

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Parade, rear of 109 and 111 Ruddlesway, Dedworth,
Windsor, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: RDW14/48

(SU 9366 7655)

**The Parade, rear of 109 and 111 Ruddlesway, Dedworth,
Windsor, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Life Build Solutions**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RRDW14/48

September 2014

Summary

Site name: The Parade, rear of 109 and 111 Ruddlesway, Dedworth, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9366 7655

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd–25th September 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: RDW14/48

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were observed nor artefacts recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston✓ 29.09.14

The Parade, rear of 109 and 111 Ruddlesway, Dedworth, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 14/48

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Parade, rear of 109 and 111 Ruddlesway, Dedworth, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9366 7655) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian Carpenter of Life Build Solutions Ltd, 2 Buckingham Place, Bellfield Road West, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP13 5HW.

Planning consent (app no 13/00381) has being gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of new houses and a retail unit following demolition of the existing buildings. The consent includes a condition relating to archaeology. It is possible that the development area may contain archaeological deposits and 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.

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 approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, advisors to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Tom Stewart between 23rd and 25th September 2014 with the site code RDW14/48. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within a suburban housing estate at Dedworth, to the west of Windsor (Fig. 1). The site is located to the east of Ruddlesway (Fig. 2) and occupies an irregular parcel of land mostly comprising Tarmacadam car park, a small area of grassland, and a range of buildings, mostly demolished. Topographically the site lies on level ground at a height of *c.* 26m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981) and this was observed in the trenches.

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 for the area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975) and there are exceptional Early Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation deposits recorded across the river on the site of the Eton-Dorney rowing lake (Allen and Welch 1998). The site lies to the north-west of the historic (medieval) core of Dedworth and also north-west of the site of the moated manor house of Peter de Loring. Evaluation to the east (Lewis 2008) revealed medieval and post-medieval boundary features and a small evaluation to the south-west revealed a probable medieval gully (Cass 2008). To the north-west, further revaluation revealed a burnt mound, probably of Bronze Age date, along with other prehistoric occupation deposits (Pine 1996).

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 aims of the project were;

- to determine of archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine of archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy

It was proposed to dig 8 trenches each 15m long, all 1.60m wide to target the footprint of the new structures and access road. The trenches were to be excavated using a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless grading bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with the spoil removed being monitored for finds. All potential archaeological deposits were to be hand-cleaned, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project.

Results

Nine trenches were eventually dug and ranged in length between 9.4m and 17.2m and between 0.48–0.78m in depth. All were 1.6m wide (Fig. 3). 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, and Pl. 5)

Trench 1 was aligned east–west and was 14.6m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of Tarmac above 0.2m of concrete above blue/grey clay natural geology. A service run was observed towards the

centre of trench. A few fragments of modern brick/tile were pressed into the natural geology (retained on site). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned north–south and was 10.5m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of reinforced concrete above 0.15m of brown clay with gravel made ground. This overlay brown clay natural geology that was heavily stained blue/grey in places. At the north end of the trench there was a vestigial trace of buried soil just above the natural geology. Concrete foundations for the previous buildings in this location cut into the natural clay geology. A few fragments of brick/tile were pressed into the natural geology (retained on site). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3, Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 3 was aligned east–west and was 9.4m long and 0.78m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of turf/topsoil above 0.21m of brown clay with gravel made ground. This overlay up to 0.25m of a dark brown humic clay interpreted as a buried old topsoil. This in turn overlay brown clay natural geology. A few fragments of brick/tile were pressed into the natural geology (retained on site). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4, and Pl. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned north–south and was 15.6m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac above 0.5m of brick rubble made ground above brown clay natural geology. A service run was observed at the southern end of the trench. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned east–west and was 13.1m long and 0.69m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of Tarmac above 0.56m of rubble made ground above blue/grey clay natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned north–south and was 16.1m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of Tarmac above 0.2m of concrete above 0.14m of gravel made ground above blue/grey clay natural geology. A test pit was dug at the northern end of the trench to a depth of 0.8m and revealed that the natural geology became brown in colour. A service run occupied the centre of trench. A few fragments of brick/tile and animal bone were pressed into the natural geology (retained on site). No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned north–south and was 17.2m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac above 0.24m of concrete above 0.22m of gravel made ground above brown clay natural geology. Two services were observed towards the centre of the trench. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned east–west and was 11m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of Tarmac above 0.25m of concrete above 0.25m of gravel made ground, above brown clay natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned north–south and was 14.5m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of Tarmac above 0.48m of brick rubble made ground above brown clay natural geology with some stained patches. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

The evaluation has not recorded any archaeological deposits on the site nor recovered any artefacts of archaeological interest. Some parts of the site had been lightly truncated, with the removal of the original topsoil and any subsoil, but not to a depth such that deeper archaeological features such as ditches and rubbish pits, will have been removed. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

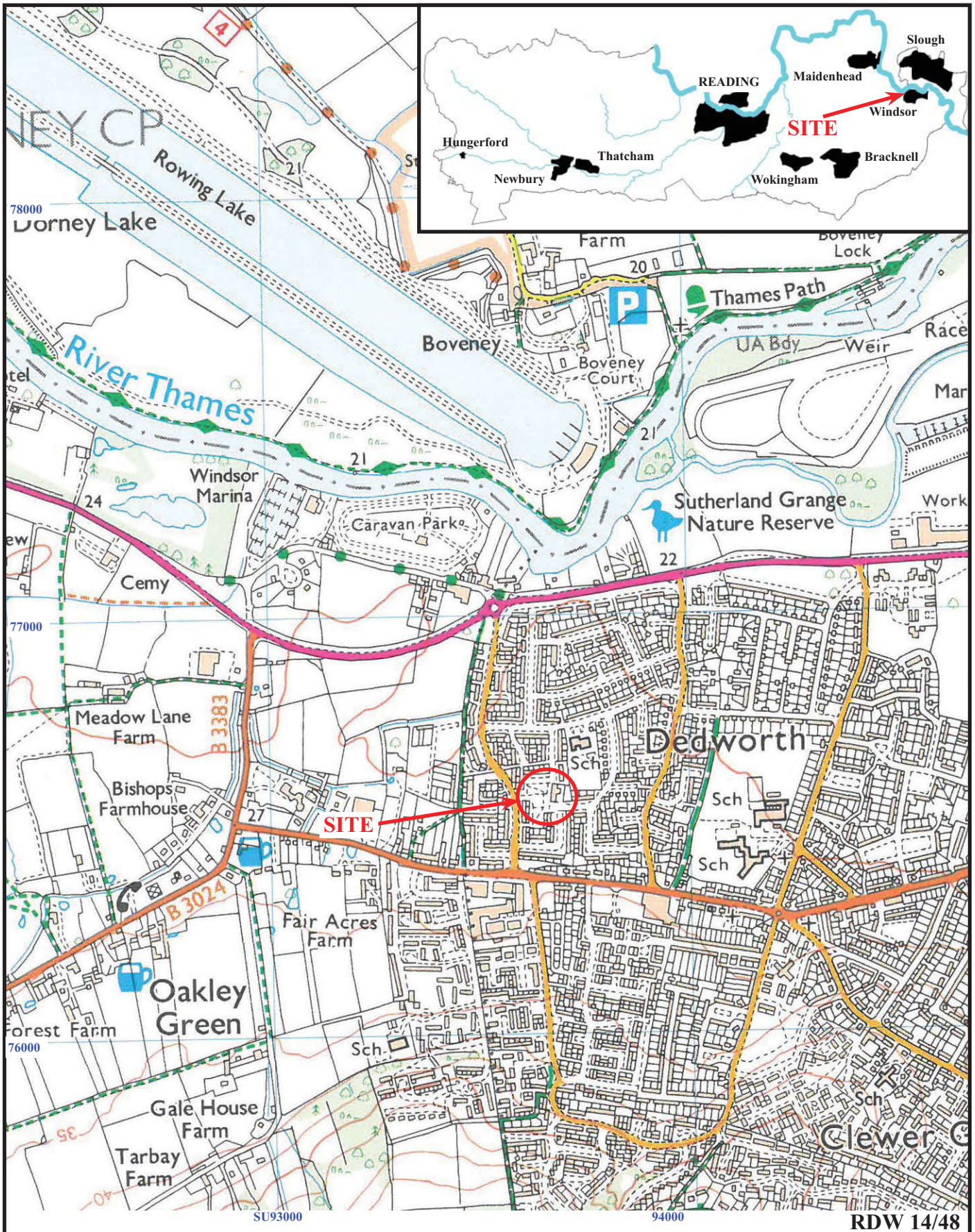
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	14.6	1.6	0.55	0-0.1m Tarmac; 0.1-0.3m concrete; 0.3-0.5m gravel made ground; 0.52m+ blue grey clay natural geology . Service trench at 7m. [PI. 5]
2	10.5	1.6	0.7	0-0.3m concrete; 0.3-0.45m hardcore/ gravel made ground; 0.45-0.5m remnant old buried soil; 0.5m+ brown clay natural geology. Foundations at 2m and 8m; large area of stained natural geology at 3m
3	9.4	1.6	0.78	0-0.24m Turf/topsoil; 0.24-0.45m brown clay with stone made ground; 0.45-0.7m dark brown buried soil; 0.7m+ yellow/brown clay natural geology. [Pis 1 and 2]
4	15.6	1.6	0.65	0-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05-0.55m made ground; 0.55m+ blue grey clay natural geology. Service trench at 3m. [PI. 3]
5	13.1	1.6	0.69	0-0.1m Tarmac; 0.1-0.66m made ground; 0.66m+ blue grey clay natural geology
6	16.1	1.6	0.48	0-0.06m Tarmac; 0.06-0.26m concrete; 0.26-48m gravel made ground; 0.48m+ blue grey clay natural geology. Test pit at 15m to 0.8m deep. Service trench at 13m
7	17.2	1.6	0.58	0-0.07m Tarmac; 0.07-0.33m concrete; 0.33-0.55m gravel made ground; 0.55m+ blue grey clay natural geology . Service trenches at 11m and 13m
8	11	1.6	0.65	0-0.1m Tarmac; 0.1-0.35m concrete; 0.35m-0.6m gravel made ground; 0.6m+ yellow/brow clay natural geology. [PI. 4]
9	14.5	1.6	0.65	0-0.1m Tarmac; 0.1-0.58m made ground; 0.58m+ yellow/brown clay natural geology.

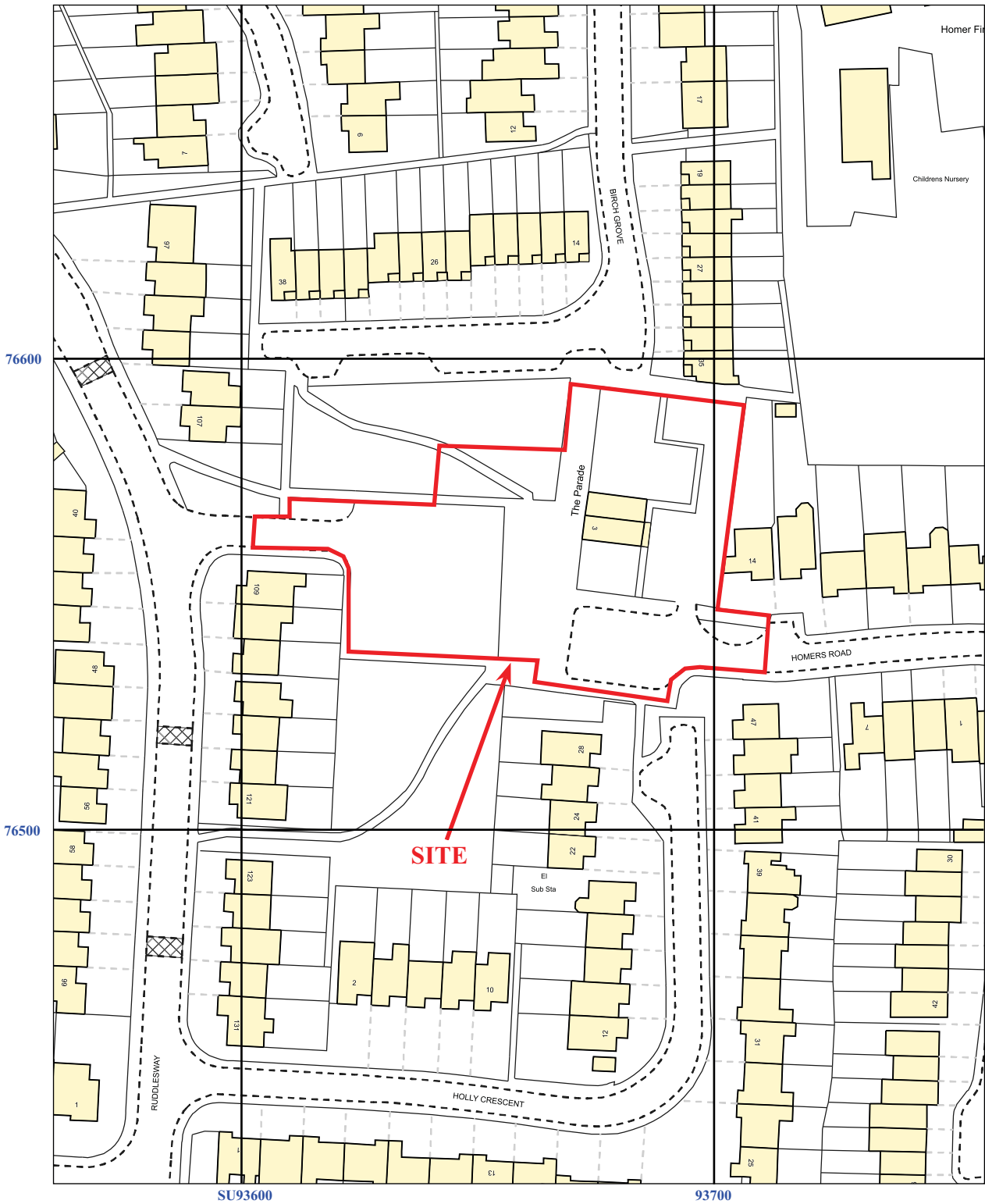


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Figure 1. Location of site within Windsor and Berkshire.

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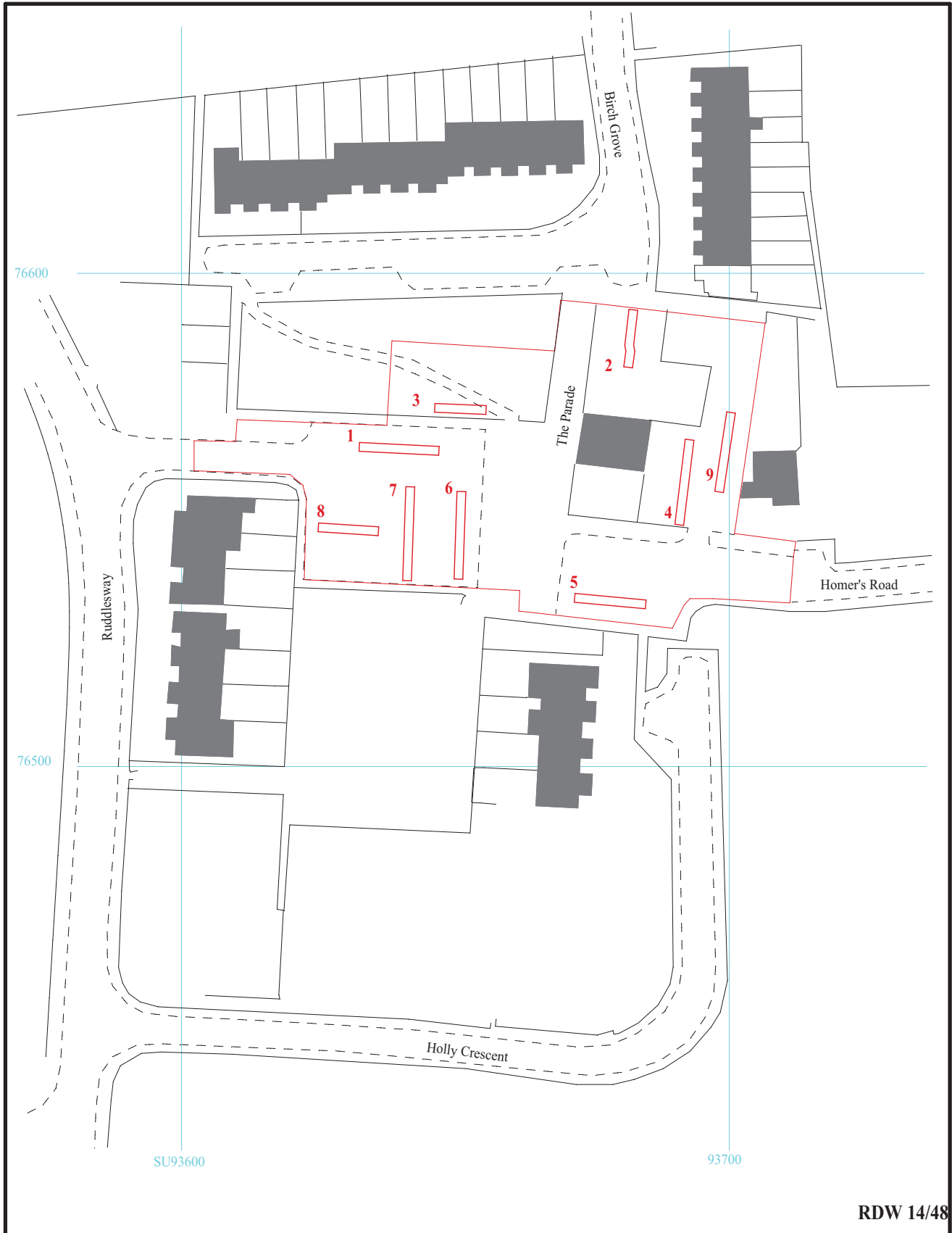
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Ruddlesway

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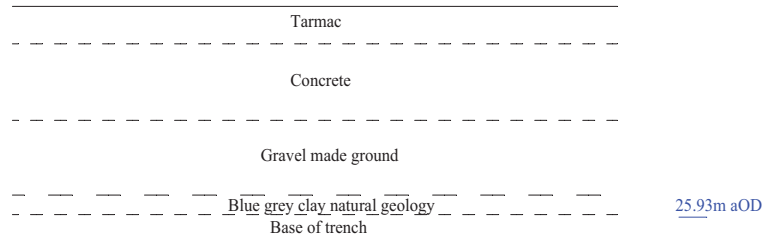
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

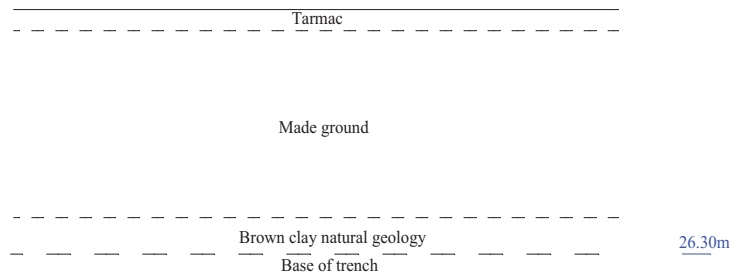


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Trench 1



Trench 4



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, Section, looking south, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north,
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, looking east,
Scales: 2m and 0.5m.



Plate 5. . Trench 1, looking east, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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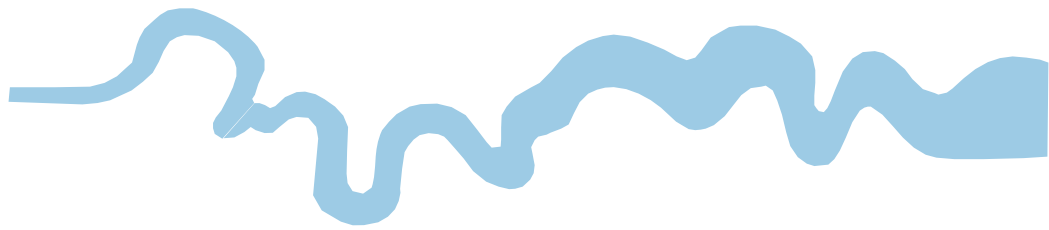
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Plates 3-5.**

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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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