

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Queens Beeches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: QBA16/49

(SU 9309 6868)

Queens Beeches, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Pipeline Worldwide SA**

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code QBA16/49

April 2018

Summary

Site name: Queens Beeches, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9309 6868

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th April 2018

Project manager: Danielle Millbank

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: QBA 16/49

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed nor artefacts recovered. The site is considered to have negligible potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: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.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 16.04.18
	Steve Preston ✓ 19.04.18

Queens Beeches, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 16/49

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Queens Beeches, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire (SU9309 6868) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Bernadette Maguire of Ascot Design 39-51 High Street, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7HY on behalf of Pipeline Worldwide SA, c/o Queens Beeches, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 7EQ.

Planning permission (13/01832) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new house on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (16) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Royal Borough.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Daniel Haddad on 13th April 2018 and the site code is QBA16/49. The archive is presently held at TVAS, Reading and will be deposited with a local museum willing to accept archive material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of London Road, Ascot, Berkshire (Fig. 1) south-east of Ascot Race Course. The site lies in a residential area with low density housing to the west, east and south, and London Road forming the northern border (Fig. 2). The site lies *c.* 71m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as Bagshot Beds (BGS 1978). The site is currently unoccupied.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of eastern Berkshire for which only a modest range of archaeological finds and deposits has been recorded. Nevertheless there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval find spots as recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record and many upstanding Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). Evaluation to the west of the site revealed no finds nor deposits of archaeological interest (Platt and Beaverstock 2014).

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; and
- to determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

Two trenches were to be dug, each measuring 15m long and 1.60m wide. These were dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a grading 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 then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The trenches were dug in the locations as intended but Trench 2 had to be subdivided due to the presence of a buried service. All trenches were 1.6m wide and ranged between 5m and 16.9m long and 0.22-0.4m in depth. A 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 NW–SE and was 16.8m long and 0.22m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil directly overlying natural geology, which consisted of a pale reddish yellow gravelly sand. The only disturbance of the natural geology was from a treehole. No finds were recovered.

Trench 2A (Figs 3 and 4; Pl.,2)

Trench 2A was aligned roughly east- west and was 5m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of turf/topsoil directly overlying natural geology. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 2B (Figs 3 and 4; Pl.,3)

Trench 2B was aligned roughly east- west and was 5.4m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of turf/topsoil directly overlying natural geology. The only disturbance of the natural geology was from another treehole. No features were observed nor finds recovered.

Conclusion

No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed nor artefacts recovered with the only disturbance of the natural geology being that caused by tree and rootholes. The site is considered to have negligible potential

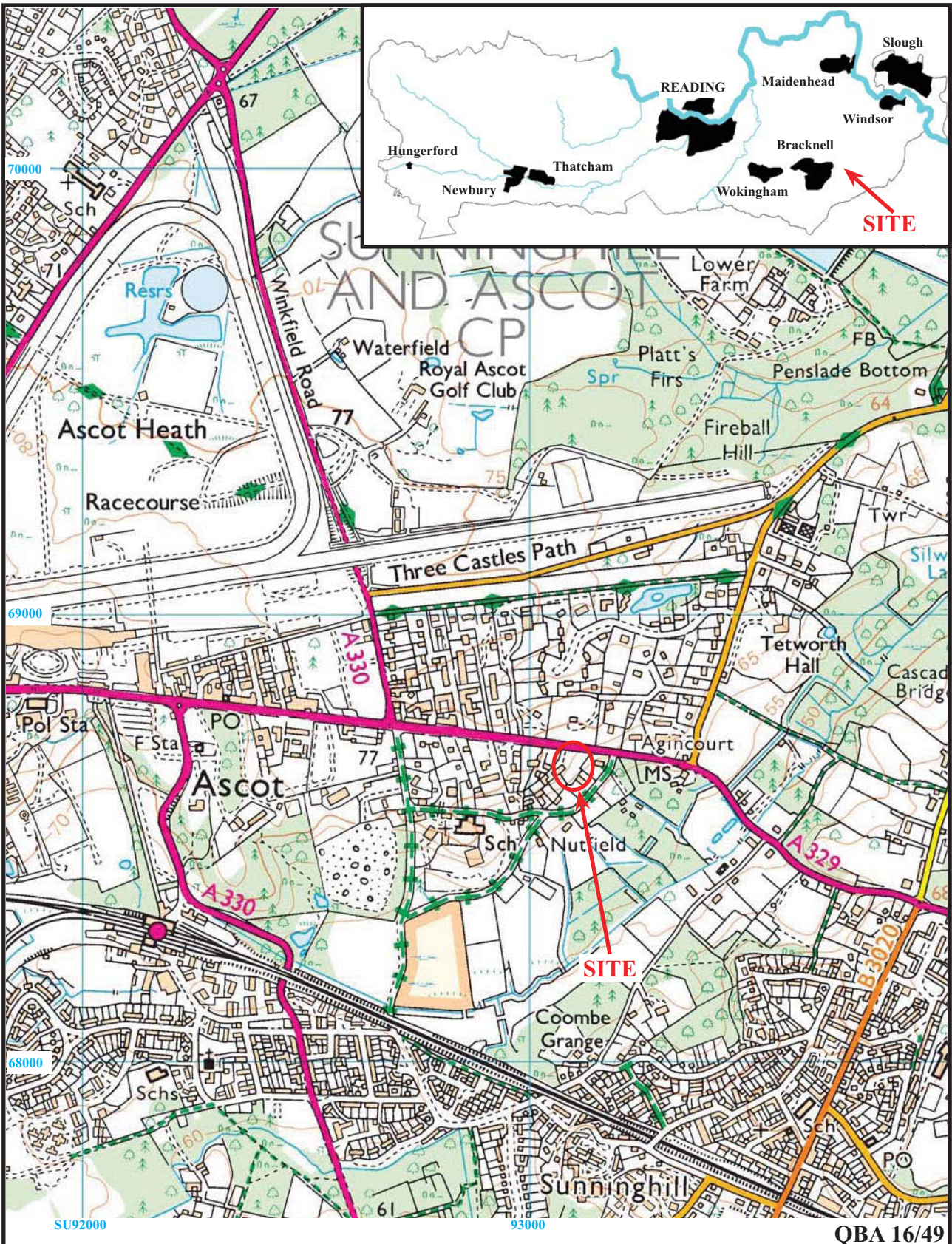
References

- BGS, 1978, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000 series, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Platt, D and Beaverstock, K, 2014, 'Ascot Lodge, London Road, Ascot, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 16/49, Reading

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	16.8	1.6	0.22	0–0.2m topsoil, 0.2m+ pale reddish yellow gravelly sand. (natural geology). [Pl. 1]
2A	5	1.6	0.32	0–0.3m topsoil, 0.3m+ pale reddish yellow gravelly sand. (natural geology). [Pl. 2]
2B	5.4	1.6	0.3	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27m+ pale reddish yellow gravelly sand. (natural geology). [Pl. 3]



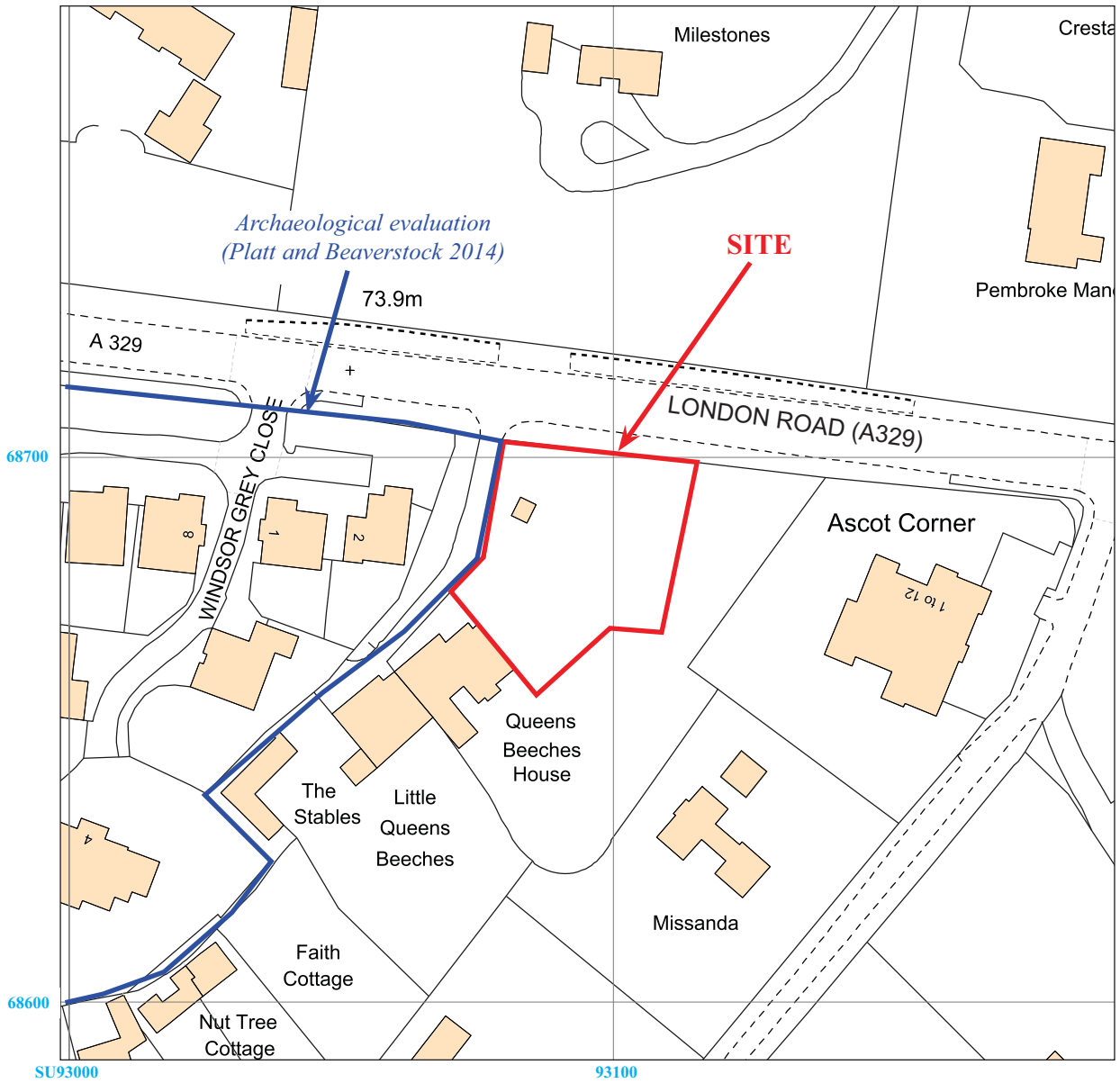
**Queens Beches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Ascot and Berkshire.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

QBA 16/49



QBA 16/49

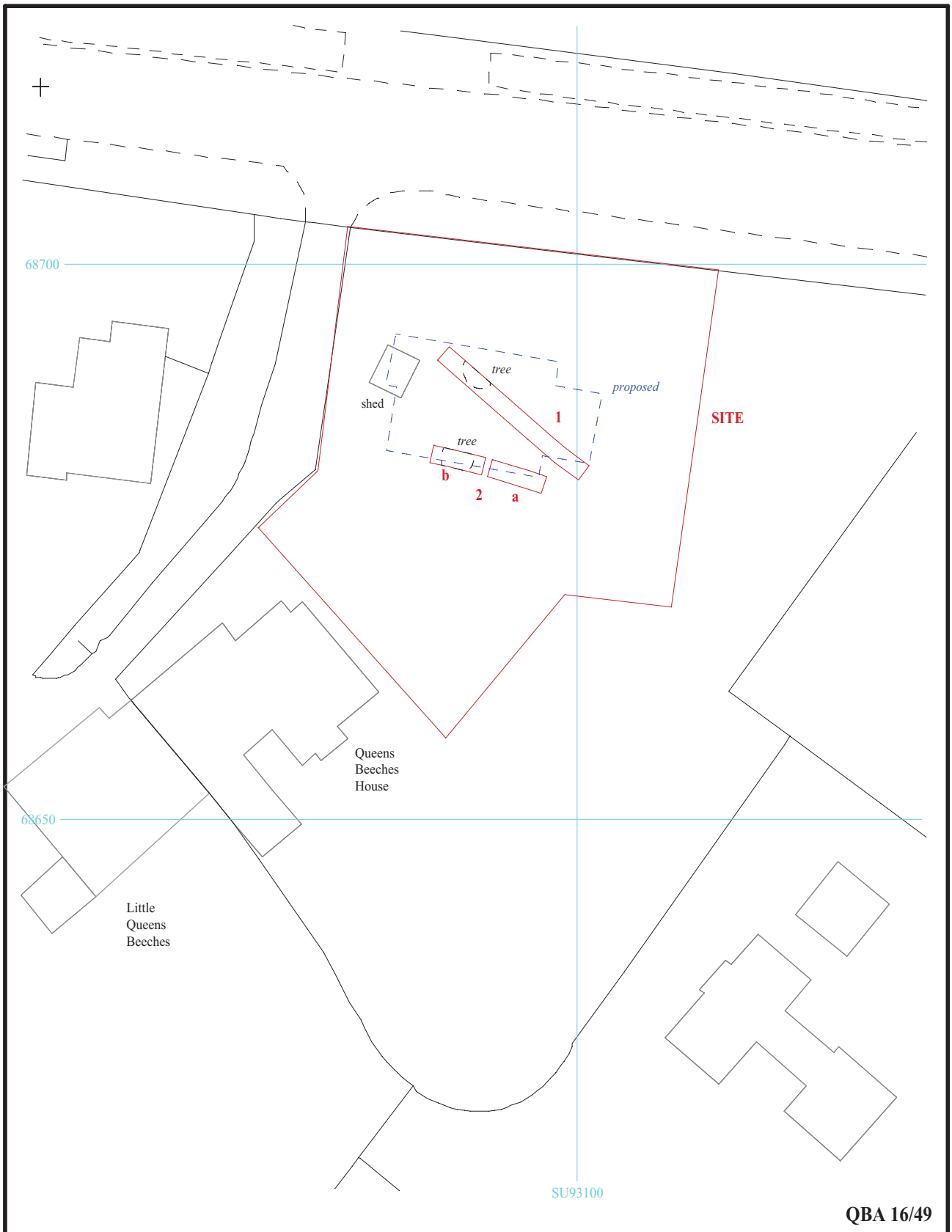


**Queens Beeches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off London Road.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



QBA 16/49

**Queens Beeches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

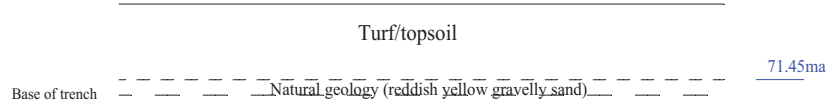


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

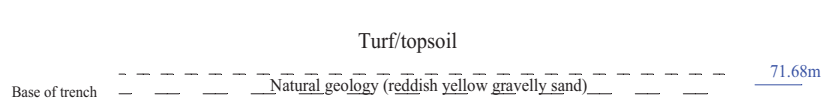
Trench 1



Trench 2A



Trench 2B



QBA 16/49

**Queens Beeches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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

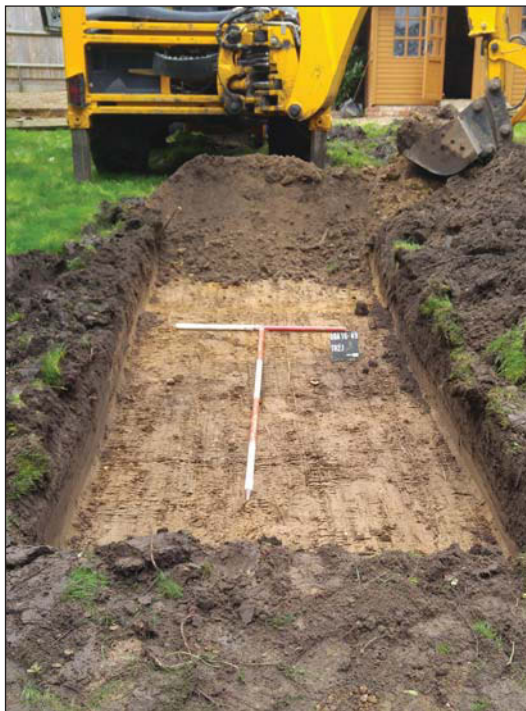


Plate 2. Trench 2 (part a), looking west,
Scales: 2m and 1m.

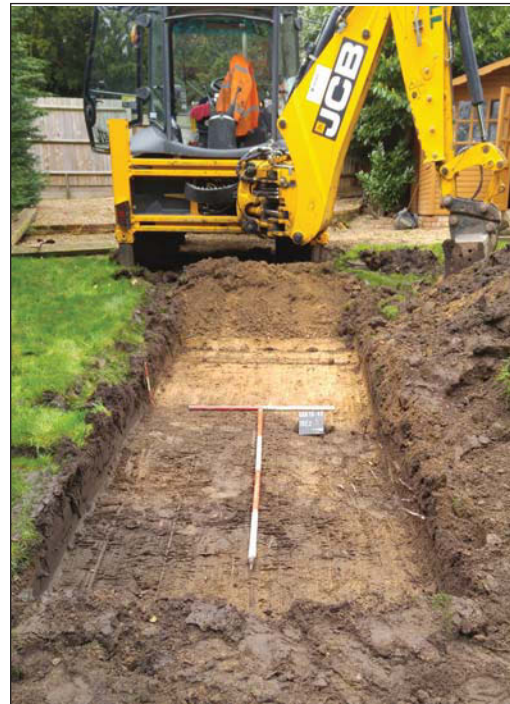


Plate 3. Trench 2 (part b), looking west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

QBA 16/49

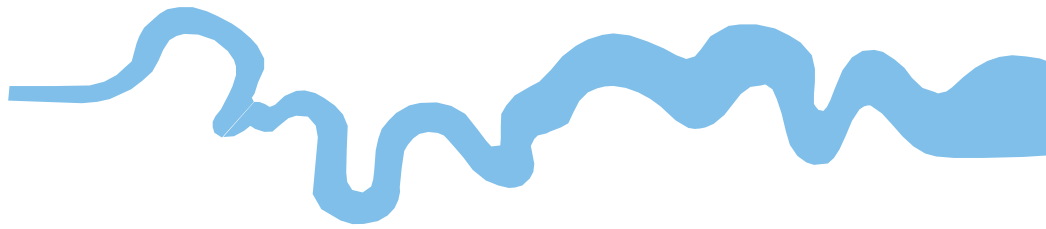
Queens Beeches, London Road,
Ascot, Berkshire, 2018
Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
Plates 1 - 3.

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
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

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