

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Reading Road, Hook,
Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: RRH16/230

(SU 7266 5521)

Land at Reading Road, Hook, Hampshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for CALA Homes Ltd

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RRH16/230

February 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Reading Road, Hook, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 7266 5521

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th to 20th February 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: RRH 16/230

Area of site: c. 4.3ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation revealed two shallow small linear feature but no dating evidence was recovered from them. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from the trench spoilheaps. On the basis of these results, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.02.17

Land at Reading Road, Hook, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/230

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on Land at Reading Road, Hook, Hampshire (SU 7266 5521) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stuart Forrester of Cala Homes Ltd, Tilford House, Farnham Business Park, Weydon Lane, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8QT.

Planning permission (13/02585/MAJOR) has been gained from Hart District Council to develop the site for housing. The permission is subject to a condition (10) relating to archaeology, which require the implementation of an archaeological evaluation prior the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist with Hampshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Cosmo Bacon between the 15th and 20th February 2017 and the site code is RRH16/230. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the west side of Reading Road and on the northern side of Hook, which is c.18km south of Reading (Fig. 1). The site is an open field with short grass, bounded by further fields and residential houses to the south. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981) that was observed in the trenches. The site gradually slopes from c.73m aOD (above Ordnance Datum) in the south, down to c.68m in the north.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been summarised in a desk-based assessment (CgMs 2016). In summary, there are few finds of any period located within the environs of the site. A Bronze Age bronze axe is reported for the parish and a Roman site is thought to lie beneath modern day Hook. Hook itself is of late Saxon

date and is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). A number of listed buildings of post-medieval date are also recorded. The lack of recorded archaeological finds and sites may relate to the lack of any systematic survey. Survey work to the north west on a similar range of geological outcrops has revealed the presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval settlement albeit at a lower density than on chalk or gravel geology (Ford 2011). Further afield Roman occupation has been recorded on the claylands north of Basingstoke at Marnels Park (Elliot, 2016).

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 levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if necessary

Twenty seven trenches were to be dug measuring 25m long and 2m wide. They were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of any archaeological deposits revealed would be investigated to satisfy the aims outlined above, and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

Twenty seven trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 2). These measured between 20m and 30m in length and between 0.35m and 0.75m deep.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow/orange silty clay natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 25.5m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow/orange silty clay natural geology.

Trench 3 (Figs 2-5)

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow/orange silty clay natural geology. A gully (3) was recorded which was over 0.6m wide and 0.06m deep with a single fill (54) which consisted of light grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.15m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light brown/orange silty clay with gravel natural geology.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 20m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown yellow silty clay subsoil overlying light orange silty clay with gravel natural geology.

Trench 6 (Figs 2-5; Pl 6)

Trench 6 was aligned S - N and was 20m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown yellow silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with gravel natural geology. A gully (2) was recorded which was over 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep with a single fill (53) which consisted of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown yellow silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with gravel natural geology.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2-5 ; Pl.5)

Trench 8 was aligned SW - NE and was 30m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown orange silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay natural geology. A gully (1) was recorded (same alignment as cut 2 from trench six) which was over 0.8m wide and 0.27m deep with a single fill (52) which consisted of mid grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig 2)

Trench 9 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil and 0.27m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil overlying mid orange brown clay natural geology.

Trench 10 (Fig 2)

Trench 10 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.23m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with gravel natural geology.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

Trench 11 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.3m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

Trench 12 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.23m of mid grey brown silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

Trench 13 was aligned W - E and was 29m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow orange silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

Trench 14 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light yellow orange silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 15 (Fig. 2; Pl.4)

Trench 15 was aligned S - N and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown grey silty clay subsoil overlying light orange silty clay natural geology.

Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

Trench 16 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange brown silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 17 (Fig. 2)

Trench 17 was aligned S - N and was 26m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.3m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying mid orange silty clayey gravel natural geology.

Trench 18 (Fig. 2)

Trench 18 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange silty clay natural geology.

Trench 19 (Fig. 2)

Trench 19 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 20 (Fig. 2)

Trench 20 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.2m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 21 (Fig. 2)

Trench 21 was aligned S - N and was 23m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 22 (Fig. 2)

Trench 22 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.3m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 23 (Fig. 2)

Trench 23 was aligned S - N and was 23m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.35m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 24 (Fig. 2)

Trench 24 was aligned S - N and was 23m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.25m of light orange brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 25 (Fig. 2)

Trench 25 was aligned S - N and was 27m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.35m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 26 (Fig. 2)

Trench 26 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Trench 27 (Fig. 2)

Trench 27 was aligned W - E and was 25m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.2m of mid brown silty clay subsoil overlying light orange yellow silty clay with grey patches natural geology.

Finds

No finds were recovered during the archaeological evaluation.

Conclusion

A small number of possible archaeological deposits were identified during the evaluation on the south west side of the proposed development. These consisted of two linear features, cut (1) and (2) probably belonging to the same gully, and cut (3) revealed a very shallow gully. However, no finds were recovered from any of the slots dug and their significance at best is unclear. They may be a product of fairly recent agricultural practice. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from nearby nor elsewhere on the site. On the basis of these results, it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 284, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
CgMs, 2016, Land Adjacent to Reading Road, Hook, an archaeological desk-based assessment,
CgMs.consulting, London
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

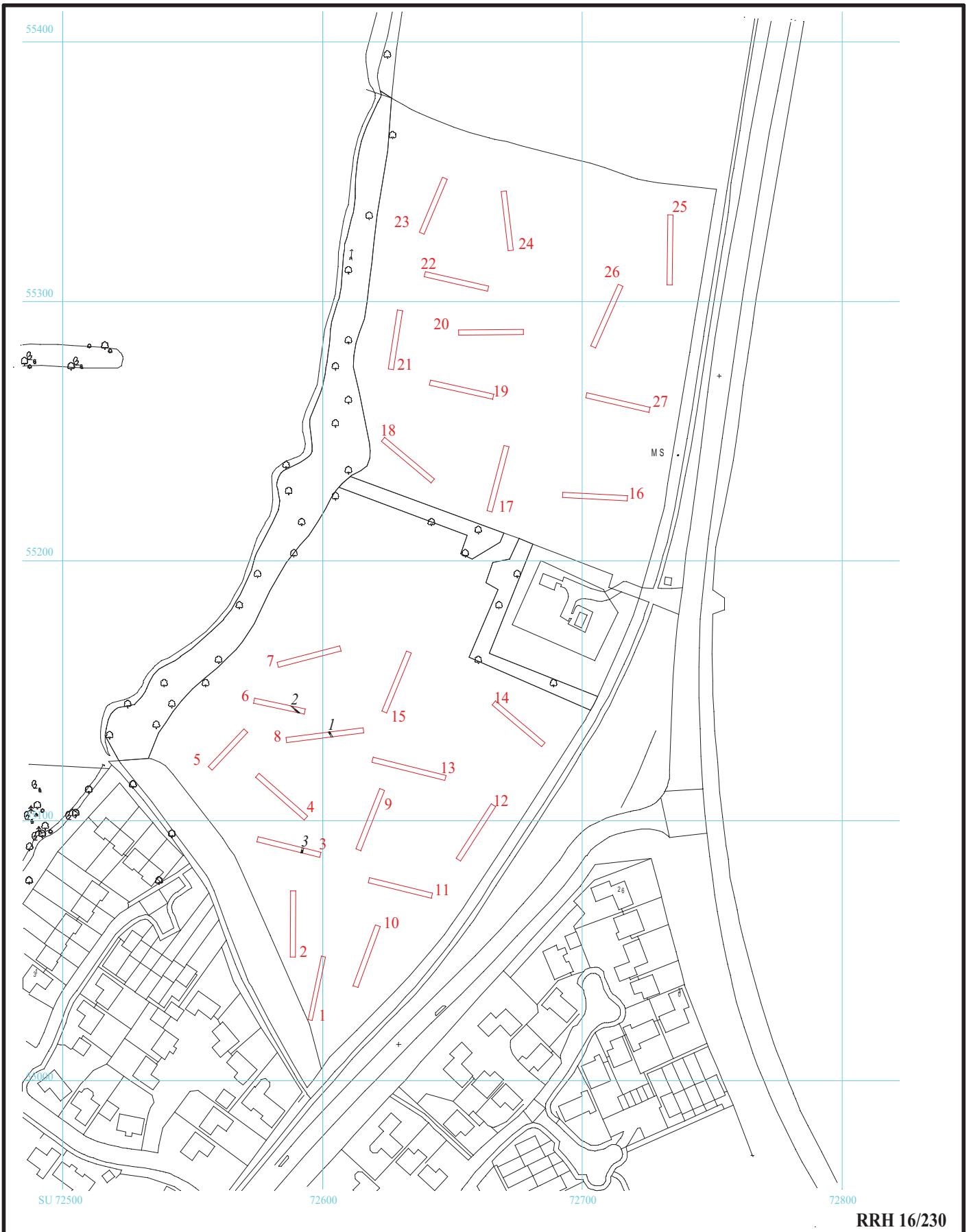
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south, west, southeast and southwest end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25	2	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light yellow orange silty clay natural geology. [PI 1]
2	25.5	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.35m subsoil, 0.35m+ light yellow orange silty clay natural geology.
3	25	2	0.4	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light orange brown silty clay natural geology. Gully 3
4	25	2	0.4	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light orange brown silty clayey gravel natural geology. [PI 2]
5	20	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light orange silty clayey gravel natural geology.
6	20	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.35m subsoil, 0.35m+ light orange yellow silty clayey gravel natural geology. Gully 2; [PI 6]
7	25	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light orange yellow silty clayey gravel natural geology. [PI 3]
8	30	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.35m subsoil, 0.35m+ light orange yellow silty clayey natural geology. Gully 1; [PI 5]
9	25	2	0.5	0–0.13m topsoil, 0.13m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ mid orange brown clay natural geology
10	25	2	0.5	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light yellow grey silty clayey gravel natural geology.
11	25	2	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.45m subsoil, 0.45m+ light yellow clayey gravel natural geology.
12	25	2	0.45	0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light yellow clay gravel natural geology.
13	29	2	0.4	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light yellow orange silty clay with gravel natural geology.
14	25	2	0.35	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.3m subsoil, 0.3m+ light yellow orange silty clay with gravel natural geology.
15	25	2	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange silty clay natural geology. [PI 4]
16	25	2	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange brown silty clay with gravel natural geology.
17	26	2	0.45	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ mid orange silty clay with gravel natural geology.
18	25	2	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange silty clay natural geology.
19	25	2	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
20	25	2	0.5	0–0.2m topsoil, 0.2m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
21	23	2	0.6	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25m-0.5m subsoil, 0.5m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
22	25	2	0.6	0–0.2m topsoil, 0.2m-0.5m subsoil, 0.5m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
23	23	2	0.75	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25m-0.6m subsoil, 0.6m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
24	23	2	0.5	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.4m subsoil, 0.4m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
25	27	2	0.65	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.5m subsoil, 0.5m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
26	26	2	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.35m subsoil, 0.35m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.
27	25	2	0.45	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15m-0.35m subsoil, 0.35m+ light orange yellow silty clay with grey clay patches natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
8	1	52	Gully	-	-
6	2	53	Gully	-	-
3	3	54	Gully	-	-

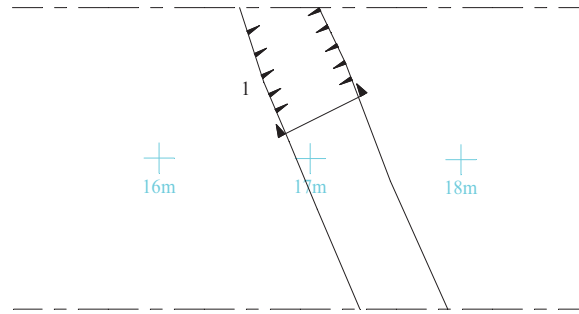


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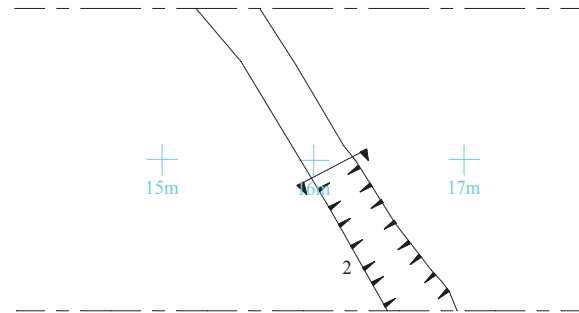
Figure 2. Trench layout.



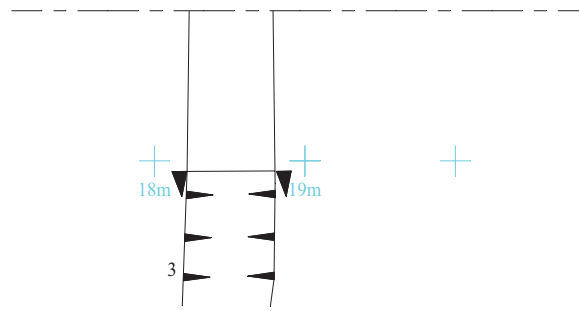
Trench 8



Trench 6



Trench 3



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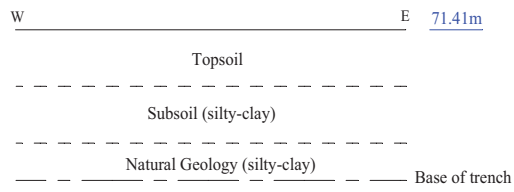
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Figure 3. Trenches Plan.

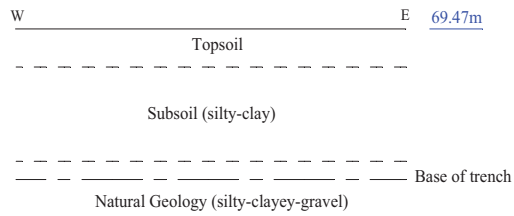


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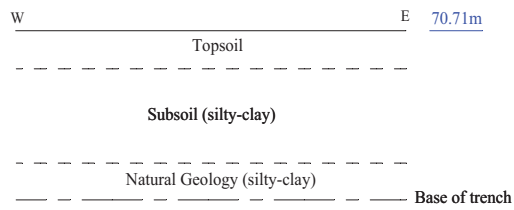
Trench 3



Trench 6



Trench 8

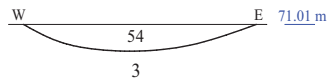
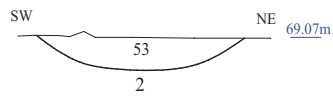
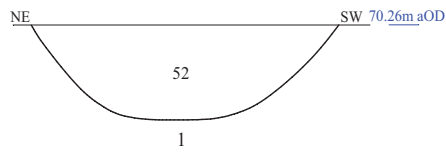


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Figure 4. Trenches sections.





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Figure 5. Features sections.



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



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking north-west, Scales: 1m and 2m, vertical 0.5 m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 7, looking north-east, Scales: 1m and 2m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 15, looking north-east, Scales: 1m and 2m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 8, Feature 1, looking south-east. Scales: 0.5m and 0.10m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, Feature 2, looking north-west. Scales: 0.5m and 0.10m.

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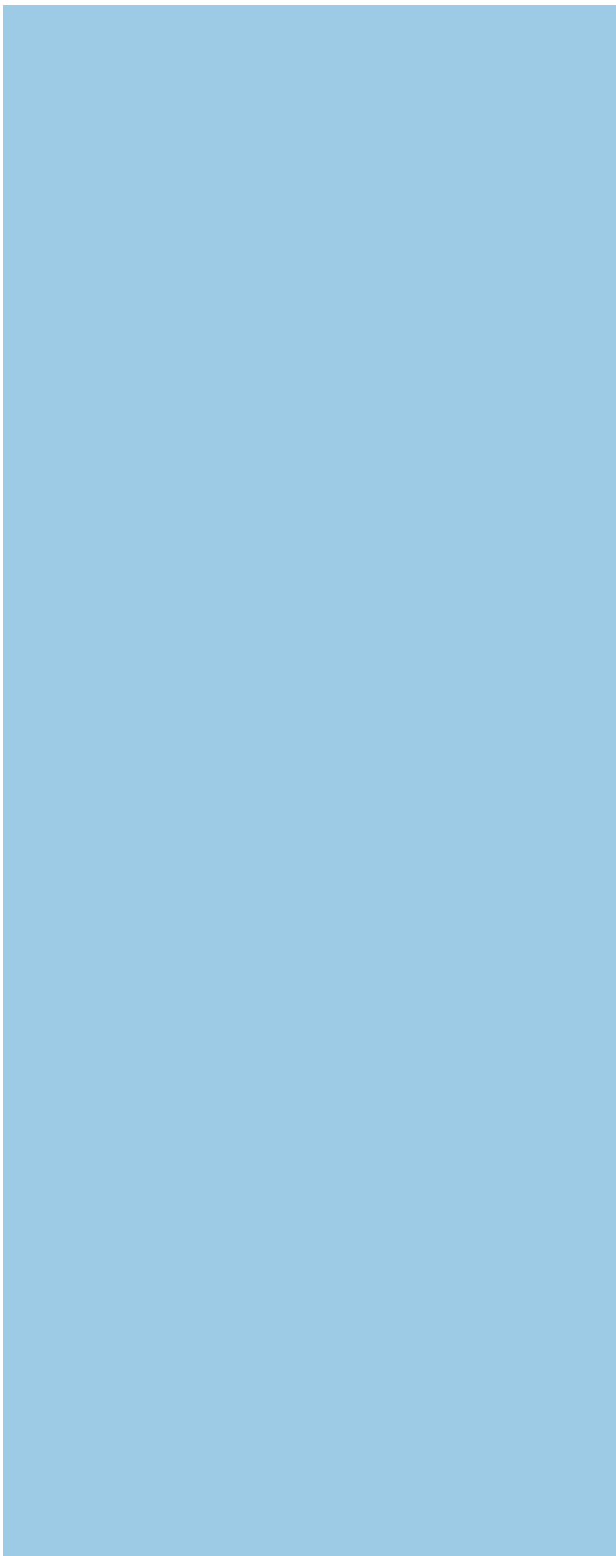
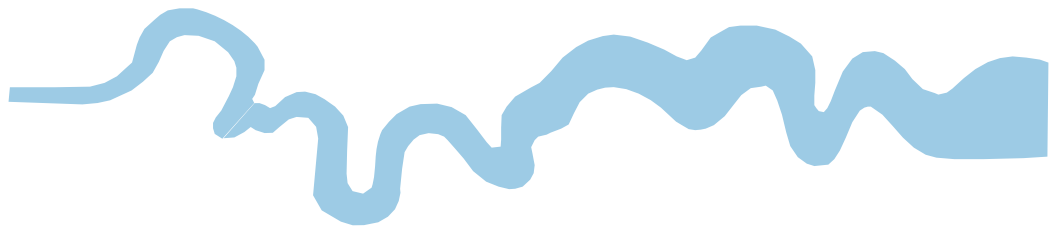
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Plates 5 - 6.

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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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**