

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Wilberforce Close and The Valley,
Winchester, Hampshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre Manisse and Steve Ford

Site Code: WCW18/112 (AY676)

(SU 4678 2858 and SU 4645 2850)

Land at Wilberforce Close and The Valley, Winchester, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Drew Smith Limited**

by Pierre Manisse and Steve Ford
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WCW 18/112

December 2018

Summary

Site name: Land at Wilberforce Close and The Valley, Winchester, Hampshire

Grid reference: (SU 4678 2858 and SU 4645 2850)

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th-23rd November 2018

Project Co-ordination: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre Manisse

Site code: WCW18/112

Summary of results: The trenching was carried out as intended but with some adjustments to the planned trench configurations to accommodate various site constraints. The trenches typically revealed much colluvium in places. However, neither deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were revealed. In particular, no evidence of a nearby Iron Age site recorded in the 1920s was discovered. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course, with accession code WINCM: AY676.

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Report edited/checked by: Tim Dawson ✓ 30.11.18

Land at Wilberforce Close and The Valley, Winchester, Hampshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Pierre Manisse and Steve Ford

Report 18/112

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on two parcels of land at Wilberforce Close (SU 4678 2858) and The Valley, Winchester, Hampshire SU 4645 2850) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Abi Daines of Drew Smith Limited, The Sawmills, Durley, Southampton, SO23 2EJ.

Planning permission (17/00641/FUL) has been gained from Winchester City Council to construct new houses on these two parcels of land and the consent is subject to two conditions (8, 9) relating to archaeology.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by proposed re-development a field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre Manisse, Cosmo Bacon, Maisie Foster and Daena Guest between 19th and 23rd November 2018 and the site code is WCW18/112.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course, with accession code WINCM: AY676.

Location, topography and geology

The two sites are located in the south-western margins of the city of Winchester in Sleepers' Hill (Fig. 1). They comprise small parcels of land at either end of a zone of open space corresponding with the sides of an east-west orientated valley with Battery Hill to the south. They both lie to the north of The Valley (Figs 2 and 3). Both sites are on land that slopes down to the north east and lie approximately at 90m above Ordnance Datum (Wilberforce Close) and 65m aOD (The Valley) The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1993) which was observed in all the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note produced by the city archaeological officer. In summary The Valley site lies close to an Iron Age settlement discovered and partly investigated in the 1920s (Hawkes et al 1929, 176) (Appendix 1). The settlement was seemingly well preserved with presumed hut platforms having in-situ floors, an oven and an inhumation burial in a clay-lined grave buried with a tanged iron knife and sickle. The environs of the sites records a wealth of other sites and finds of Iron Age and Roman date, with an extensive Iron Age settlement and pit complex recorded at Cromwell Road to the east (Platt 2016).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeo-environmental deposits within the area of development. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits or finds representing Iron Age occupation or enclosure are present on the site and which relate to the other evidence of settlement found nearby: and
- to inform a strategy for mitigation if required

Eight trenches were to be dug, each 21m long and 1.6-2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The excavation was to be undertaken in spits, to enable the recovery of artefactual and ecofactual remains from individual layers, and spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably exposed the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief.

Results

The eight trenches were dug as intended to target footprints of proposed structures, though their lengths and locations varied from their initial planned locations due to unexpected site constraints (Fig. 3). They ranged in

length between 14.1m and 23.70m and in depth between 0.3 and 1.5m and all had a width of 1.80m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Wilberforce Close

Trench 1 (Figs 3 ; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned S - N and was 14.1m long and up to 1.3m deep at the North end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil, above 0.5m of brown silt with chalk pellets (colluvium) above chalk (natural geology). A live electric service was left on a plinth between 8.4 and 10.6m and a modern pit was recorded at 18m

Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned W - E and was 20.0m long and up to 1.3m deep at the East end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil, above 0.6m of made ground above 0.1m of buried old topsoil above 0.45m of brown silt with chalk pellets (colluvium) above chalk (natural geology).

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 6; Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 23.1m long and up to 1.5m deep at the North-West end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil, above 0.6m of made ground above 0.2m of brown silt (subsoil) above 0.1m of made ground above 0.2m of buried old topsoil above 0.3m of brown silt with chalk pellets (colluvium) above chalk (natural geology).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 21.1m long and 0.9m deep at the North-West end. The stratigraphy towards the NW end consisted of 0.1m topsoil, above 0.6m of made ground above 0.2m of brown silt with chalk pellets (colluvium) above chalk (natural geology).

Trench 5 (Fig.3; Pl. 5)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 15m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.02m of brown silt with chalk pellets (subsoil/colluvium) above chalk natural geology.

The Valley

Trench 6 (Fig. 4; Pl. 6)

Trench 6 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.5m long and up to 1.5m deep at the North-Eastern end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of turf/topsoil above two layers of colluvium; an upper brown silt with chalk

pellets which was 0.35m thick and a lower light brown silt with chalk pellets which was up to 0.85m thick towards the eastern end above chalk natural geology.

Trench 7 (Fig. 4; Pl. 7)

Trench 7 was aligned S - N and was 15.10m long and up to 1.5m deep at the Northern end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of turf/topsoil above two layers of colluvium; an upper brown silt with chalk pellets which was 0.2m thick and a lower light brown silt with chalk pellets which was up to 1.2m thick towards the eastern end above chalk natural geology.

Trench 8 (Figs 4. and 6; Pl. 8)

Trench 8 was aligned SE - NW and was 22m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of turf/topsoil above 0.05m of brown silt with chalk pellets (subsoil/colluvium) above chalk natural geology

Conclusion

The trenching revealed neither deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest, and in particular no evidence of a nearby Iron Age site recorded in the 1920s. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

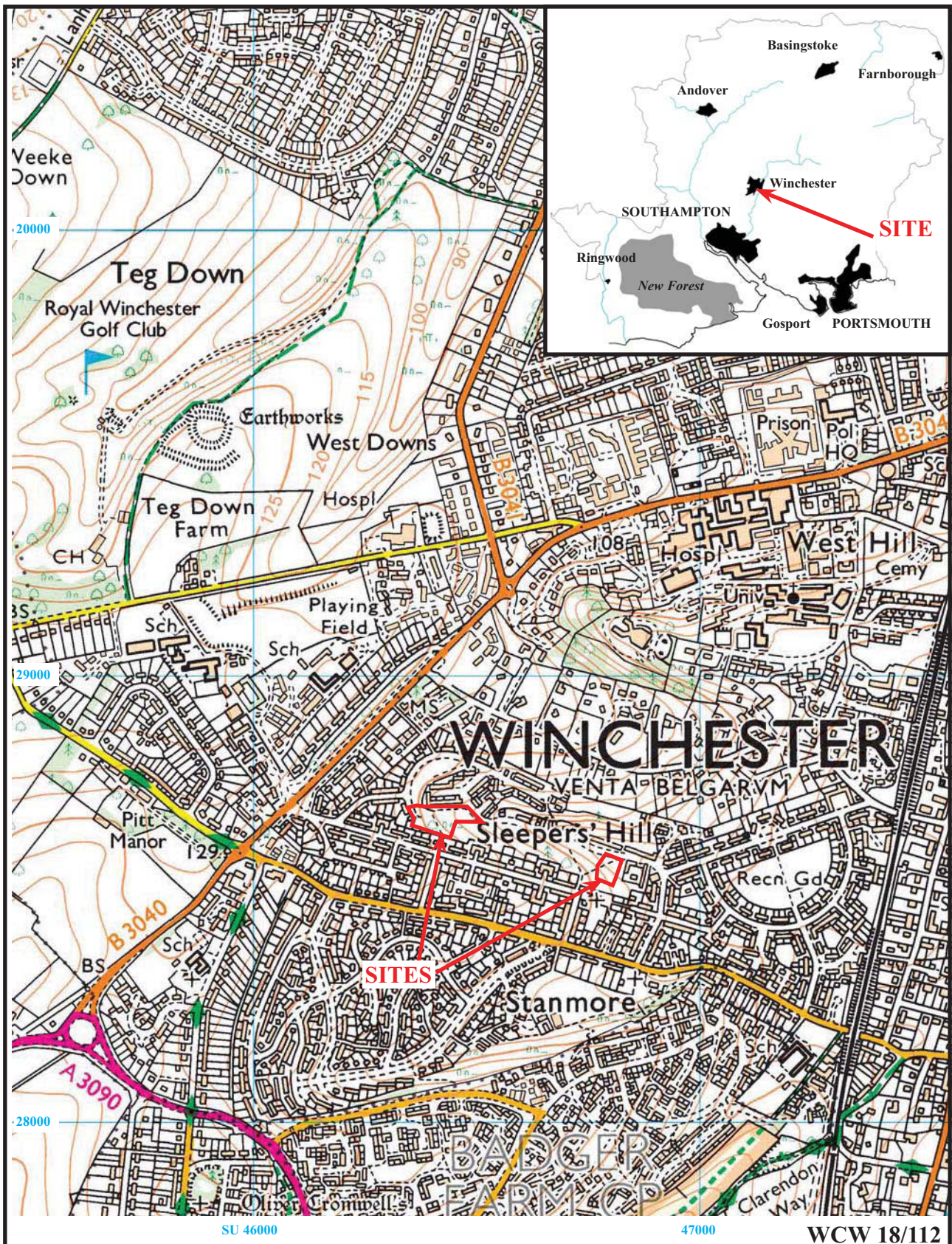
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NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Hawkes, C F C, Myres, J N L and Stevens, C G, 1929, St Catharine's Hill and the origins of Winchester part 1, *Proceedings of Hampshire Field Club*, **11**, 169-188
Platt, D, 2016, 'Iron Age occupation at Cromwell Road, Winchester', in S Hammond, D Platt, and S Preston, *Two Iron Age Occupation sites on Andover Road and Cromwell Road, Winchester*, TVAS Mono **26**, Reading, 89-121

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>
Wilberforce Close				
1	14.1	1.8	0.4- 1.3	0–0.6m topsoil, 0.6-1.25m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 1.25m+ chalk (natural geology) Modern pit at 17m and service s at 10m [PI. 1]
2	20	1.8	1.3	0-0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.75m made ground; 0.75-0.85m buried old topsoil; 0.85-1.3m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 1.3m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 2]
3	23.1	1.8	1.5	0-0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.7 made ground; 0.7-0.9m brown silt (subsoil); 0.9-1m made ground; 1-1.2m buried old topsoil; 1.2-1.5 brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 1.5m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 3]
4	21.1	1.8	0.3-0.9	10-21m: 0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.7m made ground; 0.7-0.9m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 0.9m+ chalk (natural geology) 1-10m : 0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.3 brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 0.3m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 4]
5	15	1.8	0.42	0–0.2m topsoil, 0.2-0.4m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 0.4m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 5]
The Valley				
6	20.5	1.8	0.4-1.5	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.45m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) ; 0.45- 1.30m light brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium); 1.3m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 6]
7	15.1	1.8	0.4-1.5	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.3m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 0.3-1.5m light brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium); 1.5m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 7]
8	22	1.8	0.3	0–0.1m topsoil, 0.1-0.15m brown silt with common chalk pellets (colluvium) 0.25m+ chalk (natural geology). [PI. 8]



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Figure 1. Location of sites within Winchester and Hampshire.

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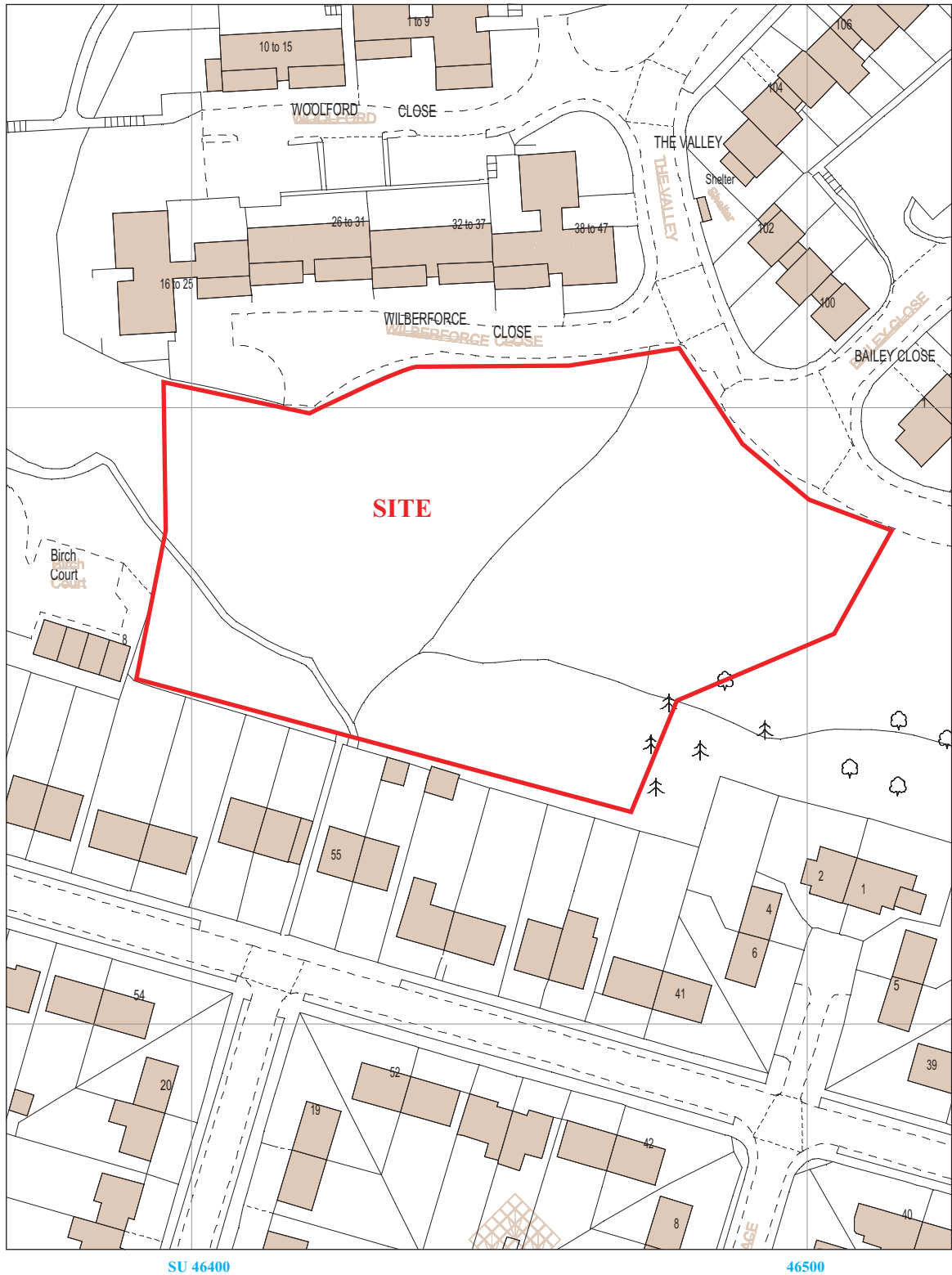
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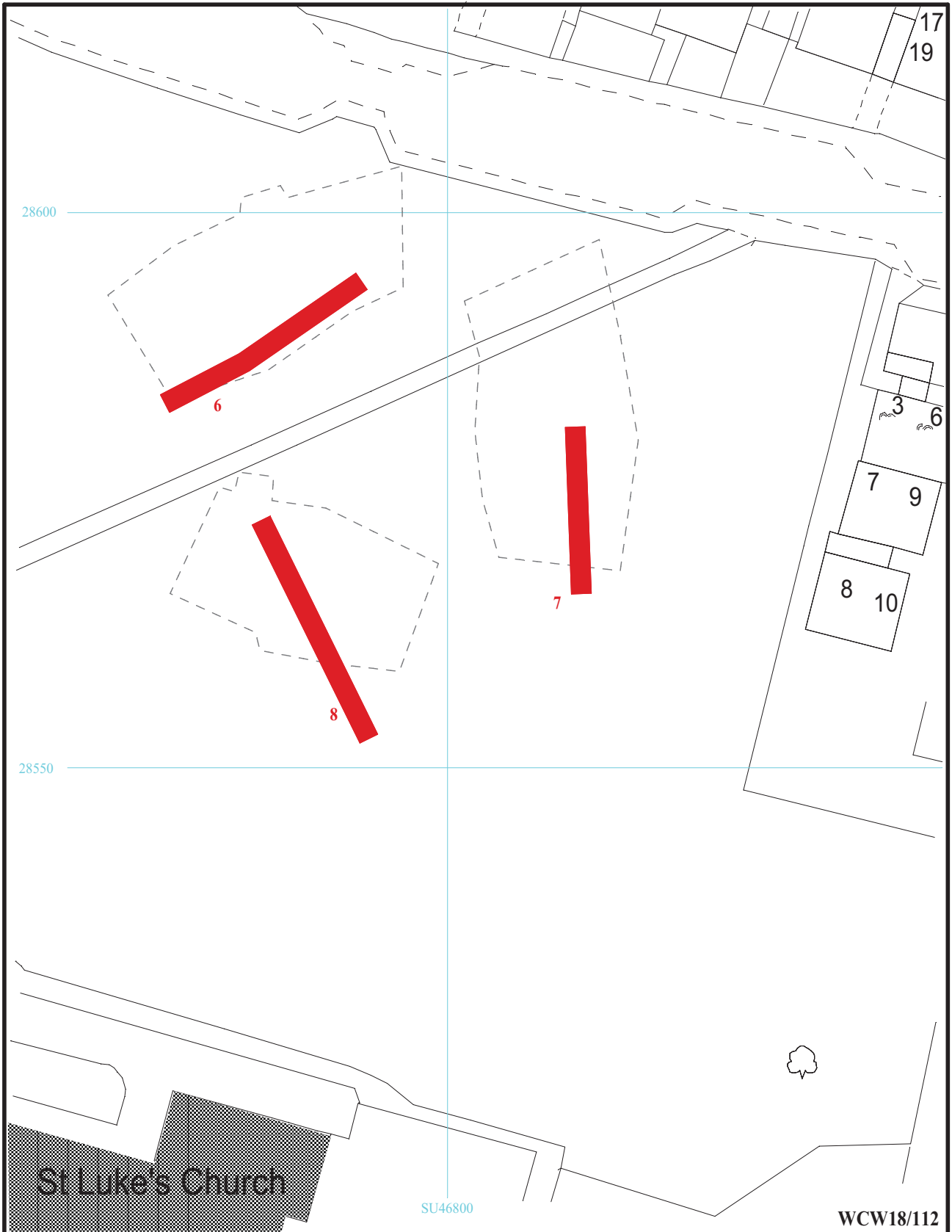
Figure 2. Detailed location of The Valley site.



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Figure 3. Detailed location of Wilberforce Close site.

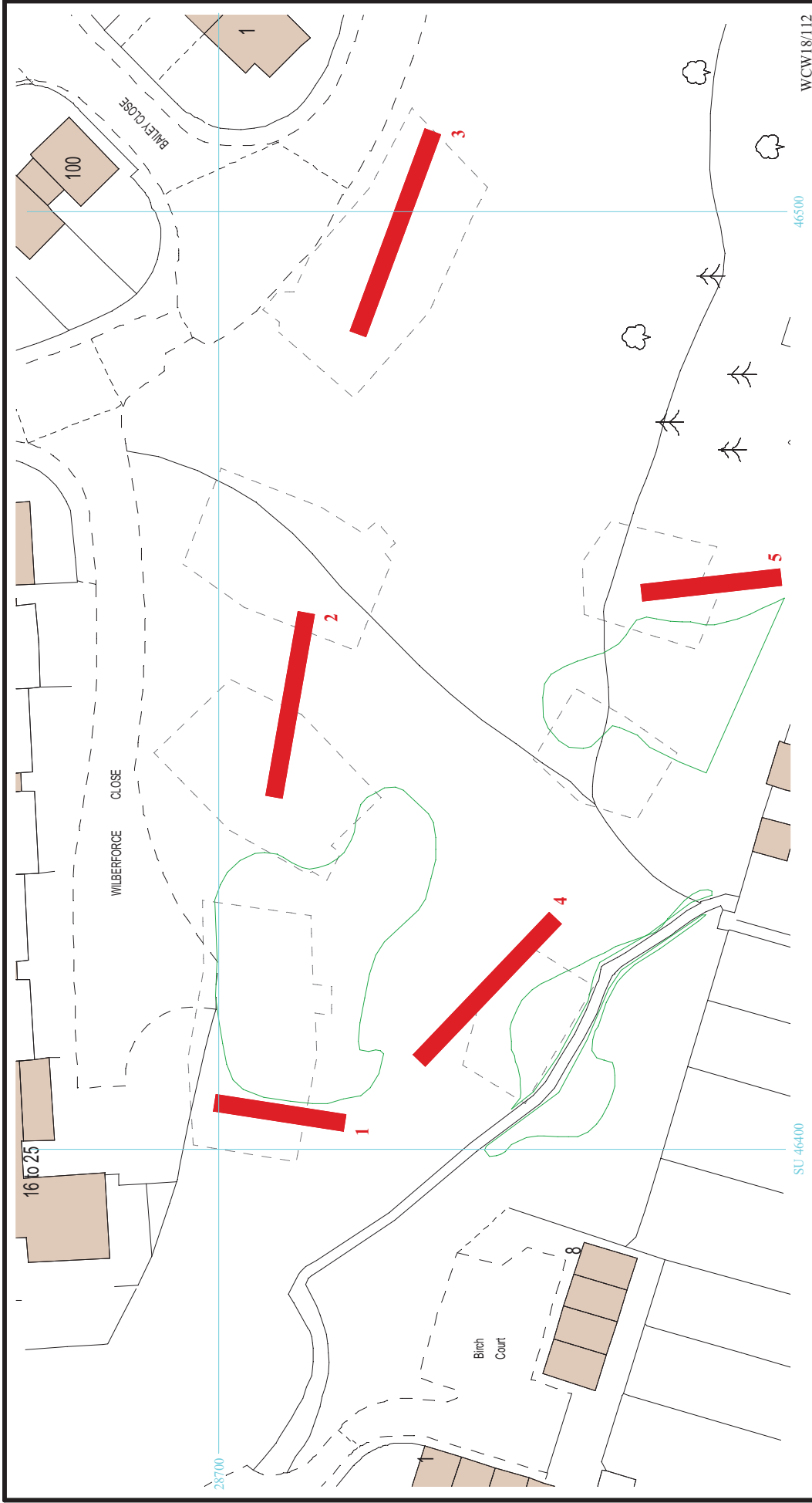


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Figure 4. Location of trenches: The Valley site.



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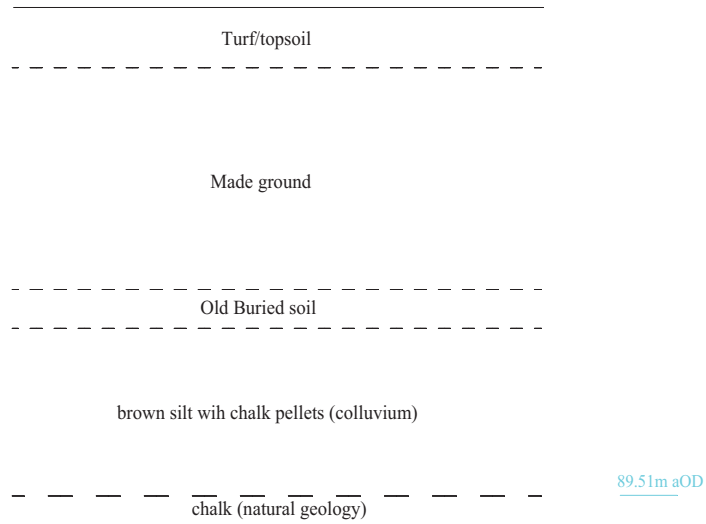


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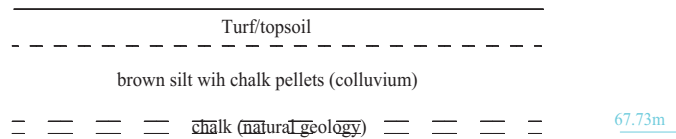
Figure 5. Location of trenches. Wilberforce Close.



Trench 2 (east end)



Trench 8 (NW end)



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Figure 6. Representative sections



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north east. Scales: 1m



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking south west, Scales: 1m



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north west. Scales: 1m

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Plates 1-4.

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Plate 5. Trench 5, looking north, Scales: 1m



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking north east. Scales: 1m



Plate 7. Trench 7, looking south, Scales: 1m



Plate 8. Trench 8 looking south east. Scales: 1m

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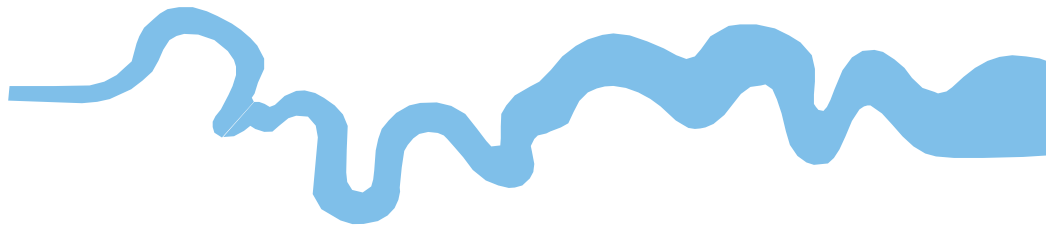
Plates 5-8.

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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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