

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**8 Evendon's Road
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter and Tim Dawson

Site Code: ECW 13/160

(SU 8040 6719)

8 Evendons Close, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for T. A. Fisher & Sons Ltd

by Susan Porter and Tim Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ECW 13/160

October 2014

Summary

Site name: 8 Evendon's Close, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8040 6719

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: ECW 13/160

Area of site: 0.27ha

Summary of results: Five trenches were excavated across the proposal area. No artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were observed. 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 in an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.10.14 Steve Preston ✓ 20.10.14

8 Evendon's Close, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter and Tim Dawson

Report 13/160

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land to the rear (north) of 8 Evendon's Close, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8040 6719). (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon Haskett, formerly of T. A. Fisher & Sons Ltd, Windmill House, Victoria Road, Mortimer, Reading, RG7 3DF.

Planning permission (app F/2012/2011) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council to redevelop the site for six new houses following demolition of no. 8. The consent is subject to a condition (17) relating to archaeology. This archaeological evaluation has been requested in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site and if necessary, allow for appropriate mitigation of the effects of development.

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. Paul Falcini, formerly of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson on the 8th October 2014 and the site code is ECW 13/160. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in an appropriate designated museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south-east of the centre of Wokingham in the area of Eastheath to the immediate east of the A321 (Fig. 1). The site lies in a residential area with housing to the south, east and north-east of the site, and currently consists of the gardens of the recently demolished no.8 (Fig. 2). The site lies at a height *c.*60m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as Lower Bagshot Beds (BGS 1946): this was observed in all trenches as a mottled sand deposit.

Archaeological background

Relatively little is recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment for the immediate environs of the site and it lies well away from the historic core of Wokingham (Ford 1987). A possible linear earthwork lies just to the

north though this is possibly related to the use of a nearby quarry. A medieval or later ditch is recorded to the north-east of the site at the former Wokingham Cricket Club ground (Porter 2012) and a few prehistoric struck flints and Roman or medieval pottery recorded to the south at Woodcray Manor (Ford 1991).

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 had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig five trenches, each 15m long and 1.6m wide targeted at the footprints of the proposed new structures (*c.* 4.4% of the site area). The trenches were liable to be repositioned or subdivided once details of any other restrictions, such as live services, were known. A contingency of 15m of trench was included should it be required to clarify findings made in the initial evaluation.

Topsoil and other overburden was removed by a JCB-type mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the deposits revealed excavated or sampled to satisfy the aims of the project. This work was to be carried out in a manner which 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 five trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 14.90m to 15.50m and in depth from 0.52m to 0.76m. 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; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW–NE and was 15.50m long and 0.63m deep (with a test pit excavated to 0.76m to confirm the interpretation of the natural geology). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.38m mid

yellow brown silty sand subsoil overlying loose mottled light brown grey/ mid yellow brown sand natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig 3;Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SE–NW and was 15.00m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.43m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil overlying loose mottled light brown grey/ mid yellow brown sand natural geology. There was much root disturbance of the natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned E - W and was 14.90m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.32m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil overlying loose mottled light brown grey/ mid yellow brown sand natural geology. A possible pit was investigated at 3m but was confirmed as being a root hole No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

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

Trench 4 was aligned N -S and was 15.00m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.28m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil overlying loose mottled light brown grey/ mid yellow brown sand natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SW -NE and was 14.90m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.32m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil overlying loose mottled light brown grey/ mid yellow brown sand natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

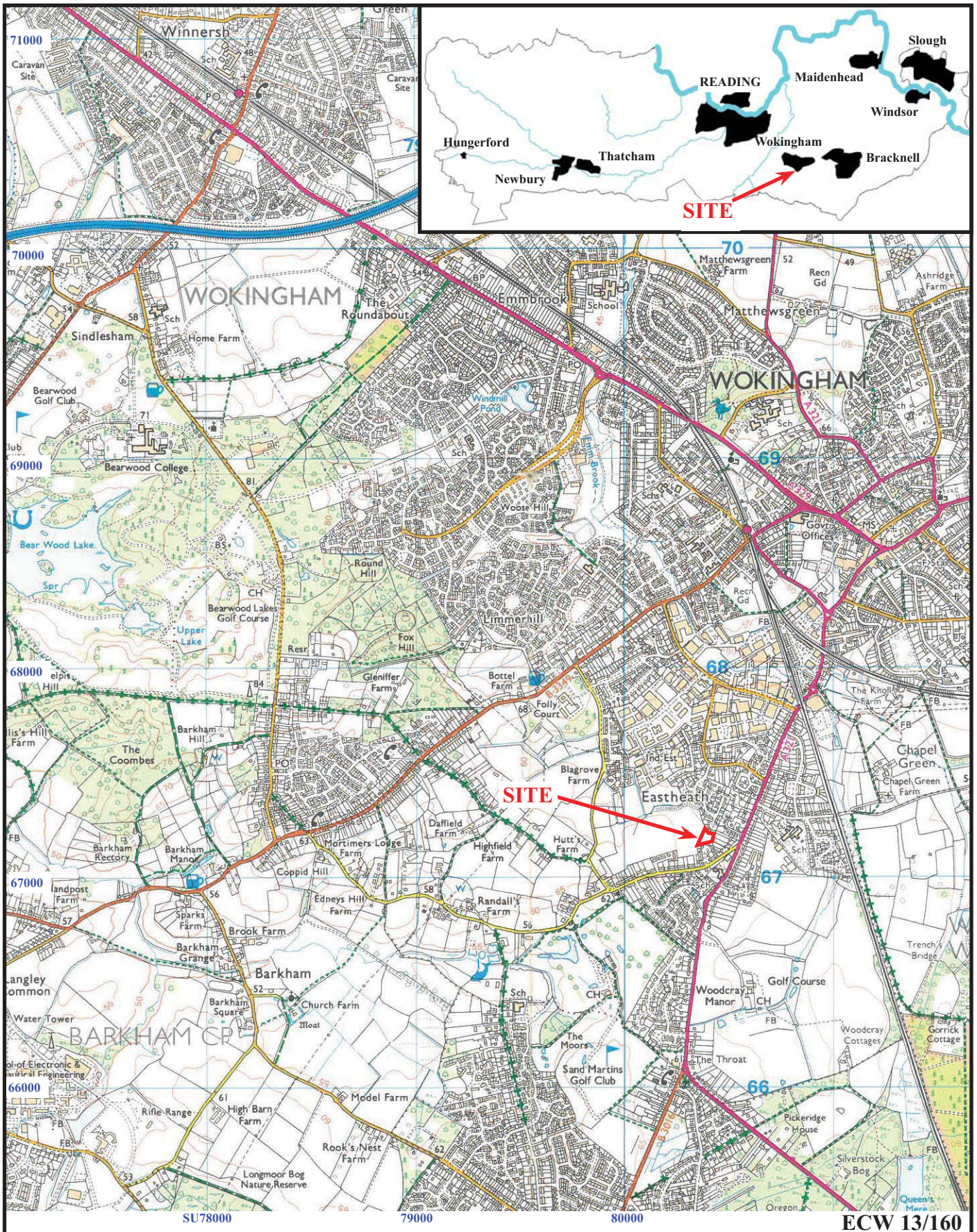
The five evaluation trenches were excavated as intended, but no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed. This suggests that the site has no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Ford, S, 1991, 'Woodcray Manor, Wokingham, Berkshire, Stage 1 parts 1,2 and 4, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 91/03, Reading
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Porter, S 2012, 'Wokingham Cricket and Tennis Club, Wellington Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, An archaeological recording action', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/87a, Reading

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	15.50	1.60	0.63 Test pit 0.76	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17-0.55m mid yellow/ brown silty sand subsoil, 0.55m+ loose mottled light brown grey/yellow/brown sand natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	15.00	1.60	0.62	0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.61m subsoil, 0.61m+ natural geology. [Pl. 2]
3	14.90	1.60	0.52	0–0.18m topsoil, 0.18-0.50m subsoil, 0.50m+ natural geology. [Pl. 3]
4	15.00	1.60	0.54	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.48m subsoil, 0.48m+ natural geology. [Pl. 4]
5	14.90	1.60	0.53	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ natural geology.

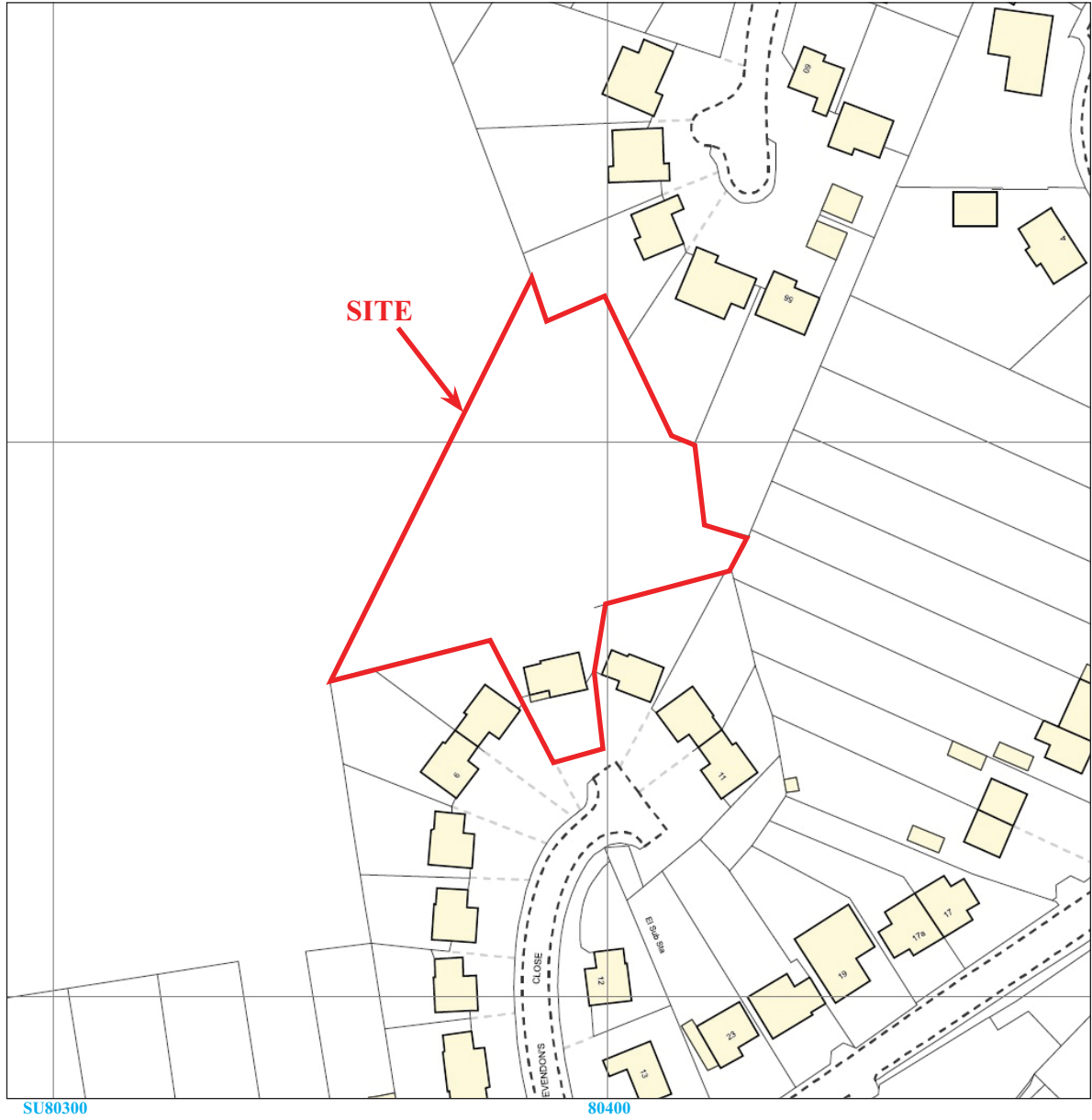


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Figure 1. Location of site within Eastheath, Wokingham and Berkshire.

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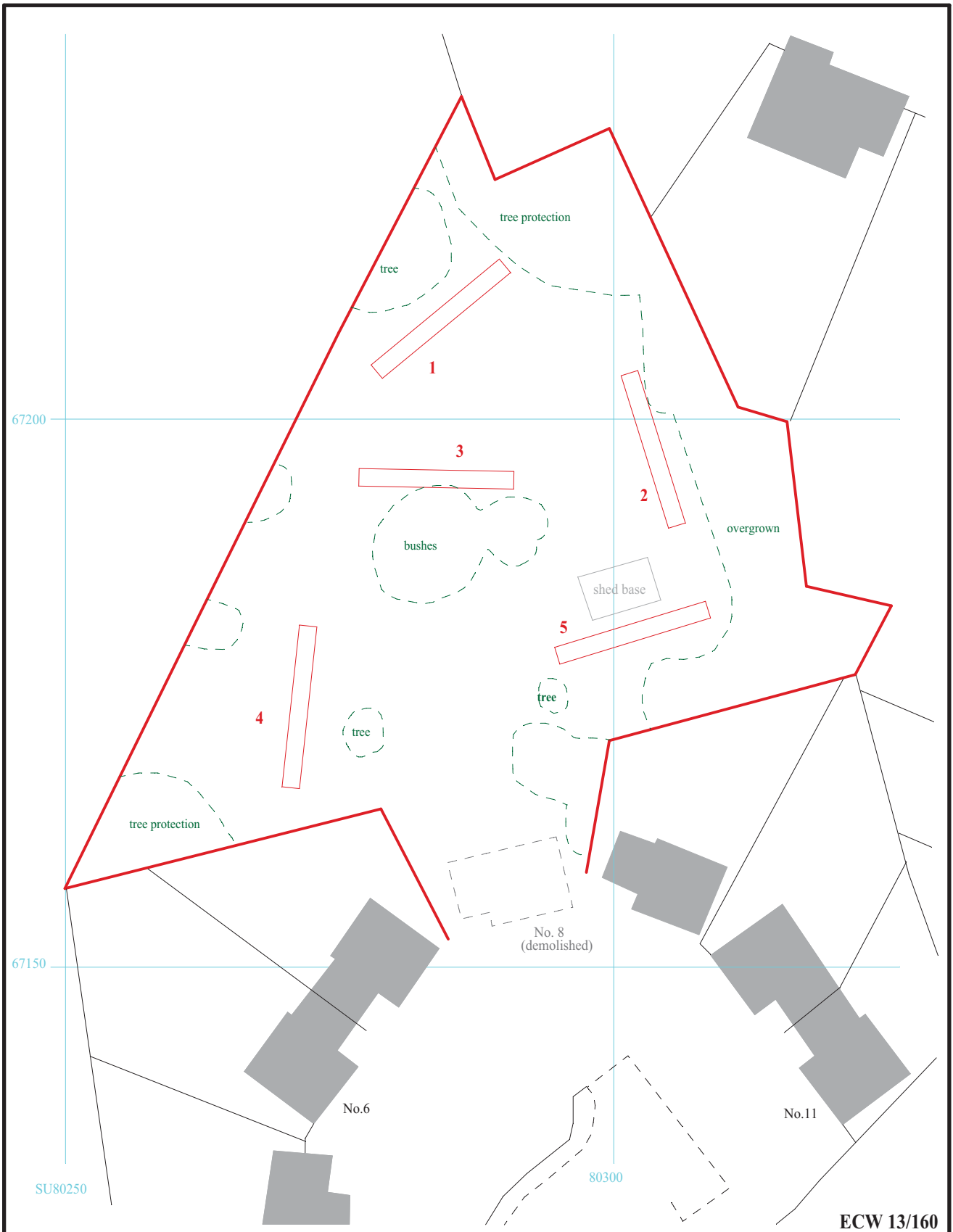


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Evendons Close.

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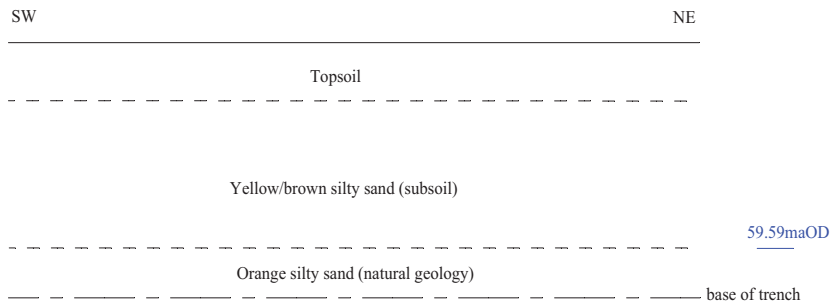
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

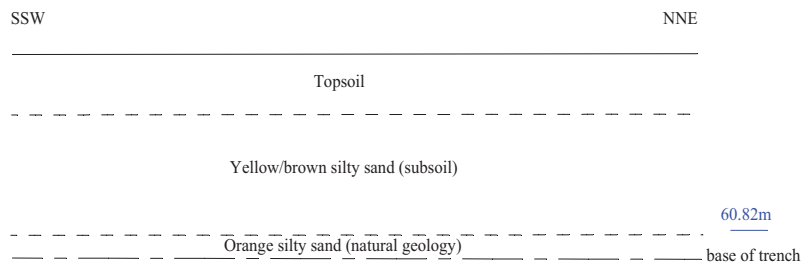


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Trench 1



Trench 4



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

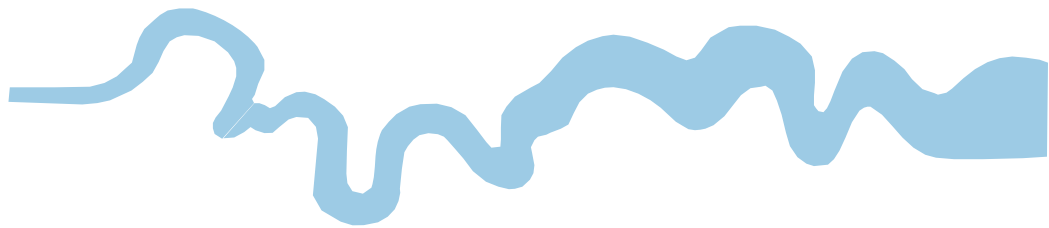
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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