THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Eustace Crescent, Wokingham, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Tim Dawson and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: ECW15/33

(SU 8100 6970)

Eustace Crescent, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Wokingham Housing

by Tim Dawson &

James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ECW 15/33

May 2015

Summary

Site name: Eustace Crescent, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8100 6970

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th - 22nd May 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: ECW 15/33

Area of site: 1.3ha

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified and 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 an appropriately designated Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.05.15
	Steve Preston✓ 29.05.15

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Eustace Crescent, Wokingham, Berkshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Tim Dawson and James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 15/33

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Eustace Crescent, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8100 6970) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Phillip Roberts of Ridge and Partners LLP, Beaumont House, 59 High Street, Theale, Reading, RG7 5AL on behalf of Wokingham Housing.

Planning consent (F/2014/1612) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the demolition of 70 existing affordable flats and maisonettes and the erection of 68 affordable houses and flats with associated car parking and amenity space. The consent includes two condition (19 and 24) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a single component of field evaluation by means of machine trenching is proposed at this stage.

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 Ellie Leary, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and James McNicoll-Norbury and the site code is ECW 15/33. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriately designated museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located off Eustace Crescent in the northern part of Wokingham, Berkshire (Fig. 2). The site was generally flat and was previously occupied by houses (since demolished) and associated roads, gardens and services. The underlying geology is described as London Clay with head deposits identified in the vicinity (BGS 1981), the natural observed trenches was revealed to be a mix of both clays and gravels and the site lies at 58.34m Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is derived from its location in an area where field survey and subsequent evaluation have revealed a range of findspots and features of archaeological interest. Prehistoric struck flint were discovered and a possible medieval woodland boundary recorded by field survey (Ford 1987). A ditch of 3rd-4th century date together with another ditch and two gullies of possible Roman date were found during the first phase of evaluation at Kentwood Farm c.50m to the north of the proposal site (Taylor 2010). A second phase recorded four post-medieval gullies and a ditch and a fragment of glass bead of Iron Age date recovered from the surface of the field (Taylor 2012). Possible but undated archaeological features were recorded on a pipeline at Ashridge Farm just to the north (Strachan 2015).

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 Roman deposits are present .

d) To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Ten trenches measuring 25m in length and 1.6-2.0m wide were to be dug on the site equalling a 3% sample of the entire site in locations thought to have been previously less disturbed by the construction of the previous buildings. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket however a toothed bucket would be allowed to clear modern made ground deposits and was to be monitored at all times by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Results

The trenches were dug as intended and measured between 24.7 and 25.1m in length and in depth from 0.67-1.14m. 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 25.0m long and 0.67m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.38m grey brown silty subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Trench 2-10 (Figs 3 and 4, Pl 2-6)

Trench 2-10 measured between 24.7m to 25.1m and were up to 1.14m deep. The stratigraphy general comprised up to 0.81m of demolition rubble from the previous houses on the site and made ground deposits overlaying a dark grey sandy clay deposit up to which contained modern inclusions which in turn overlay natural geology consisting of either clays or gravels. No archaeological deposits were identified and service pipes/cables were found within all stratigraphic deposits.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the site and all modern finds were retained on site.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed that whilst the natural geology appeared to be relatively undisturbed on the site despite the former presence of houses and it's associated services. The area around Trench 1 was shown to still contain relatively undisturbed subsoil whereas across the rest of the development area truncations associated with the services of the previous development were clearly present. The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

Ford, S, 1987, East Berkshire Archaeological Survey, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

Taylor, A, 2010, Kentwood Farm, Warren House Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 10/95, Reading

Taylor, A, 2012, 'Kentwood Farm, Warren House Road , Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation (Phase 2)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 10/95, Reading

Strachan, D, 2015, 'Kentwood Farm Sewer Connection, Ashridge Farm, Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological recording action', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 15/62, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, W, SE or SW end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	25.0	1.6	0.67	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.58m grey brown sand with some gravel subsoil; 0.58m+ gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 1]**
2	25.0	1.6	1.10	0-0.39m demolition rubble; 0.39-0.81m made ground;; 0.81-0.97m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 0.97m+ yellow brown sandy clay and gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 2]**
3	25.0	1.6	0.80	0-0.15m Tarmac and hoggin; 0.15-0.35m made ground; 0.35-0.67m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 0.67m+ gravel natural geology.
4	25.0	1.6	1.00	0-0.28m demolition rubble; 0.28-0.45m made ground; 0.45-0.84m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 0.84m+ orange clay natural geology.
5	25.1	1.6	1.14	0-0.36m demolition rubble; 0.36-0.53m made ground; 0.53-1.06 dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 1.06m+ yellow brown sandy clay with gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 3]**
6	25.1	1.6	1.10	0-0.29m demolition rubble; 0.29-0.49m made ground; 0.49-1.02m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions and services; 1.02m+ yellow brown sandy clay natural geology. **[Pl. 4]**
7	24.9	1.6	1.10	0-0.67m made ground; 0.67-1.04m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 1.04m+ yellow brown sandy clays and gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 5]**
8	25.1	1.6	1.06	0-0.43m made ground; 0.43-0.98m dark grey silty clay with modern inclusions; 0.98m+ yellow brown sandy clay natural geology.
9	0.7	1.6	0.90	0-0.20m concrete and hardcore; 0.20-0.46m grey silty clay; 0.46-0.81 grey black gravels with modern inclusions; 0.81m+ gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 6]**
10	24.8	1.6	1.02	0-0.47m made ground; 0.47-0.96m dark grey sandy silt with modern inclusions; 0.96m+ orange brown sandy clay natural geology.

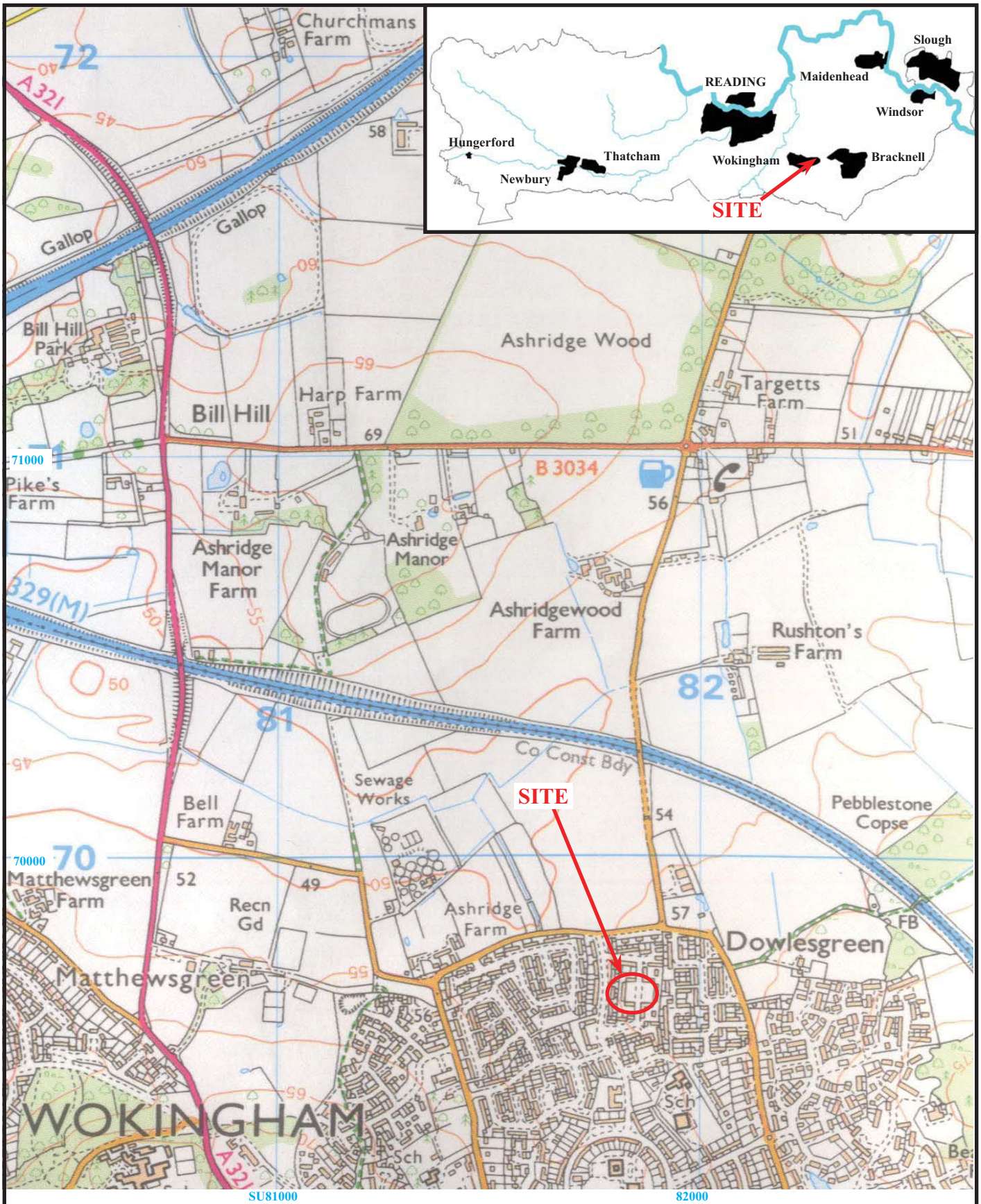

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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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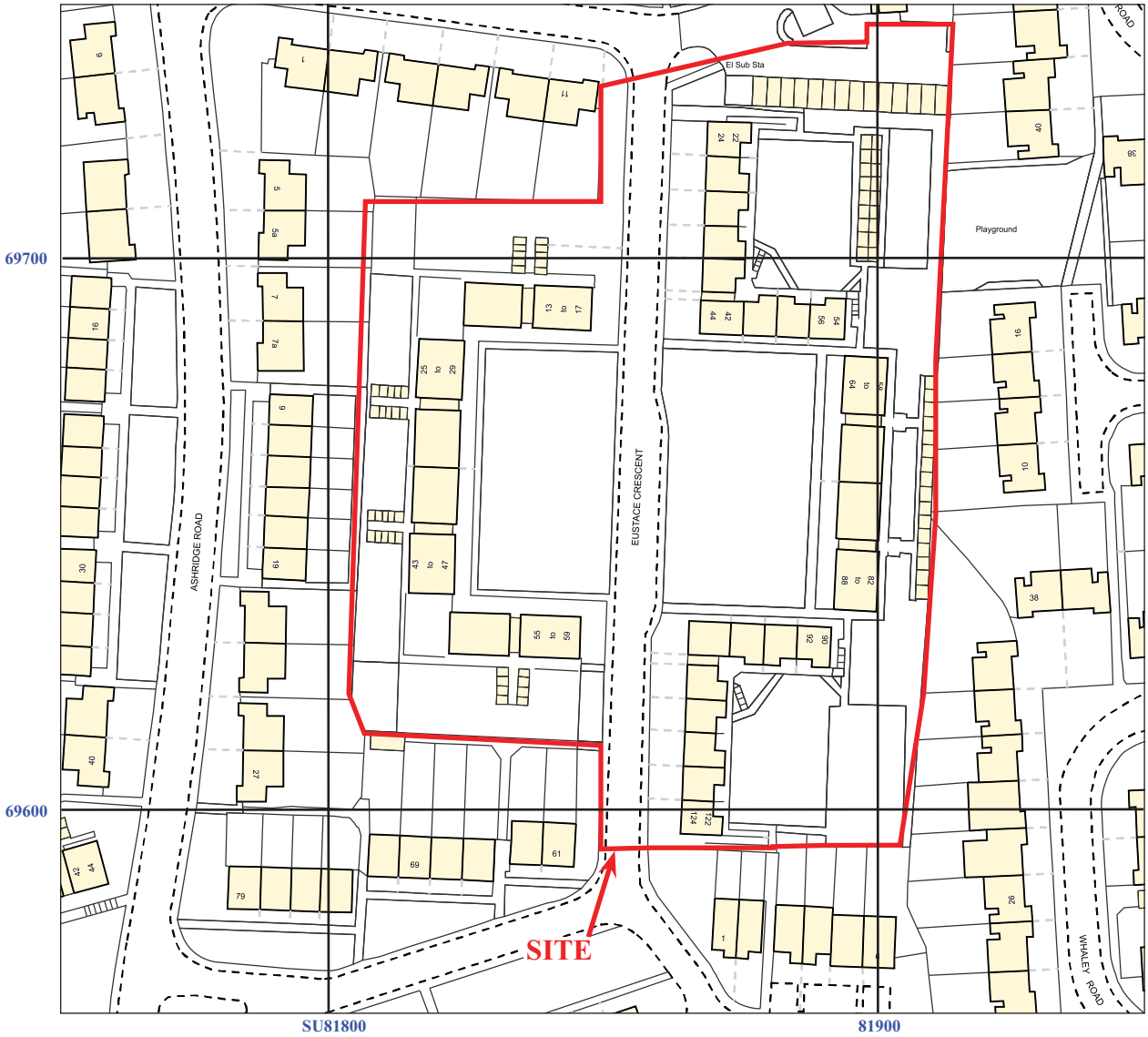

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Eustace Crescent

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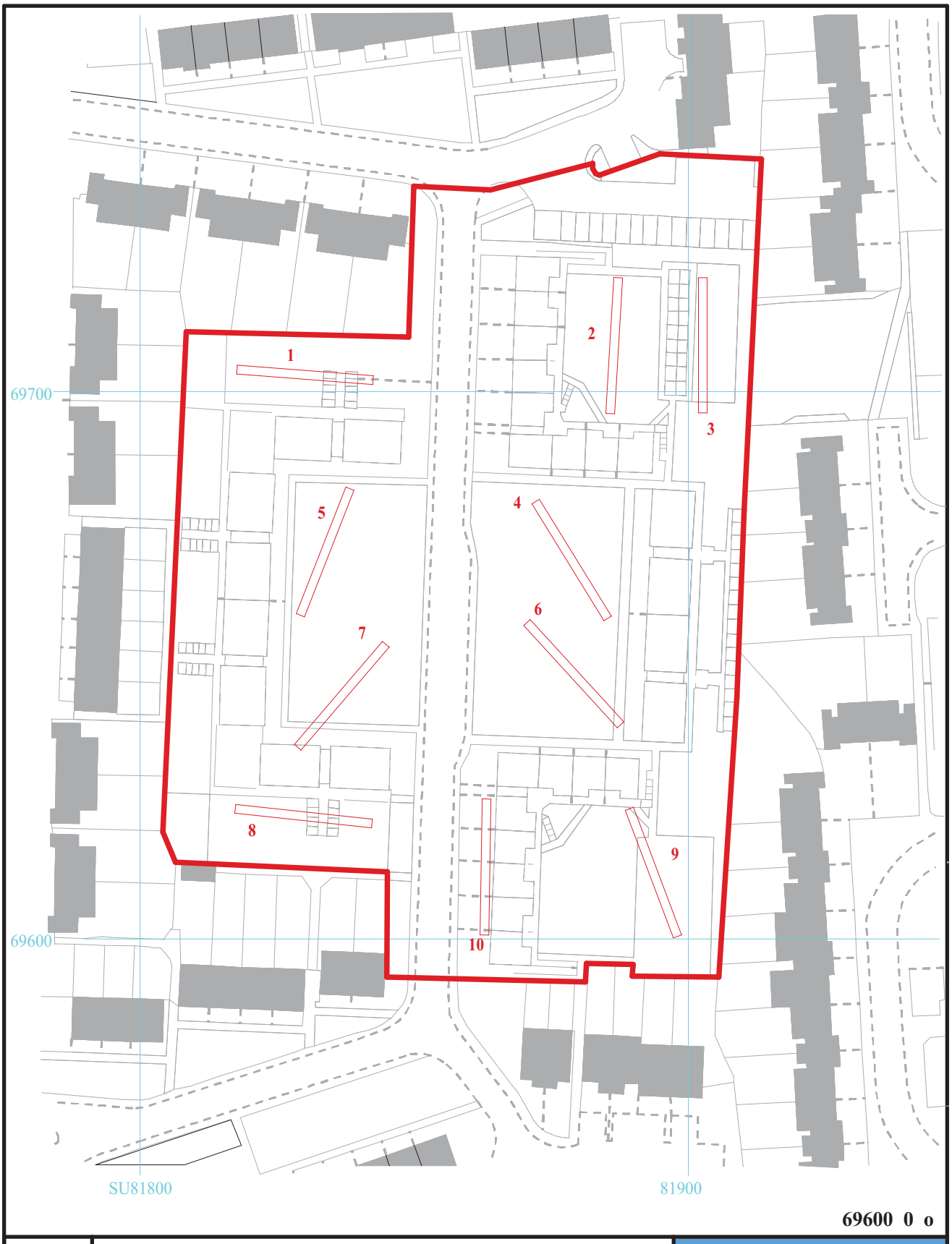

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Figure 3. Trench Locations

0 50m

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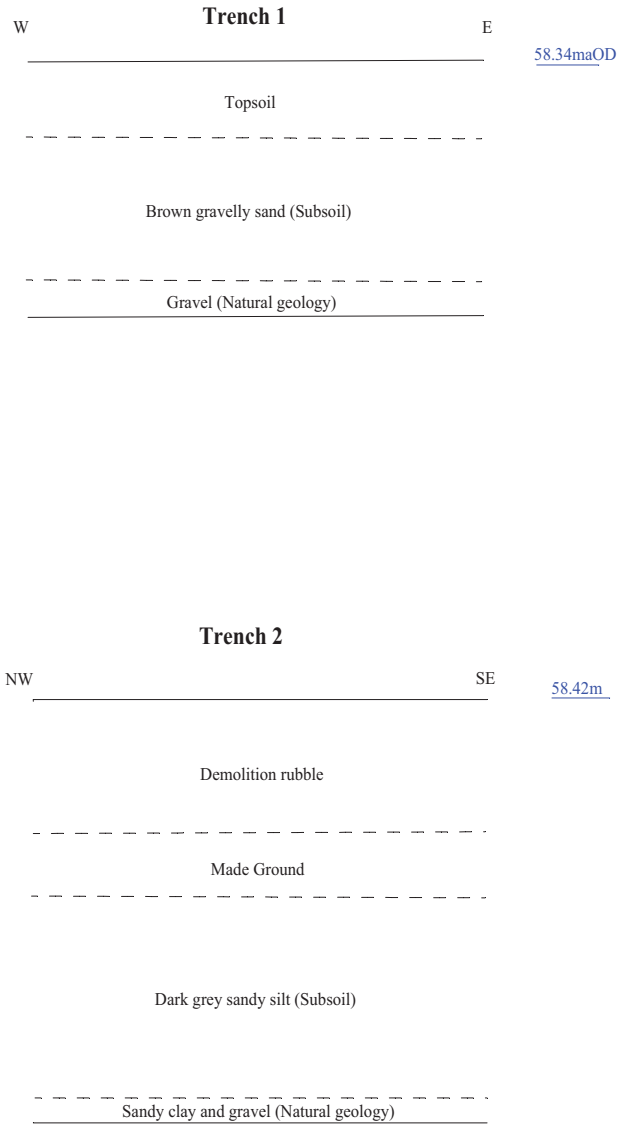

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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

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

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking North East, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

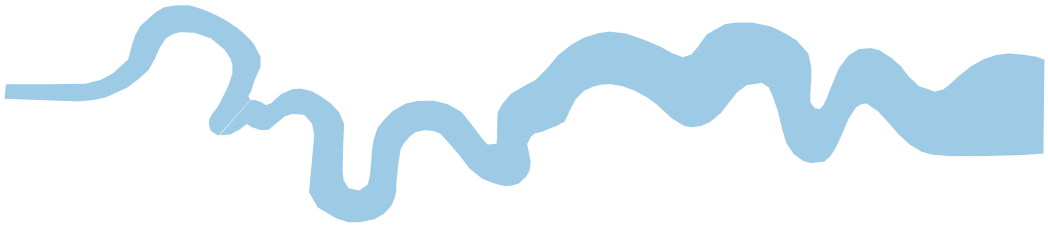
Plate 4. Trench 6, looking North West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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

Plate 6. Trench 9, looking North West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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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