THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land at Mathisen Way, Poyle, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: MWP17/271

(TQ 0345 7640)

Land at Mathisen Way, Poyle, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for VREP Poyle Limited

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MWP 17/271

January 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Mathisen Way, Poyle, Berkshire

Grid reference: TQ 0345 7640

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd-25th January 2018

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: MWP 17/271

Area of site: *c.*2 hectares

Summary of results: Three linear features, likely all of post-medieval date were identified.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.01.18
	Steve Preston✓ 29.01.18

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Land at Mathisen Way, Poyle, Berkshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 17/271

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Mathisen Way, Poyle, Berkshire (TQ 0345 7640) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben Stephenson, of BSA Heritage, 7 Spring Gardens, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1AZ on behalf of VREP Poyle Limited, 22-24 New Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE1 4TR.

Planning consent (P/11219/007) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for the demolition of existing structures and erection of a new three-storey building along with service yard, car park, ancillary buildings and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition, which requires that a field evaluation be carried out to assess the archaeological potential of the site and in order to inform a mitigation strategy if necessary.

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 Andy Taylor and David Wallace between the 23rd and 25th January 2018 and the site code is MWP 17/271. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Poyle and on the eastern side of Mathisen Way. It is currently occupied by a large industrial unit in the centre of the site with areas of Tarmac car parking surrounding it. The underlying geology is mapped as alluvium (BGS 1981), although gravel with some brickearth was actually observed in Trench 2 and the site lies at a height of *c.*20m above Ordnance datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a desk-based assessment (BSA 2017). In summary the site lies in the archaeologically rich Colne Valley with a wealth of archaeological deposits and finds recorded. In particular, recent extensive excavations in advance of mineral extraction and flood alleviation schemes close to Colnbrook have revealed Neolithic occupation (including Neolithic 'houses'), Neolithic ceremonial monuments, extensive Middle Bronze Age field systems and settlement, Roman settlement and Saxon occupation (Ford 1987; Ford and Pine 2003; Gates 1975; WA 2006; Taylor et al 2012) with further extensive MBA and Roman settlement and landscape in nearby areas (Lewis et al 2006). In the general vicinity of the site, a worked Bronze Age wood fragment was noted 500m to the north and 300m to the west residual Mesolithic and Bronze Age flintwork was recorded as well as medieval structural remains. Also to the west (800m) were Late Iron Age and Roman deposits consisting of settlement and field systems.

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 have survived on this site.
To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
To determine if the site has any palaeoenvironmental potential.

Six trenches were intended to be dug across the site, each measuring between 20m and 30m long and 1.8m wide, although one trench had to be abandoned due a high level of live services in that area. These were dug as close as possible to their intended locations using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The features investigated are summarized in Appendix 2.

Results

The trenches measured between 20.30m and 28.40m long and between 0.47m and 1.45m deep.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW and measured 26.20m long and 1.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.07m of Tarmac overlying 0.28m of concrete, above 0.60m of dark grey brown made ground consisting of soil, brick rubble and metal. This overlay a light brown grey silty clay containing brick fragments overlying gravel natural geology. Two linear features were observed in this trench, the first at 14m, the second at 20m from the south end of the trench. Ditch 2 measured 1.12m wide and 0.11m deep. Its dark blue grey silty clay fill (51) did not produce any dating evidence. Ditch 3 measured 1.14m wide and 0.34m deep (Pl. 4). Its very dark blue grey silty clay fill (52) again did not produce any finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 and 4; Pls. 1 and 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW and measured 23m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of tarmac overlying 0.29m of rubble and concrete made ground. This overlay a light grey blue sandy silt overlying gravel and brickearth natural geology. A linear feature was observed at 14.50m into which a slot (1) was dug measuring 0.82m wide and 0.19m deep (Pl. 3). Its very dark blue grey silty clay fill (50) produced pieces of post-medieval brick, which were not retained.

Trench 3

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 28.40m long and 0.49m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of Tarmac overlying 0.12m of concrete and rubble. This overlay 0.22m of alluvial clay overlying gravel natural geology.

Trench 4

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 21m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of Tarmac overlying 0.32m of concrete and rubble, overlying natural gravel geology.

Trench 5 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 20.30m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.08m of Tarmac overlying 0.21m of gravel and concrete rubble made ground. This overlay 0.33m of yellow brown alluvial clay overlying gravel natural geology.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified three linear features, one of which contained post-medieval material. These were on a parallel alignment to the Poyle Channel and as such may represent drainage features in a waterlogged area. A small amount of alluvial deposits were identified in trenches four and five with made ground laying directly above it. This may indicate that much of the site (particularly on the eastern side) had been levelled before construction works had commenced.

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	26.20	1.80	1.45	0-0.07m Tarmac; 0.07m-0.35m concrete; 0.35m-0.95m dark grey brown gravely silt made ground; 0.95m-1.40m light brown grey silty clay; 1.40m-1.45m+ gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 4]**
2	23.00	1.80	0.47	0-0.08m Tarmac; 0.08m-0.37m rubble and gravel made ground; 0.37m-0.47m light grey blue sandy silt; 0.47m+ gravel and brickearth natural geology. **[Pls 1 and 3]**
3	28.40	1.80	0.49	0-0.10m Tarmac; 0.10m-0.22m concrete and rubble made ground; 0.22m-0.44m light yellow brown and dark blue grey alluvium; 0.44m-0.49m+ gravel natural geology.
4	21.00	1.80	0.51	0-0.12m Tarmac; 0.12m-0.45m concrete and rubble made ground; 0.45m-0.51m+ gravel natural geology.
5	20.30	1.80	0.65	0-0.08m Tarmac; 0.08m-0.29m gravel and rubble made ground; 0.29m-0.62m yellow brown alluvium; 0.62-0.65m+ gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 2]**

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
1	2	51	Ditch	Post-Medieval	Alignment
1	3	52	Ditch	Post-Medieval	Alignment
2	1	50	Ditch	Post-Medieval	Brick

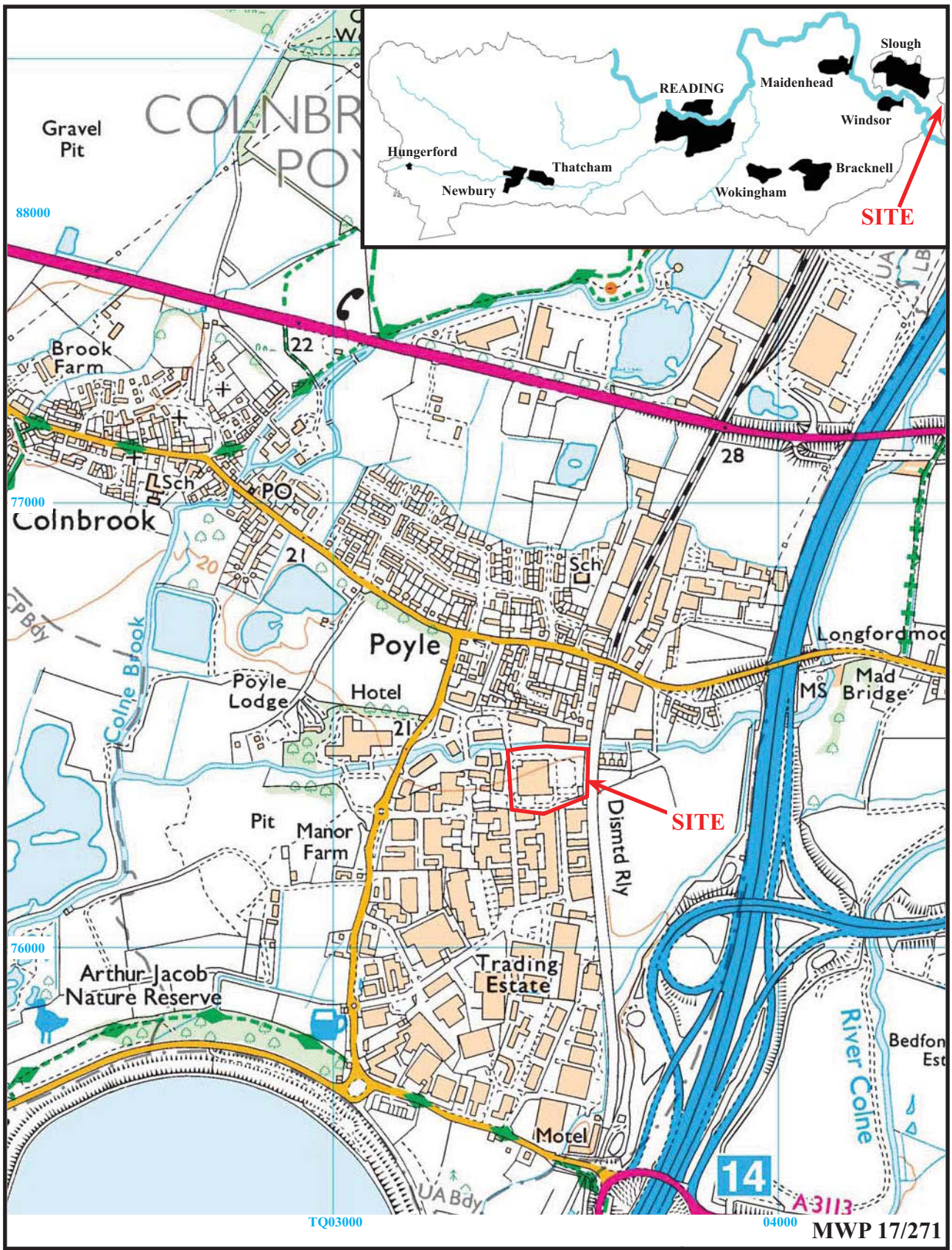

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Figure 1. Location of site within Poyle, Slough and Berkshire.

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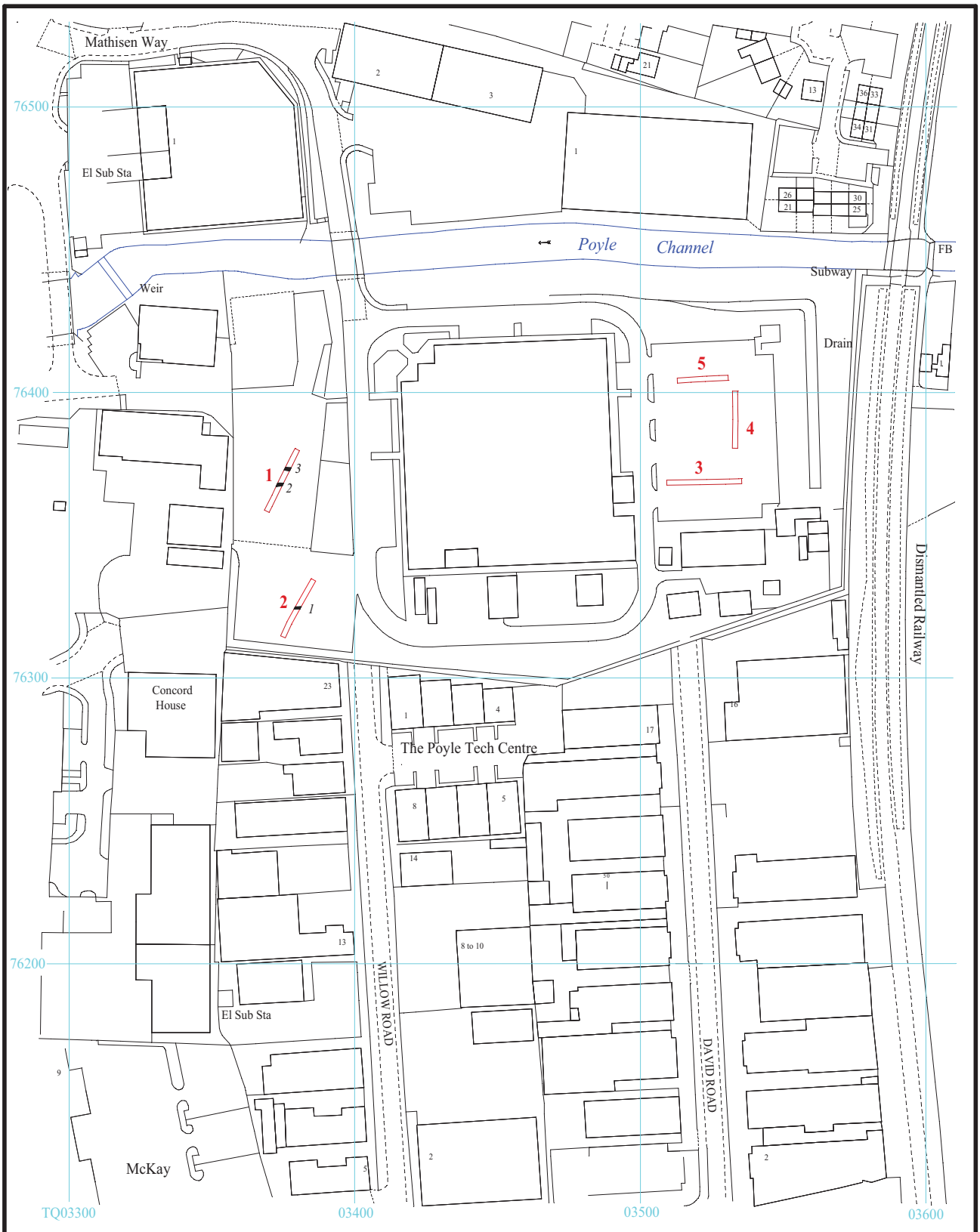

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 100m

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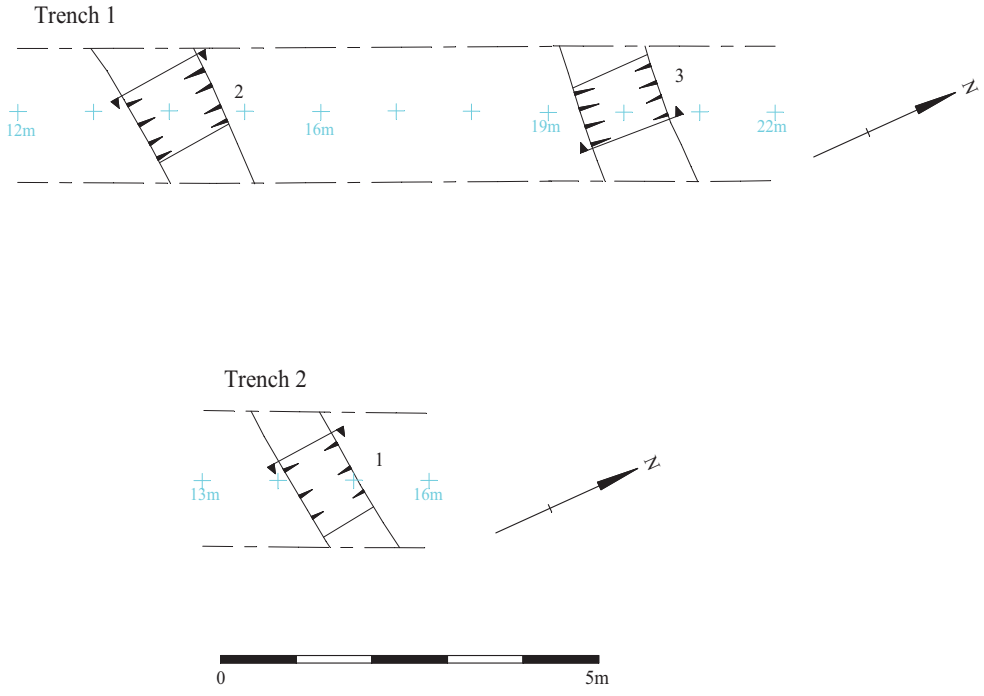

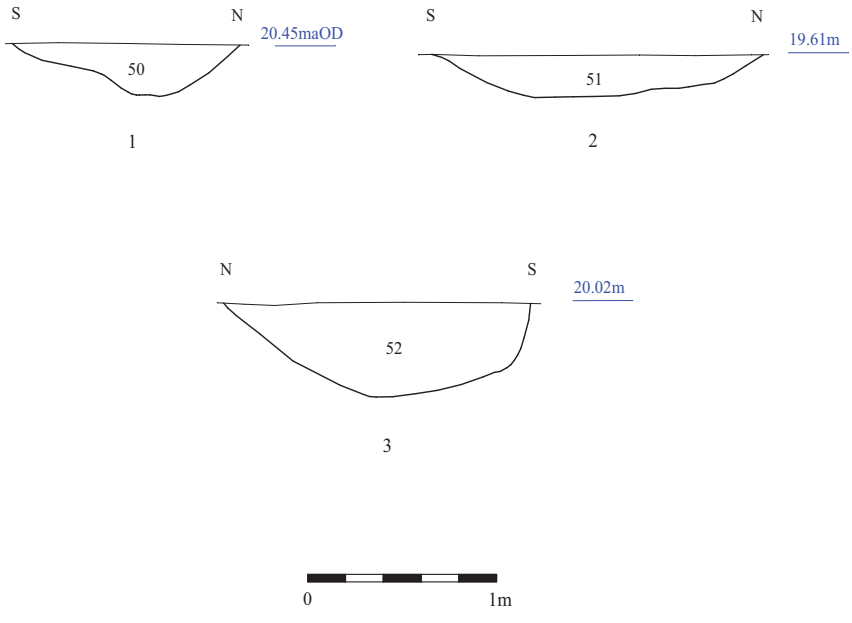

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Figure 3. Detail of trenches.

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

Plate 2. Trench 5, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, ditch 1, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

Plate 4. Trench 1, ditch 3, looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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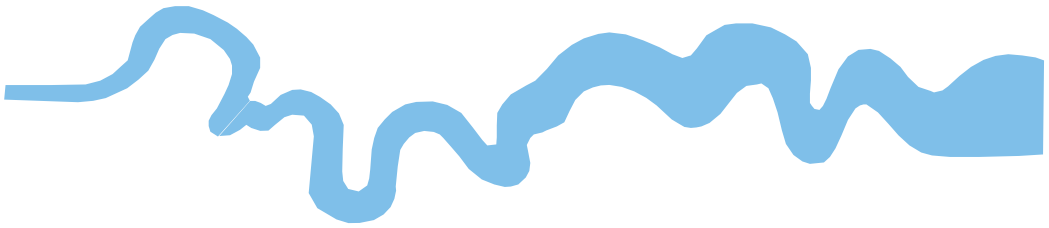
TIME CHART

	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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