

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Silver End Road, Haynes,
Bedfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank

Site Code: SEH17/192

(TL 1007 4252)

Land at Silver End Road, Haynes, Bedfordshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Archaeologica Ltd**

by Danielle Milbank
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SEH 17/192

October 2017 (Rev 2 Jan 2018)

Summary

Site name: Land at Silver End Road, Haynes, Bedfordshire

Grid reference: TL 1007 4252

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th September 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: SEH 17/192

Area of site: 0.5ha

Summary of results: Four trenches were excavated as intended. Several features of post-medieval date were identified, with no deposits of earlier periods represented.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Higgins Museum in due course, with accession number BEDFM 2017.64.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 15.01.18
(Version 2)	Steve Preston ✓ 17.01.18

Land at Silver End Road, Haynes, Bedfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank

Report 17/192

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Silver End, Haynes, Bedfordshire (TL 1007 4252) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Isabel Lisboa of Archaeologica Ltd, 7 Fosters lane, Bradwell, Milton Keynes on behalf of Southill Estate, The Estate Office, Southill Park, Southill, Biggleswade, SG18 9LJ.

It is proposed to submit an outline planning application for the construction of 15 dwellings in Silver End, Haynes in Central Bedfordshire. The Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeology Team was consulted with regard to the potential impact of the proposal on archaeological remains at the site, and advised that any application would require the results of an archaeological field evaluation. This was to consist of an earthwork survey and/or a geophysical survey and programme of trial trenching. A desk-based assessment has also been undertaken. This report details the evaluation trenching element of the investigation.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Martin Oake, Archaeologist with Central Bedfordshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 28th September 2017 and the site code is SEH 17/192. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Higgins Museum in due course, with accession number BEDFM 2017.64.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a roughly rectangular parcel of land to the northwest of Silver End Road, which lies to the north of the village of Haynes, located 7km south of Bedford in Bedfordshire (TL 1007 4252) (Fig. 1). The site is gently undulating and comprises arable land. It lies at a height of c. 82m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Oadby Till (chalky boulder clay) above lower greensand, though a clay with chalk was encountered in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Martin Oake (CBC 2017), archaeologist at Central Bedfordshire drawing on the results of desk-based assessment (Lisboa 2017) earthwork survey (Souterain 2017) and geophysical survey (Walford 2017). In summary the site contains a number of earthworks representing traces of medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow field system recorded in the Historic Environment Record (HER) (HER3088). Buildings were recorded on the 19th-century tithe map partly within the central part of the proposal site (Lisboa 2017, 13–14). A possible infilled moat lies just beyond the site boundary to the south-west. It has been suggested that this is the site of Franklins Manor which originated in the 14th or 15th century but was unoccupied by the 16th century (HER3088). There was a relatively large Saxon settlement at Haynes at the time of Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). The medieval settlement (probably at Church End) is thought to have been polyfocal in character, and perhaps extending to the north of the present village (HER17042) and excavations to the north-west of Church End revealed Saxo-Norman occupation (HER15840; Luke and Shotliffe 2004). Cropmarks are also present to the north-east of the village (HER5481). This dispersed settlement pattern is typical of the area (Edgeworth 2007).

A second settlement of medieval origin is known from Northwood End (HER 17043), to the south of the site. Various undated cropmarks visible from the air (HERs 1636, 10155, 16702, 16708-9, 19626) probably representing Iron Age and Roman settlements are recorded in the surrounding area and Iron Age and Roman settlement evidence was excavated (along with an earlier, Mesolithic and Neolithic/early Bronze Age lithic assemblage encountered as residual material in later contexts) at Haynes Park to the west (Luke and Shotliffe 2004). Findspots comprising Roman pottery scatters and coins are recorded for the area to the south of the village, including a hoard of coins and jewellery (HER748). The purported line of a Roman road in the area (Viatores 1964) has not been confirmed (HER10480) while an alternative route (HER10478) was suggested from observations during pipelaying operations in the late 1960s.

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 potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to the regional research priorities set out in Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott (2011) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as Oake *et al.* (2007) as necessary.

It was proposed to dig four trenches examining the areas affected by the proposed development. These were to be dug using a JCB under continuous archaeological supervision. All potential archaeological features were to be hand cleaned and excavated to an agreed sampling fraction, without compromising the integrity of any deposits that might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

All four trenches were excavated in accordance with the methodology, in the intended positions and all to their intended length, with the exception of Trench 4 which was slightly shortened due to the space constraints (Fig. 2). They ranged in length from 17m to 26m and in depth from 0.38m to 0.52m and all were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features, with dating evidence, are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig 2; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned east-west and was 23m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.24m thick which overlay a firm red brown silty subsoil (with occasional ironstone and chalk flecks) which was 0.16m thick, and overlay yellow sandy clay natural geology with occasional flint and chalk. A clay band at the east end was excavated and shown to be of geological origin. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned southwest-northeast and was 26.1m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.24m thick which overlay a firm red brown silty subsoil (with occasional ironstone and chalk flecks) which was 0.24m thick, and overlay yellow sandy clay natural geology with occasional flint and chalk. At 21m from the southeast end, linear feature 3 (a possible drain) of Victorian date was recorded but not excavated as it contained a loose light brown silt fill (56) on the surface of which frequent brick and tile fragments of later 19th-century date were noted (recorded but not retained).

Trench 3 (Figs 2 and 3; Pls 3, 5, 6 and 7)

Trench 3 was aligned north-south and was 25m long and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.22m thick which overlay a firm red brown silty subsoil (with occasional ironstone and chalk flecks) which was 0.08m thick, and overlay yellow sandy clay natural geology with occasional flint and chalk. At the north end of the trench, two possible features were excavated. Gully 1 (Pl. 5) was 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep, with a

concave profile, and was infilled with a yellow brown soft silt (52) which contained brick fragments of late 18th or 19th century date (not retained). To the north of this, a slot was excavated through an approximately rectangular but slightly irregular feature. This was excavated in slot 2 which showed that it was 0.85m wide in section and 0.18m deep (Pl. 6). The infilling deposits comprised a red sandy silt (53) with frequent very fragmented brick rubble, with some brick fragments showing evidence of charring. This was 0.15m thick, and overlay a thin (0.03m) layer of redeposited natural red yellow clay (55) at the base of the feature. To the north of this, a layer of stone (flint 'cobbles' typically 50mm to 100mm and subangular to sub-rounded in shape) overlay the natural geology. The layer was present across the full width of the trench, from 14m from the south end to the northern end was truncated at the south by feature 2. The layer was 0.08m thick as seen in section and represents a stone deposit associated with post-medieval truncation, and included occasional brick and tile fragments of likely 18th- or 19th-century date.

Trench 4 (Fig 2; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned east-west and was 17m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil 0.22m thick which overlay a firm red brown silty subsoil (with occasional ironstone and chalk flecks) 0.16m thick, over yellow sandy clay natural geology with occasional flint and chalk. A possible feature at the west end was investigated and found to be an irregular, shallow and of natural (geological) origin. No archaeological features were identified.

Finds

Only late post-medieval finds (18th century at earliest, mainly 19th) were observed. These were recorded but not retained.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed that across the area, topsoil and subsoil layers were intact, with little truncation to the underlying geology. The presence of ironstone in the subsoil is likely to be the cause of the background noise shown on the geophysical survey. The geophysical survey results also suggested a focus of scattered magnetic debris in the area of Trench 3. The features (linear gully and rectangular pit) recorded in Trench 3 contained re-burnt brick fragments of later post-medieval (18th- or 19th-century) date, which are likely to be the cause of these signatures. It is likely that these relate to the demolished farmhouse buildings on the site, which are shown on the tithe map (Lisboa 2017) though the exact relation of the features to the buildings and their probable yard

surface areas is unclear. A deposit of stone at the end of this trench is also likely to be associated with the farm, though it does not have the characteristics of a cobbled surface: the material is subangular, with no signs of wear or soil matrix consistent with being a yard surface, and may represent a levelling or bedding layer below such a surface.

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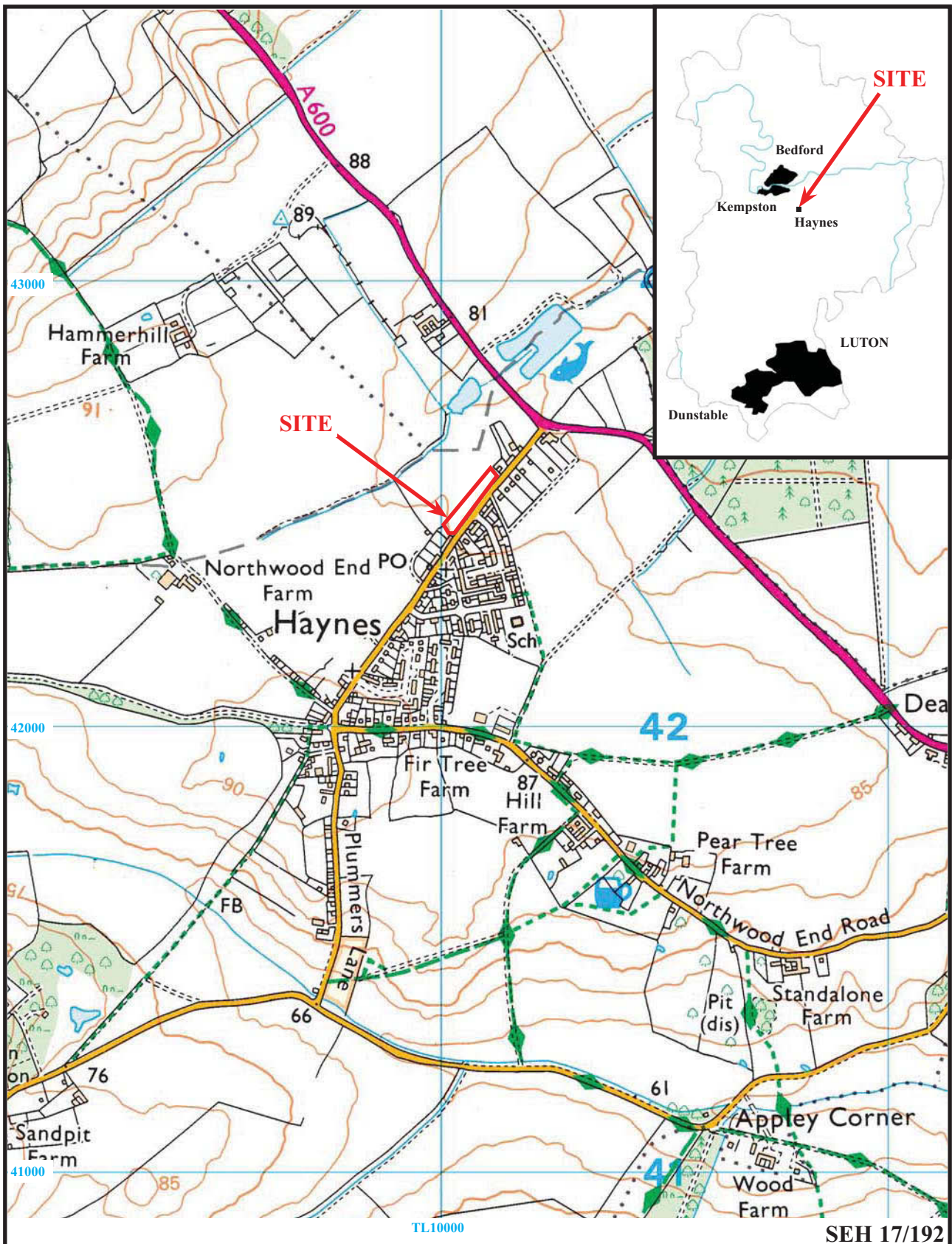
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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	23	1.6	0.43	0–0.0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.40m red brown silty subsoil; 0.40m + yellow sandy clay with chalk and flint natural geology. (PI 1)
2	26.1	1.6	0.52	0–0.0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.48m red brown silty subsoil; 0.48m + yellow sandy clay with chalk and flint natural geology. Drain 3 (PI 2)
3	25	1.6	0.38	0–0.0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.30m red brown silty subsoil; 0.30m + yellow sandy clay with chalk and flint natural geology. Gully 1, ?pit 2, layer 54 (PIs 3, 5, 6 and 7)
4	17	1.6	0.42	0–0.0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.38m red brown silty subsoil; 0.38m + yellow sandy clay with chalk and flint 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	Gully	Post-medieval	Brick, tile
3	2	53, 55	Pit?	Post-medieval	Brick, tile
3	-	54	Bedding layer	Post-medieval	Brick, tile
2	3	56	Drain (not excavated)	Victorian	Brick and tile

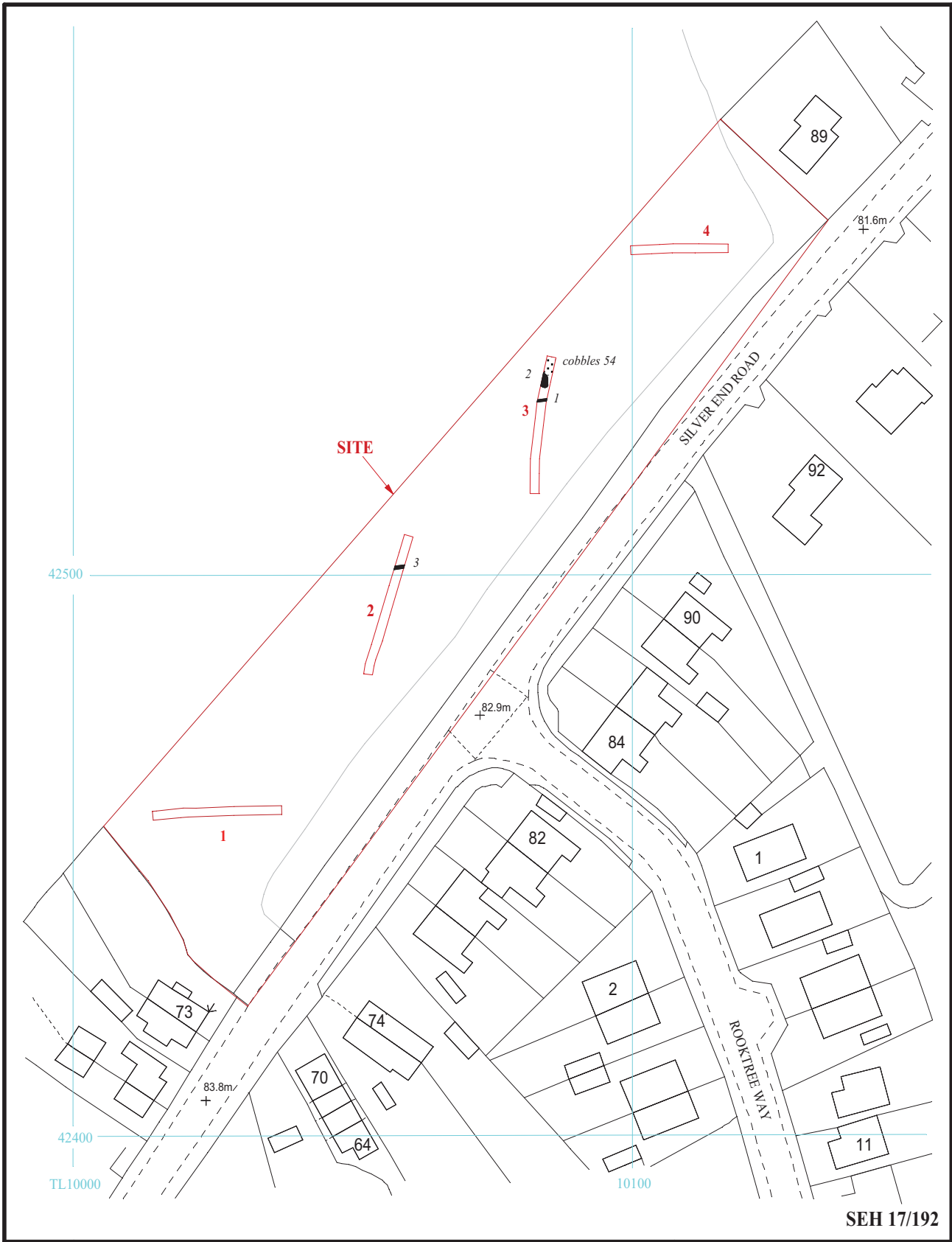


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Figure 1. Location of site within Haynes and Bedfordshire.

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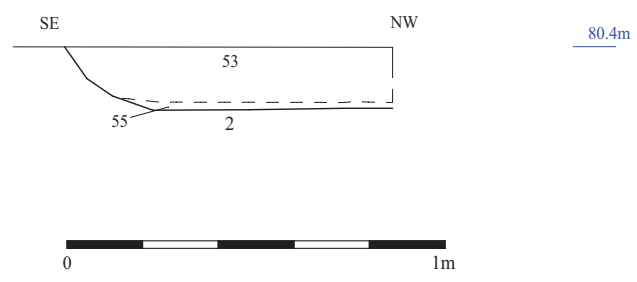
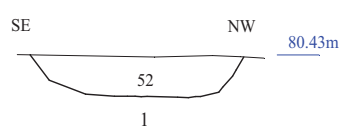
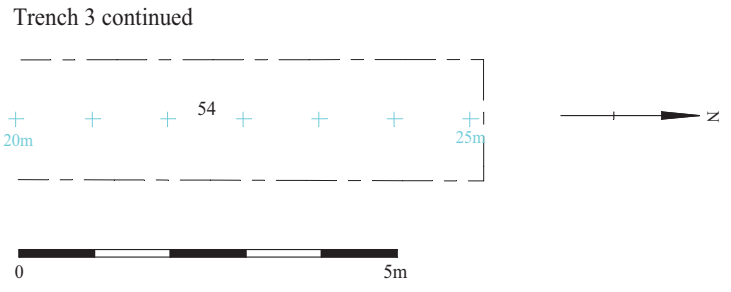
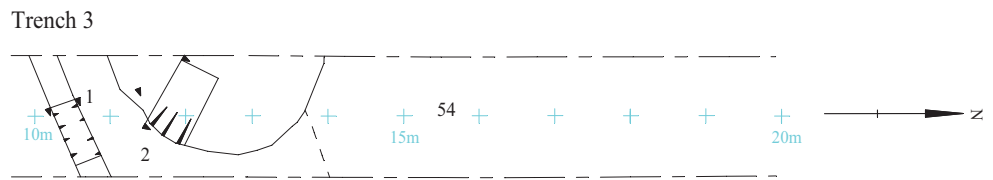
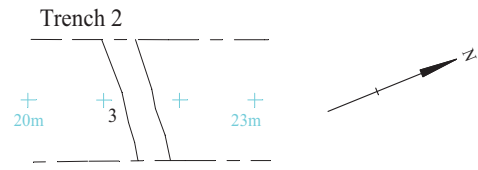
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.





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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.





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



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

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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



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

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 3, gully 1, looking southwest, Scales: horizontal 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 3, truncation 2, looking south-southwest, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 3, layer 54, looking north-northeast, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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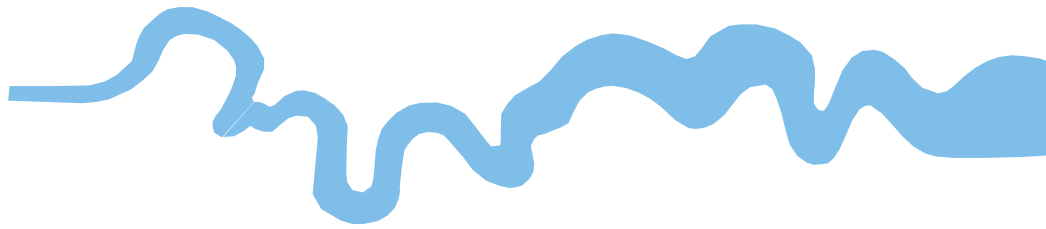
**Land at Silver End Road, Hayes,
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Plate 7.**

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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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