

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**820-821 Yeovil Road,  
Slough, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Luis Esteves**

**Site Code: YRS16/195**

**(SU 9440 8143)**

**820-821 Yeovil Road,  
Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for CgMs Consulting**

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code YRS16/195

**November 2016**

## Summary

**Site name:** 820-821 Yeovil Road, Slough, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9440 8143

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 8th to 10th November 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Luís Esteves

**Site code:** YRS 16/195

**Area of site:** c.0.29ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation has successfully investigated the site as intended. All four trenches showed evidence of made ground overlying subsoil and sometimes directly over natural geology. Two possible features were investigated with a third not accessible. One of the features is considered to be a tree hole or other natural feature, whereas a small ditch or gully, is undated. The site is therefore considered to have some archaeological potential. A single prehistoric struck flint was the only find recovered.

**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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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 17.11.16
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# 820-821 Yeovil Road, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/195

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 820-821 Yeovil Road, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9440 8143) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Archer of CgMs Consulting, 140 London Wall, London, EC2Y 5DN.

The archaeological works were required in response to a planning condition held within the Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) document (2014-2024) for Slough Trading Estate. The document is subject to a condition (47) relating to archaeology which required that an archaeological evaluation be carried out in advance of the groundworks due to the possible presence of archaeology on site which could be damaged.

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 prepared by approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Archaeology Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, the council's archaeological adviser. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Cecilia Galleano between 8th and 10th November 2016 and the site code is YRS16/195. 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 in Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9440 8143) (Fig. 1), on a largely level parcel of ground, at a height between *c.*30m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped in the Lambeth Group (clay, silt and sand) ('brickearth') with occasional deposits of Taplow Gravel Formation (sand and gravel) (BGS 1999) which were observed in most of the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site is set out in the written scheme of investigation. In summary a search of the Berkshire Historic Environment Record and other sources has revealed some evidence for activity from the prehistoric to modern periods within a 1km radius. However, the majority of sites and finds within the 1km study area relate to the Post-Medieval and more recent periods. A small collection of flint flakes were recovered during an archaeological evaluation at Western House School c.800m south east of the study site. These were thought to date to the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age. A Neolithic hand-axe was found at Cippenham, c.500m south west of the study site and c.250m east a hoard of Bronze Age was found at a depth of 2 feet. A Late Iron Age into Roman settlement was excavated at 225 Bath Road, Slough c.850m south east of the site (Howell and Durden 2003) and multi-period sites have been excavated at Cippenham further to the south (Ford et al 2003).

## **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, and to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation if necessary.

The aims of the project were:

To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence.

To determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains.

To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains.

To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.

To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.

To determine, as far as is possible, the implications of the remains with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.

To determine or confirm the likely range, quality and quantity of the artefactual evidence present.

To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeo-environmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present.

To determine the sequence and dating of made ground deposits to enable an understanding of the recent history of the site and its impact on archaeological remains.

To inform the design of suitable mitigation measures and the production of a written scheme of investigation for zoned excavation or an archaeological watching brief if archaeology is identified.

Four trenches, 2x5m and 2x10m long and 1.8m wide were proposed. The trenches were to be excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, supervised by an archaeologist at all times and all spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Any exposed features were to be hand-cleaned and appropriately excavated and recorded. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## Results

Four trenches were dug in their intended locations (Fig. 3). The length of the trenches ranged from 5m to 10m and the depths varied from 0.8m to 1.1m: all were 1.8m wide. No topsoil was present in any of the trenches. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Trench 1 flooded due to heavy rainfall.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 5m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of concrete overlying 0.40m of made ground overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology which consisted of yellow/brown clay patches and gravel. An elongated pit-like feature (1) was recorded which was 1.45m long, 0.64m wide and 0.19m deep and filled with a mid grey brown sandy clay (52) from which a single piece of worked flint was recovered.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned SE - NW and was 10m long and 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of concrete overlying 0.30m of made ground overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying the natural geology which consisted of yellow/brown clay patches and gravel. A ditch (2) was recorded which was 0.56m wide and 0.18m deep and filled with a light brown grey sandy clay (53) from which burnt flint was recovered.

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

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 10m long and 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of concrete overlying 0.40m of made ground overlying 0.30m of a second layer of made ground overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying the natural geology which consisted of brown clayey silt with some fine gravel. A modern pit was present at the north end of the trench. A possible feature was noted in the SE end of the trench but was not excavated due to an oil leak within the trench. It may possibly be an area of soil discolouration.

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

Trench 4 was aligned W - E and was 5m long and 0.90m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of concrete overlying 0.40m of made ground overlying 0.3m of a second layer of made ground overlying the natural geology which consisted of brown clayey silt with some fine gravel. No subsoil was recorded within the trench. No archaeological features or finds were encountered but an area of soil discolouration was noted at the north end of the trench.

## **Finds**

### *Struck flint* by Steve Ford

A single struck flint was recovered from pit 1 (52) in trench 1. It was a segment of a broken narrow flake with blade scars on the dorsal surface. It is possibly of Mesolithic date.

### *Burnt Flint* by Lizzi Lewins

A small quantity of burnt flint weighing 18g was recorded from ditch 2.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation has successfully investigated the site as intended. All four trenches showed evidence of made ground overlying subsoil and sometimes directly over natural geology. Two possible features were investigated with a third not accessible. One of the features, (pit 1), despite containing a struck flint, may be a tree hole or other natural feature, whereas linear feature 2 was a small ditch or gully, though undated. The site is therefore considered to have some archaeological potential.

## **References**

- BGS, 1999, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, Entwistle R and Taylor, K, *Excavations at Cippenham, Slough, 1995–7*, TVAS Monograph 3, Reading,
- Howell, L and Durden, T, 2003, 'A Late Iron Age/Early Roman field system and other features at Bath Road, Slough, 1995', in S Preston (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites in Eastern Berkshire*, TVAS Monograph 2, Reading, 109–17
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

0m at SW, SE and W end

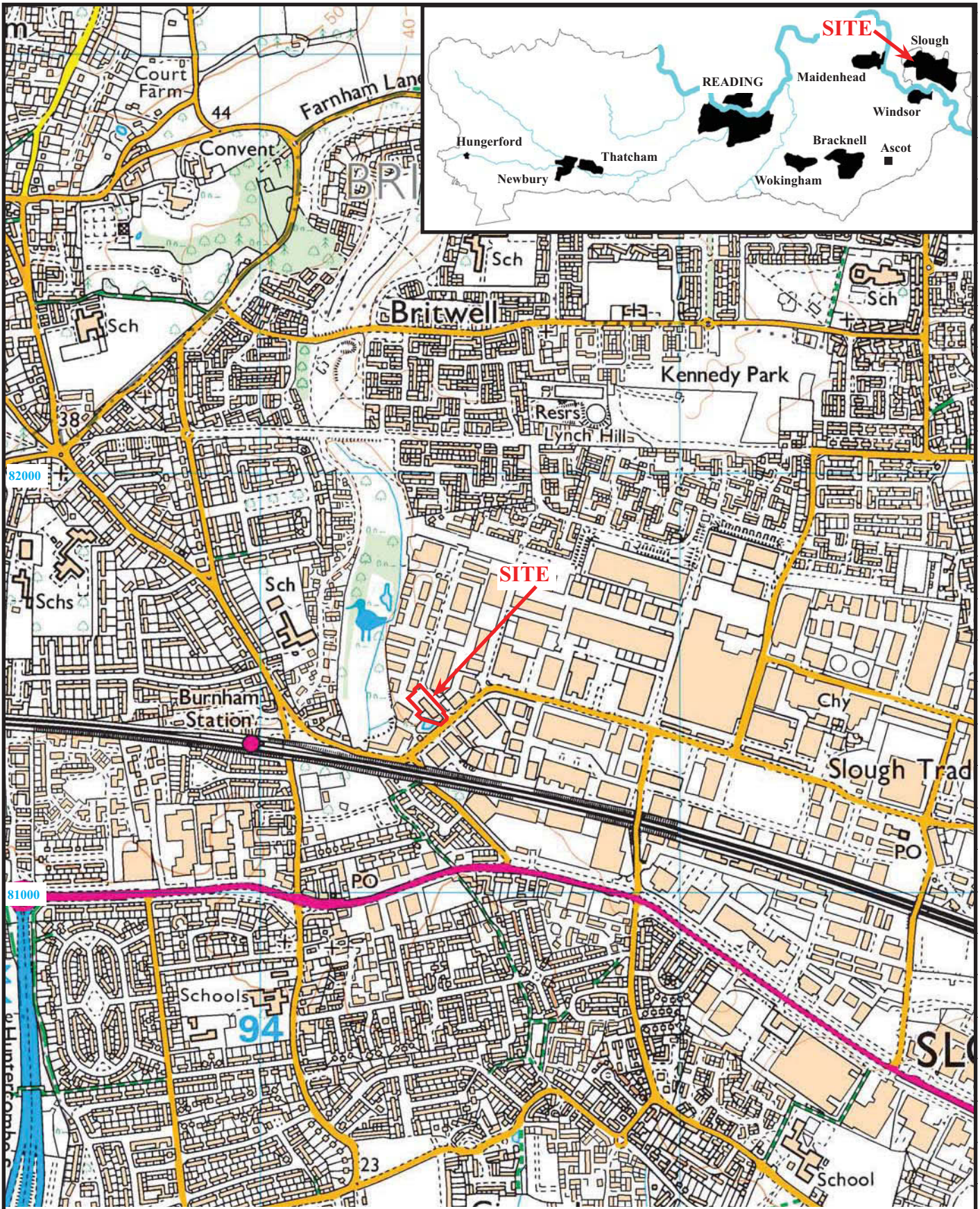
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.80</b>	0-0.15m concrete; 0.15m-0.55m black brown clay with bricks and sand made ground; 0.55m-0.70m grey brown silty clay with sand subsoil; 0.70m+ yellow orange sandy gravel with clay patches natural geology. <b>Pit 1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.10</b>	0-0.30m concrete; 0.30m-0.60m brown black sandy clay and ash with gravel; 0.60m-1.00m brown sandy clay and gravel subsoil; 1.00m+ yellow orange sandy gravel with clay patches natural geology. <b>Ditch 2</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>1.10</b>	0-0.20m concrete; 0.20m-0.60m sand, gravel and bricks made ground (rubble layer); 0.60m-0.90m sand, gravel and ash made ground; 0.90m-1.00m yellow orange sandy gravel with clay patches natural geology. Possible feature not excavated.
<b>4</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.90</b>	0-0.20m concrete; 0.20m-0.60m sand, gravel and bricks made ground (rubble layer); 0.60m-0.90m sand, gravel and ash made ground; 0.90+ yellow orange sandy gravel with clay patched natural geology. 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	Pit	Undated	
2	2	53	Ditch	Undated	





YRS 16/195



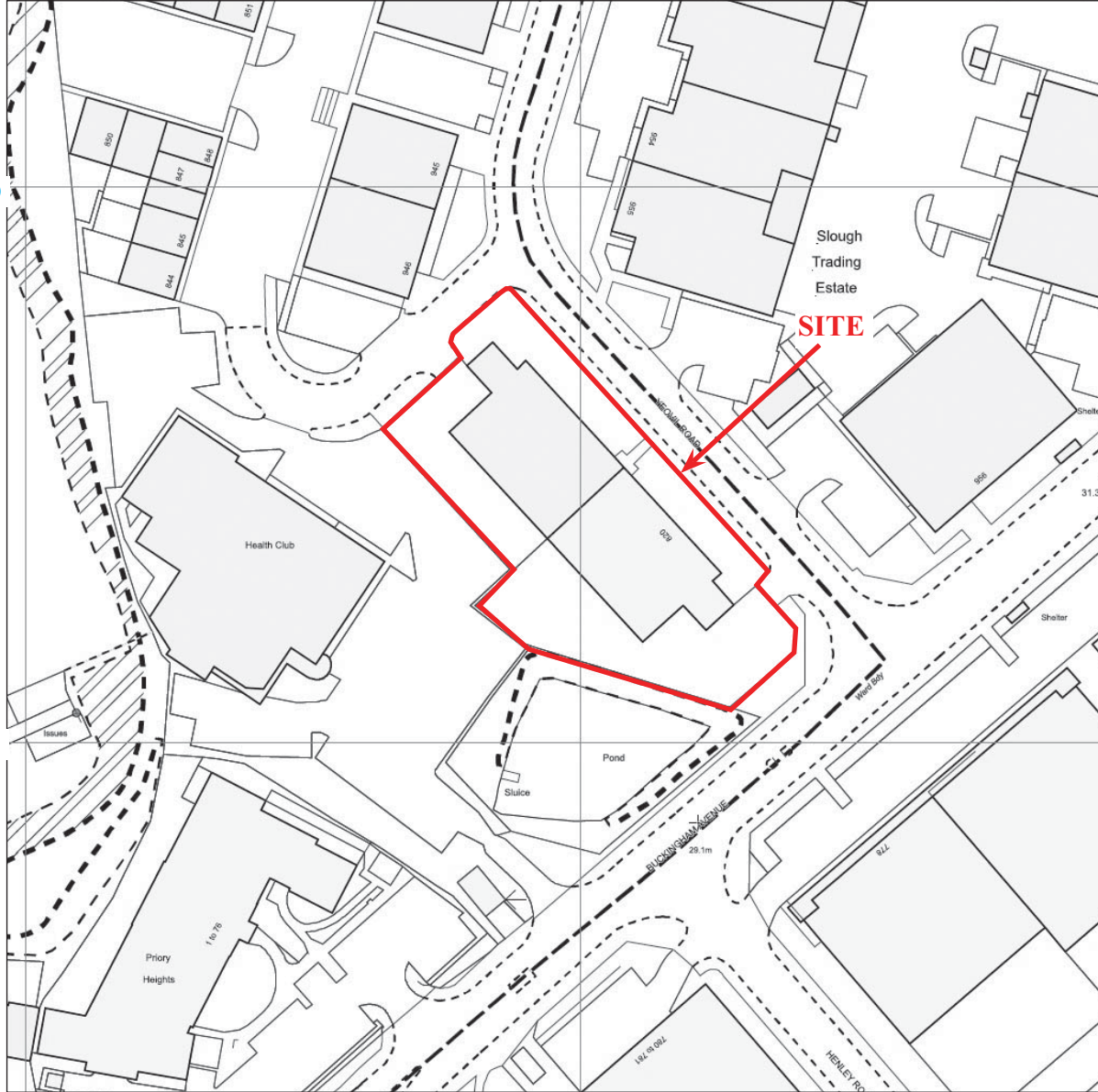
**Land at Yeovil Road, Slough,  
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Figure 1. Location of site in Slough and Berkshire.

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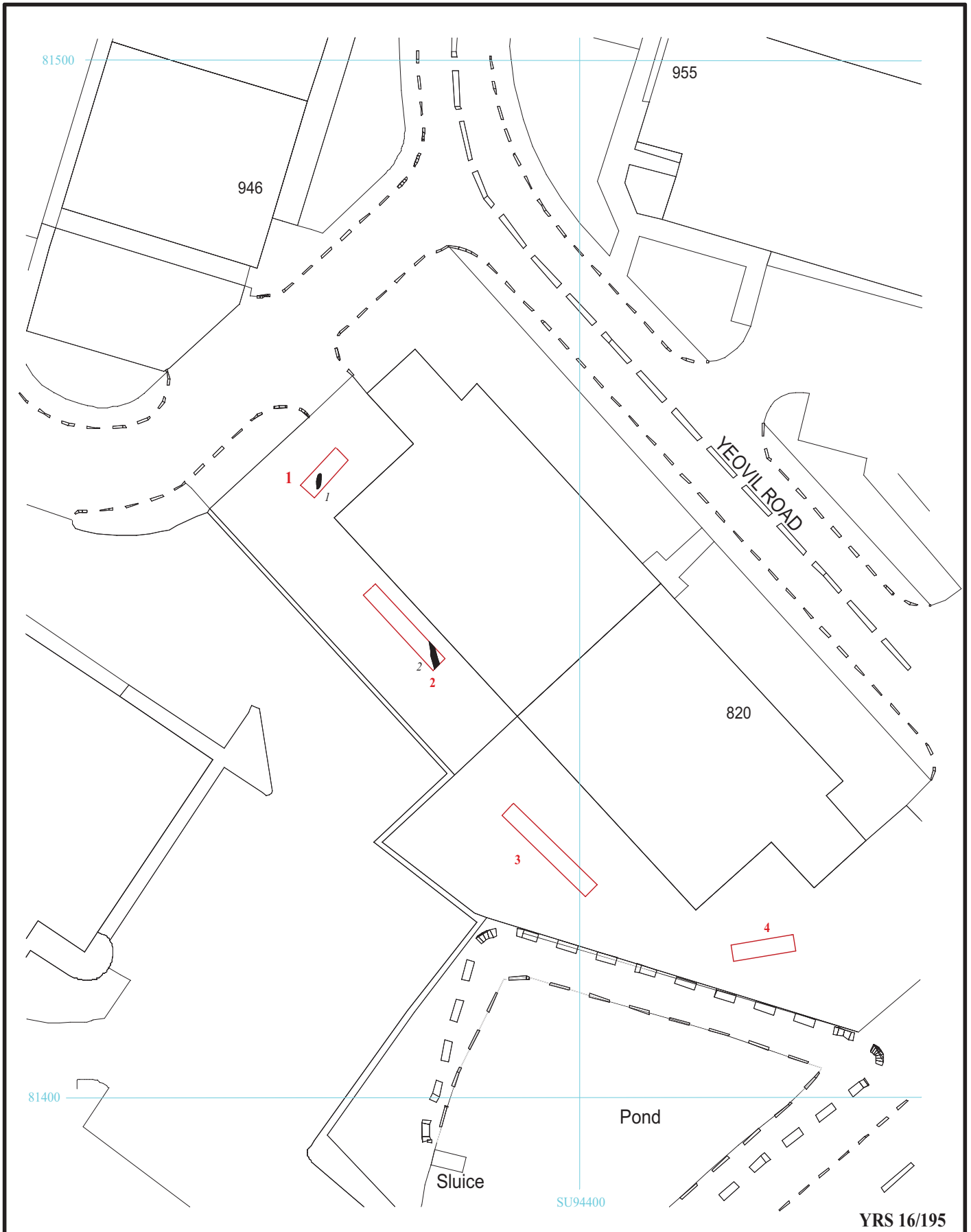


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Yeovil Road.

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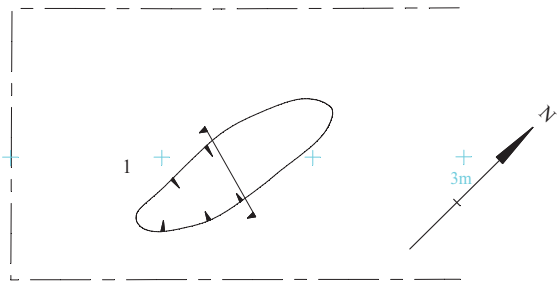
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

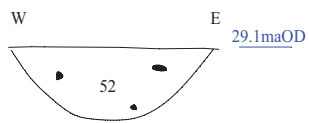
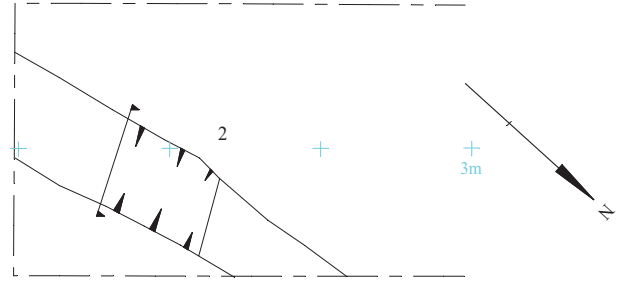


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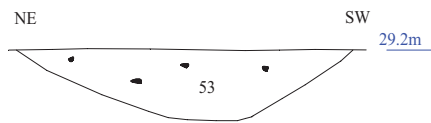
Trench 1



Trench 2



1



2



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Figure 4. Plans and sections from Trenches 1 and 2.





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



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

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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



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

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Plates 3 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 1 Pit 1, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 2, Ditch 2 looking south east, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.1m.

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Plates 5 - 6.

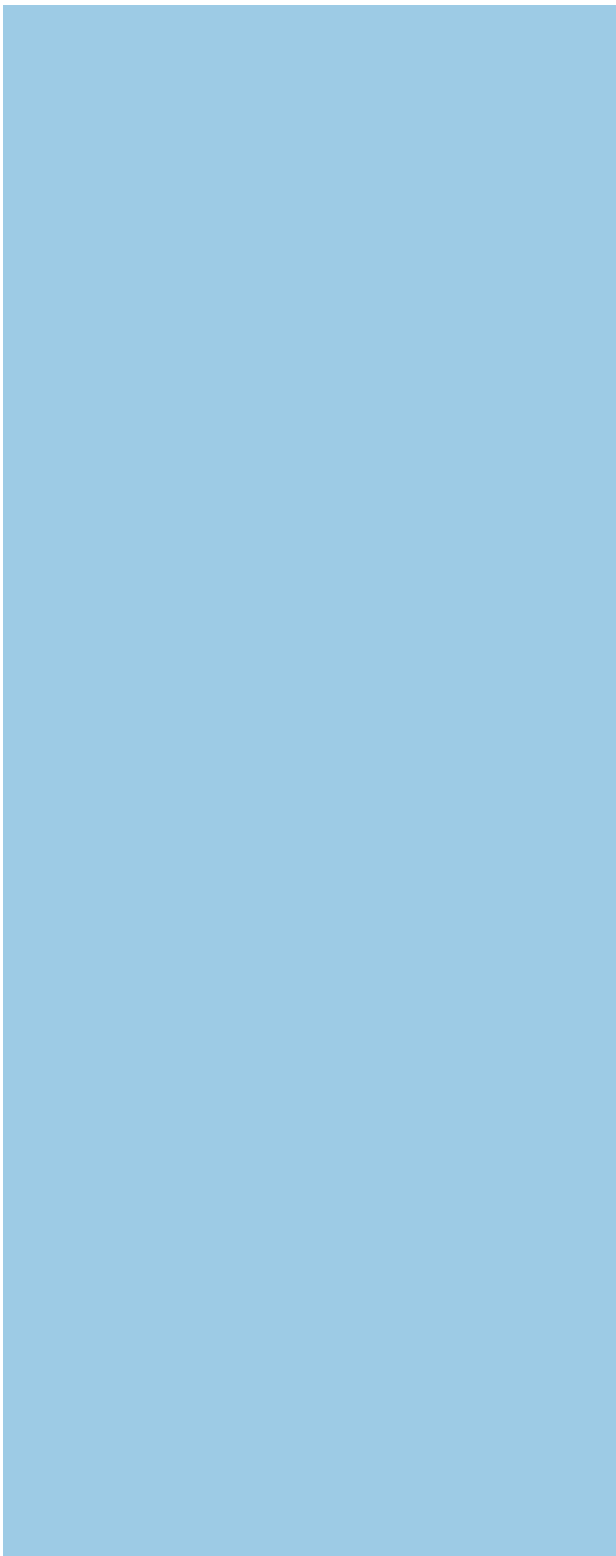
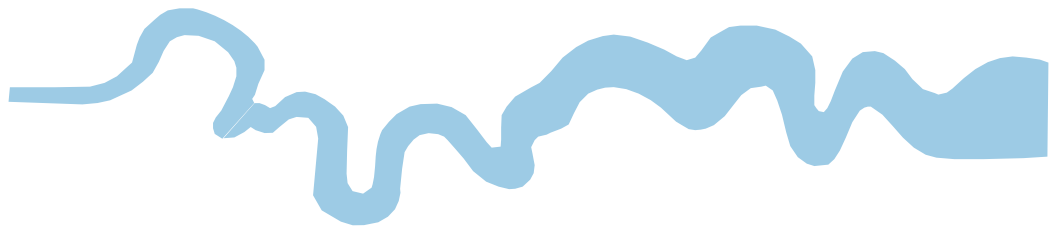
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## TIME CHART

	<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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