

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Oatlands Court, St. Mary's Road,
Weybridge, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Mundin and Luis Esteves

Site Code: OCS16/20

(TQ 0895 6465)

**Oatlands Court, St Mary's Road,
Weybridge, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Searchfield Homes**

by Andrew Mundin and Luis Esteves
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OCS 16/20

December 2016

Summary

Site name: Oatlands Court, St. Mary's Road, Weybridge, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0895 6465

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 9th December 2016

Project Co-ordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: OCS 16/20

Area of site: 0.77ha

Summary of results: Two trenches were excavated at the site, prior to the demolition of the existing structures. No archaeological deposits nor finds were encountered and 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 with the Archaeological Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 16.12.16
	Steve Preston ✓ 16.12.16

Oatlands Court, St Mary's Road, Weybridge, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Munda and Luis Esteves

Report 16/20b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at No.1-6 Oatlands Court, St Mary's Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 9QE (TQ 0895 6465) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andrew Bandosz, of D & M Planning, Unit 23, Woodside, Parkside, Catteshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1LG on behalf of Searchfield Homes, Gladstone House, 77-79 High Street, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9HY.

Planning permission (2016/0056) has been gained from Elmbridge Borough Council for redevelopment on the parcel of land currently occupied by a block of housing, comprising six flats and associated car parking. The consent is subject to a condition (9) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological investigation, as the site lies within an area of high archaeological potential.

It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenching. Based on the results of this, further mitigation might be required. 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 Nigel Randall, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council, the archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves and Cecilia Galleano on 9th December 2016., and the site code is OCS 06/20. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Archaeological Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site occupies an approximately rectangular parcel of land with an area of 0.77ha, located east of St Mary's Road and north of Beechwood Avenue. The area of the site features mature trees along the boundaries as well as grassed areas to the north-west, north-east and south. The site lies at approximately 32.3m above Ordnance Datum and currently represents a level surface. The underlying geology has been mapped as Boyn Hill river terrace gravel, with some sand, silt and clay (BGS 1981), but more recently this has been reclassified as an undifferentiated terrace deposit, (BGS Geindex). A yellow sand was observed in both trenches.

Archaeological background

The potential of the site has been identified by a desk-based assessment for the site (Baljkas 2016). In summary, the site is located in an area designated by the Borough Council to be of high archaeological potential, with a substantial Bronze Age cremation cemetery and the remnants of the deer park of Oatlands Palace nearby. Details of the Bronze Age urnfield are scant, as the records mostly date from the 19th century, but the location seems to have produced around 50 urns from the area to north-east. It would be possible that a corresponding settlement may be present in the area.

A further potential is for Iron Age activity which is also generally expected in the Wey Valley, but the closest record of this is over 1km to the west of this site, at Brooklands (Poulton 2004). A nearby evaluation at Cleves School in Oatlands Park failed to identify any archaeological features (Cass 2008).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

It was proposed to dig two trenches, each 20m long and 1.6m-2m wide, located to target the footprint of the new structures where they are not covered by existing buildings.

Topsoil and other overburden were to be removed by a JCB-type or 360° machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be checked for finds.

In this instance, most of the proposed development lay within the footprint of the previous structure, with minimal development beyond it. As such the trenches were located as close as practical to the proposed new development location.

Results

In total, two trenches were excavated at the intended locations, outside the existing and new development. Trench 2 was shorter in length than intended due to a tree root protection zone, and trench 1 was lengthened to compensate for this. A summary of the trenches giving length, breadth, depth and a description of stratigraphy, can be found in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and no more than 0.8m deep in the north-east. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.44m of topsoil, which was soft, dark brown sandy clay, and 0.2m subsoil. This was a brown, very soft, sandy clay with occasional pieces of post-medieval red earthenware pottery (retained on site). This in turn overlay the natural geology, which was yellow sand, from 0.6m in section. The top of the subsoil was recorded at 31.8m aOD. No finds were recovered and no archaeological features were revealed.

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

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 9.5m long and no more than 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.55m of topsoil overlying natural geology, which was yellow sand. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

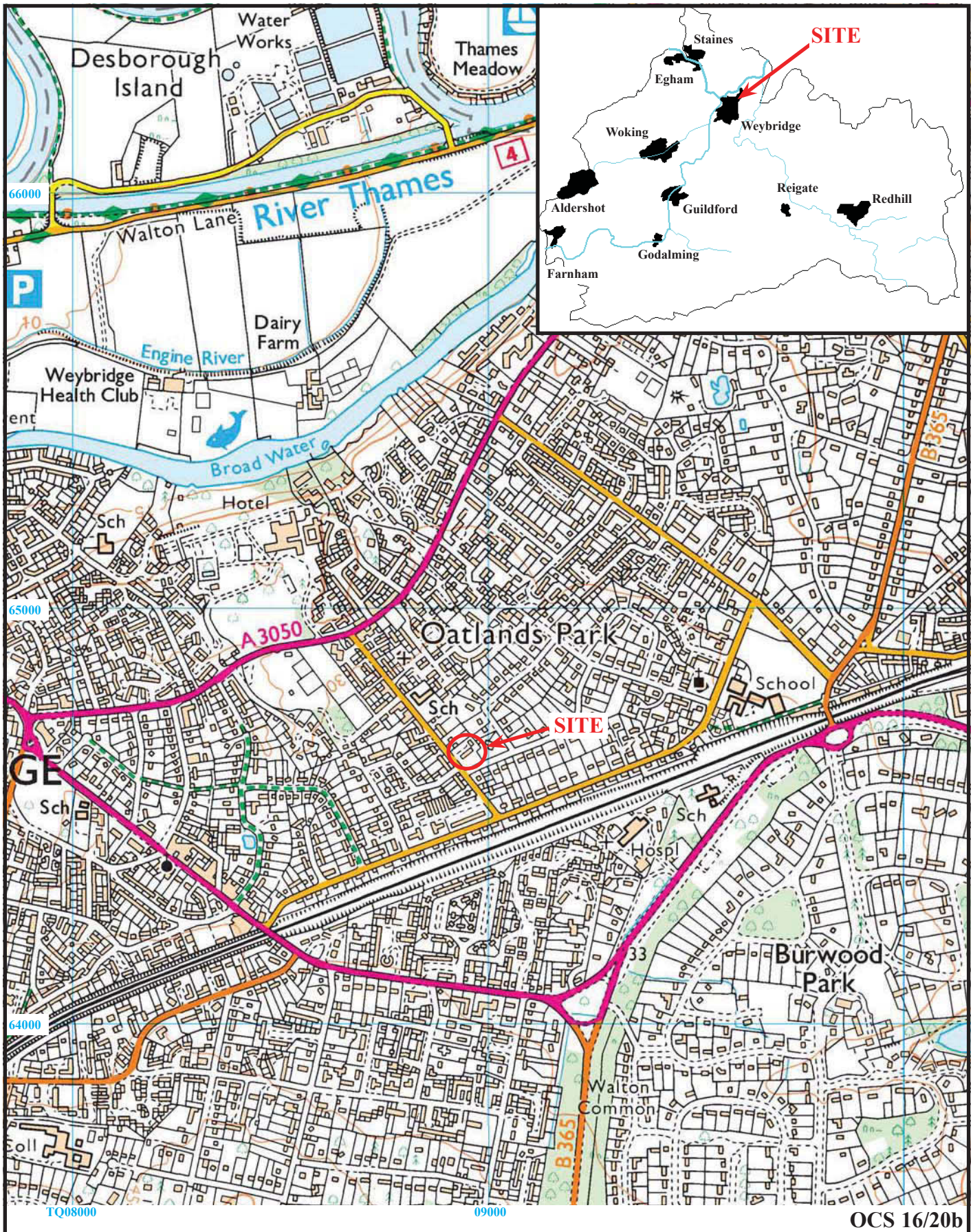
The trenching was carried out as intended and showed that the subsoil layer was intact in the area of trench 1, with no subsoil in the area of trench 2. In both areas the natural geology was undisturbed with no modern truncation other than root disturbance. Despite the potential to of the site to contain archaeological deposits, none were encountered and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Baljkas, G, 2016, 1-6 Oatlands Court, St. Mary's Road, Weybridge, Surrey, Thames Valley Archaeological Services desk-based assessment, unpub client rep **16/20a**, Reading
- Cass, S, 2008, 'Cleves School, Oatlands Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl client evaluation rep **08/09**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Poulton, R, 2004, 'Iron Age Surrey'. In Cotton, J, Crocker, G, and Graham, A (eds), *Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey: towards a rese arch framework for the county*, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

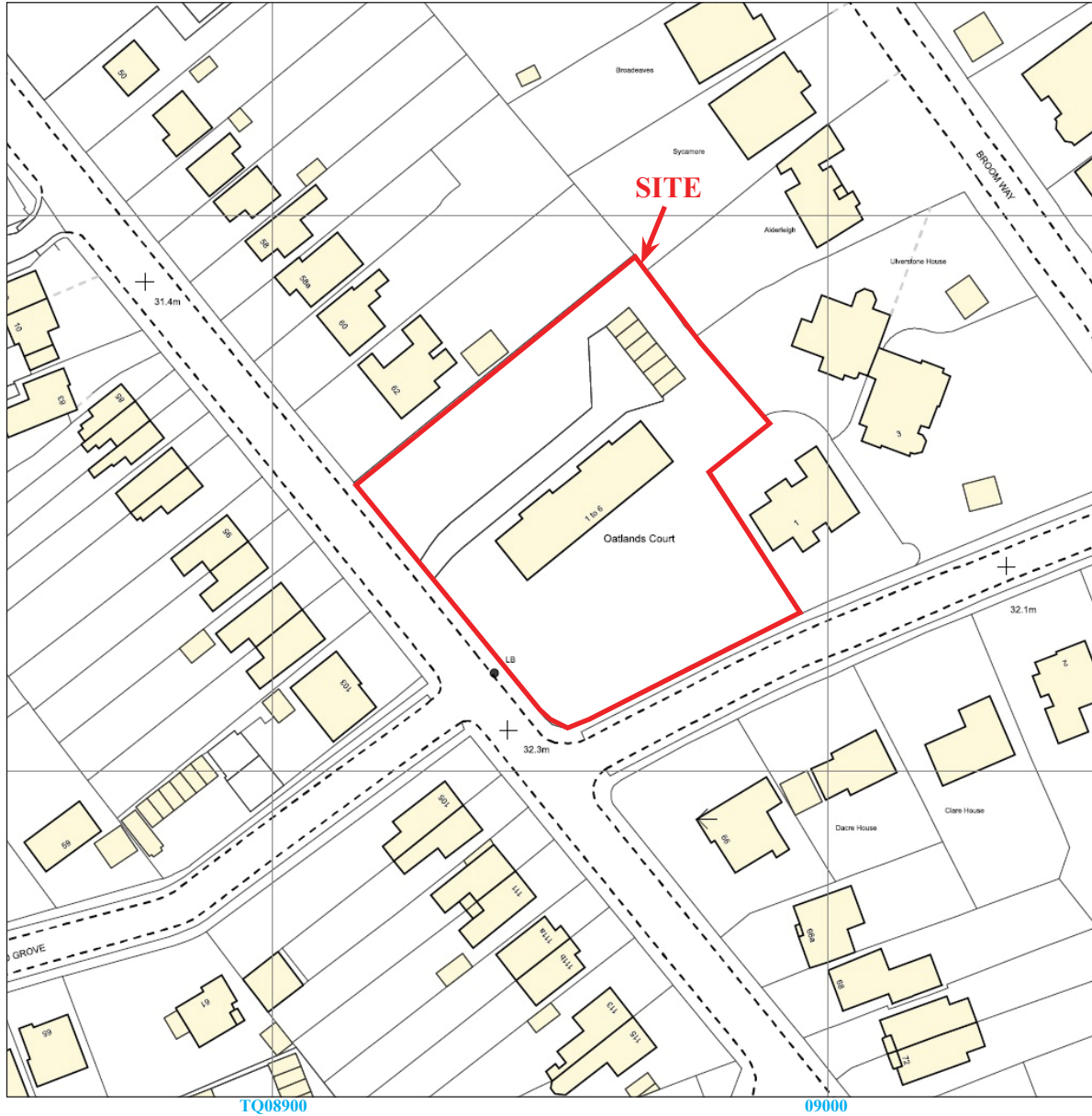
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	26	1.8	0.6 = NE 0.8 = SW	0–0.4m topsoil (dark brown soft sandy clay, 0.4–0.6m subsoil (brown very soft, sandy clay), 0.6m+ yellow sand natural geology. [Pl.1]
2	9.5	1.8	0.7	0–0.55m topsoil, 0.55m+ yellow sand natural. [Pl.2]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Farnham and Surrey.

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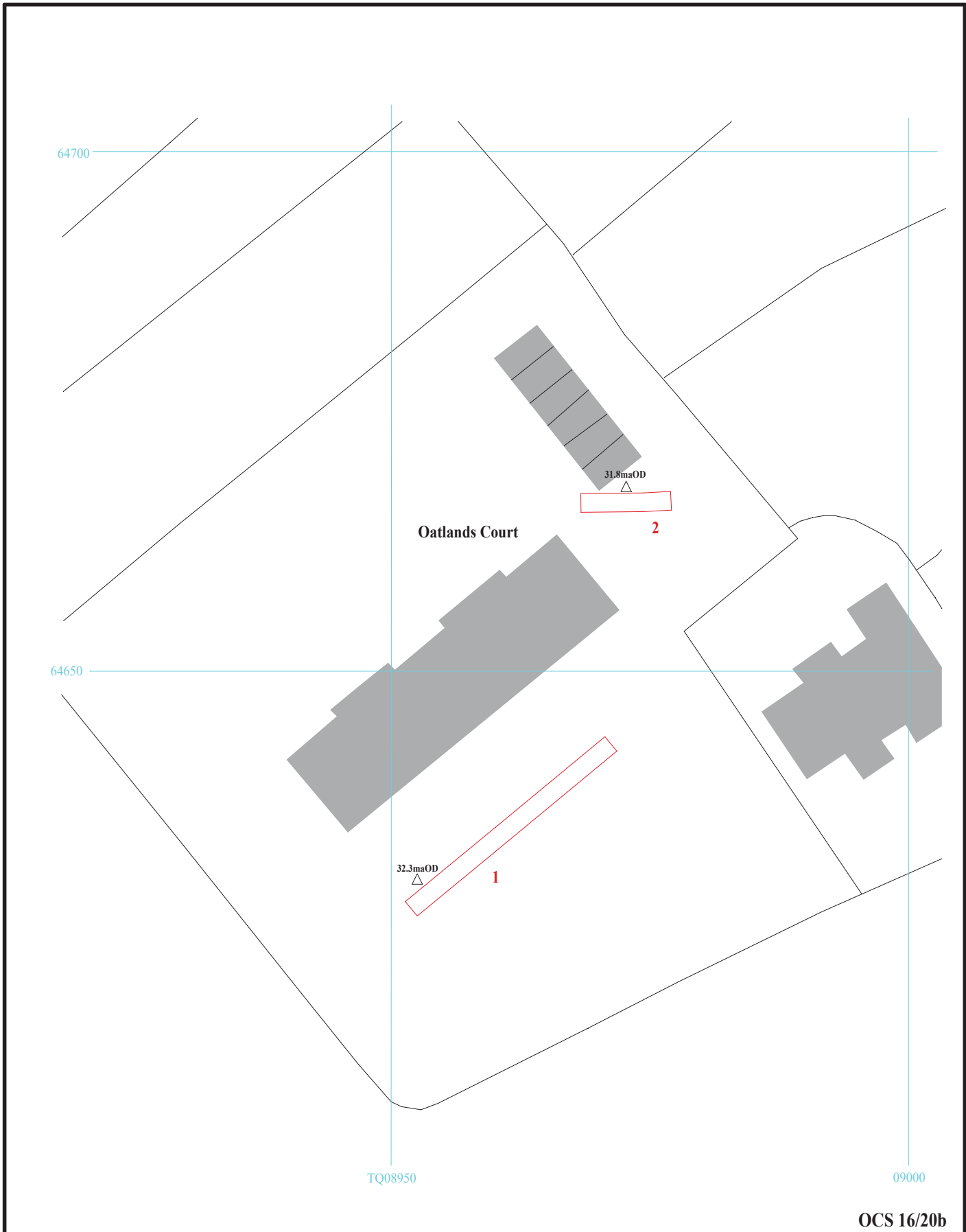


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St. Mary's Road.

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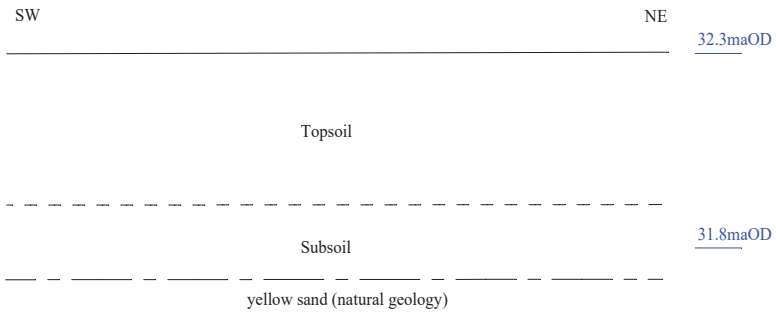
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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



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

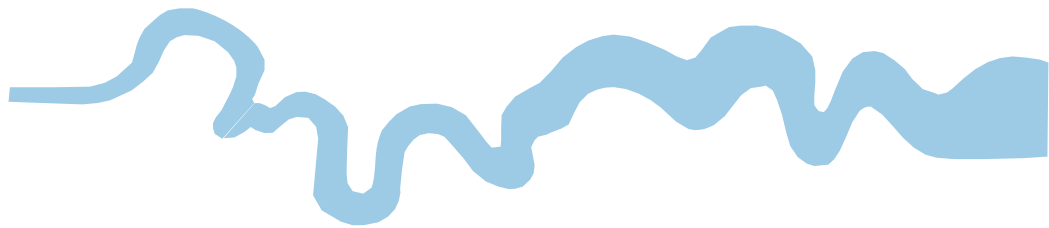
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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