

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land adjacent to 24 Bell Close,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: BCS14/188

(SU 9889 8170)

**Land adjacent to 24 Bell Close,
Slough, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr A Singh

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BCS 14/188

September 2014

Summary

Site name: Land adjacent to 24 Bell Close, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9889 8170

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th September 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: BCS 14/188

Area of site: c.0.1 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

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 willing to accept material.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 22.09.14 Steve Preston✓ 22.09.14

Land adjacent to 24 Bell Close, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/188

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land adjacent to 24 Bell Close, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9889 8168) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ameet Bhamra, of AB Structural Designs Ltd, 59 Mirador Crescent, Slough, Berkshire, SL2 5JZ on behalf of Mr Amrik Singh, 38a Harrow Road, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 8QS.

A planning consent (app P/10726/006) has been gained from Slough Borough Council to construct a new house on the site. The consent contains a condition (13) relating to archaeology. In order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to mitigate the effects of the development, a field evaluation has been requested as detailed in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and Slough Borough Council's policies. A single component of work was proposed, in the form of a field evaluation by means of machine-dug trenching. Further fieldwork might be required if archaeological deposits were encountered which could not be preserved *in situ*.

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 Andy Taylor on the 16th September 2014 and the site code is BCS 14/188. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Slough (Fig. 1) on an irregular parcel of land adjacent to 24 Bell Close, Slough (Fig. 2). It is currently unused scrub land and is a relatively flat area. The underlying geology is mapped as Upnor and Reading formations (BGS 2005), which is a silty clay with beds of sand and gravel, which was observed in all trenches, and the site lies at a height of *c.*33m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded in the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Records for the general area from aerial photography, archaeological fieldwork, especially in advance of mineral extraction, and dredging of the River Thames (Ford 1987; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975). Less is recorded for the urban and suburban areas of Slough although recent fieldwork on the eastern edge of the Slough Trading Estate identified medieval deposits (Taylor 2014) and on the north-east margins of Slough extensive Roman activity as well as a small Middle Bronze Age site with Iron Age and Saxon deposits have recently been observed (Ford 2012a and b). In the wider area, a medieval moated site and manor lies to the north of Wexham with another moated site to the south-west at Cippenham, along with extensive Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman deposits (Ford *et al.* 2003; Taylor 2012a) and a medieval occupation site (Taylor 2012b).

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 have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Two trenches measuring 7m in length were to be dug targeting the footprint of the new building. These were to be dug using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A section of trench already excavated was also to be recorded if it was safe to do so. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. 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 were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any such features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Both trenches were dug using a small 360° type machine. The machine-excavated trenches were 1.70m wide and respectively 6.90m long and 0.40m deep, and 7m in length and 0.52m deep. 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.2)

This trench was aligned NW–SE and measured 6.90m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil overlying silty clay and gravel natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig.3 and 4; Pl.3)

This trench was aligned approximately NE–SW and measured 7m in length and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil overlying silty clay and gravel natural geology

Hand Dug Foundation Trench (Fig.3 and 4; Pl.1)

A section of foundation trench 0.9m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil overlying 0.13m of subsoil, overlying 0.30m of silty clay and gravel overlying gravel.

Finds

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

Conclusion

Despite the potential for the presence of archaeological remains on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation.

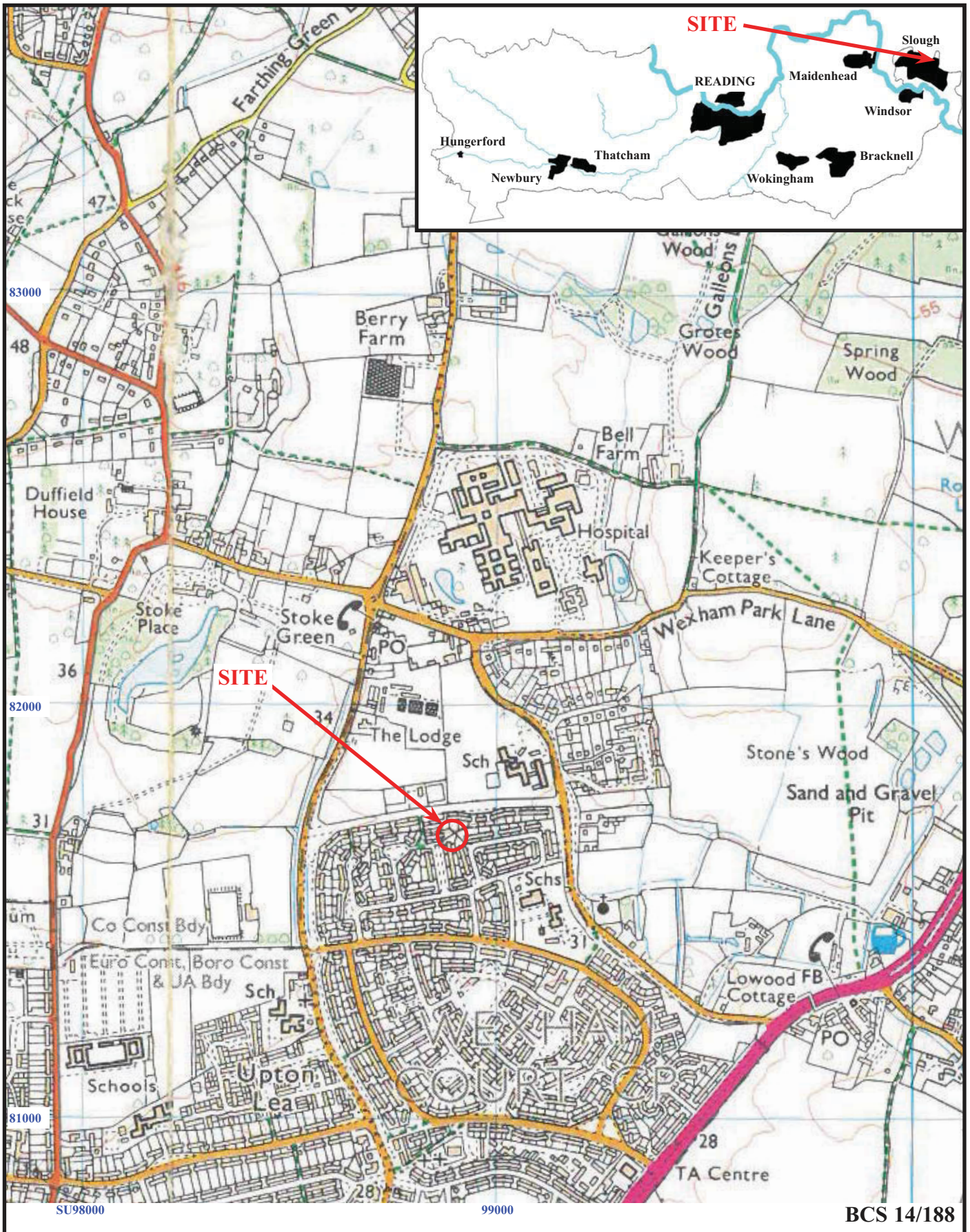
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

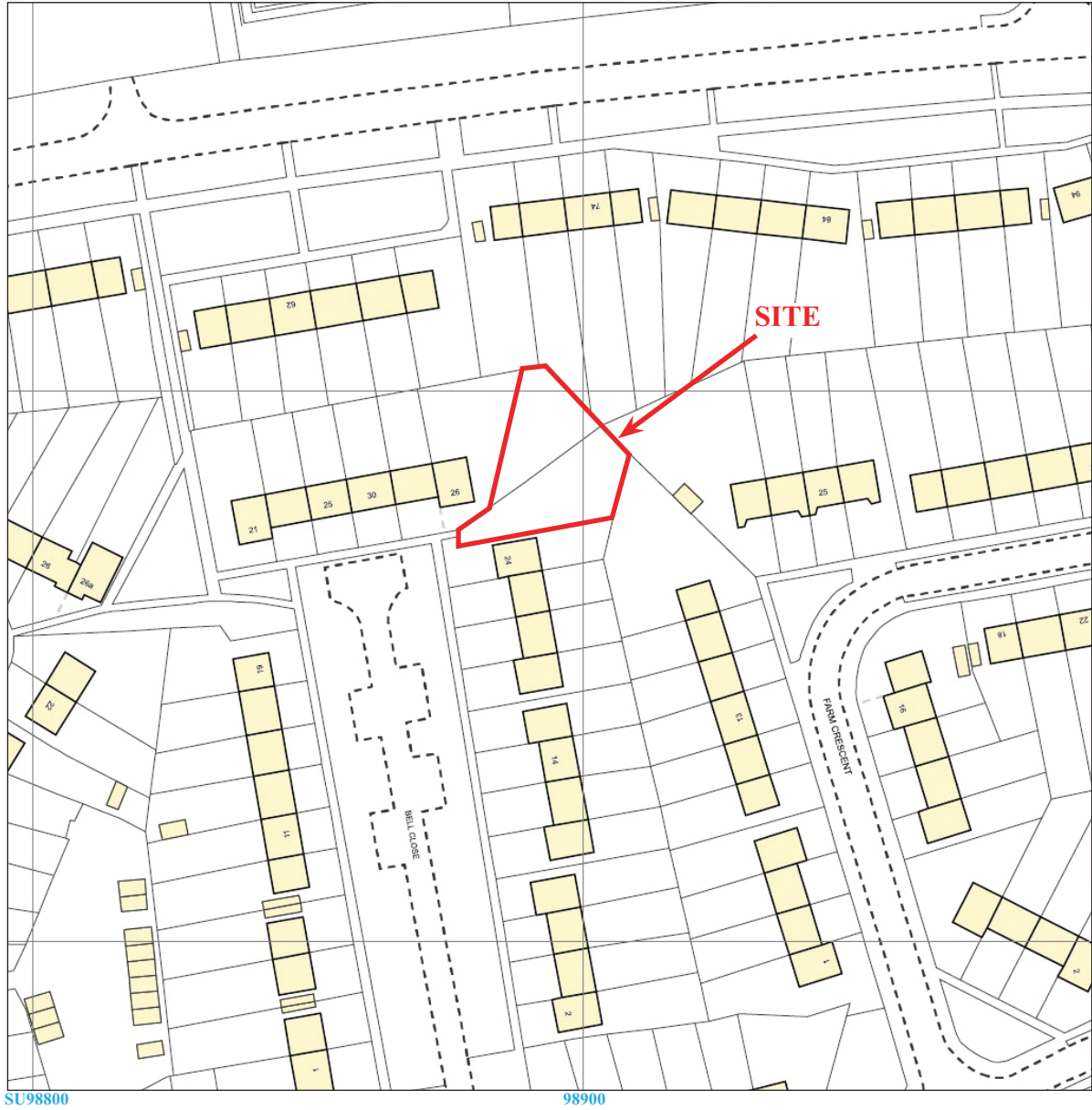
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	6.90	1.70	0.40	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m-0.40m+ silty clay and gravel natural geology. [PI. 2]
2	7.00	1.70	0.52	0m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m-0.52m+ silty clay and gravel natural geology. [PI. 3]
Foundation Trench	8.50	0.60	0.90	0m-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.60m silty clay and gravel natural geology; 0.60m-0.90m+ gravel [PI. 1]



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 Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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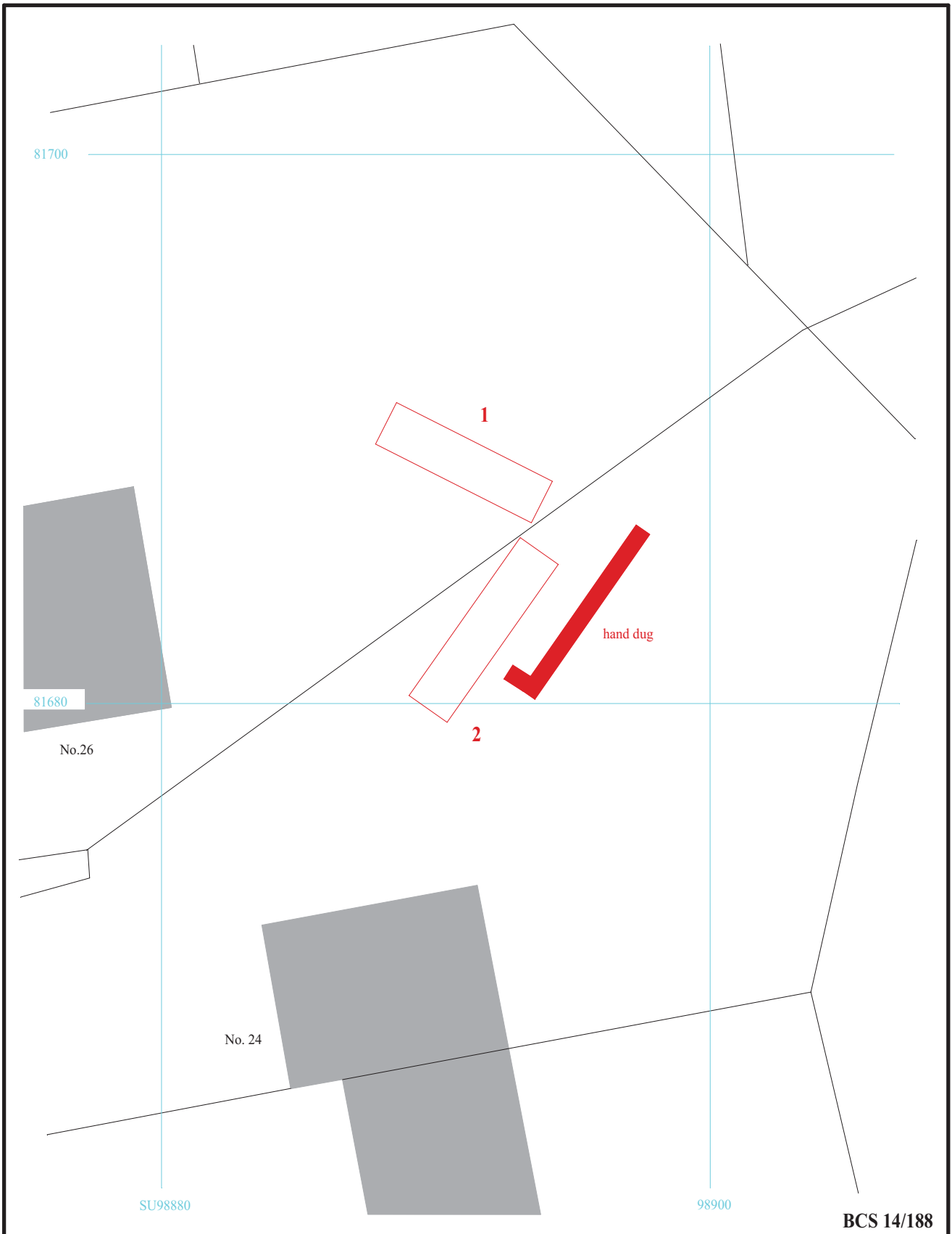
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bell Close.

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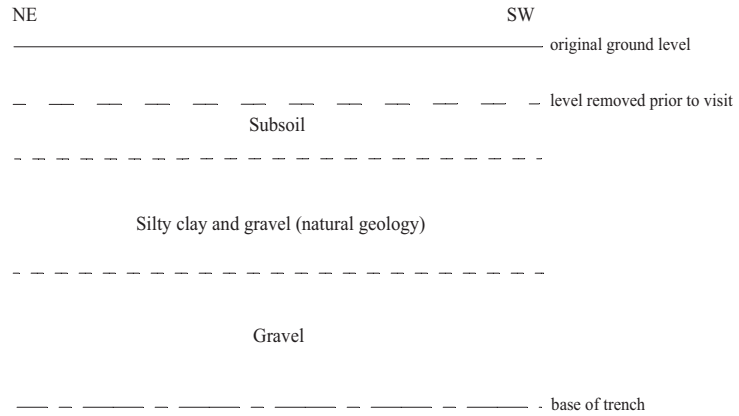
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

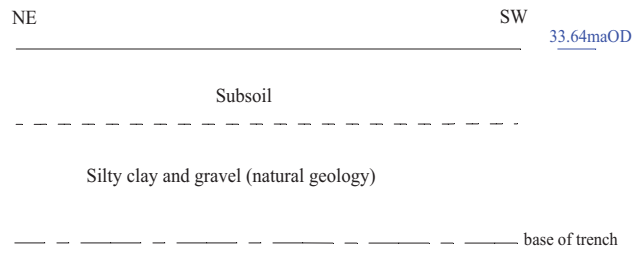


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Hand-excavated trench



Trench 2



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Section of hand dug trench, looking south-east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



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



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north-east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

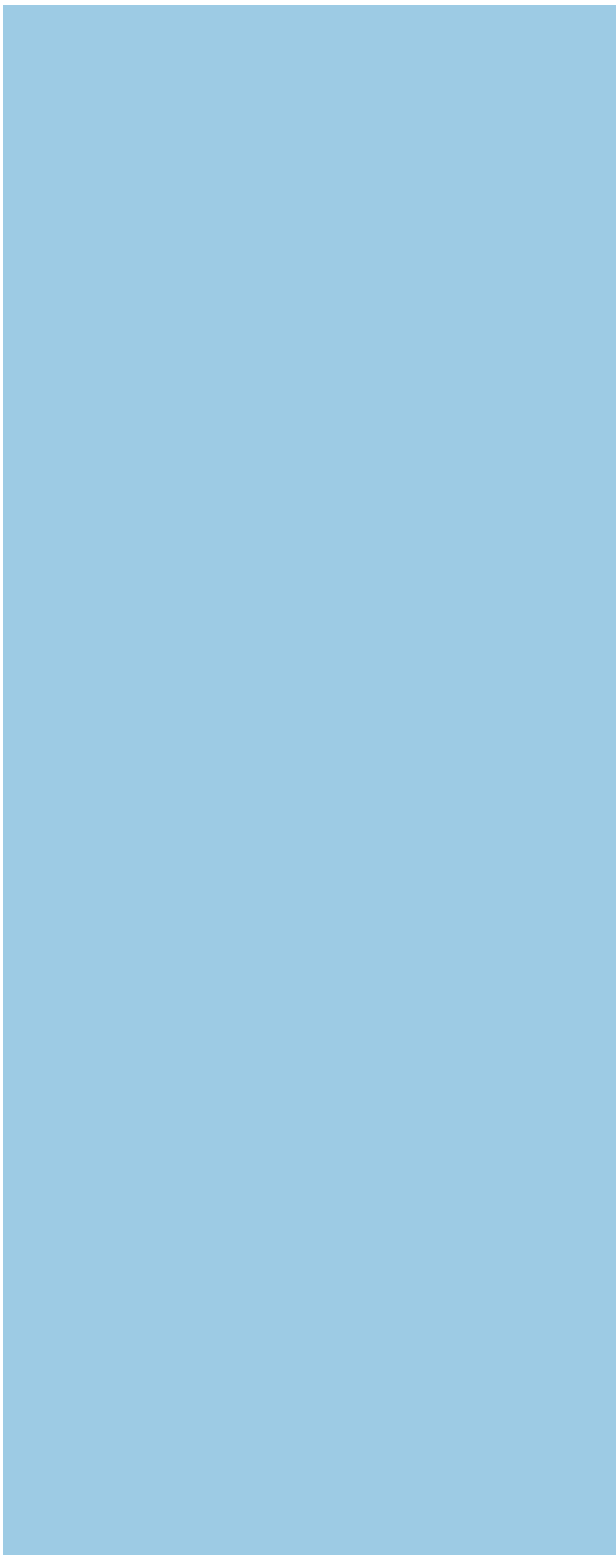
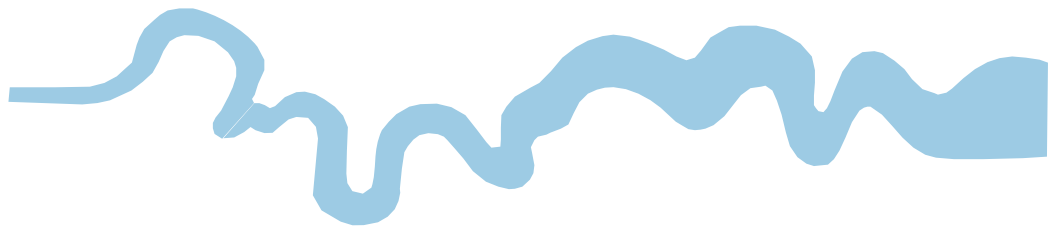
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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
↓	↓



**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**