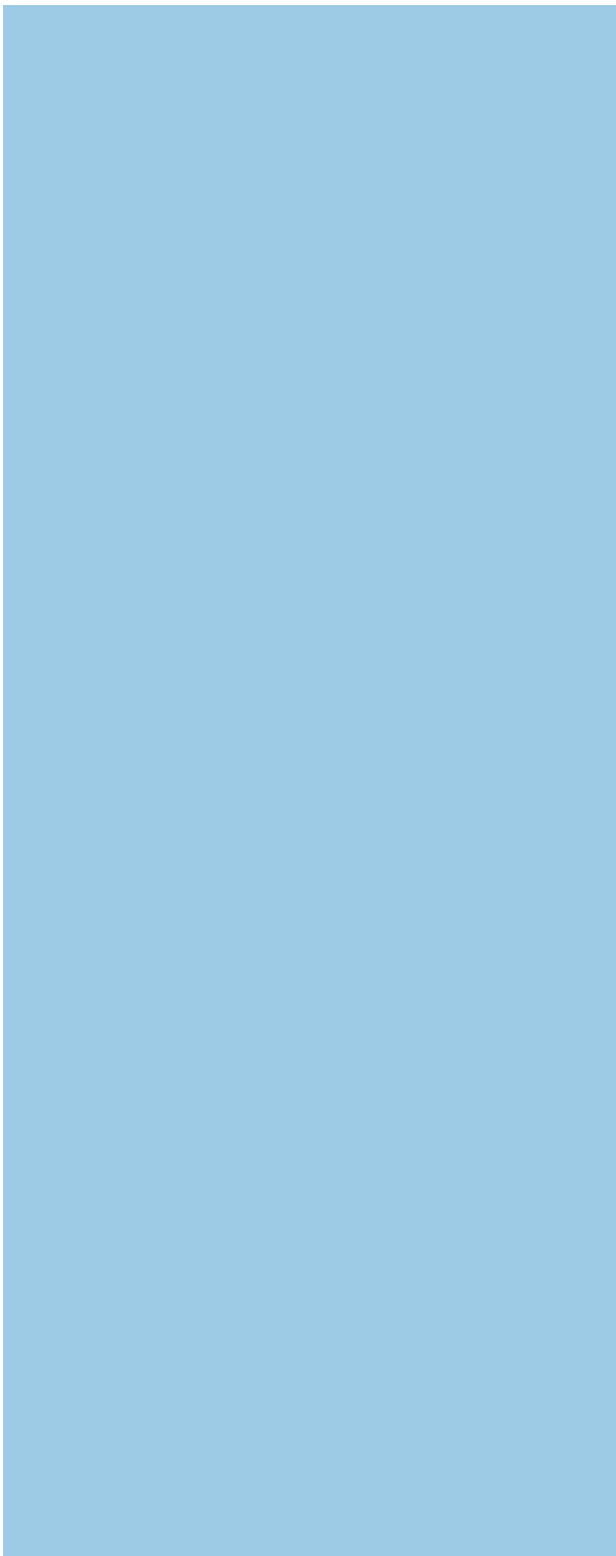
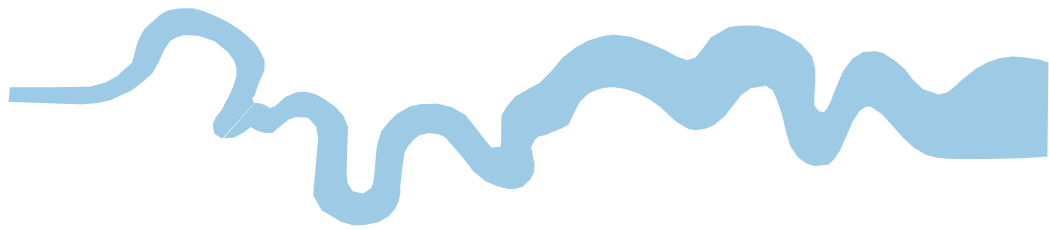
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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