

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Benedikt Tebbit and Steve Ford

Site Code: SRM17/122

(SU 8842 8005)

Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Slough Residential Development Limited**

by Benedikt Tebbit and Steve Ford
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SRM 17/122

April 2018

Summary

Site name: Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8842 8005

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th April 2018

Project manager: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Benedikt Tebbit

Site code: SRM 17/122

Summary of results: Two features of possible archaeological interest were revealed with the recovery of one piece of prehistoric struck flint as possible dating evidence. The site is 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 with an appropriate museum or repository in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 26.04.18
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Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Benedikt Tebbit and Steve Ford

Report 17/122

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8842 8005) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Anthony Hope of Anthony Hope Design on behalf of Slough Residential Development Limited, Palladium House, 1-4 Argyll Street, London, W1F7LD.

Planning permission (17/00656) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new apartment block on the site following demolition of the existing building but on a slightly new footprint. The consent is subject to a condition (12) 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. It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenches, based on the results of which, further fieldwork might be required to satisfy the condition and mitigate the effects of development on any archaeological remains that might be present. 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 Benedikt Tebbit and Steve Ford on 25th April 2018 and the site code is SRM 17/122. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate museum or repository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-eastern side of Shoppenhangers Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (Fig. 1), and lies in a residential area approximately 2km west of the river Thames (Fig. 2). The site is a rectangular parcel of land c. 0.15ha at an elevation of c. 42m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as Boyn Hill Gravel Member (BGS 1981). Reddish brown sandy gravel was encountered in both trenches.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley, Berkshire with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded in the area (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). The site lies on the edge of the east Berkshire chalkland with the Cox Green Roman villa to the west (Bennett 1962) and another villa at Castle Hill to the east. Recent fieldwork at Shoppenhangers Manor has also revealed Roman deposits.

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 10m long and 1.6-2m wide. These were to be dug using a 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 two trenches were dug in the locations as intended (Fig. 3). Both trenches were 1.55m wide. They were 10m and 12m long respectively and 0.42-0.47m in depth. A list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned NW–SE and was 10m long and mostly 0.42m deep. The north-western end corresponded with an area of demolition rubble and was 1m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.17m of subsoil, overlying natural geology which consisted of a mid reddish brown coarse gravel with silty sand. Two linear features were recorded (Fig. 4; Pl. 3).

Ditch 1 was aligned approximately E-W and was 1.2m wide and 0.49m deep. It had a single fill of brown clayey sand with rare gravel pieces. The whole extent of the feature within the trench was dug, but the only dating evidence was a single prehistoric struck flint. The feature shallowed to the east and was probably a terminal. Two shallow rootholes were also investigated in this trench.

Ditch (or gully) 2 was also aligned close to E-W and was 0.8m wide and 0.21m deep. It was cut by ditch 1. It had a single fill of brown clayey sand with some gravel pieces. The whole extent of the feature within the trench was again dug, but no dating evidence was recovered. Again, it appeared to be terminating.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl.2)

Trench 2 was aligned WNW–ESE and was 12m long and 0.47m deep but again deeper (0.9m) to the north-west where demolition debris was located. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.19m of subsoil, overlying natural geology which consisted of a mid reddish brown coarse gravel with silty sand. A single sandy patch was investigated as a possible feature but confirmed as natural. Ditches 1 and 2 were not encountered in this trench and no other features were observed nor finds recovered.

Finds

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint flake was recovered from ditch 1 (52). It is not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Conclusion

Two intercutting linear features of archaeological interest were revealed, but were undated except for the recovery of a single prehistoric flint flake. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

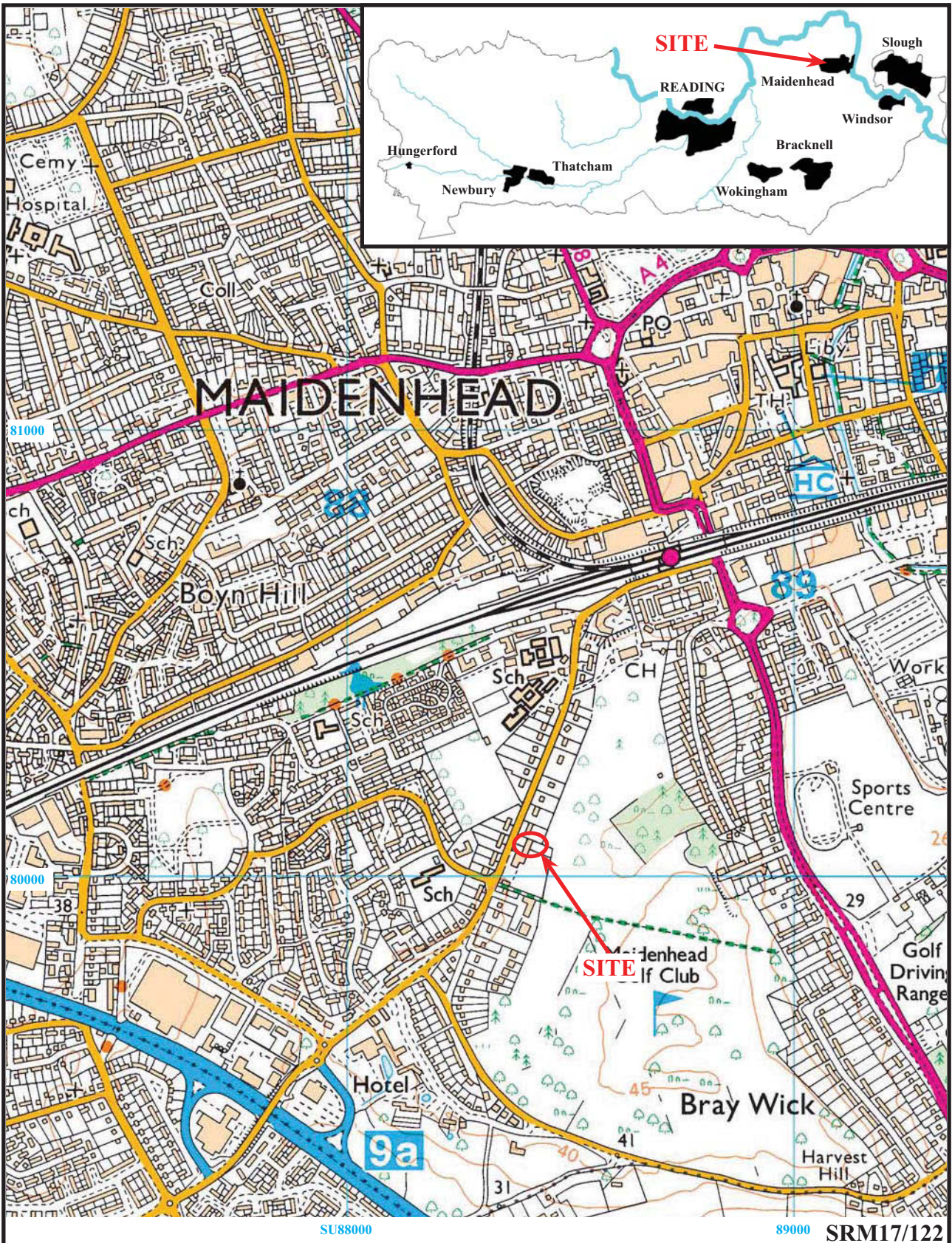
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BGS, 1978, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000 series, Sheet **269**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ **1**, Reading
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

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	10	1.55	0.42 SE 1.0 NW	0-0.23m turf/topsoil, 0.23-0.40m subsoil, 0.40m+ mid reddish brown sandy gravel. (natural geology). Demolition debris at NW end [Pl. 1]
2	12	1.55	0.47 SE 0.9 NW	0-0.23m turf/topsoil, 0.23-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ mid reddish brown sandy gravel. (natural geology). Demolition debris at NW end Linear features 1 and 2 [Pls 2 and 3]

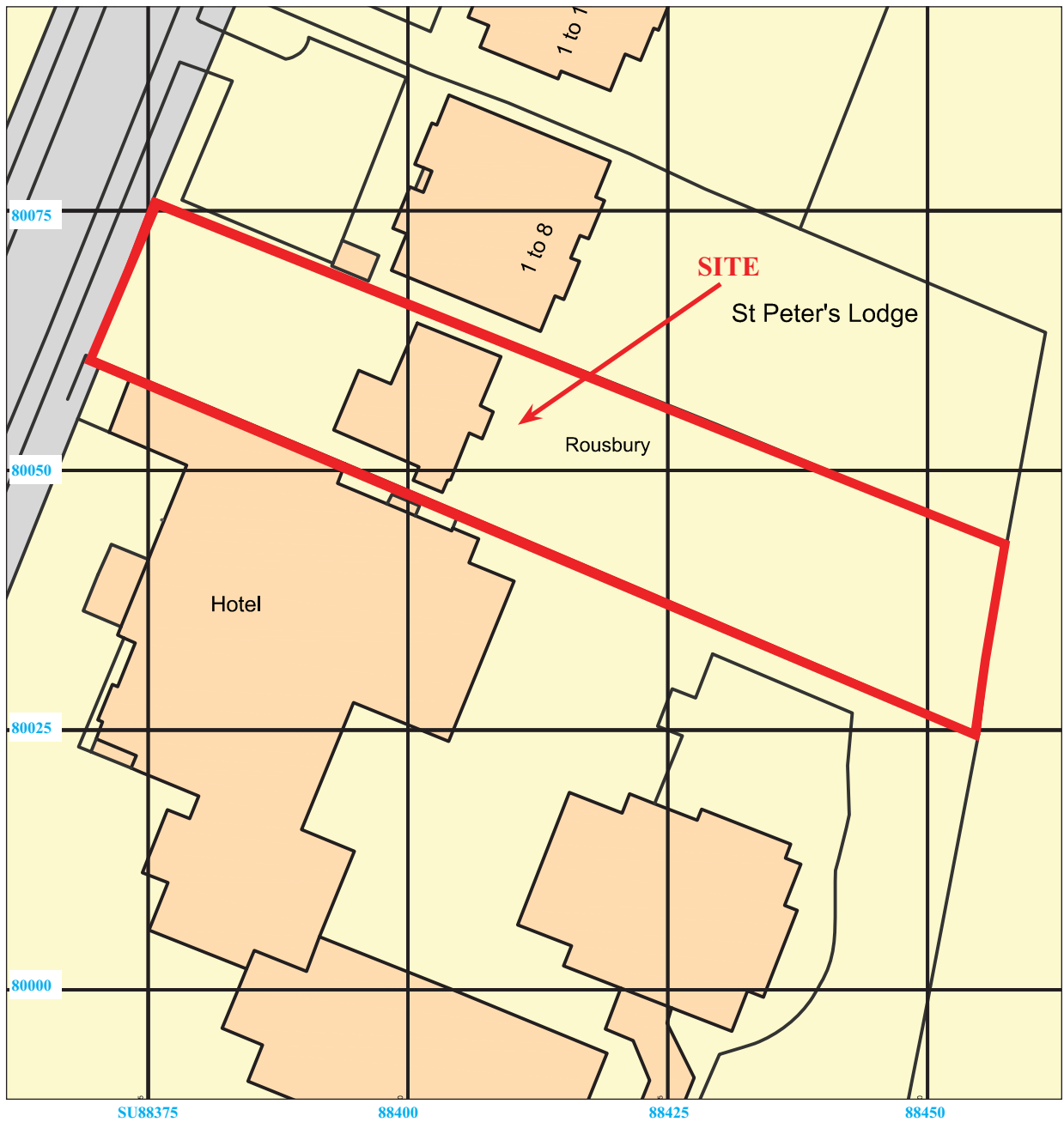


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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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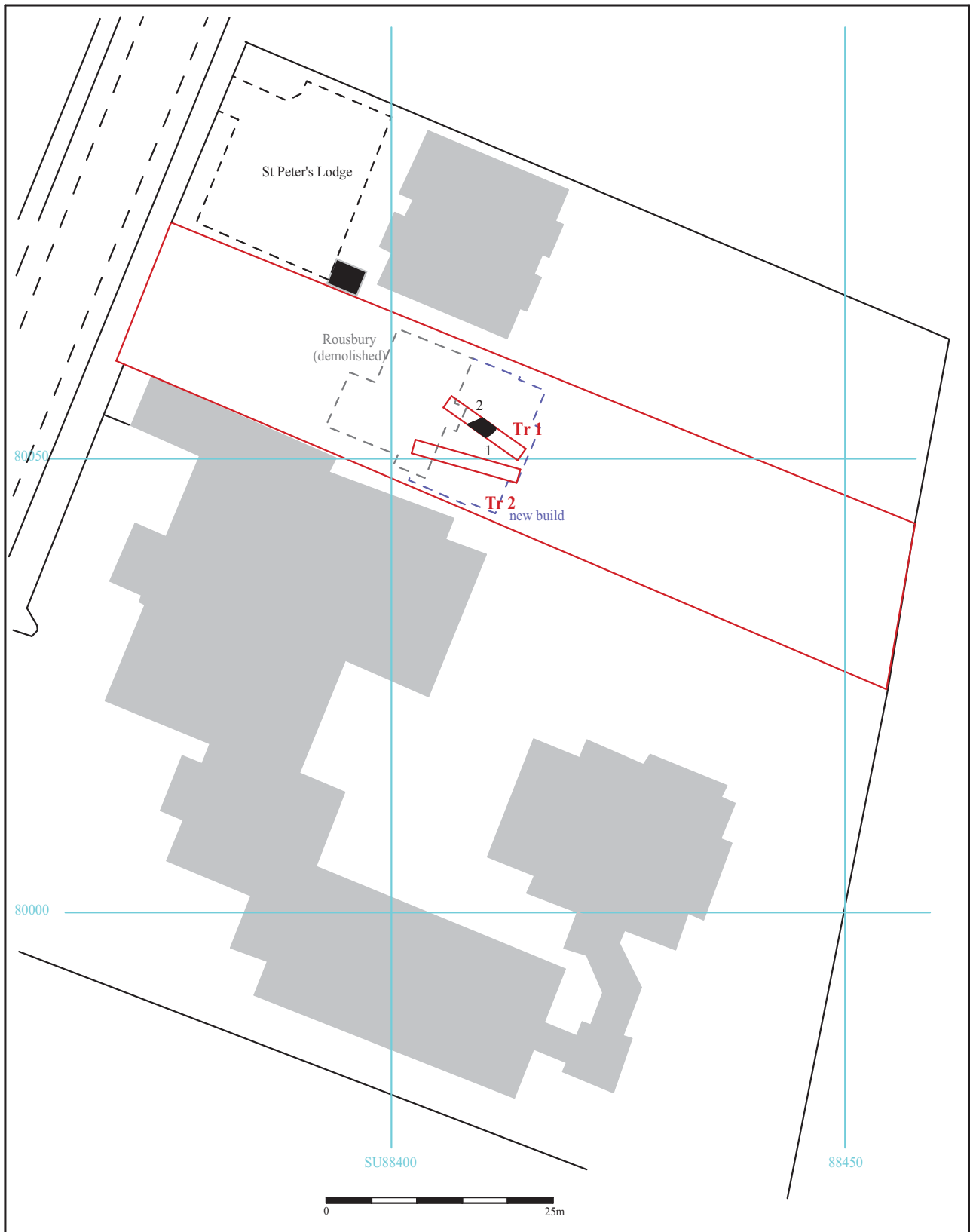
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**Rousbury, Shoppenhangars Road,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Shoppenhangars Road.

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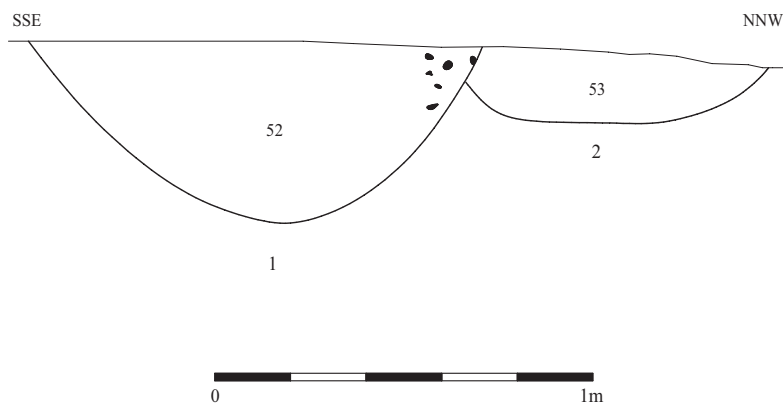
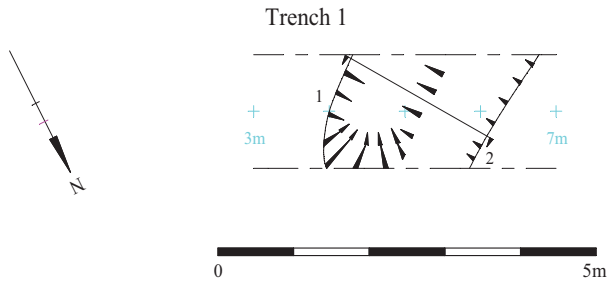
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Plan of trench 1 and section of features.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 1 Ditches 1 and 2 looking south west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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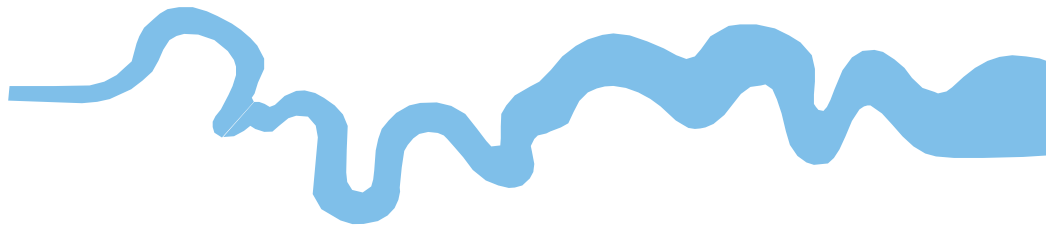
**Rousbury, Shoppenhangers Road,
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Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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