

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Highworth Road,
Faringdon, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez and Andrew Muddin

Site Code: HRF17/65

(SU 2783 9480)

Land at Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Drivewalk Limited**

by David Sanchez and Andrew Munding
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRF 17/65

June 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 2783 9480

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th May - 5th June 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sanchez and Andrew Muddin

Area of site: c. 8.4ha

Site code: HRF 17/65

Summary of results: In total seventy-nine trenches were excavated across two fields. This revealed a modest volume of deposits of certain or possible archaeological interest. Most of the site contained little of archaeological interest with medieval and post-medieval plough furrows being the only features frequently encountered. One area contained a small, collection of features of Iron Age and possibly Bronze Age date with a second area containing undated postholes and a gully. It is considered that these latter two areas of the site have archaeological potential.

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

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

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Land at Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez and Andrew Muddin

Report 17/65

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land south of Highworth Road, Faringdon, Oxfordshire (SU 2783 9480) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ken Dijkman of Dijkman Planning (UK) LLP, 35 Berkeley Road, Newbury RG14 5JE, on behalf of Drivewalk Ltd, The Homestead Kings Lane, Longcot, Faringdon SN7 7SS.

Planning permission (app no P16/V0775/O) has been sought from Vale of White Horse District Council to erect new housing on the site along with associated infrastructure. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications. 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 High Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was supervised by David Sanchez and Andrew Muddin, with assistance from Rebecca Constable, Luis Esteves, Cristina Mateos, Joanna Pine and Benedikt Tebbit. The fieldwork was carried out between 16th May and 5th June 2017 and the site code is HRF 17/65. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the south-west margins of the town of Faringdon in the Vale of the White Horse (Fig. 1). The site itself is located in two parcels of arable land on the south side of Highworth Road, with residential houses to the east and arable field to the south and west (Fig. 2). The topography of the site rises to a ridge at a height of c.136m above Ordnance Datum, with the land sloped to the north (124m aOD) and south (126m aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Ampthill Clay (BGS 1971) and typical of the Corallian ridge (BGS Geoindex), though what appeared was more complex with parts of the site containing Stanford Formation (Limestone) in the north under colluvium, silts and gravel on the high ground, and grey clay in the south-east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2017). In summary the site lies in an area of high archaeological interest. In particular the site is adjacent to an area of extensive Early Iron Age and Roman settlement. The Iron Age settlement is noteworthy for the large number of grain storage pits, much higher than needed for an individual farmstead site (Weaver and Ford 2005; Cook *et al.* 2005). That site also included evidence of a small Roman shrine and a small scatter of Mesolithic flintwork. It is unclear how far the settlement extends westwards but Iron Age pottery period has been recovered directly to the west of the proposal site.

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 were:

to determine if archaeological deposits of any periods were present.

to determine if further Iron Age and Roman deposits were present on the site.

to provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

It was proposed to dig 79 trenches, each 25m long and 2m wide (*c.* 4% of site area). A contingency of 30m of trench was included should this be necessary to clarify the results of the initial trenching but this was not necessary. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a 360° type 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. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief. All spoil heaps were checked for finds. A single context recording system was used in accordance with the TVAS Field Recording Manual (7th edition 2011). Descriptions of individual deposits and features was recorded on pro-forma context recording sheets and all archaeological deposits exposed were planned at a scale of 1:20 and sections drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was made of the evaluation project, consisting of digital images.

Results

In total seventy-nine trenches were excavated that were all 2m wide and roughly 25m long (Fig. 2). A list of all trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of stratigraphy is recorded in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned SE - NW and was 26m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil (50) overlying 0.09m subsoil, a brown clayey silt (51). This overlay colluvium hillwash, a light brown clayey silt, overlying natural geology. In Trench 1 the natural was brown silty clay with sub-angular limestone pieces. No finds were recovered from the excavated spoilheaps of this trench.

Trench 2-7

These trenches were all of a similar stratigraphy to Trench 1. Trench 7 did not contain any colluvium, and contained light brown clay and reddish brown silty clay areas (Pl. 1). No finds nor features were recorded in these trenches.

Trench 8 (Fig.3 and 6)

This trench was aligned almost S-N and was 26.6m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil over 0.13m of subsoil. The natural was recorded at a depth of 0.44m. The natural geology was similar to that in Trench 7. A linear feature (23) was recorded in the south of this trench. This ditch was on a WSW-ENE alignment and was filled with grey brown silty clay with occasional sub-rounded limestone inclusions (75). The slot was 1m long, 1.1m wide and 0.16m deep. One sherd of modern blue and white transfer ware pottery was identified on top of this fill, and was not retained. A continuation of this feature was recorded in Trench 12.

Trench 9-11

These trenches were all exposed light brown grey clay at their bases. All contained a layer of subsoil under the agricultural topsoil. No finds were recovered from the spoilheaps of these trenches.

Trench 12

Trench 12 was aligned SW-NE and was 27.4m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil overlying 0.13m of subsoil. The natural geology was encountered from 0.42m a was a light grey brown clay. A linear feature (32) was noted in the north eastern end of the trench, with a fill of grey brown silty clay (84). It was not further investigated, as the slot in Trench 8 sampled this feature, which was modern.

Trench 13-18

These trenches were dug on the northward facing slope of the field. Some of these trenches, especially Trench 13 and 16 contained little of no evidence of subsoil above the natural geology. No features were observed and no finds were recovered in the trench spoilheaps. Trench 17 was noted to have thinning layer of subsoil at its north eastern end (Pl. 2)

Trench 19 (Fig. 3 and 6)

This trench was aligned SSE-NNW and was 26.7m long and 0.37m deep. No subsoil was noted under a 0.26m layer of topsoil. A linear furrow (24) was noted at its north western end on a SW-NE alignment. It was filled with light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds. This 1m slot measured 1m wide and was 0.11m deep.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3 and 6)

This trench contained a feature that was unexcavated (25). This trench was aligned WSW - ENE and was 22.6m long and 0.48m deep. The topsoil was 0.36m thick over the subsoil was 0.12m thick. In the ENE end of the trench, linear furrow (25), aligned N-S, was noted to be 0.9m wide. It remains undated.

Trench 21 (Figs 3 and 6)

Trench 21 was aligned SE - NW and was 25m long and 0.38m deep. The topsoil was 0.32m deep, overlaying 0.06m of subsoil. Two linear furrows were recorded in this trench (30 and 31). The northernmost (31) was on a SSW - NNE alignment and measured 0.98m wide and 0.09m deep. It was filled with brown silt containing small rounded limestone pieces (83). No finds were recovered from this feature. On the same alignment, a furrow (30) was c.11m to the south and was 0.95m wide and 0.08m deep. It was filled a firm brown silt with occasional limestone pieces and contained no finds.

Trench 22-29

These trenches were negative and lay towards the top of the northern rise of the slope in the field. A change of geology was evident in Trench 24 (Pl. 3), 25, 26 and 29, which saw less yellow grey clay at the base, an a reddish brown silt with gravel present under a dark brown humic loam topsoil. No finds were recovered from the spoilheaps of these trenches.

Trench 30 (Figs 3 and 6; Pls 4, 9 and 10)

Trench 30 was aligned ESE - WNW and was 21.8m long and 0.35m deep. Topsoil 0.33m thick overlay natural with no subsoil present. Three features were encountered in this trench, three pits and a linear gully.

Pit 26 was noted to cut pit 28 (unexcavated) in the west. The pit was half sectioned and had a single fill, a reddish brown sandy silt with rounded gravel inclusions. This was 0.82m in diameter and 0.22m deep. Three

sherds of pottery were recovered, all in different fabrics, and at least one is likely to date from the second half of the Bronze Age although the other two (less diagnostic) are possibly more in keeping with an early-middle Iron Age date. Pit 28 remains unexcavated but is not later than pit 26, and is 0.77m in diameter.

A second isolated pit was also investigated (27). This feature was 0.6m in diameter and was 0.32m deep. This, too, contained a single fill (79), a reddish brown sandy silt with rounded gravel inclusions. Three sherds of abraded pottery were recovered from this fill. Again, all three were in different fabrics, broadly prehistoric, but one is distinctively late Iron Age.

On a N-S alignment, a linear gully was encountered to the east of these pits (29). It was 0.37m wide and once excavated was 0.09m deep. This was filled with a single fill, a fine grained, firm brown silt, with small rounded limestone gravel and rooty inclusions. One fragment of animal bone was recovered from its fill. Although it might be related to the prehistoric pits, the north-south alignment matches that of post-medieval furrows, and the survival of animal bone, otherwise very rare on this site, is also possibly an indication that this is of no great antiquity.

Trench 31 - 35

The remainder of the trenches in the western field covered the southern facing slope of the site. At the southern extent colluvium was present over the clay natural geology, with 0.31m of deposit at the southern end of Trench 35 in particular (Pl. 5). No finds, other than modern pottery in plough scarring in Trenches 32 and 33, were encountered and no finds were recovered from the colluvium.

Trench 36 (Fig. 3 and 6)

This trench was at the southern end of the eastern field. It was aligned SW -NE and was 26.4m long and 0.22m deep. The topsoil was 0.18m thick and covered a light grey brown clay natural. Three modern ditches, probable furrow bases were recorded at the south western end of the trench. Furrow 15 was aligned N-S and was 1.9m wide and 0.14m deep. It was filled with a firm grey brown silty clay (67) that had small gravel inclusions. Two sherds of modern pottery and one scrap of metalwork was recovered from this fill.

Furrow 16 was 0.8m wide and 0.08m deep, and was the north east of Furrow 15. This too, was on a N-S alignment and was filled with a firm grey brown clayey silt with occasional rounded stone inclusions (68). No finds were recovered from this feature. Furrow 17 was unexcavated and was 0.77m wide. This was filled with a firm brown grey silty clay with small stone inclusions. One sherd of post-medieval pottery was on the top of this feature.

Trench 37 (Figs 4 and 6)

Trench 37 was aligned SSW - NNE, was 25.6m long and 0.3m deep. The topsoil was 0.28m thick overlaying a light brown natural clay at the base of the trench. One feature was at the southern extent of this trench. Ditch, or more likely furrow, 18 was not fully exposed in plan and was not excavated. It contained a firm grey brown silty clay moderately filled with gravel (70). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the top of the feature.

Trench 38 (Figs 3 and 6; Pl.6)

This trench was aligned W -E and was 26.9m long and 0.25m deep. The topsoil was 0.16m thick and overlay a light reddish brown clay. Two furrows were recorded in this trench (21 and 22). Furrow 21 was 1.1m wide and 0.05m deep. It was filled with a firm brown grey silty clay which contained occasional small stones (73). No finds were recovered from this feature.

Furrow 22 was not excavated and was 2.2m wide and was filled with firm grey brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions (74). No finds were recovered from this feature, but both are thought to be agricultural in origin and post-medieval in date.

Trench 39

This was a negative trench. It was aligned N- S and was 26.7m long and 0.34m deep. The topsoil was 0.16m thick overlaying 0.1m of subsoil. This in turn overlay a light brown clay natural from a depth of 0.26m deep. No finds nor features were recovered from this trench.

Trench 40 (Fig. 4)

This trench was aligned SW -NE and was 25.9m long and 0.3m deep. The topsoil was 0.23m thick overlaying light grey brown clay natural from a depth of 0.23m deep. Two unexcavated linear furrows aligned N - S (19 and 20) was recorded in this trench. Furrow 19 was 1.2m wide and was filled with a firm grey brown silty clay (71). Two sherds of modern pottery were recovered from the top of this feature. Furrow 20 was 0.9m wide and had a similar fill to furrow 19, a firm grey brown silty clay (72). Two sherds of post-medieval to modern pottery were recovered from the top of this feature.

Trench 41 (Fig. 4)

Trench 41 was aligned SE- NW and was 24.5m long and 0.33m deep. The topsoil was 0.22m thick overlying a light greyish brown clay natural. One furrow was noted in the trench on a N -S alignment (14). This furrow was 1.2m wide and 0.05m deep. It was filled with hard grey brown silty clay (66). One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the top of this feature and one piece of clay tobacco pipe stem, suggesting at the earliest a 19th century date for the feature.

Trench 42 (Fig.4 and 6)

This trench was aligned SW -NE and was 27.4m long and 0.23m deep. The topsoil was 0.19m thick overlying a light grey brown clay. Two features were recorded in this trench, a furrow aligned N - S (12) and a linear gully (13). The furrow was 1.4m wide a 0.1m deep. It was filled with a firm, grey brown silty clay with moderate stone inclusions (64). One sherd of post-medieval pottery, one fragment of bone, a nail and another unidentified iron object (a hook or a bent nail?) were recovered from its fill.

The linear gully (13) was also aligned N - S and was 0.68m wide and 0.06m deep. It was filled with a firm grey brown silty clay moderately distributed rounded stones at its base (65). One fragment of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 43 - 48

These trenches were situated on the northern facing rise at the top of the slope of the field. All had topsoil directly overlying the natural clay geology. No finds, other than modern land drainage were encountered in Trenches43-48.

Trench 49 (Fig.4 and 6)

Trench 49 was aligned WNW -ESE and was 25.3m long and 0.32m deep. The topsoil was 0.27m thick overlying a light yellow clay with reddish brown sand and gravel patches. Two small postholes (9 and 10) were noted in the north of this trench, 17m from the WNW end.

Posthole 9 was 0.2m in diameter and 0.09m deep. It was filled with a loose dark brown sandy silt with very occasional rounded gravel inclusions (61). A sherd of pottery medieval pottery was recovered from its fill, but so tiny (2g) and abraded that it is not a reliable guide to the date of the feature.

Posthole 10 was 0.23m in diameter and 0.07m deep. It was filled a loose, dark brown sandy silt with very occasional pebbles at its base (62). It contained no finds.

Trench 50 (Fig. 4 and 6)

This trench was aligned N - S and was 30m long and 0.37m deep. The topsoil was 0.34m thick overlying a reddish brown silty sand with patches of pale yellowish grey clay. At the southern end of the trench were three features; a posthole (6), a gully terminus (7) and a linear gully (8).

The posthole (6) was 0.33m in diameter and 0.19m deep. It was filled with soft pale yellowish brown sandy silt. It contained no finds. The terminus (7) was 1.03m long, 0.75m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a soft light yellowish brown sandy clay. It contained no finds. The gully (8) was 0.66m wide and 0.14m deep. It contained a soft light grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

In the north of the trench was a spread or possible infilled hollow (11), which was 12.7m long and investigated at its northern extent with a 2m long slot which reached a depth of 0.29m deep. It was filled with a loose brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Trench 51 - 56

These trenches were situated on the northern facing slope of the field. Trenches 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 had topsoil directly overlying the natural clay geology. No finds, other than modern land drainage. Trench 51 contained a 0.17m thickness of subsoil. Trenches 56 contained N-S aligned plough scarring of the natural. Trench 52 recovered one sherd of modern pottery in the spoilheap. A representation of the geology is shown in Plate 7.

Trench 57 (Figs 5 and 6)

Trench 57 was aligned ESE -WNW and was 23.8m long and 0.3m deep. The topsoil was 0.26m thick and overlay the natural pale yellowish grey silty clay. One pit (5) was recorded 9.5m from the ESE end of the trench. This feature was 1.01m in diameter and was 0.11m deep. It contained no finds. A 5L sample (sample 1) was taken from this fill, which recovered no material of interest and no finds.

Trench 58 - 74

These trenches were to the in the northern part of the field. Trench 59, 61, 62, 64, 66, 67, and 69 to 74, all contained subsoil underlying the topsoil. The topsoil varied in depth between 0.19m to 0.3m thick with the subsoil 0.08 to 0.12m thick. Modern finds were identified (not retained) in Trenches 59, 61, 62, 66, 67, 68 and 69. Plough scarring was noted in Trench 60. A representation of the geology is shown in Plate 8.

Trench 75 (Figs 5 and 6)

This trench was aligned NNW-SSE and was 25.3m long and 0.38m deep. The topsoil was 0.24m thick overlaying subsoil that was 0.11m thick. This in turn overlay pale yellowish brown silt clay with limestone inclusions. A test pit, 2.5m long was dug at the southern end to confirm this was natural geology. It reached a depth of 0.8m. Two irregular shaped linear features perpendicular to each other were recorded in the trench, with the relationship investigated between them (1 and 2). Feature 1, in the east, was 0.57m wide 0.27m deep. Two fragments of animal bone were recovered from its fill of soft light grey brown silty clay (52).

The other linear feature, possibly a gully (2) was 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled with soft light orange grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 76 and 77

These two trenches were in the north east of the eastern field. Each had topsoil overlaying subsoil between 0.29m and 0.36m deep. The thickness of the subsoil varied between 0.21 and 0.26m. No finds were encountered in these trenches.

Trench 78 (Fig. 5 and 6)

This trench was aligned SW - NE and was 26.5m long and 0.44m deep. The topsoil was 0.25m thick overlying 0.16m of subsoil. This in turn, overlay the natural, a pale yellowish brown silty clay with occasional limestone inclusions. A linear furrow (3) was recorded in the southern part of the trench. This furrow was aligned N - S and was 1.34m wide and 0.34m deep. It was filled with soft pale yellowish grey sandy silt which contained very occasional gravel at its base (54). The fill contained three iron nails, two sherds of post-medieval pottery, a shard of green glass, and a fragment of probably Victorian brick. It was cut on its north-western edge by a pit (4), which was visible in section on the furrows southern edge. Pit 4 was 0.6m in diameter and 0.13m deep. Its fill was a soft pale yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional rounded gravel inclusions (55). It contained no finds but post-dates furrow 3.

Trench 79

Trench 79 was aligned SSE -NNW and was 25.1m long and 0.49m deep. The topsoil was 0.23m thick and overlay the subsoil which was 0.3m thick. The natural geology, a pale yellow brown silty clay with limestone inclusions was from 0.62m deep. A single sherd of modern 'china' pottery was recovered from the spoilheap.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 20 sherds with a total weight of 145g. It comprised a mixture of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval material. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3.

Prehistoric

The following fabric types were noted.

F1: Shell. Thick, crude fabric with moderate to dense shell fragments up to 10mm. 1 sherd, 16g.

F2: Sandy. Moderate to dense fine sand up to 0.1m. 2 sherds, 6g.

F3: “Belgic”. Wheel-thrown, fine sandy ware. 1 sherd, 3g.

F4: Fine. Smooth fabric, with few visible inclusions. 1 sherd, 6g.

F5: Sand and shell. Sandy fabric with sparse shell fragments up to 2mm. 1 sherd, 13g.

The entire assemblage comprised plain bodysherds other than the single fragment of fabric F4. It is a rimsherd with a simple upright form, and with an horizontal applied cordon with stabbed decoration below it. It is most likely of Middle - Late Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury type.

The assemblage consisted of rather small sherds which are all the product of secondary deposition. The “Belgic” sherd aside, the range of fabric types is very similar to that of the early-middle Iron Age pottery from Coxwell Road, Faringdon (Timby in Weaver and Ford, 2005, 141).

Medieval and Later

The medieval material was recorded using the conventions of the Oxfordshire County type-series (Mellor 1994), while the late medieval and early post-medieval wares were recorded using the conventions of the Museum of London Type-Series (eg. Vince 1985), as follows:

OXY: Medieval Oxford Ware, AD1075–1350. 1 sherd, 2g.

CREA: Creamware, 1740-1830. 1 sherd, 1g.

FREC: Frechen Stoneware, 1550-1750. 1 sherd, 6g.

PMR: Post-medieval Redware, 1550+. 9 sherds, 86g.

TPW: Transfer-printed Whiteware, 1830-1900. 2 sherds, 2g.

The range of fabric types is typical of sites in the region. Most of the material comprised small, somewhat worn sherds. The sherd of OXY from context (61) is very abraded, and could easily be residual. The fragments of PMR are all from internally-glazed bowls, a common product of the tradition.

Animal Bone by Danielle Milbank

Three contexts encountered the evaluation contained animal bone, which was disarticulated, fairly fragmented, with some surface erosion. The fragments were categorised according to size where possible. These comprise a

small piece of long bone (10g) from a medium or large sized animal, recovered from gully slot 29 (deposit 81), a piece of rib from a large sized animal, from furrow deposit 64, and two vertebra pieces (35g) from a medium or large sized animal recovered from gully slot 1 (deposit 52). One of the vertebra pieces has a sharp edge suggestive of a butchery mark, and the rib fragment has two shallow parallel scratches probably made by the tip of a knife or other sharp tool.

The assemblage is modest and no species were identified, however the material is suggestive of domestic consumption. All the bone appears likely to have come from deposits of relatively recent date.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A single brick fragment (73g) was recovered from gully slot 3 (deposit 54). This comprised a hard, dense, evenly fired slightly coarse sandy clay, with a regular form and a late Victorian or modern date.

Metalwork

Three contexts contained metalwork, all ferrous. Three nails were recovered from the furrow (3) in Trench 78; they weighed a total of 13g. Another greatly corroded nail head was recovered from furrow 12 in Trench 42. A small hooked piece of metal was also recovered. This weighed 16g. The last piece was a non-descript length of iron from a furrow (15) in Trench 36. It weighed 14g.

Clay pipe

One piece of clay pipe stem was recovered from furrow 14, it was 33mm long and weigh 1g.

Glass

One sherd of dark green glassware was recovered from furrow 3 in Trench 78 and weighed 13g.

Environmental and artefactual sampling

Three soil samples each of 5L were taken from features 5(56), 6 (57) and 7 (59). These were wet sieved using 5mm and 0.25mm meshes for artefacts and charred plant remains. No material of either category was recovered.

Conclusion

The trenching exercise has been successfully undertaken. It has determined that most of the site has low archaeological potential but has revealed a small number of anomalies of certain and possible archaeological interest (Fig. 7). A larger number of features considered to be furrows reflecting medieval and post-medieval agriculture were also revealed but which are not considered to be of further interest. Only one trench (30) contained deposits certainly of archaeological interest and which comprised a cluster of pits and a gully probably of Iron Age date but also containing Bronze Age material. It is possible that this cluster represent a small, unenclosed short-lived settlement, but with the location of this trench adjacent to the edge of the proposal site, there is a possibility that these features belong to a larger site present further to the west beyond the site boundary. A second area of possible interest may be present in the area of trenches 49, 50 and 57. A number of cut features were found but apart from a tiny fragment of medieval pottery contained no dating evidence.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	26.00	2.00	0.38	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown silty clay with limestone and colluvium.
2	25.50	2.00	0.38	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown silty clay with limestone and colluvium
3	23.50	2.00	0.43	0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ mid brown silty clay with limestone and colluvium.
4	27.20	2.00	0.38	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid yellow brown silty clay with sand patches natural geology.
5	26.00	2.00	0.34	0–0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.34m subsoil; 0.34-0.46m colluvium (light brown silt; 0.46m+ pale yellowish grey clay with limestone.
6	26.00	2.00	0.43	0–0.10m topsoil; 0.10-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ mid yellow brown silty clay natural geology.
7	25.80	2.00	0.45	0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. [PL 1]
8	26.60	2.00	0.48	0–0.31m topsoil; 0.31-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. Furrow slot [23]
9	24.70	2.00	0.34	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
10	24.50	2.00	0.47	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
11	25.10	2.00	0.43	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
12	27.40	2.00	0.48	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
13	24.80	2.00	0.38	0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
14	25.70	2.00	0.45	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.42m subsoil; 0.42m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
15	24.50	2.00	0.38	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
16	26.60	2.00	0.31	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
17	22.20	2.00	0.41	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.39m subsoil; 0.39m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. [PL 2]
18	27.70	2.00	0.45	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
19	26.70	2.00	0.31	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. Furrow slot [24]
20	22.60	2.00	0.48	0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. Unexcavated furrow [25]
21	25.00	2.00	0.38	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. Furrow slots [30] and [31]
22	24.80	2.00	0.35	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
23	25.20	2.00	0.44	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.44m subsoil; 0.44m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
24	26.00	2.00	0.47	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology. [PL 3]
25	28.80	2.00	0.55	0–0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
26	23.70	2.00	0.39	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
27	25.00	2.00	0.40	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
28	24.60	2.00	0.32	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ mid brown silty clay natural geology.
29	21.70	2.00	0.36	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ mid brown clay with brown silty gravel patches natural geology.
30	21.80	2.00	0.35	0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33m+ mid brown silty gravel with clay patches natural geology. Pits [26], [27] and [28], gully slot [29]. [Pls 4; 9 and 10]
31	26.90	2.00	0.31	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29m+ mid brown clay natural geology.
32	24.20	2.00	0.35	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown clay natural geology.
33	28.00	2.00	0.38	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ mid brown clay natural geology.
34	24.70	2.00	NE=0.45 SW=1.02	NE= 0-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ clay natural. SW = 0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.4m subsoil; 0.4m-1.02m colluvium (brown silty clay) 1.02m+ mid brown clay natural geology.
35	24.90	2.00	S=0.77 N=0.22	S=0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.46m subsoil; 0.46-0.77m colluvium; 0.77m+ mid brown clay natural geology. N=0-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ natural clay. [PL 5]
36	26.40	2.00	0.22	0–0.18m topsoil; 0.18m+ mid brown clay natural geology. Furrow slots [15] and [16] and unexcavated furrow [17].
37	25.60	2.00	0.30	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology. Unexcavated furrow [18]
38	26.90	2.00	0.25	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology. Furrow slots [21] and [22]. [PL 6]
39	26.20	2.00	0.34	0–0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
40	25.90	2.00	0.30	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23m+ light grey brown clay natural geology. Unexcavated furrow [19] and furrow slot [20].
41	24.50	2.00	0.33	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ light grey brown clay natural geology. Furrow slot [14]
42	27.40	2.00	0.23	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.33m+ light grey brown clay natural geology. Furrow slots [12] and [13].
43	25.30	2.00	0.32	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.33m+ light grey brown clay natural geology
44	25.20	2.00	0.36	0–0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
45	26.50	2.00	0.39	0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
46	24.80	2.00	0.30	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
47	25.00	2.00	0.26	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
48	25.00	2.00	0.28	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
49	25.30	2.00	0.32	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ light yellow brown clay with light orange brown sand and gravel patches natural geology. Postholes [9] and [10].
50	30.00	2.00	0.37	0–0.34m topsoil; 0.34m+ light orange brown sand and gravel with yellow clay patches natural geology. Posthole [6]; gully terminus [7]; gully slot [8] and possible hollow slot [11].
51	25.30	2.00	0.47	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ light yellow brown clay with light orange sand and gravel patches natural geology. [Pl. 7]
52	25.80	2.00	0.24	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21m+ light yellow brown clay with grey clay patches natural geology
53	24.70	2.00	0.45	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
54	24.00	2.00	0.33	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
55	24.50	2.00	0.31	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
56	26.00	2.00	0.30	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
57	23.80	2.00	0.30	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ light yellow brown and grey clay natural geology. Pit [5]
58	25.10	2.00	0.34	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
59	26.80	2.00	0.31	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
60	27.00	2.00	0.29	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
61	26.20	2.00	0.37	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
62	24.30	2.00	0.45	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
63	23.60	2.00	0.42	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
64	27.30	2.00	0.45	0–0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
65	25.20	2.00	0.30	0–0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
66	25.00	2.00	0.43	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
67	26.00	2.00	0.35	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
68	23.70	2.00	0.31	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
69	24.70	2.00	0.34	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology. [Pl. 8]
70	25.40	2.00	0.60	0–0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
71	24.60	2.00	0.80	0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.43m subsoil; 0.43-0.77 made ground; 0.77m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
72	23.90	2.00	0.85	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.50m subsoil; 0.50-0.80m made ground; 0.80m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
73	23.00	2.00	1.99	0–0.19m topsoil; 0.19-0.38m subsoil; 0.38-1.02m mid grey sandy clay made ground; 1.02-1.58m light yellow brown silty sand; 1.58-1.95m mid yellow brown sandy clay; 1.95m+ light yellow brown clay natural geology
74	25.90	2.00	0.41	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ small size limestone in clay matrix natural geology
75	25.30	2.00	0.38	0–0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ small size limestone in clay matrix natural geology. Gully slots [1] and [2]
76	25.30	2.00	0.65	0–0.36m topsoil; 0.36-0.62m subsoil; 0.62m+ small size limestone in clay matrix natural geology
77	26.20	2.00	0.52	0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ small size limestone in clay matrix with silty sand yellow patches natural geology
78	26.50	2.00	0.44	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ small size limestone in clay matrix natural geology. Ditch [3] and pit [4].
79	25.10	2.00	0.49	0–0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ small size limestone in clay matrix with yellow silty sand patches natural geology

APPENDIX 2: Catalogue of all excavated features

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Topsoil		
	51	Subsoil		
1	52	Gully		
2	53	Gully		
3	54	Gully	Post-medieval	Pottery; brick
4	55	Pit	Modern	Stratigraphy
5	56	Pit		
6	57	Posthole		
6	58	Posthole		
7	59	Gully terminus		
8	60	Gully		
9	61	Posthole	Medieval	Pottery
10	62	Posthole		
11	63	Hollow		
12	64	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
13	65	Gully	Post-medieval	Pottery
14	66	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
15	67	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
16	68	Furrow	Post-medieval	
17	69	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
18	70	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
19	71	Furrow	Post-medieval	Pottery
20	72	Furrow	Post-medieval	
21	73	Furrow	Post-medieval	
22	74	Furrow	Post-medieval	
23	75	Ditch	Modern	Pottery (not retained)
24	76	Furrow	Post-medieval	
25	77	Furrow (not exc.)	Post-medieval	
26	78	Pit	Prehistoric	Pottery
27	79	Pit	Prehistoric	Pottery
28	80	Pit		
29	81	Gully		
30	82	Furrow	Post-medieval	
31	83	Furrow	Post-medieval	
32	84	Ditch	Modern	Same as 23

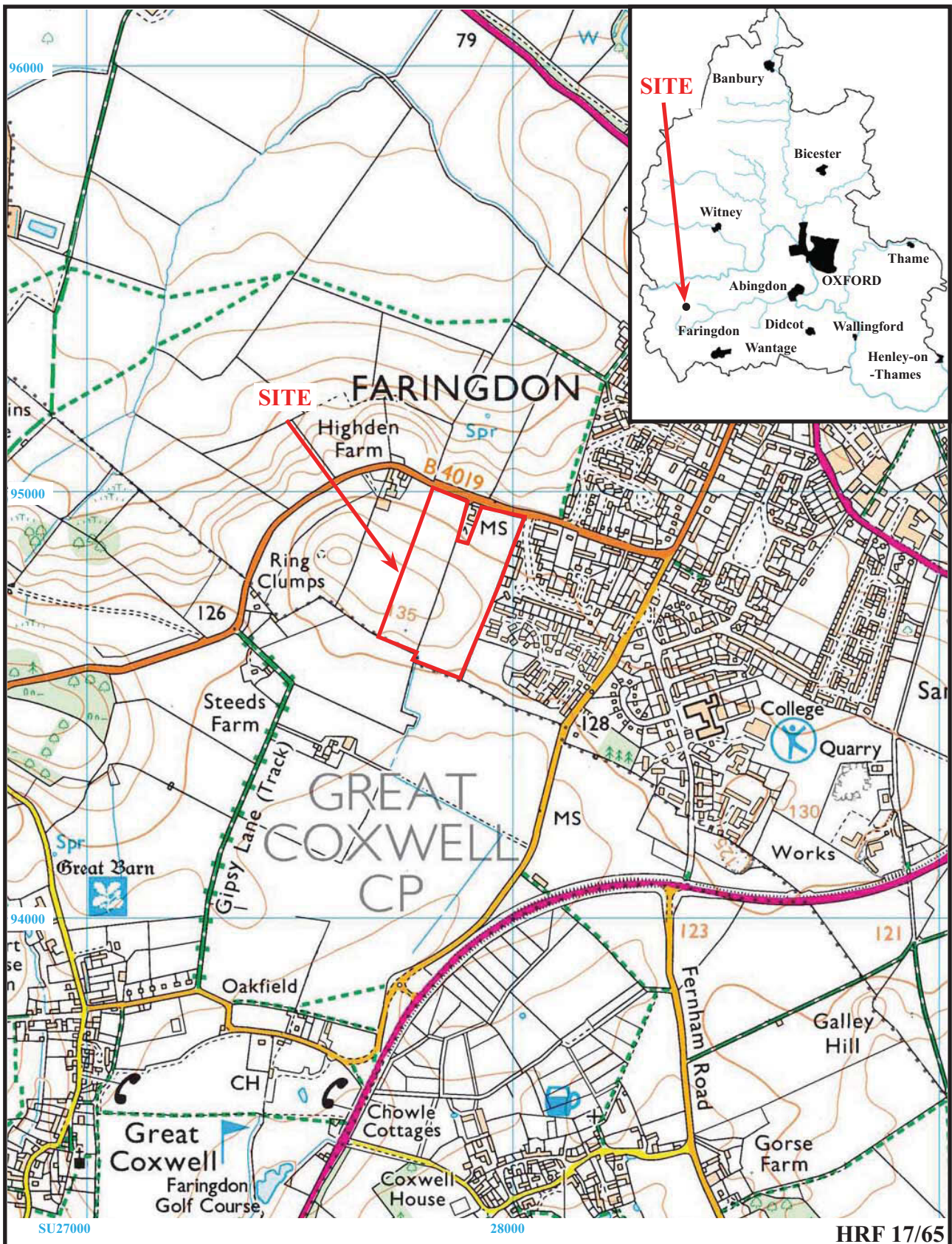
APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogue by context

A> Prehistoric

<i>Tr</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	F1		F2		F3		F4		F5	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
30	26	78			1	3			1	6	1	13
30	27	79	1	16	1	3	1	3				
		Total	1	16	2	6	1	3	1	6	1	13

B> Medieval and Post-medieval

<i>Tr</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	OXY		FREC		PMR		CREA		TPW		<i>Date</i>
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	
78	3	54					2	16					17thC
49	9	61	1	2									L11thC
42	12	64									1	1	19thC+
42	13	65					1	22					16thC
41	14	66			1	6							M16thC
36	15	67					2	8					16thC
36	17	69					1	6					17thC
37	18	70					1	25					17thC
40	19	71					1	2	1	1			M18thC
40	20	72					1	7			1	1	Modern
		Total	1	2	1	6	9	86	1	1	2	2	

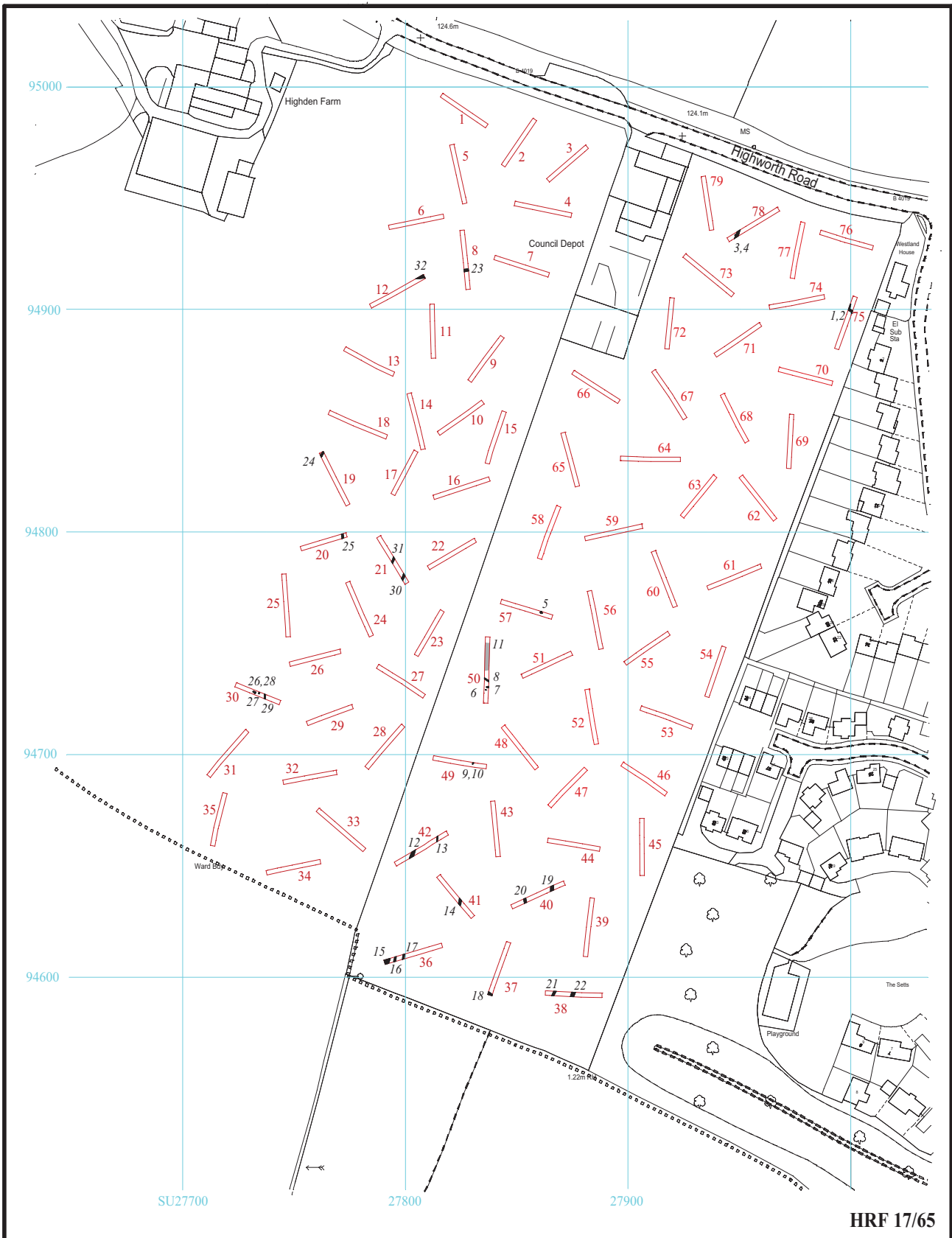


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Figure 1. Location of site within Faringdon and Oxfordshire.

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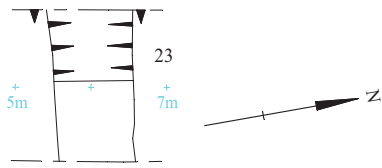
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Figure 2. Location of trenches and features.

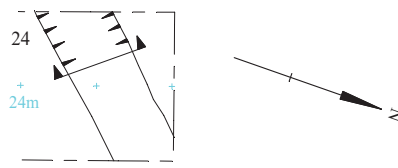


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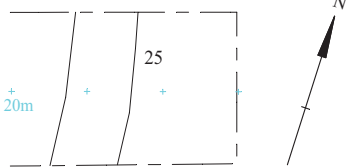
Trench 8



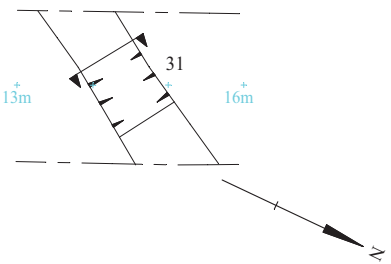
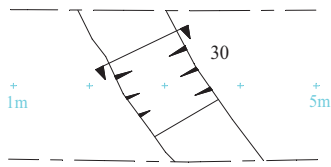
Trench 19



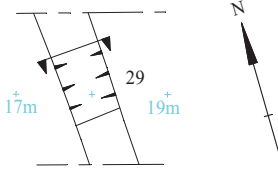
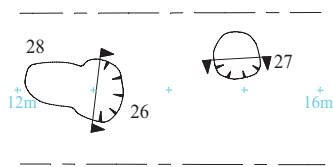
Trench 20



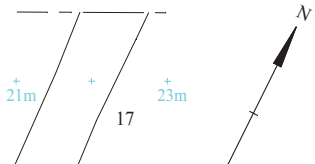
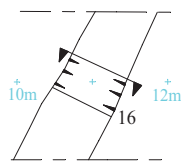
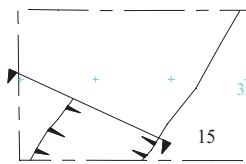
Trench 21



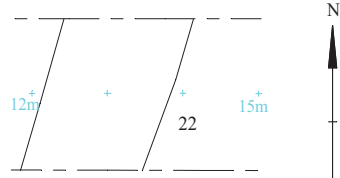
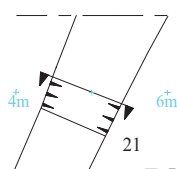
Trench 30



Trench 36



Trench 38

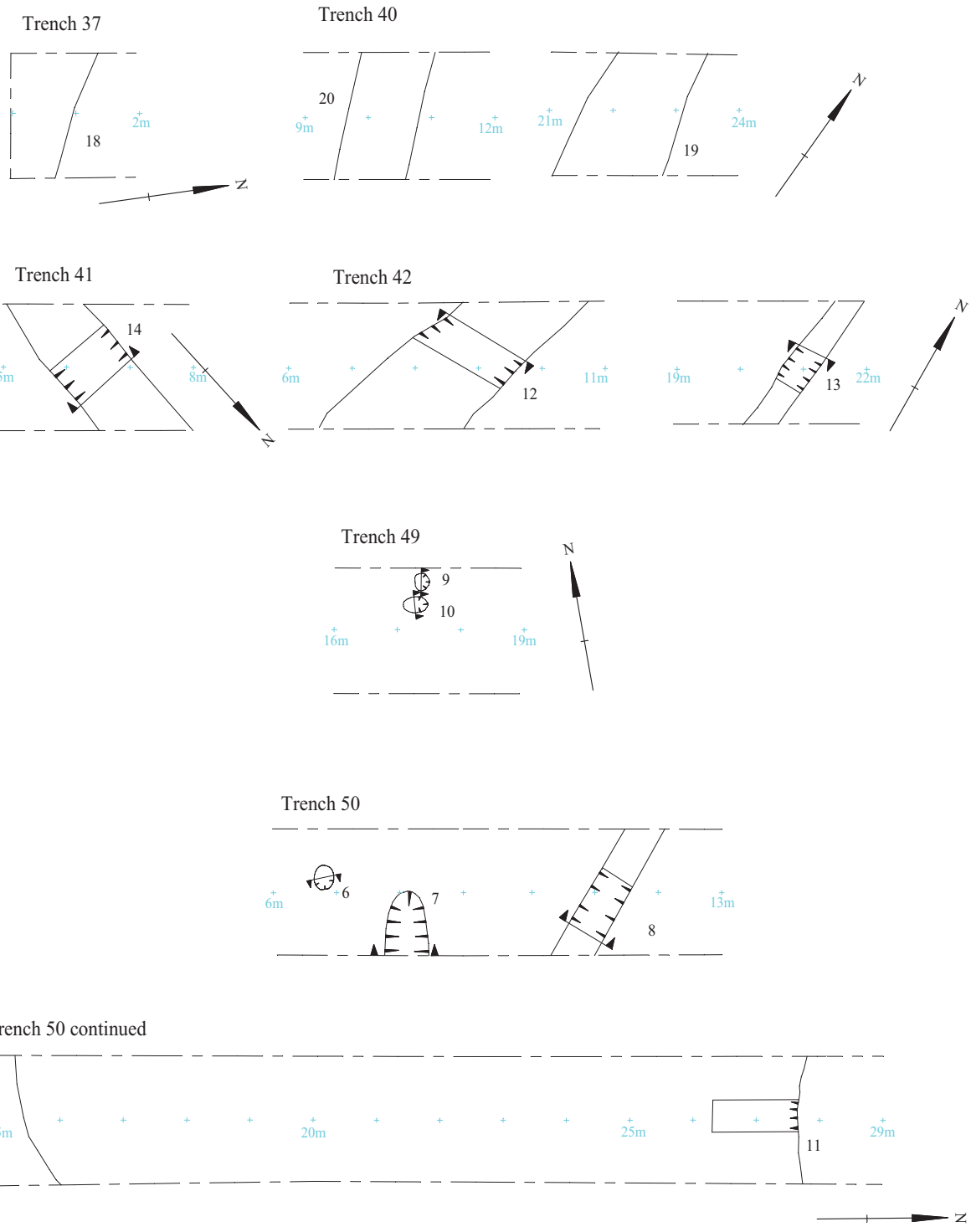


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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





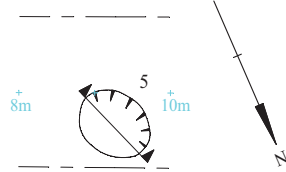
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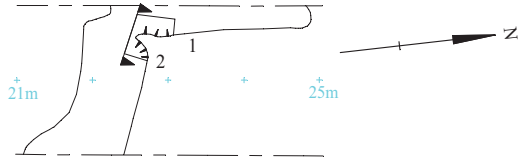
Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



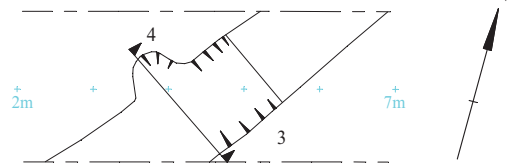
Trench 57



Trench 75



Trench 78



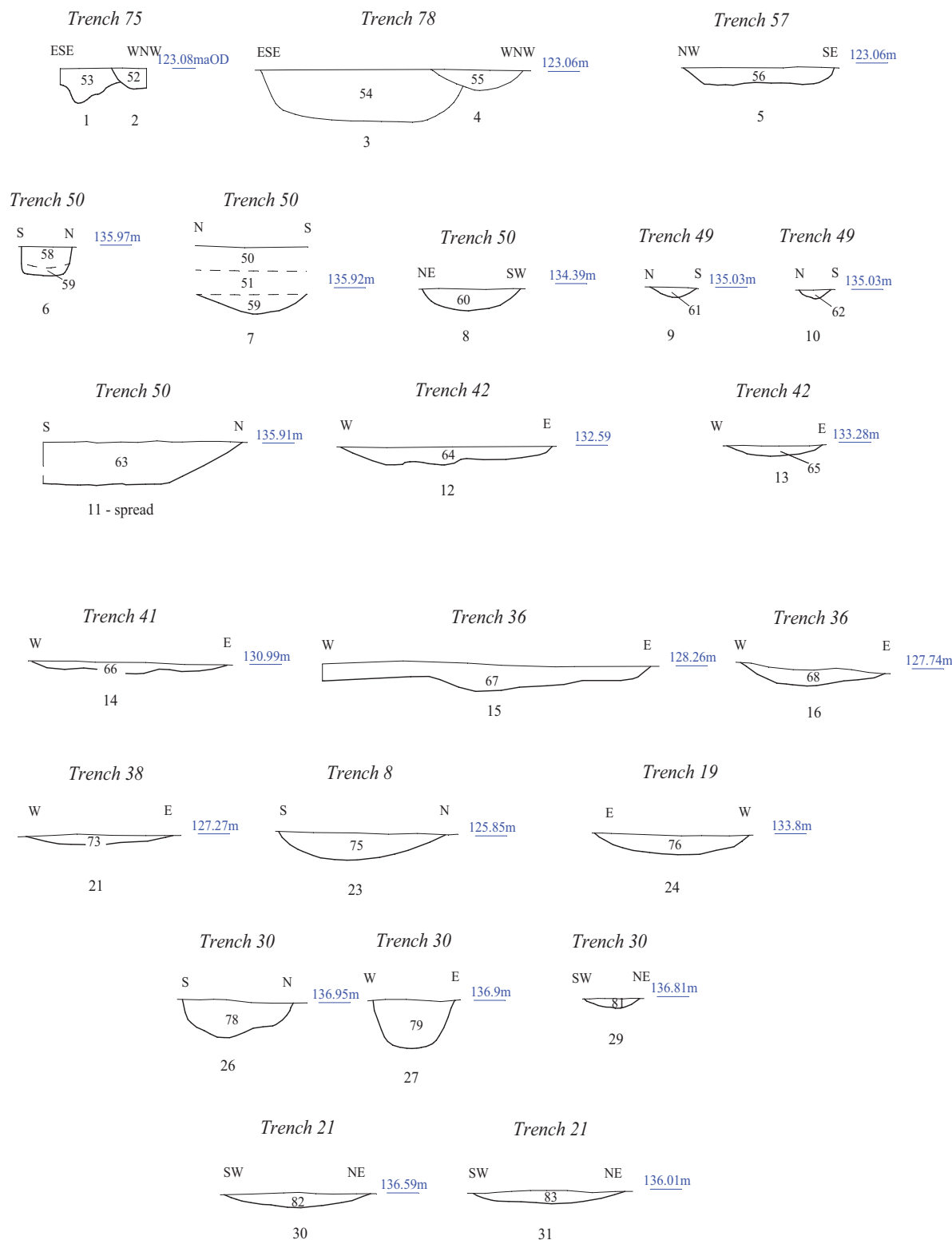
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Figure 5. Detail of trenches.



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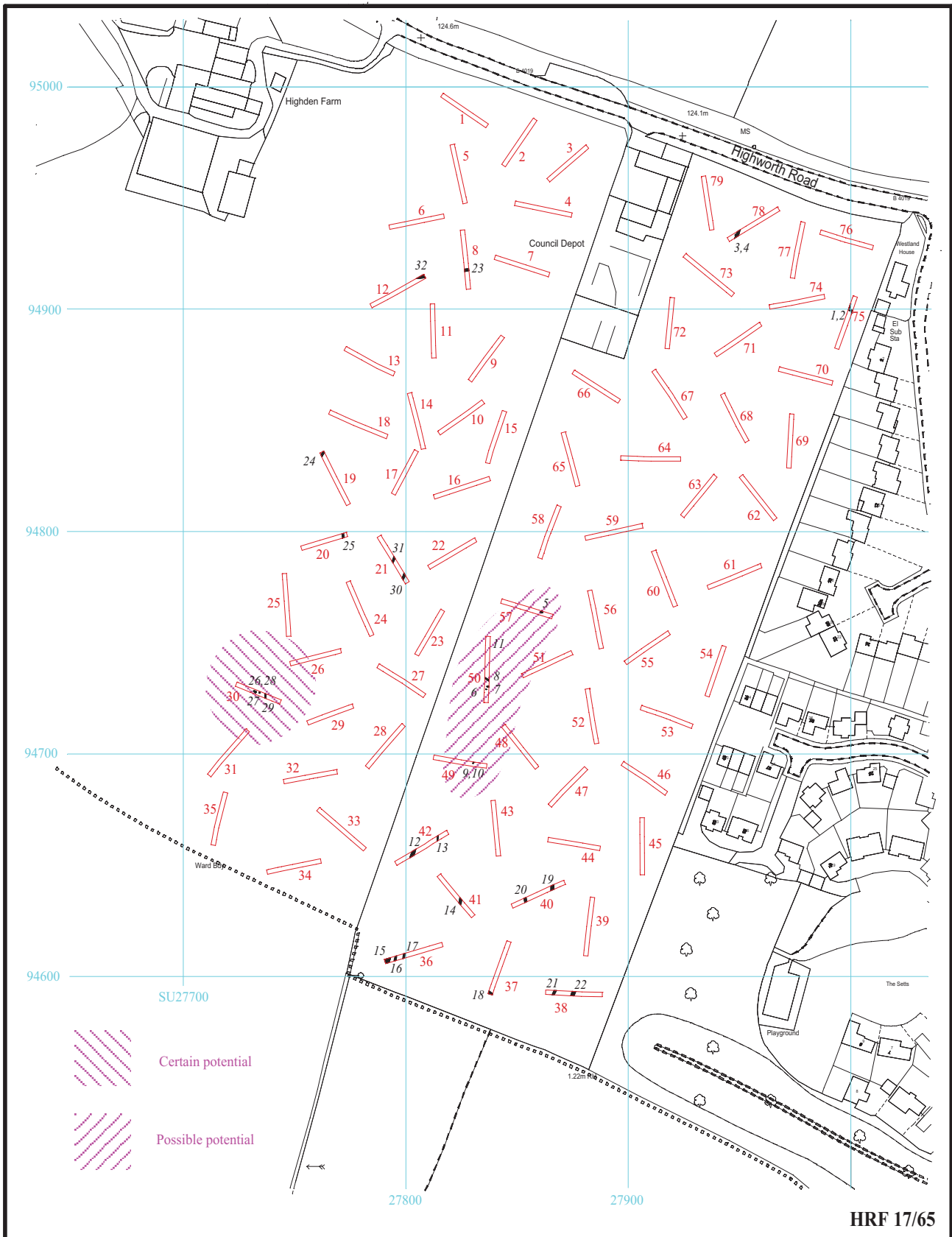


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Figure 6. Sections.





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Figure 7. Areas of archaeological potential



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Plate 1. Trench 7, looking west north west, Scales: 1m x 2.



Plate 2. Trench 17, looking south west, Scales: 1m x 2.

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 24, looking south east, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 4. Trench 30, looking east, Scales: 1m x2.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 35, looking north west, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 6. Trench 38, looking south east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 5 and 6.

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Plate 7. Trench 51, looking north north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 8. Trench 69, looking north north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 7 and 8.**

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Plate 9. Trench 30, pit 26, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 10. Trench 30, pit 27, looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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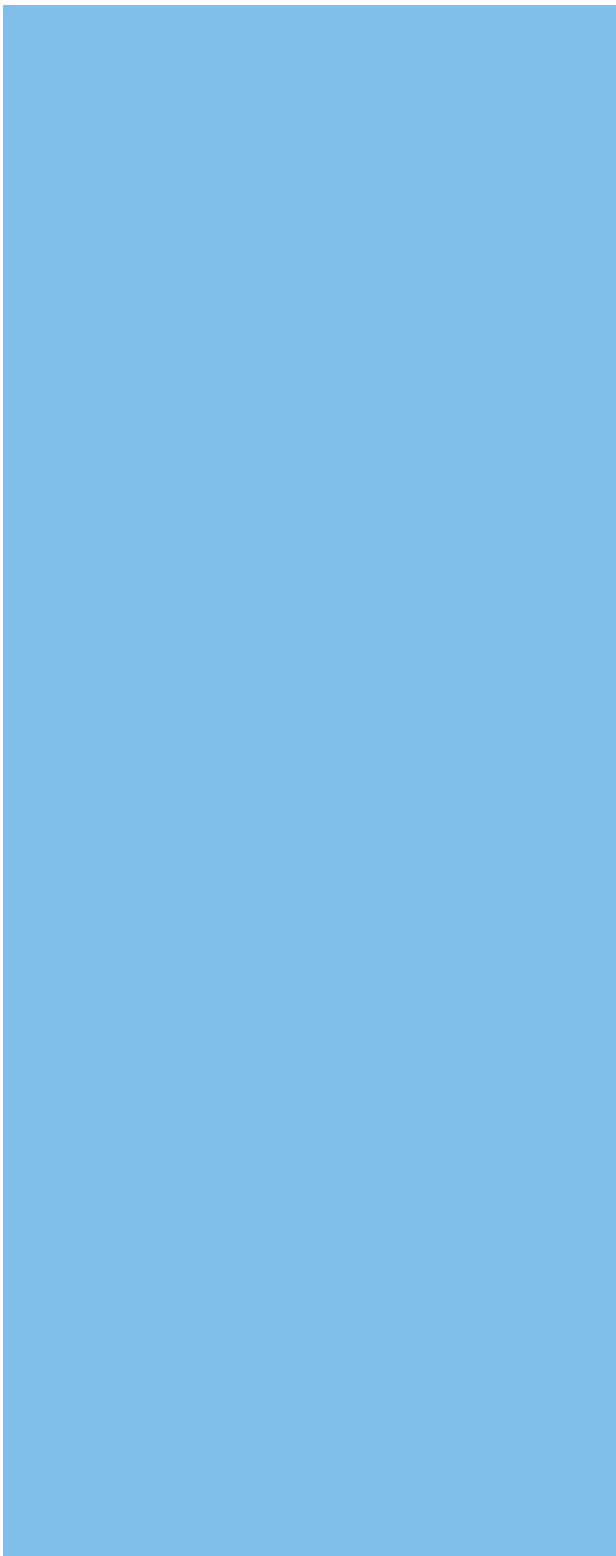
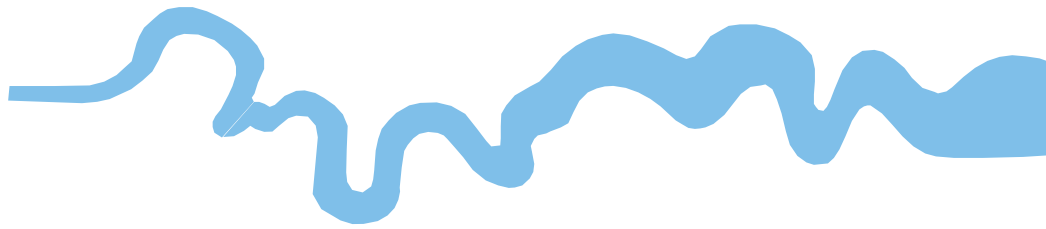
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Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 9 and 10.

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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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