

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Baydon Valley Farm, Manor Lane,  
Baydon, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: BVF14/258**

**(SU 2864 7719)**

**Baydon Valley Farm, Manor Lane,  
Baydon, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr. Matthew Lloyd**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BVF 14/258

**January 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Baydon Valley Farm, Manor Lane, Baydon, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2864 7719

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 28th-29th January 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** BVF 14/258

**Area of site:** 0.75ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest and 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 Swindon Museum 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 ✓ 30.01.15
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# Baydon Valley Farm, Manor Lane, Baydon, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 14/258

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Manor Lane, Baydon, Wiltshire (SU 2864 7719) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Claire Welburn of Fowler Architects and Planning, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF on behalf of Mr. Matthew Lloyd.

Planning permission is to be sought from Wiltshire Council for a mixed development comprising the erection of an agricultural workers dwelling, various barns and a covered yard at Baydon Valley Farm with construction work terracing the slope on the site. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks fieldwork has been requested in the form of field evaluation by machine trenching.

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 Ms Rachel Foster of Wiltshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Thomas Stewart between 28th and 29th January 2015 and the site code is BVF 14/258. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Swindon Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located off Manor Lane to the southeast of Baydon in Wiltshire (Fig. 2) the site slopes steeply down from west to east with Manor Lane forming the base of the slope and the natural geology is described as Upper Chalk Formation (BGS 1947) and the site is currently in use as pasturage for Alpacas and lies at a height between 195.8m and 184.3m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

In summary the site lies within the archaeologically rich Wiltshire/Berkshire Downs with a wealth of sites and finds recorded (Richards 1978; Gaffney and Tingle 1989). The Wiltshire and West Berkshire Historic

Environment Records note that the downlands surrounding Baydon are rich in prehistoric monuments, most notably round barrows of Bronze Age date along with Iron age and Roman settlements and field systems now best observed by aerial photography. To the north a number of prehistoric ditches have been recorded along with Middle Bronze Age occupation (Bray et al 2012). Also to the north and through the centre of the village runs the Roman road of Ermine Street from Silchester to Cirencester via Wanborough.. Roman deposits have been recorded where the M4 crosses Ermine Street. Various finds of Roman pottery are recorded from the general area of the site along with some Saxon pottery and a buckle.

## **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 are;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if any prehistoric occupation or landscape deposits are present on the site
- d) determine if any Roman occupation or landscape deposits are present on the site
- e) To provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed that 8 trenches were to be dug measuring 1.6-1.8m wide and 20m in length covering a 4% sample of the development area and were located to investigate the footprints of the new structures and terracing areas. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° machine or JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically sensitive levels.

## **Results**

The trenches were dug as intended and ranged in length between 19.5-20.0m and in depth between 0.20-0.30m and were 1.90m in width. 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 WSW - ENE and was 19.60m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying natural geology comprised of clay with flints. No finds were recovered.

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

Trench 2 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 19.70m long and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil overlying natural geology comprised of chalk and clay. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 20.0m long and 0.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 19.50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural chalk and clay with flints geology . No finds were recovered.

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

Trench 5 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 19.50m long and 0.24m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology. A possible posthole was located at the western end of the trench but upon investigation it was considered to be a natural patch of clay in the chalk. No finds were recovered.

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

Trench 6 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 19.65m long and 0.24m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying natural clay with flints geology. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 7 was aligned SW - NE and was 19.90m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig 3)

Trench 8 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 19.50m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying natural chalk geology. No finds were recovered.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the site being located in the archaeologically rich area of the Berkshire/Wiltshire downs no archaeological features were found or finds recovered. The site is considered to have a low archaeological potential.

## References

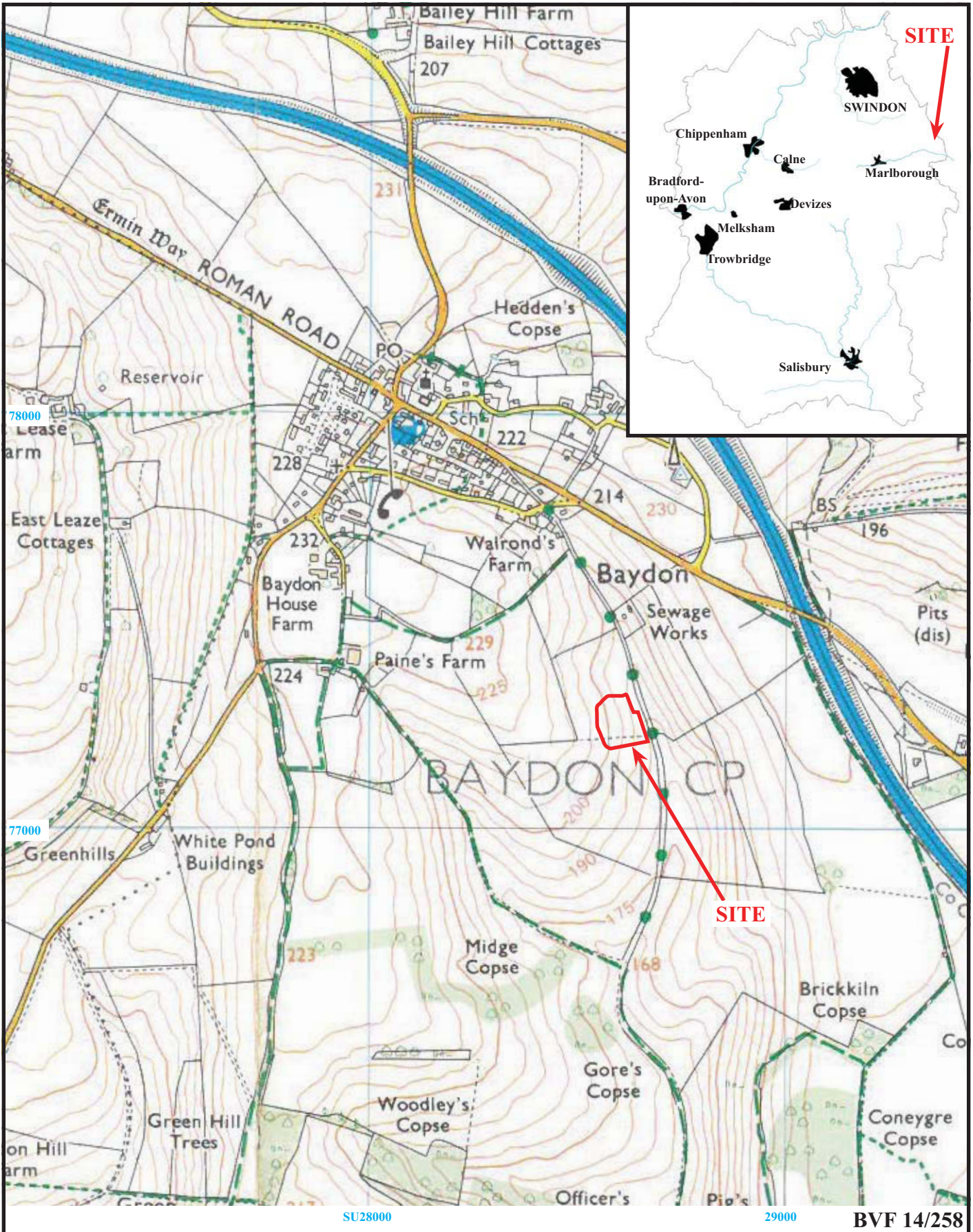
- BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Gaffney, V and Tingle, M, 1989, *The Maddle Farm Project, an Integrated Survey of Prehistoric and Roman Landscapes on the Berkshire Downs*, BAR Brit Ser **200**, Oxford
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Richards, J C, 1978, *The Archaeology of the Berkshire Downs*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn **3**, Reading

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	19.60	1.90	0.30	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ clay with flints (natural geology). <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	19.70	1.90	0.29	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ chalk and clay with flints (natural geology). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
3	20.0	1.90	0.20	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m+ chalk (natural geology).
4	19.50	1.90	0.30	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ chalk and clay with flints (natural geology).
5	19.50	1.90	0.24	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ chalk (natural geology). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
6	19.65	1.90	0.24	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24m+ clay with flints (natural geology). <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
7	19.90	1.90	0.30	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ chalk (natural geology).
8	19.50	1.90	0.25	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ chalk (natural geology).

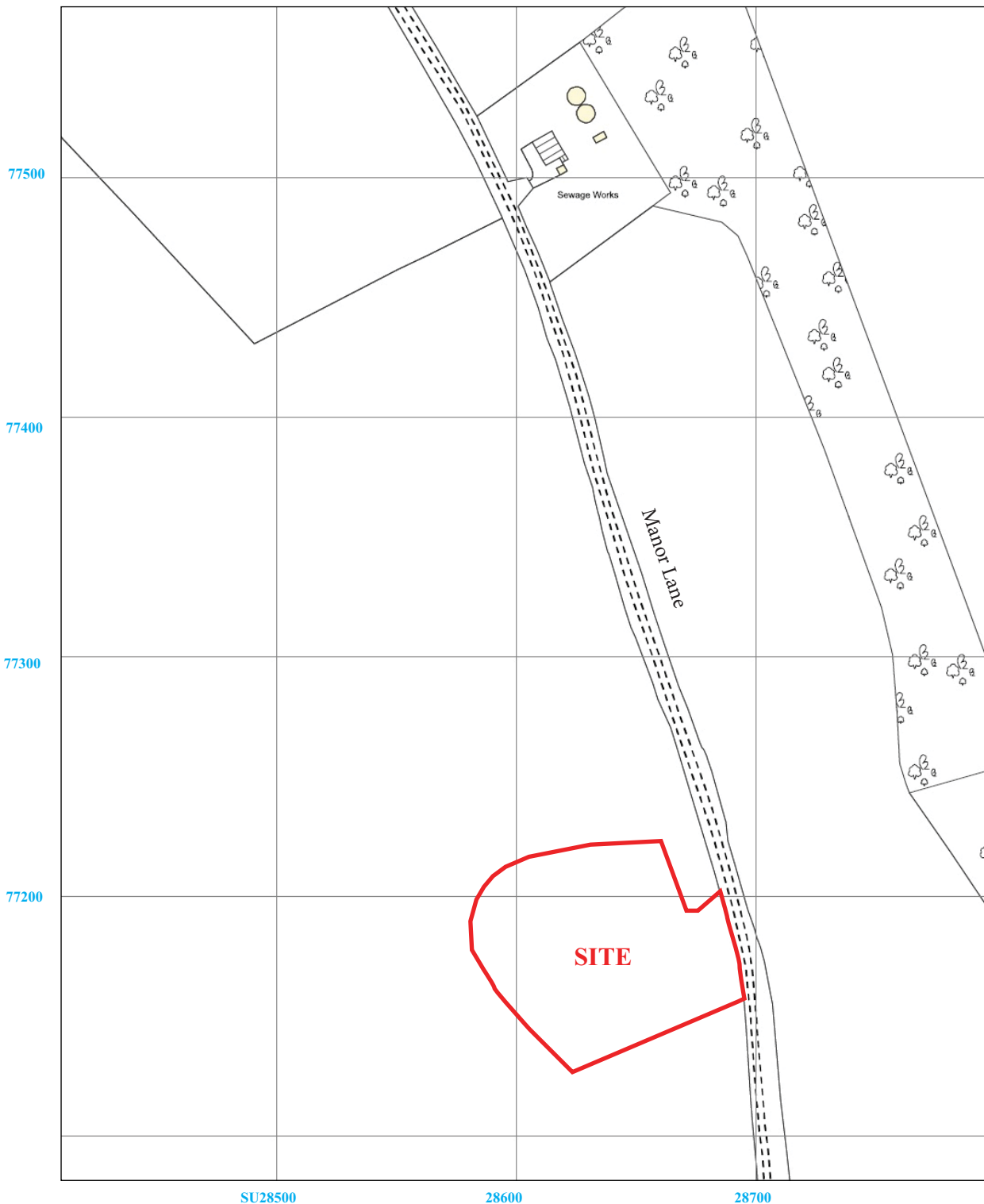




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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Baydon and within Wiltshire.

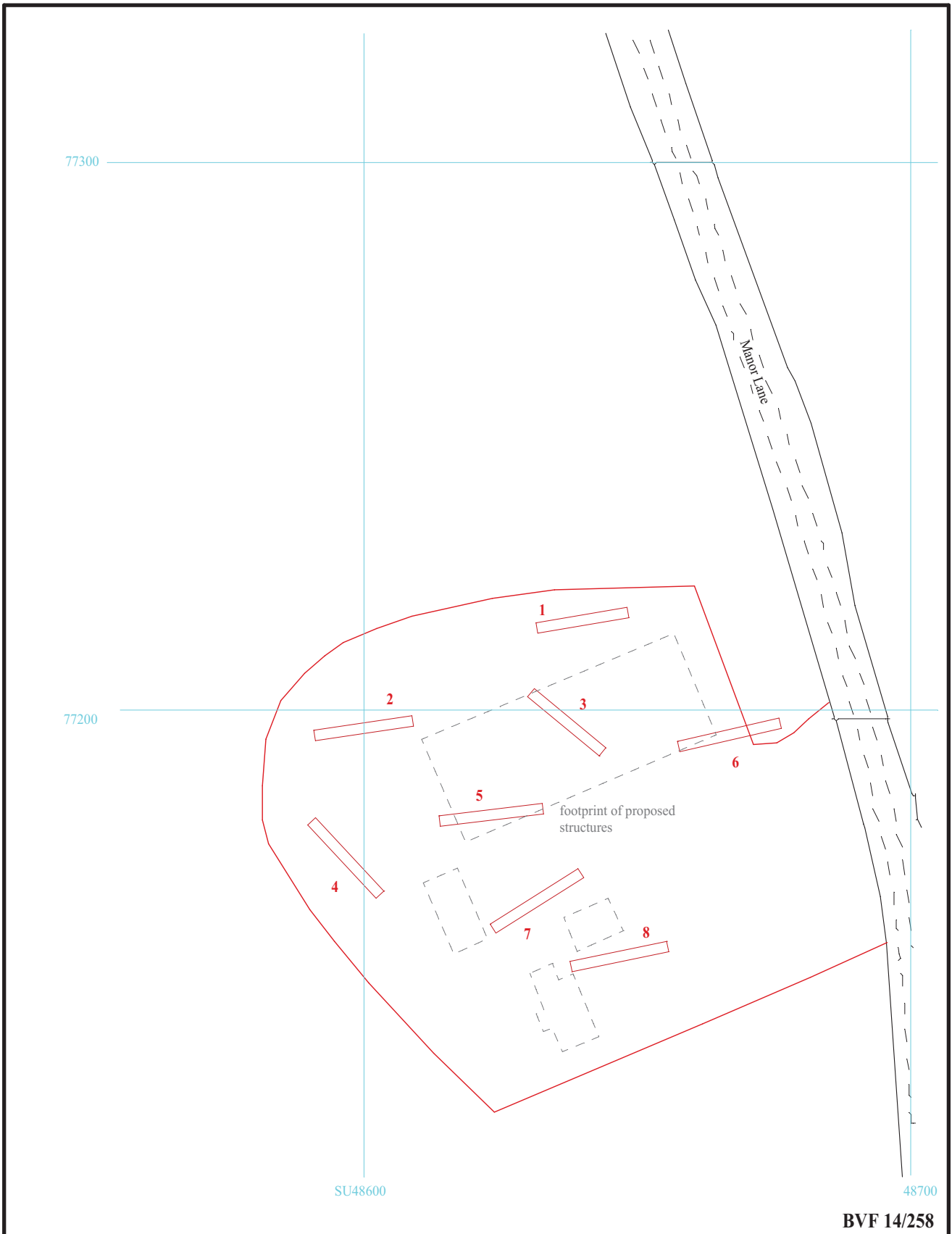
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.





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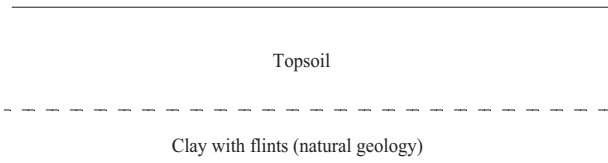
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

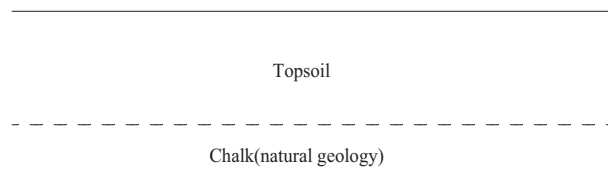


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**Trench 1**



**Trench 7**



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.

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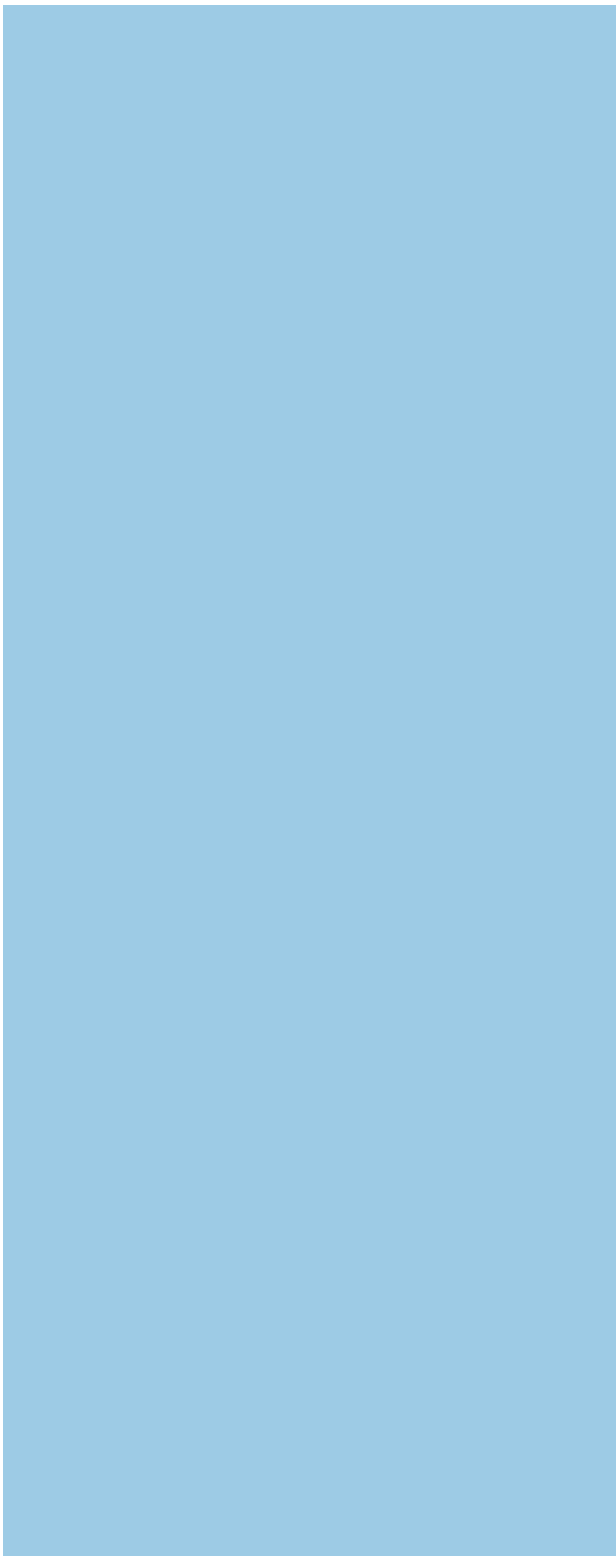
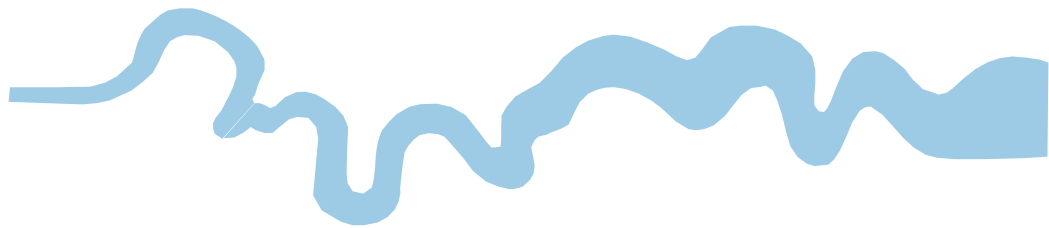
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Plates 3-4.

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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