

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Montague School, Buckhurst Farm,
London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire,**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: BFW12/166

(SU 8300 6850)

Montague School, Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Recording Action

For CgMs Consulting

by Andy Taylor and Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFW 12/166

April 2015

Summary

Site name: Montague School, Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8300 6850

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 16th-18th March 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: BFW 12/166

Area of site: 0.197ha

Summary of results: A gully of unknown date was identified during the fieldwork.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 22.04.15 Steve Preston ✓ 22.04.15

Montague School, Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Andy Taylor

Report 12/166b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Montague School, Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8300 6850) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Chadwick, of CgMs Consulting, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN on behalf of David Wilson Homes.

Planning consent has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council to construct a school playing field on the site and was subject to a condition relating to archaeology.

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 Kathelen Leary of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Dan Strachan between the 16th and 18th March 2015 and the site code is BFW 12/166.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 2.5km east of Wokingham town centre. The A329 (London Road) forms the northern boundary of the Montague Park development and the London Waterloo-Reading railway line marks the southern extent; the playing fields are located adjacent to the railway (Figs 1 and 2). The ground slopes slightly from north to south and the underlying geology is recorded as London Clay (BGS 1981). This geology was observed but gravel, sand and silt outcrops were also observed. The site lies at a height of *c.* 73m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a specification provided by CgMs Consulting for the earlier evaluation of the site (Dicks 2012). In summary, the site lies on the London Clay land of East Berkshire, which is a geological outcrop not noted for an extensive and dense archaeological heritage (Ford 1987). Nevertheless more recent field survey has provided more detail and shown the presence and scale of

occupation during the Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods. An earlier evaluation on the site identified a small area containing medieval pits to the north, several sherds of Roman pottery and undated and post-medieval linear features (Bray 2012). One of the latter boundary features was expected to be revealed within the proposal site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the Recording Action was;

To excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the area threatened by the proposed development.

Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.

Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic etc.

Produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the area.

Specific research objectives were;

What is the date, nature and extent of any archaeological deposits on the site?

Are there additional archaeological deposits of the same or other dates present on the site?

The footprint of the new school playing field was to be examined. This was to be stripped of topsoil and overburden by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket and was to be done under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The excavation revealed a single gully an extension of which had probably been identified in the 2012 evaluation (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 2 and 3; trench 48). This was aligned approximately North West-South East and terminated at its north western end. It had four slots (22-25) dug into which revealed it to be between 0.66m and 0.78m wide and between 0.07m and 0.14m deep. No finds were produced from its pale orange grey silty clay fill.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered during the recording action.

Conclusion

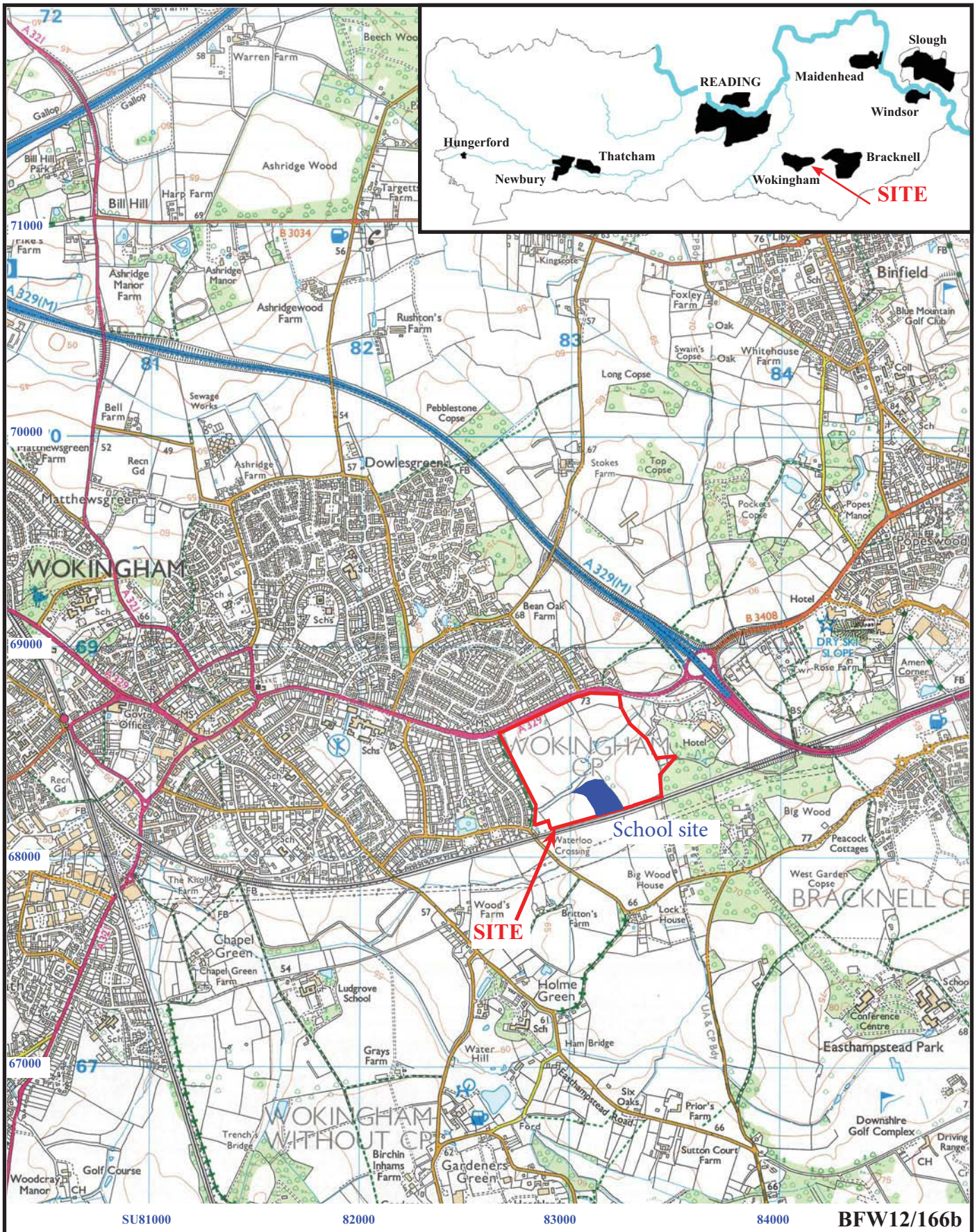
The recording action only revealed the further extent of a linear feature previously identified during the 2012 evaluation. This terminated at its north western end and continued outside the excavation area. No further deposits were observed and it is likely that this represents part of an undated boundary feature. However, in view of nearby evidence for Roman activity, a similar date is tentatively suggested.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Bray, D, 2012, Buckhurst Farm, London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 12/166, Reading
- Dicks, S, 2012 'Buckhurst Farm, London Road, Wokingham, Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching', CgMs Consulting, London
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- Ford, S, 1992, 'Buckhurst Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire, archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 92/09, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Catalogue of Excavated Features

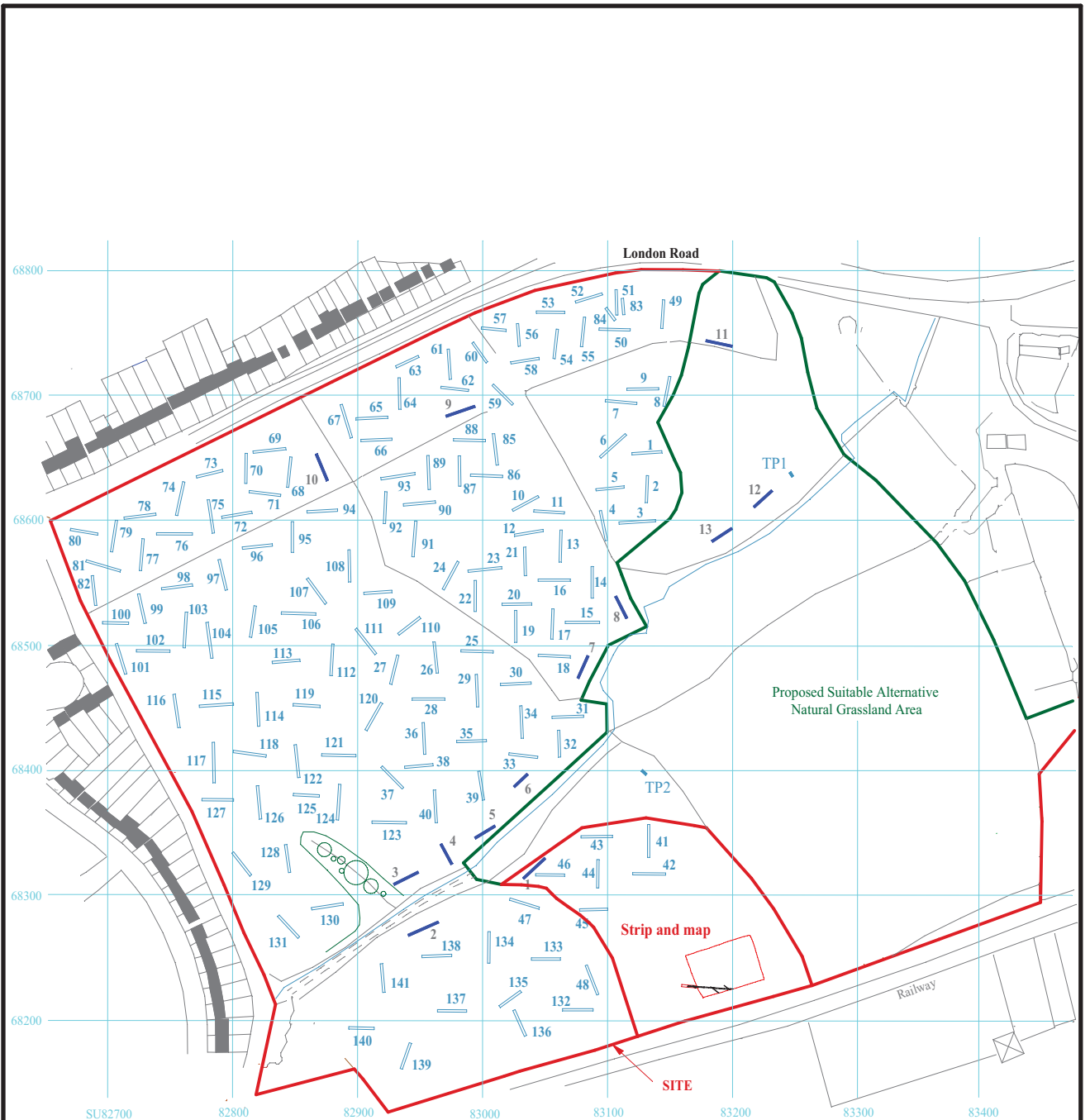
<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Date</i>
22	80	Gully	Unknown
23	81	Gully	Unknown
24	82	Gully	Unknown
25	83	Gully	Unknown



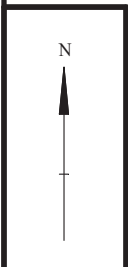
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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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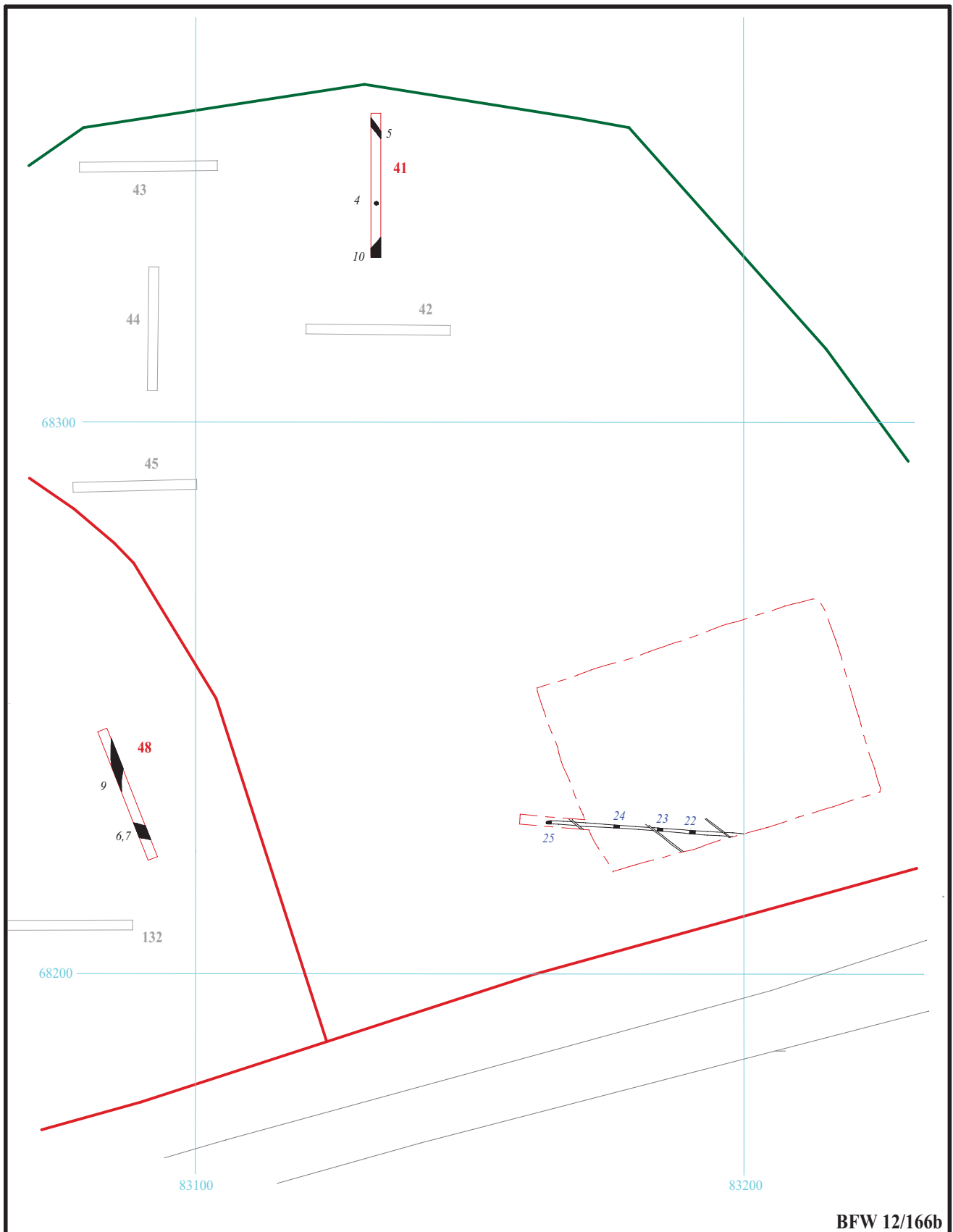


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Figure 2. Location of area, against previous trenching.

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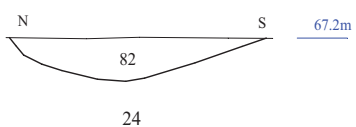
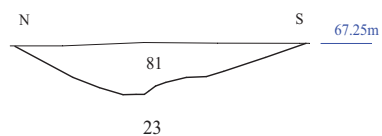
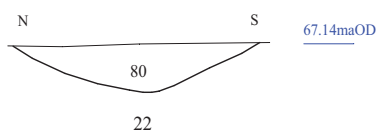
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Figure 3. Location of features in stripped area and features in nearby evaluation trenches.



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Figure 4. Sections.



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Plate 1. Stripped area, looking south west.



Plate 2. Gully slot 23, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 3. Gully slot 24, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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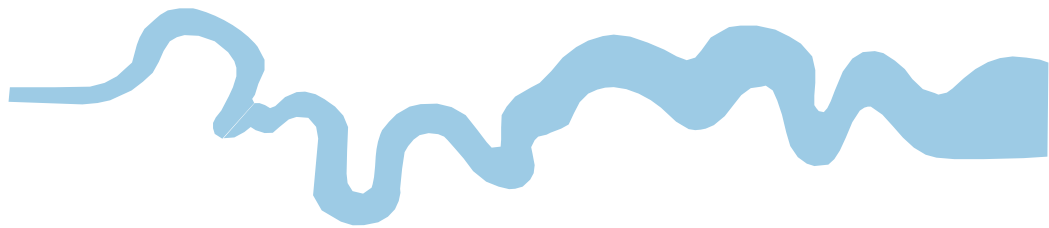
Plates 1 - 3.

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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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