

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close,
Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Muddin

Site Code: FCS 15/265

(SU 3958 9828)

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close,
Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for David Wilson Homes (Southern)**

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FCS 15/265

May 2016

Summary

Site name: Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 3958 9828

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th - 29th April 2016

Project Coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: FCS 15/265

Area of site: 2.57ha

Summary of results: In total, 23 trenches were excavated as intended on the site of redevelopment of a riding stables and paddock. Two trenches contained features of probable archaeological origin, though these remain undated. One sherd of pottery was recovered from the subsoil of Trench 13. [Most of the trenches excavated on the site contained no deposits of archaeological interest and only a single abraded sherd of possible Roman pottery was recovered. A few features identified at the south of the site contained no dating evidence and one of these might have cut subsoil suggesting a relatively recent date. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course with accession number OXCMS: 2015.240

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 05.05.16 Steve Preston ✓ 04.05.16

Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Muddin

Report 15/265

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Southmoor Riding Centre, Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, OX13 5BL. The work was commissioned by Mr Ross Freeman, Architectural Technician for David Wilson Homes Southern, Tealgate, Hungerford, RG17 0YT.

Planning permission (app no P15/V1795/FUL) has been gained from Vale of the White Horse District Council to erect 73 dwellings on the site with associated access via Field Close in the south-western corner of the site. The consent is subject to two conditions (no 14 and 15) relating to archaeology. Condition 14 requires the creation of an archaeological written scheme of investigation (WSI) to set out a programme of investigations prior to development, which was to be undertaken as required by Condition 15, by a field evaluation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (WSI) approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin between the 19th April and 29th April 2016 and the site code is FCS 15/265. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course with accession code OXCMS: 2015.240.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western side of Southmoor, a settlement which joins the western side of Kingston Bagpuize, just to the south of the A420 in Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The site is bounded by Beggars Lane to the north and west, and a new housing development to the east with Waggon Lane dividing it from the site (Fig. 2). The site is mostly contained within a paddock, with stable buildings on the west side of the field. In total, the site comprised an area of 2.5ha. The underlying geology is Kingston Formation, which is usually characterized by sand and silts over limestone (BGS 1971). The site lies at an elevation between 80m above Ordnance Datum (OD) in the north-west and 82m AOD in the south-east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been carried out in a brief for the project prepared by Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service drawing on a desk-based assessment (Coddington 2015); (Gidman 2014). In summary, this potential stems from the finding of Roman occupation and prehistoric flint working uncovered during the construction of the nearby A420 bypass but otherwise few sites and finds were present 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. This would sample the main paddocks and not intrude on the working stable buildings to the west.

The specific research aims of the project were to:

Determine if archaeological deposits existed on the site;

determine if any deposits of prehistoric, Roman or Saxon date were present.

In total, 23 trenches were to be excavated using a machine fitted with a ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Spoil heaps were to be searched for finds.

Results

All we trenches were excavated, in the first instance with a JCB-type machine for Trenches 1 to 14 with a 1.6m wide bucket and then using a 360° mechanical excavator for Trenches 15 to 23, with a 1.9m wide bucket.

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, 5 and 6)

Trench 1 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 23.6m long and 1.08m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil overlying 0.28m of brick rubble to a depth of 0.52m deep. This was the only trench which uncovered significant rubble makeup of the ground over the subsoil. This overlay a dark brown sandy silt to a depth of 0.75m deep, and 0.23m thick. This in turn overlay subsoil, a light reddish brown sandy silt, which was 0.3m thick and reached a depth of 1.05m deep. At this depth, two features were seen to cut the natural geology at the

base of the trench. A ditch (3) was recorded, at 16.8m from the western end of the trench, which was 0.94m wide and 0.29m deep and filled with a mottled yellow, brown silty sand, with very occasional charcoal fleck and very occasional pieces of flint gravel (55). This ditch was on a NE-SW axis. A possible ditch corner was uncovered entering the northern side of the trench, and was investigated with a slot (4). This was filled with a single fill (56). This was a friable brown sandy silt with very occasional charcoal. No finds were recovered.

Trenches 2, 3 and 4

These trenches were all devoid of features and archaeological finds. All were dug as intended, and Trenches 2 and 4 were both 24.3m and 23.8m respectively. Trench 3 noted topsoil to a depth of 0.4m and then uncovered redeposited natural, overlaying the subsoil to a depth of 0.55m. The line of a service was noted to run along the 7.7m excavated length of this trench, so further digging was abandoned. Trench 2 uncovered natural geology at a depth of 0.62m deep, and Trench 4 uncovered natural geology at a depth of 0.6m.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3 and 4; Pl. 2, 3 and 4)

Trench 5 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 28.3m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.36m of topsoil overlying 0.3m of subsoil, to the base of the trench. Two features were seen to cut the natural geology in the base of the trench. A ditch (1) was recorded a 3.7m from the southern end of the trench, running perpendicular to it. This ditch seemed to cut the subsoil, and was on a WNW-ESE axis. It was noted to be a maximum of 1.04m wide, with only 0.56m wide cutting the natural geology in the base of the trench. It was filled with a single fill, a yellow brown silty sand (52). It contained no finds. Further to the north, within the trench, was a partially uncovered pit (2), which was 0.78m in diameter and 0.19m deep. Its fill (53) was a yellow brown sandy silt, with very occasional flint gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from its fill.

Trenches 6 to 14

These trenches were all devoid of features and archaeological finds. Trenches 13 and 14 needed to be moved to avoid the service trench that was known to run across the centre of the site. All were between 0.4m and 0.83m deep, with a significant thickening of the subsoil in the trenches to the east (Trench 7, 8 and 9) .

Trenches 15 to 23

These trenches were all devoid of features and archaeological finds. Trench 15 needed to be moved to the north of the route of the known services in the centre of the site. Trenches 20 to 23 were relocated slightly to

accommodate for the smaller fenced paddock in the west, which contained the final two trenches. All were dug to a depth of 0.54m to 0.71m deep, with natural limestone patches uncovered in Trenches 16, 22 and 23.

Finds

Pottery

One sherd of pottery which was very abraded pottery was recovered from the subsoil at the base of Trench 13. This is probably a sherd of Roman greyware. No other finds of archaeological interest were recovered, with only modern building material contained within the made ground in Trench 1.

Conclusion

Most of the trenches on the site contained no deposits of archaeological interest. The features identified on the south of the site were undated and one of these might have cut subsoil suggesting a relatively recent date. Only a single unstratified sherd of possible Roman pottery was recovered. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63 360, Sheet 253, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coddington, H, 2015, 'Land to the north of Field Close, Kingston Bagpuize', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation, Oxford
- Gidman, J, 2014, 'Land off Field Close, Kingston Bagpuize with Southmoor, Oxfordshire', CgMs Consulting grey literature desk-based assessment **JG/18003**, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

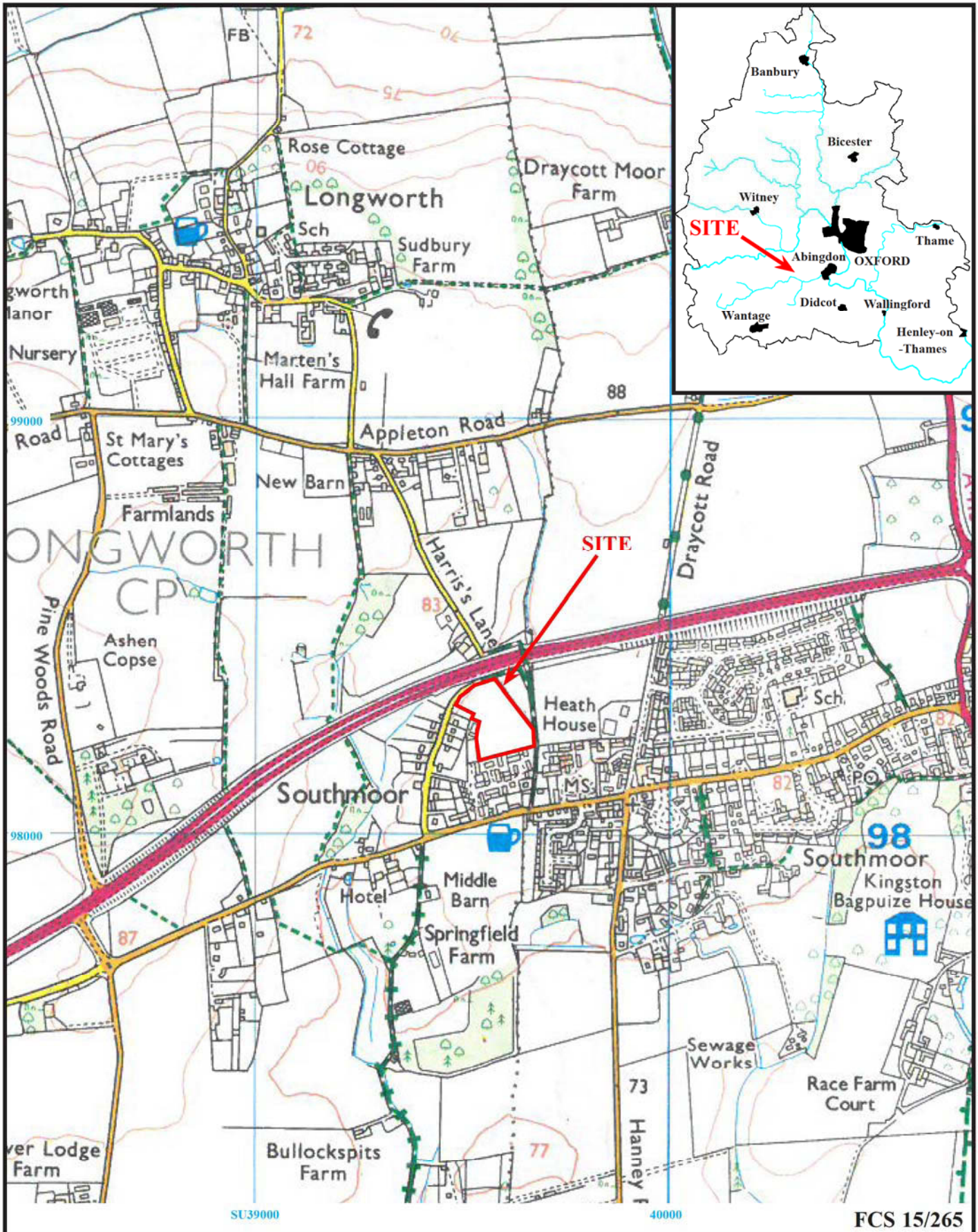
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	23.6	1.6	1.08	0-0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.52m brick rubble, 0.52-0.75m, dark brown sandy silt, 0.75-1.05m light reddish brown sandy silt subsoil, 1.05m+ yellowish reddish brown silty sand natural geology. Ditch 3 and Ditch 4.
2	24.3	1.6	0.67	0-0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.62m subsoil, 0.62m+ natural geology.
3	7.7	1.6	0.55	0-0.29m topsoil, 0.29-0.42m redeposited natural sand, 0.42m+ subsoil. Abandoned due to service cut.
4	23.8	1.6	0.6	0-0.36m topsoil, 0.36-0.6m subsoil, 0.6m+ natural geology.
5	28.3	1.6	0.65	0-0.36m topsoil, 0.36-0.62m subsoil, 0.62m+ natural geology. Ditch 1 and Pit 2.
6	23.3	1.6	0.66	0-0.36m topsoil, 0.36-0.66m subsoil, 0.66m+ natural geology.
7	26.2	1.6	0.76	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.69m subsoil, 0.69m+ natural geology.
8	25.1	1.6	0.83	0-0.45m topsoil, 0.45-0.72m subsoil, 0.72m+ natural geology.
9	24.7	1.6	0.75	0-0.38m topsoil, 0.38-0.7m subsoil, 0.7m+ natural geology.
10	25.4	1.6	0.47	0-0.3m topsoil, 0.3-0.47m subsoil, 0.47m+ natural geology.
11	24.3	1.6	0.56	0-0.37m topsoil, 0.37-0.47m subsoil, 0.47m+ natural geology.
12	22.9	1.6	0.4	0-0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ natural geology.
13	23.5	1.6	0.48	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.48m subsoil, 0.48m+ natural geology.
14	22.5	1.6	0.54	0-0.34m topsoil, 0.34-0.52m subsoil, 0.52m+ natural geology.
15	26.4	1.9	0.58	0-0.32m topsoil, 0.32-0.58m subsoil, 0.58m+ natural geology.
16	26.6	1.9	0.59	0-0.31m topsoil, 0.31-0.58m subsoil, 0.58m+ natural geology with limestone and silt patches..
17	25.5	1.9	0.56	0-0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.56m subsoil, 0.56m+ natural geology.
18	25.5	1.9	0.62	0-0.38m topsoil, 0.38-0.59m subsoil, 0.59m+ natural mottled yellow sand patches in reddish brown silt.
19	23.9	1.9	0.56	0-0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.56m subsoil, 0.56m+ natural geology.
20	26	1.9	0.56	0-0.35m topsoil, 0.35-0.56m subsoil, 0.56m+ natural geology.
21	25.4	1.9	0.68	0-0.37m topsoil, 0.37-0.68m subsoil, 0.68m+ natural geology.
22	24.3	1.9	0.7	0-0.4m topsoil, 0.4-0.68m subsoil, 0.68m+ natural mottle grey clay patches in yellow sand.
23	24	1.9	0.71	0-0.34m topsoil, 0.34-0.67m subsoil, 0.67m+ natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	1	52	Ditch	Unknown	-
5	2	53	Pit	Unknown	-
1	3	55	Ditch	Unknown	-
1	4	56	Ditch?	Unknown	-

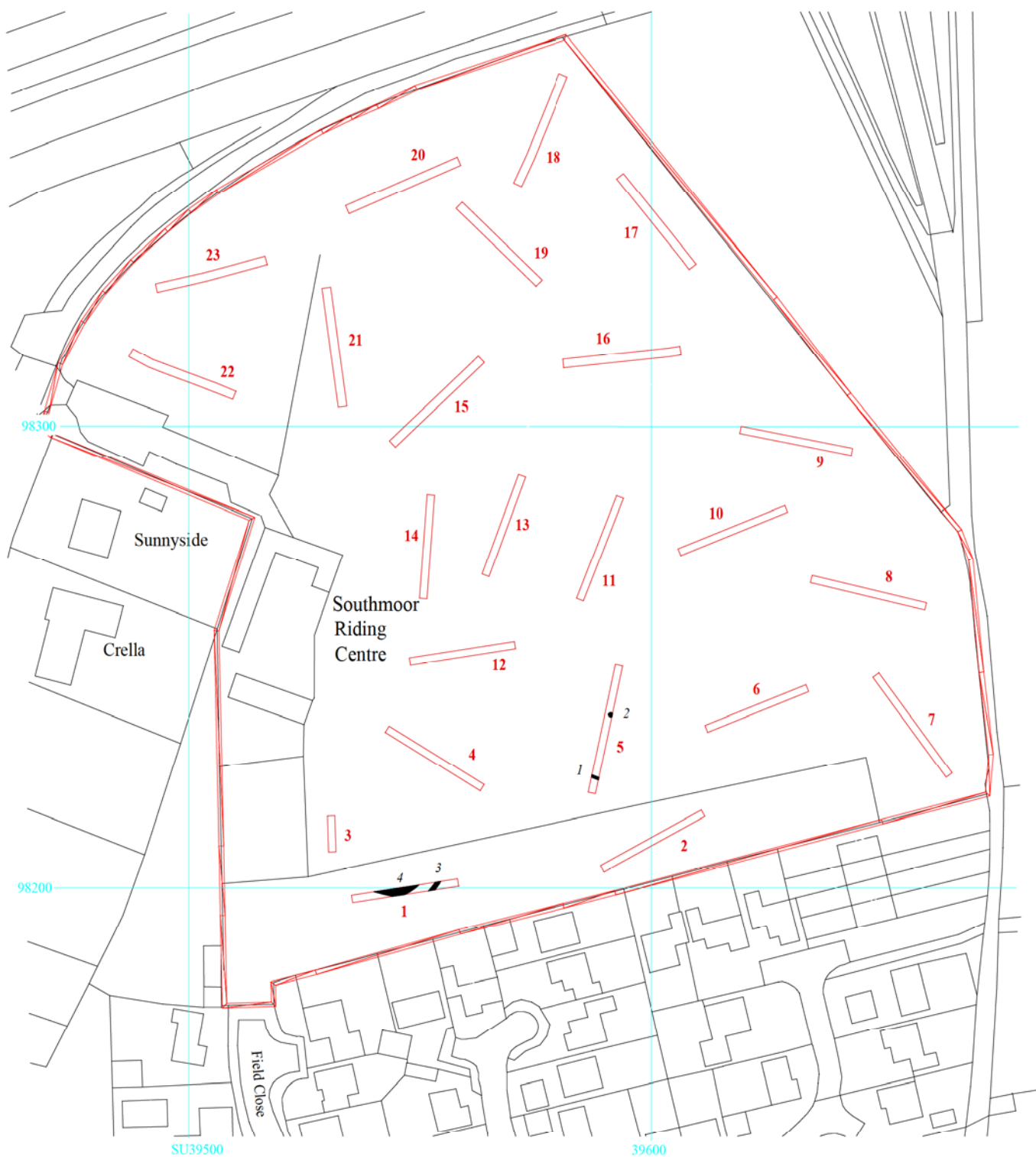


**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close,
Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Southmoor and Oxfordshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 170 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



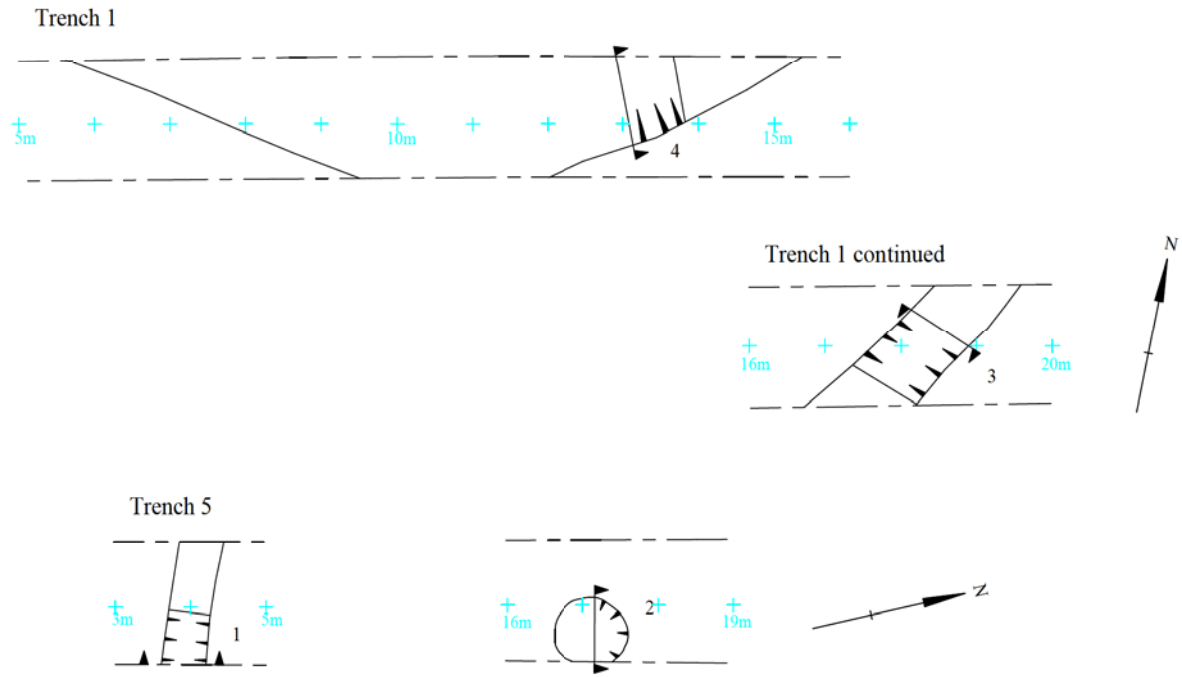
FCS 15/265

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Location of trenches and investigated features.

0 100m

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



FCS 15/265

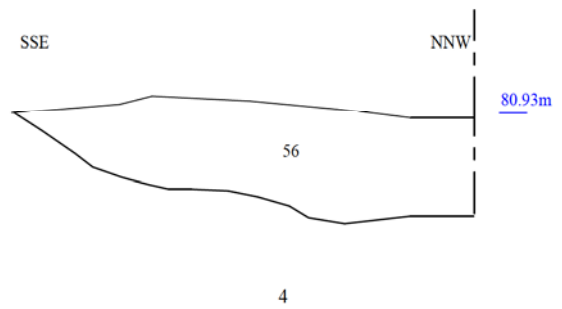
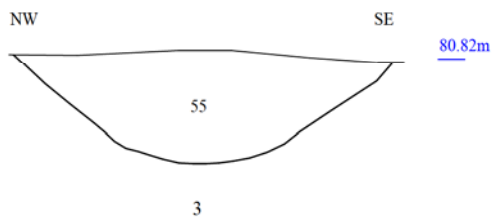
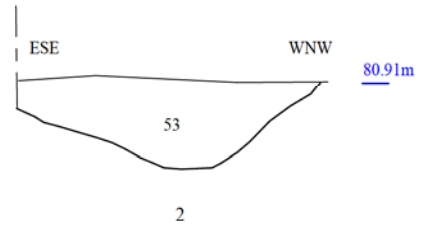
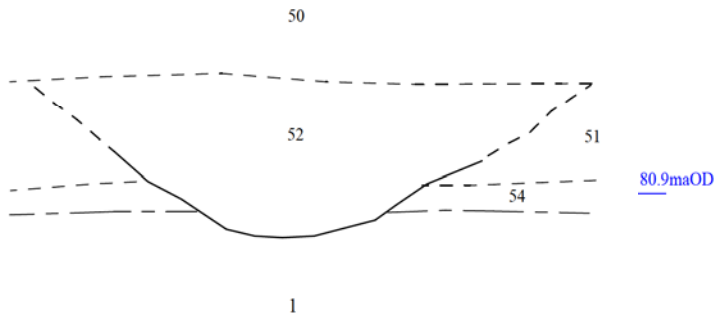
**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Detail of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

NNE SSW



FCS 15/265

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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



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

FCS 15/265

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 5, ditch 1, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

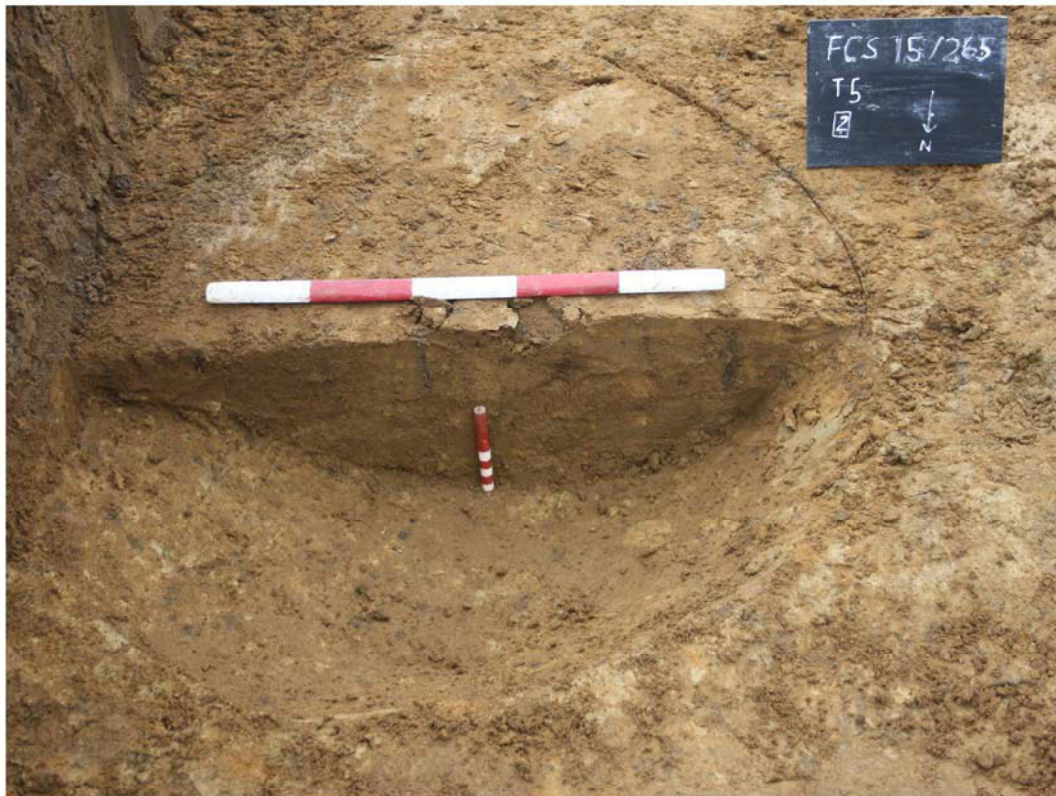


Plate 4. Trench 5, pit 2, looking south south west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

FCS 15/265

Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 5. Trench 1, ditch 3, looking north east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 1, ditch 4, looking west south west, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

FCS 15/265

**Southmoor Riding Centre, Field Close, Southmoor,
Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire, 2016
Archaeological Evaluation**

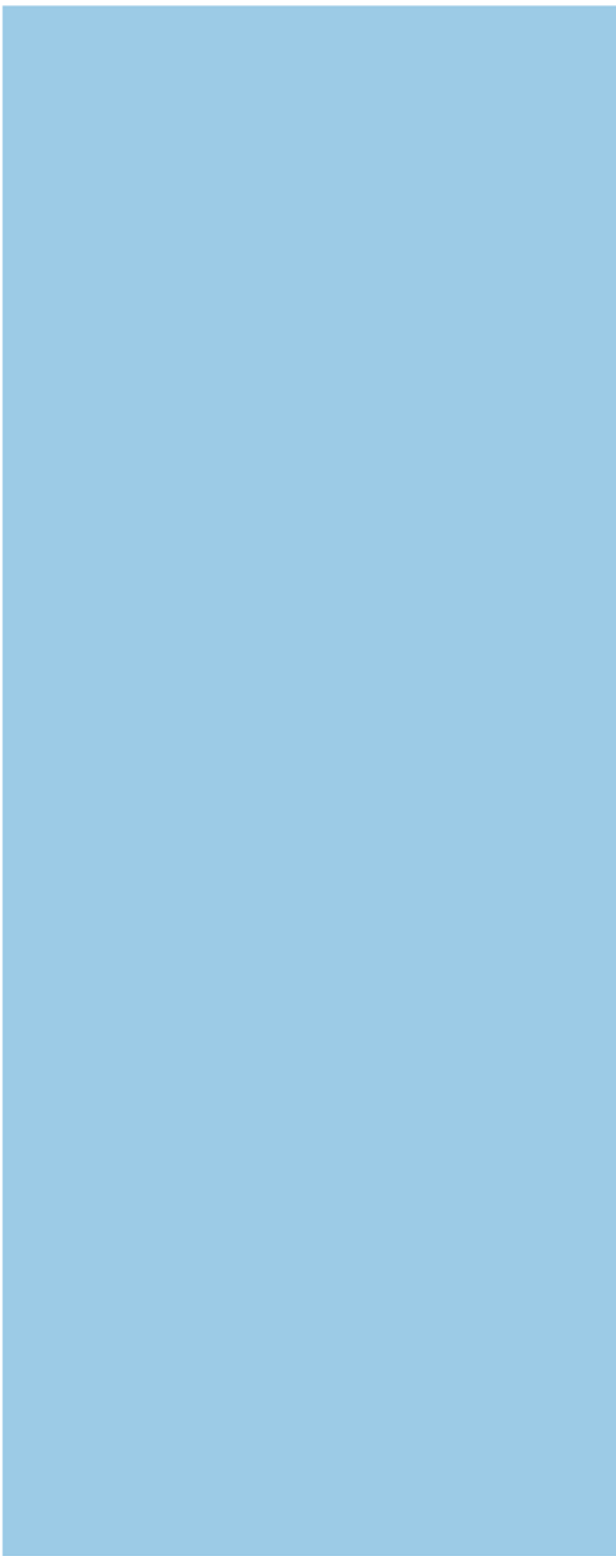
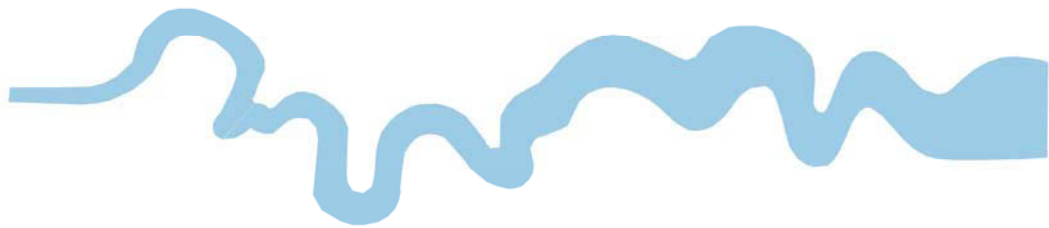
Plates 5 - 6.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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





**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
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**