

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst Road,  
Ascot, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Lizzi Lewins and Danielle Milbank**

**Site Code: BHA15/47**

**(SU 9282 6734)**

**Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst Road,  
Ascot, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for H P Architecture Ltd**

by Lizzi Lewins and Danielle Milbank  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BHA 15/47

**November 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst Road, Ascot, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9282 6734

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 26th October 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Danielle Milbank

**Site code:** BHA 15/47

**Summary of results:** The site showed evidence for previous truncation but probably no more than topsoil removal. However, only a single, undated gully was encountered and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered. It is considered that the site has low archaeological potential

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 04.11.16
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# **Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst Road, Ascot, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Lizzi Lewins and Danielle Milbank

**Report 15/47**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Brockenhurst Hotel, Brockenhurst Road, Ascot, Berkshire (SU 9282 6734) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Ferris of H P Architecture Ltd, Crowthorne House, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3GE.

Planning permission (app no. 13/01995/FUL) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of the existing hotel and the construction of new flats with basement parking. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires that an archaeological evaluation be carried out in advance of the demolition and construction due to the possible presence of archaeology on site which could be damaged or destroyed during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, the advisors to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank and John Tierney on the 26th October 2016 and the site code is BHA15/47. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the south of Ascot and south west of Sunninghill on the south side of the Brockenhurst Road (A330) (Fig. 1). The site comprised an area of flat, landscaped ground of which the north eastern extent had been terraced approximately 1m lower than the rest of the area. The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot Beds (BGS 1981) and was observed on site as silty sand with gravel inclusions. The site lies a height of c.63m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

## **Archaeological background**

The site lies within an area of east Berkshire which has recorded only a modest range of archaeological finds and deposits. Nevertheless there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval find spots as recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record and many upstanding Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987).

A small number of previous investigations undertaken within the vicinity of the site failed to produce any archaeological features or finds (Cass & Platt 2008; Hammond 2005; Hardy 2008; Platt & Beaverstock 2014)

## **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 work was to be carried out in such a manner that it would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warranted preservation in-situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific aims of the project were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *English Heritage Research Agenda* (English Heritage 2005) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary.

It was proposed to dig four trenches 10m in length and 1.6m wide within the footprint of the new buildings and car park ramp access. A contingency of 10m of trench was in place should the need arise to clarify the initial findings. The overburden was to be removed with a small (5-8 ton) 360<sup>0</sup> machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Where archaeological features were encountered the trenches were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded including a photographic record. The excavation of the trenches was to be supervised by an archaeologist at all times and all spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

## **Results**

All four trenches were dug as intended however the width of the trenches was 1.20m. They ranged in length from 8.60m - 12.30m. 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; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 10.80m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of made ground (Tarmac and hoggin) overlying 0.19m of grey brown silty sand subsoil overlying the yellow brown silty sand natural geology with occasional gravel patches and yellow mottling. Topsoil was present in the eastern section to a depth of 0.30m. A possible gully (1) was recorded which was 0.73m wide and 0.10m deep and filled with a red brown silty sand. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 8.60m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying the natural geology. No subsoil was observed in the trench. Disturbance caused by services was noted between 0m-2m and 2.30m-4.30m. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 11.60m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.44m of topsoil overlying the natural geology. No subsoil was observed in the trench. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 12.30m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil overlying the natural geology. No subsoil was observed in the trench. No archaeological features or finds were encountered.

### **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeology only a single, undated gully was encountered during the course of the evaluation. Out of four trenches subsoil was only present in one, it is therefore highly likely that the area under investigation had been subject to previous truncation perhaps in connection with the construction of the hotel. Despite the evidence for some truncation of the land it appears however that the archaeologically relevant horizon has survived on site. Nevertheless no archaeological deposits were found and thus the site is considered to have little archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cass, S and Platt, D, 2008, 'Land at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berkshire, An Archaeological Watching Brief', Tvas rep **04/123b**, Reading
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Hammond, S, 2005, 'Land at Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berkshire, An Archaeological Evaluation', TVAS rep **04/123a**, Reading
- Hardy, LM, 2001, 'Earley Cottage, Earleydene, Ascot, Berkshire, An Archaeological Watching Brief', TVAS rep **01/20**, Reading
- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr **6**, Oxford
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Platt, D and Beaverstock, K, 2014, 'Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, An Archaeological Evaluation', TVAS rep **14/194**, Reading

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southwest, west, and southeast end

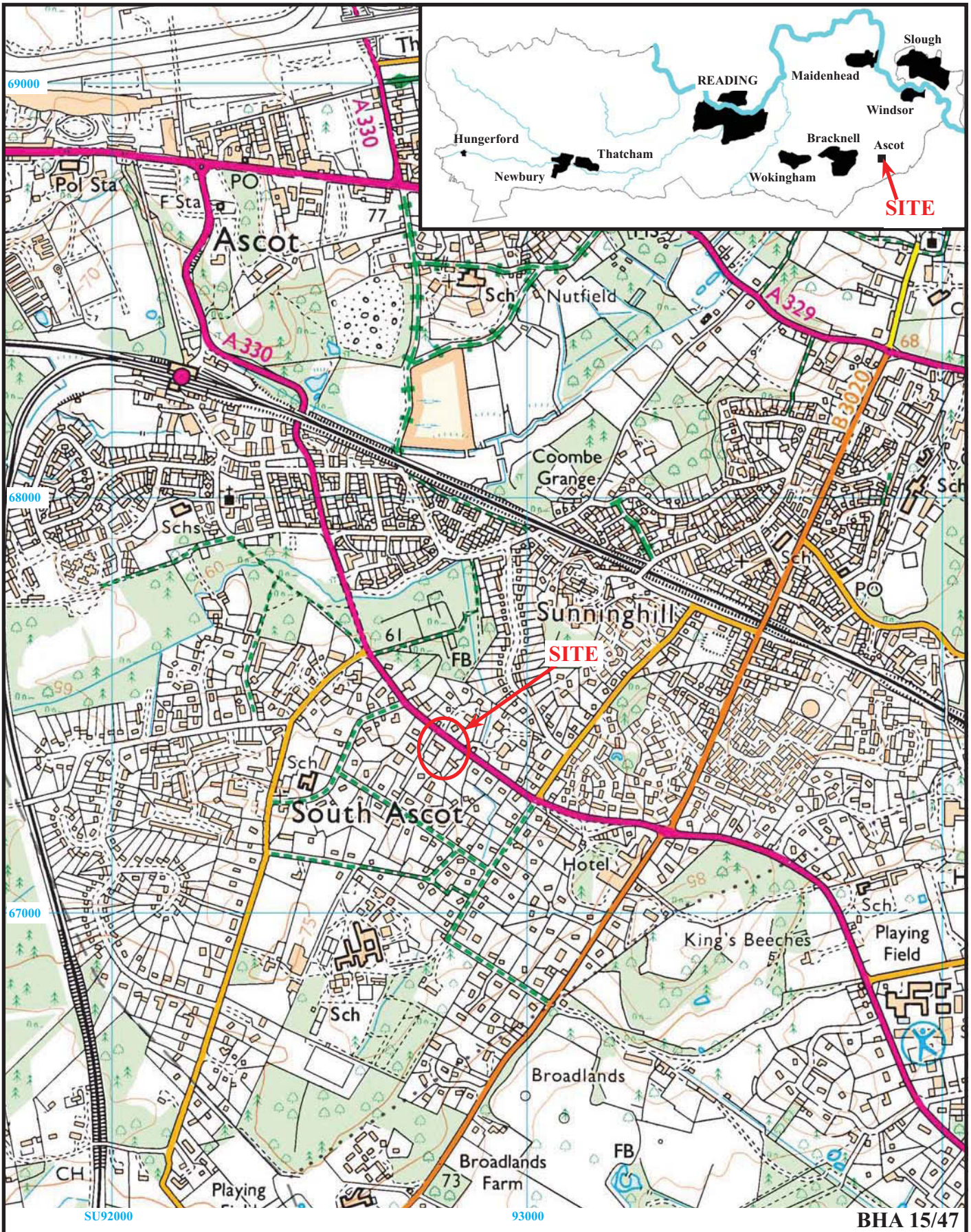
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>10.80</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.60</b>	0–0.35m made ground; 0.35m-0.54m brown grey silty sand subsoil; 0.54m+ yellow brown silty sand natural geology with occasional gravel patches and yellow mottling; <b>Gully 1.</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>8.60</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.43</b>	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m+ yellow brown silty sand natural geology with occasional gravel patches and yellow mottling. No archaeology.
<b>3</b>	<b>11.60</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.50</b>	0-0.44m topsoil; 0.44m+ yellow brown silty sand natural geology with occasional gravel patches and yellow mottling. No archaeology.
<b>4</b>	<b>12.30</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.47</b>	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38m+ yellow brown silty sand natural geology with occasional gravel patches and brown mottling. No archaeology.



**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Gully	Undated	



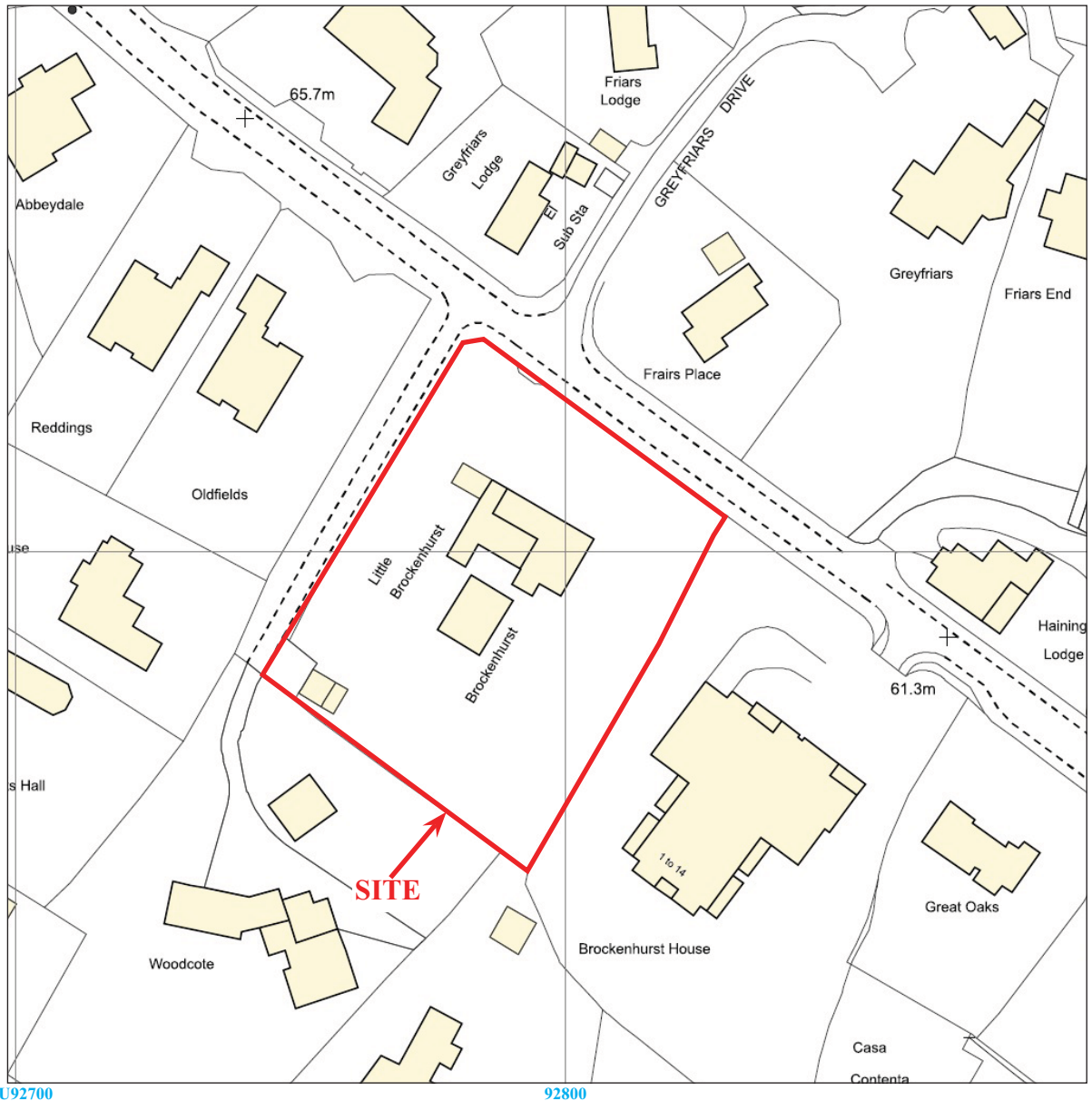


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Figure 1. Location of site within Ascot and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital mapping at 1:12500





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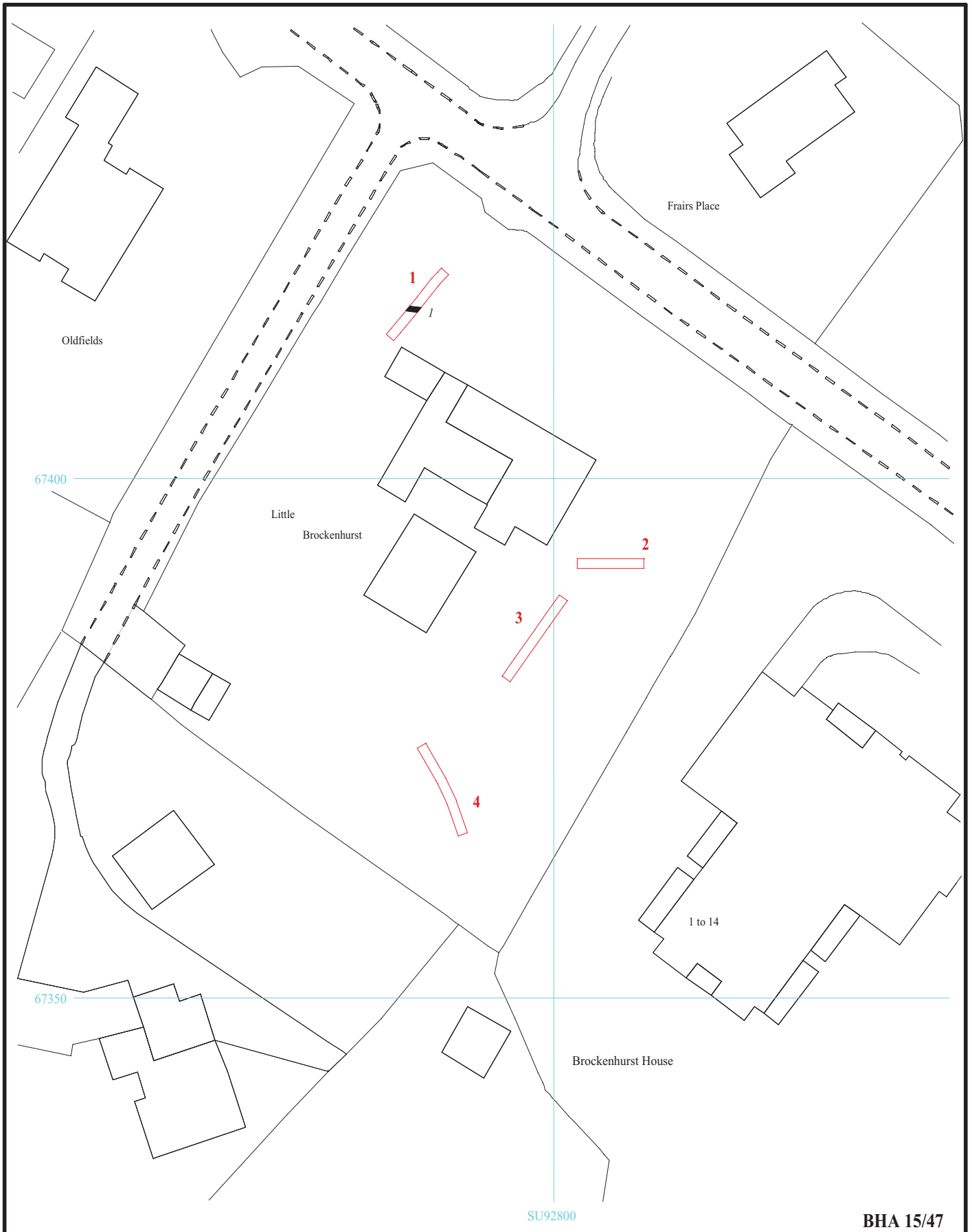
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Brockenhurst Road.

Scale 1:1250.

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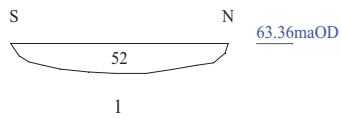
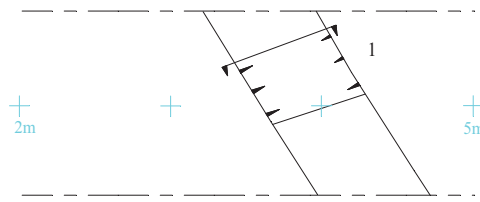
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Figure 3. Location of evaluation trenches.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.

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

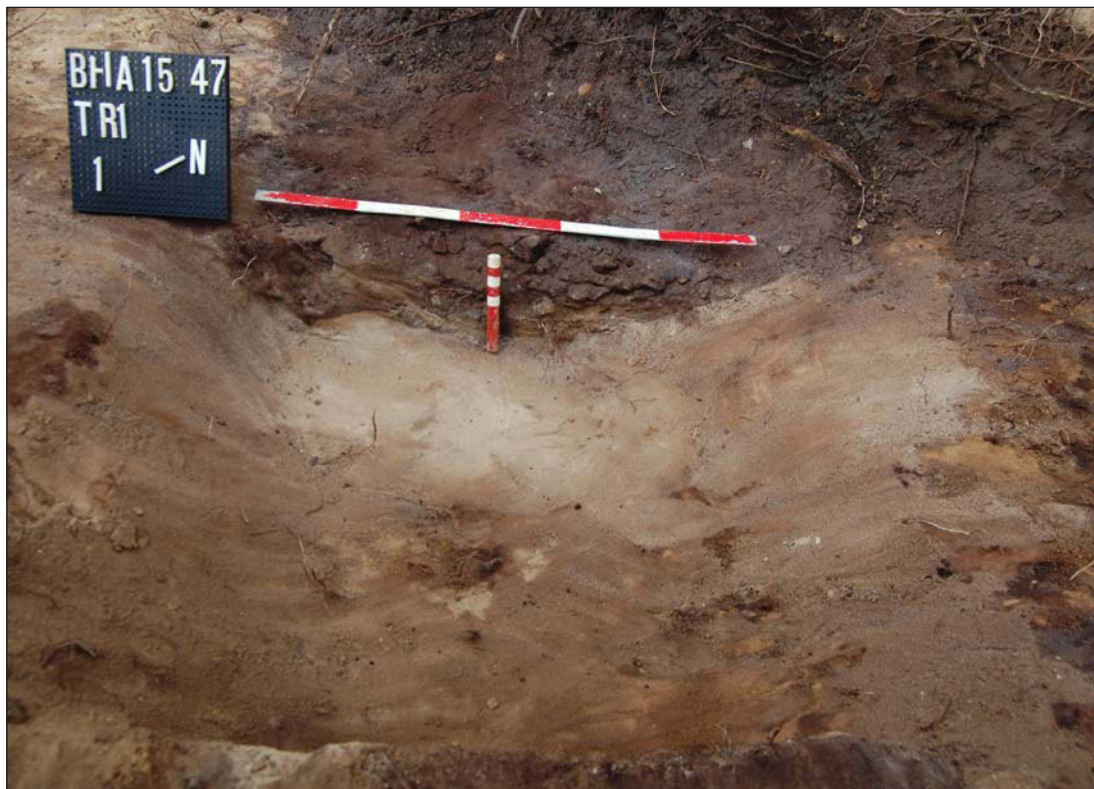


Plate 2. Trench 1, looking north west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Brookenhurst Hotel, Brookenhurst Road,  
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking south west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 - 4.**

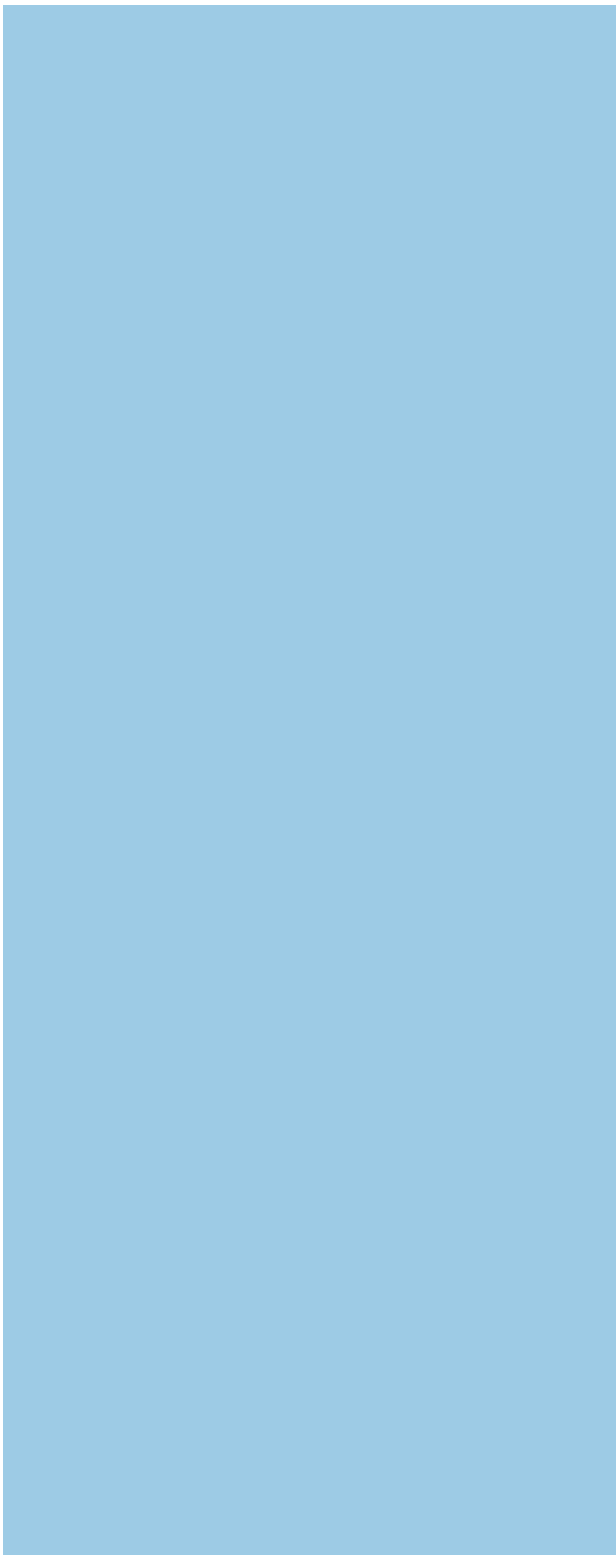
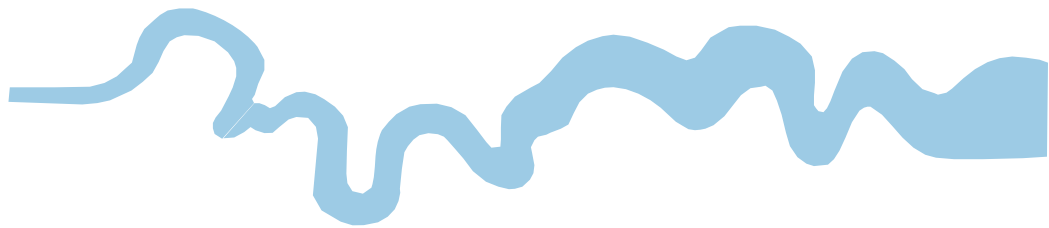
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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