

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean,
Gloucestershire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: NBC14/166

(SP 1266 3110)

Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Lord Wemyss

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NBC 14/166

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire

Grid reference: SP 1266 3110

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 1st-2nd October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: NBC 14/166

Area of site: c.4ha

Summary of results: The evaluation trenches revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. Anomalies shown on the geophysical survey were proved to be modern, natural geology or were not present. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.10.14 |
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Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray

Report 14/166b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire (SP 1266 3110) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lucy Binnie of Land and Mineral Management Ltd, Suite 1, 82c Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1WD on behalf of Lord Wemyss of Stanway House, Stanway, Cheltenham, GL54 5PQ.

An application to extend the existing quarry for stone extraction is to be made to Gloucestershire County Council. The development site comprises an area of c.4ha of farmland but the actual size of the area to be quarried is approximately 1ha. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by extraction, a phased evaluation was proposed comprising geophysical survey (Bray and Dawson 2014) followed by trial trenching. This report deals with the trial trenching phase of the evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer with Gloucestershire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray with the assistance of Will Attard and Sophie Frampton between 1st-3rd October 2014 with the site code NBC 14/166. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Cheltenham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within a field to the east of Nayles Barn, in the Cotswold Hills c.8 west of the small town of Moreton-in-Marsh (Fig. 1). At present the site is open pasture surrounded by post-and-wire fencing and dry stone wall with woodland to the north and south, further pasture to the west and active quarry workings to the east. In the vicinity are a number of small disused quarries. The underlying natural geology is recorded as mainly Jurassic Chipping Norton Limestone (flaggy to massive oolitic and sandy limestones) with some Jurassic

Inferior Oolite (limestones) to the south (BGS 1981). The site is at a height of *c.*236m above Ordnance Datum and slopes gently upwards from south-east to north-west.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a desk-based assessment for an adjacent parcel of the client's land (APS 2008). In summary there are few sites or finds recorded in the county Historic Environment Record in the environs of the site, none, particularly close by. A round barrow is located over 1km to the southwest and cropmarks including a circular enclosure are located to the northwest. Stray finds comprise an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead and Roman pottery to the south west and a stone macehead (Mesolithic/Neolithic?) to the northwest. More recently geophysical survey (Haddrell 2009) and trenching (Hopkins 2009) on land directly to the east revealed nothing of archaeological interest.

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 were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to confirm the archaeological nature of any geophysical anomalies present.

It was proposed to excavate 20 trenches, 20m long and 2m wide (*c.* 2% of the site area) which were positioned to target the geophysical anomalies. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360° type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and supervised at all times by an archaeologist, with 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

Twenty trenches were dug but were 1.80m wide rather than the 2.00m intended and thus trench lengths were extended by 2m to compensate. The trenches ranged in length from 20m - 24m and in depth from 0.24m to 0.36m.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 22.50m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.06m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 2 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 23.00m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.05m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 3 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 24.00m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.09m of subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench was located across a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey but no feature was present. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 23.50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying natural geology. This trench was located on a large rectangular anomaly highlighted on the geophysical survey which turned out to be a large modern quarry pit. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 5 was aligned NNE - SSW and was 21.00m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying natural geology. This trench was also located on a large rectangular anomaly highlighted on the geophysical survey which turned out to be a large modern quarry pit. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 6 (Figs 2 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 6 was aligned NE - SW and was 22.00m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 7 (Figs 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 7 was aligned E - W and was 22.40m long and 0.28m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.03m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 8 was aligned N - S and was 21.80m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 9 was aligned NE -SW and was 21.80m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. This trench was located across a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey but no feature was present. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 10 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 22.40m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. . No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 11 (Figs 2, 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 11 was aligned NNE - SSW and was 22.20m long and 0.24m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 12 (Figs 2 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned N - S and was 22.30m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.07m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. The trench was positioned across a large irregular anomaly highlighted on the geophysical survey. A large red brown silty clay patch was investigated but was natural in origin. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 13 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 13 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 22.20m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.07m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 14 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 14 was aligned N - S and was 23.00m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 15 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 20.70m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. This trench was located across a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey but no feature was present. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 16 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 16 was aligned NE - SW and was 21.40m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 17 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 17 was aligned N - S and was 21.00m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 18 (Figs 2 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 18 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 21.60m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 19 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 19 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 20.00m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. This trench was located across a linear anomaly identified in the geophysical survey but no feature was present. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 20 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 20 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.00m long and 0.24m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil directly overlying the natural geology. No finds were recovered and no features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

Conclusion

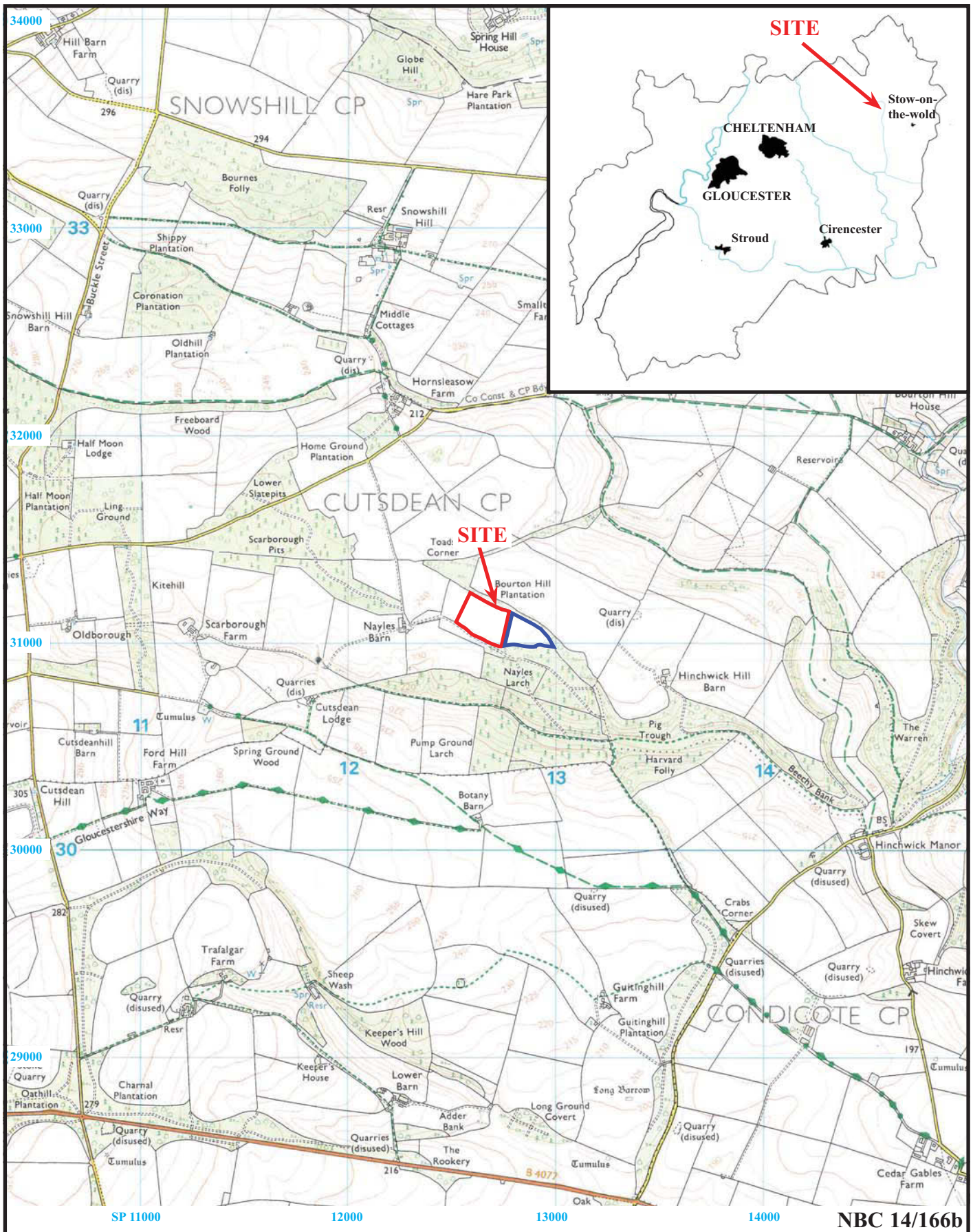
The archaeological trial trenches revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest. The trenches located to examine the geophysical anomalies found large modern quarrying in the north eastern corner and no deposits or features relating to the linear anomalies which must reflect either superficial activity of modern agricultural origin, or deeper lying geological features. On the basis of these results the site does not have any archaeological potential.

References

- APS 2008, Scarborough Pits, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire, a desk-based assessment, Archaeology and Planning Services report APS132-08, Cirencester
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 217, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D, and Dawson, T, 2014, Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire: A Geophysical Survey (Magnetic), Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 14/166a, Reading
- Haddrell, S, 2009, 'Geophysical Survey Report, Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire,' Stratascan report J2644, Upton on Severn
- Hopkins, H, 2009, 'Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean, Gloucestershire: An archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 09/85, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

| Trench | Length (m) | Breadth (m) | Depth (m) | Comment |
|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|--|
| 1 | 22.50 | 1.80 | 0.36 | 0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 2 | 23.00 | 1.80 | 0.33 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 3 | 24.00 | 1.80 | 0.32 | 0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 4 | 23.50 | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches). Modern quarrying |
| 5 | 21.00 | 1.80 | 0.36 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches). Modern quarrying |
| 6 | 22.00 | 1.80 | 0.31 | 0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 7 | 22.40 | 1.80 | 0.32 | 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 8 | 21.80 | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 9 | 21.80 | 1.80 | 0.26 | 0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 10 | 22.40 | 1.80 | 0.26 | 0-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 11 | 22.20 | 1.80 | 0.24 | 0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 12 | 22.30 | 1.80 | 0.25 | 0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 13 | 22.20 | 1.80 | 0.27 | 0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 14 | 23.00 | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 15 | 20.70 | 1.80 | 0.25 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 16 | 21.40 | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 17 | 21.00 | 1.80 | 0.30 | 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 18 | 21.60 | 1.80 | 0.25 | 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 19 | 20.00 | 1.80 | 0.31 | 0-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |
| 20 | 20.00 | 1.80 | 0.24 | 0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ natural geology (limestone with red brown clay patches) |

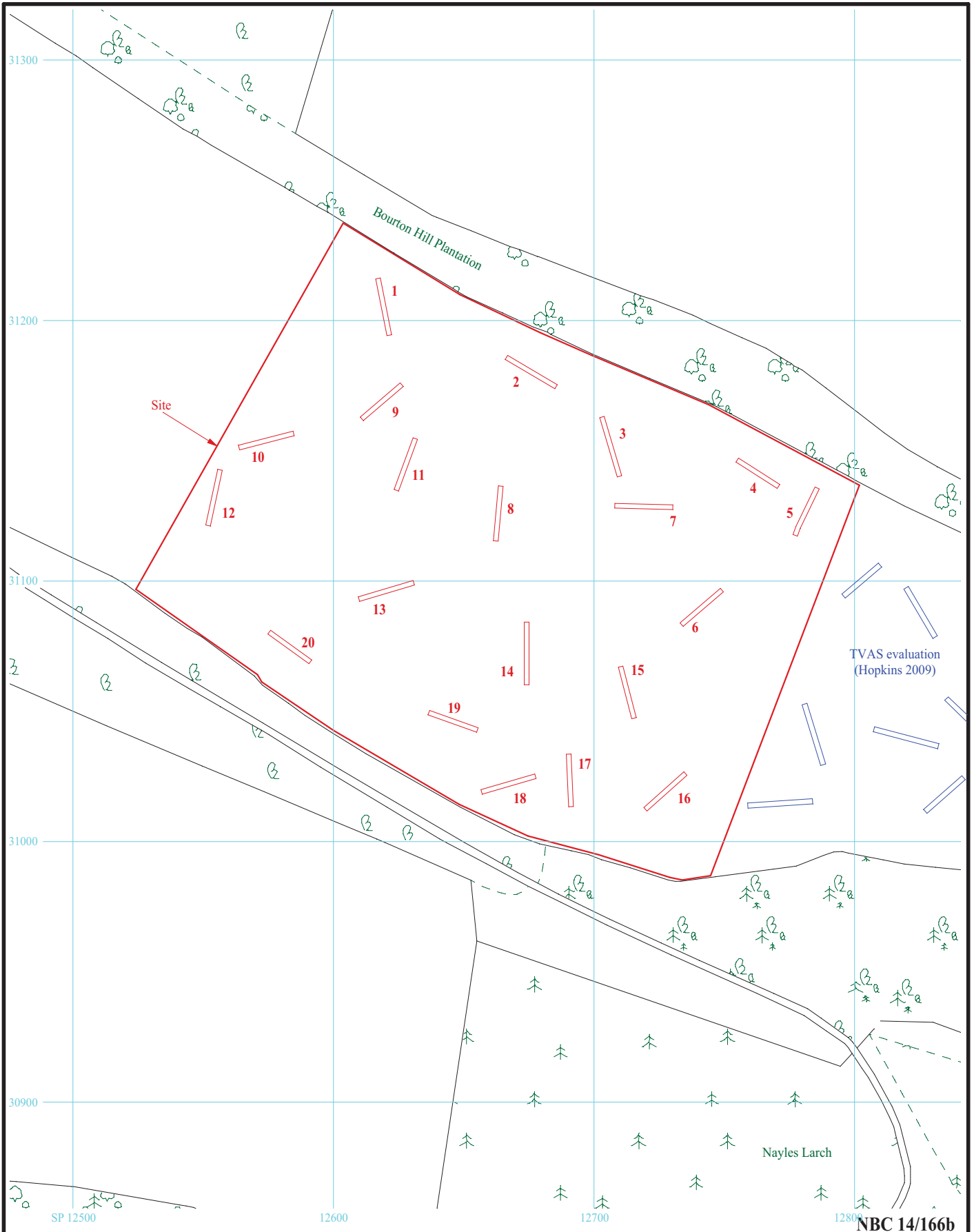


**Land at Nayles Barn, Cutsdean,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Cutsdean and Gloucestershire and showing location of previous evaluation.

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TVAS evaluation
(Hopkins 2009)

Nayles Larch

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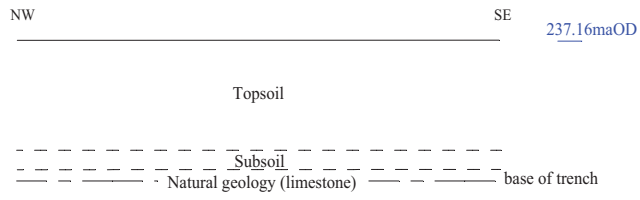
Figure 2. Location of trenches.



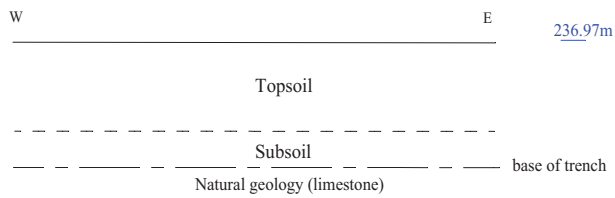
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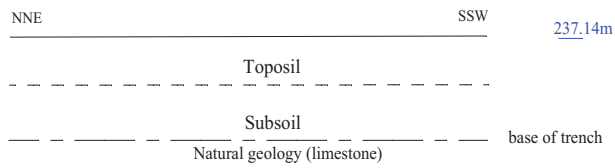
Trench 2



Trench 7



Trench 11



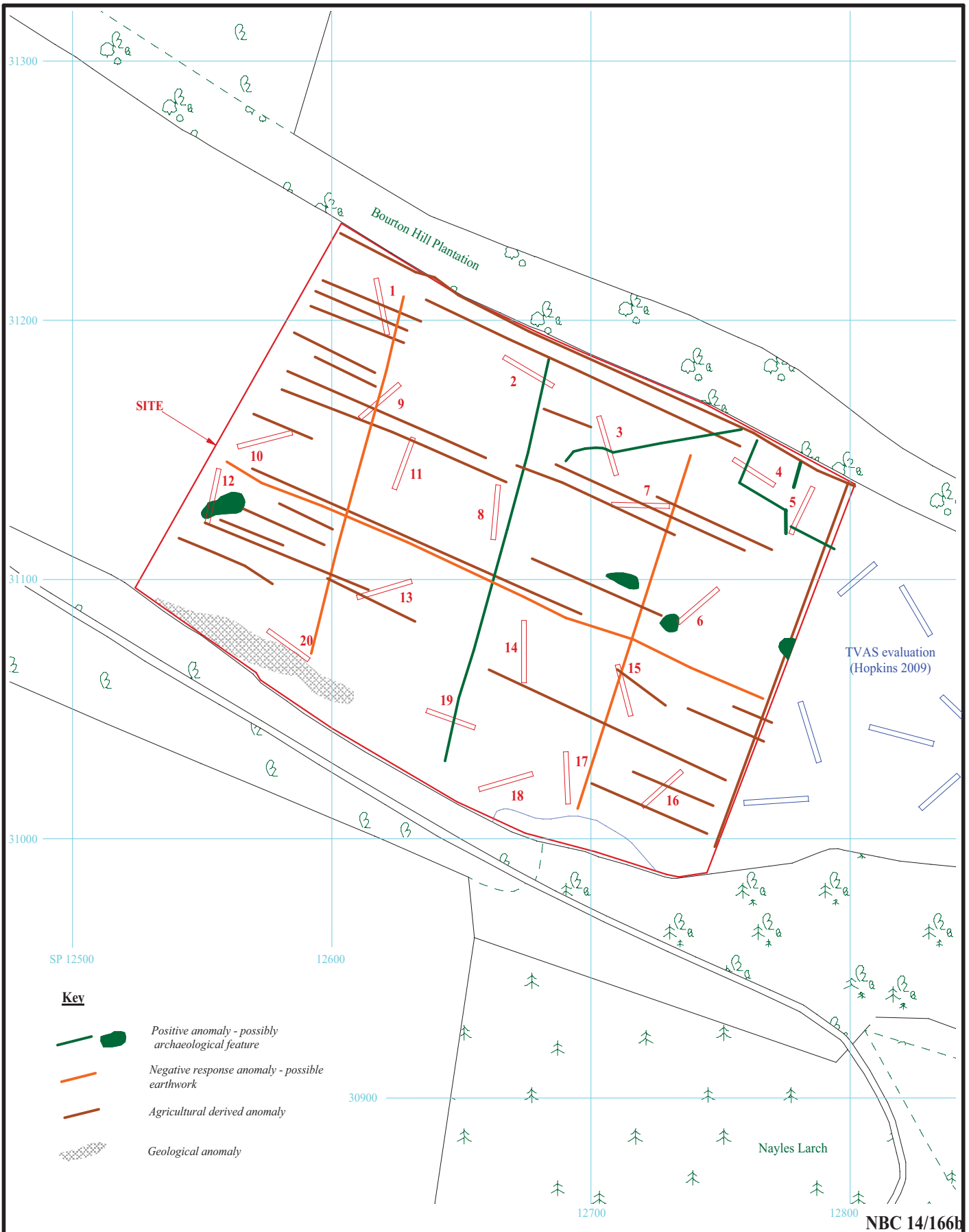
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Figure 3. Representative sections.



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Figure 4. Location of trenches, in relation to geophysical anomalies.



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



Plate 2. Trench 11, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 12, looking north east, Scales: horozntal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

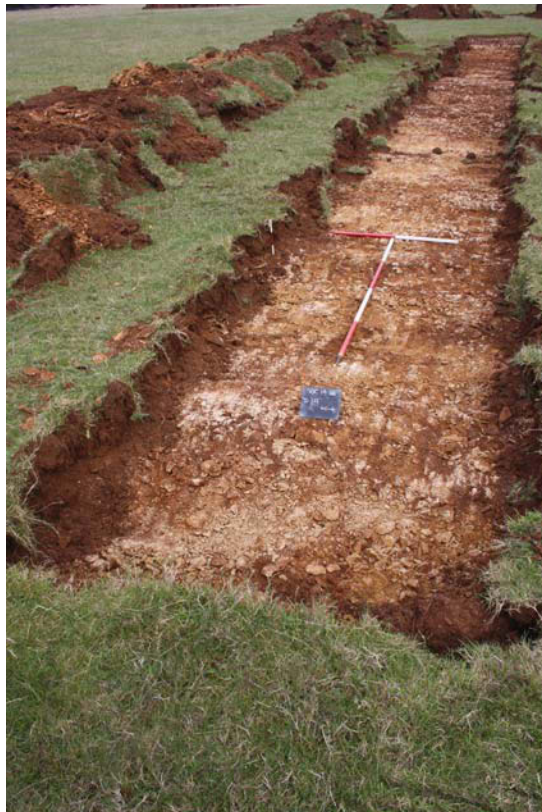


Plate 4. Trench 18, looking west south west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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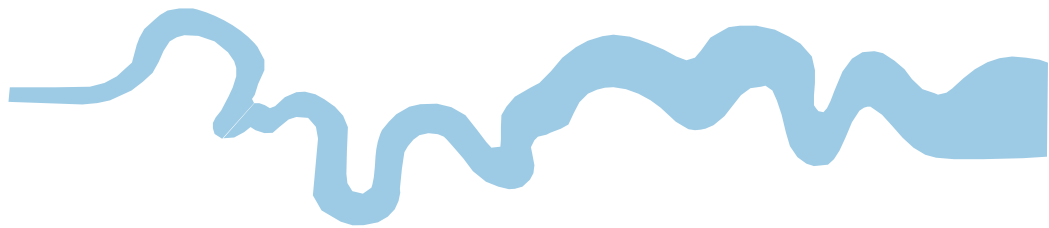
Plates 3 - 4.

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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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