

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Moram House, Datchet Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sanchez

Site Code: MHOW17/238

(SU 7513 9830)

**Moram House, Datchet Road,
Old Windsor, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Maybury Gate Developments Limited**

by David Sánchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MHOW 17/238

November 2017

Summary

Site name: Moram House, Datchet Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7513 9830

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th November 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Sánchez

Site code: MHOW 17 238

Summary of results: Two trenches were dug as intended during the course of the archaeological evaluation but no features nor finds of archaeological significance were uncovered. The site is therefore 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 approved museum willing to accept the archive.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 21.11.17 Steve Preston✓ 21.11.17

Moram House, Datchet Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Sánchez

Report 17/238

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Moram House, Datchet Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire (SU 7513 9830) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Benjamin McGhee, of Maybury Gate Developments, Wilkins Kennedy, 16 The Mount, Guildford, United Kingdom, GU2 4HN.

Planning permission (APP/T0355/W/16/3147112) has been gained on appeal from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of an extension to the existing building, a new garage, and a four-dwelling terrace with bin store, following the demolition of an existing stable block and garage on the site. This consent is subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology, in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012 para 141), and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead policies on archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the groundworks a field investigation has been required. This was to take the form, initially, of evaluation by means of trial trenching, based on the results of which further fieldwork might be required to mitigate the impact of the development on archaeological remains.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sánchez and Benedikt Tebbit on 15th November 2017 and the site code is MHOW 17/238. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local approved museum willing to accept the archive, in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern margins of the village of Old Windsor, on the south bank of the River Thames, 4km south-east of the town of Windsor (Fig. 1). The site is located to the east of Datchet Road and just to the east of Moram House, with fields to the west and housing to the north and south (Fig. 2). It lies at a height of *c.* 16m above Ordnance Datum and consists of a flat plot of land occupied by the back garden, stables and

garage of the existing house. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits of flood-plain gravel (BGS 1981): the geology uncovered in the trenches was light yellowish brown clay silt with gravel patches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded for the area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975; Dils 2012). Although the site lies some distance from the historic core of New Windsor it is relatively close to a Scheduled Monument which was the palace complex of Edward the Confessor and used until AD1107 as a royal court. The complex also has earlier Saxon and Roman components but other than excavations in the 1950s (unpublished except as brief notes) the area has seen relatively little archaeological investigation (Preston 2005). Exceptions to this were small excavations, one at Church Road which revealed Medieval remains (Mudd 1987) and a second at 'The Manor' to the east, closer to the river, which revealed limited Roman, and early/Middle Saxon evidence and more substantial late Saxon and early medieval features below Victorian foundations (Ford and Hindmarch 2005).

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 archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present and
- to determine if any deposits relating to the scheduled monument complex were present on the site.

Two trenches were to be dug, each 10m long and 1.6m wide, targeting the proposed new building. A contingency for the equivalent of an additional 10m length of trenching was included within the proposal should this be required to clarify any deposits found in the initial trenching, but this was not required. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches were to be excavated to the first archaeologically relevant horizon or to the level of the natural geology and the excavation had to be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery or artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers and spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. Where

archaeological features were certainly or probably exposed the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools.

Results

Two trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They were respectively 9.20 and 10.20m long, with depths of 0.72m and 0.68m. 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 NNW - SSE and was 9.20m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil, 0.41m subsoil overlying natural geology. One possible linear feature was investigated at 6m from the NNW end of the trench showing to be an irregular shape and shallow sided- feature filled with the same sediment that the subsoil and with occasional coal inclusions and modern ceramic building materials and pottery. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered from this trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 10.20m long and 0.68m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.37m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered from this trench.

Conclusion

Two trenches were dug as intended during the course of the evaluation at Moram House. No deposits other than a one modern feature of irregular shape were uncovered and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Based on these results, the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential.

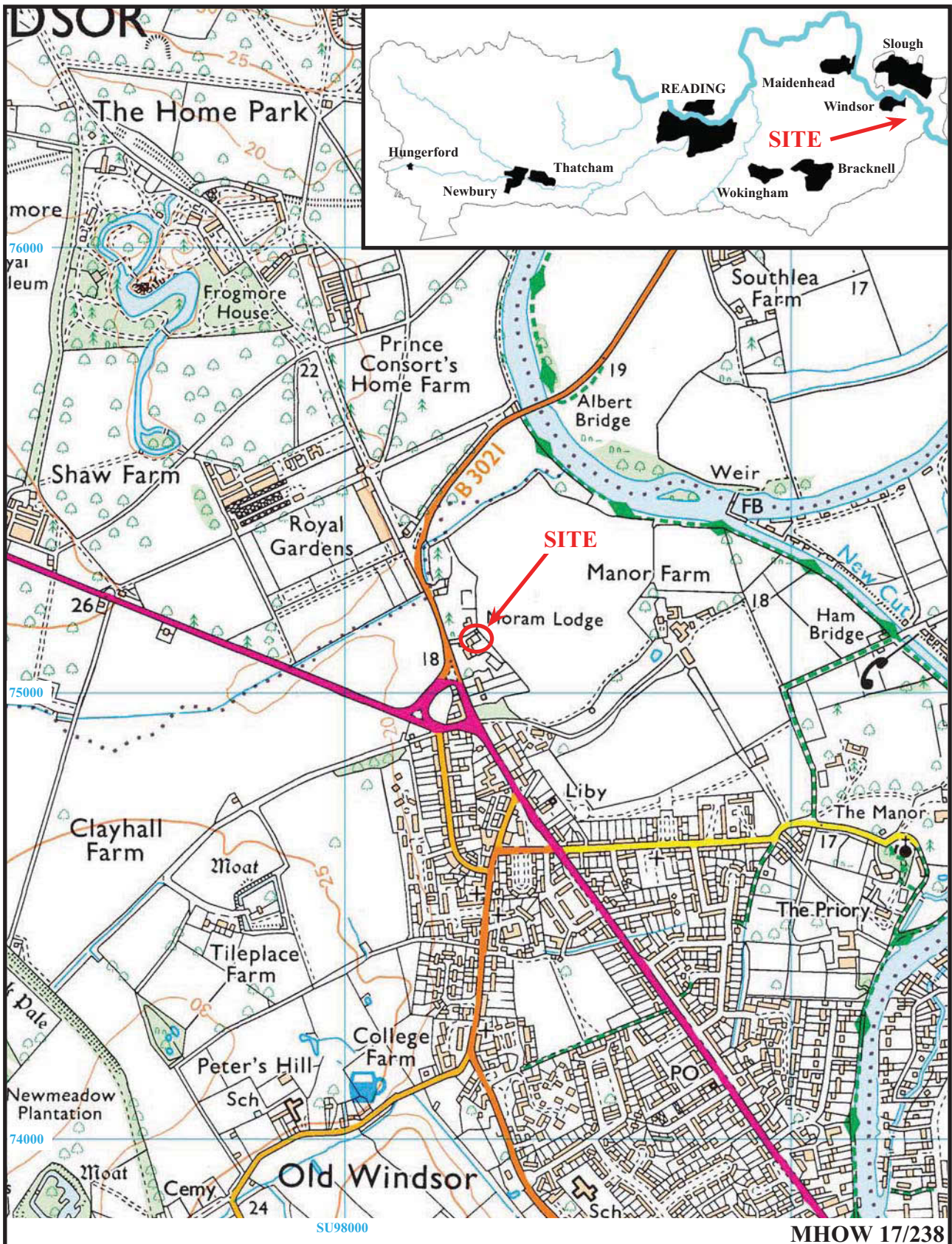
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at NNW and WSW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	9.20	1.60	0.72	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.65m subsoil, 0.65m+ light yellowish brown clay silt natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	10.20	1.60	0.68	0–0.24m topsoil, 0.24-0.61m subsoil, 0.61m+ light yellowish brown clay silt natural geology. [Pl. 2]

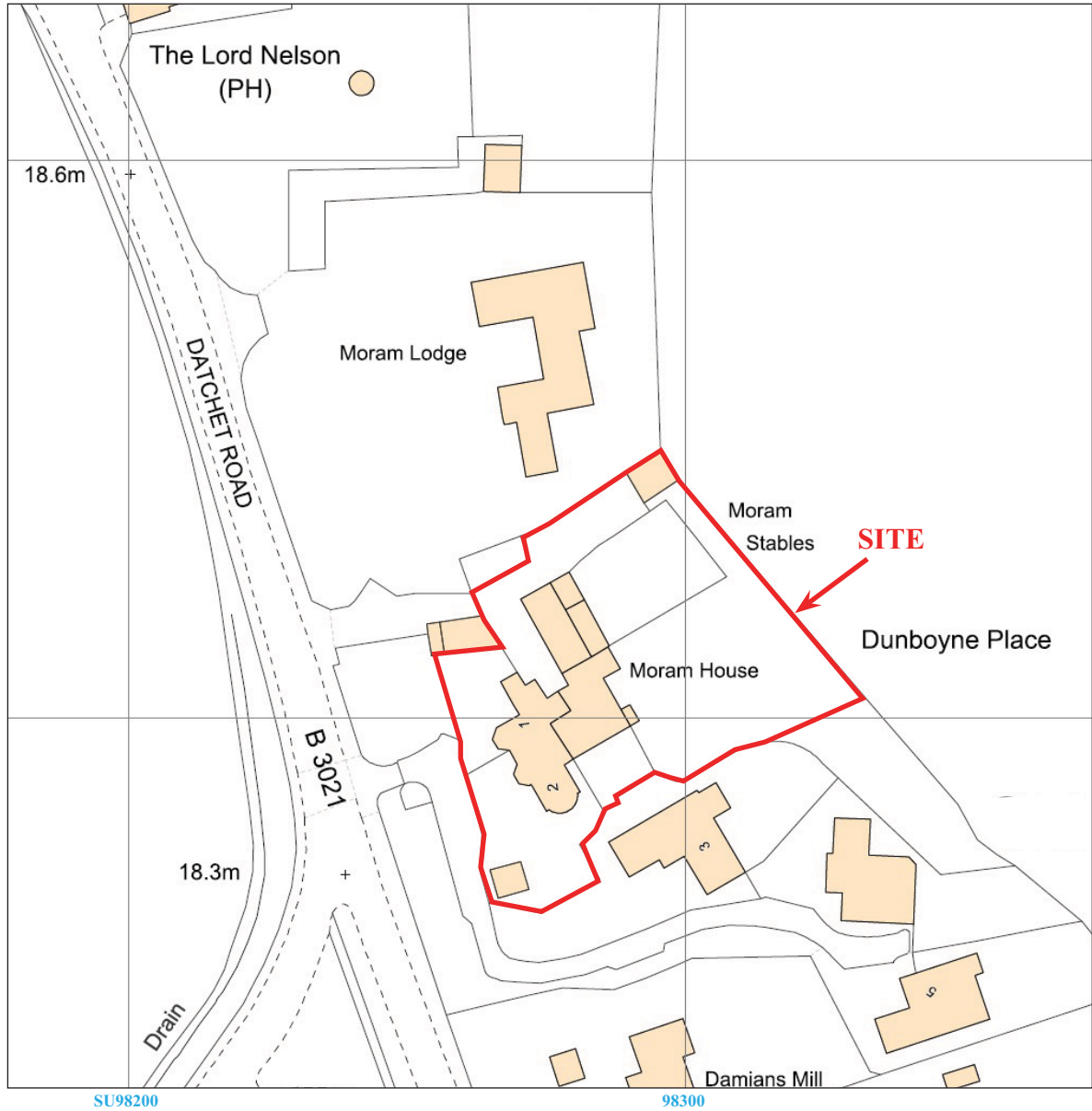


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Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor and Berkshire.

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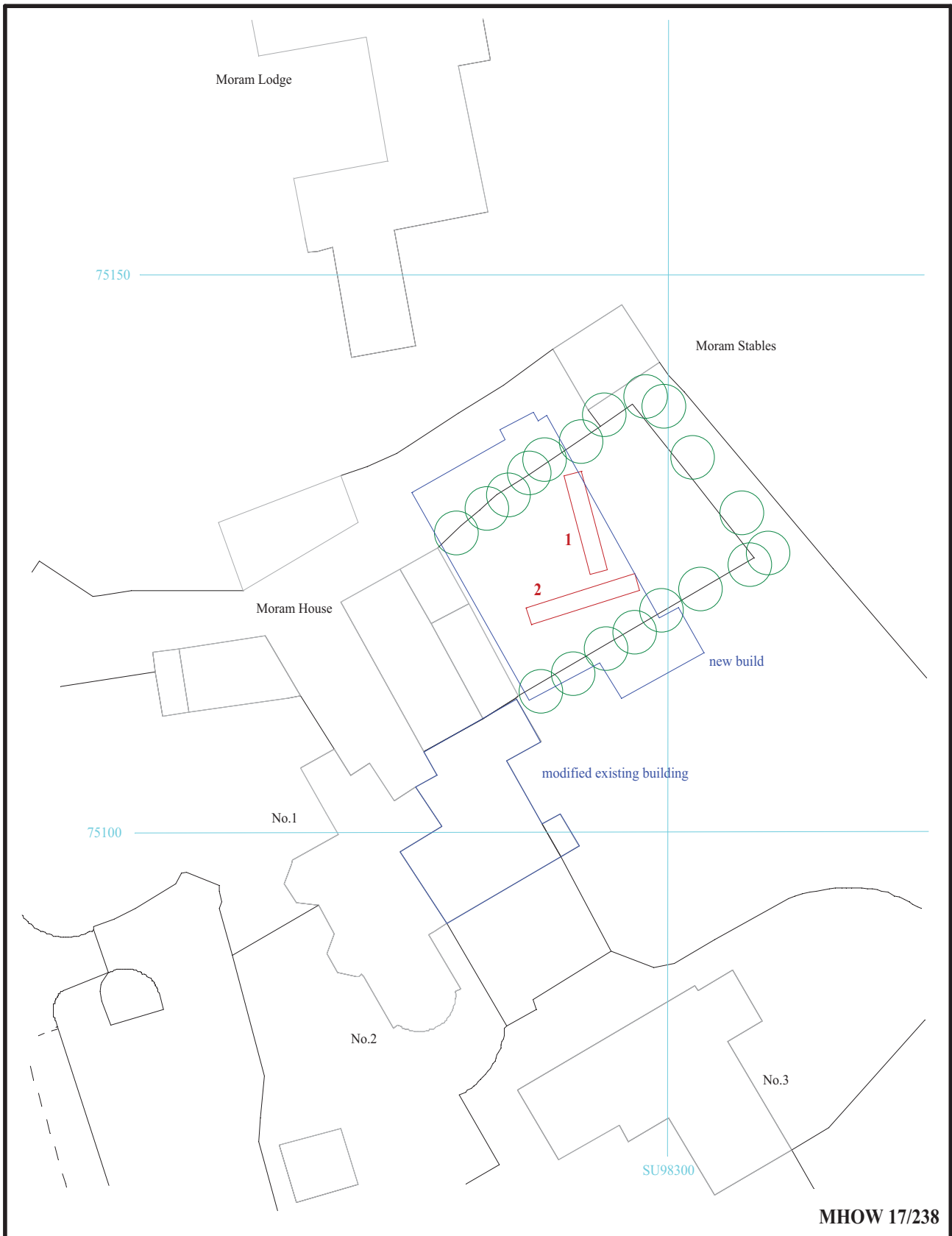


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Datchet Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 1

NNW

SSE

16.76maOD

Topsoil

Subsoil

Light yellow-brown clay silt with patches of gravel (Natural geology)

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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 north east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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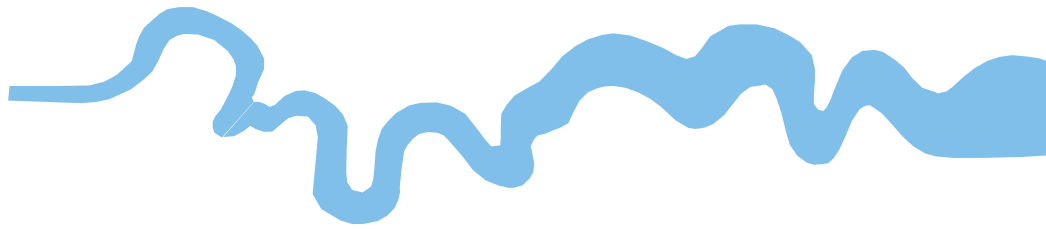
**Moram House, Datchet Road,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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 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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