

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Tanners Lane,
Burford, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: TLB15/208

(SP 2475 1198)

Land at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Nicholas Mills

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TLB15/208

March 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 2475 1198

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd and 24th March 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luís Esteves

Site code: TLB 15/208

Area of site: c.0.59ha

Summary of results: Nine trenches were excavated as intended. No finds nor features of archaeological interest were found 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 Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.03.17 Steve Preston ✓ 27.03.17

Land at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Luís Esteves

Report 15/208c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Land at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire (SP 2475 1198) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Cordery of Carter Jonas LLP, Mayfield House, 256 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7DE on behalf of Mr Nicholas Mills.

Planning consent (app 16/00667/OUT) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council to develop the site for housing. This is subject to conditions (20 and 21) which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, a previous geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2017) and in this case a targeted trial trenching. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luís Esteves and Rose Calis on 23rd March 2017 and the site code is TLB15/208.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located west of Tanners Lane, on the western fringe of Burford, Oxfordshire and is centred on NGR SP 2475 1198 (Fig. 1). The site represents a roughly rectangular plot of grassland of 0.59ha. The westernmost houses of Burford extend northwards from the site, there is a reservoir to the south and open fields to the west. To the east is Tanners Lane and, beyond that, a recreation ground. The development site occupies an elevation of approximately 139m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Great Oolite Group sandstone and limestone (BGS 1982), and it was observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service drawing on the results of a desk-based assessment (Bermingham 2015) and geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2017). In summary the site lies in an area with moderate archaeological potential with the reported finding of a Saxon burial to the west of the site. The site lies in the vicinity of the battle of Burford which took place in AD 752 between West Saxons and Mercians. The site also lies on the outskirts of the Medieval core of the town but it is unclear if elements of the settlement will have extended as far as the proposal site. The geophysical survey found few anomalies of possible archaeological interest.

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 would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that warrant preservation in-situ, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of the project were:

- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To provide information to enable a mitigation strategy to be produced.

It was proposed to dig 9 trenches, each 10m long and 1.6-2m wide to examine the proposal area, specifically the three positive anomalies observed in the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). A 20m contingency should further excavation be required to clarify initial findings. The overburden was to be removed using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Where archaeological features were encountered these 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 spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

All nine trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 2). The trenches were 11m in length and ranged between 0.26m and 0.44m in depth. 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 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned S - N and was 11m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a mid orange brown silty clay with occasional limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned S - N and was 11m long and 0.31m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 11m long and 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned S - N and was 11m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

Trench 7 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

Trench 8 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone and orange silty patches natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2; Pl. 4)

Trench 9 was aligned W - E and was 11m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of dark grey clayey silt topsoil overlying a dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology. No finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were retrieved from site.

Conclusion

During the course of this evaluation no features nor deposits of archaeological interest were observed, not even in the areas of the positive anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. This site therefore can be said to have a low archaeological potential.

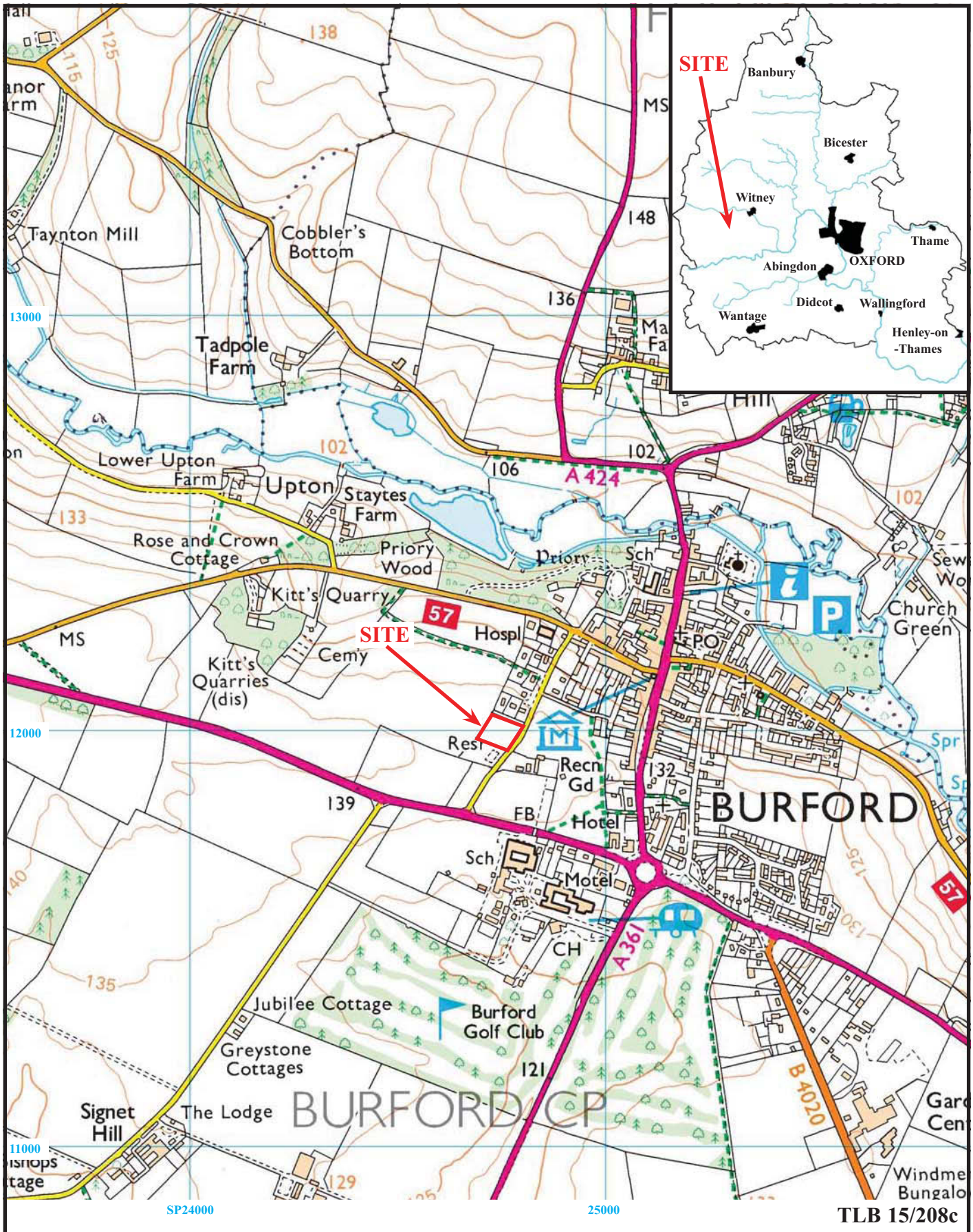
References

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- Bermingham, N, 2015, Land at at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 15/208, Reading
- Beaverstock, K, 2017, Land at at Tanners Lane, Burford, Oxfordshire, geophysical survey (magnetic), Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 15/208, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11	1.6	0.3	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28m+ mid orange brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
2	11	1.6	0.44	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23m+ mid orange brown silty clay with occasional limestone natural geology.
3	11	1.6	0.26	0–0.2m topsoil, 0.2m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
4	11	1.6	0.31	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
5	11	1.6	0.33	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
6	11	1.6	0.42	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
7	11	1.6	0.38	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
8	11	1.6	0.4	0–0.26m topsoil, 0.26m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.
9	11	1.6	0.39	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28m+ dark yellow brown silty clay with limestone natural geology.

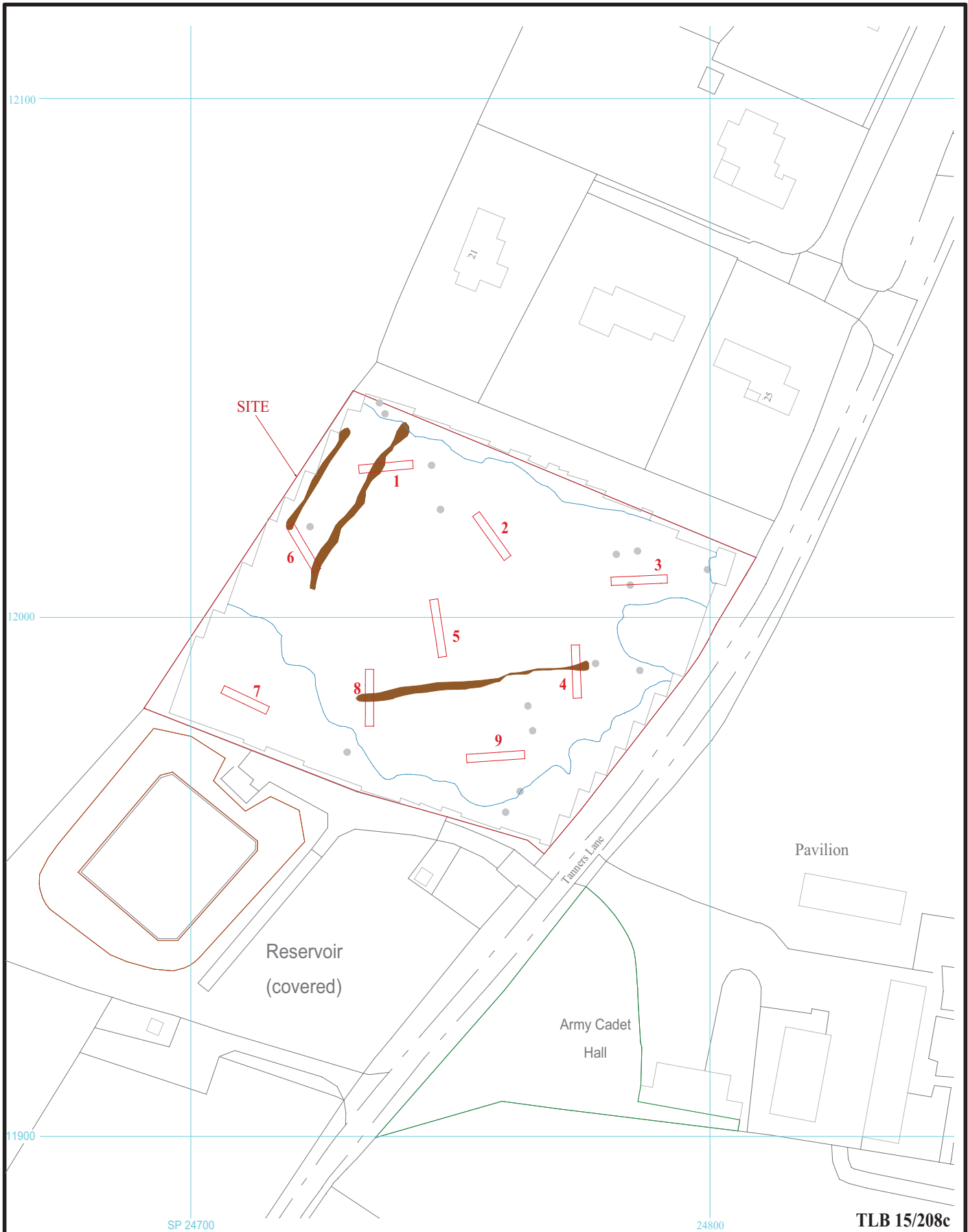


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Figure 1. Location of site within Burford and Oxfordshire.

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



Trench 1

NW

SE

137.09maOD

Dark grey brown clayey silt (topsoil)

Orange brown silty clay (Natural geology)

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Figure 3. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Site view, looking west.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north north west, Scales: horizontal, 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 6, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 9, looking east, Scales: horizontal, 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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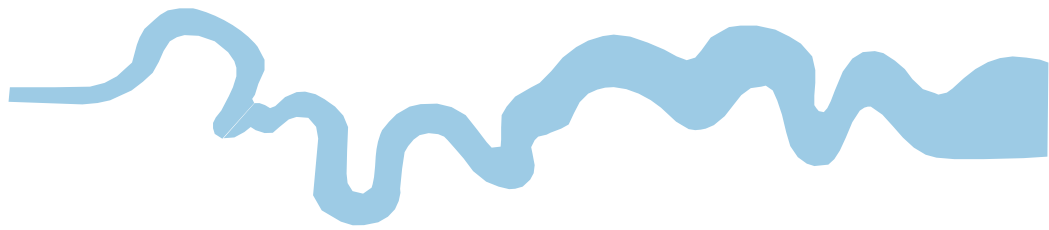
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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