THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land at Wilcot Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: WRP16/136

(SU 1598 6027)

Land at Wilcot Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Westbuild Homes

by David Sanchez and Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRP16/136

August 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Wilcot Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1598 6027

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16-17th August 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WRP16/136

Area of site: 0.73ha

Summary of results: No features nor finds of archaeological significance were uncovered during the course of the evaluation. The site is therefore 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 a depository willing to accept the material

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 31.08.16
	Steve Preston✓ 31.08.16

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Land at Wilcott Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez and Kyle Beaverstock

Report 16/136

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on a parcel of land at Wilcott Road, Pewsey, Wiltshire (SU 1598 6027) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Matthew Brook on behalf of Westbuild Homes Ltd, Hunters Lodge, Rectory Road, Padworth Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG7 4JB.

Planning permission (E/2012/1216/FUL) has been gained from Wiltshire Council to construct new houses on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the groundworks, a field evaluation has been required as detailed in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012, para 128), and the Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Ellen McManus, on 16-17th August 2016 and the site code is WRP 16/136. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a depository willing to accept the material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north west margins of the village of Pewsey (Fig. 21). It is located in a small parcel of land of c. 0.73ha on the north side of Wilcott Road. It lies to the southwest of the car park of Pewsey train station, with residential houses to the east and an industrial building to the west. It is at a height of 123m above Ordnance Datum The underlying geology is mapped as River and Valley Gravel (BGS 1959) and the geology observed on site consisted of mid yellowish brown sand with flint inclusions and gravel patches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (FA 2012). In summary, the site lies within an area of Pewsey beyond the historic (Saxon/Medieval) core of the settlement. A modest

range of archaeological sites and finds are recorded in the area with a Palaeolithic handaxe just to the north of the site and a Bronze Age bronze spearhead to the west.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or paleoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were;

a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

c) To provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

d) To report on the findings of the evaluation.

Nine trenches were to be dug, 1.6-2m wide and 20m long. A contingency for an additional 20m of trenching was included within the proposal should this be needed to clarify the initial findings, but this was not necessary. Trenches were to be dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to remove topsoil and overburden under constant archaeological supervision and spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were possibly present the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools to clarify their nature. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the objectives of the evaluation.

Results

Nine trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 19.60m to 21.50m and in depth from 0.45m to 0.68m. The general stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of between 0.15m and 0.27m of topsoil and between 0.20m and 0.40m of subsoil overlying natural geology (Fig. 4). 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; Pl. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned W - E and was 19.70m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, 0.20m of dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil and 0.20m of mid yellowish brown silt with gravel overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 19.60m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was aligned NW - SE and was 20.40m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.30m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil, 0.20m of dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil and 0.25m of mid yellowish brown silt with gravel overlying natural geology. One subrectangular truncation was investigated at 17m from the SW end of the trench showing this to be modern date. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 21.50m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural geology. Two possible features were investigated at 10m from the SW end of the trench showing these to be root disturbance. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 6 was aligned W - E and was 20.00m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil overlying natural geology. One modern circular pit was observed at 8m from the W end of the trench. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 7 was aligned W - E and was 20.80m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Figs 3)

Trench 8 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 21.20m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural geology. In the east end of the trench a made ground was observed between topsoil and subsoil with a thickness of 0.10m. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Figs 3)

Trench 9 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.70m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features or deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Nine trenches were successfully dug on the site as intended but no features of archaeological interest were observed and no finds recovered during the field evaluation.

References

BGS, 1959, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 282, Drift Edition, Keyworth

FA, 2012, Land at Wilcott Road, Pewsey, Wilshire, archaeological assessment, Foundation Archaeology report 816, Swindon.

NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	19.70	1.60	0.60	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.40m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil, 0.40-0.60 mid yellowish brown silt with gravel, 0.60m+ natural geology. **[Pl. 3]**
2	19.60	1.60	0.45	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.45m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.45m+ natural geology. **[Pl. 4]**
3	20.40	1.60	0.50	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.45m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.45m+ natural geology. **[Pl. 1]**
4	20.30	1.60	0.60	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.35m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil, 0.35-0.60 mid yellowish brown silt with gravel, 0.60m+ natural geology.
5	21.50	1.60	0.45	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.45m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.45m+ natural geology.
6	20.00	1.60	0.52	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.52m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.52m+ natural geology.
7	20.80	1.60	0.65	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.60m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.60m+ natural geology. **[Pl. 2]**
8	21.20	1.60	0.68	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.30m made ground (only in the northeast end of the trench), 0.30-0.60 dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil, 0.60m+ natural geology.
9	20.70	1.60	0.50	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.35m dark yellowish brown silty sand subsoil 0.35m+ natural geology.

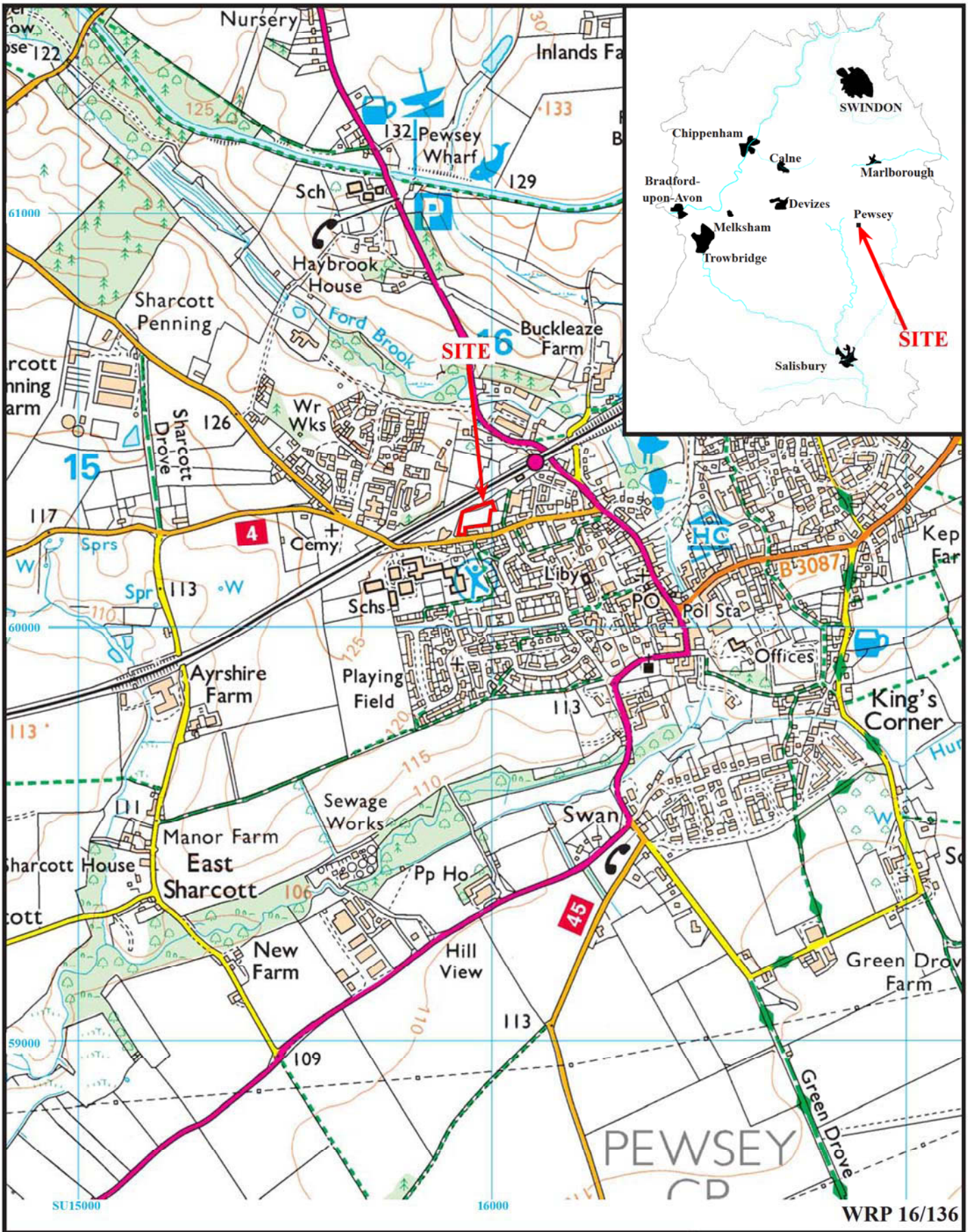

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Figure 1. Location of site within Pewsey and Wiltshire.

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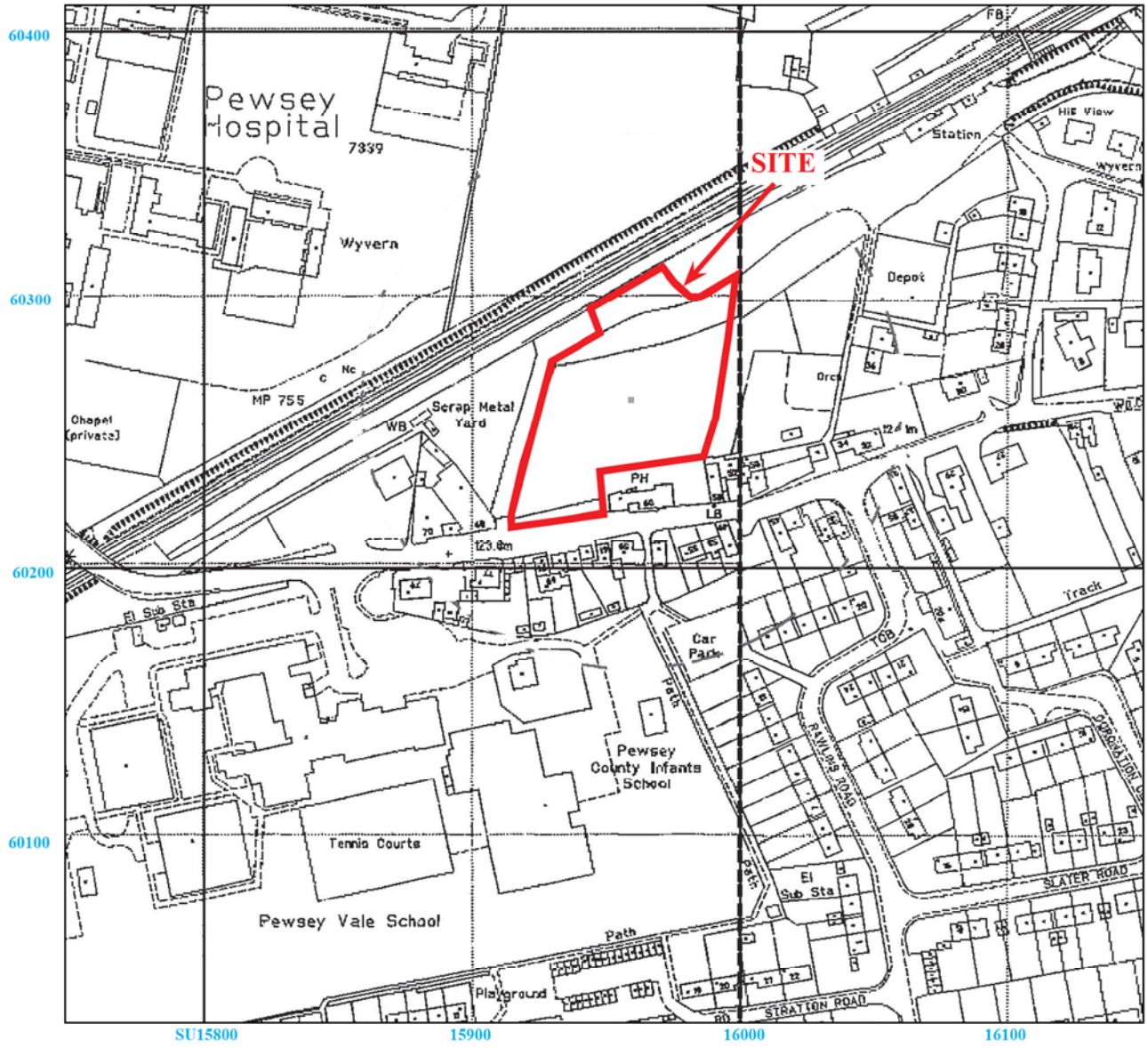

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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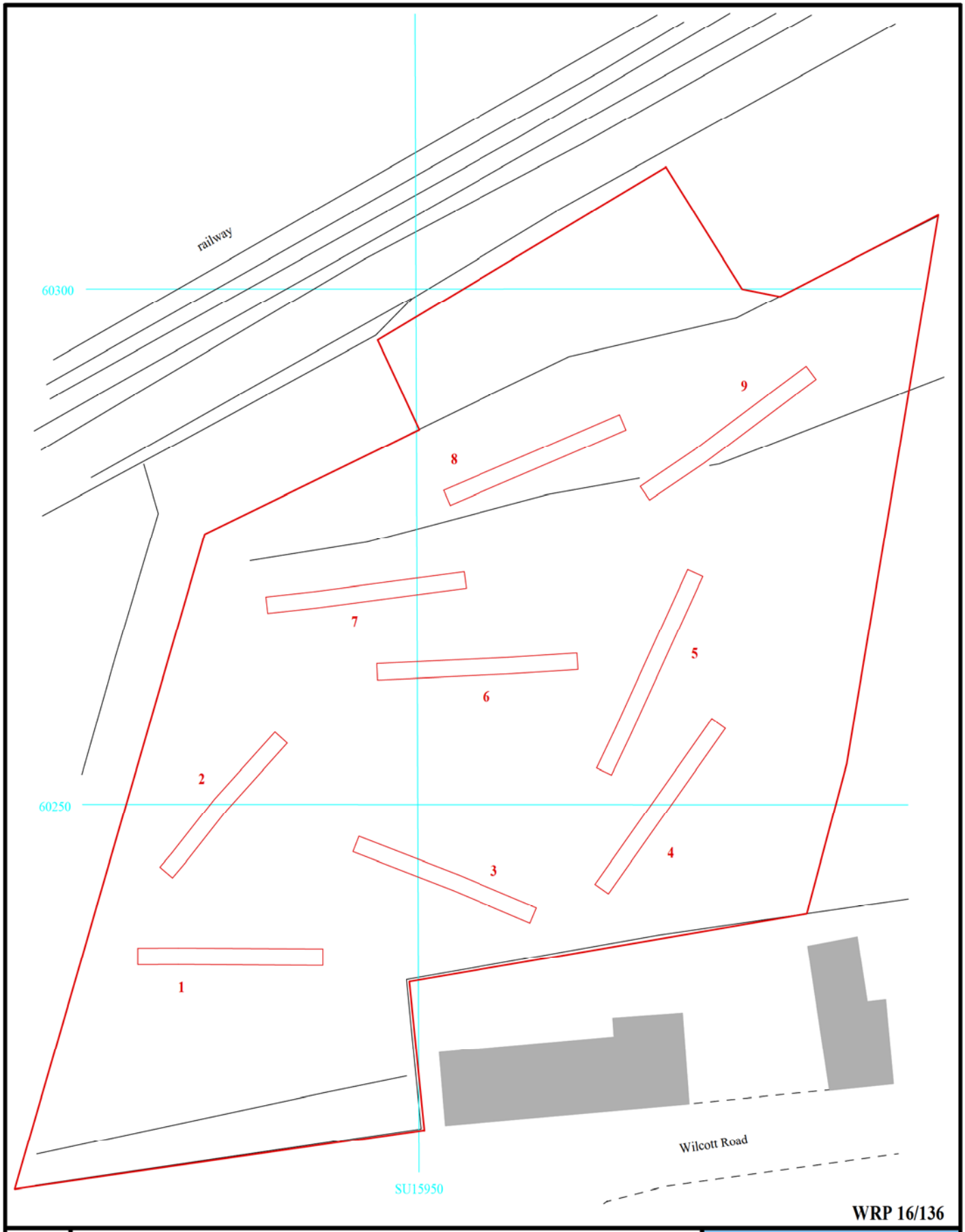

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m

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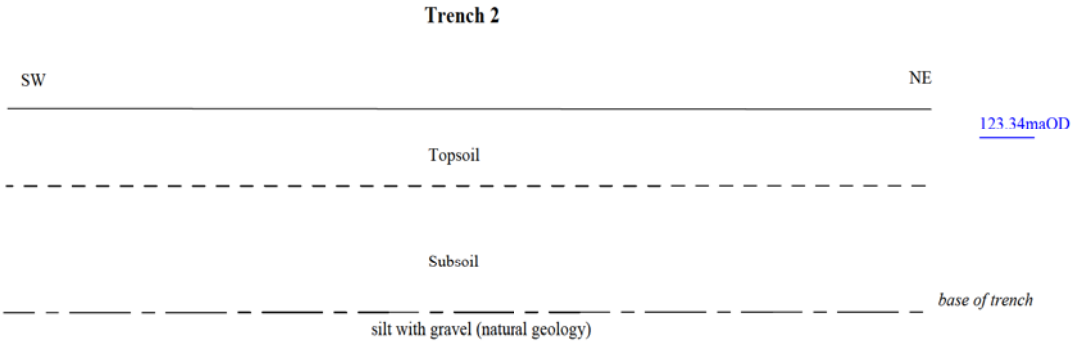

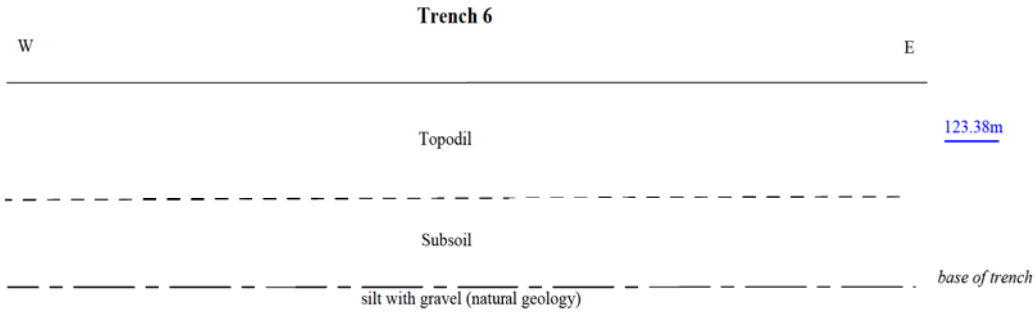

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

Plate 2. Trench 7, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 1, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

Plate 4. Trench 2, looking south, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 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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