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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Datcha, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green,  
Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire**

**Archaeological Recording Action**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: KLB15/88**

**(SP 8256 0040)**

**Datcha, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Princes  
Risborough, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr G. Putnam**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KLB 15/88

**April 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Datcha, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

**Grid reference:** SP 8256 0040

**Site activity:** Recording Action

**Date and duration of project:** 13th April 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** KLB 15/88

**Area of site:** 184 sq m

**Summary of results:** Two modern pits and a modern linear feature were revealed in the area under observation, including large amounts of root disturbance. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum Service 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 ✓ 21.04.15 Steve Preston ✓ 21.04.15
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# **Datcha, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire**

## **An Archaeological Recording Action**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

**Report 15/88**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire (SP 8256 0040) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jake Collinge of Jake Collinge Planning Consultancy, 5 Buttermarket, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 3EW on behalf of Mr G. Putnam, Datcha, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, Buckinghamshire, HP27 0PT.

Planning permission (14/06755/FUL) has been granted by Wycombe District Council for the demolition of the existing house and the construction of a single detached house with associated parking (Fig. 1). The consent is subject to a condition (12) relating to archaeology which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, in this case a recording action prior to groundworks taking place.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the local planning authority as advised by Ms Eliza Alqassar of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 13th April 2015 and the site code is KLB 15/88.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum Service in due course.

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the northern side of Kiln Lane which runs eastwards from Lacey Green (Fig. 2). Lacey Green itself lies south-east of Princes Risborough. The land was previously occupied by an older house, sheds and other outbuildings as well as being covered with overgrowth, all of which had been demolished and removed before archaeological work commenced. The underlying geology is described as clay with flints (BGS 1990) which was observed on site. The site lies at 53.7m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location adjacent to the course of Grim's Ditch, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM no 35334) consisting of a prehistoric (probably Iron Age) earthwork. This has been traced from Bradenham to the west, to Berkhamsted to the east. The section in evidence at Lacey Green has both the ditch and bank relatively well preserved (Fig. 1).

Several archaeological investigations have been carried out in Lacey Green, which examined the path of Grim's Ditch. Geophysical survey to the south produced a number of anomalies (NA 1998) which were interpreted as a 6m wide ditch with traces of the bank to the north. An archaeological evaluation between Kiln Lodge and Kiln Barn, 100m to the north of the site (NA 2003) revealed a ditch over 3.5m deep, and possibly the remains of the associated bank. Samples taken from the ditch revealed abundant and well preserved pollen. A watching brief at Highwood, Lacey Green (NA 1999) concluded that the apparent gap through the heart of Lacey Green may possibly be due to quarrying by brick makers. A further watching brief at Kiln Lodge produced negative results (ASC 2003). An archaeological evaluation to the southwest of the site (Hammond 2004) also did not reveal any archaeological features.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development, produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site and establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

Specific research objectives for the project include:

To determine when the site was first utilised and when was it abandoned;

To determine the nature of any occupation on the site and how this changed through time, and if its use is continuous or discontinuous; and

To determine if deposits representing Iron Age occupation are present on the site.

The site comprised a single parcel of land from which topsoil and overburden were to be removed under constant archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and all archaeological features identified were to be further investigated by hand.

## Results

The site was stripped of overburden from an area measuring 16m by 11.5m (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy comprised up to 0.30m of topsoil and made ground in the south-west corner of the strip down to natural geology which consisted of clay with flints. Although the natural geology was revealed to have sustained heavy root disturbance a small number of archaeological features were identified.

Pit 1 measured 0.91m in diameter and was 0.15m deep and filled with grey silty clay (52) from which was fragments of blue and white late post-medieval pottery were recovered.

Pit 2 measured 1.00m in diameter and was 0.12m deep and filled with grey silty clay (53) from which was fragments of blue and white pottery and slate were recovered.

A short gully measuring 4m in length had two slots dug (3 and 4) and measured 0.5m wide and was up to 0.20m deep, it was filled with a dark grey silty clay (54, 55) from which pottery, brick or tile, slate and fragments of ceramic drain pipe were recovered.

## Finds

A small number of 19th or 20th century finds were recovered during the excavation and were retained on site.

## Conclusion

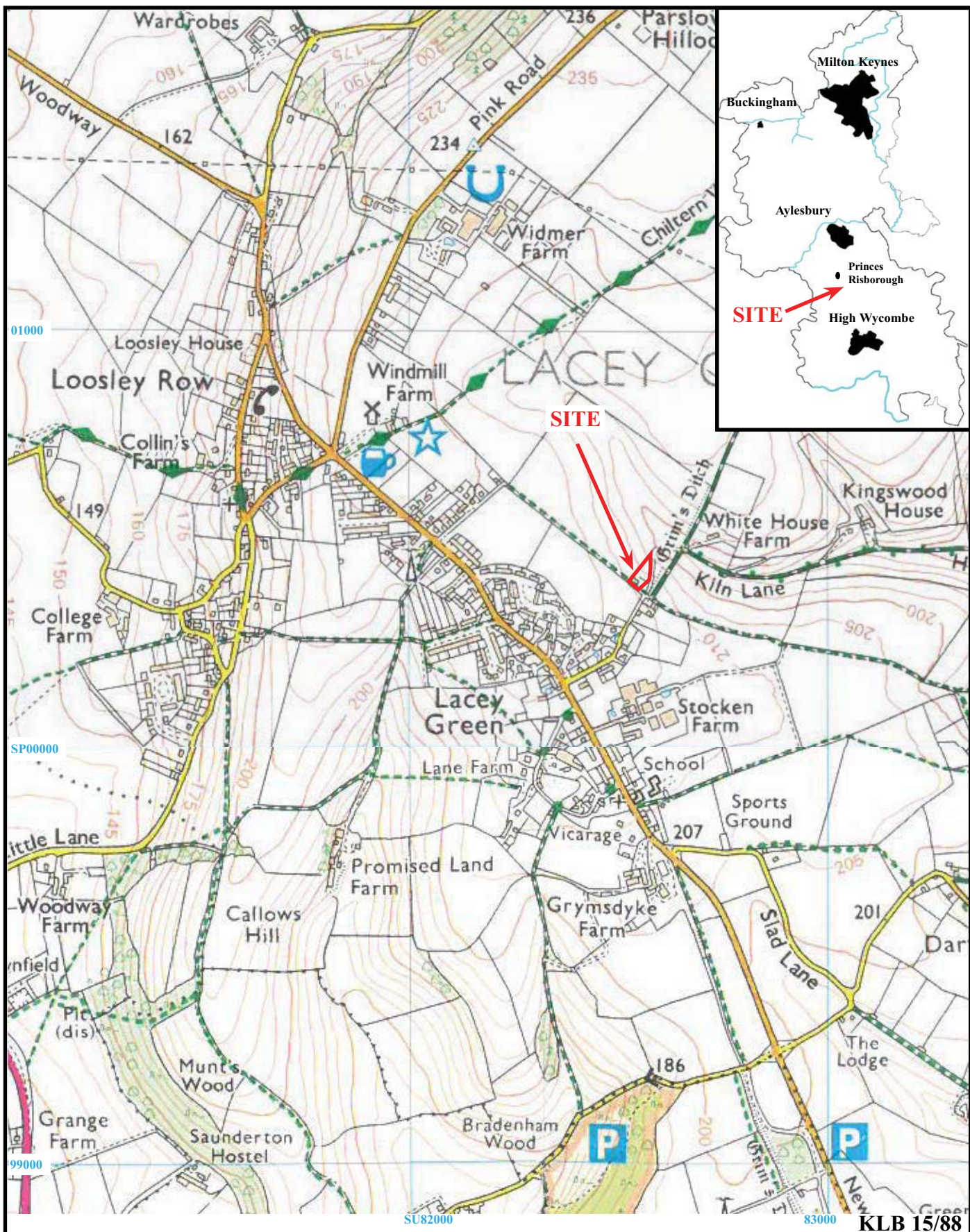
The recording action revealed an area of ground disturbed a little from previous tree growth, with only a thin layer of topsoil and no subsoil overlying the natural geology. This did reveal a number of buried features however these were all revealed to be of relatively recent date and of no archaeological interest. No evidence of finds or deposits relating to the adjacent Grim's Ditch were found.

## References

- ASC 2003, 'Kiln Lodge, Kiln Lane, Lacey Green, An archaeological watching brief', Archaeological Services and Consultancy, Milton Keynes
- BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hammond, S, 2004, 'Stocken Farm, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, An Archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **04/57**, Reading
- NA,1998, 'Grim's Ditch. Archaeological and Management Survey. Phase II', Network Archaeology, Buckingham
- NA, 1999, 'Highwood, Lacey Green, An archaeological watching brief', Network Archaeology, Buckingham
- NA, 2003, 'Land between Kiln Lodge and Kiln Barn, Lacey Green, An archaeological evaluation', Network Archaeology, Buckingham
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

**APPENDIX 1: Feature details**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Pit	Modern	Pottery
2	53	Pit	Modern	Pottery
3	54	Gully	Modern	Pottery
4	55	Gully	Modern	Pottery



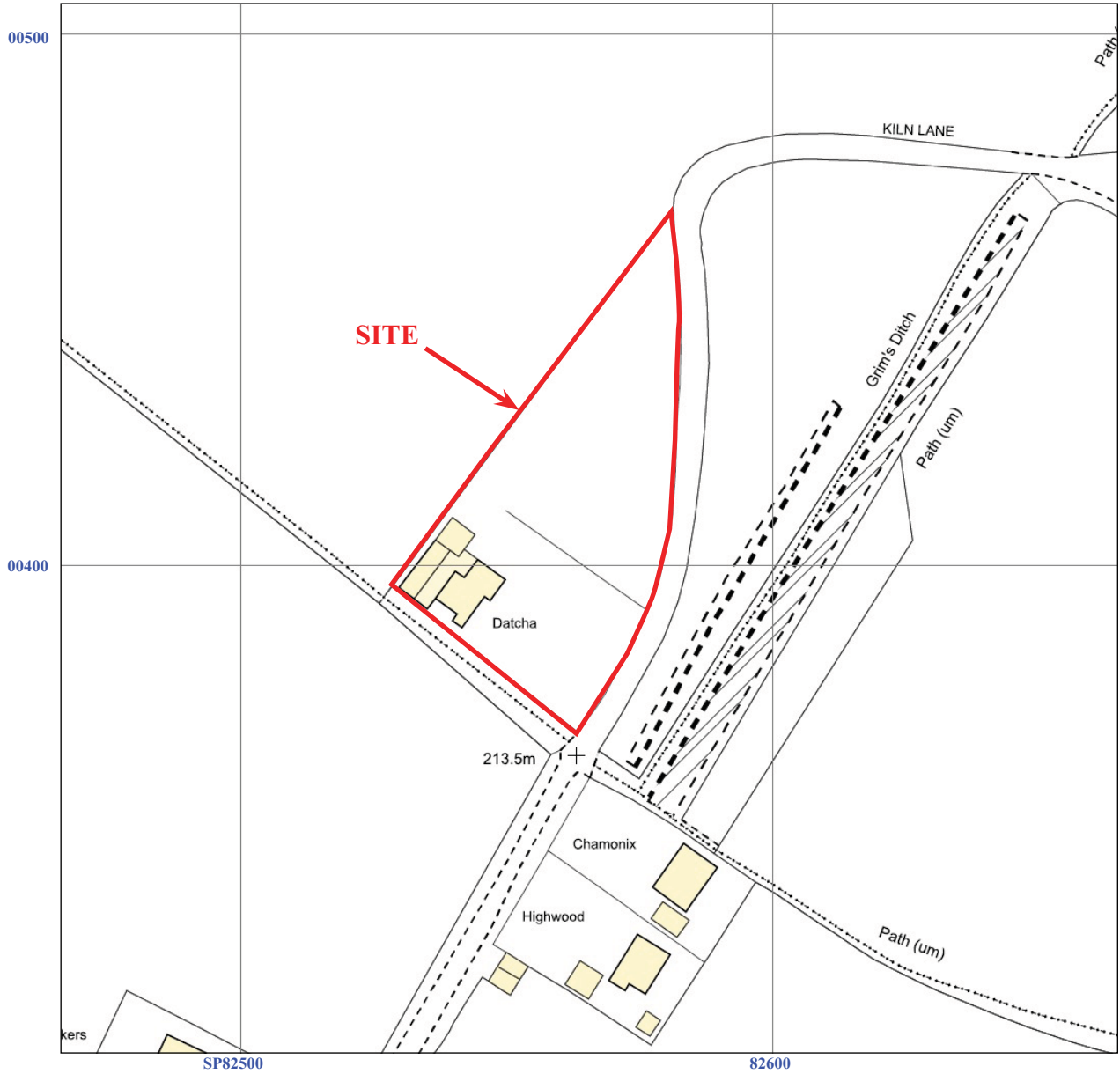
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Figure 1. Location of site within Lacey Green and Buckinghamshire.

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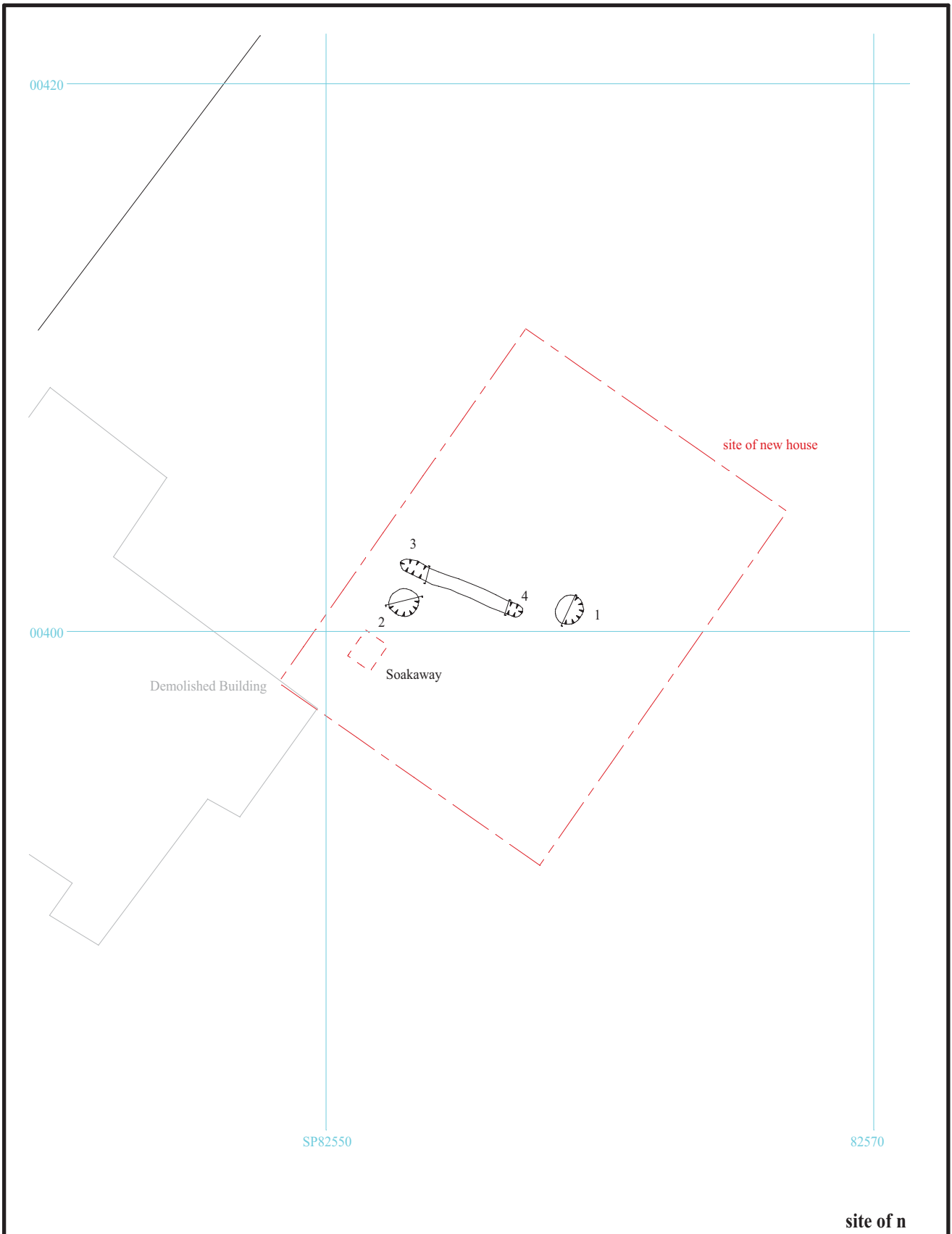


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Kiln Lane.

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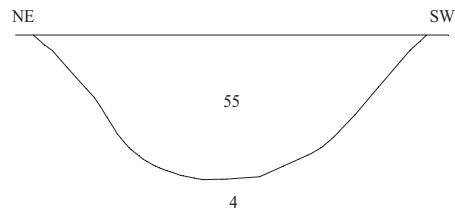
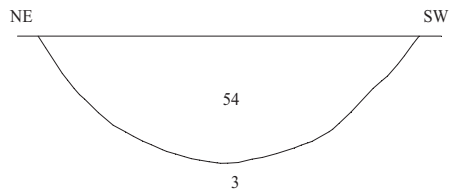
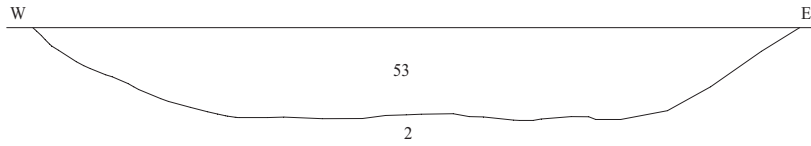
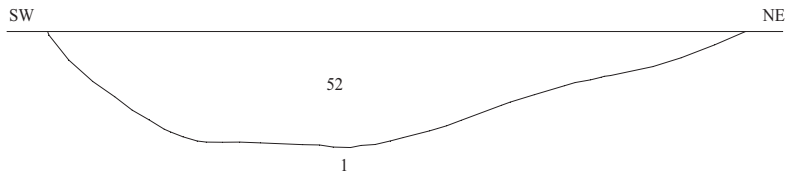
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Figure 3. Plan of observed area.



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Figure 4. Sections



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Plate 1. Stripped area, looking south west.



Plate 2. Pit 2, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 3. Terminus slot 3, looking south east,  
Scales: 0.2m and 0.1m.

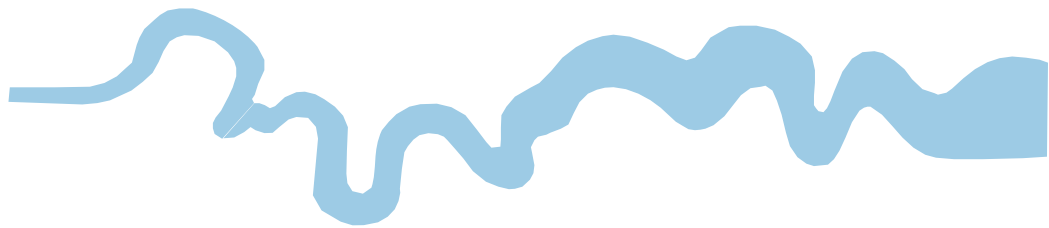
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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