

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Old Wokingham Road,
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: OWR16/144

(SU 8409 6538)

Land at Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Bewley Homes Plc

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OWR16/144

October 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8409 6538

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th to 22nd of September 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: OWR 16/144

Area of site: c. 3.1 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation comprised the digging of twenty four trenches within woodland on the site. Two linear features and a possible pit (all undated) were recorded but artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered. 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 a local approved museum willing to accept the archive.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 03.10.16

Land at Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/144

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land at Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire (SU 8409 6538) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stuart Whyte of Bewley Homes Plc, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, Hants, RG26 5JJ.

Planning consent (F/2014/1561) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of new housing on site. The consent is subject to a condition (18) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged, a field evaluation was proposed.

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 Kathelen Leary, Archaeology Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, the council's archaeological adviser. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Michael Johnson between 19th and 22nd September 2016 and the site code is OWR16/144. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local approved museum willing to accept the archive.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in an area of woodland on the northern edge of Crowthorne in the angle formed by the B3430 (Nine Mile Ride) and the Old Wokingham Road. The properties along the north side of Hatch Ride form the southern boundary of the site (Fig.1). The site lies at a height between *c.*75m to *c.*83m over Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is the Bracklesham Beds (BGS 1981) brown, yellow and red loam and sand, which were observed on site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the corridor occupied by the Devil's Highway, which is a major Roman road from the Roman towns of Silchester to London via Staines. Several extensive Roman settlements are recorded close to the line of the road as at Wickham Bushes (Corney and Gaffney 1983) Rapley Farm (Ford 1987) Finchampstead (Hampton et al 1977) and beyond at Sunningdale (Hughes 1890) and Riseley (Ford 1994-7). A modest number of other finds are recorded for the environs of the site including a neolithic arrowhead and an undated (but probably medieval) enclosure to the east.

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 archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and

to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

A total of 24 trenches were to be dug at a length of 25m each and 1.6m-2m wide. The trenches were located to examine the whole area of the site (excluding the areas of proposed open space) (Fig. 2). The trenches were to be dug using a 360°-type machine fitted with a ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive areas. Any archaeological features identified would be then excavated accordingly.

Results

The twenty four trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations, just with little changes in the orientation because of the local presence of trees (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 21m to 25m and in depth from 0.21m to 0.4m. The natural geology was almost the same in all trenches with a light yellow brown sandy silt with occasional gravel and silty brown patches. 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 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned NE - SW and was 21m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3, PI 1)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a light yellow/ brown sandy silt with white sand patches and pebbles natural geology.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.22m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.28m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.16m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned N - S and was 25m long and 0.28m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.20m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with some white sand patches and rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned NW - SE and was 25m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.02m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned NW - SE and was 25m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt and rare pebbles natural geology. Modern wheel ruts present.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.19m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with some white sand patches pebbles natural geology.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3; Pl 2)

Trench 11 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.22m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.02m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying a light yellow sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3)

Trench 12 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying a light yellow with some brown patches sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

Trench 14 was aligned S - N and was 24m long and 0.21m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.15m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

Trench 15 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with white sand patches and rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned W - E and was 24m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.27m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

Trench 17 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

Trench 18 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.

Trench 19 (Fig. 3)

Trench 19 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying a light yellow sandy silt natural geology.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

Trench 20 was aligned S - N and was 23m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

Trench 21 was aligned S - N and was 24m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.04m of topsoil and 0.32m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 22 (Figs 3 and 4)

Trench 22 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.25m subsoil overlying a light yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 23 (Fig. 3)

Trench 23 was aligned S - N and was 22m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.06m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying a yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.

Trench 24 (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 4-6)

Trench 24 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of topsoil and 0.24m subsoil overlying yellow brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology. Two gullies [2 and 3] and a possible pit [1] were recorded at the northeast end of the trench. Pit [1] had a diameter of 0.65m and 0.35m deep and was filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (52) from which no finds were recovered. Gully [2] was 0.5m wide and 0.14m deep, and gully [3] was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. They were filled with a dark greyish brown sandy silt (53, 54) from which no finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

The only features observed in the 24 trenches of the evaluation were those two gullies and the possible pit in the northeast part of the site, however no datable material was recovered from the excavated slots and it is unclear if they are of any antiquity. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were observed for elsewhere on the site. The site is considered to have a low archaeological potential.

References

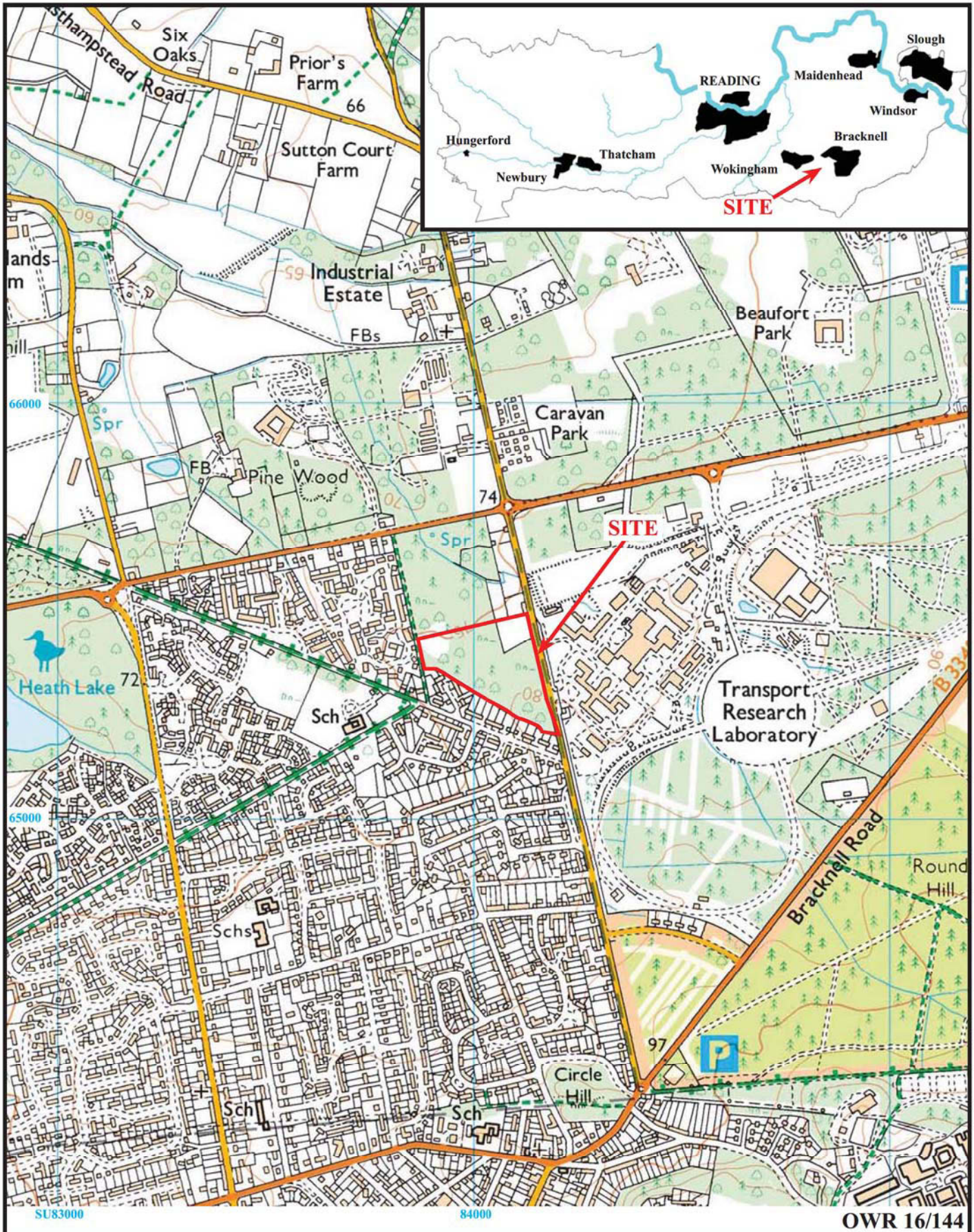
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21	1.8	0.3	0–0.05m topsoil, 0.05-0.27m brown sandy silt subsoil, 0.27m+ light yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
2	25	1.8	0.3	0–0.05m topsoil, 0.05-0.28m subsoil, 0.28m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology. [Pl. 1]
3	25	1.8	0.35	0–0.05m topsoil, 0.05-0.29m subsoil, 0.29m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with white sand patches and pebbles natural geology.
4	24	1.8	0.22	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.19m subsoil, 0.19m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
5	24	1.8	0.28	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.2m subsoil, 0.2m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
6	25	1.8	0.28	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.24m subsoil, 0.24m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
7	24	1.8	0.29	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.26m subsoil, 0.26m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with white sand patches and rare pebbles natural geology.
8	25	1.8	0.3	0–0.02m topsoil, 0.02-0.26m subsoil, 0.26m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
9	25	1.8	0.34	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.28m subsoil, 0.31m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
10	25	1.8	0.25	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.22m subsoil, 0.22m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with white sand patches natural geology.
11	25	1.8	0.22	0–0.02m topsoil, 0.02-0.17m subsoil, 0.17m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology. [Pl. 2]
12	25	1.8	0.3	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.26m subsoil, 0.26m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with brown sand patches natural geology.
13	25	1.8	0.33	0–0.05m topsoil, 0.05-0.29m subsoil, 0.29m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
14	24	1.8	0.21	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.18m subsoil, 0.18m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
15	25	1.8	0.33	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
16	24	1.8	0.33	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.31m subsoil, 0.31m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology. [Pl.]
17	25	1.8	0.3	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.25m subsoil, 0.25m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
18	24	1.8	0.32	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.27m subsoil, 0.27m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with rare pebbles natural geology.
19	25	1.8	0.33	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
20	23	1.8	0.3	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.27m subsoil, 0.27m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
21	24	1.8	0.40	0–0.04m topsoil, 0.04-0.36m subsoil, 0.36m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
22	25	1.8	0.32	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.28m subsoil, 0.28m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
23	22	1.8	0.35	0–0.06m topsoil, 0.06-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology.
24	24	1.8	0.31	0–0.03m topsoil, 0.03-0.27m subsoil, 0.27m+ yellow/brown sandy silt with pebbles natural geology. Pit [1] and gullies [2, 3] [Pls 4-6]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

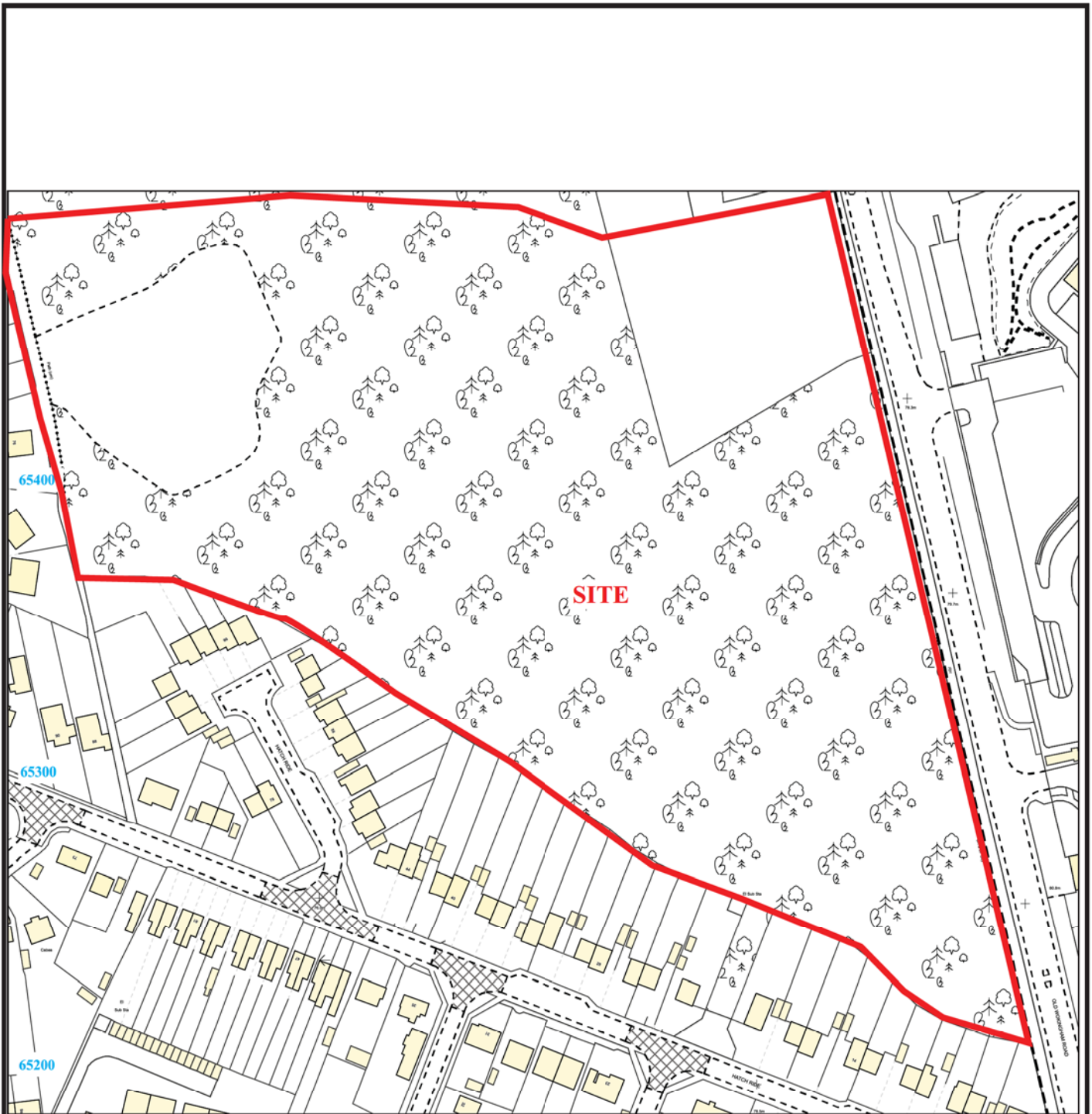
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
24	1	52	Pit (poss. tree bowl)	Undated	None
24	2	53	Gully	Undated	None
24	3	54	Gully	Undated	None



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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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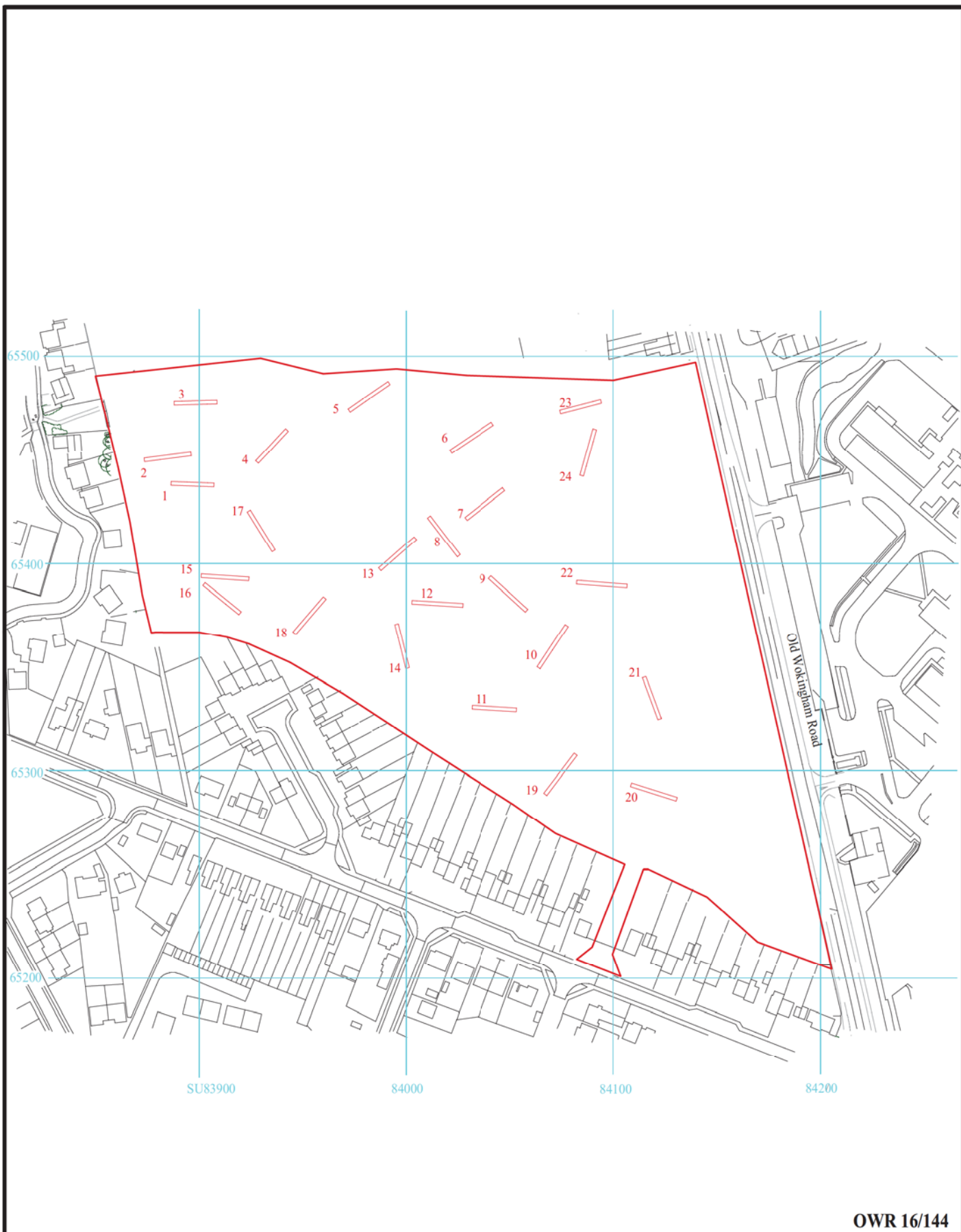
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Crowthorne

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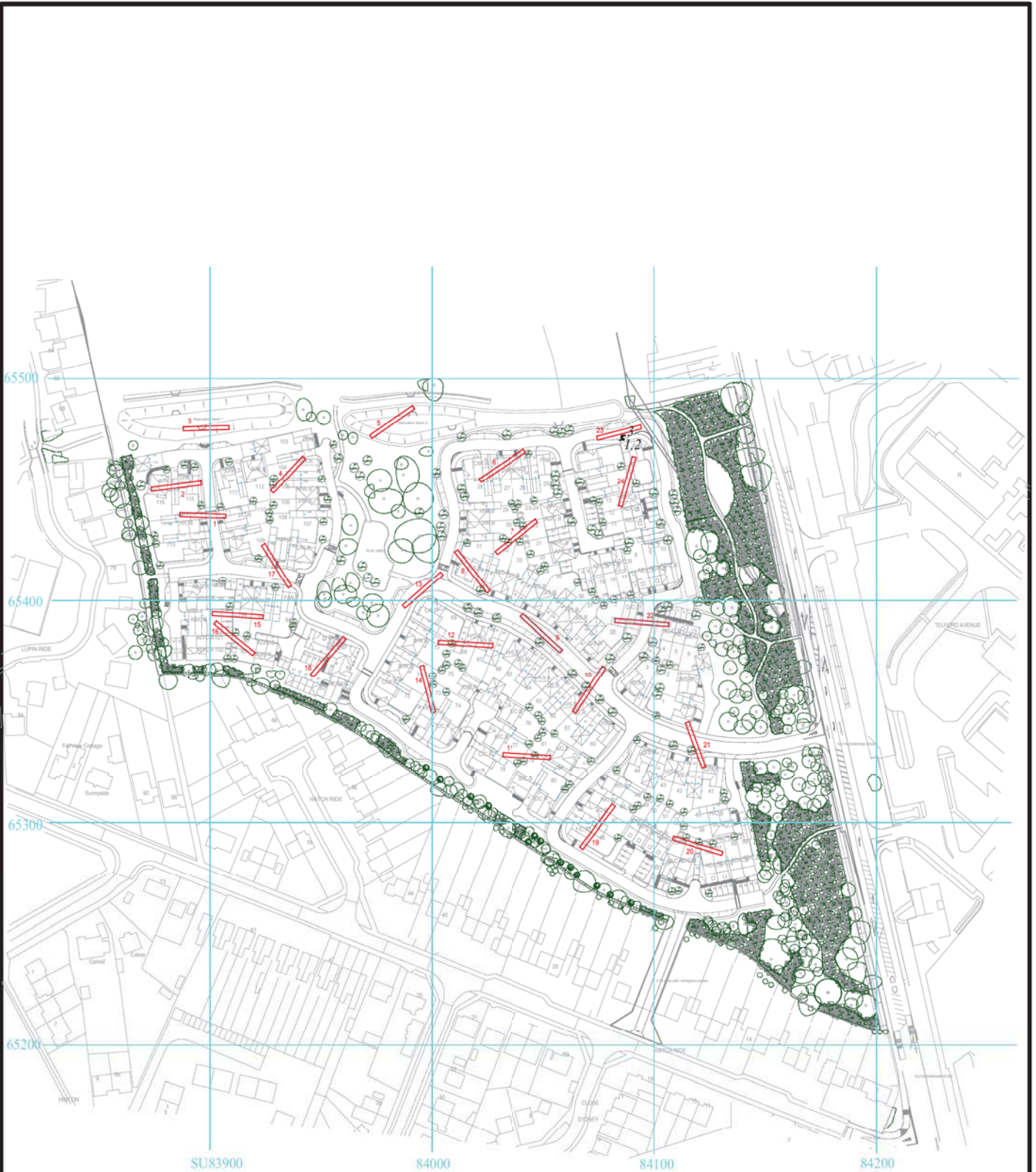
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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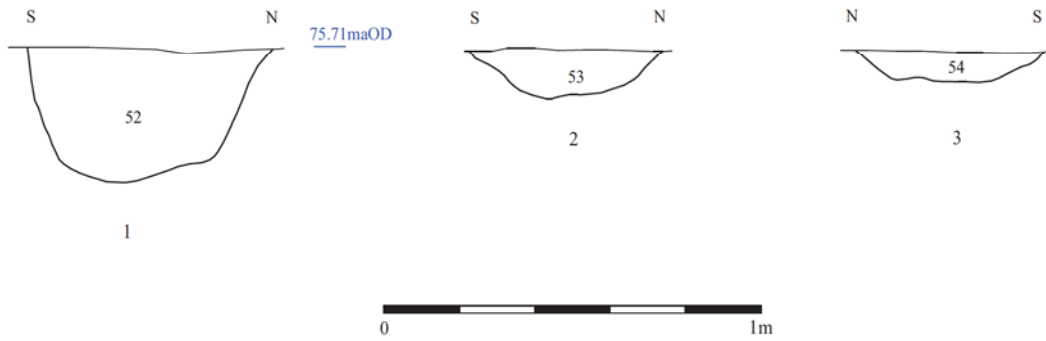
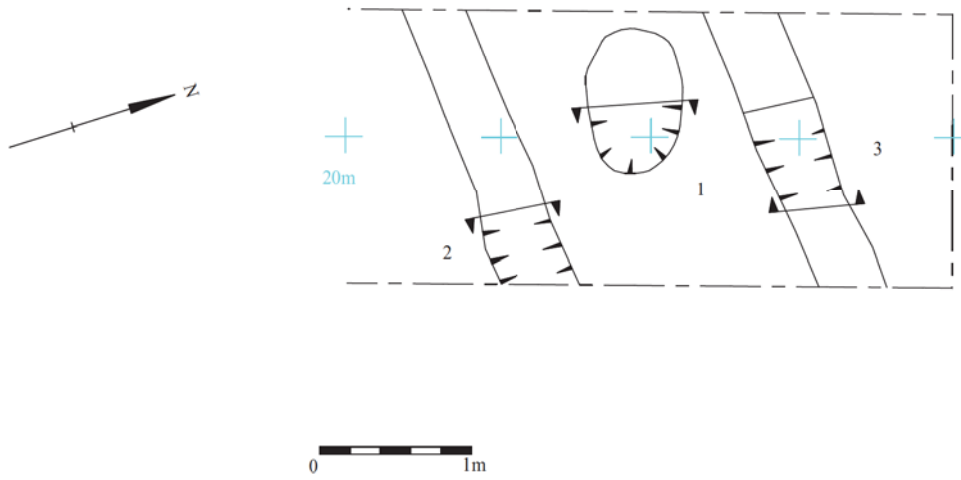
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Figure 4. Location of trenches relative to development layout..



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Trench 24



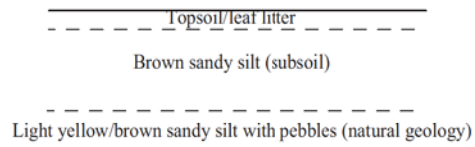
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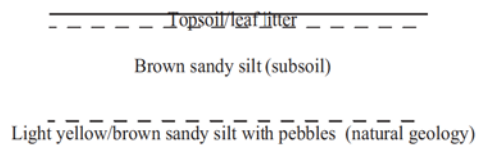
Figure 5. Detail from Trench 24.

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Trench 1



Trench 22



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Figure 6. Representative sections



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



Plate 2. Trench 11, looking south east, Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 16, looking east, Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 24, looking north east, Scales: 0.3m, 1m and 2m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 24, Pit 1 looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 24, Ditch slot 3, looking east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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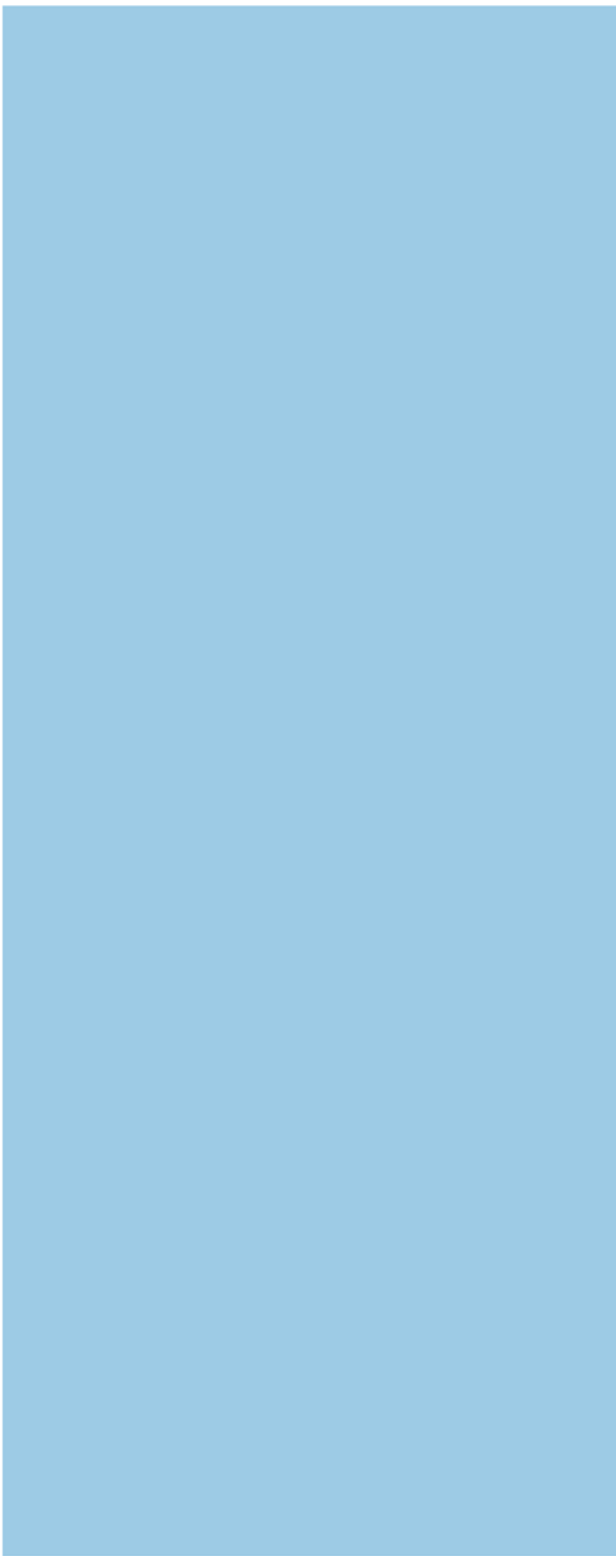
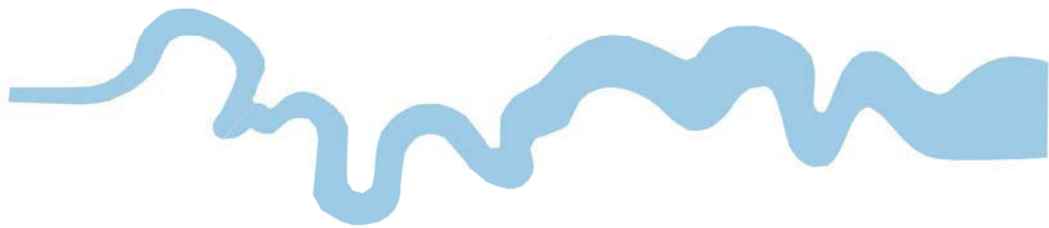
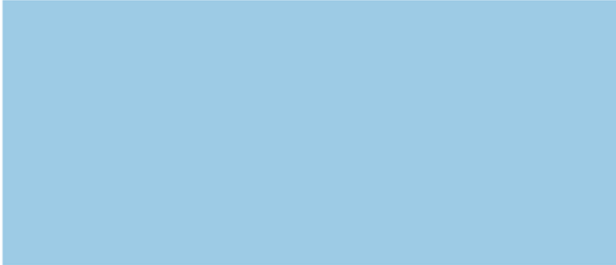
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Plates 5 - 6.

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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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