

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Britannia Works, High Street,
Deanshanger, Northamptonshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: BWD16/88

(SP 7644 3966)

Land at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Betts and Faulkner Ltd**

by David Platt

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BWD16/88

September 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire

Grid reference: SP 7644 3966

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 30th August 2016

Project manager: Danielle Millbank

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: BWD 16/88

Area of site: c.0.24ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed but much truncation of the natural geology was recorded. 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 Northamptonshire archives store in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.09.16 Steve Preston ✓ 05.09.16

Land at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 16/88

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire (SP 7644 3966). (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Watts, of Maze Planning Ltd, 1 Rooks Close, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6JT on behalf of Betts and Faulkner Ltd, c/o 3 Counties Timber and Building Supplies, 3C Buildings, Mark Road, Hemel Hemstead, Herts, HP2 7DN.

Planning permission (S/2011/0782/MAF) has been granted by South Northamptonshire District Council for the erection of new dwellings and associated car parking, access and landscaping. A condition (8) requires a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken. Information from field evaluation has been requested to assess the archaeological potential of the site, and allow for the impact of the proposed development to be mitigated, if necessary. Recording of the Britannia Works, which is also a requirement of the planning condition, is to take place as a separate project. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Liz Mordue, Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire Archaeological Advice Service, advisers to the district council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Rebecca Constable on the 30-31st August 2016 and the site code is BWD16/88. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Northamptonshire Archives Store in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located towards the southern end of Deanshanger, c. 9km west of Milton Keynes (Fig. 1). The site was bordered on the south by The High Street, the west by Maltings Row and the north and south by houses (Fig. 2). The land sloped from 73m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the north down to 71m aOD in the south. The underlying geology was on the border between Lias group-Siltstone and mudstone and Rutland Formation

(BGS 1969), the geology observed in the trenches was a pale blue grey clay with very frequent small stone inclusions.

Archaeological background

Deanshanger is located within a landscape known to have been settled in the Iron Age and Roman periods (VCH 2002) with an Iron Age settlement being discovered some 3-4km to the north-west and a Roman villa and the river gravels to the south-east. Further Roman finds consisting of a hoard of 50-60 silver and gilt bronze plaques were discovered c.1.5km to the north-east in 1789 and interpreted as indicating the presence of a Roman temple. While the earliest post-Roman settlement is thought to have been in the north of the parish of Passenham on the bank of the River Ouse, the main settlement by the 16th century was located at Deanshanger when it is as having a population of 26 households. By 1800 a branch of the Grand Junction Canal was opened which included wharves at three places in Deanshanger and by late 1887 a light railway was introduced with a spur connecting to the Britannia iron works. The iron works itself was established when a canal-side smithy was developed into an iron foundry and engineering works in 1820.

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 were:

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

- to determine if there were later prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits present on the site.

It was proposed to dig 5 trenches, each 11m long and 1.6-2.0m wide. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB backhoe fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas would be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the features excavated to satisfy the aims outlined above. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

All trenches were dug as intended with the exception of Trench 5 as it was shortened due to the presence of a deep soakaway, after consultation with the monitor. The trenches ranged in length from 1.8m to 11.60m and in

depth from 0.73m to 1.30m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1

Trench 1 (Fig. 3, PI 1)

Trench 1 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 6.10m long and 0.87m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of topsoil and 0.59m mid grey brown sandy gravel made ground, this in turn overlay 0.22m of mid blue grey clay with brick inclusions, this overlay dark brown silt made ground with stone and brick inclusions. No natural geology was observed.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 and 4, PI 2)

Trench 2 was aligned NW - SE and was 6.0m long and 0.73m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of mid grey brown gravel made ground overlying 0.19m of mid blue grey clay made ground, this in turn overlay 0.16m of light yellow brown clay made ground with frequent gravel inclusions, this overlay the natural pale blue grey natural mudstone geology. The geology was truncated from 1.4m from the NW end by modern truncation, no finds or features of archaeological interest were found.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3, PI 3)

Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE and was 11.60m long and 1.02m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.16m blue grey clay, this overlay 0.05m of light yellow brown sandy gravel made ground which overlay the natural pale blue grey natural mudstone geology. The natural geology was truncated from 2.4m from the SE end by modern disturbance. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3, PI 4)

Trench 4 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 10.70m long and 1.04m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.23m mid grey brown clay, this overlay 0.24m of pale blue grey clay with gravel inclusions, this overlay 0.21m of mid brown clay made ground, this in turn overlay 0.11m of dark brown/black sandy clay which overlay the natural pale blue grey natural mudstone geology. The natural was truncated by a brick built drain between 6.5m and 10m from the NW end. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned NW - SE and was 1.80m long and 1.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil and 0.30m mid grey brown silty clay made ground, this overlay 0.43m of light grey brown stone made ground, this overlay 0.43m light yellow brown clay, no natural geology was observed.

Finds

No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed. All the trenches identified large areas of modern truncation and therefore it is likely that if any archaeology had been present on the site it would have been destroyed or badly damaged in the recent past. The site therefore has no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1969, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 202, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cooper, N J (ed), 2006, *The Archaeology of the East Midlands: an archaeological resource assessment and research agenda*, University of Leicester/ English Heritage
- Knight, D, Vynner, B and Allen, C, 2012, *East Midlands Heritage: An updated research agenda and strategy for the historic environment of the East Midlands*, University of Nottingham and York Archaeological Trust, Buxton
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- VCH, 2002, *A History of the County of Northampton: Volume 5, the Hundred of Cleley*, Victoria County History, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at ESE and NW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	6.10	1.6	0.87	0-0.06m topsoil, 0.06-0.65m mid grey brown silty gravel, 0.65-0.87 mid blue grey clay with brick inclusions, 0.87m+ dark brown silt with stone and brick inclusions. [PI. 1]
2	6.0	1.6	0.73	0-0.38m mid grey brown gravel, 0.38-0.57m mid blue grey clay with stone inclusions, 0.57-0.73m light yellow brown clay with gravel inclusions, 0.73m+ natural light blue grey mudstone. [PI. 2]
3	11.60	1.6	1.02	0-0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.31m blue grey clay, 0.31-0.36m yellow brown gravel, 0.36m+ natural light blue grey mudstone. [PI. 3]
4	10.7	1.6	1.04	0-0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.26m mid grey brown clay, 0.26-0.50m light grey clay with gravel inclusions, 0.50-0.71m mid brown clay, 0.71-0.82m black sandy clay, 0.82m+ natural light blue grey mudstone. [PI. 4]
5	1.8	1.6	1.30	0-0.10m topsoil, 0.10-0.40m mid grey brown silty clay, 0.40-0.83m light grey brown stone, 0.83m+ light yellow brown clay

APPENDIX 2: OASiS report

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OASIS ID: thamesva1-262175

Project details

Project name	Land at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire
Short description of the project	No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed but much truncation of the natural geology was recorded.
Project dates	Start: 30-08-2016 End: 30-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	BWD16/88 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	S/2011/0782/MAF - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEANSHANGER Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger
Study area	0.24 Hectares
Site coordinates	SP 7644 3966 52.049630794331 -0.88517717537 52 02 58 N 000 53 06 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 70m Max: 73m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Project brief originator Local Planning Authority (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)

Project design originator Danielle Milbank

Project director/manager Danielle Milbank

Project supervisor David Platt

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Betts and Faulkner Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Northamptonshire Archive Store

Digital Contents "other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire Archive Store

Paper Contents "Stratigraphic", "Survey"

Paper Media available "Correspondence", "Drawing", "Microfilm", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Land at Britannia Works, High Street, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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Other bibliographic details 16/88

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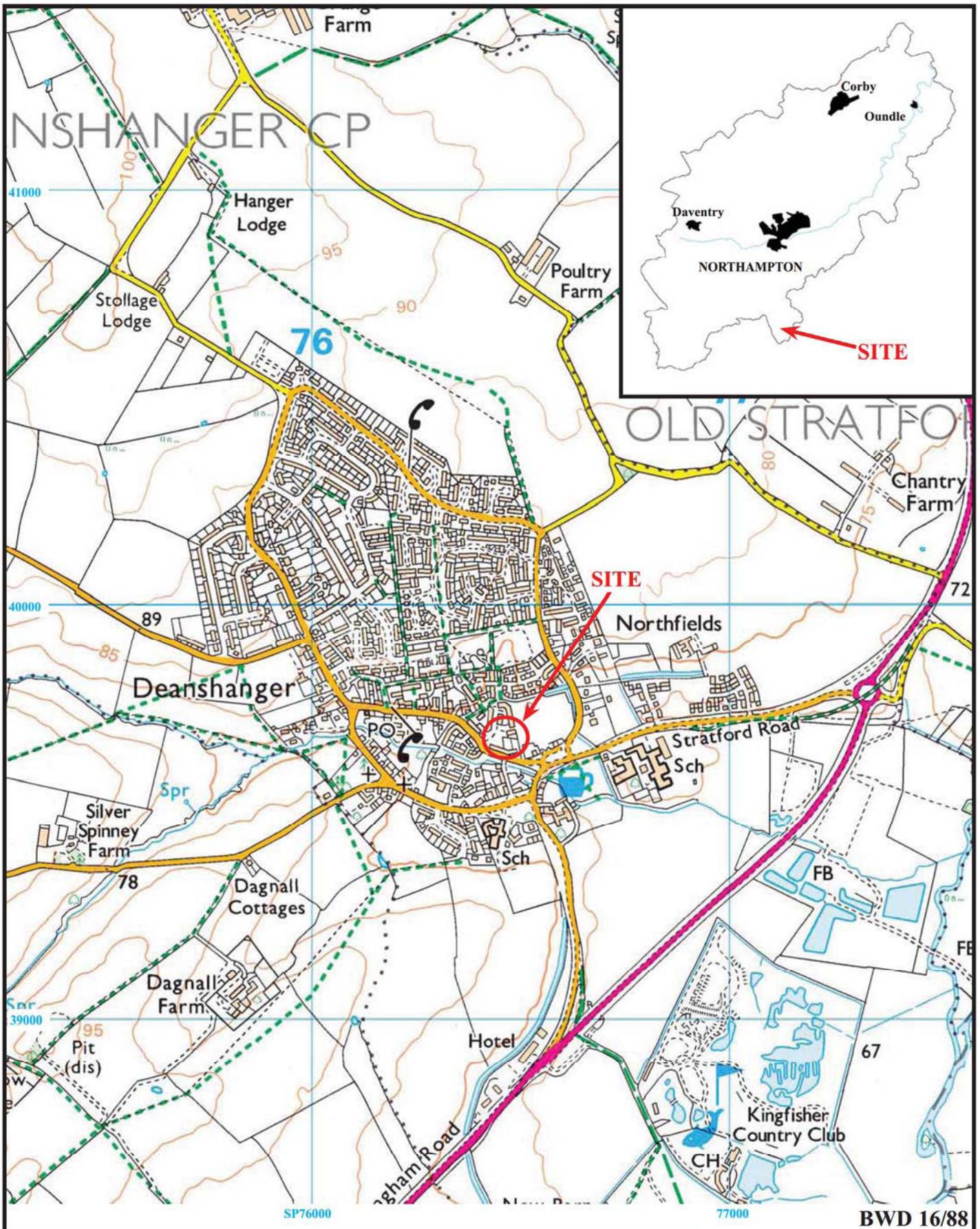
12 September 2016

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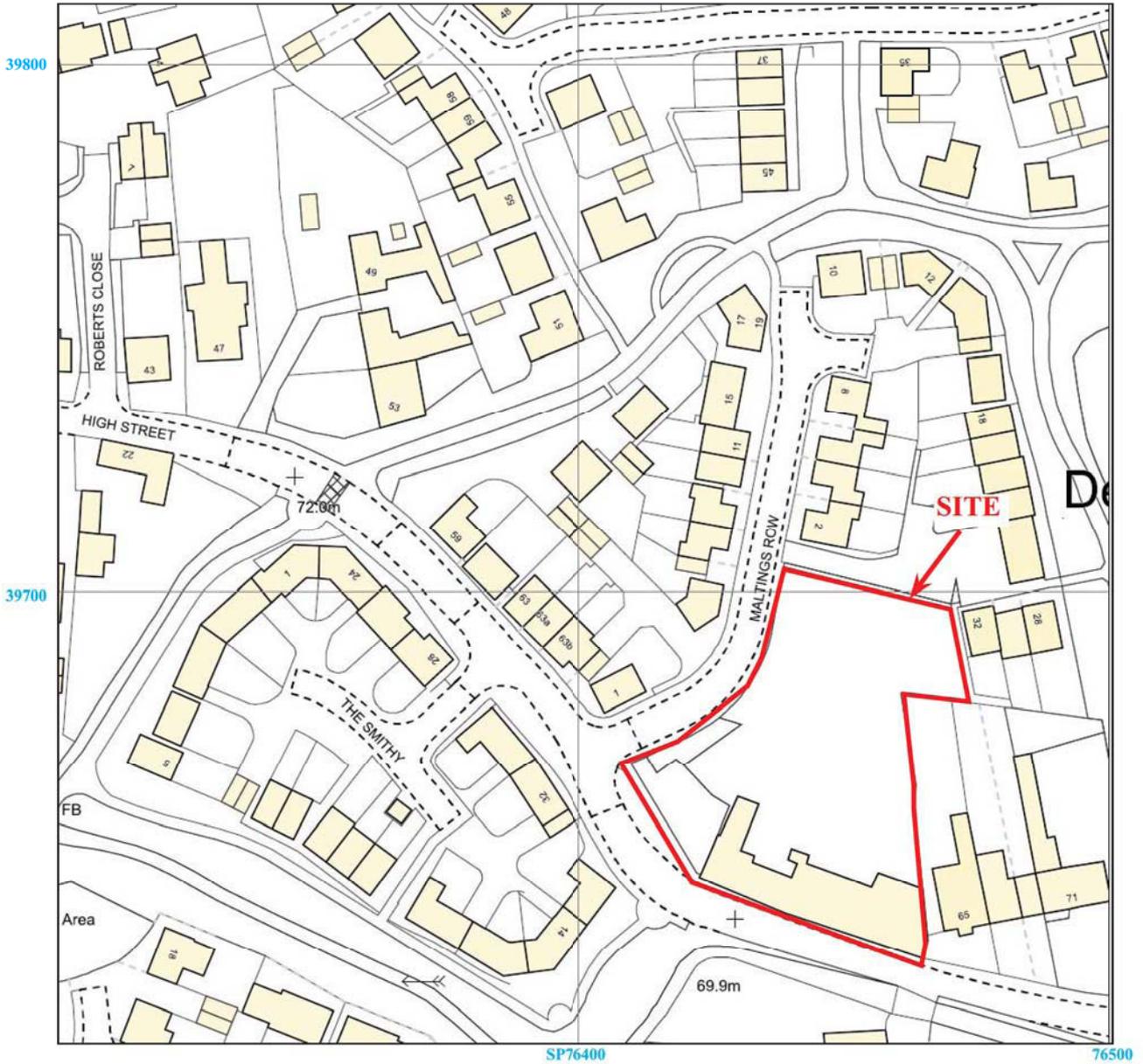


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Figure 1. Location of site within Deanshanger and Northamptonshire.

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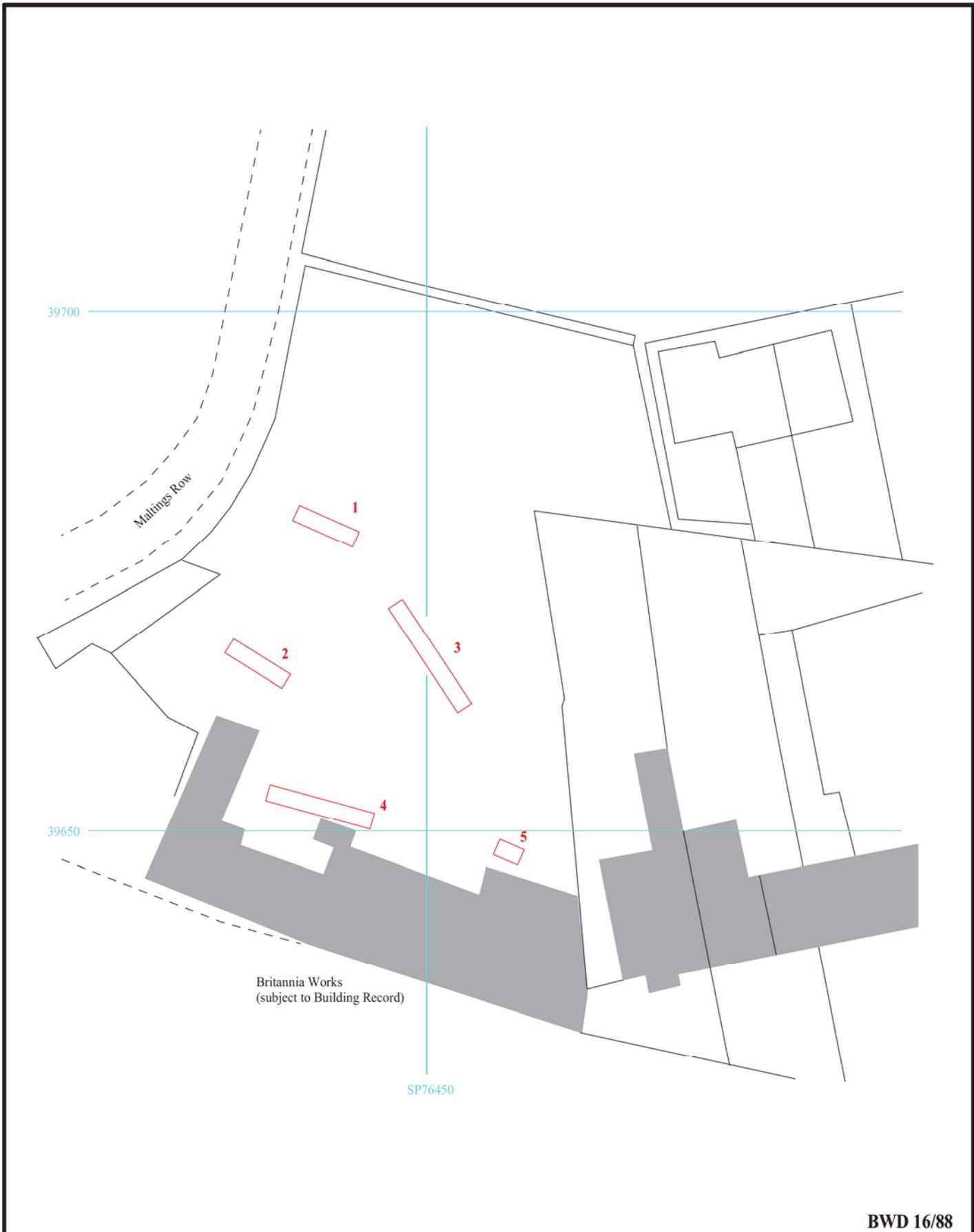


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off the High Street.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 2

NW

SE

Light grey brown gravel (made ground)

Blue grey clay with occasional stone inclusions (made ground)

Light yellow brown clay (made ground)

70.49maOD

-- base of trench

Light blue grey clay (natural geology)

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east south east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking east south east,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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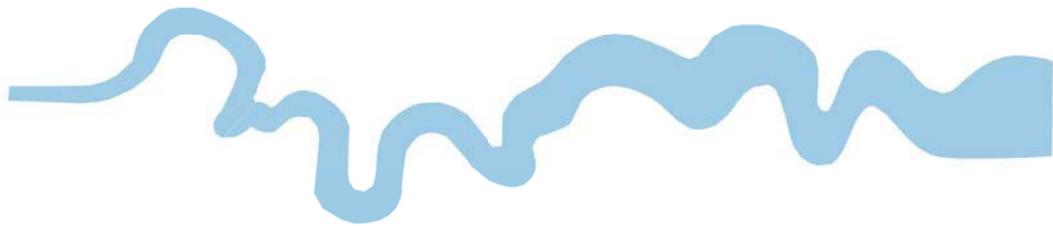
Plates 1 - 4.

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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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