

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Thames Hospice, Windsor Road,  
Bray, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Cecilia Galleano**

**Site Code: WRB18/13**

**(SU 9072 7830)**

**Thames Hospice, Windsor Road,  
Bray, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for CgMs Consulting**

by Cecilia Galleano

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRB18/13

**March 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Thames Hospice, Windsor Road, Bray, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9072 7830

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 19th to 28th February 2018

**Project coordinator:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Cecilia Galleano

**Site code:** WRB 18/13

**Area of site:** 1.3 ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation has revealed a variety of aspects for the site. Firstly, it has revealed that approximately a quarter of the evaluated area has no archaeological potential having been previously quarried or land filled. It has also demonstrated that much of the site is alluvial and occupied by a palaeochannel, though the several alluvial layers lack peat or other organic remains and have no exceptional palaeoenvironmental potential. The evaluation has, however, recorded a modest number of deposits of Bronze Age into Iron Age date representing occupation which lies within the top of the alluvial sequence.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:  
[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.03.18 Steve Preston ✓ 12.03.18
---

# Thames Hospice, Windsor Road, Bray, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Cecilia Galleano

**Report 18/13**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Thames Hospice, Windsor Road, Bray, Berkshire (SU 9072 7830) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Philip Bethell for CgMs Heritage, Burlington House, Lypiatt Rd, Cheltenham GL50 2SY.

Planning permission is to be sought from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new Hospice on a c.3.2 ha plot of land of which 1.3ha has not been quarried. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits being present on the site, which might be threatened by the proposed development, a field evaluation has been requested by Berkshire Archaeology in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications. This is in accordance with *the National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012 para 141) and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, who advise the Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Cecilia Galleano, Luís Esteves, Benedikt Tebbit, Maisie Foster and Will Attard between 19th and 28th February 2018, and the site code is WRB 18/13. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a local museum prepared to accept the material in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the eastern margin of Bray, on the northern side of Windsor Road with Bray Lake immediately to the north with residential development on the two other sides. It is understood that the largest field on the west side (5.5 ha) has historically been worked for sand and gravel. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately c.20m Above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as River Terrace Deposits, Taplow Gravel (BGS 1981) adjacent to floodplain alluvium. Several deposits of alluvium and overlaid the gravel in most of the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk based assessment (CgMs 2017). In summary this has identified archaeological deposits within the vicinity of the site. The 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 2013). Prehistoric and Roman settlement remains were recorded from c.0.5km north-east and north-west of the site prior to gravel working (Barnes and Cleal 1995) with further Bronze Age deposits to the east including a probable burnt mound (Pine 1996). More recent discoveries of very early Saxon deposits (4th century AD) at Ditton Park on the southern side of Slough (Platt 2017) as well as a further Saxon occupation at Eton (Taylor 2017) have raised interest in the early Saxon settlement of the region.

## **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 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 there are any deposits of Saxon date on the site;
- to determine if possible the palaeotopography of the site with regards to areas of higher, drier land (gravel islands) more suitable for occupation;
- to determine if alluvium or peat deposits are present on the site and if so the relationship of archaeological deposits to them; and
- to determine the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site.

Eighteen trenches were to be dug, each 5m long and 1.8-2m wide. The trenches were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds and where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and the features excavated to an agreed sampling fraction dependent on feature type. Any alluvium overlying gravel was to be removed in spits of 0.1-0.15m until archaeology or natural gravel geology was found.

## Results

Fourteen trenches were eventually dug. Due to a deep made ground in the north of the site, four trenches (10 to 13) were changed to two test pits (TP1 and TP2) after consulting the archaeological adviser and project consultant. The trenches measured between 9m and 25.2m in length and all were 1.8m in width. The trenches were positioned across the site more or less as intended but some were moved in order to intercept possible palaeochannels.

All spoilheaps were monitored for finds and where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped area was cleaned using appropriate hand tools and the features excavated to an agreed sampling fraction dependent on feature type.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned NE-SW and was 21m long and 1.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of ploughed dark brown sandy-clay topsoil, above 0.10m of mid brown silty-clay subsoil above 1.10m of alluvium comprising four layers: light yellowish-brown sandy-clay (0.28m), light yellow sandy-silt (0.32m), light yellow clayey-sand (0.16m) and yellow sand (0.50m) overlying gravel natural geology.

At 1.70m from the NE end at a depth of 1.34m a possible feature was investigated cutting the bottom sand layer and this was investigated but determined to be of natural origin.

Geologically the trench is interpreted as the inner side of a palaeochannel. No finds were recovered. No archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3-5; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned south–north and was 19.40m long and 0.56m deep. The trench was moved in order to try to define the course of the palaeochannel (above). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil, 0.18m of subsoil, overlying a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay layer. Gravel natural geology was observed at the north end of the trench for about 1.30m.

At the south end of the trench, two pits (22, 23) and a gully (21) were observed. The gully (21) was 1m wide and 0.34m deep. The fill (79) was a soft, mid reddish brown, sandy-silt with occasional inclusions of angular and sub-angular flint pebbles. Pit 22 cut gully 21 and was oval in plan with steep sides, 0.37m long by

0.20m across and 0.15m deep. The fill (80) was similar to the fill of the gully (soft, dark reddish brown, sandy-silt, with occasional angular flint) but darker.

Pit 23 was 0.7m long, 0.5m wide and 0.25m deep), with flat base and gentle sides, was dug. The pit fill (78) was very similar to nearby gully 22. No finds were recovered from any of these features.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 20m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil, 0.2m of subsoil, overlying a light yellowish-brown sandy-clay layer and the gravel natural geology (SE end). No archaeological features nor finds were revealed.

#### Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 22m long and 0.61m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil, above 0.11m of subsoil and 0.30m of mid greyish brown clayey-sand layer overlying a mid orange brown clayey-sand (0.12m deep) layer with moderate inclusions of angular small size chalk pebbles and flecks.

This last layer was investigated with a sondage (1) 2.73m long, 1m wide and 0.12m deep and, from it, worked flints were recovered. A further sondage (4), 0.70m long, 0.45m wide and 0.40m deep was hand dug in the north end of the trench to investigate the stratigraphy. The latter revealed 0.12m of mid orange brown clayey sand with chalk inclusions (55), mid greyish brown clayey sand layer (56) and mid bluish grey silty-clay layer (57). No finds were recovered from sondage 4.

The chalky deposit is too insubstantial to represent a floor or other area of hard standing. One possibility is that it represents marling of clayey soils with crushed chalk to improve drainage, but its limited extent casts doubt on this interpretation.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 22m long and 0.90m deep. The position of the trench was modified in order to investigate the presence of the palaeochannel. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil, 0.11m of subsoil, 0.40m of light yellowish brown sandy clay overlay gravel natural geology. The trench was stripped to the top of the sandy clay layer but no archaeological features nor finds were revealed. A test pit reaching the gravel was dug at the east end.

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

Trench 6 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 19.25m long and 1.26m deep. The trench was stripped in two phases: The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, over 0.27m of subsoil, above 0.33m of reddish brown silty-clay,

0.20m of light yellowish brown sandy clay, 0.14m of bluish grey silty-clay and 0.12m of mid orange brown clay sand.

To the north, a shallow L shaped linear feature (2) was noted cutting the orange brown, clayey sand layer. This portion of the trench almost immediately flooded. The gully was 0.52m wide and 0.04m deep. The fill was bluish brown sandy-silt but no finds were recovered from it.

To the south at a depth of 0.80m, cutting the light yellowish brown sandy clay layer (ie at a higher level than gully 2), a cluster of up to 11 pits was noted, four of them partially under the bulk and not investigated further. Pits 5 to 11 were investigated with two slots. The pits were circular in plan, moderately shallow with rounded sides. They were between 0.35m and 0.60m in diameter and 0.08m and 0.35m deep. The fills were soft, mid yellowish brown /mid yellowish grey clayey-sands. The cluster produced worked flints, Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, burnt clay and burnt flints (Appendices 3-5). It was not possible to determine the relationship between the cluster of pits and the L shape gully due to presence of a baulk to control flood water, but levels and composition of the layers observed suggest a discontinuity beneath the mid-reddish brown, sandy clay.

#### Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned NE-SW and was 20.3m long and 1.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, 0.25m of subsoil, 0.35m of mid bluish grey sandy clay, 0.58m of light yellowish brown sandy clay overlay the gravel natural geology. The trench was stepped on the east side for safety reasons. No features nor finds were recovered.

#### Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned NE-SW and was 20m long and 1.7m deep. At the north end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil, 0.18m of subsoil, and 0.28m of mid reddish brown sand and gravel overlying the gravel natural geology (at a depth of 0.58m). The stratigraphy at the south end consisted of 0.22m of topsoil, 0.28m of subsoil, 0.28m of mid reddish brown sand and gravel, 0.11m light yellowish brown sandy-clay, 0.42m of mid bluish grey brown sandy clay, 0.50m of light yellowish brown clay overlying the gravel natural geology (at a depth of 1.7m). The latter depression is interpreted as the inner side of the palaeochannel. No features nor finds were recovered.



#### Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 22.8m long and 1.9m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil, 0.28m of subsoil, 1.02m of mid greyish brown made ground clay, 0.43m of dark greyish brown made ground clay mixed with gravel, timber pieces and modern bricks and tiles. No features nor finds were recovered.

#### Trench 10-11-12-13

Not dug.

#### Trench 14 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 14 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 19.80m long and 1.20m deep. The trench was shifted to the south in order to avoid as much as possible the made ground deposits at the north end of the site. At the north end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil, above 1.03m of brown made ground clay mixed with gravel and modern brick and tile, overlying the gravel natural geology. Towards the south end of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil, and 0.22m of subsoil, overlying a mid yellowish brown clay, which was cut by gully 13. Gully 13 was 1m wide and 0.18m deep. It contained 2 worked flints, burnt flint and fired clay. A modern ditch (the same as found in trench 15) cut gully 13 and the made ground deposit.

#### Trench 15 (Figs 3-5; Pl. 8)

Trench 15 was aligned NE-SW and was 25.20m long and 2.10m deep. At the northern end of the trench modern made ground again overlay gravel to a depth of 1.8m.

The stratigraphy at the southern end consisted of 0.30m of topsoil, 0.40m of subsoil, 0.40m of mid yellowish-brown clay layer. At 2m from the south end a gully with two recuts was recorded. The SW recut (16) was 0.73m wide and 0.45m deep. and filled with an upper light reddish brown clay (72) and a lower reddish grey clay (74). it contained no finds. The NE recut (14) was 0.78m wide and 0.2m deep filled with a light grey clay (70). This contained Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, worked flints and burnt flint. Although the relationships were not completely clear the two gullies described seemed to cut a third gully (15). The latter was filled with a reddish grey sandy clay deposit (71) but contained no finds.

#### Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned ENE-WSW and was 20.2m long and 1.30 deep. The stratigraphy consisted in 0.30m topsoil, 0.30m subsoil overlying the light yellowish-brown, sandy-clay deposit. The trench was stripped at the depth of 0.60m, as the layer was recognised as similar to that within trenches 2, 3, 5, 6, 17, 18 where

archaeological features had been recorded. A test pit was dug at the west end and revealed the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, subsoil, 0.20m sandy-clay layer above 0.40m of light bluish grey silty-clay and 0.10m mid yellow silt-clay overlaying the gravel natural geology. No features nor finds were recovered.

#### Trench 17 (Figs 3-5; Pl. 4 and 6)

Trench 17 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 18m long and 0.57m deep. The position of the trench was turned slightly anticlockwise in order to investigate the presence of the palaeochannel. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m topsoil, and 0.28m subsoil overlying the light yellowish-brown, light yellowish brown, sandy-clay deposit. This deposit was cut by a ditch and a gully. The ditch (17 and 20) was 2m wide, and 0.46m deep and possibly terminated at the SW end, or turned to the west. The fill (73) was soft, mid greyish-brown, clay-sand with occasional inclusions of gravel, Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery, fired clay worked flints and burnt flint.

A second gully (19) cut ditch 17 and was 0.63m wide and 0.38m deep. The gully was filled by a soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt deposit (75) with occasional flint pebbles, Bronze Age/Iron Age pottery and worked flints.

#### Trench 18 (Figs 3-5)

Trench 18 was aligned NNE-SSW and was 20.40m long 1.72m deep. The position of the trench was turned slightly anticlockwise in order to investigate the presence of the palaeochannel. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil, 0.29m of subsoil overlying the light yellowish-brown sandy clay layer (at the depth of 0.59m from the top). From the south end to 7m north, the trench was dug deeper in order to investigate the stratigraphy/archaeological presence on top of the gravel. In this south portion the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil, subsoil and 1.13m of the light yellowish-brown sandy clay layer. At 8m from the south end of the trench a pit was noted. Pit (18) was circular with concave base and sides, 0.80m in diameter and it was 0.29m deep. The fill (77) was firm, mid greyish brown, clayey-silt with occasional flint pebble and a single worked flint.

#### Test Pit 1 (Fig. 3)

Test pit 1 was aligned WNW-ESE and was 7.5m long and 3.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil, 1.80m of mid brown made ground clay mixed with gravel and modern CBM, about 1.1m of dark bluish grey made ground clay with organic remains mixed with modern CBM crushed into it.

### Test Pit 2 (Fig. 3)

Test pit 2 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 7m long and 2.9m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil, about 1.5m of mid brown made ground clay mixed with gravel and modern ceramic building material (CBM), about 1.25m of dark bluish grey clay made ground, with organic remains mixed with modern CBM crushed into it. Both test pits confirmed that the area has been recently affected by truncation and redeposition of material, probably related to quarry activities.

## **Finds**

### *Prehistoric pottery* by Richard Tabor

The prehistoric assemblage comprised 24 sherds weighing 84.5g, giving a low mean sherd weight of only 3.5g. The pottery appears to belong to a minimum of three phases, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age/to Early Iron Age and Middle to Late Iron Age. Securely fastened iron-rich sandy accretions on surfaces and edges limited the visibility of some sherds' fabrics. The assemblage includes a single grog and flint mixture sherd, a sandy sherd probably from an object other than a pot, and 22 sherds in sandy fabrics with flint. The site's setting on clay, silt and sand geology probably accounts for the sand (Appendix 3). Flint would also have been relatively easy to source as chalk lies within 2km to the north-west and in all instances appears to have been a deliberate rather than an incidental additive.

### Middle Bronze Age: Grog and flint

**GF1** (medium) Moderately hard, grey fabric, slightly soapy to touch, with grey surfaces including poorly sorted sparse fine (<1mm), moderate medium (<2mm) to sparse coarse (<7mm) burnt angular flint and sparse to moderate medium (<2mm) to sparse coarse (<5mm) sub-rounded grog.

A single 8mm thick rim sherd was in fabric GF1. The mixing of flint and grog is more typical of the earlier Bronze Age in the middle and lower Thames Valley although it has been noted as possible in coarse Deverel-Rimbury vessels which typically have walls exceeding a thickness of 12mm (Raymond 2013, 76; Machling 1999, 4).

### Late Bronze Age to earlier Iron Age: Quartz/sand and flint

**SF1** (fine/medium) Moderately hard, grey, sandy micaceous fabric with reddish brown to grey brown surfaces including abundant fine (<0.25mm), to fine/medium (0.5mm) sub-rounded and sub-angular quartz, moderate very fine (<0.5mm), sparse fine (<1mm), rare medium (<2mm) to medium/coarse (<3mm) burnt angular flint and sparse fine (<1mm) sub-rounded reddish brown iron oxides.

### Early Middle to Late Iron Age: Quartz/sand and flint

**SF2** (medium) Moderately hard, grey, sandy micaceous fabric with buff red exterior and buff red to grey interior surfaces including abundant fine (<0.25mm), to fine/medium (0.5mm) and sparse medium (<1mm) rounded quartz, moderate fine (<1mm) and sparse medium (<2mm), sparse coarse (<4mm) burnt angular flint and sparse fine to coarse (<3mm) sub-rounded red iron oxides.

**SF3** (medium) Moderately hard, grey, sandy micaceous fabric with grey brown surfaces including abundant fine (<0.25mm), to fine/medium (0.5mm) and sparse medium (<1mm) rounded quartz, moderate fine (<1mm) and rare medium (<2mm) burnt angular flint and sparse fine to coarse (<3mm) sub-rounded red iron oxides.

**SF4** (medium) Hard, dark grey to black, micaceous fabric with dark grey to black surfaces including abundant fine (<0.25mm), to fine/medium (0.5mm) and sparse medium (<1mm) rounded quartz, moderate fine (<1mm), sparse medium (<2mm) and sparse medium coarse (<3mm) burnt angular flint.

**SF5** (medium) Moderately hard, grey, sandy micaceous fabric with grey brown surfaces including abundant fine (<0.25mm), to fine/medium (0.5mm) and sparse medium (<1mm) rounded quartz, moderate fine (<1mm) and rare medium (<2mm) burnt angular flint and rare fine (<1mm) sub-rounded red iron oxides. The exterior is occasionally oxidised.

#### Middle to Late Iron Age: Sand

**S1** (medium) Moderately hard, dark grey/black, fine sandy fabric with buff orange exterior surface. Probably non-pottery ceramic.

Most sherds lacked diagnostic form or decoration but Pit 7 included three fragments with significant traits but potentially of different periods. The top of the small incurved, slightly inwardly expanded, flattened rim in GF1 was decorated with neatly executed diagonal incisions. Incisions were noted on both Middle and possible Late Bronze Age pottery at Wexham near Slough but the sherd's fabric of relatively coarse grog and flint is suggestive of the earlier date (Timby 2012, 77, fig. 4.11, 8; Raymond 2012, 132, fig. 5.32, 4). The remaining fragments were from a rim and a shoulder, all in the fairly fine sandy flint fabric SF1. The everted rim was flattened and over a short concave neck and the turn of shoulder was decorated with well-executed slanting slashes. The sherds may have derived from a single Late Bronze Age or, more probably, Early Iron Age carinated bowl. A small, simple base angle in the same fabric from pit 19 appeared rise at approximately at 80° from horizontal and is potentially of similar date.

The remaining sherds are likely to date to the Iron Age, a gradual decline in the amount and size of flint inclusions often noted in the region through the period, although profuse medium and coarse grits can occur in the Late Iron Age (Lyne 2012, 31).

#### *Modern pottery* by Danielle Milbank

A single small piece of late post-medieval pottery was recovered from a truncation encountered in trench 14. This is a small (3g) sherd of white 'china' of 19th or 20th century date.

#### *Struck Flint* by Will Attard

A modest assemblage of 97 struck flints was recovered during this evaluation. The majority originated from secure contexts within discrete features, though a number were recovered during field-walking over the recent

ploughed portion of the site. No diagnostic material was recovered, though the association of flint and Bronze Age pottery within cut features strongly suggests a Bronze Age date for the assemblage.

Most of the flint is unpatinated and in fresh to very fresh condition, with edges still sharp and no macroscopically visible abrasion of dorsal ridges. The cortex remaining on flakes ranges from pale, thick and chalky through to thin, orange-brown hard cortex typical of river-rolled cobbles. The flint ranges in colour from very dark, nearly black through to mid brown-grey, with a few orange-brown pieces. The dark flakes display the fewest inclusions, though even the brown-grey and orange-brown flakes display relatively few. Despite this, it is apparent that the raw material is inundated with severe thermal fractures. It is likely that these fractures are responsible for the lack of large flakes in the assemblage. The interior character of the flint, coupled with the colours and types of cortex, is identical to that seen in the natural flint gravel deposits that underlie brickearth and alluvium across the site. It is overwhelmingly likely that these gravel terraces are the source of the raw material used. Two gravel deposits are recorded on the site, namely the Shepperton and Kempton Park Gravel Members (BGS 1981). Use of locally available raw material to create utilitarian, basic tools is well attested in the Bronze Age (Ford *et al.* 1981; Ford 1987; Butler 2005), and it appears that this is the case here.

Only one retouched implement was recovered, namely a scraper from Trench 6, Pit 2. It is produced from a small, thick piece of dark grey-black flint, with thin, light grey cortex remaining on approximately 1/4 of the dorsal surface. The blank chosen for producing the scraper appears to have fractured either prior to or during manufacture, as a result of thermal flaws within the raw material. Four invasive removals have been struck from the scraper edge, and a series of small, steep removals used to finish the piece. The working edge displays minor but extensive crushing and abrasion, likely as a result of use.

A fragment of core recovered from the topsoil features parallel, narrow flake scars suggestive of blade manufacture. This technique is typical of Mesolithic flint working, although without a secure context for the find it is impossible to date with certainty. The core is of mid grey flint with frequent small pale grey coarse-grained inclusions. The original material appears to have been a river cobble, with a small area of hard, thin yellow-grey cortex remaining at the base of the core.

Although very little charcoal or other burnt material was present within features, several of the struck flints recovered show fractures and discolouration associated with burning.

### *Worked Stone* by Will Attard

Pit 9, in Trench 6, yielded a rounded quartzite hammer stone weighing 270g. Approximately 1/3 of the surface of the hammer stone displays pitting and crush damage accumulated during its use life. Three areas of slight polishing on the undamaged surface of the implement may indicate areas of contact between the stone and the flint knapper's hand.

### *Macrobotanical plant material and charcoal* by Jo Pine

A total of eight samples were processed from deposits encountered during the evaluation. The flots were wet sieved to 0.25mm and air dried. The flots were examined under a low-power binocular microscope at magnifications between x10 and x40.

Charred plant macrofossils were present in sample 1 from sondage 1 (52). This contained a very small fragment of seed, possibly cereal. A very small piece of charcoal (<1mm) was present in sample 3 from pit 7 (60), in sample 8 from pit 18 (77) however the small fragment size is unlikely to enable species identification.

### *Fired Clay* by Danielle Milbank

Fired clay weighing 108g was hand collected during the excavation, and was examined under x10 magnification. Typically, the fabric was slightly soft and frequently friable fine clay with occasional sandy inclusions, and an orange red colour. Several fragments are of a dark red brown and black colour. None of the recovered fragments have wattle impressions identifying them as daub, however as they are generally highly fragmented and abraded, it is possible that they do represent daub. No other category of fired clay object (such as loomweights) was identified.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation conclusion has several components. To begin, it has confirmed the extent of previous quarrying/land filling activity which is now known to occupy about 1/4 of the northern end of the site, slightly more than envisaged. This area has no archaeological potential.

The evaluation has also revealed a more complex river depositional history than expected with what appears to be an alluvium-filled palaeochannel present. These deposits are not of the highest palaeo-environmental potential (ie containing peat or other preserved organic deposits) and, using the archaeological finds as a chronological indicator are pre-Bronze Age in date, possibly much older.

The evaluation has revealed a modest number of archaeological deposits, of later Bronze Age and possibly Iron Age date most of which are stratigraphically located towards the top of the alluvial sequence, though some are deeper. No organic preservation by waterlogging was revealed. Relatively little high lying gravel (ie with little or no overlying alluvium) was encountered, where most occupation, seeking dry land, would be expected, with the features here mostly located on the alluvium. Parts of the site are considered to have some archaeological potential.

## References

- Barnes, I and Cleal, R M J, 1995, 'Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement at Weir Bank Stud Farm Bray', in I Barnes, W A Boismier, R M J Cleal, A P Fitzpatrick and M R Roberts (eds), *Early settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman occupation sites in the Thames and Kennet valleys*, Wessex Archaeol Rep **6**, 1–51  
Salisbury
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **269**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Butler, C, 2005, *Prehistoric Flintworks*, Stroud
- Ford, S, 1987, 'Chronological and functional aspects of flint assemblages', in A G Brown and M R Edmonds (eds), *Lithic Analysis and later British prehistory: some problems and approaches*, BAR (Brit Ser) **162**, Oxford, 67–83
- Ford, S, Bradley, R J, Hawkes, J and Fisher, P, 1984, 'Flint working in the metal age', *Oxford J Archaeol* **3**, 157–73
- Machling, T, 1999, 'Pottery', in G Hull, 'A Middle Bronze Age Field Ditch? Excavations at Bankside Close, Isleworth', *Trans London Middx Archaeol Soc* **49**, 1–14
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Pine, J, 1996, Manor Nurseries, Oakley Green, Windsor Road, Windsor, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 96/28, Reading
- Raymond, F, 2012, 'Middle Bronze Age pottery', in S Ford, 'Middle Bronze Age Occupation and Enclosure and Roman Occupation at All Souls Farm Quarry, Wexham, Buckinghamshire', in S Preston (ed), *Settlement and Landscape archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs*, TVAS Monogr **14**, Reading, 129–33
- Raymond, F, 2013, 'The early prehistoric pottery', in J Pine, 'Iron Age and Roman settlement at Manor Cottage, Temple Lane, Bisham, Berkshire', in S Preston (ed), *Settlement and Landscape Archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs*, TVAS Monogr **14**, Reading, 77–6
- Timby, J, 2012, 'The Pottery', in S Ford, 'Middle Bronze Age Occupation and Enclosure and Roman Occupation at All Souls Farm Quarry, Wexham, Buckinghamshire', in S Preston (ed), *Settlement and Landscape archaeology in the Middle Thames Valley: Slough and Environs*, TVAS Monogr **14**, Reading, 72–8

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, SE, SW and W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21	1.8	1.34/1.7	0–0.14m topsoil, 0.14m–0.24m subsoil, 0.24m–0.52m light yellowish brown sandy-clay, 0.52m–0.84m light yellow brown sandy-silt, 0.84–1.20m light yellowish–brown clayey-sand, 1.20m–1.70m yellow sand, 1.70–+ natural gravel.
2	19.4	1.8	0.56	0–0.32m topsoil, 0.32m–0.50m subsoil, 0.50m–+ light yellowish brown sandy-clay/gravel at the SW end. Two pits (22, 23) and a gully (21) <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
3	20	1.8	0.5	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20m–0.40m subsoil, 0.40m/0.50m–+ light yellowish brown sandy-clay/gravel at the SE end.
4	22	1.8	0.6	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23m–0.34m subsoil, 0.31m–0.61m mid dark orange brown clayey-sand, 0.61m –+ mid orange brown clayey sand with moderate inclusions of chalk. Layer of chalk with a work flint. Sondages 1 and 4.
5	22	1.8	0.48/0.9	0–0.33m topsoil, 0.33–0.44m subsoil, 0.44m–0.84m light yellowish sandy clay, 0.84m–+ natural gravel (reached only in test pit)
6	9	1.8	1.26/0.6	0–0.20 topsoil, 0.20–0.47m subsoil, 0.47m –0.8m mid reddish-brown sandy-clay, 0.8–1m light yellowish brown sandy-clay, 1–1.14m bluish grey silty-clay, 1.14m–1.26m orange brown clayey-sand. Two clusters of pits (5–12) and a possible gully (2) <b>[Pls 2, 5 and 7]</b>
7	20.3	1.8	1.48	0–0.20 topsoil, 0.20–0.55m subsoil, 0.55m –0.9m mid bluish grey sandy-clay, 0.90–1.48m light yellowish brown sandy-clay, 1.48–+ natural gravel.
8	20	1.8	0.58/1.7	NE: 0–0.12m topsoil, 0.12–0.30m subsoil, 0.30–0.58m mid reddish brown sand and gravel. SW: 0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22–0.50m subsoil, 0.50–0.78m mid reddish brown sand and gravel, 0.78–0.89m light yellowish brown sandy-clay, 0.89–1.20m mid bluish grey brown sandy clay, 1.20m–1.70 light yellowish brown clay, 1.70m–+the gravel natural geology.
9	22.8	1.8	1.9	0–0.10m topsoil, 0.10–0.38m of subsoil, 0.38–1.40m mid greyish brown made ground clay, 1.40–1.83m of dark greyish brown made ground clay mixed with gravel, timber pieces and modern CBM, 1.83m–+ gravel natural geology.
14	19.8	1.8	0.6	N: 0–0.17m topsoil, 0.17–0.103m made ground clay, 1.03m–+ gravel natural geology. S: 0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27–0.59m subsoil, 0.59m–+ mid yellowish brown clay. Ditch 13.
15	25.2	1.8	1/2.1	NW: 0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.7m subsoil, 0.7–1.1m mid yellowish-brown clay layer, 1.1m–+ mid yellowish-brown clay layer. SE: 0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–1.8m mid yellowish-brown clay mixed with CBM and china pottery, 1.8m–+ gravel natural geology. A gully with two recuts (14–16). <b>[Pls 3 and 8]</b>
16	20.20	1.8	0.6/1.3	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3–0.6m subsoil, 0.6–0.8m light yellowish-brown sandy clay layer, 0.8–1.2m light bluish grey silty-clay alluvium deposit, 1.2–1.3m mid yellow silt-clay alluvium, 1.3m–+ gravel natural geology.
17	18	1.8	0.57	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23–0.51m of subsoil, 0.51–+m light yellowish-brown sandy clay layer. A pit (19), a ditch (17) and a gully (20). <b>[Pls 4 and 6]</b>
18	20.4	1.8	0.59/1.72	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30–0.59m of subsoil, 0.59–1.72m light yellowish-brown sandy clay layer, 1.72m–+ gravel natural. A pit (18).
Test pit 1	7.5	1.8	3.1	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20–2.00m mid brown made ground clay mixed with gravel and modern CBM, 2.00–3.10m of dark bluish grey clay layer with organic remains mixed with modern CBM crushed into it
Test pit 2	7	1.8	2.9	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15–1.65m mid brown made ground clay mixed with gravel and modern CBM, 1.65–2.9m dark bluish grey clay with organic remains mixed with modern CBM.



**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
4	1	52	Sondage to investigate layer (52)		
6	2	53	gully	-	
4	4	55, 56, 57	Sondage		
6	5	58	pit	BA/IA	By association; flint
6	6	59	pit	BA/IA	By association
6	7	60	pit	BA/IA	Pottery
6	8	61	pit	BA/IA	By association; flint
6	9	62	pit	BA/IA	Pottery
6	10	63	pit	BA/IA	By association
6	11	64	pit	BA/IA	By association
6	12	65	pit	BA/IA	Pottery
14	13	69	gully	BA/IA?	flint
15	14	70	gully	BA/IA	Pottery
15	15	71	gully	BA/IA	By association
15	16	72, 74	gully	BA/IA	By association
17	17	73	ditch	BA/IA	Pottery, Same as 20
18	18	77	pit	-	
17	19	75	pit	BA/IA	Cuts 17/20; flint
17	20	76	ditch	BA/IA	Pottery, Same as 17
2	21	79	gully	-	
2	22	80	pit	-	
2	23	78	pit	-	

**APPENDIX 3:** Distribution of fabrics by cut and deposit (weight in g)

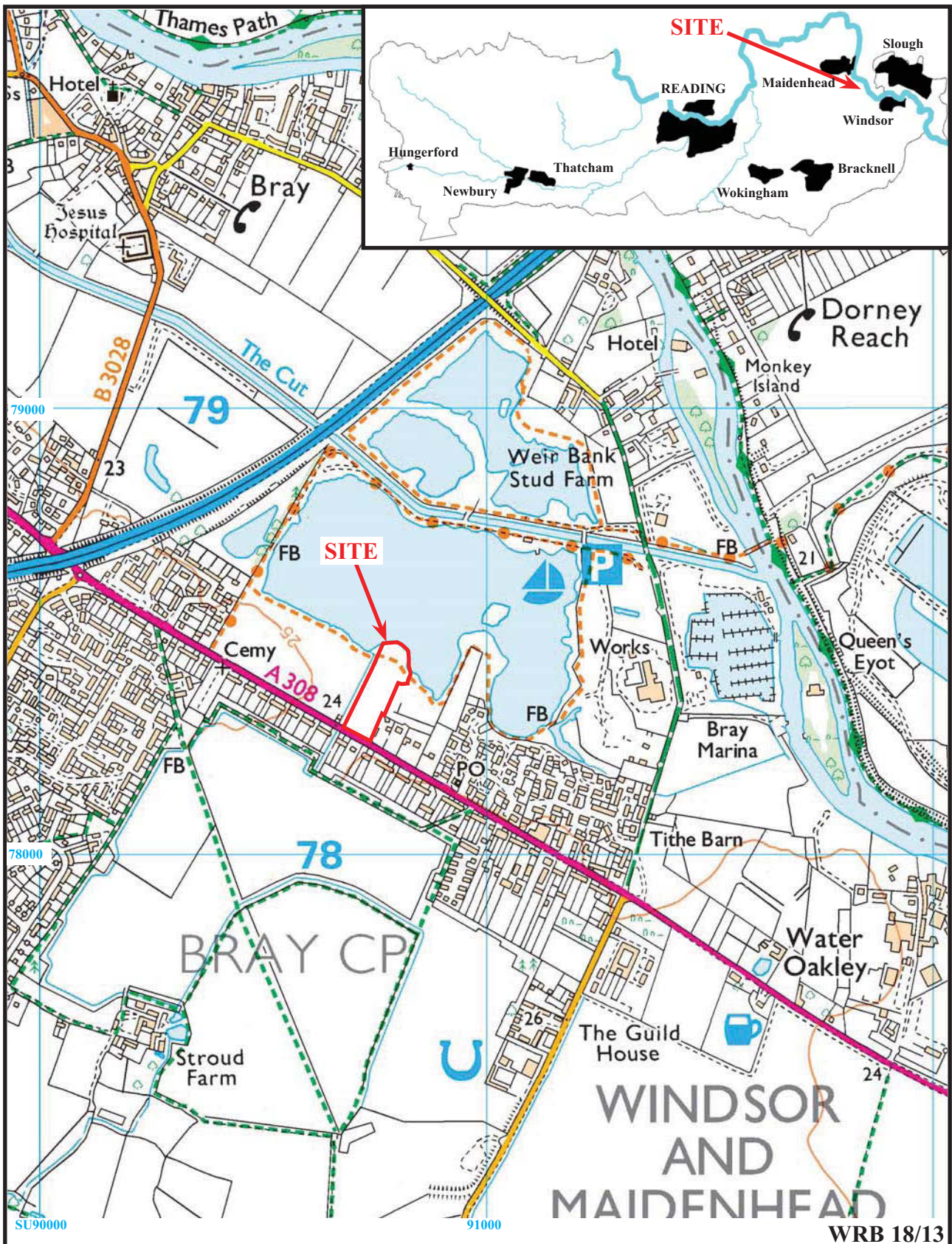
<i>cut</i>	<i>deposit</i>	<b>GF1</b>		<b>SF1</b>		<b>SF2</b>		<b>SF3</b>		<b>SF4</b>		<b>SF5</b>		<b>S1</b>		<b>Total</b>	
		<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>wt</i>
	surface							1	7							1	7
7	60	1	4	5	9											6	13
9	62					1	6			1	4					2	10
12	65			2	9											2	9
14	70											6	18			6	18
17	73					2	10					1	1	1	0.5	4	11.5
19	75			1	11											1	11
20	76			2	5											2	5
<b>Total</b>		1	4	10	34	3	16	1	7	1	4	7	19	1	0.5	24	84.5

**APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Fired Clay**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
6	5	58	Pit	1	53
14	13	69	Gully	2	12
17	17	73	Ditch	4	25
17	20	76	Ditch	1	8

**APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Struck flint**

Cut	Deposit	Type	Intact Flake	Broken flake	Core	Other
	51	sub soil	2	3	2	
	surface		2	1	2	
	surface	surface near tr 15		6		
1	52	possible feature	1	2	1	
5	58	pit	4	7	6	
8	61	pit		2		
9	62	pit	2	4	2	
12	65	pit	6	4	3	scraper
13	69	gully			2	
14	70	gully	3			
17	73	ditch	2	13	2	core rejuvenation flake
17	73	ditch	1		1	
19	75	pit		2	1	
20	76	ditch	1	2		
18	77	pit	1			



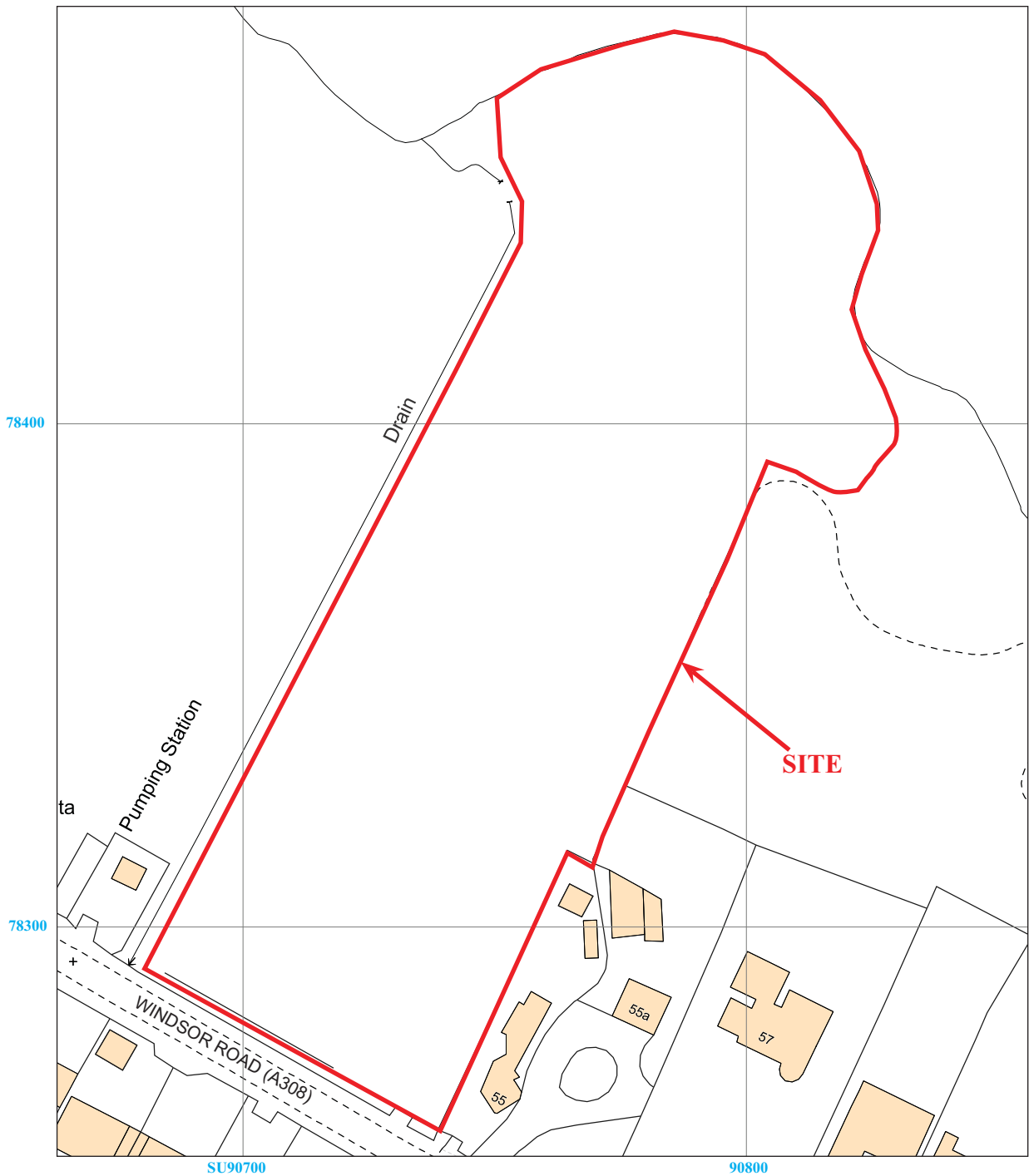
WRB 18/13

**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Bray and within Berkshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved





WRB 18/13

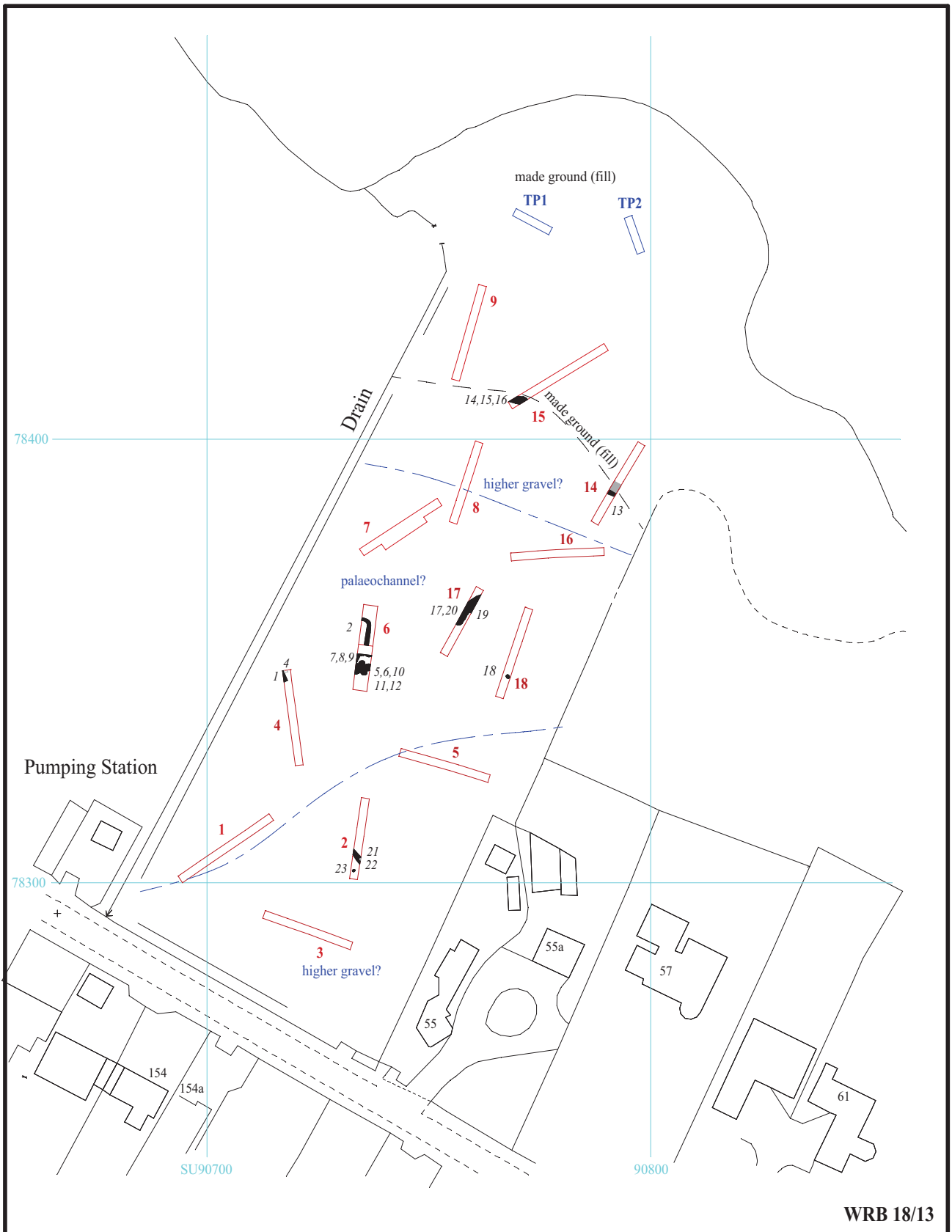


**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Windsor Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

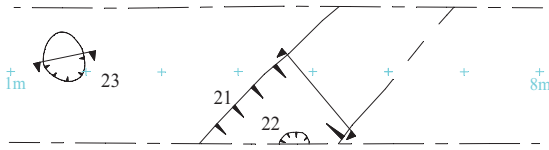


**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

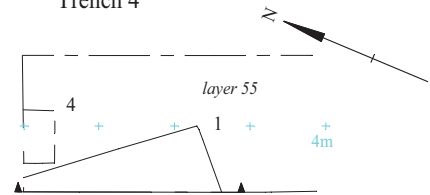
Figure 3. Location of trenches.



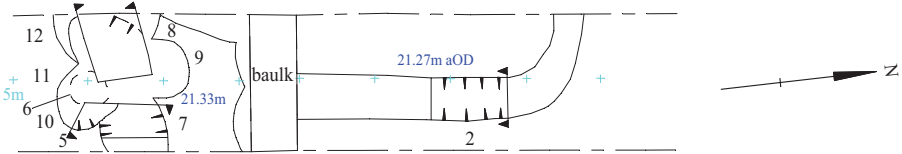
Trench 2



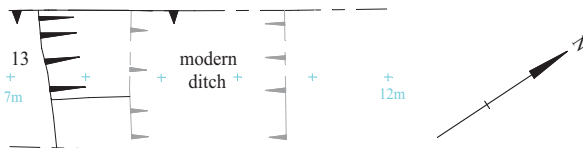
Trench 4



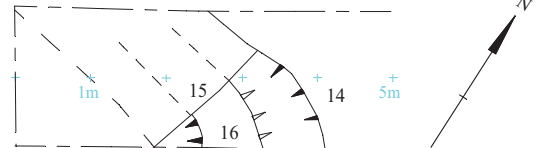
Trench 6



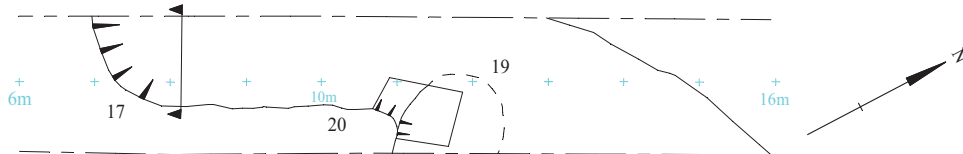
Trench 14



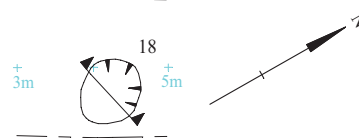
Trench 15



Trench 17



Trench 18



WRB 18/13

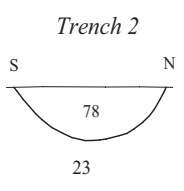
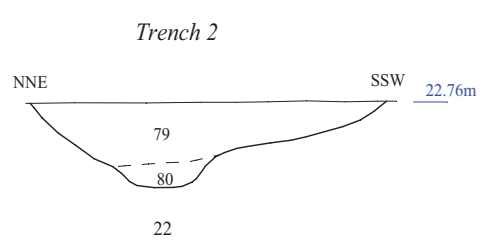
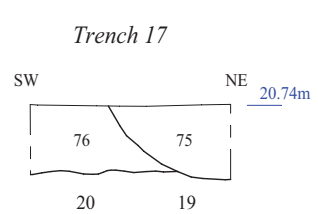
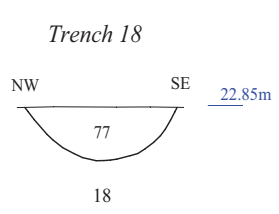
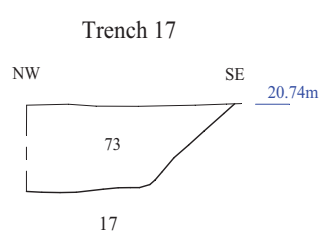
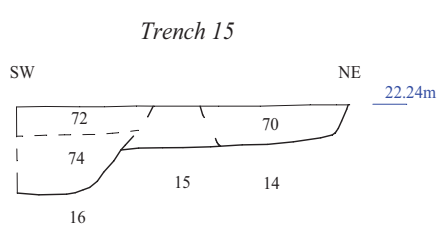
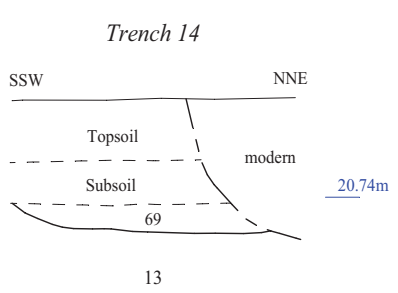
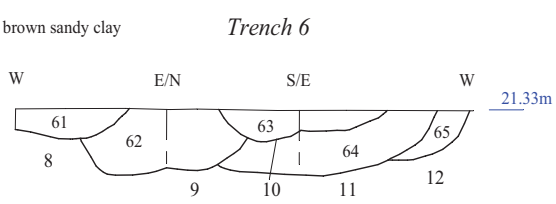
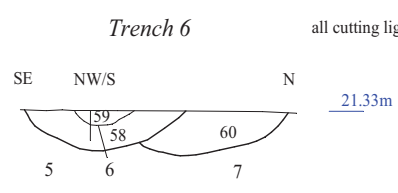
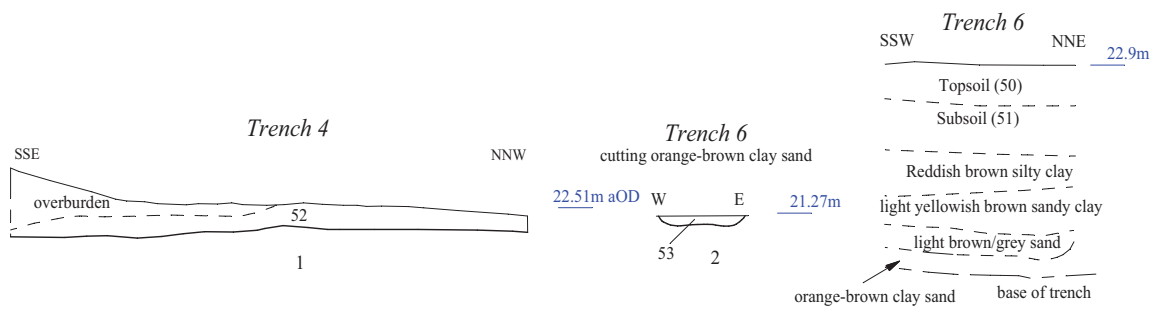
Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





WRB 18/13

Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Sections.





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



Plate 2. Trench 6, looking NE,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

WRB 18/13

**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 15, looking NE, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 17, looking NNE,  
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

WRB 18/13

**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 5. Trench 6, looking SW, features 5-7, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 6. Trench 17, feature 17 looking NE,  
Scales: 1m, and 0.5m.

WRB 18/13

**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 5 and 6.**

THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
SERVICES



Plate 7. Trench 6, looking N feature 2, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Trench 15, features 14-167 looking NW,  
Scales: 1m., 0.3m and 0.1m.

WRB 18/13

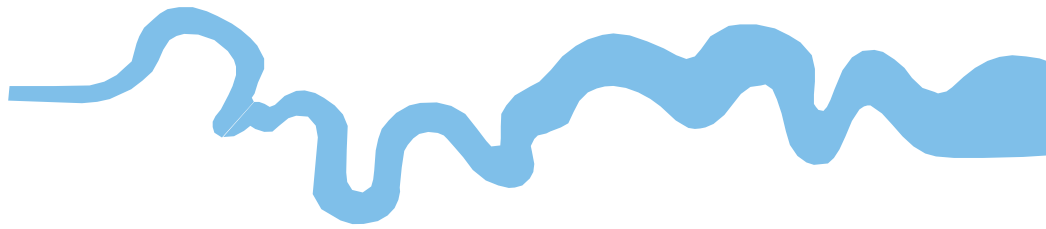
**Land at Windsor Road, Bray,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 7 and 8.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## 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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,  
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**

***Offices in:  
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***