

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Monksfield Recreation Ground, Monksfield Way,
Long Furlong Drive, Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: BSP14/102

(SU 9533 8241)

**Monksfield Recreation Ground, Monksfield Way,
Long Furlong Drive, Slough, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Slough Borough Council

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BSP 14/102

January 2015

Summary

Site name: Monksfield Recreation Ground, Monksfield Way, Long Furlong Drive, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9533 8241

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th September - 6th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Natasha Bennett and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: BSP 14/102

Area of site: 0.12ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate approved museum willing to take the material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.01.15 Steve Preston ✓ 06.01.15

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Report 14/102

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Monksfield Recreation Ground, Monksfield Way, Long Furlong Drive, Slough, Berkshire, NGR SU9533 8241 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Kam Bhatti on behalf of Slough Borough Council.

Planning permission (app no S/00703/) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for the construction of a skate park, a multi-use games area and associated landscaping to enhance the recreational facilities within Monksfield Way Recreation Ground. The consent includes a condition (12) relating to archaeology which requires that a watching brief be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Natasha Bennett between 24th September and 6th October 2014 and the site code is BSP 14/102.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum willing to take the material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located near the northern edge of Slough (Figs 1 and 2), to the north of the Slough Trading Estate. It is bordered by Monksfield Recreation ground to the south, west and north and Claycots Primary School to the east. The land was being used as part of Monksfield recreation ground. As observed on site the geology consists of Lynch Hill Gravel with beds of silty sand (BGS 2005)

Archaeological background

The site has been identified as having some archaeological potential due to the presence of Roman finds recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record. Construction work at Long Reading Lane and Kidderminster Road revealed Roman pottery and tile, suggesting the presence of a Roman settlement in the

Britwell area. Relatively few finds and sites are known for this northern area of Slough (Ford 1987) but recent fieldwork has located extensive sites elsewhere in and around Slough, such as at Cippenham and Wexham, with smaller Medieval sites at Slough Cemetery (Stoke Poges) and on the Trading Estate (Ford *et al.* 2003; Preston 2012; Elliott 2014; Taylor 2014).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary.

Archaeological deposits that would have been threatened by the groundworks were to be excavated and recorded. Plant used to strip top and subsoil was equipped with a toothless ditching bucket in order to expose the archaeological layers and any archaeological features were to be cleaned and excavated using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

The groundworks comprised three components (Fig. 3): an area of reduced dig and embankment to the north for the construction of a skate park; an area to the south for a fenced basketball court/play area; and a soakaway. Turf was removed from the whole site.

The skate park

To the north of the site, ground reduction took place for the construction of a skate bowl with an area of *c.* 60 sq m (Fig. 3 and Pl. 1) This took place under archaeological supervision initially down to the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon. In this area the stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil above 0.4m of brown silty sand with gravel subsoil, above red/brown sandy gravel natural geology. No archaeological features were observed, nor were any artefacts other than modern items, recovered from the stripped surface or resulting spoilheap.

The multi-game area

For this part of the site only c. 0.3m of topsoil was removed prior to the laying of geotextile followed by hardcore and Tarmacadam (Pl. 2). The margins of this rectangular area were to be fenced and some 35 postholes were excavated by the groundworkers but were too small to reveal any underlying archaeological deposits and produced no artefacts of interest.

Soakaway

A soakaway pit was dug to the west of the skate bowl. This was 1.5m x 1.5m across and dug through topsoil subsoil into the gravel. No archaeological features were observed.

Finds

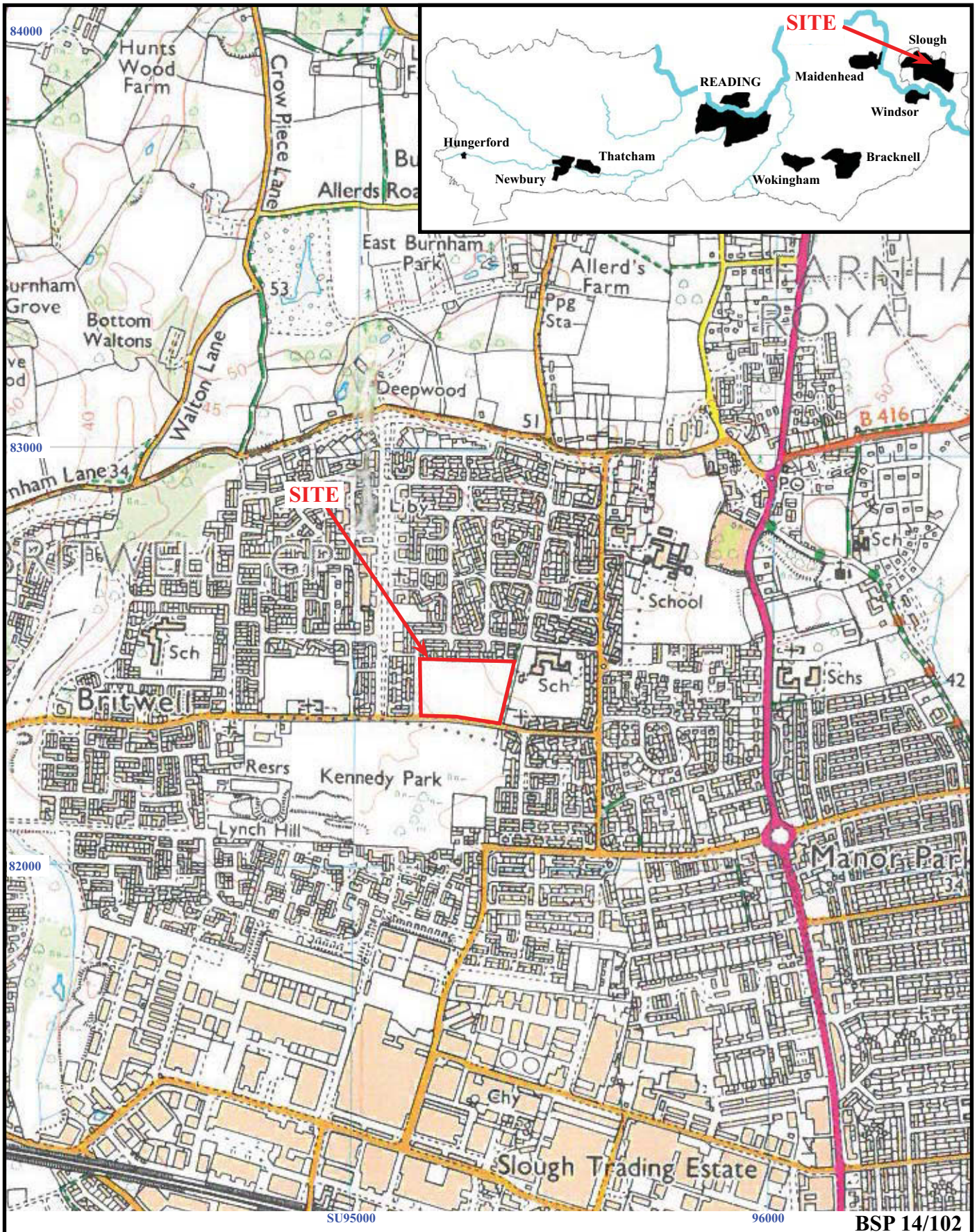
No finds were recovered from this site.

Conclusion

All groundworks on this site were examined as intended but the top of the natural geology (the archaeologically relevant horizon) was only exposed in small parts of the site. No archaeological deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1: 50 000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Elliott, G, 2014, 'Slough Cemetery Extension, Stoke Road, Stoke Poges, Slough, Buckinghamshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 14/79, Reading
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
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- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Preston, S (ed), 2012, *Settlement and Landscape Archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs*, TVAS Monograph 14, Reading
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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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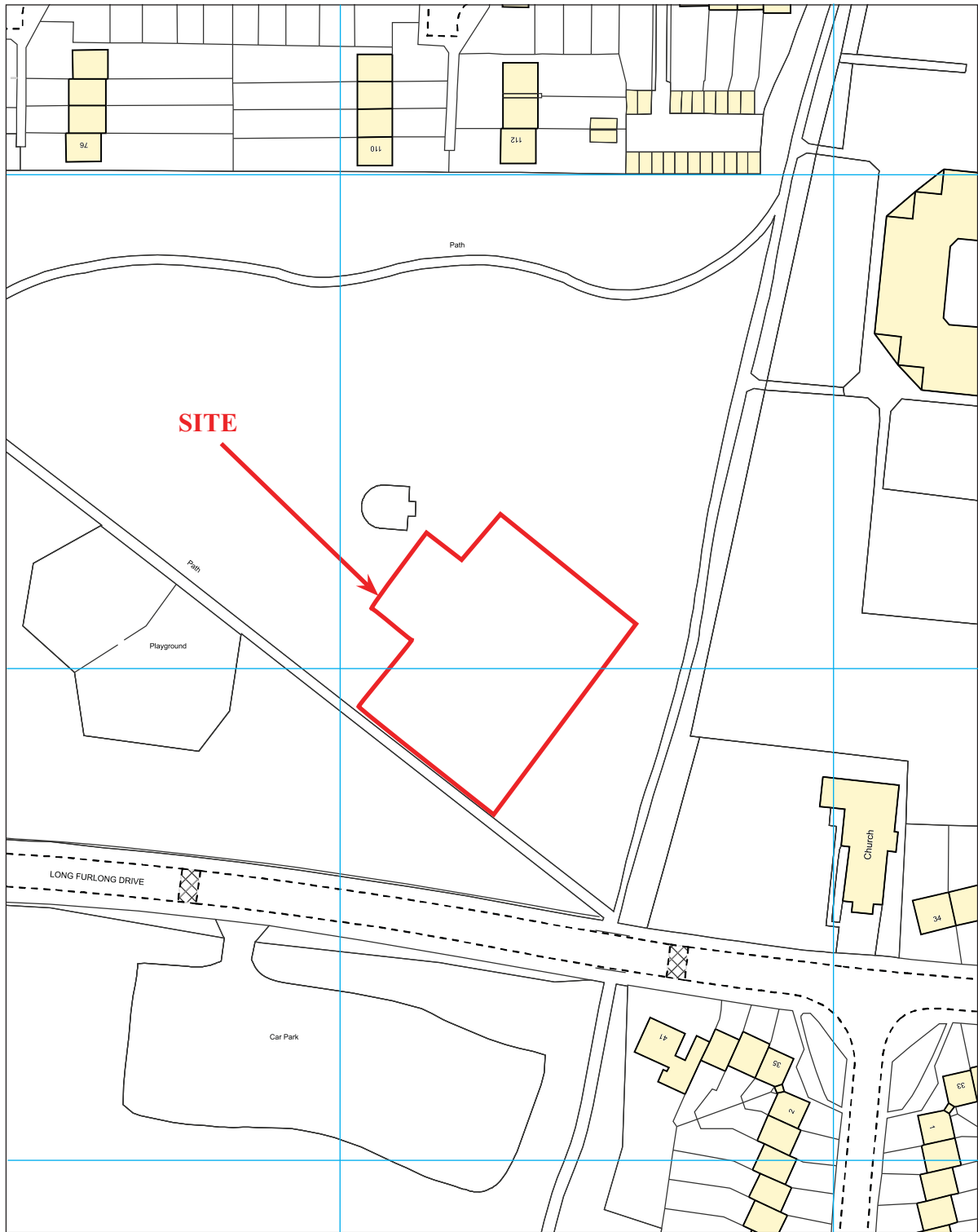
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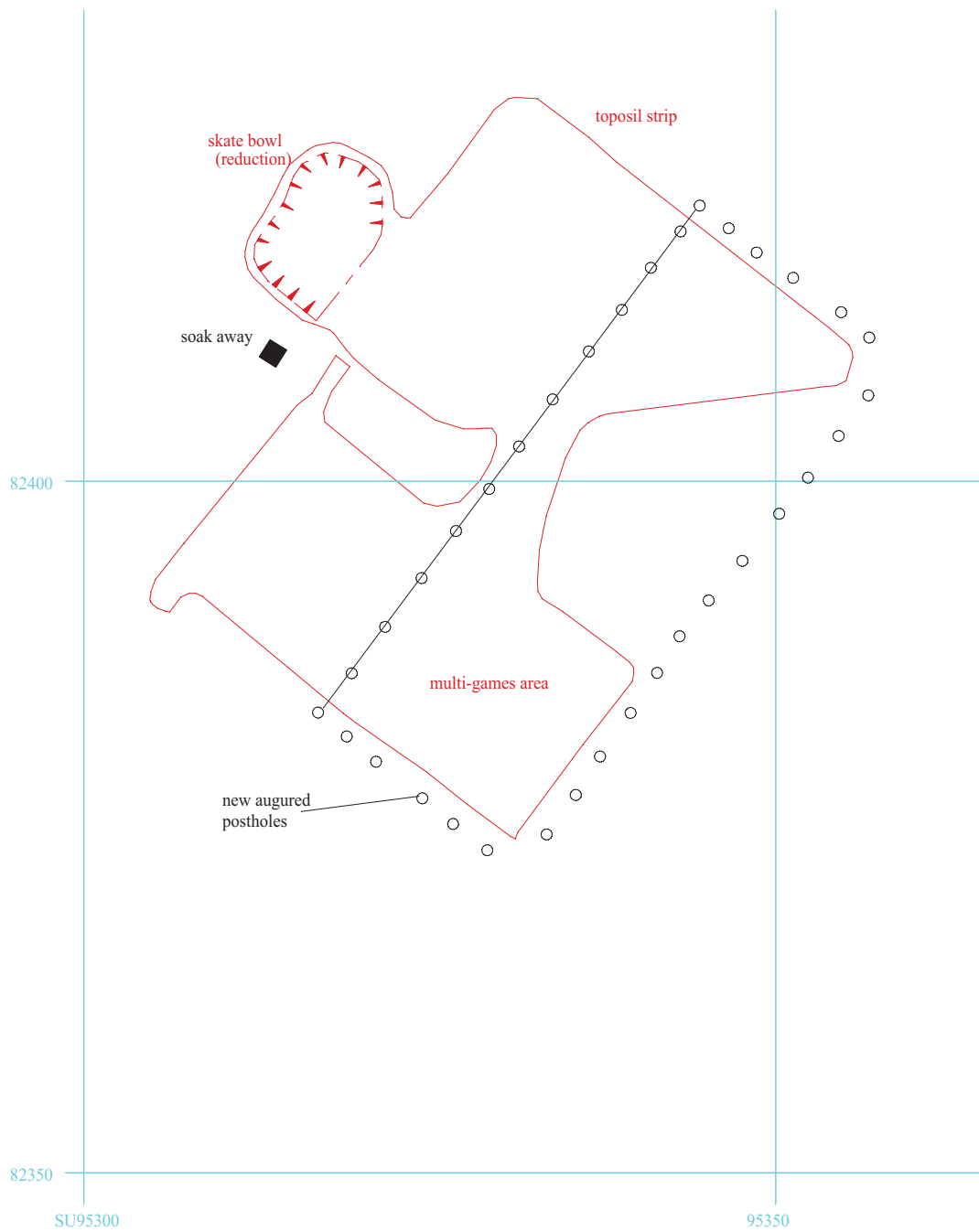
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Detail of areas monitored.



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Plate 1. Skate bowl excavation, looking south, Scale: 1m.



Plate . Multi -game area looking. north.

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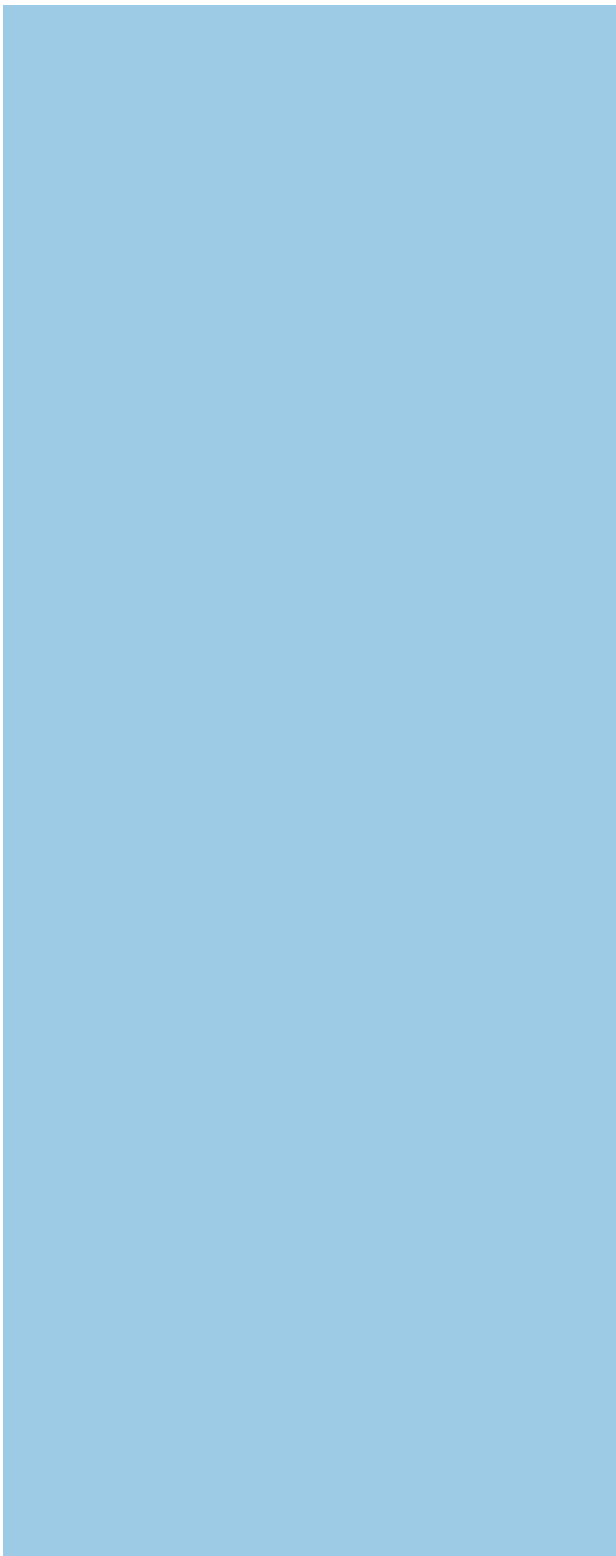
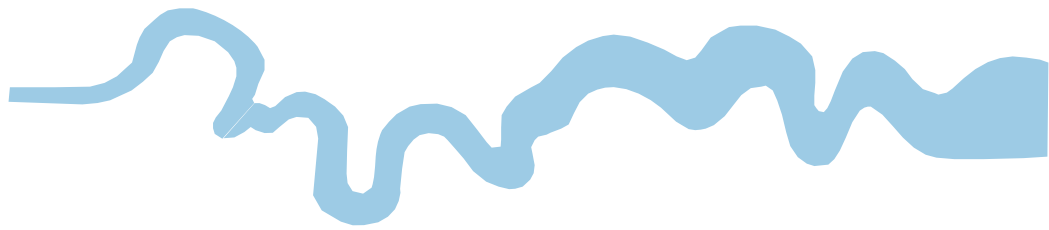
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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