

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land adjacent to Hananeel, Roves Lane,  
Sevenhampton, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Luis Esteves and Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: SSW 16/109**

**(S2086 9047)**

**Land adjacent to Hananeel, Roves Lane,  
Sevenhampton, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Mark Lewis**

by Luis Esteves and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SSW 16/109

**June 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land adjacent to Hananeel, Roves Lane, Sevenhampton, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2086 9047

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 8th June 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Luis Esteves

**Site code:** SSW 16/109

**Area of site:** c.0.25 hectares

**Summary of results:** A modern ditch was the only feature encountered. No deposits of any archaeological interest were observed.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Swindon Museum 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✓ 14.06.16 Steve Preston✓ 14.06.16
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# Land adjacent to Hananeel, Roves Lane, Sevenhampton, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves and Andy Taylor

Report 16/109

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land adjacent to Haanneel, Roves Lane, Sevenhampton, Wiltshire (SU 2086 9047) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Alla Hassan, of DPDS Consulting, Old Bank House, 5 Devizes Road, Old Town, Swindon, SN1 4BJ on behalf of Mr Mark Lewis, 30 Mayfield Avenue, Grove, Oxfordshire, OX12 7LZ.

Planning permission (S/OUT16/08) has been sought from Swindon Borough Council to construct new housing on the site.

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 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves and Will Attard on the 8th June 2016 and the site code is SSW 16/109. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Swindon Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of the village of Sevenhampton, which is itself *c.*5km north of Swindon and 2km south of Highworth (Fig. 1). It currently consists of scrubland and is bounded by further fields to the north with residential properties to the east and west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Second Terrace River Deposits (gravels), which were observed in the trenches and the site lies at a height of 99m above Ordnance Datum, towards the foot of a narrow valley.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Grahame *et al.* 2016). In summary, the site lies within the historic core of Sevenhampton close to the parish church of St James. To the

south of the site, well preserved earthworks (a Scheduled Monument) represent the remains of the medieval village, which was considerably larger than at the present day. The settlement is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002) and has late Saxon origins. A number of post-medieval structures stood on the site until the mid 20th century. A few prehistoric finds are recorded in the general vicinity. The site also lies within the Sevenhampton Conservation 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.

Specific research aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and
- to report on the findings of the evaluation.

Two trenches were to be dug using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. These were dug under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above.

## **Results**

Both trenches were dug as intended and measured respectively 20.10m and 20.80m long and, 0.60m and 0.99m deep (Fig. 3). Both were 1.6m wide. 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 in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 3)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 20.80m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying 0.37m of subsoil overlying limestone gravel natural geology. A linear

feature was noted at the southern end of the trench into which a slot was dug that showed it to consist of two cuts (1 and 2), both of whose fills produced plastic and as such these can be considered as modern.

#### Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 20.10m long and 0.99m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.32m of subsoil overlying limestone gravel natural geology. A modern paved surface was noted across most of the trench ( between 10m and 18.70m) directly below the turf.

### **Finds**

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation.

### **References**

BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 252, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Grahame, M, King, R and Hood, A, 2016, 'Sevenhampton, Borough of Swindon, Wiltshire, Historic Environment desk-based assessment', Foundations Archaeology report **1124**, Swindon  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

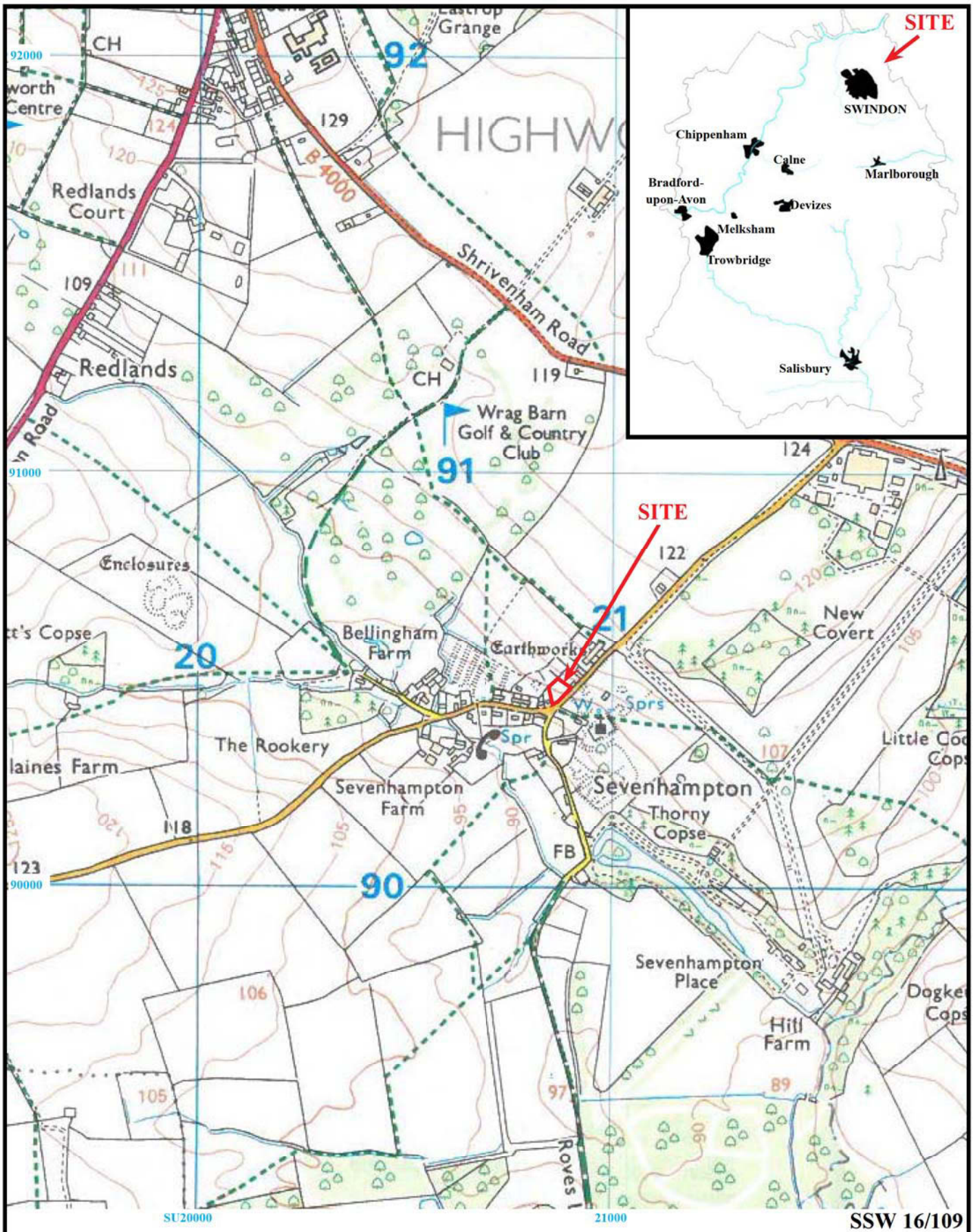
0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.80	1.60	0.60	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ limestone gravel natural. Ditches 1 and 2; [Pls 1 and 3]
2	20.10	1.60	0.99	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-0.77m subsoil; 0.77m+ limestone gravel natural. [Pl. 2]

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52	Gully	Modern	Plastic
1	2	53	Ditch	Modern	Plastic



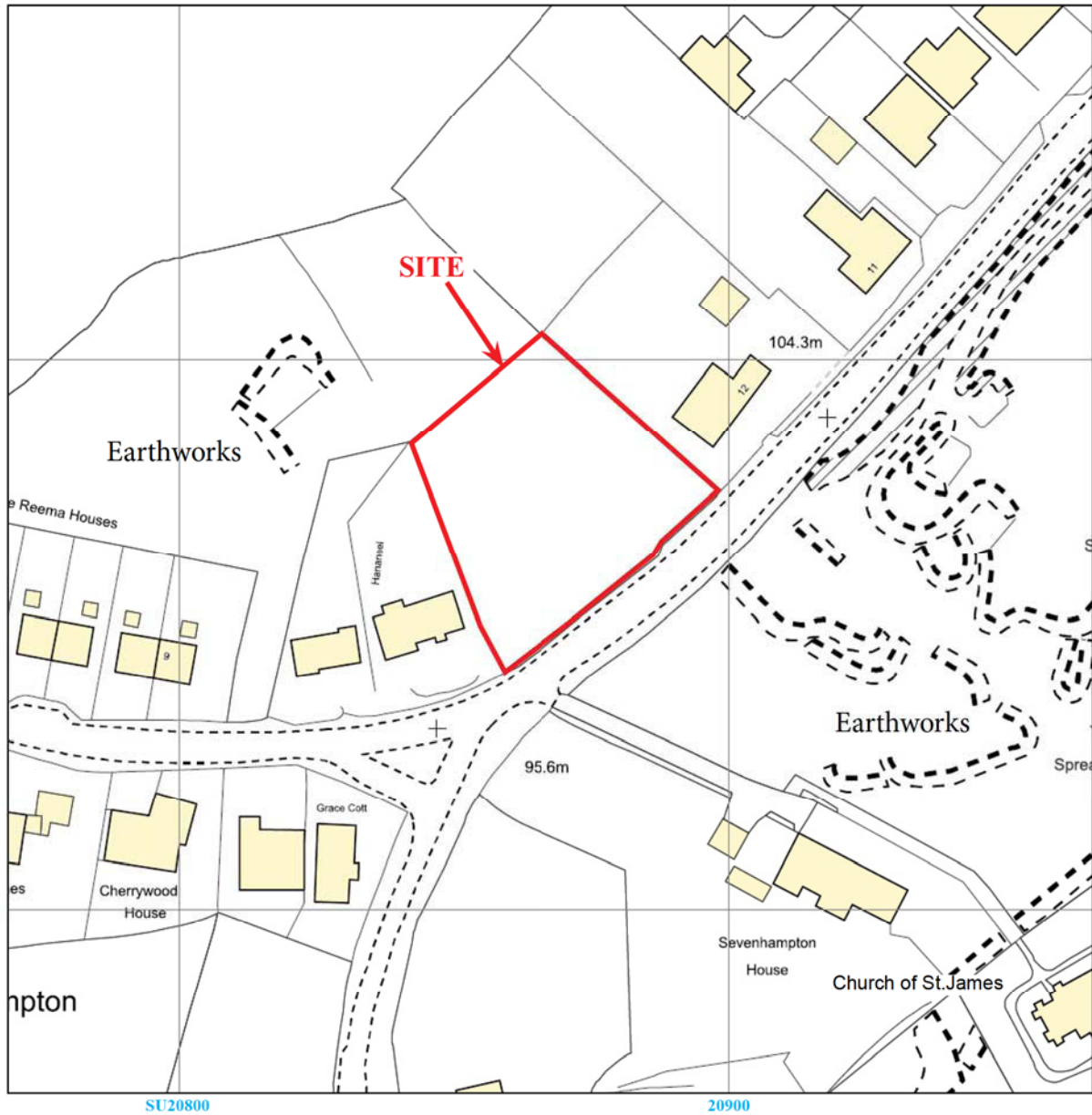


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Figure 1. Location of site within Sevenhampton and Wiltshire.

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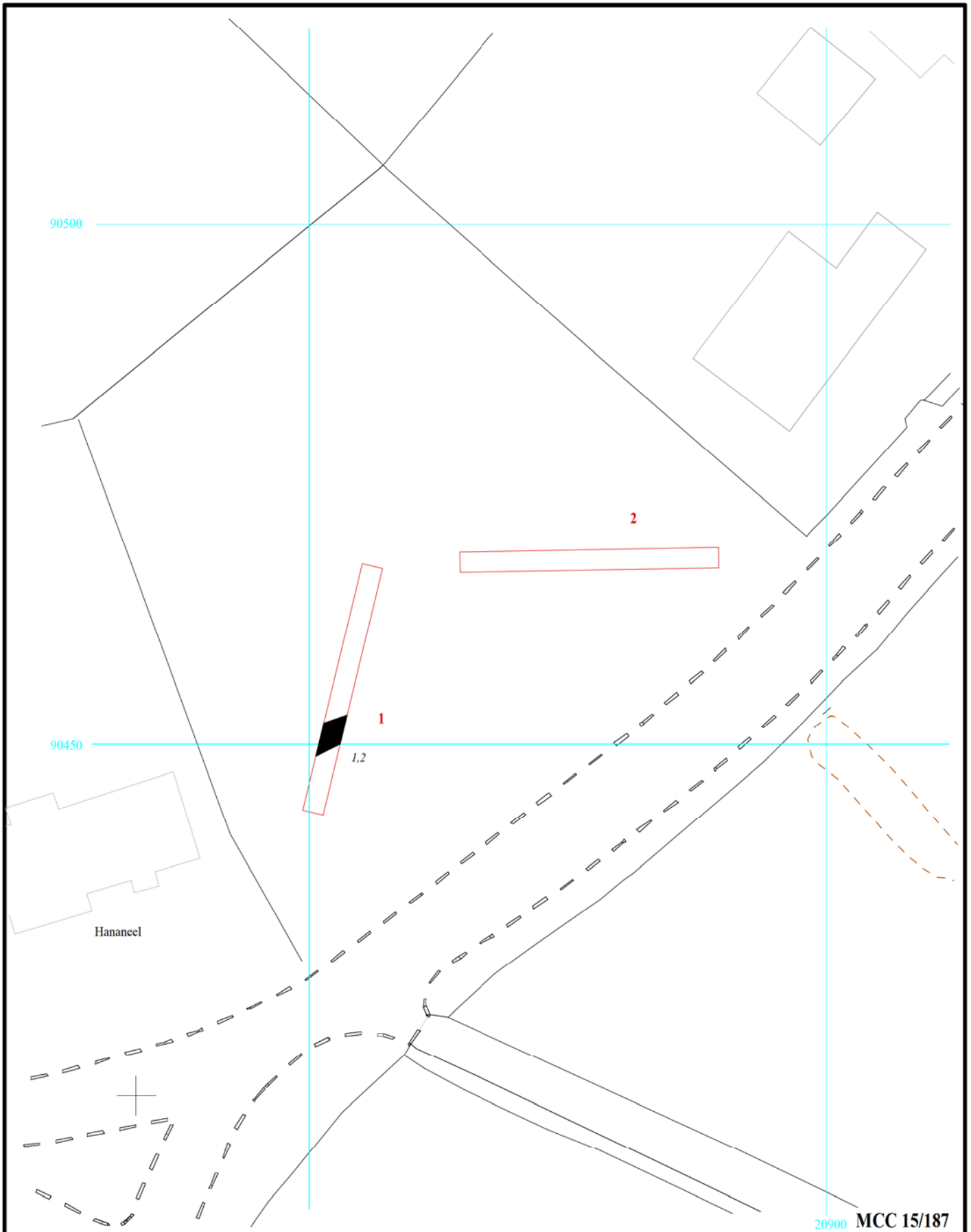
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site in relation to medieval earthworks.

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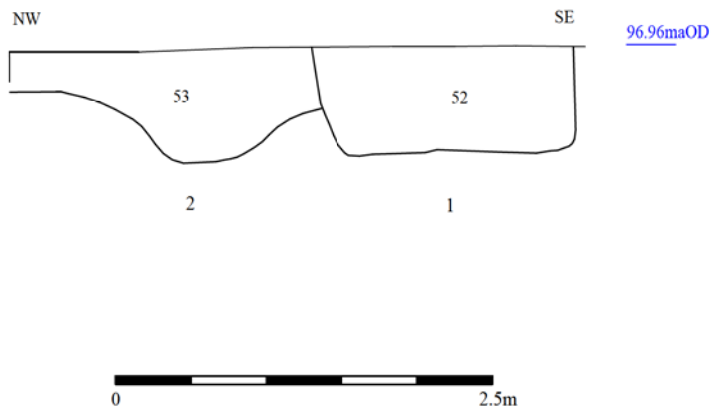
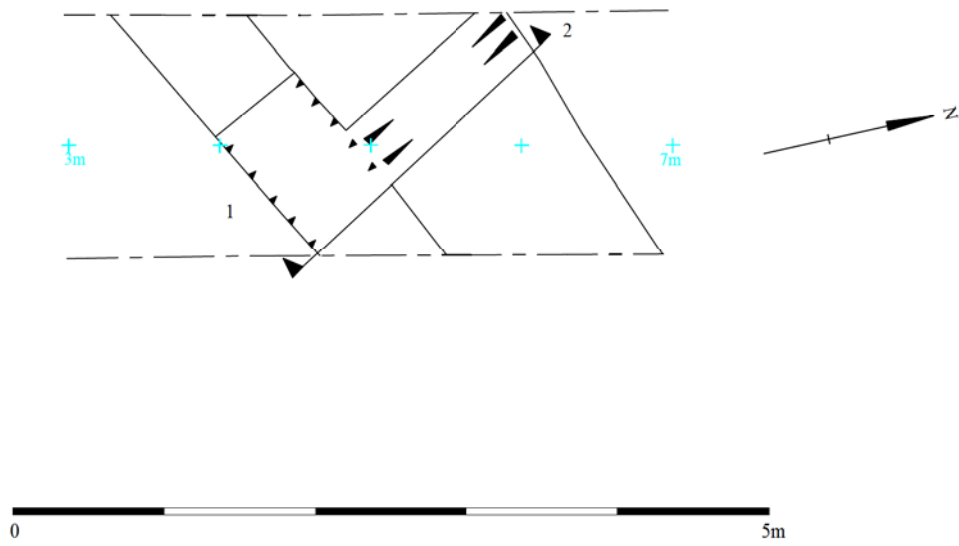


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 1



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Figure 4. Plan and section of Trench 1.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.



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

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 1, ditches 1 and 2, looking north east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

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Plates 3.

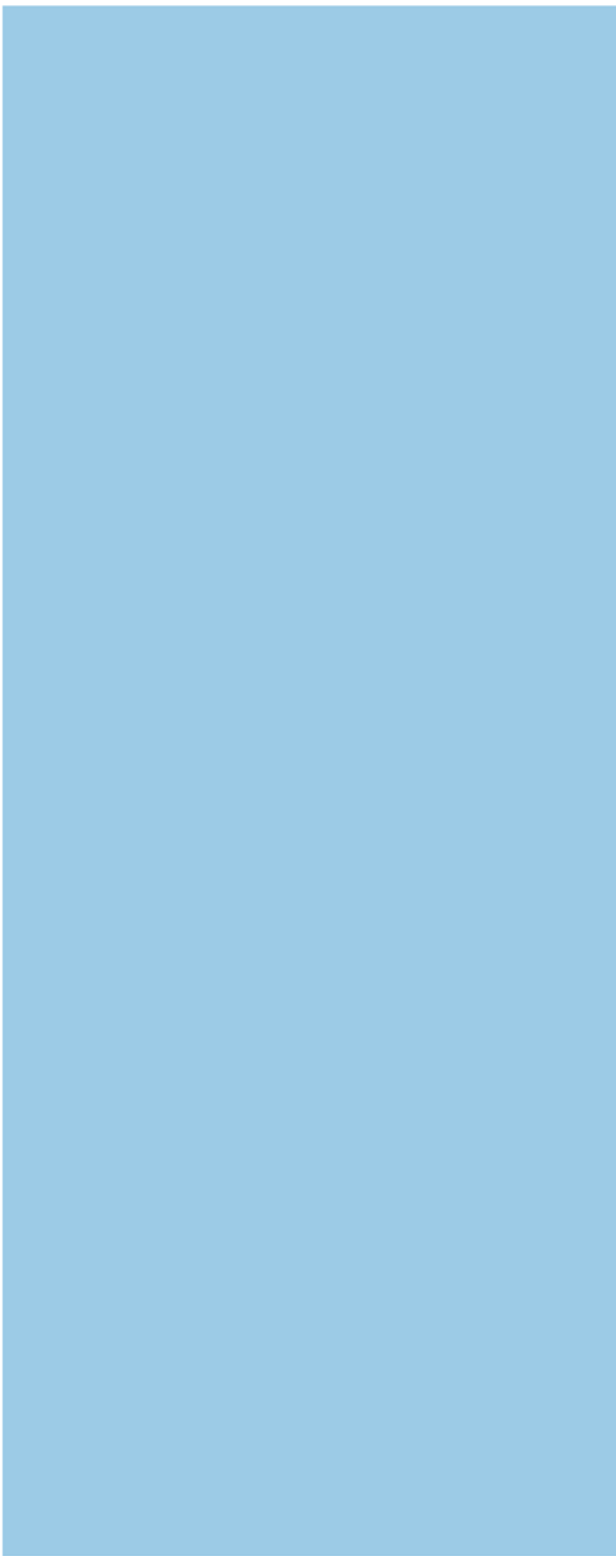
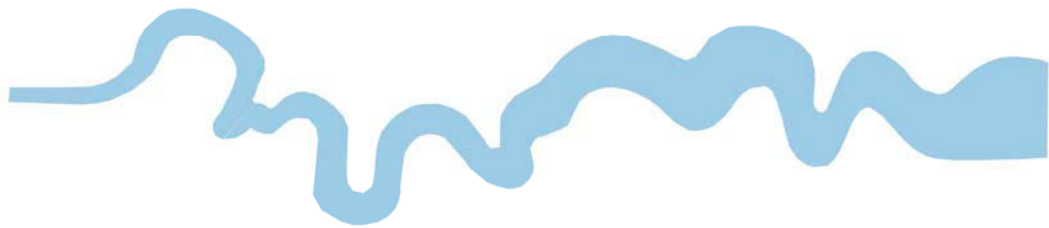
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## TIME CHART

	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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