

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land west of Thornbury Road,
Eynsham, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: EWE14/182

(SP 4251 0943)

Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EWE 14/182

August 2018

Summary

Site name: Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 4251 0943

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th July-2nd August 2018

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: EWE 14/182

Area of site: c.7.5 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 09.08.16 Steve Preston✓ 06.08.18
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Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/182b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire (SP 4251 0943) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steven Neal, for Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, Suite J, Windrush Court, Abingdon Business Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1SY.

Planning permission (app no 15/03148/OUT) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council to construct new housing on the site with associated works. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology.

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 Hugh Coddington, Archaeology Team Leader with Oxfordshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Cosmo Bacon and Jamie Williams between the 24th July and 2nd August 2018 and the site code is EWE 14/182. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a roughly pentagonal shaped field of around 7.5 ha on the western side of the village of Eynsham (Fig. 1). It consisted of rough pasture and was bounded by hedges on its northern and western side with Chilbridge to the south and residential properties to the east. The underlying geology is mapped as 2nd (Summertown-Radley) Terrace Deposits (BGS 1982) with Clay and gravels observed across the site and it lies at a height of c.70m above Ordnance Datum with a slope down to the south towards the Chil Brook.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2018) drawing on a desk-based assessment (Dawson and Tabor 2014). In summary there are no known archaeological deposits on the site itself but the site lies within the archaeologically rich Upper Thames Valley (Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009). The site lies to the west of the historic (Saxon/Medieval core of the settlement and also to the west of the site of medieval Eynsham Abbey.

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 archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to provide information to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

In all, 45 trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m long and between 1.60m and 2m wide. These were dug by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed will be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, 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 45 trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 3), each measuring 1.80m wide, between 24m and 28.50m long and between 0.24m and 0.70m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The stratigraphy in all of the trenches (Fig. 4) consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying the natural geology, which in trenches 1-8, 17, 18 and 39 consisted of clay and gravel (Pls 1, 3), Trenches 9-14, 19, 22-38 and 40-45 consisted of clay (Pls 2, 5-8) and trenches 15, 16, 20 and 21 (Pl. 4) consisted of gravel. Furrows were evident in trenches 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 13 and 15-20. Several trenches revealed potential features that required further

investigation, but further inspection showed that none of these proved to be archaeological, turning out to be either modern or geological in nature.

Finds

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

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on the site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the evaluation. The subsoil had survived across the field so that archaeological features, if present, ought to have survived. Furrows were noted across much of the northern part of the field. Some potential features were observed and investigated, however these were all either modern (containing china, clinker and modern brick or tile) or were geological in nature.

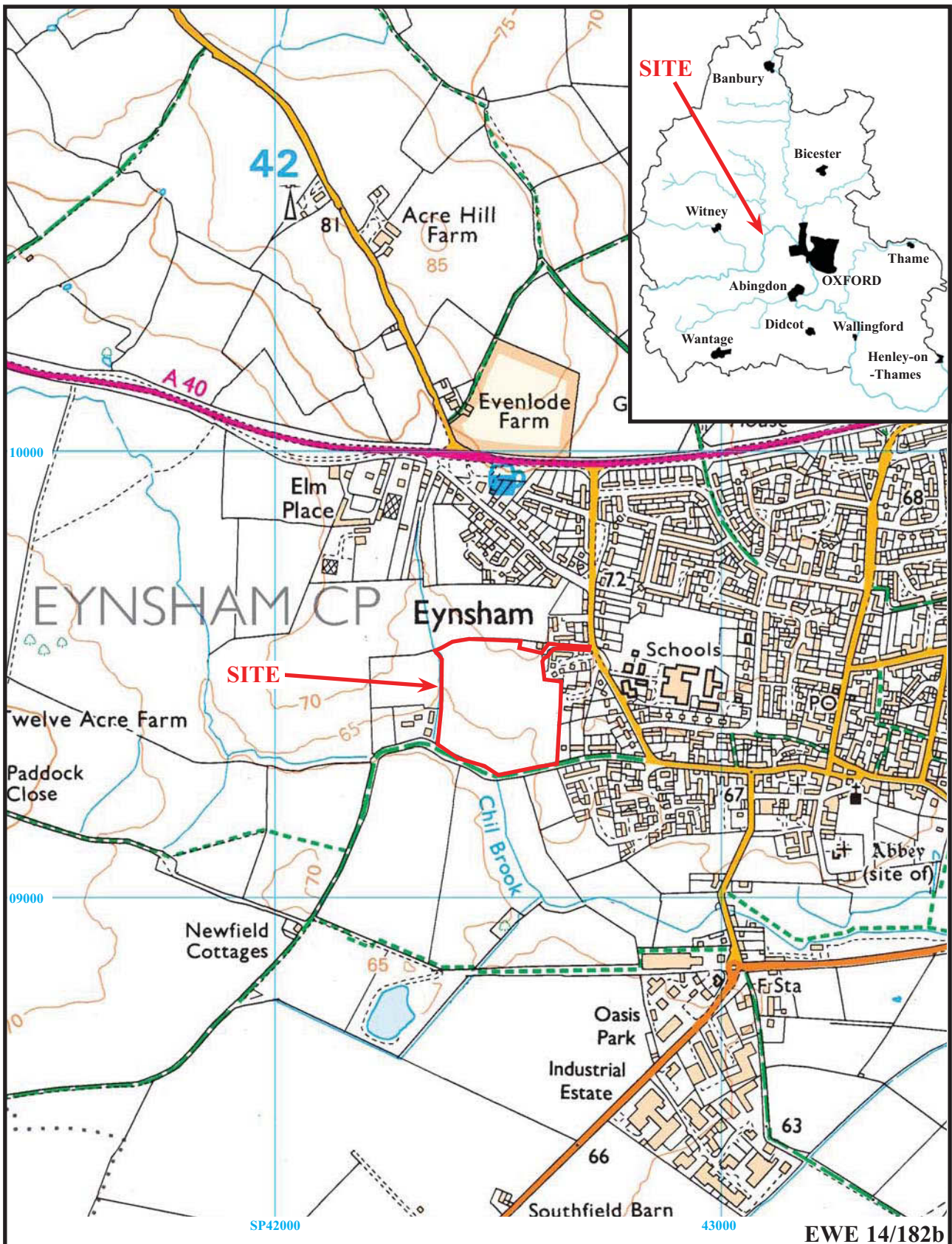
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- Booth, P, Dodd, A, Robinson, M and Smith, A, 2007, *The Thames through Time: The Archaeology of the Gravel Terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames: The early historical period AD1–1000*, Oxford Archaeology Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **27**, Oxford
- Coddington, H, 2018, Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire: Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation, Oxfordshire County Archaeology Service.
- Dawson, T and Tabor, R, 2015, Land north of Chilbridge Road, Eynsham, Oxfordshire, archaeological desk-based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 14/182, 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	26.70	1.80	0.53	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m+ clay and gravel natural. [PI. 1]
2	25.70	1.80	0.38	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay and gravel natural.
3	25.50	1.80	0.38	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ clay and gravel natural.
4	26.60	1.80	0.37	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ clay and gravel natural.
5	26.00	1.80	0.37	0-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ clay and gravel natural.
6	25.50	1.80	0.41	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.41m+ clay and gravel natural.
7	26.70	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ clay and gravel natural.
8	27.10	1.80	0.36	0-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.36m+ clay and gravel natural.
9	26.60	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ clay natural.
10	26.50	1.80	0.31	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.31m+ clay natural.
11	24.00	1.80	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.70m+ clay natural.
12	24.70	1.80	0.50	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.50m+ clay natural. [PI. 2]
13	27.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ clay natural.
14	26.00	1.80	0.27	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.27m+ clay natural.
15	28.50	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ gravel; natural.
16	25.50	1.80	0.35	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ gravel natural.
17	26.50	1.80	0.35	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ clay and gravel natural.
18	25.70	1.80	0.55	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m-0.55m+ clay and gravel natural. [PI. 3]
19	25.60	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ clay and gravel natural.
20	25.50	1.80	0.45	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.45m+ gravel natural.
21	25.00	1.80	0.35	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m-0.35m+ gravel natural. [PI. 4]
22	25.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ clay natural.
23	26.00	1.80	0.35	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ clay natural.
24	25.50	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ clay natural.
25	24.80	1.80	0.52	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.52m+ clay natural.
26	25.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ clay natural.
27	25.00	1.80	0.29	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.29m+ clay natural. [PI. 5]
28	25.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ clay natural.
29	25.00	1.80	0.30	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ clay natural.
30	25.50	1.80	0.32	0-0.10m subsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.32m+ clay natural.
31	25.60	1.80	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ clay natural. [PI. 6]
32	25.20	1.80	0.37	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m-0.37m+ clay natural.
33	24.80	1.80	0.37	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m-0.37m+ clay natural.
34	25.30	1.80	0.29	0-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.29m+ clay natural.
35	25.80	1.80	0.30	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ clay natural.
36	25.70	1.80	0.24	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.21m subsoil; 0.21m-0.24m+ clay natural. [PI. 7]
37	25.80	1.80	0.32	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.32m+ clay natural.
38	25.00	1.80	0.41	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.41m+ clay natural.
39	25.70	1.80	0.39	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.39m+ clay and gravel natural.
40	27.00	1.80	0.34	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m-0.34m+ clay natural.
41	25.50	1.80	0.41	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.41m+ clay natural.
42	25.80	1.80	0.39	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m-0.39m+ clay natural.
43	26.40	1.80	0.35	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.35m+ clay natural.
44	25.40	1.80	0.43	0-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.43m+ clay natural. [PI. 8]
45	26.20	1.80	0.38	0-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.38m+ clay natural.



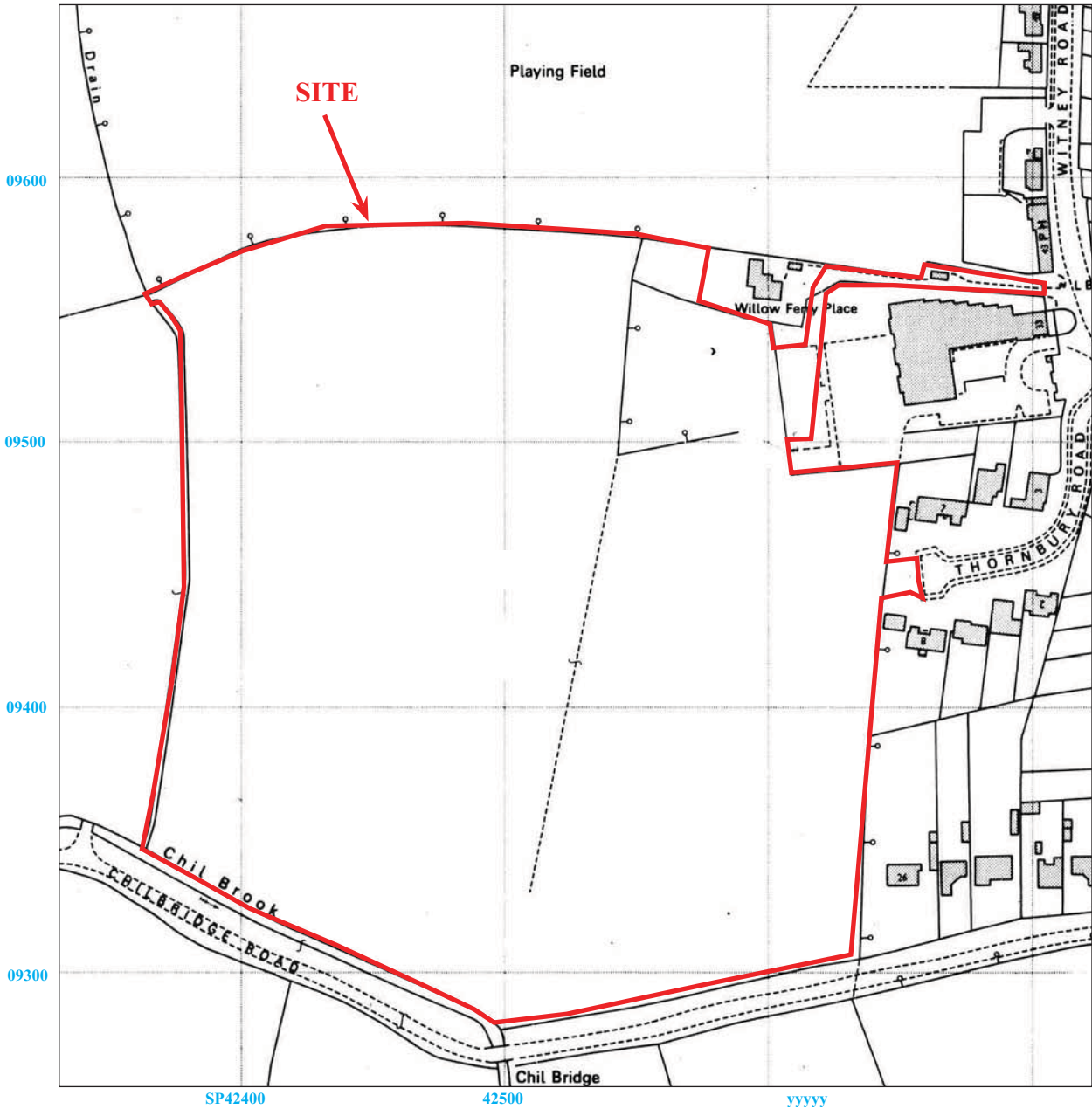
**Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham,
Oxfordshire, 2018**

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Figure 1. Location of site within Eynsham and Oxfordshire.

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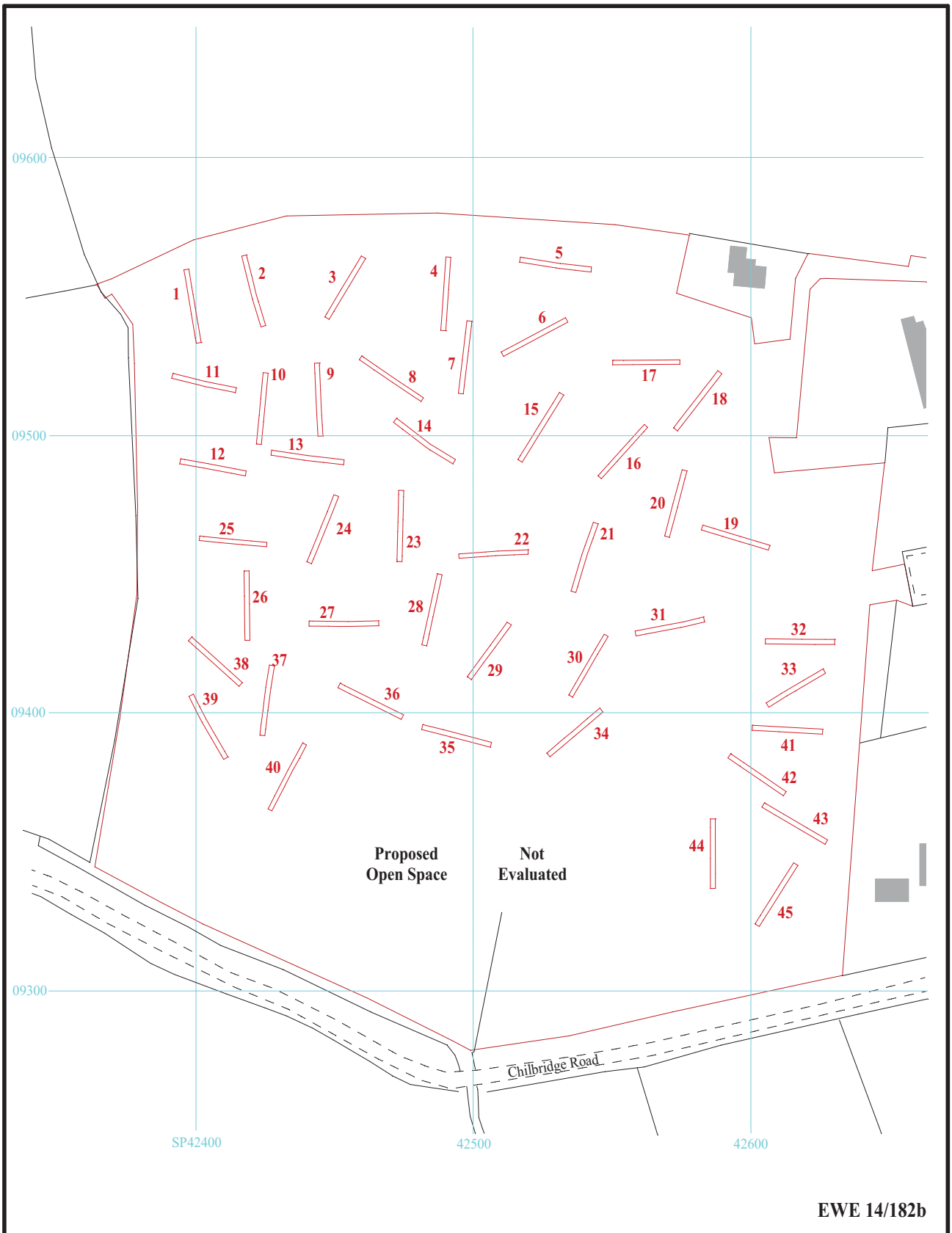
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chilbridge Road.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1

NNW

SSE

64.24maOD

Pale reddish yellow silt (Topsoil)

Reddish brown silty clay (subsoil)

Light brown yellow silty clay (Natural geology)

Trench 12

WNW

ESE

65.38m

Topsoil

Subsoil

Natural clay geology

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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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



Plate 2. Trench 12, looking east south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 18, looking south west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 21, looking south west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 27, looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 31, looking east south east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m

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**Land west of Thornbury Road, Eynsham,
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Plates 5 and 6.**

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Plate 7. Trench 36, looking north west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 8. Trench 44, looking south,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m

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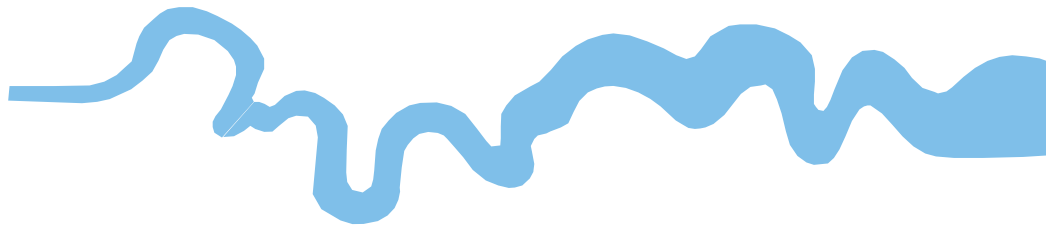
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Plates 7 and 8.**

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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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