THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Banner Field, High Street, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Site Code: BFW18/207

(SU 2157 8316)

Banner Field, High Street, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Sun Design and Consultancy

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BFW 18/207

February 2019

Summary

Site name: Banner Field, High Street, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2157 8316

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th-6th February 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Maisie Foster

Site code: BFW 18/207

Area of site: 0.4 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation was carried out as intended and 7 trenches were successfully excavated, but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. 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 at Swindon Museum in due course.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 06.02.19
	Steve Preston✓ 06.02.19

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Banner Field, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Report 18/207

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Banner Field, High Street, Wanborough, Wiltshire (SU 2157 8316) (Fig. 1.) The work was commission by Mr Rob Spurr of Sun Design and Consultancy Ltd, Southview, 22 Ham Road, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN4 0DF.

Planning permission is to be sought from Swindon Borough Council to construct new housing and an attenuation pond on the site. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by ground works, a programme of archaeological work has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological implications of the proposal. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council, the archaeological adviser to the Borough.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster and Camila Caravalho, on 5th-6th February 2019 and the site code is BFW 18/207. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Swindon Museum or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the east of Wanborough at the junction between Wanborough Road and High Street on the edge of the North Wessex Downs (Fig. 2). The site boundary lies within a larger, irregular parcel of land which slopes from 146m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the south-east down to 136m aOD in the north-west. The underlying geology is Upper Greensand formation, calcareous sandstone and siltstone (BGS Geoindex; BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The site lies on the eastern edge of the historic (Saxon/medieval) core of Wanborough village which is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). Although it lies well to the north of the

proposal site, there is the Roman town of *Durocornovium* which is linked to *Calleva Atrebartum* (Silchester) by the Roman road, Ermine Street, known locally as High Street, Wanborough. Due to its location on the road, there is a possibility of further Roman roadside settlement or other occupational and agricultural deposits or features being present. However, a geophysical survey carried out in January 2019 showed no magnetic anomalies indicative of possible features over the course of the survey (Beaverstock 2019).

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;

to determine if any deposits of Roman or Medieval date are present;

to determine if any geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin;

to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and

to report on the findings of the evaluation.

Seven trenches, 15m long and 1.6m were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any feature that might warrant preservation *in situ* or be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and scanned with a metal detector.

Results

All seven trenches were excavated as intended (Figs 3 and 4). The trenches ranged from 19.8m to 13.4m in length and 0.36m to 1.25m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4. Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned NW - SE and was 19.8m long and 1.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.75m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned NW - SE and was 17.4m long and 1.04m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.62m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench3 was aligned W - E and was 15.6m long and 1.15m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.66m subsoil overlying natural geology. A test pit was excavated at the western end of the trench to ascertain that the natural geology had been reached. The test pit went to a depth of 1.4m. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned N - S and was 16.6m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.38m of topsoil and 0.1m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 5 (Figs 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned NW - SE and was 13.4m long and 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.13m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 6 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 16m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.08m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 7 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 16.5m long and 0.36m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying natural geology. No finds were recovered or features observed.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on site none were encountered during the evaluation. The subsoil deposits found in trenches 1, 2 and 3 are likely to be large colluvial deposits with the

trenches being positioned at the bottom of the hill. A change in the natural geology was also noted with the northern end of the site being a mid-dark grey clay and the southern end showing the expected greensand. Small flecks of ceramic building material and charcoal were noted in the colluvial deposits in trenches 1-3 but no other archaeological finds, deposits or structural remains were recorded during the evaluation and the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

Beaverstock, 2019, *Banner Field, Wanborough, Swindon, Wiltshire.* Geophysical Survey (Magnetic) Report

BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 252, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework, revised*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation,* London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	19.8	1.8	1.25	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-1.0m light yellowish grey silty clay with brick/tile and charcoal flecks and rare flint inclusions; 1.0m+ mid-dark grey clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology). **[Pls 1 and 3]**
2	17.3	1.8	1.04	0–0.2m topsoil; 0.2-0.82m light yellowish grey silty clay with brick/tile and charcoal flecks and rare flint inclusions; 0.82m+ mid-dark grey clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology).
3	15.6	1.8	1.15	0–0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.96m light yellowish grey silty clay with brick/tile and charcoal flecks and rare flint inclusions; 0.96m+ mid-light grey clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology).
4	16.6	1.8	0.48	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ Light greenish grey silty clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology). **[Pl. 4]**
5	13.4	1.8	0.4	0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ Light greenish grey silty clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology) **[Pl. 2]**
6	16	1.8	0.48	0–0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.33m light yellowish grey silty clay with brick/tile and charcoal flecks and greensand inclusions; 0.33m+light greyish white clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology) **[Pl. 5]**
7	16.5	1.8	0.36	0–0.27m topsoil;; 0.27m+light greyish white clay with frequent greensand inclusions (natural geology) **[Pl. 6]**

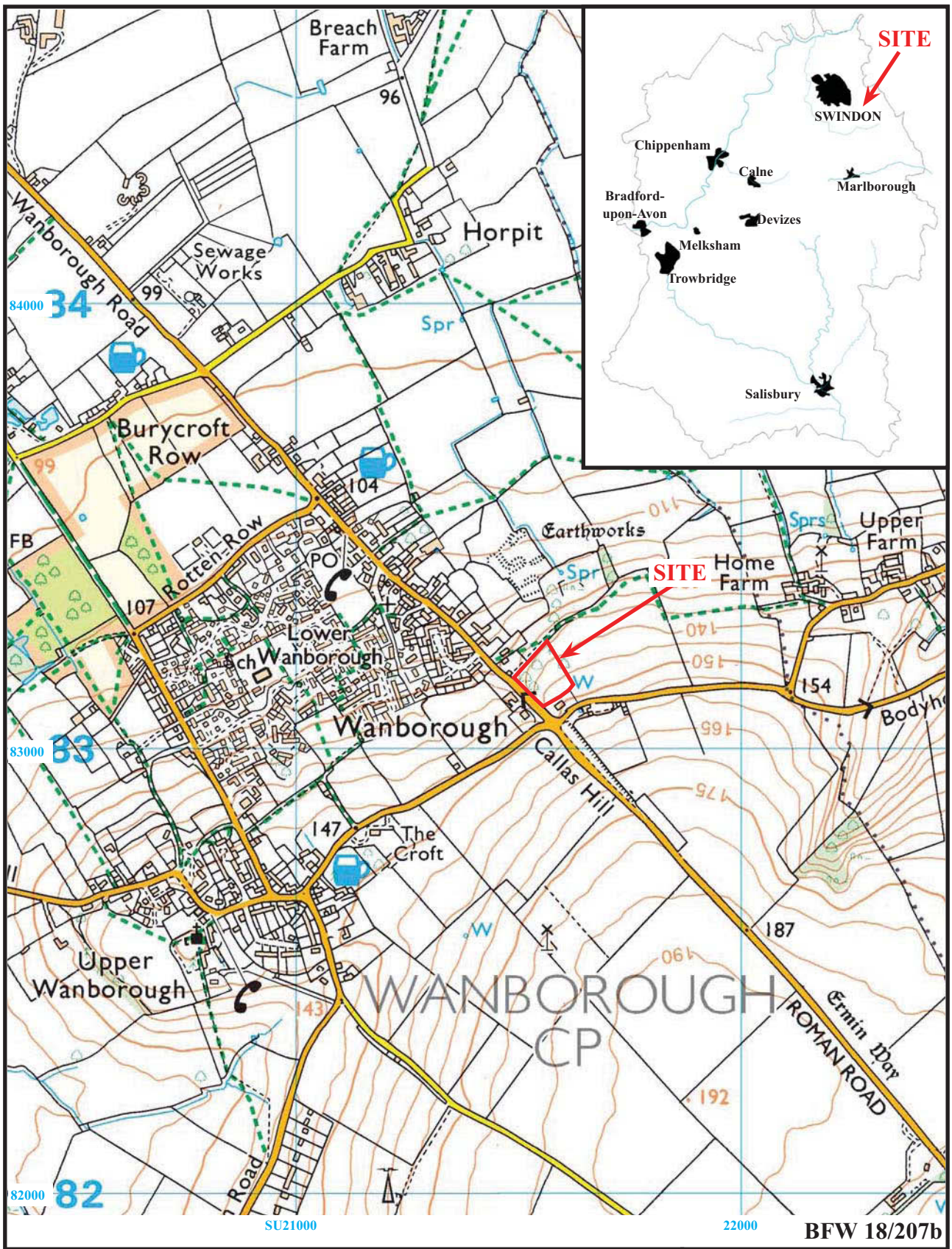

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Figure 1. Location of site within Wanborough and Wiltshire.

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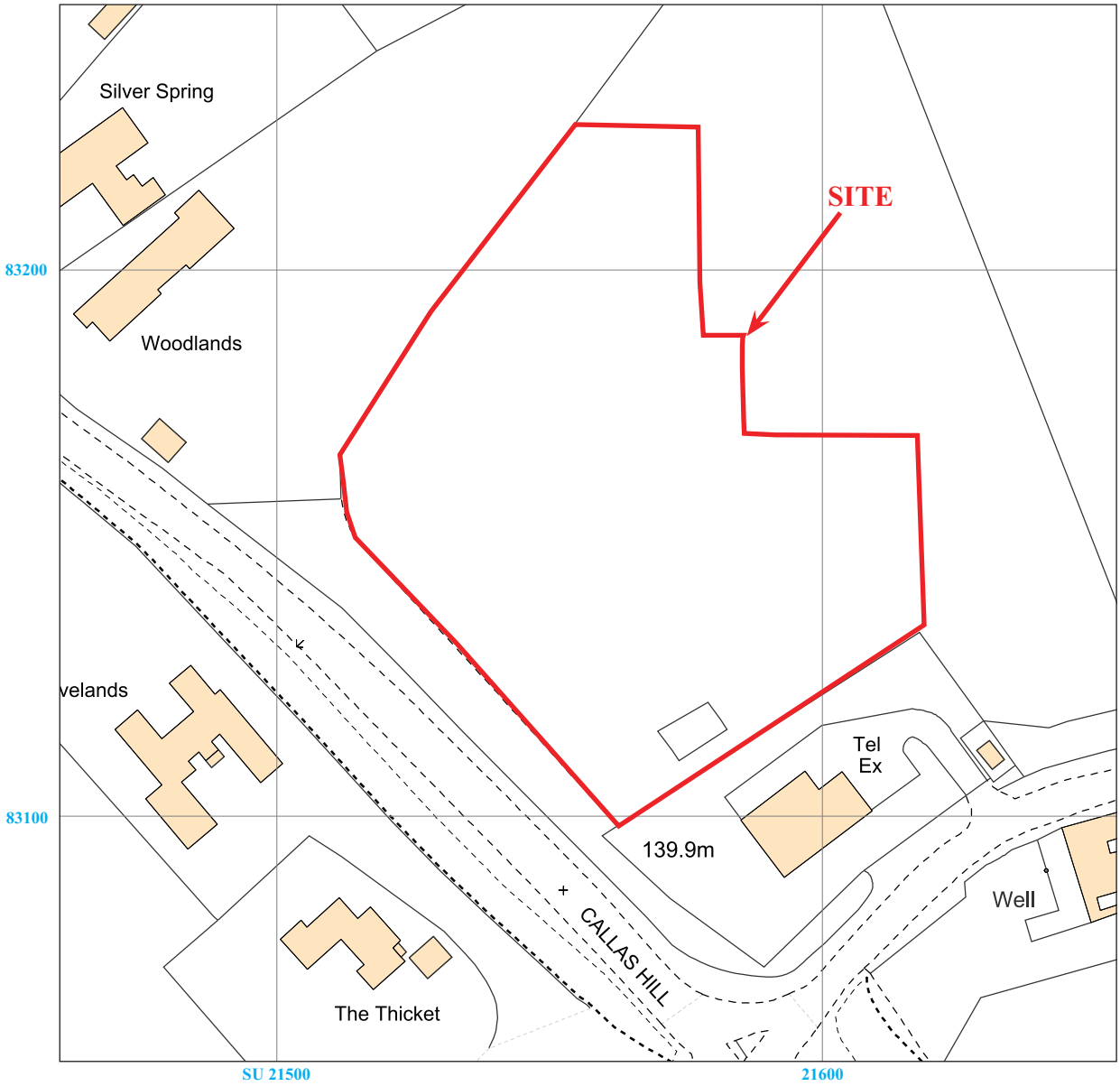

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Callas Hill.

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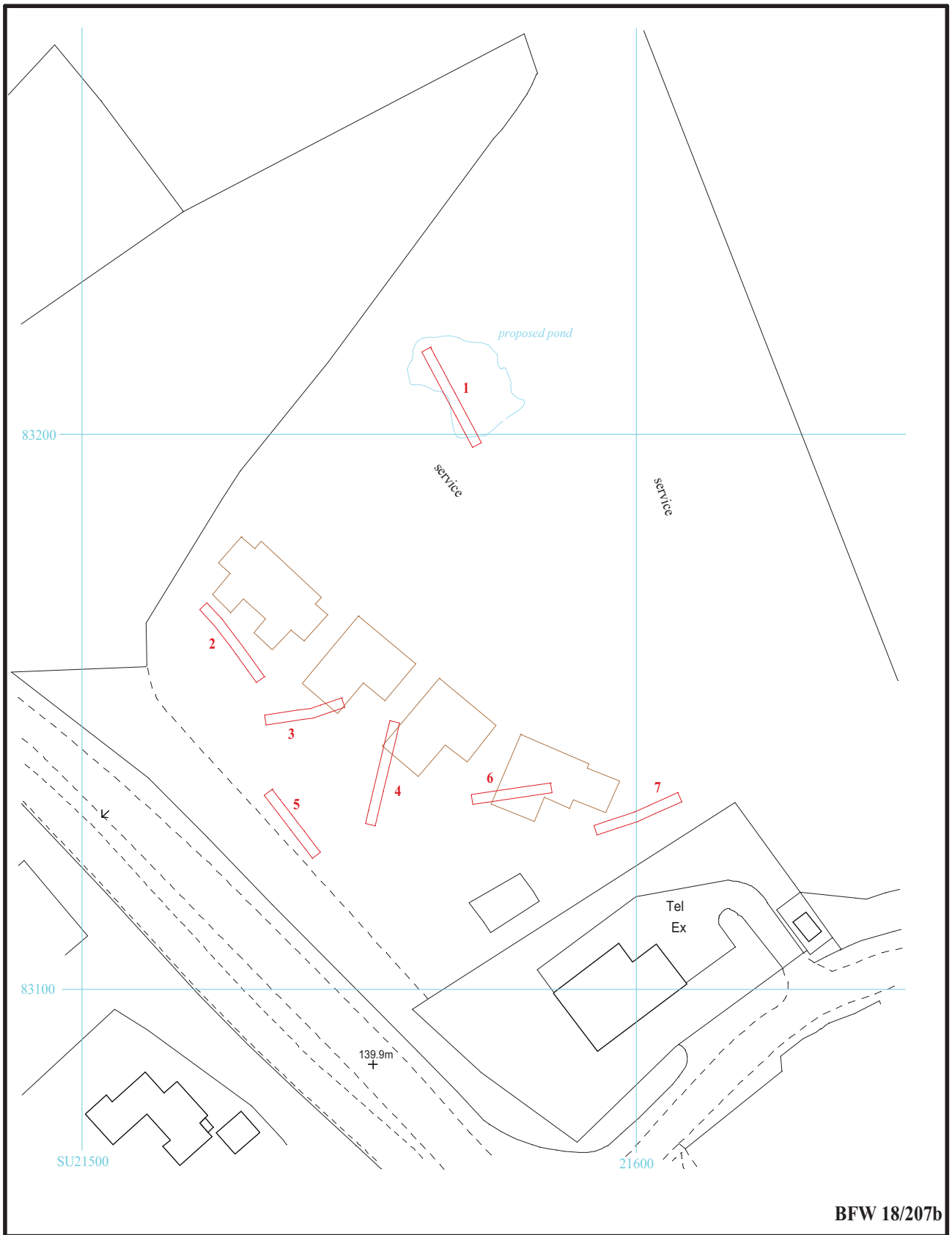

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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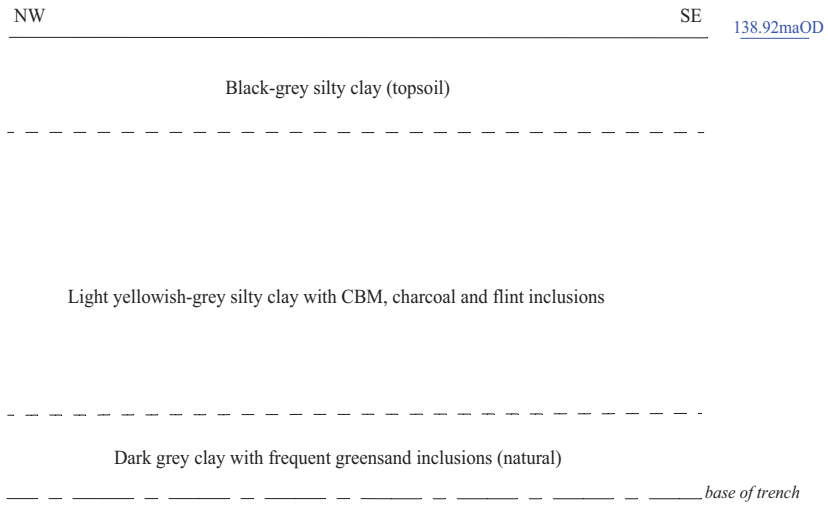
Trench 1



Trench 5

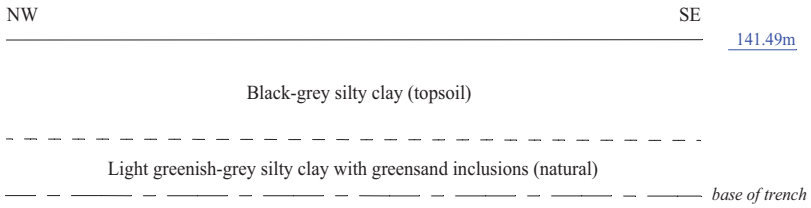


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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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

Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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

Plate 4. Trench 4 section, looking west Scales: 1m and 0.1m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

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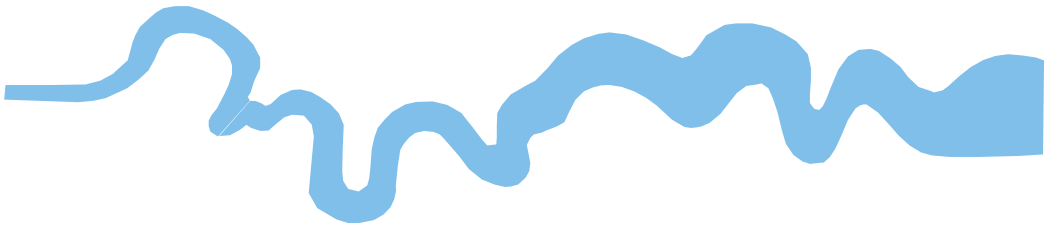
Plate 5. Trench 6, looking north east, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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

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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