

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Winnersh Park and Ride, Wharfedale Road, Winnersh,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter, Dan Bray and Tim Dawson

Site Code: WRW14/203

(SU 7691 7151)

Winnersh Park and Ride, Wharfedale Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for CgMs Consulting

by Susan Porter, Daniel Bray and Tim Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRW 14/203

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Winnersh Park and Ride, Wharfedale Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7691 7151

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 8th to 10th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray and Tim Dawson

Site code: WRW 14/203

Area of site: c.1.05ha

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered. The site is considered to have low 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 museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.10.14 Steve Preston ✓ 20.10.14

Winnersh Park and Ride, Wharfedale Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 14/203

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Winnersh Park and Ride, Wharfedale Road, Winnersh near Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 7691 7151) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting Ltd 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN on behalf of Reading Area Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) Partnership.

Planning permission (planning ref. F/2013/0889) was granted by Wokingham Borough Council for construction of a proposed park and ride facility subject to a condition (20) requiring the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological investigation. An initial field evaluation was proposed, based on the results of which further work might be required as appropriate. A separate phase of fieldwork is anticipated for the adjacent area of in-use carpark.

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 Ms Ellie Leary of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray, Tim Dawson and Sophie Frampton between 8th-10th October 2014 and the site code is WRW 14/203. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriately designated museum or repository to be decided by the Local Planning Authority in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north-west of Winnersh Triangle railway station, with the railway forming the southern boundary of the site and Wharfedale Road to the north (Fig. 1 and Pl. 4). The site slopes down to the north-west with levels above Ordnance Datum falling from *c.*40m above Ordnance Datum at the south eastern corner to *c.*38m in the north-west corner. The underlying geology is recorded as 2nd Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel), with alluvium of the River Loddon overlying terrace deposits in the north-western corner (BGS 1946).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the written scheme of investigation for the project (Dicks 2013). In summary this potential stems from its location within the valley of the River Loddon, a topographic zone relatively rich in archaeological deposits. Field survey in the valley to the south and north has revealed prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and medieval deposits (Ford 1994-7) with other sites recorded from the air (Gates 1975). Excavations in advance of mineral extraction to the north have examined Mesolithic and Iron Age occupation sites (Harding and Richards 1993; Barnes and Hawkes 1991; Manning and Moore 2011). However, evaluation just to the west revealed deep alluvial deposits overlying peat. A few prehistoric struck flints were recovered but no occupation deposits (Ford 1990). The projected course of a Roman road is thought to cross the site, but this is highly conjectural. In general the site lies away from the centres of later Saxon and medieval settlement.

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.

More specific aims were:

- to establish in more detail the date, character and extent of the archaeological remains on the site;
- to seek to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and hence assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits and any surviving structures of archaeological significance;
- to clarify the recent history of the site and its impact on the site's archaeological significance; and
- to inform the design of suitable mitigation measures and the production of a written scheme of investigation for zoned excavation or an archaeological watching brief if archaeology is identified.

It was proposed to dig 11 trenches of varying length, each 1.60m in width, targeting areas within the proposed development. Trenches were located to avoid tree protection zones and buried services. Trenches were to be excavated by a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to expose the archaeological levels. All machine work was to take place under constant archaeological supervision.

Results

All 11 trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 10.90m to 26.90m and in depth from 0.58m to 1.05m. Most of the trenches revealed service trenches and old field drains. 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, Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned roughly East – West and was 22m long and 0.85-1.07m deep. The stratigraphy at the west end consisted of 0.12m of topsoil, overlying 0.13m dark grey brown clayey silt with occasional gravel inclusions, which in turn overlay 0.12m mid yellow brown clayey silt, over 0.03m dark brown grey silty clay, which in turn overlay 0.40m sandy gravel. These layers were made ground. They overlay 0.05m black/grey sandy silt, considered to be buried old land surface, above the alluvial natural geology. A test pit was taken through the alluvium to a depth of 0.20m to confirm its interpretation as natural geology. The stratigraphy of the eastern end consisted of 0.25m topsoil and 0.30m mid yellow brown clayey silt subsoil, overlying 0.20m black/mid grey clay which in turn overly 0.10m dark grey gravel with modern or late post-medieval ceramic building material inclusions, above 0.20m dark blue grey clay overlying alluvial natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed .

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned NW–SE and was 24.70m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil and 0.35m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SW–NE and was 26.20m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil and 0.28m mid orangey brown sandy silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SW–NE and was 21.10m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil and 0.35m mid orangey brown sandy silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SE–NW and was 26.90m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.40m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned roughly East – West and was 21.90m long and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.40m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 7 (Figs 3 and 4, Pl. 4)

Trench 7 was aligned North–South and was 22.10m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.40m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 8 (Figs 4 and 7)

Trench 8 was aligned roughly East–West and was 14.20m long and 0.78m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.38m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 9 was aligned roughly East–West and was 21m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.40m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 10 was aligned North–South and was 10.90m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.40m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned East–West and was 25.20m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m light yellow sandy gravel, overlaying 0.45m mid orangey brown clayey silt subsoil overlying gravel with silt patches natural geology.

Conclusion

This evaluation did not discover any artefacts or deposits of archaeological interest. Most of the trenches revealed modern services and field drains but no cut deposits of archaeological interest. Some made ground and deeper, alluvial deposits were revealed at the western end of the site. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

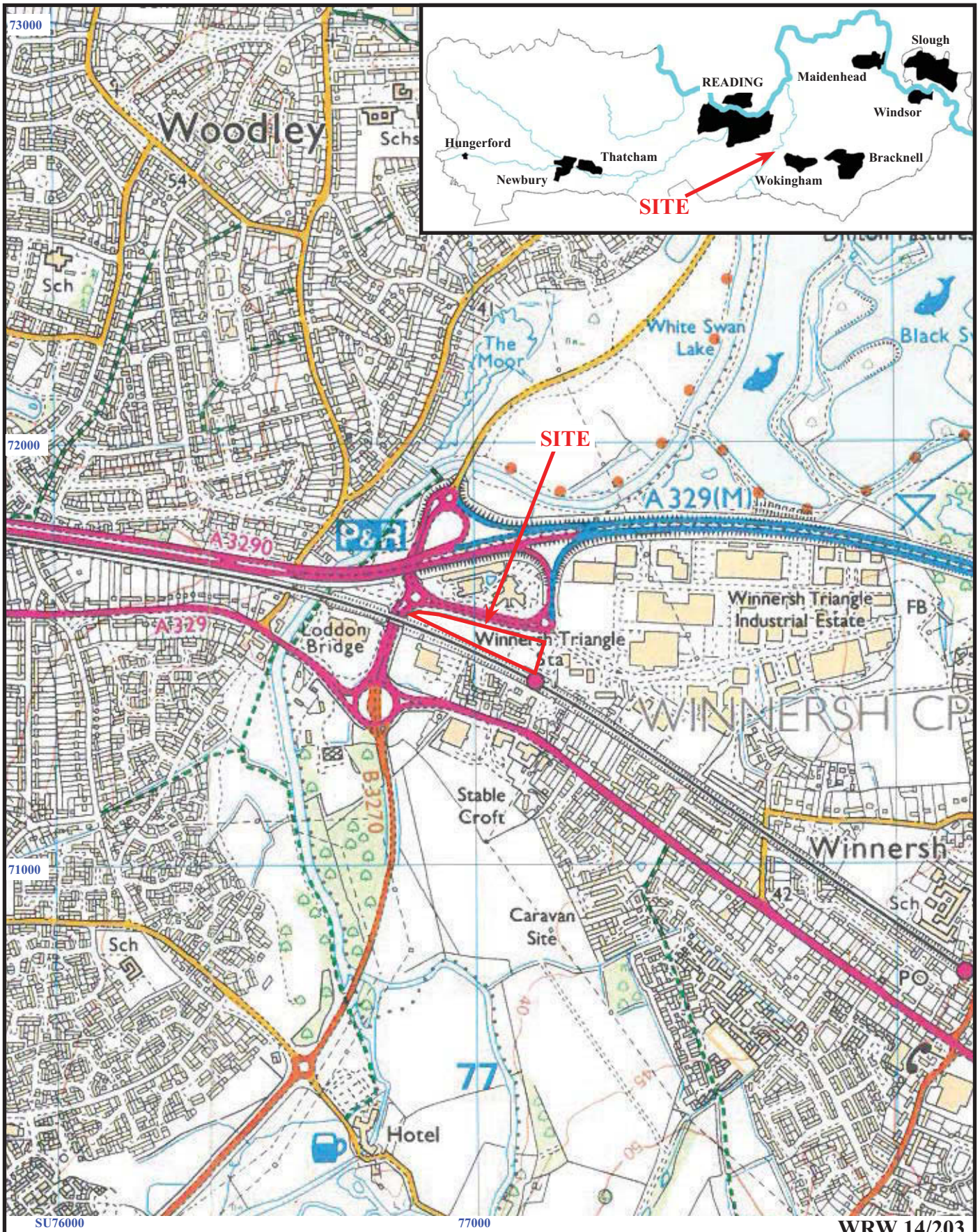
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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	22.00	1.60	0.85-1.07	0–0.0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.25m dark grey brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions (made ground); 0.25-0.37m mid yellow brown clayey silt (made ground); 0.37-0.40m dark brown grey silty clay, (made ground); 0.40-0.80m sandy gravel (made ground); 0.80-0.85m dark black grey clay (buried soil), 0.85m+ grey silty clay alluvium natural geology. East end 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.55m mid yellow brown clayey silt; 0.55-0.75m mid grey black clay; 0.75-0.87m gravel with bric/tile; 0.87-1.07m dark blue grey clay; 107m+ grey silty clay alluvium natural geology. [Pls 1 and 2]
2	24.70	1.60	0.75	0–0.0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.75m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.75m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Test pit at 1m to 1.05m depth. Service trenches at 20m and 24m [Pl. 3]
3	26.20	1.60	0.63	0–0.0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.63m mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.63m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 25m, field drain at 2m
4	21.10	1.60	0.64	0–0.0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.64m mid orange brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.64m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 2m and 4m, field drain at 20m
5	26.90	1.60	0.70	0–0.0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.70m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.70m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 25m, field drain at 2m
6	21.90	1.60	0.58	0–0.0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.58m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.58m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 3m and 11m
7	22.10	1.60	0.60	0–0.0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.60m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.60m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Test pit at 21m to 0.9m; Service trench at 11m. [Pl. 4]
8	14.20	1.60	0.78	0–0.0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.78m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.78m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology.
9	21.00	1.60	0.68	0–0.0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.68m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.68m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 19m; field drain at 14m. [Pl. 5]
10	10.90	1.60	0.66	0–0.0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.66m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.66m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trench at 2m. [Pl. 6]
11	25.20	1.60	0.80	0–0.0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m light yellow sandy gravel; 0.35-0.80m mid orange brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.80m+ gravel with silt patches natural geology. Service trenches at 3m and 14m, field drain at 14m

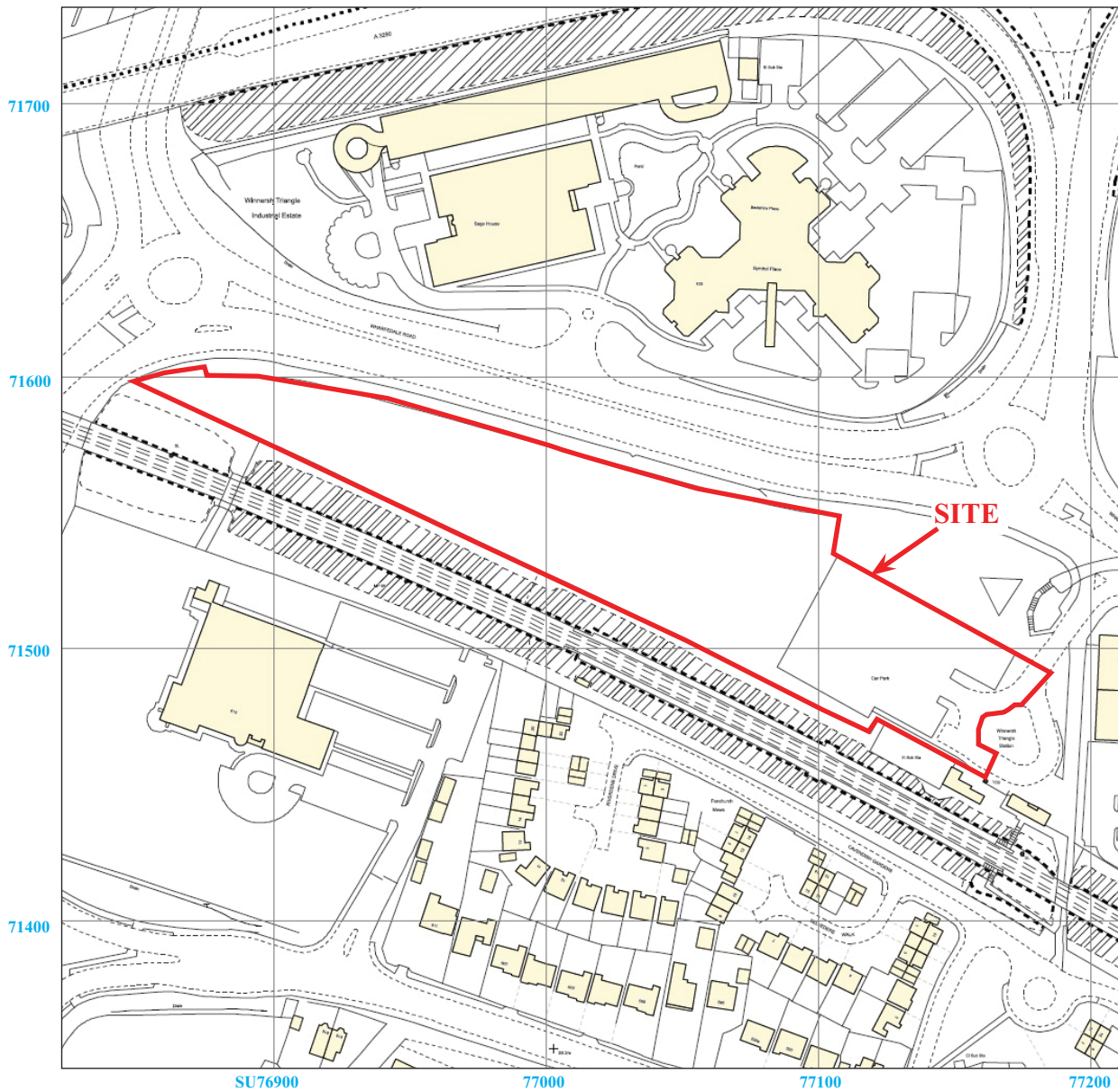


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Figure 1. Location of site within Widdersh and Berkshire.

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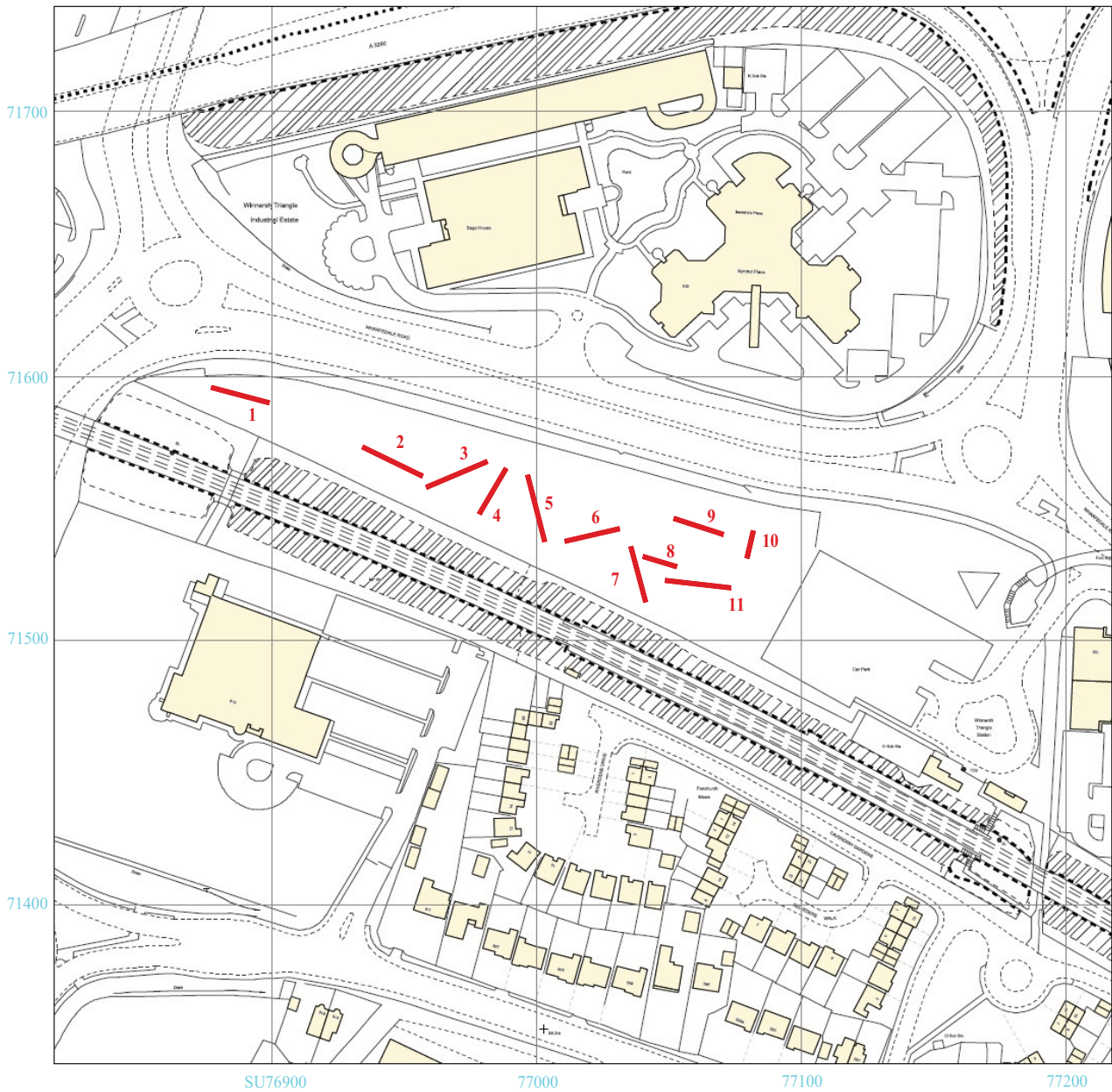


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Wharfedale Road.

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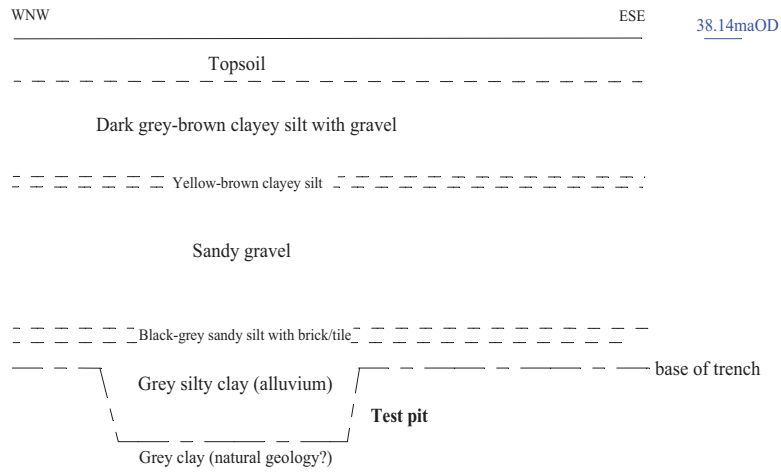
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

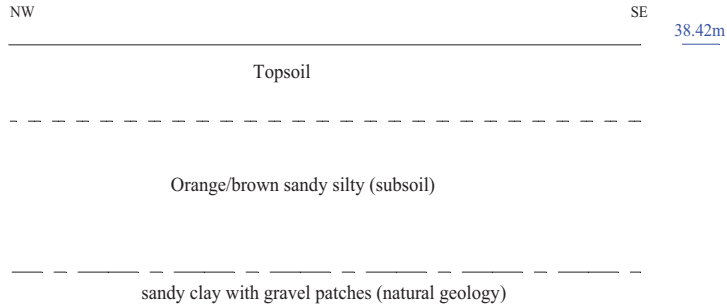


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Trench 1 - West end



Trench 7



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



Plate 1. Trench 1, Section looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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



Plate 4. Trench 7 looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 9, Looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 10, Looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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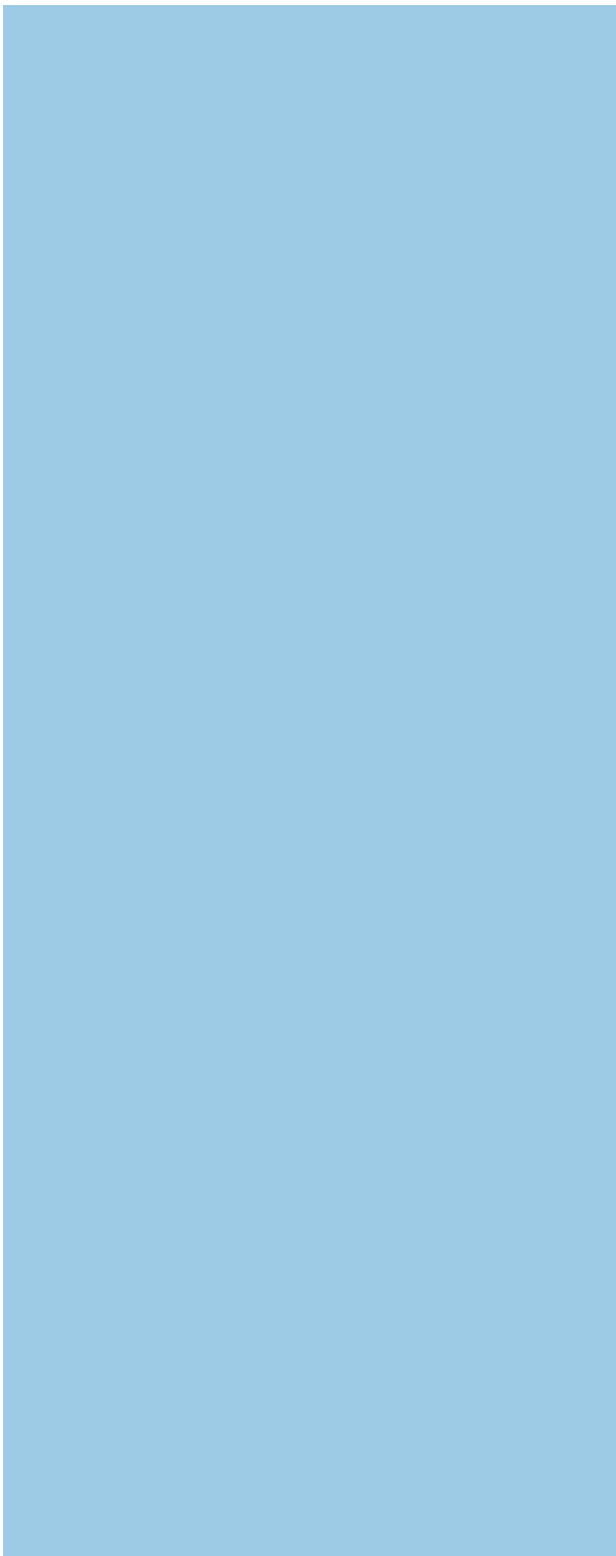
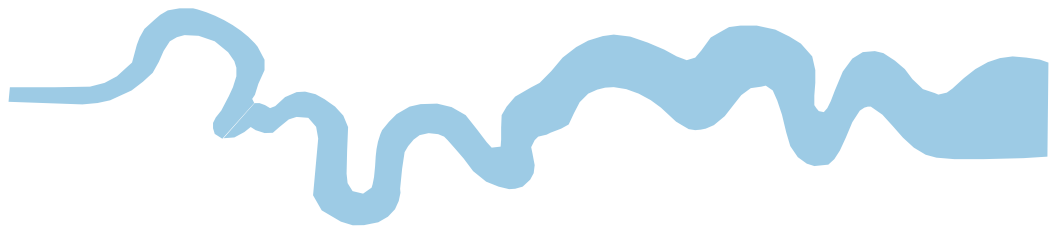
Plates 5 - 6.

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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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