

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the north of Somerton, Kineton Road,  
Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by David Platt**

**Site Code: KRL15/286**

**(SP3398 4549)**

**Land to the north of Somerton, Kineton Road,  
Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Malcolm Thorne**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KRL15/286

**January 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land to the north of Somerton, Kineton Road, Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire

**Grid reference:** SP3398 4549

**Site activity:** Archaeological evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th January 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** David Platt

**Site code:** KRL15/286

**Area of site:** 0.28ha

**Summary of results:** Two features were identified in the evaluation, an undated possible pit and a furrow. 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 Warwickshire 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 ✓ 25.01.16 Steve Preston ✓ 25.01.16
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# Land to the north of Somerton, Kineton Road, Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 15/286

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the north of Somerton, Kineton Road, Lower Tysoe, Warwickshire (SP3398 4549) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Isabel Lisboa, of Archaeologica Ltd, 7 Fosters Lane, Bradwell, Milton Keynes MK13 9HD on behalf of Mr Malcolm Thorne, Home Holdings, Lower Tysoe, Warwick, Warwickshire CV35 0BZ.

Outline planning permission has been granted by Stratford on Avon District Council (app 14/03055/OUT) for the construction of two dwellings on a 0.28 ha parcel of land at Kineton Road, Lower Tysoe. The consent is subject to a condition (21) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by development, field observation has been requested as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policy on archaeology. The evaluation will form part of a staged programme of archaeological investigation in order to determine the appropriate mitigation that may be required.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Anna Stocks, Planning Archaeologist, Warwickshire County Archaeological Service, the adviser to Stratford on Avon District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Benedikt Tebbit on the 18th January 2016 and the site code is KRL15/286. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Warwickshire Museums Service in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-western edge of the village of Lower Tysoe in southern Warwickshire (Fig. 1), c.5.5km south of Kineton and c.12km north-west of Banbury. The underlying geology is mapped as Lower Lias (BGS 1982) and this was observed in the trenches as a mid grey brown silty clay. The site was an irregular parcel of land on the west side of Kineton Road, currently used as pasture and it lay at c.100m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

Little archaeological investigation has taken place in the immediate environs of the site with the exception of the recording of a barn 400m to the south-east of the site where no medieval remains were found. Evidence of Roman occupation has been observed 0.5km east of the site with a possible corn drier identified by a geophysical survey and 1km to the south Roman finds have been identified at two locations. Late prehistoric worked flint has been found in the area indicating Bronze Age occupation. The site itself shows evidence for medieval/post medieval ridge and furrow and this forms the bulk of the Historic Environment Record entries in the area.

## **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 aim is to identify, map and date any evidence of the medieval settlement of Lower Tysoe within the site and to recover any associated finds.

A total of 6 trenches were to be dug, two trenches 10m in length and four trenches 20m in length, all 1.6m in width and excavated using a JCB backhoe excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. If archaeological deposits were identified these were then to be further investigated by hand with cleaning, examination and recording in plan and section.

## **Results**

All 6 trenches were dug in the locations intended. They ranged in length from 10.0m to 25.60m and in depth from 0.34m to 0.70m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized as Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Fig 3)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 10.0m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying the natural geology which was a mid grey brown silty clay to the east and lias stone to the south. No features were observed or finds were recovered.

#### Trench 2 (Fig 3)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 10.70m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying the natural geology of a mid grey brown silty clay to the west and lias stone to the east. No features were observed or finds were recovered.

#### Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 19.0m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.34m of subsoil which in turn overlay the natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. A single possible pit was observed that was 0.80m in diameter and 0.14m deep and contained a single fill (52) which consisted of a light brown grey silty clay (Pl. 2). No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 4 (Fig 3)

Trench 4 was aligned S - N and was 13.80m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.33m of subsoil overlying the natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. No features were observed or finds were recovered.

#### Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 25.60m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.29m of subsoil overlying the natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. A single linear feature (2) was observed aligned NW-SE, it was 0.47m wide and 0.11m deep and contained a single fill (53) which consisted of a light brown grey silty clay. No finds were recovered and this is most likely to be a furrow as it lined up with the ridge and furrow still evident on the site.

#### Trench 6 (Fig 3)

Trench 6 was aligned S - N and was 20.0m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying the natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. No features were observed or finds were recovered.

## **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

Two cut features were identified in the evaluation, an undated possible pit and a furrow. Trenches 1 and 2 had topsoil lying directly above the natural geology perhaps suggesting the area had been landscaped at some point in the past, this is supported by the fact that the ridge and furrow earthworks were not visible in this area whereas at the eastern portion of the field they were. Due to the absence of any dating evidence or material such as charcoal the single possible pit is of uncertain significance and may not be of archaeological origin. It is concluded that this site has a low archaeological potential.

## **References**

BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 201, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

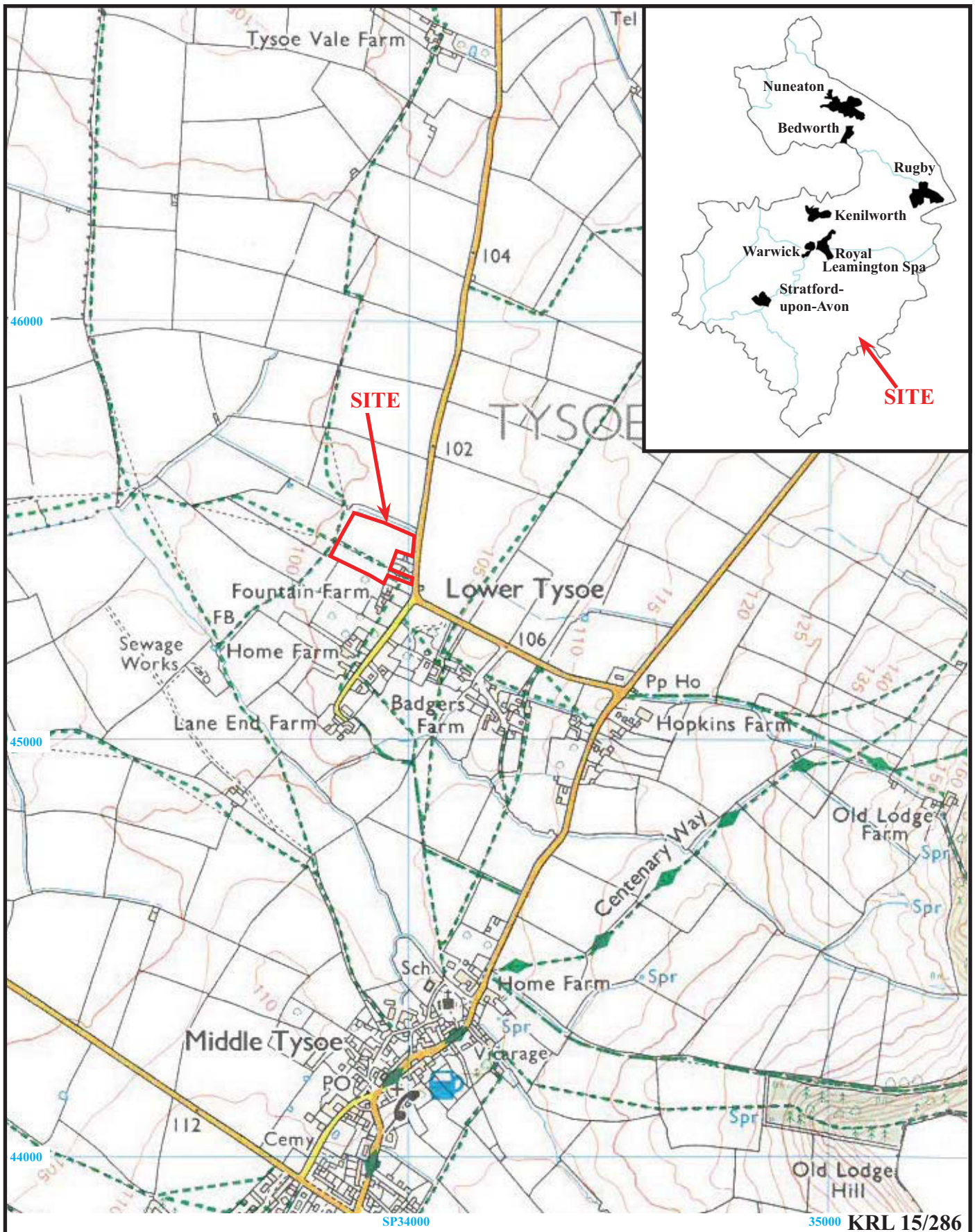
0m at W, S and SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.0	1.6	0.34	0–0.32m topsoil, 0.32m+ natural geology - mid grey brown silty clay (N); lias stone (S).
2	10.70	1.6	0.34	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30m+ natural geology - mid grey brown silty clay (E); lias stone (W).
3	19.0	1.6	0.60	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.56m subsoil, 0.56m+ natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. Pit 1. <b>[Pls 1 and 2]</b>
4	13.80	1.6	0.60	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.58m subsoil, 0.58m+ natural mid grey brown silty clay geology.
5	25.60	1.6	0.62	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.53m subsoil, 0.53m+ natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. Ridge and furrow 2. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
6	20.0	1.6	0.70	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.64m subsoil, 0.64m+ natural mid grey brown silty clay geology. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>



## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	52	Pit	Undated	
5	2	53	Furrow	Medieval-post medieval	Earthworks



**Land to the north of Somerton, Kinton Road,  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Lower Tysoe and  
Warwickshire.

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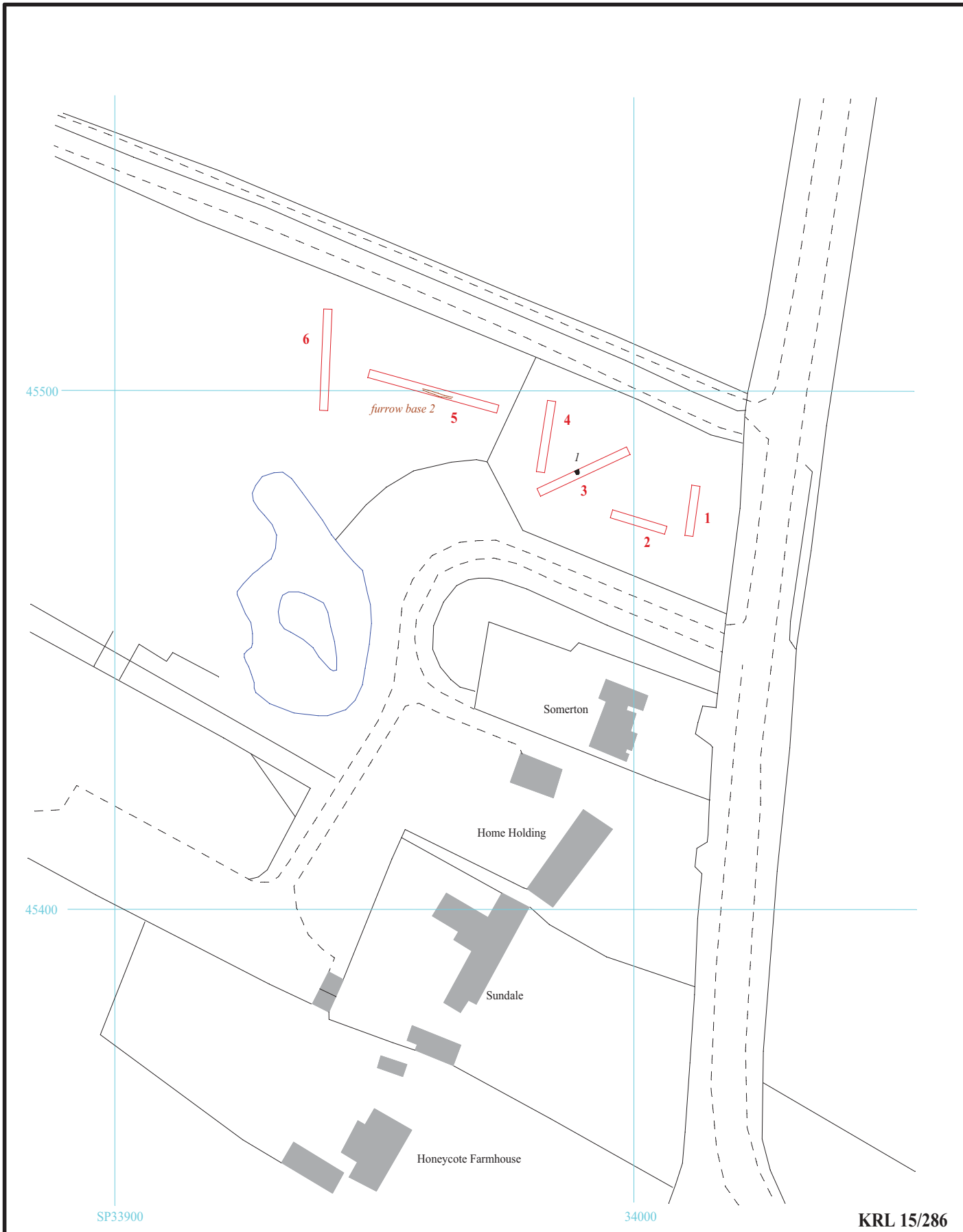


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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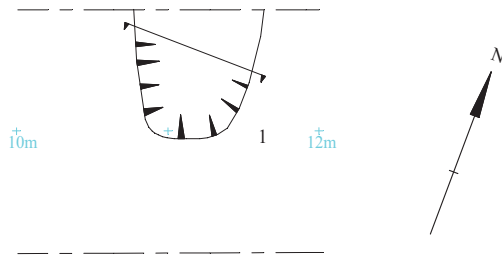
**Land north of Somerton, Kinton Road,  
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

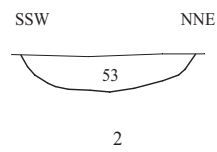
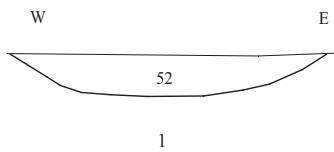
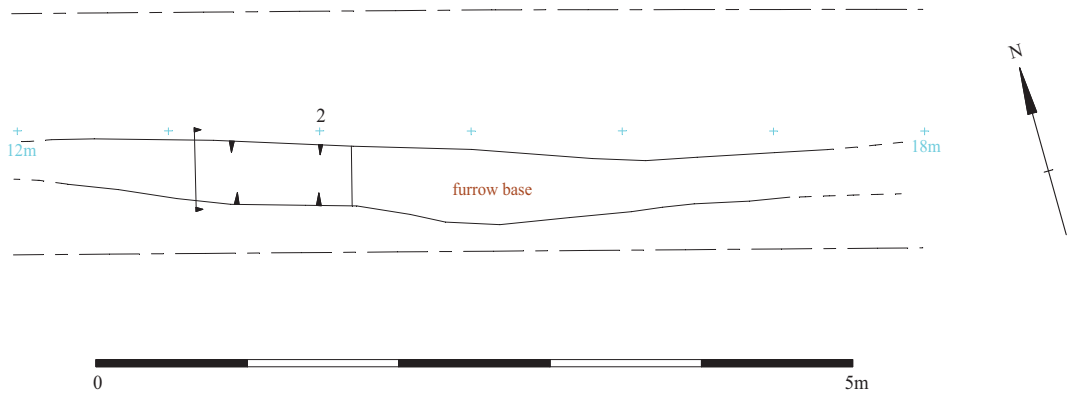


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Trench 3



Trench 5



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Figure 4. Detail and sections of trenches.

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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, pit 1, looking north, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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**Land north of Somerton, Kineton Road,  
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



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

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Plates 3 - 4.**

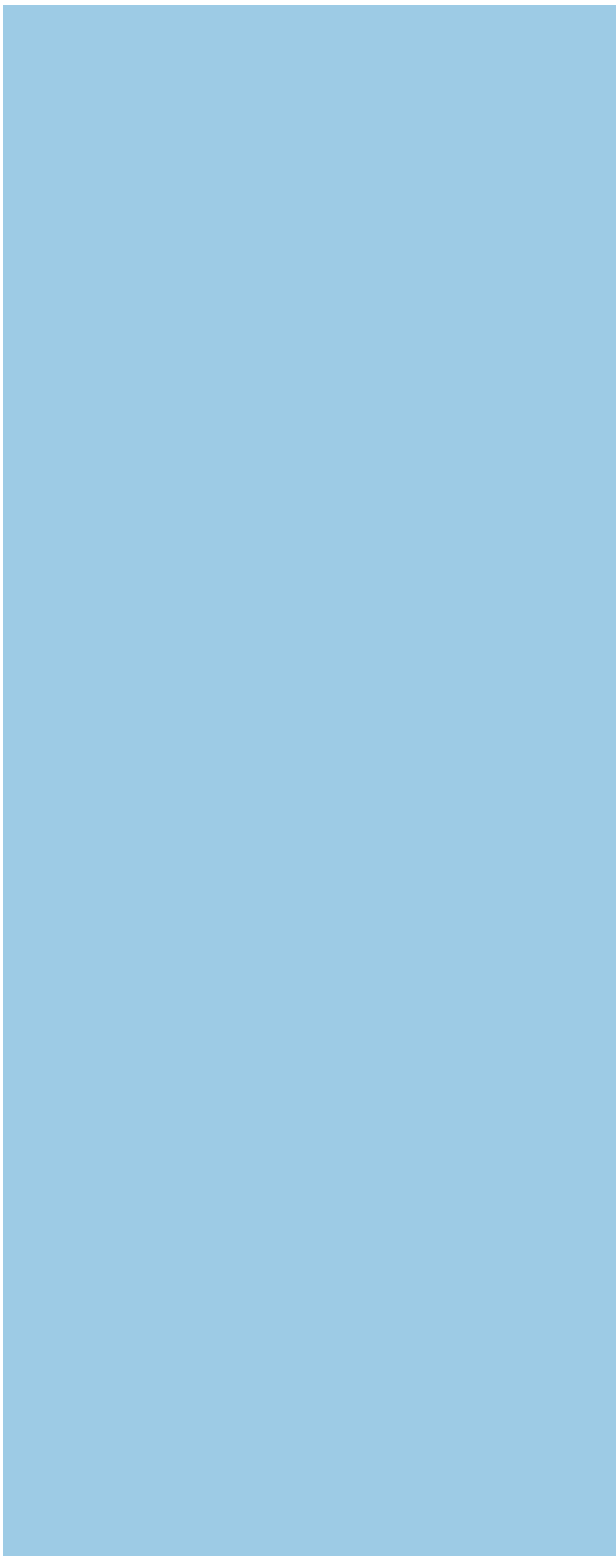
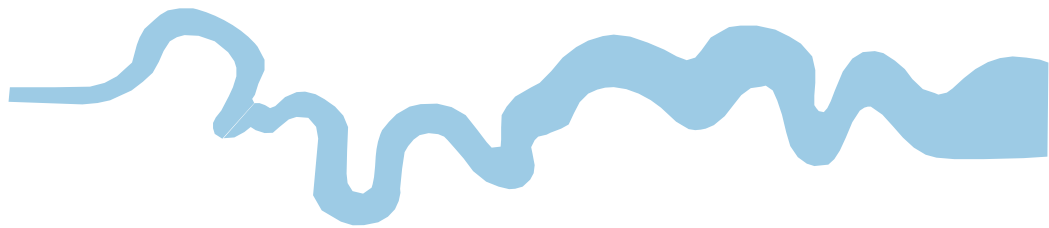
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## TIME CHART

	<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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