

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Woodlands Lodge and Boxwood House, Heathfield Avenue,
Sunninghill, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: HAS14/124

(SU 9425 6770)

**Woodlands Lodge and Boxwood House,
Heathfield Avenue, Sunninghill, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millgate Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HAS 14/124

July 2014

Summary

Site name: Woodlands Lodge and Boxwood House, Heathfield Avenue, Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Grid reference: SU 9425 6770

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 2nd July 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: HAS 14/124

Area of site: c.0.4 ha

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed. And a part of the site had been landscaped in recent times. 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 a designated local museum to be decided by the local planning authority in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.07.14 Steve Preston ✓ 04.07.14

Woodlands Lodge and Boxwood House, Heathfield Avenue, Sunninghill, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/124

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Woodlands Lodge and Boxwood House, Heathfield Avenue, Sunninghill, Berkshire (SU 9425 6770). The work was commissioned by Mr Jon Furneaux of Millgate Homes, Millgate House, Ruscombe Lane, Ruscombe, Twyford, Berkshire, RG10 9JT.

Planning permission (app no 12/02854) has been gained on appeal (APP/T0355/A/2198658) from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of existing structures on site and the construction of a new 10-apartment block. The appeal consent includes a condition (3) relating to archaeology, requiring the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological investigation. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by trial trenching, based on the results of which further fieldwork might be required.

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, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock on 2nd July 2014 and the site code is HAS 14/124. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum to be decided by the local planning authority.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-west side of Heathfield Avenue, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire and to the east of Ascot itself (Fig. 1). It is currently the back gardens of the two properties (Fig. 2) and is a relatively flat parcel of land although some landscaping was evident, most noticeably at the rear of Boxwood House. The underlying geology comprised Bracklesham Beds (sand and gravels) (BGS 1981), which was observed across all three trenches and the site lies at a height of *c.* 76m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies in an area of modest archaeological potential with no sites or finds located very close by, but with a listed building to the south-east. A modest range of prehistoric artefacts and round barrows are known for the wider area with a flint axe recorded to the north and several round barrows to the south (Ford 1987) with more extensive settlement sites only having come to light during large developments in Bracknell (e.g., Lowe 2013). The most significant findings nearer to the site relate to the Roman road from Silchester to London (the Devil's Highway) which passes some distance to the south and where a probable villa site was reported in antiquarian sources (Hughes 1890). A medieval priory is recorded in the general area at Broomhall, well to the south.

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.

Specific aims of the 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 archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

Three 10m-long and 1.6m-wide trenches were to be dug targeting the footprint of the proposed new structure. These were dug using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

All trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 3) and measured between 9.80m and 10.20m in length and between 0.31m and 0.39m deep. All were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned NW–SE and measured 10.20m in length and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil overlying 0.17m of dark brown clayey sand subsoil overlying clayey and gravel natural geology (Fig. 4). No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned NE–SW and measured 10.10m in length and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of turf/ topsoil directly overlying clayey sand and gravel natural geology. Some modern truncation in the form of a sewer run and an area of modern disturbance were evident in this trench.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned NE–SW and was 9.80m in length and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.14m of subsoil overlying clayey sand and gravel natural geology (Fig. 4). A large amount of this trench showed evidence of disturbance and modern landscaping was evident in this part of the site.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite some potential for the presence of archaeology on the site no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed during the evaluation. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

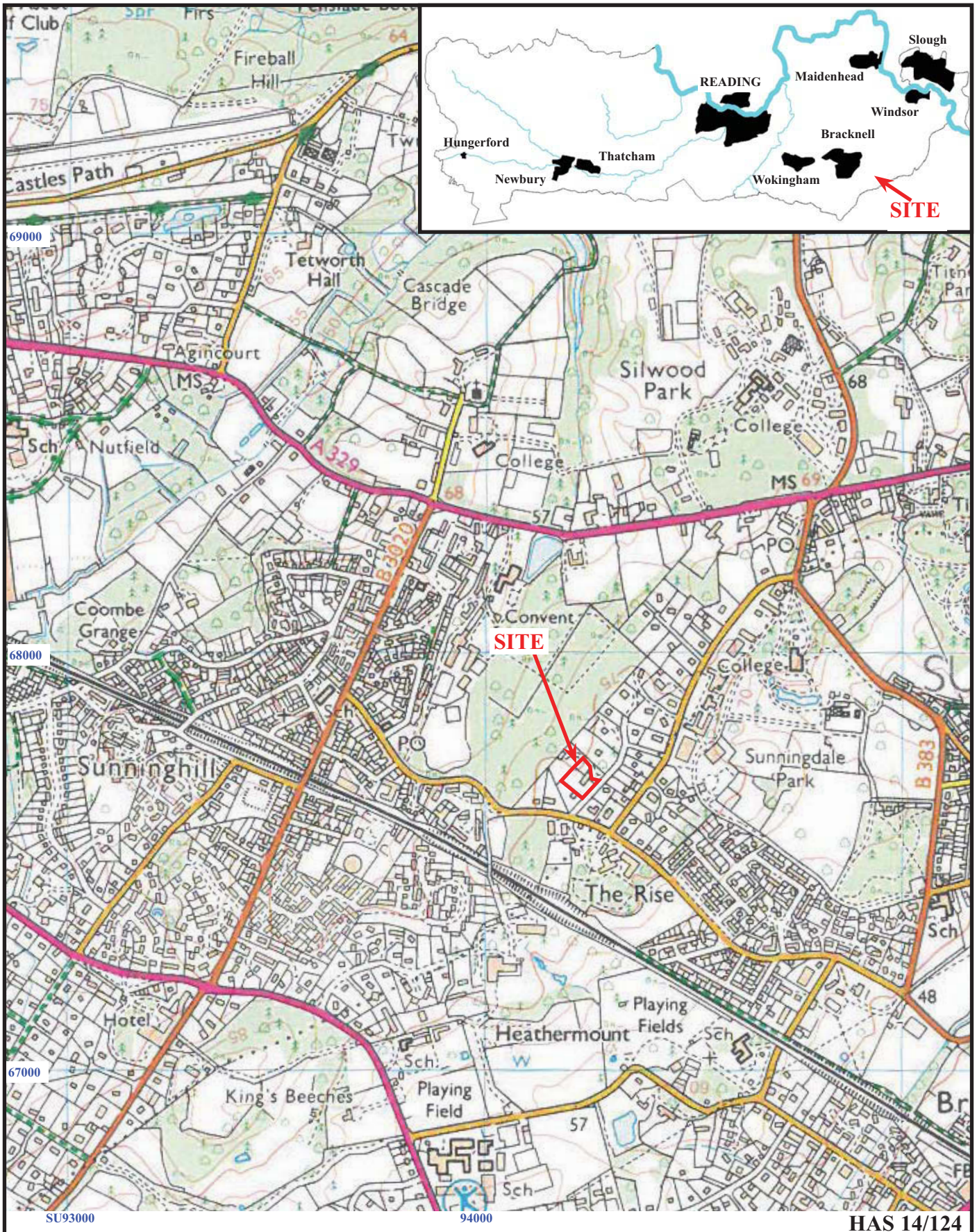
References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- Hughes, G M, 1890, *History of Windsor Forest and Sunninghill and the Great Park*, London
- Lowe, J, 2013, *Middle Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age Occupation and Post-medieval Lime Kilns at RAF Staff College, Broad Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services occ pap 3, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.20	1.60	0.39	0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.39m+ sand and gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	10.10	1.60	0.31	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.31m+ clayey sand and gravel natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	9.80	1.60	0.37	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m-0.37m+ sand and gravel natural geology. [Pl. 3]



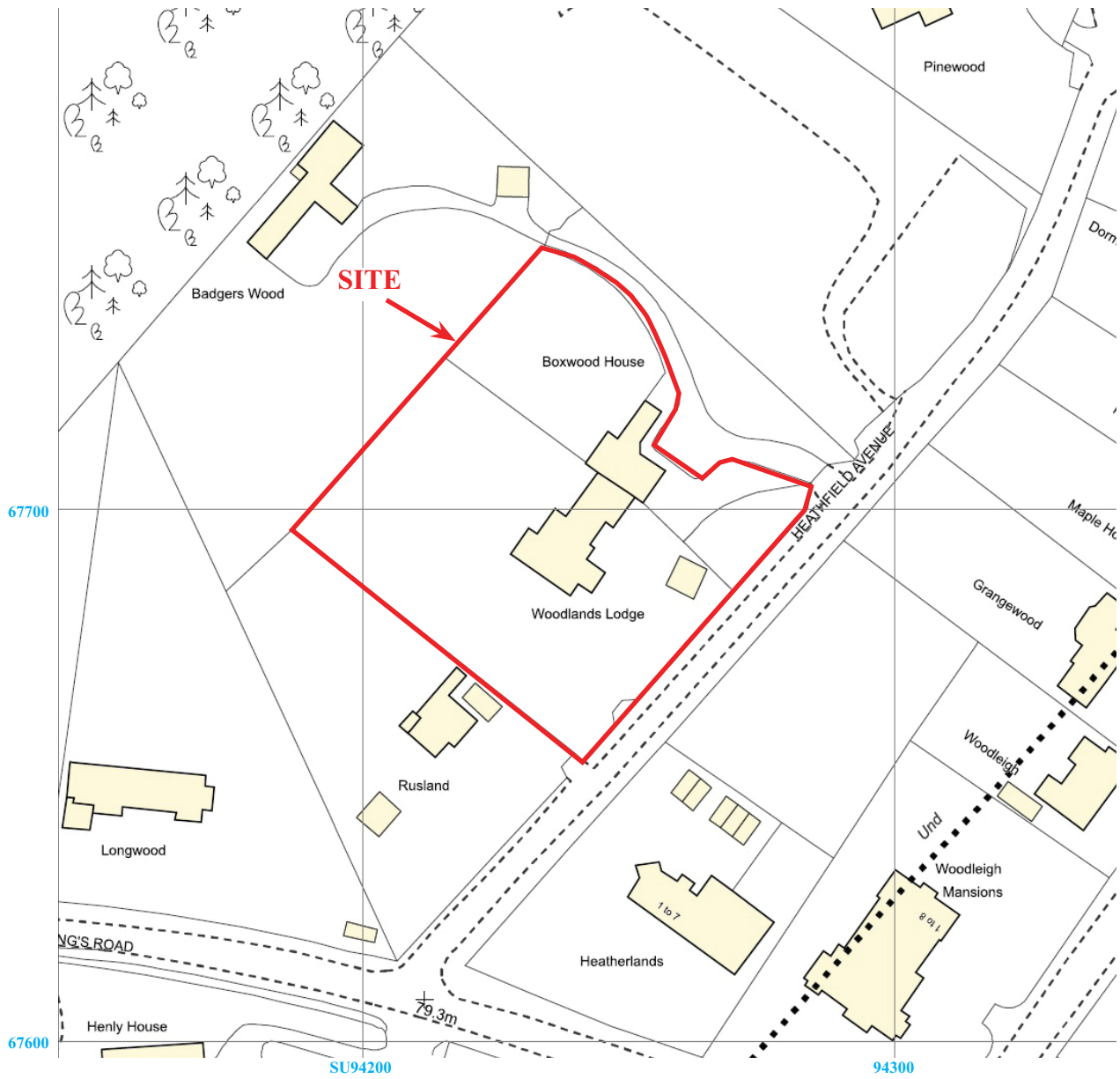
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Figure 1. Location of site within Sunninghill and Berkshire.

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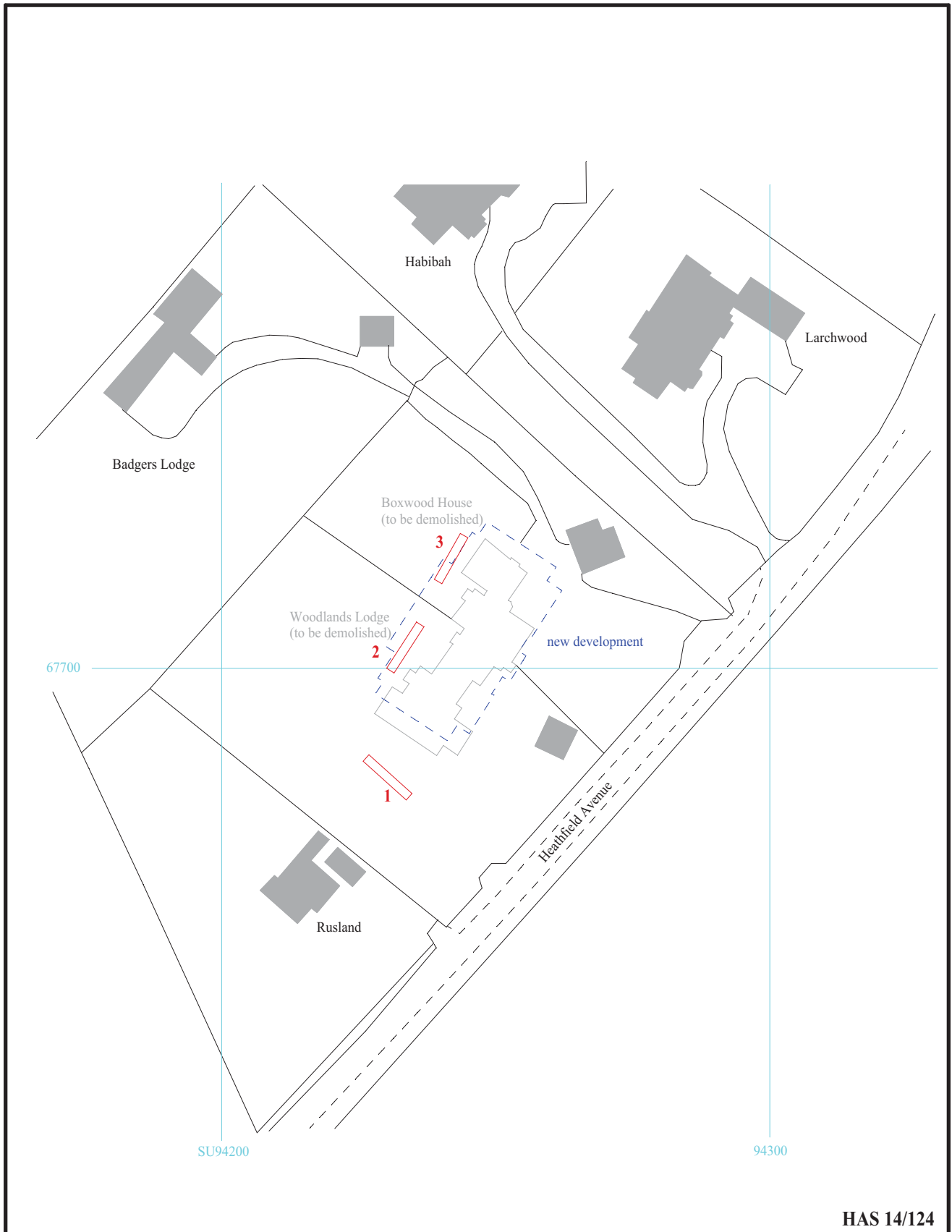


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Heathfield Avenue.

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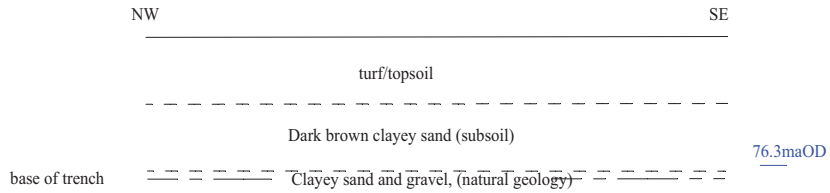
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

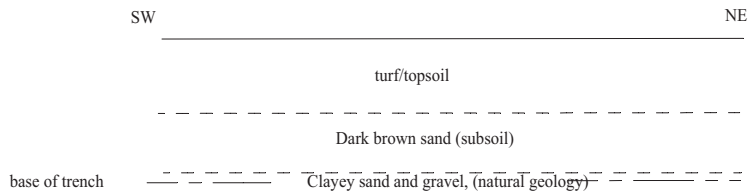


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Trench 1



Trench 3



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



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

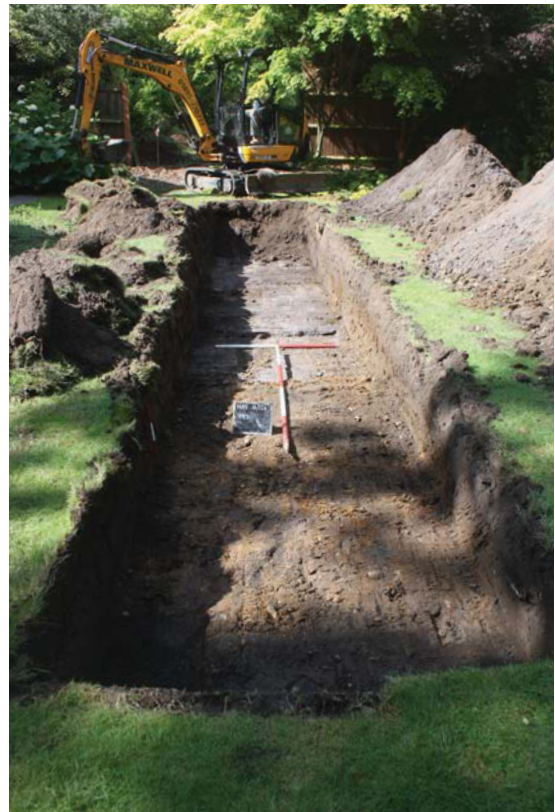


Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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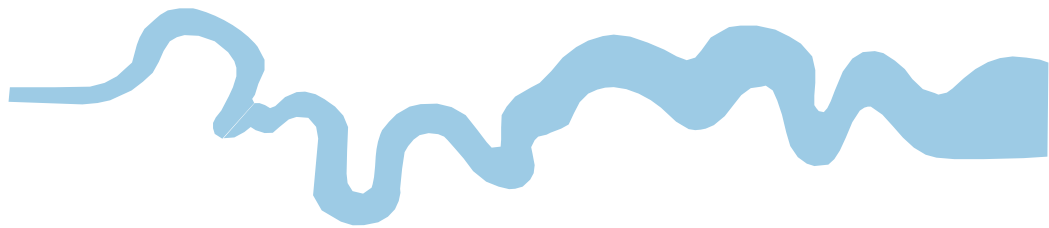
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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