

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Oakland and Donne Mede, Harvest Hill Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Tim Dawson and Andy Taylor

Site Code: HHR16/140

(SU 8929 7925)

Oakland and Donne Mede, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Amberleigh Homes**

by Tim Dawson and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HHR 16/140

October 2016

Summary

Site name: Oakland and Donne Mede, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8929 7925

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th October 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: HHR 16/140

Area of site: c. 0.94 ha

Summary of results: No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed. A few late post-medieval or modern features were noted. 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 museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.10.16

Oakland and Donne Mead, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Tim Dawson and Andy Taylor

Report 16/140

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Oakland and Donne Mead, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8929 7925) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Dan East, of T P Architects, 33a St Luke's Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DN on behalf of Amberleigh Homes, The Brewery House, 74 High Street, Marlow, SL7 1AH.

Planning permission (app no. 16/00325/OUT) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor for the construction of four new houses following demolition of the existing structures. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology.

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 Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Rebecca Constable on the 19th October 2016 and the site code is HHR 16/140. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south western margins of Maidenhead and just to the north of the M4 motorway. It is situated in the lawns of the rear gardens of the properties. The underlying geology is mapped as Reading Beds gravel (BGS 1981) although clay with gravel was observed in the trenches. It lies at a height of *c.*28m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary this potential stems from its location within the archaeologically rich

Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded for the area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). More specifically Neolithic occupation deposits have been recorded at Cannon Hill to the south east (Bradley et al 1976) and a rich Mesolithic site at Holyport, on low lying ground to the south west (Ames 1993). Early Saxon finds are also recorded for the 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 aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site.
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To determine if any Neolithic deposits are present.
- To determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

Four trenches were to be dug measuring 15m long and 1.20m wide targeting the footprints of the proposed new structures. These were to be dug using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This was to be done under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The four trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations, although space restrictions resulted in some shortening of trenches. These measured between 7.70m and 16.70m long and between 0.57m and 1m deep.

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 and 4)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 7.70m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying mid brown yellow clay natural geology. A modern drain was noted between 3.70m and 3.80m.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 8.70m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.31m of subsoil overlying mid brown yellow clay natural geology.

Trench 3 (Fig 3: Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 15.50m long and 0.81m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. A modern ditch was observed between 2m and 3.60m which was found to contain coal and brick fragments.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3: Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 16.70m long and 0.98m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil overlying 0.64m of subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. A linear feature was observed at the SE end as well as a pit at 6m and a gully at 15.60m. All of these were investigated and found to contain post medieval/modern brick fragments and coal.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology being present on the site no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

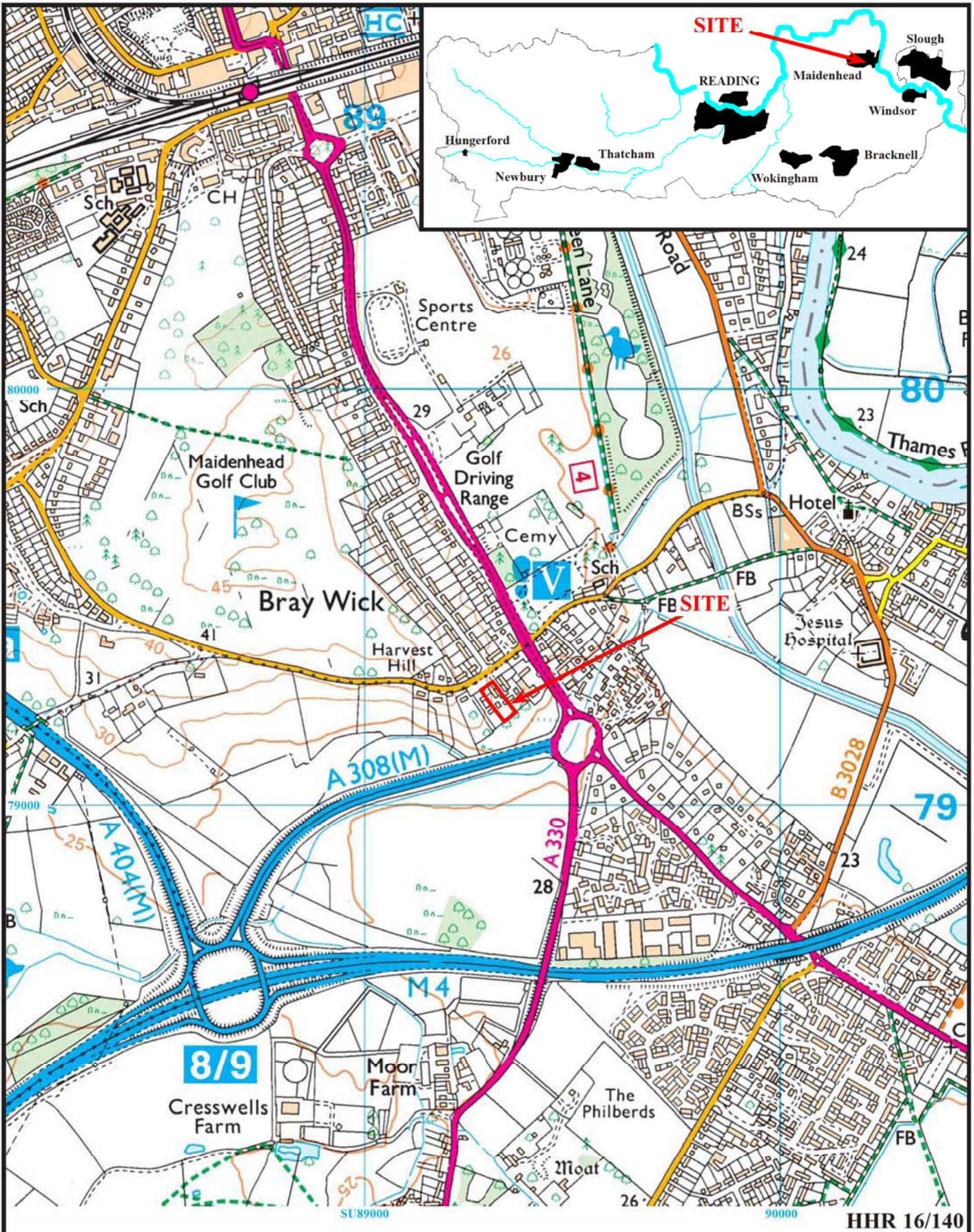
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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	7.70	1.20	0.68	0-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-0.65mbrown silty clay with gravel subsoil; 0.65m-0.68m+ brown clay natural geology.
2	8.70	1.20	0.57	0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m-0.57m+ brown clay natural geology
3	15.50	1.20	0.81	0-0.33m topsoil; 0.33m-0.78m subsoil; 0.78m-0.81m+ brown clay and gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
4	16.70	1.20	0.98	0-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.96m subsoil; 0.96m-0.98m+ brown clay and gravel natural geology. [Pl. 2]

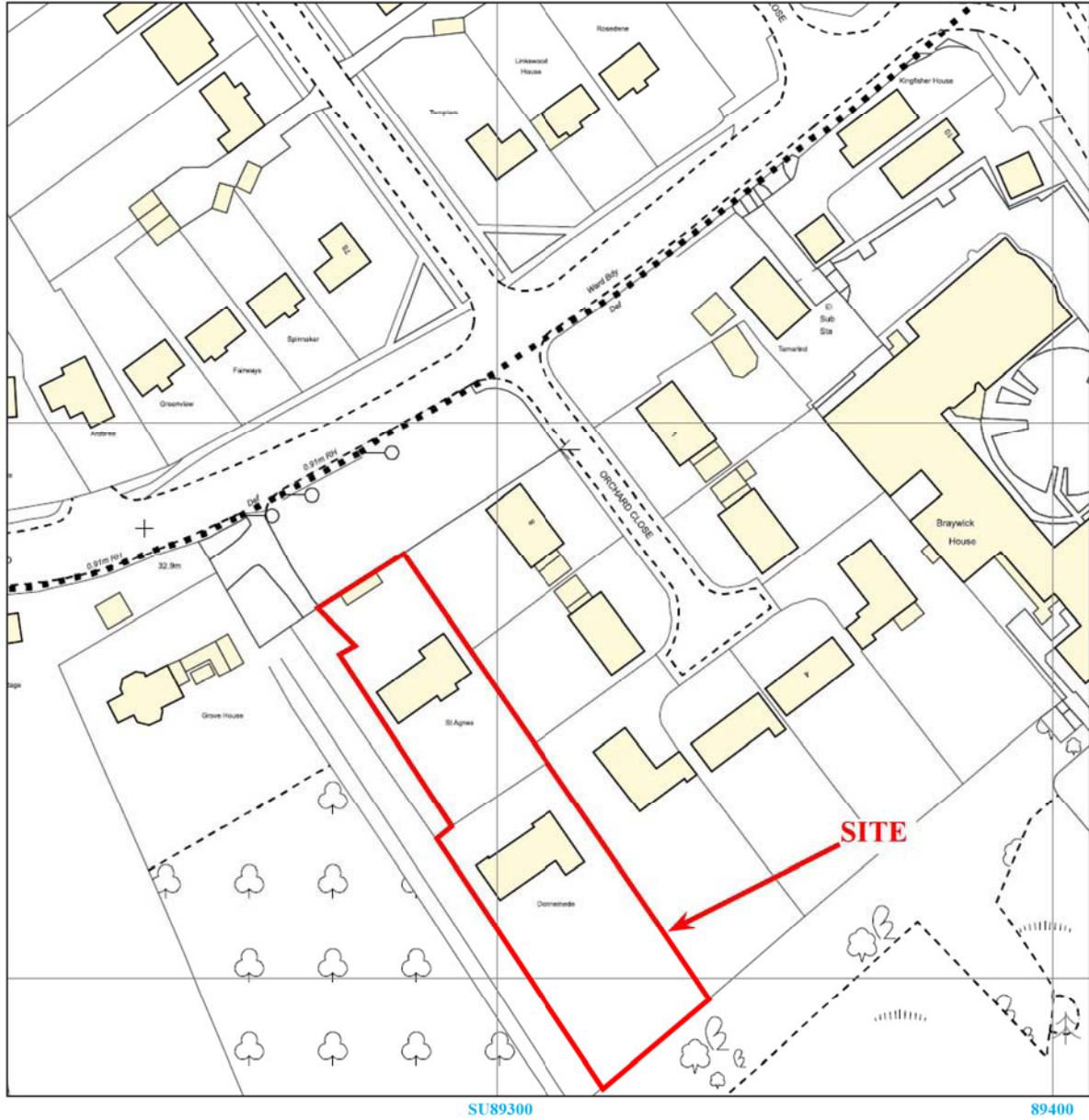


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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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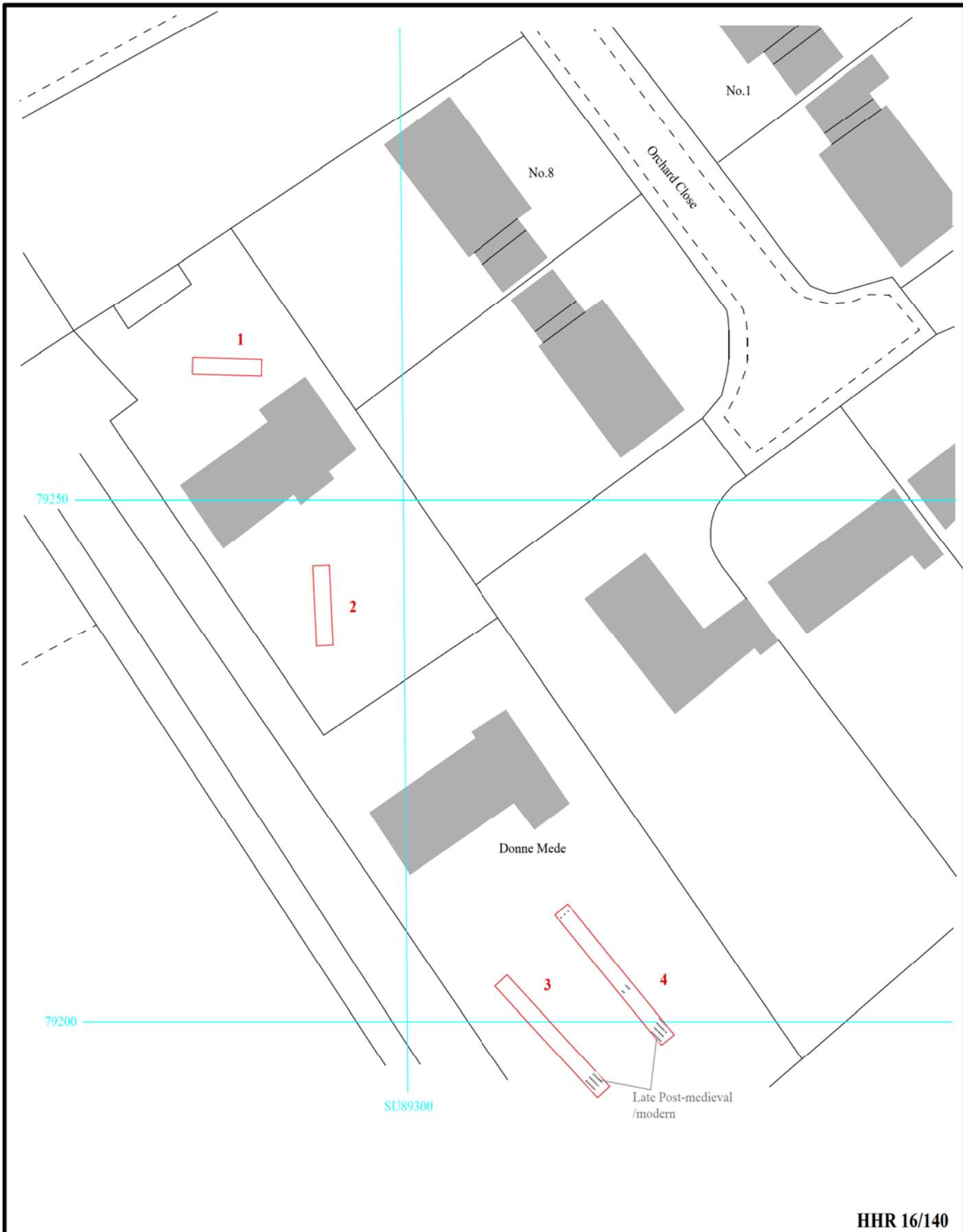


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Harvest Hill Road.

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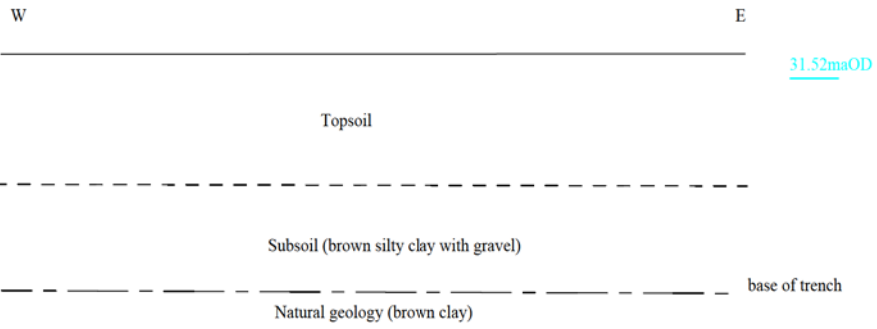
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Representative trench.



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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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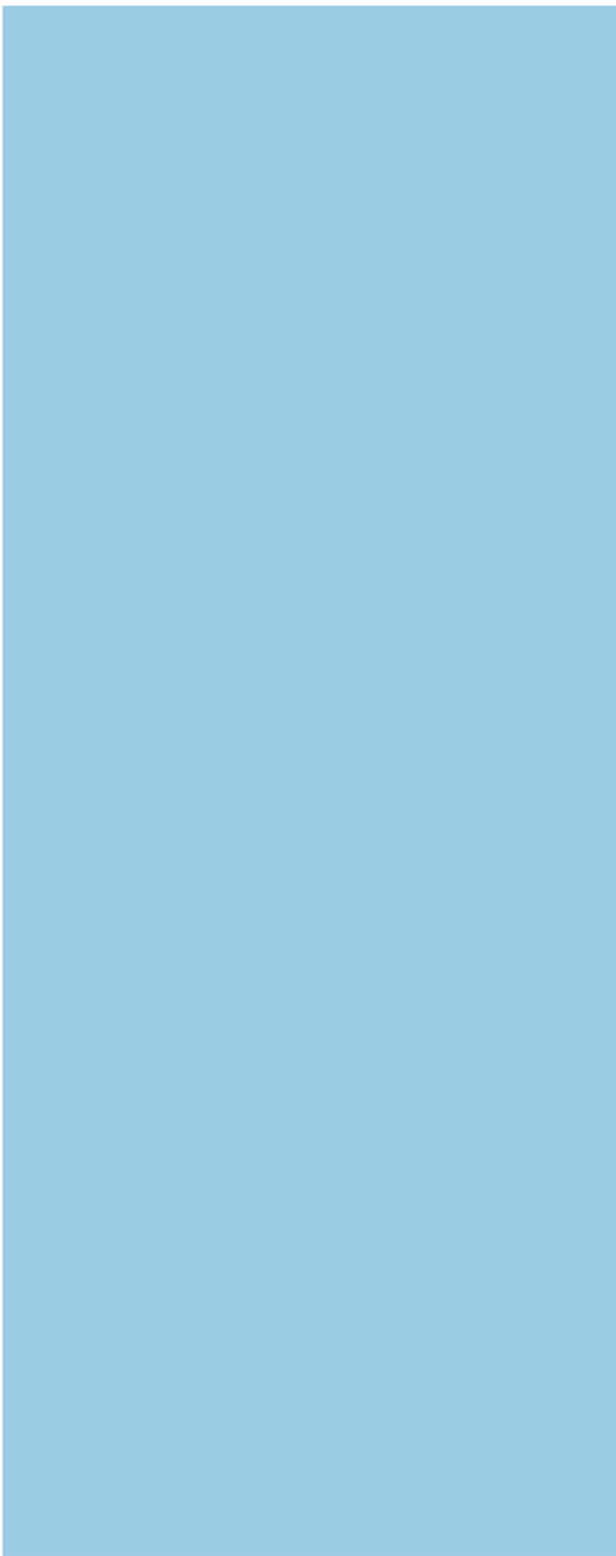
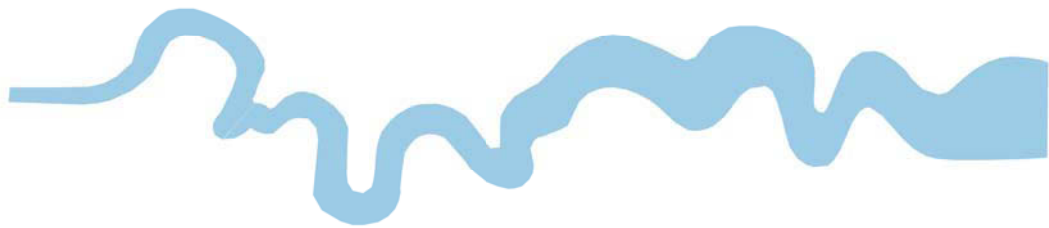
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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