

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Proposed Tennis Court, 64 High Street,
Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Luís Esteves

Site Code: HSLC16/40

(SP 6987 0877)

**Proposed Tennis Court, 64 High Street,
Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Mrs Harriet Moynihan

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HSLC 16/40

August 2016

Summary

Site name: Proposed Tennis Court, 64 High Street, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 6987 0877

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 8th–12th July 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: HSLC 16/40

Area of site: c. 950 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological features were observed during the course of the recording action in the area for the tennis court.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 17.08.16 Steve Preston ✓ 16.08.16

Proposed Tennis Court, 64 High Street, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/40

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at 64 High Street, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire (SP 6987 0877) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Harriet Moynihan of the same address.

Planning permission (15/03397/APP) has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for the refurbishment of a tennis court. The consent is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology. As a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits by development of the site, a recording action was undertaken to satisfy the condition on the planning permission.

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 approved by Mr Phil Markham, Senior Archaeology Officer for Buckinghamshire County Council, advising the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and David Sanchez between 8th and 12th July 2016 and the site code is HSLC 16/40.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Long Crendon is located between Oxford and Aylesbury, north of Thame and east of the M40. The site is located at 64 High Street, south of St Mary's Church (Fig. 1). The site lies on the eastern edge of the village, in a residential area, south-east of the main house and south of a pond (Fig. 1 and 2). The site is mapped as lying on the Kimmeridge Clay Formation (BGS 1993) a grey mudstone with sporadic bands of limestone nodules and silt patches, which was the geology that was observed on site.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic core of the settlement within the Church End focus, to the south of the parish church, which has 12th-century origins. The settlement is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin

2002) and it is anticipated that any Saxon origins to the settlement will be in the general vicinity of the church. A medieval manorial complex lies to the south-east of the church.

Of similar significance is the presence of Iron Age and/or Roman occupation at locations in the vicinity of the site. One set of such deposits was recorded in a water trench (Carstairs 1984) and another small investigation recorded Iron Age deposits (Cowell, 1978). Roman pottery is also recorded in the local area. It is suggested that Chearsley Road may be of Roman origin (BCC 2009, fig. 15). Two recent evaluations to the north and north-east also revealed archaeological deposits of Iron Age and Roman date (Bray and Strachan 2015; Bray 2015; Dawson 2015).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits and features affected by the groundworks on the area of the footprint of the tennis court. This was to involve monitoring of overburden removal from the area.

The general objectives of the project are to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;
- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;
- and
- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic, etc.

Specific research objectives are:

- to determine when the site was first utilised and when was it abandoned;
- to determine the nature of any occupation on the site and how this changed through time, and if its use is continuous or discontinuous; and
- to determine if deposits representing Late Saxon and medieval occupation are present on the site.

Topsoil and overburden were to be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a ditching bucket, either to the foundation level of the new court, or to the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon, whichever was encountered first. Where appropriate and necessary, hand cleaning of the stripped surface would then take place. All archaeological features would then be planned and sectioned as a minimum objective, with any further excavation taking place according to an agreed strategy.

Results

The area for the tennis court was fully stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). After that, the subsoil was reduced in the western half of the area down to the natural geology (Fig. 3; Pl. 2). The

stratigraphy showed 0.20m topsoil overlying 0.05m to 0.10m subsoil overlying a light grey brown silt clay natural geology. No evidence of archaeological features or deposits was observed. The resulting spoil was then dumped on the eastern half of the area to level the future tennis court.

Finds

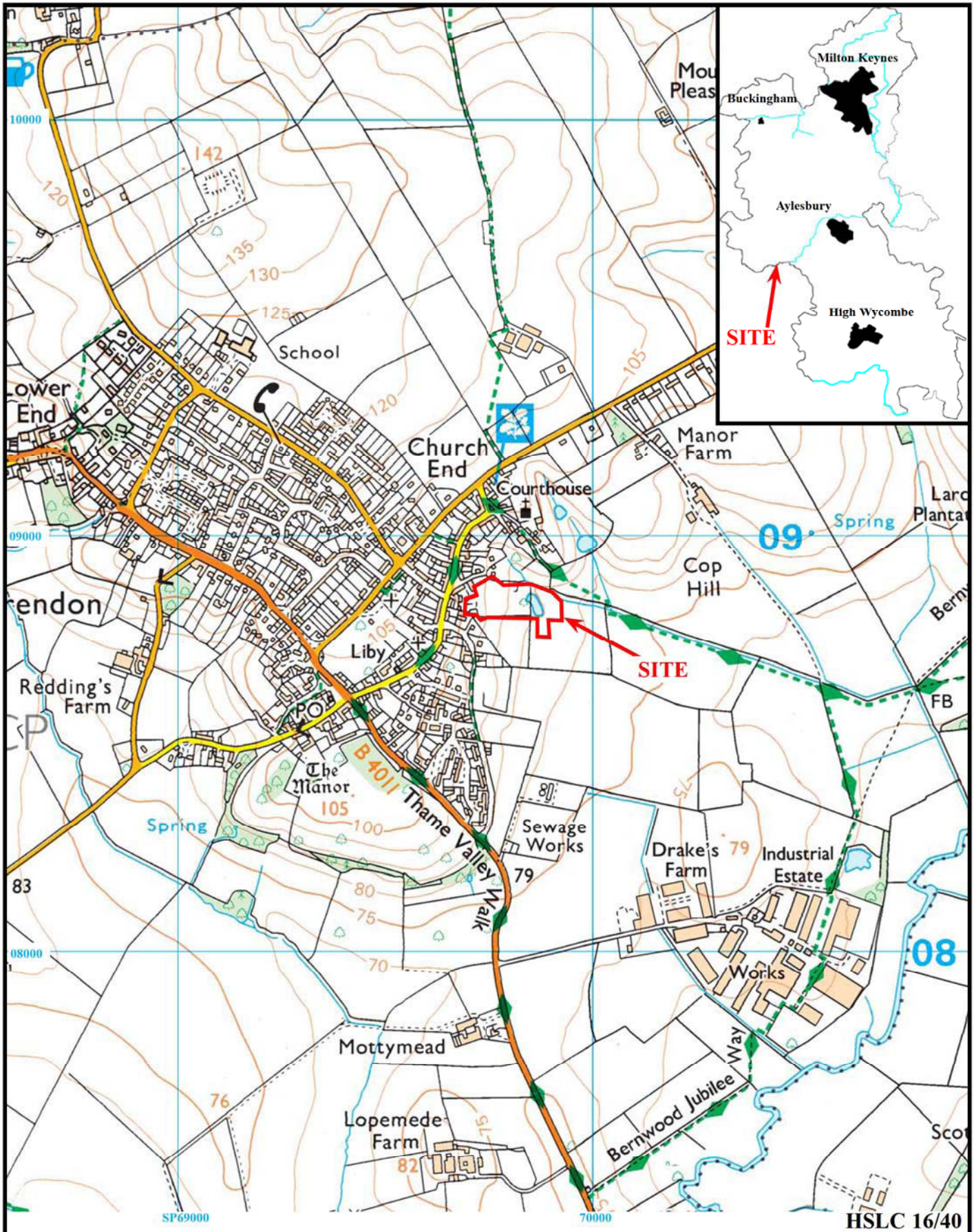
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present in the area, no features or finds of archaeological significance were observed during the groundworks.

References

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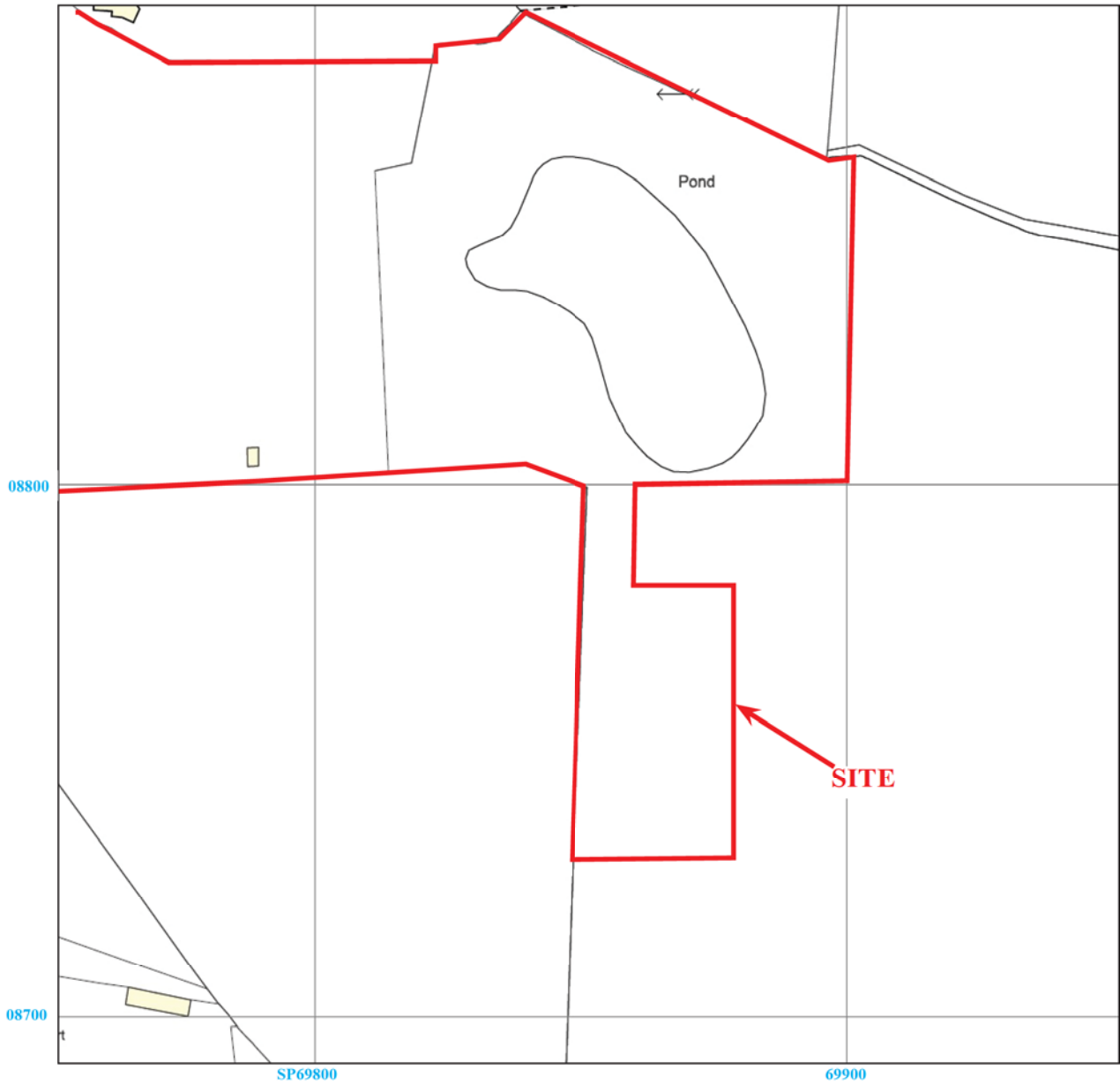


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Figure 1. Location of site within Long Crendon and Buckinghamshire.

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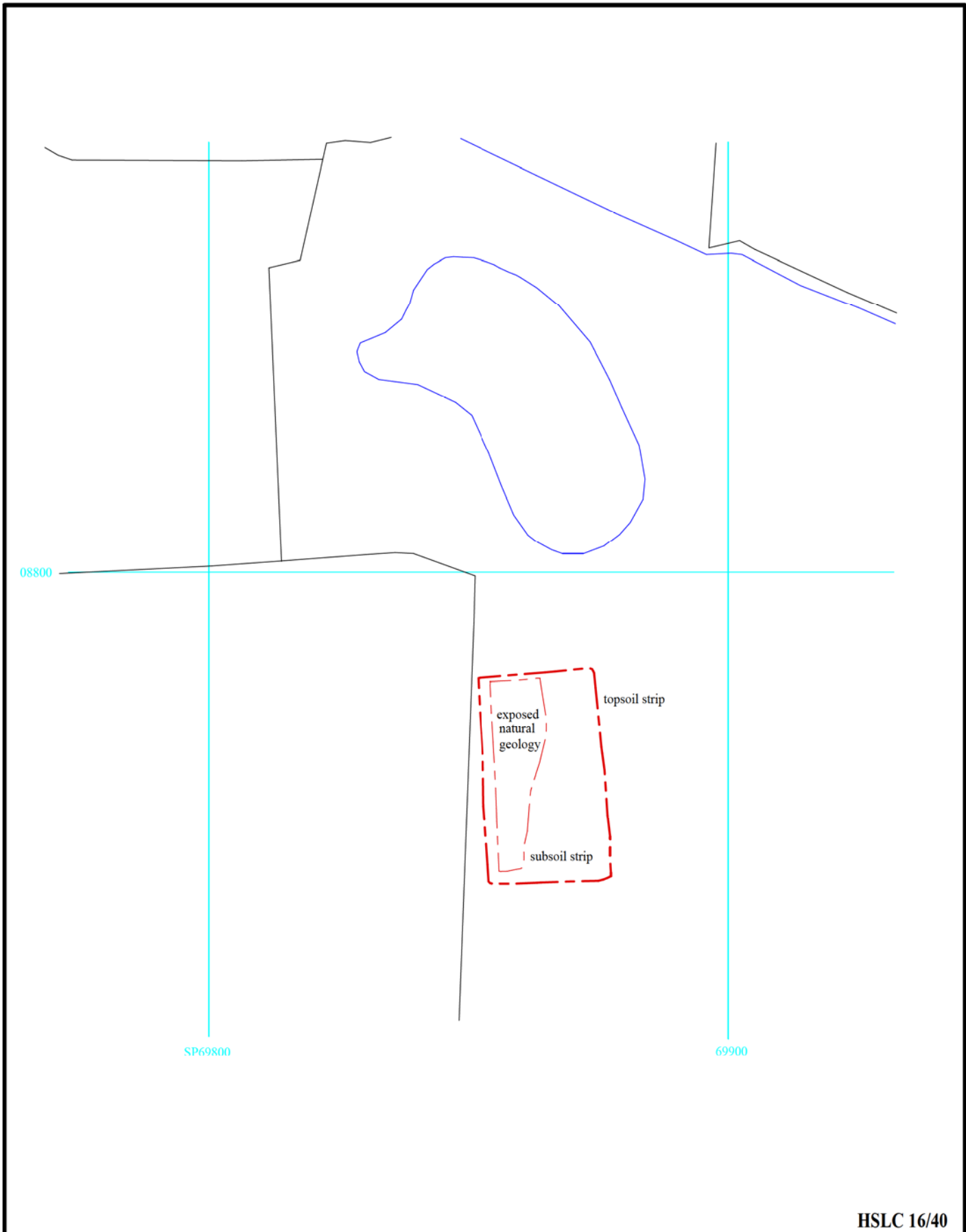
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Topsoil strip, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Subsoil strip, looking south, Scale: 2m.

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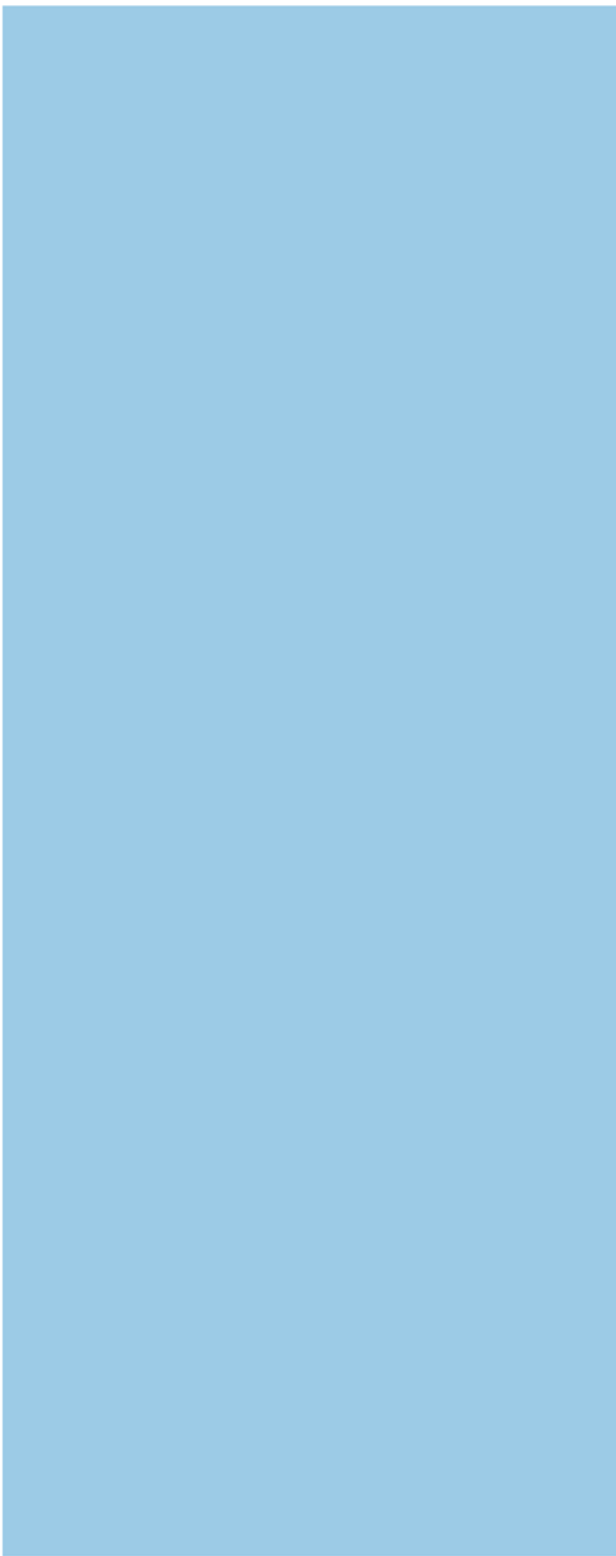
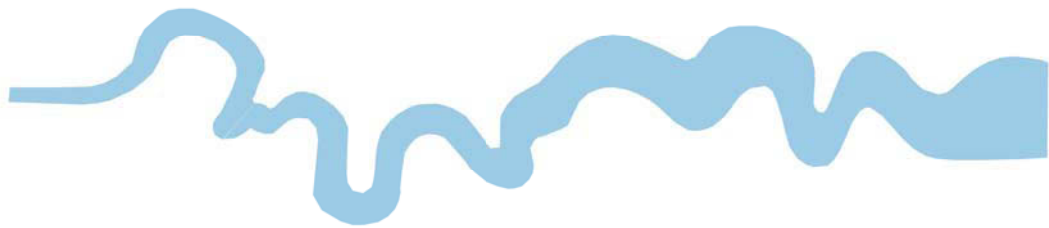
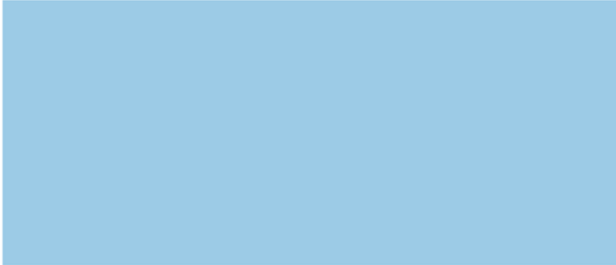
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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