

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Rose Calis

Site Code: DRC17/61

(SU 8375 6423)

48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Renaissance Retirement Ltd**

by Rose Calis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DRC17/61

April 2017

Summary

Site name: 48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8375 6423

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 4th April 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Rose Calis

Site code: DRC17/61

Area of site: c. 1400 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.05.17 Steve Preston ✓ 02.05.17

48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Rose Calis

Report 17/61

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne, Berkshire (SU 8375 6423) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon McFarlane, of Renaissance Retirement Ltd, Unit 12 Headlands Business Park, Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 3PB.

Planning consent (app 15/01082/FUL) has been granted from Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the erection of a new retirement apartment block following demolition of the existing structures at 48-50 Dukes Ride. The consent is subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology.

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 Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Rose Calis and Jesse Coxe on 4th April 2017 and the site code is DRC 17/61. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the town of Crowthorne, in south-eastern Berkshire, on the northern side of Duke's Ride (Fig. 1). The area encompasses two plots of land originally numbers 48 and 50 Duke's Ride (Fig. 2). It is bounded by further residential properties, with Wiltshire Avenue to the east. The underlying geology is mapped as Plateau Gravel (BGS 1981), which along with sands was observed across the site. It lies at a height of c.88m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Ms Ellie Leary of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary this potential stems from its location adjacent to the Devil's Highway,

which is a major Roman road from the Roman town of Silchester to London. Several extensive Roman settlements are recorded close to the line of the road, as at Wickham Bushes (Corney and Gaffney 1983); Rapley Farm (Ford 1987); Finchampstead (Hampton *et al.* 1977) and beyond at Sunningdale (Hughes 1890) and Riseley (Ford 1994-7).

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 had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required

It was proposed that four 20m long trenches be excavated targeting the footprints of the new development. The overburden was to be removed using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. Where archaeological features were encountered these were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded. 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

Four trenches were opened using a 360° type machine. Trench 1 was repositioned *c.*4m north due to freshly laid Tarmac over the initial location. As a result of southward running live services directly west, the trench was shortened from 20m to 12m. Trenches 2-4 were subsequently extended, after consultation, to compensate. Trench lengths ranged from 12m-24m.

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

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

Trench 1 was aligned approximately E–W and measured 11.90m long and 0.70m deep. Due to its location within the footprint of the pre-existing building, the top 0.24m of the stratigraphy was made up of brick rubble made ground. This overlay 0.46m of a friable dark grey orange sandy silt subsoil and hardcore material, which spread across the whole trench. This overlay light grey yellow and orange mottled sands and gravels natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately NW–SE and measured 22.40m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m layer of demolition rubble overlying 0.23m of subsoil overlying the light grey yellow sandy natural geology. A drainage cover and potential service was encountered 12m from the south-east end and was pedestalled accordingly.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned N–S and measured 22.10m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of demolition material made ground overlying 0.31m subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology. A modern drain running east-west was encountered 15m from the southern end. A probable pit (1) was investigated by excavating a 0.50m slot which showed it to have a single fill (52). This was a loose dark brown grey sandy clay which produced fragments of red brick, slate and blue glass of late post-medieval or modern date. None of these were retained.

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

This trench was aligned approximately E–W and measured 24.20m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil overlying 0.35m of subsoil overlying sand and gravel natural geology .

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were encountered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for having archaeology present no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Corney, M and Gaffney, V, 1983, 'Excavations at Wickham Bushed, Easthampstead', Berkshire Archaeol Soc Fld Res Grp, *Recent Archaeology in Berkshire*, 17
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
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- Hampton, J N and Palmer R, 1977, 'The implications of aerial photography for archaeology', *Archaeol J* 134, 157–93
- Hughes, G M, 1890, *History of Windsor Forest and Sunninghill and the Great Park*, London
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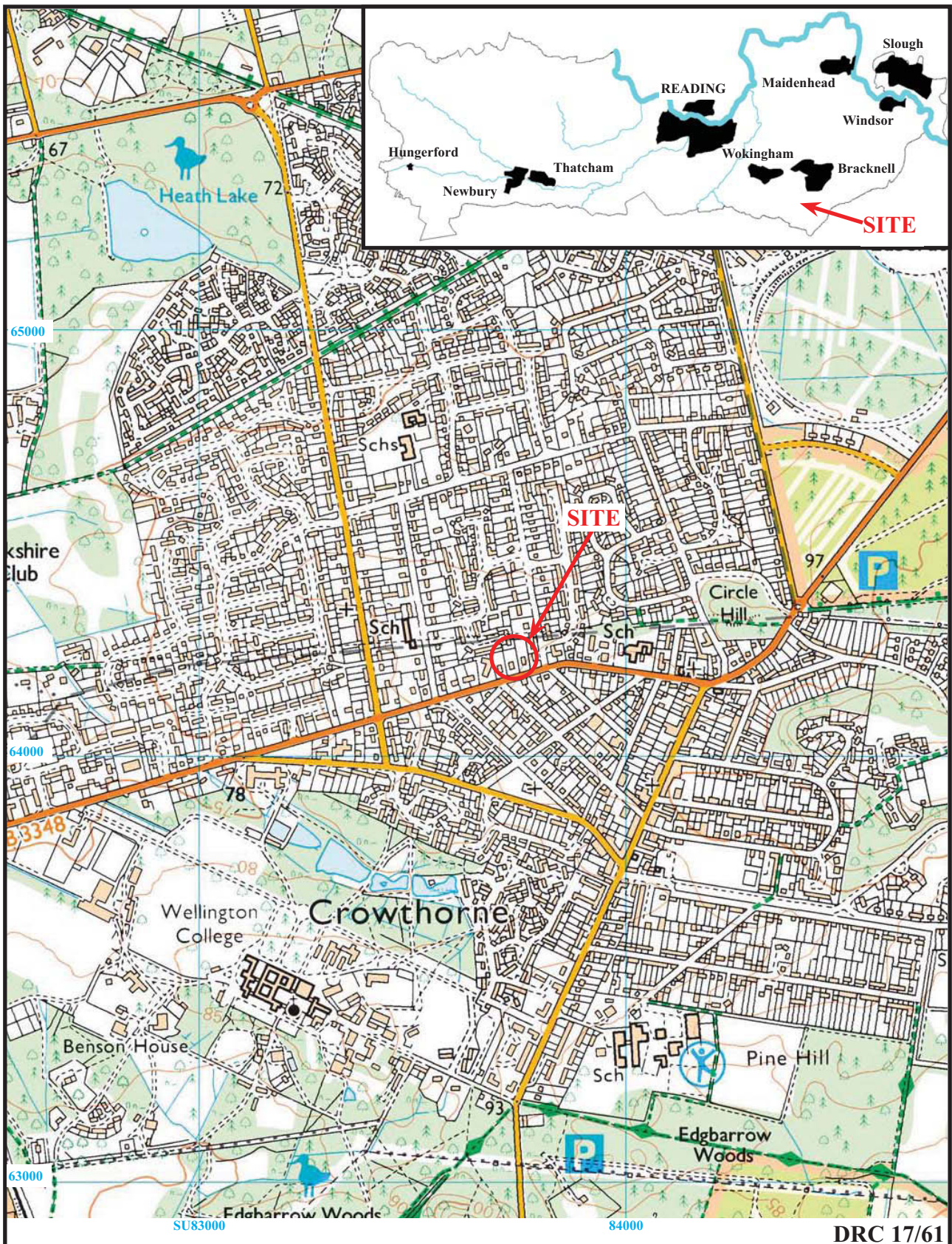
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11.90	1.80	0.79	0-0.24m made ground; 0.24m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m-0.79m+ clayey sand natural geology. [PI. 1]
2	22.40	1.80	0.48	0-0.15m made ground; 0.15m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m-0.48m clayey sand natural geology. [PI. 2]
3	22.10	1.80	0.72	0-0.24m made ground; 0.24m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.72m+ clayey sand and gravel natural geology. Possible Pit 1; [PI. 3]
4	24.20	1.80	0.64	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m-0.64m+ clayey sand and gravel natural geology. [PI. 4]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	52	Possible Pit	Modern	Pottery, Glass, CBM



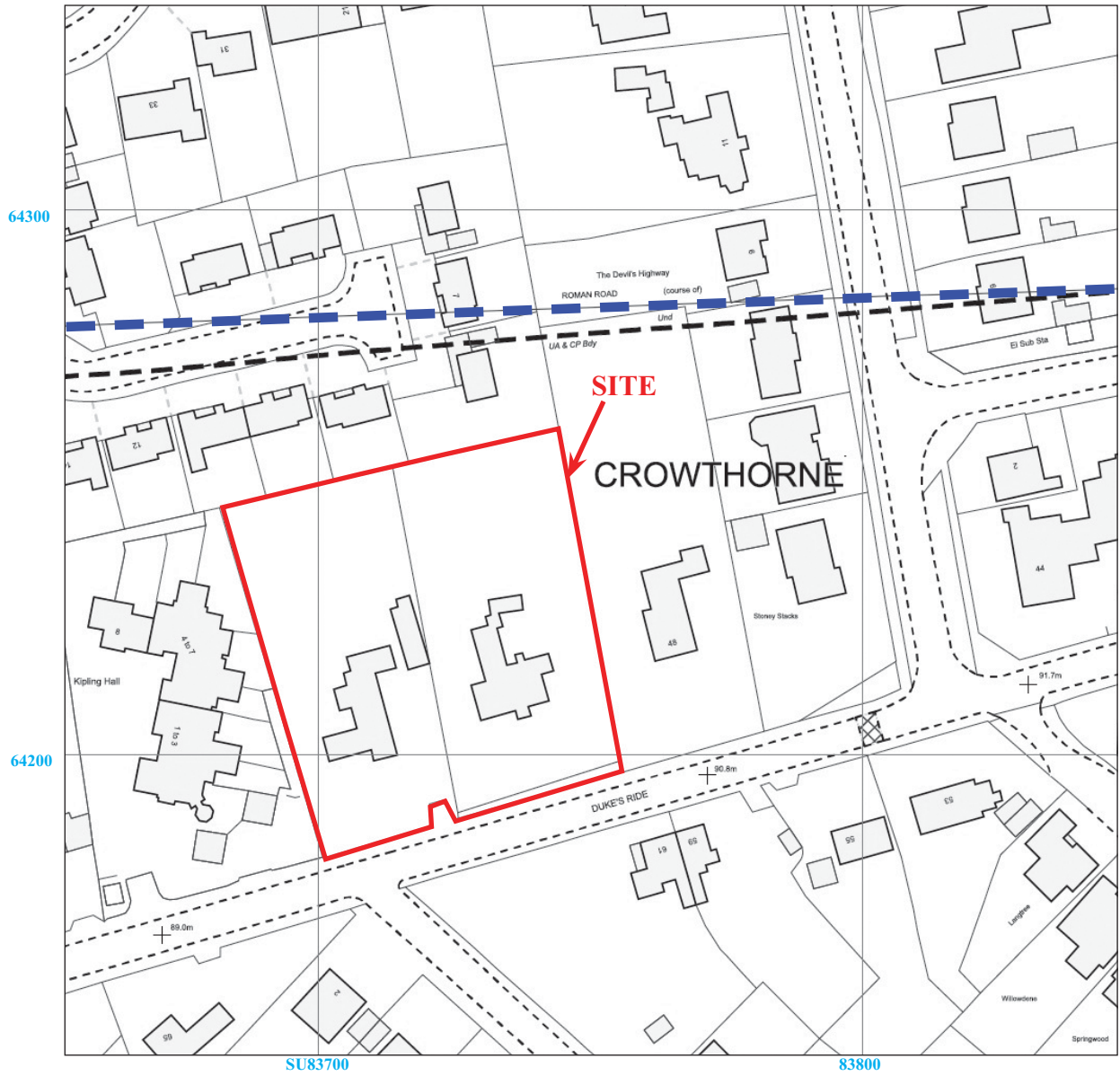
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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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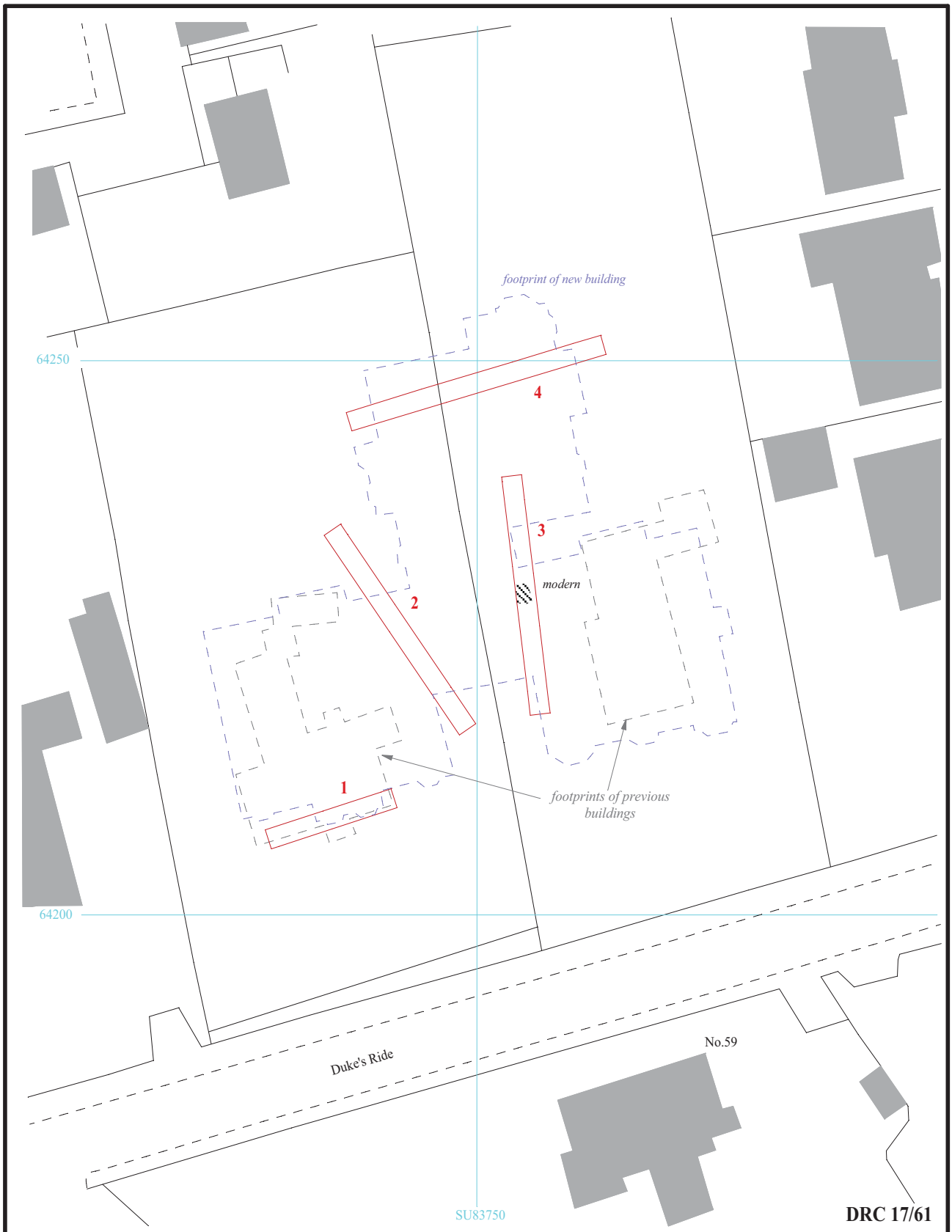
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Duke's Ride, prior to recent demolition of the existing properties.

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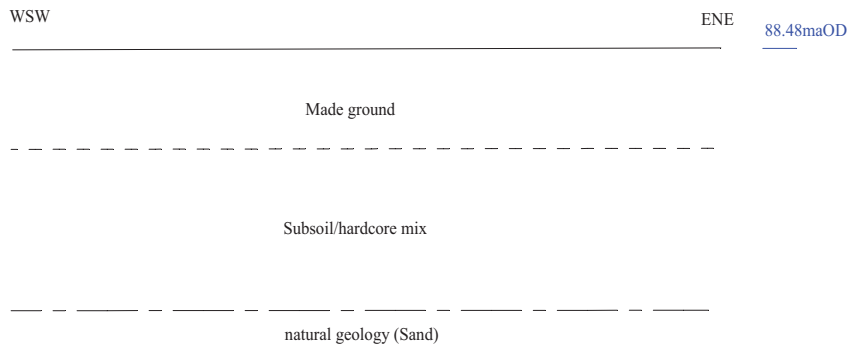


**48-50 Duke's Ride, Crowthorne,
Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

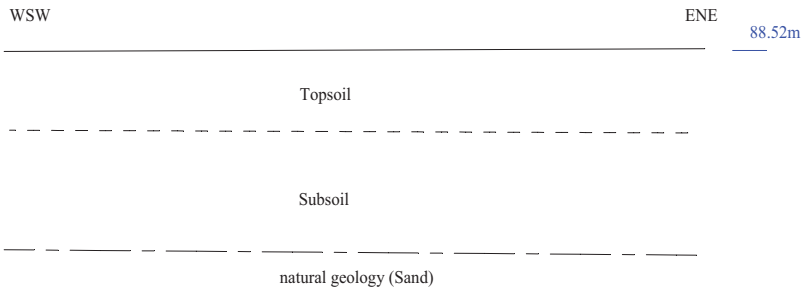
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 1



Trench 4



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Berkshire, 2017
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



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

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Berkshire, 2017**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.

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



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

DRC 17/61

**48-50 Duke's Ride. Crowthorne,
Berkshire, 2017**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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