

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Ascot Lodge, London Road,  
Ascot, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Platt and Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: ALA14/194**

**(SU 9302 6867)**

**Ascot Lodge, London Road,  
Ascot, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Shanly Homes**

by David Platt and Kyle Beaverstock  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ALA14/194

**October 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9302 6867

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 22nd - 23rd October 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** ALA 14/194

**Area of site:** 0.68ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed in any of the trenches. Parts of the site had been extensively truncated. 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 a museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 31.10.14
	Steve Preston ✓ 31.10.14

# Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt and Kyle Beaverstock

Report 14/194

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire (SU 9302 6867) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Amos of Shanly Homes, 21 The Crescent, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22 8DY.

Planning permission (app no 13/00974) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for demolition of the existing buildings at Hunters Lodge and 1 and 2 Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, to be replaced with 8 new houses. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site, a field observation has been requested as detailed in *the National Planning Policy Framework* (2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. A single component of work is proposed initially, namely a field evaluation by means of machine-dug trenching. Further fieldwork may have been required if significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

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 Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt, Rebecca Constable and William Attard between the 22nd and 23rd of October 2014, and the site code is ALA14/194. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of London Road, Ascot, Berkshire (Fig. 1) south-east of Ascot Race Course. The site lies in a residential area with housing to the west, east and south, and London Road forming the northern border. The site lies c. 73m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as Bagshot Beds (BGS 1978). The site is currently unoccupied.

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies within an area of east Berkshire which has only a modest range of recorded archaeological finds and deposits. There is nevertheless a presence of prehistoric, Roman and Medieval find spots recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment record and many standing Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). The only find of note within the vicinity of the site is that of a Mesolithic macehead to the south.

## **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 are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if 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 eight trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m or 1.8m wide targeted at the footprints of the new structures and areas of landscaping. Topsoil and other overburden was removed by a JCB-type mechanical excavator equipped with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. 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**

In total, nine trenches were dug, it was, however required that most of the trenches had to be repositioned, due to two large areas of modern truncation and tree protection zones. Trench 2 was shortened due to the modern truncation, however, an additional trench (Trench 9) was added in close proximity in order to maintain the required sample fraction. Most of the trenches ranged between 19.5m and 20.5m in length, with the exception of Trench 2 which was 2.7m long and Trench 9 which was 10m long. All trenches were 1.6m wide and ranged

between 0.42m and 0.81m in depth. 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 W - E and was 20.4m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.72m of topsoil overlying a pale yellow grey/ yellow-brown sand natural geology. A possible ditch was investigated but shown to contained modern glazed pottery and brick. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 2.7m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.81m+ of made ground with modern footings present. This trench was abandoned due to excessive depth of made ground. A extra trench (9) was dug within close proximity to compensate.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 20.5m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying a pale yellow grey/ yellow-brown sand natural geology. There was a modern pit at 12m and the southern end was occupied by six wide parallel striations which had been cut through the subsoil and were infilled with topsoil. There were possibly garden features or something else associated with the recent use of the site. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 19.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying a mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology. A modern spread was present at the north-east end from 14m with two modern features at 8m and 9m. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 20m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying a mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology. An old cable trench was observed at 11m. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 6 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 6 was aligned SE - NW and was 20.1m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying a mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 5)

Trench 7 was aligned W - E and was 20.5m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying a pale yellow grey sand natural geology. Two narrow linear service trenches were observed at 3m and 18m. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 8 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 20m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying a mottled mid yellow grey sand natural geology. There was modern truncation of the natural geology between 1m and 16m. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned SW - NE and was 10m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying a mid yellow grey clay sand natural geology. Two modern features were noted at 2m and 4m. No archaeological deposits were observed, no finds were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

The site was evaluated by nine evaluation trenches. Many modern features and some areas of modern truncation were revealed in these trenches but no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed. Two substantial areas of the site had been deeply truncated. These results suggest that the site has no archaeological potential.

## **References**

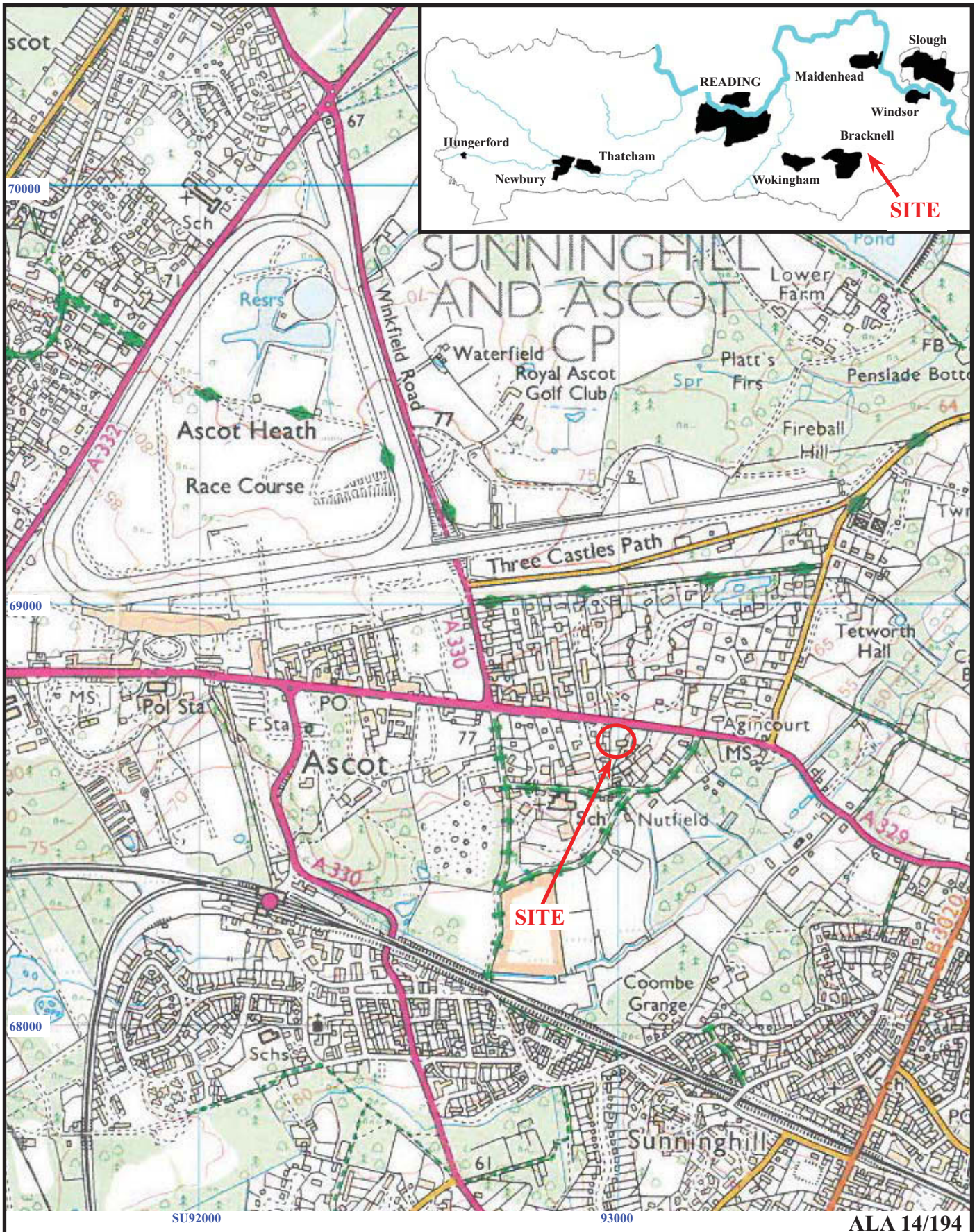
- BGS, 1978, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000 series, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning  
Occas Pap 1, Reading  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at S and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.4	1.6	0.72	0-0.72m topsoil; 0.72m+ pale yellow grey/ yellow-brown sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	2.7	1.6	0.81	0-0.81m+ made ground.
3	20.5	1.6	0.55	0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m - 0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ pale yellow grey/ yellow-brown sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 2]</b>
4	19.5	1.6	0.5	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m - 0.5m subsoil; 0.5m+ mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology.
5	20	1.6	0.42	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m - 0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 3]</b>
6	20.1	1.6	0.43	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m - 0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ mottled mid yellow grey/pale red brown sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 4]</b>
7	20.5	1.6	0.47	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m - 0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ pale yellow grey sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 5]</b>
8	20	1.6	0.42	0-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m - 0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mid yellow grey sand natural geology. <b>[PI. 6]</b>
9	10	1.6	0.47	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3m - 0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ mid yellow brown clay sand natural geology.



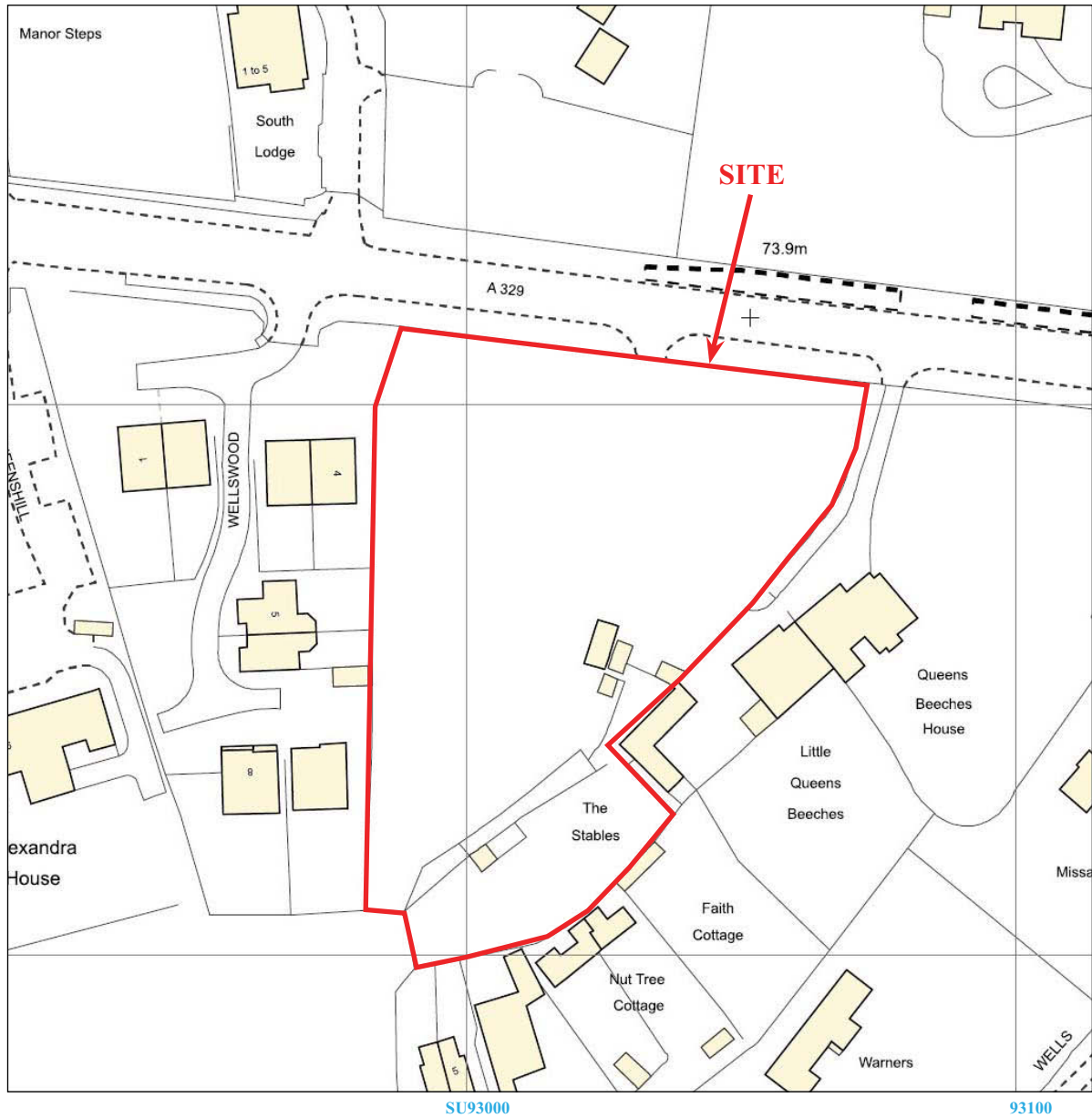


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Figure 1. Location of site within Ascot and Berkshire.

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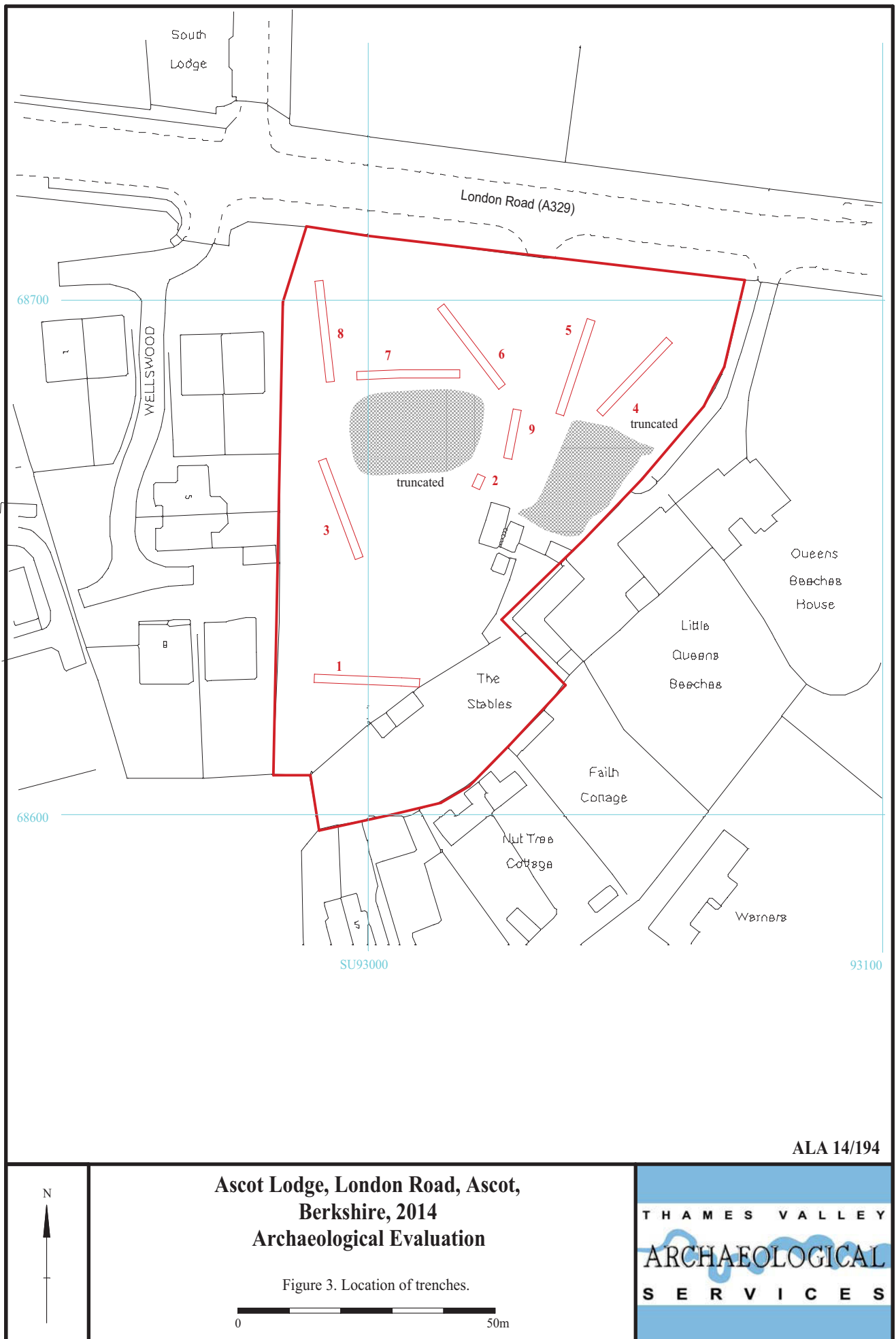


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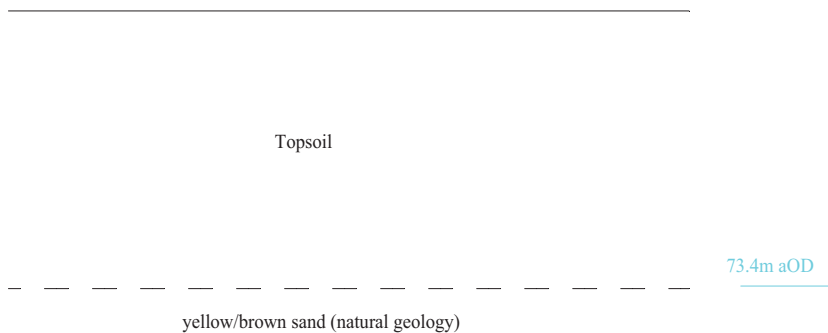
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off London Road (A329).

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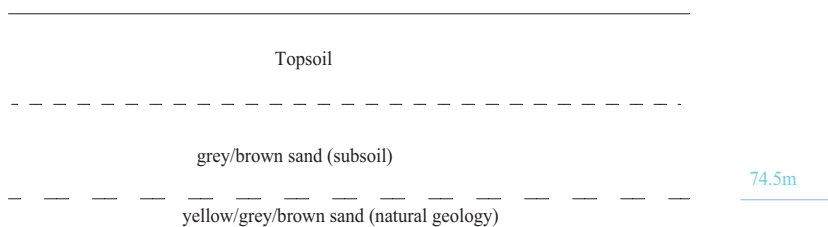
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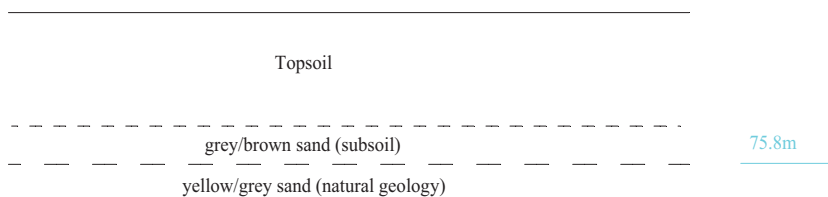
**Trench 1**



**Trench 4**



**Trench 7**



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Figure 3. Representative sections.





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



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



Plate 3. Trench 5 looking north east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Trench 6 looking north west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 5. Trench 7 looking east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 6. Trench 8 looking north.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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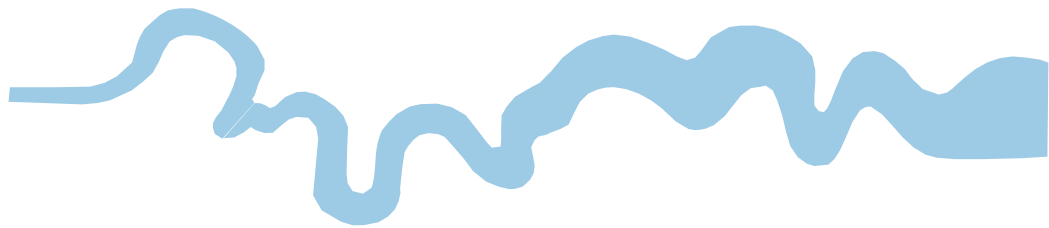
**Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot,  
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Plates 1-6.**

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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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