

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land east of The Drive,  
Enstone, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: DEO15/44**

**(SP 3770 2467)**

# **Land East of The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Paul Baker**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DEO15/44

**October 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land east of The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SP 3770 2467

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 21st - 22nd September 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** DEO15/44

**Area of site:** 1.48ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museums 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 ✓ 06.10.15 Steve Preston ✓ 05.10.15
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# Land east of The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

**Report 15/44c**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Wells, The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire OX7 4NF (SP 3770 2467) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon Joyce, Strutt and Parker LLP, 269 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 7LL on behalf of Mr Paul Baker, The Wells The Drive, Enstone, OX7 4NF.

An outline planning consent (15/01937/OUT) has been made to West Oxfordshire District Council for residential development in the western half of an irregular plot of land to the east of The Drive, Enstone. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested by the county archaeological officer. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's Local Plan policies. Further fieldwork may be required if significant archaeological deposits are encountered.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader, Oxfordshire County Council and based on a brief provided by him (Coddington 2015).

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and William Attard between 21st and 22nd September 2015 and the site code is DEO15/44. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the northern extent of Enstone and 6.5km to the south east of Chipping Norton (Fig. 1). The site comprises of an irregular parcel of land bordered to the west by The Drive, to the south by The Wells and the north and east by fields. The underlying geology is mapped as clay, Clypeus Grit and Chipping Norton Limestone (BGS 1968) and all these geologies were observed in the trenches. The land slopes downwards from 134m above Ordnance Datum in the west to 126m aOD in the east.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2015) and a desk-based assessment (Ruttle 2015). In summary the site lies in an area with relatively few known prehistoric or Roman sites or finds but near a medieval church and village. Very few archaeological investigations have taken place in the environs. Most previously recorded sites in the study area are stray find spots or listed buildings. A geophysical (Dawson *et al.* 2015) identified some possible linear features. The site lies adjacent to a former pleasure gardens known as the Enstone Marvels dating from the 17th century, possibly with elements lying within the proposal site.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was carried out in a manner which did not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warranted preservation in-situ, or might have better been excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and

to determine the nature and date of the geophysical anomalies.

Eleven trenches were to be dug, 20m long and 1.6m wide. The trenches were located partly to target the results of the previous geophysical survey. These were dug using a JCB type excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

## **Results**

The trenches, with the exception of trench 1, were dug as intended (Fig. 2; Pl. 1). Trench 1 was moved due to the presence of a wooden fence in the proposed area; this was changed after consultation with the monitor. The trenches ranged in length from 17.20m to 20.70m and in depth from 0.27m to 0.55m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned NE - SW and was 20.60m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural pale yellow grey clay geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.30m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying pale yellow grey clay natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned roughly N - S and was 19.80m long and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.14m subsoil overlying mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned roughly N - S and was 20.30m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying pale yellow grey clay natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned NE - SW and was 20.20m long and 0.27m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.13m subsoil overlying a mix of pale yellow grey clay and mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

Trench 6 was aligned NE - SW and was 20.70m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying a mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 7 (Figs 2 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 7 was aligned E - W and was 20.30m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.28m subsoil overlying a mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

Trench 8 was aligned NE - SW and was 17.20m long and 0.41m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil and 0.12m subsoil overlying a mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 9 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 20.70m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.35m subsoil overlying a mid red brown mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 10 (Fig. 2)

Trench 10 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.60m long and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.11m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying a pale yellow grey clay natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

#### Trench 11 (Fig. 2; Pl. 4)

Trench 11 was aligned NNW - SSE and was 20.0m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying a mix of mid red brown silty clay and mudstone natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. On the basis of these results, the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential.

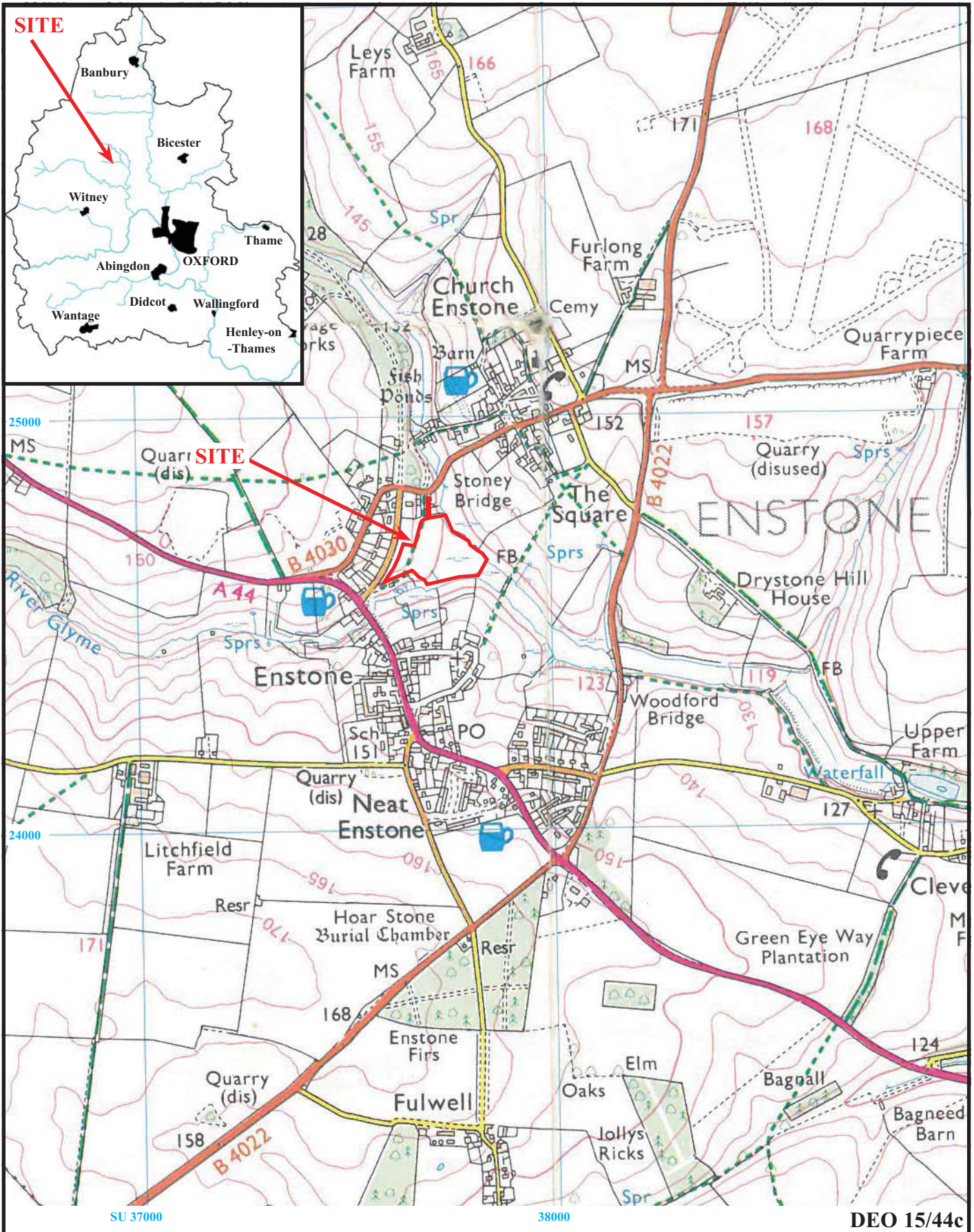
## References

- BGS, 1968, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 218, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coddington, H, 2015, 'Land East of The Drive, Enstone, Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation', Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford
- Dawson, T, Beaverstock, K and Lewins, L, 2015, 'Land East of The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire; a geophysical survey (magnetic)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **15/44b**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Ruttle, E, 2015, 'Land east of The Drive, Enstone, Oxfordshire: An archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **15/44**, Reading



## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.6	1.6	0.3	0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12–0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ pale yellow grey clay natural geology.
2	20.3	1.6	0.46	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23–0.46m subsoil; 0.46m+ pale yellow grey clay natural geology.
3	19.8	1.6	0.29	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15–0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ mid red-brown mudstone natural geology.
4	20.3	1.6	0.35	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ pale yellow grey clay natural geology.
5	20.5	1.6	0.27	0–0.14m topsoil, 0.14–0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ pale yellow grey clay and red-brown mudstone natural geology. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
6	20.7	1.6	0.37	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19–0.37m subsoil; 0.30m+ red-brown mudstone natural geology.
7	20.3	1.6	0.51	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23–0.51m subsoil; 0.51m+ red-brown mudstone natural geology. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
8	17.2	1.6	0.41	0–0.29m topsoil, 0.29–0.41m subsoil; 0.30m+ red-brown mudstone natural geology.
9	20.7	1.6	0.55	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20–0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ red-brown mudstone natural geology. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
10	20.6	1.6	0.29	0–0.11m topsoil, 0.11–0.29m subsoil; 0.29m+ pale yellow grey clay natural geology.
11	20.0	1.6	0.38	0–0.19m topsoil, 0.19–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ red-brown silty clay and mudstone natural geology. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>

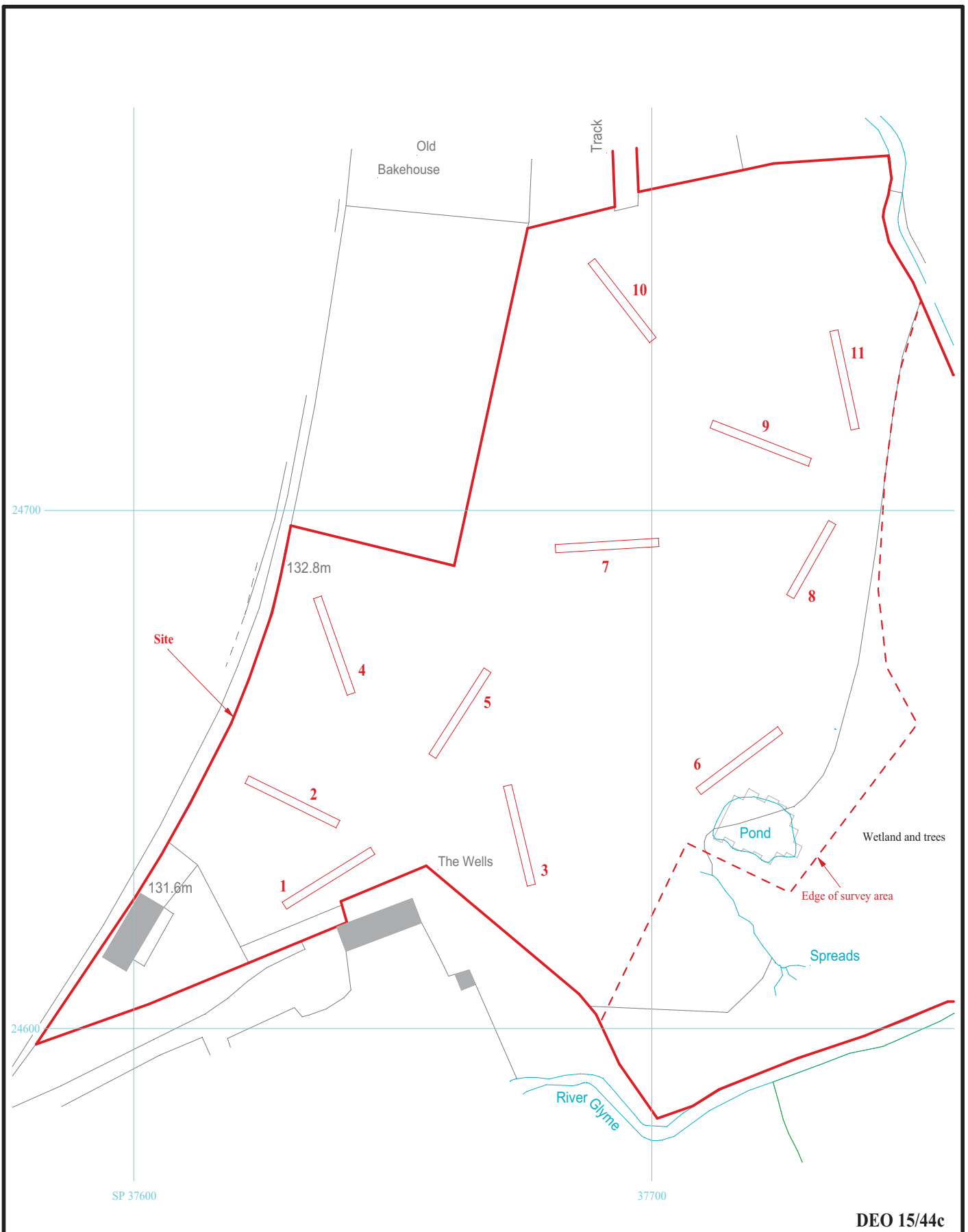


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Figure 1. Location of site within Enstone and Oxfordshire

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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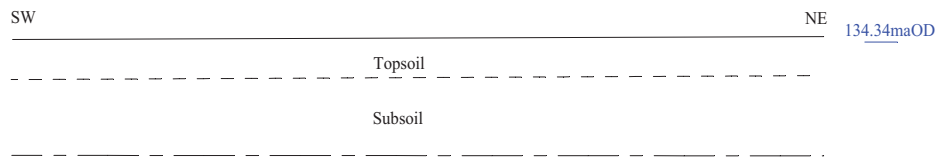
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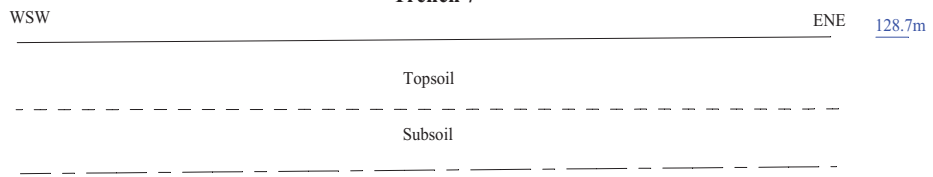
Figure 3. Location of trenches in relation to geophysical anomalies.



**Trench 1**



**Trench 7**



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Figure 4. Representative sections..





Plate 1. Overview of site, looking east from Trench 7.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 9, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

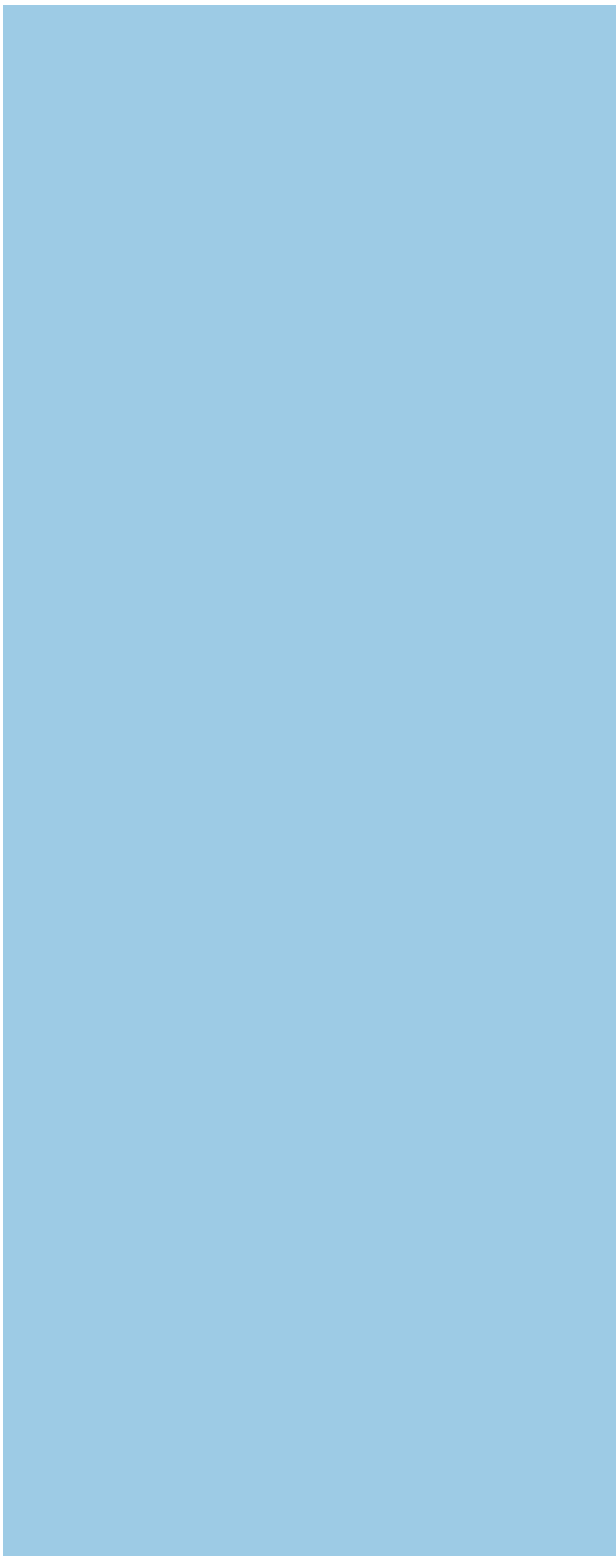
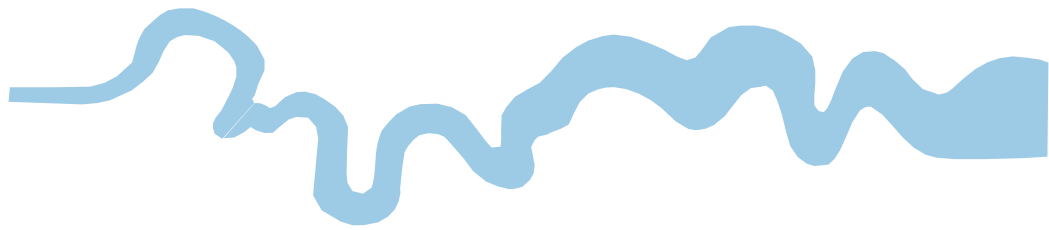
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## TIME CHART

	<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







**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,  
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Fax: 0118 9260553  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**