

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Former Jubilee Hall, Park View Drive North,  
Charvil, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Jamie Williams**

**Site Code: PDN 20/10**

**(SU 7732 7628)**

**Former Jubilee Hall off Park View Drive North,  
Charvil, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Ecus Ltd**

by Jamie Williams

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PDN20/10

**February 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** Former Jubilee Hall off Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7732 7628

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 12th February 2020

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Jamie Williams

**Site code:** PDN 20/10

**Area of site:** c.1200 sq m

**Summary of results:** Five trenches were excavated as intended, all to reveal the natural geology. No features nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have negligible archaeological potential.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

|                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 17.02.20    |
|                           | Steve Preston ✓ 17.02.20 |

# Former Jubilee Hall off Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Report 20/10

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Former Jubilee Hall off Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire (SU 7732 7628) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul White of Ecus Ltd, Unit 1 Woodlands Business Village, Coronation Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

Planning permission (19/0111) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of new housing on the site currently occupied by a parish hall on Park View Drive North, Charvil. The consent is subject to a condition (7) which required a programme of archaeological work to be carried out. It was determined that this should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenching, based on the results of which, further mitigation might be required.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and Wokingham Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Williams and Beth Tucker on 12th February 2020 and the site code is PDN 20/10. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the village of Charvil, east of Reading on the A4 road to Maidenhead, between Sonning and Twyford in eastern Berkshire (Figs 1 and 2). The development area is centred on NGR SU 7732 7628. The topography of the site is flat laying at a height of approximately 39m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as Taplow Gravel (BGS 2000) and gravel was observed in all five trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley, with a wide range of sites recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (Ford 1987; Dils 2013). Most notably, areas to the north and north-west of Charvil is known for a number of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman sites, recorded both from the air and through excavation. These sites exposed archaeological features such as an oval barrow, a mortuary enclosure, *cursus* monument, round barrows and Roman enclosed settlement (Gates 1975; Slade 1964). Fieldwalking to the north of Charvil revealed dense clusters of struck flint indicative of prehistoric occupation (Ford 1997). To the south, at the site of East Park Farm, evaluation and excavation revealed finds and deposits with a range of dates, with Palaeolithic flintwork, Neolithic pottery, a Middle Bronze Age ditch and Late Bronze Age occupation, and a Roman gully all represented (Lovell and Mephram 2003). A further area of Late Bronze occupation was also revealed west of Park Lane, (Taylor 2018).

## **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. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to allow the preparation of a mitigation strategy if necessary.

Five trenches were to be dug, three 10m in length and two 5m in length, all to be 1.6m wide. All were to be excavated by JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped area was 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 of the brief, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

## **Results**

Five trenches in total were excavated, which varied in length between 5m to 10.4m (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The underlying geology exposed in all trenches was a mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusions.

### Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pl 1)

Trench 1 was aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and was 10.1m long, 1.6m wide and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil, above 0.27m of a mid yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil over sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned west - east and was 10.2m long by 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil, above 0.25m of dark yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil over sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench.

### Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Pls 3 and 6)

Trench 3 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 5.5m long by 0.74m deep. The make up of this trench consisted of 0.37m of hardcore for use as a road, above 0.35m of stiff silty sand over natural geology. This material had the appearance of a natural deposit, such as a brickearth overlying gravel, but was only observed in this trench. It was removed as a subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench.

### Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 4 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 5m long by 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil, above 0.31m of a mid yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil over sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench.

### Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

Trench 5 was aligned south-east to north-west and was 10.4m long by 0.74m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil, above 0.36 m of a mid yellowish-brown silty sand subsoil over sand and gravel natural geology. Three land drains were encountered throughout the trench and a small test pit reaching 1.1m was dug at the start of the trench. No archaeological finds or features were uncovered in this trench.

## **Finds**

No archaeological finds were recovered.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation was completed as specified, however despite the rich record of archaeological sites in close proximity, and the location of the site within the Thames Valley, no deposits or finds of any archaeological significance were encountered. Undisturbed subsoil and natural geology was present in all trenches (except for previous works undertaken in the area of trench 3) suggesting that little landscaping from earlier development had occurred. This site is considered to have little or no archaeological potential.

## **References**

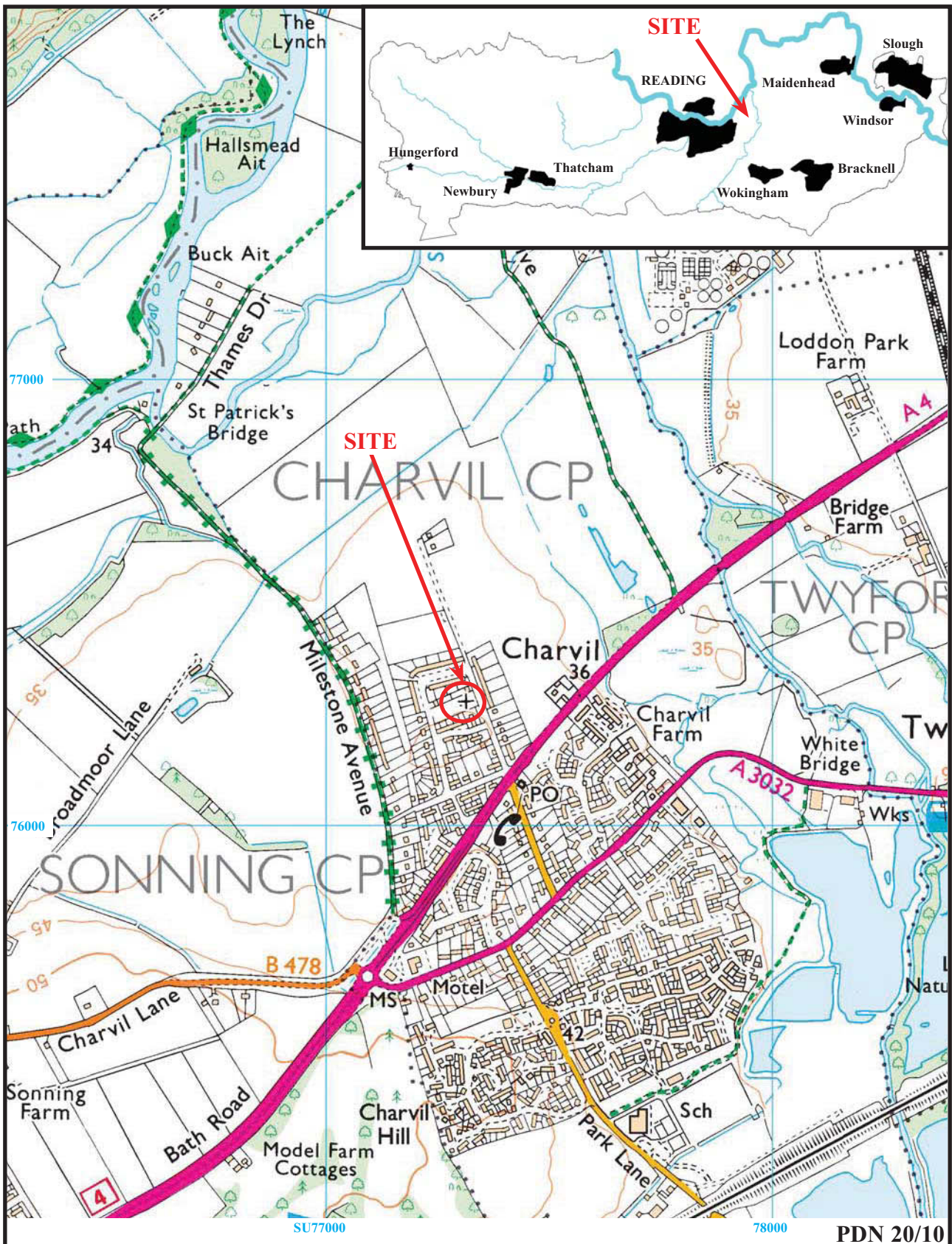
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

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              | 1.6                | 0.54             | 0–0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.54m dark yellow-brown silty sand subsoil; 0.53m+ Mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusion natural geology. <b>[PI. 1]</b>  |
| 2             | 10.2              | 1.6                | 0.56             | 0m–0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.5m dark yellow-brown silty sand subsoil; 0.5m+ Mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusion natural geology. <b>[PI. 2]</b>   |
| 3             | 5.5               | 1.6                | 0.74             | 0-0.04m metal mesh; 0.04m-0.13m dark brown-grey sand; 0.13m-0.37m gravel; 0.37m mesh; 0.37m-0.72m dark yellow-brown silty sand subsoil; 0.72m+ mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusion natural geology. <b>[PIs 3 and 6]</b> |
| 4             | 5                 | 1.6                | 0.62             | 0–0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.6m dark yellow-brown silty sand subsoil; 0.6m+ Mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusion natural geology. <b>[PI. 4]</b>  |
| 5             | 10.4              | 1.6                | 0.74             | 0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.64m dark yellow-brown silty sand subsoil; 0.64m+ Mid reddish-brown sand with gravel inclusion natural geology. <b>[PI. 5]</b>  |





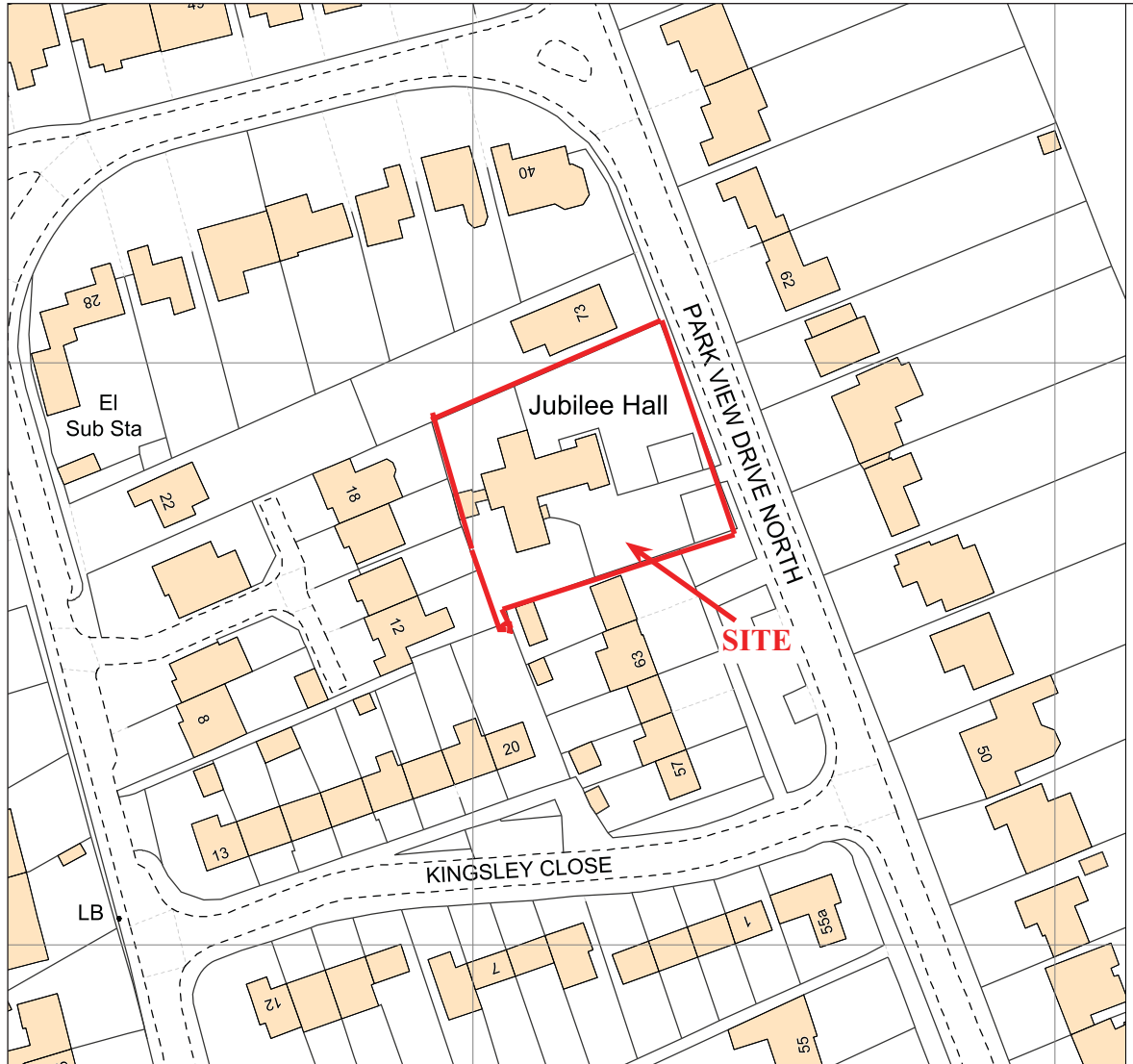
**Land off Park View Drive North,  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Charvil and Berkshire.

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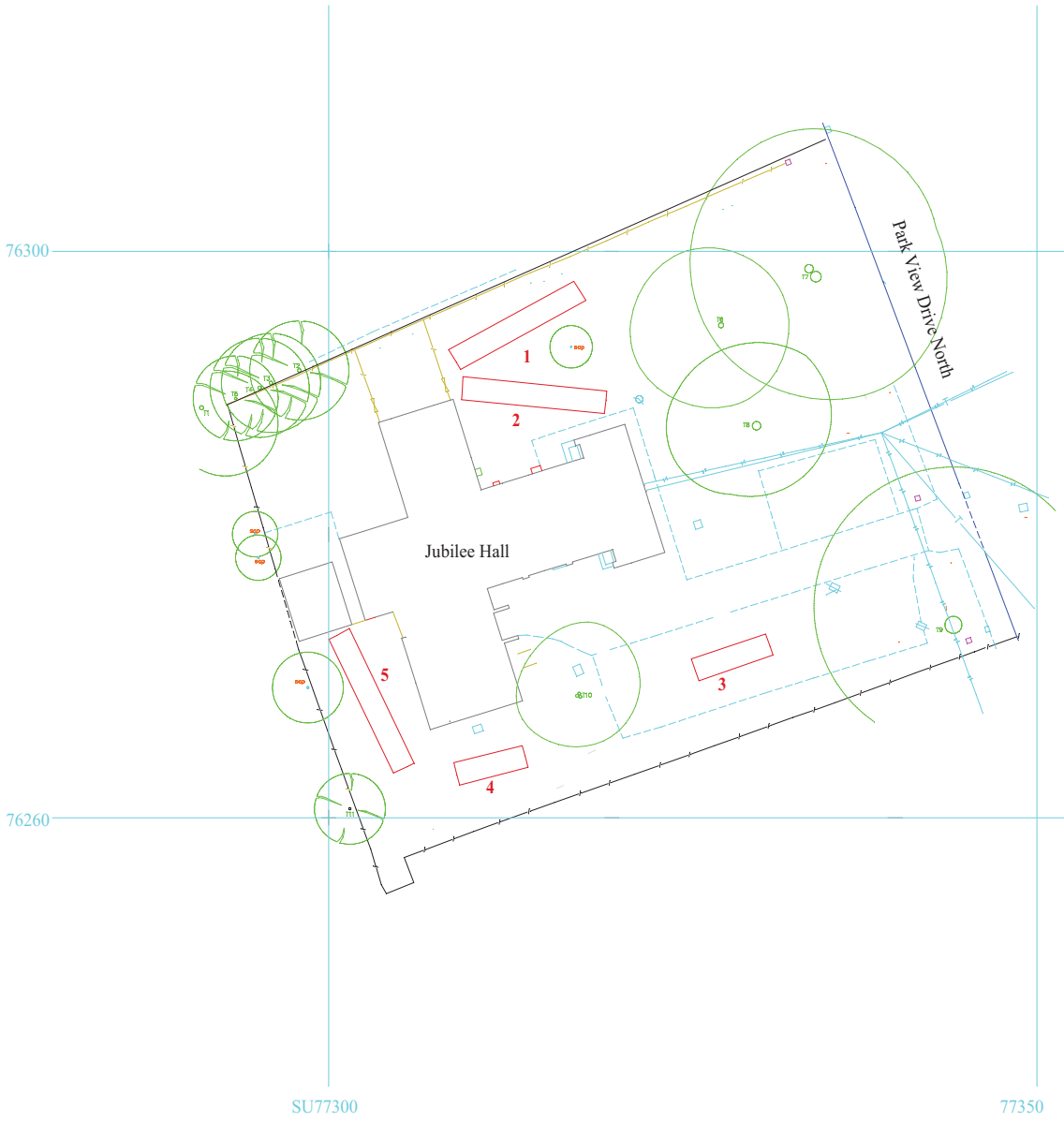
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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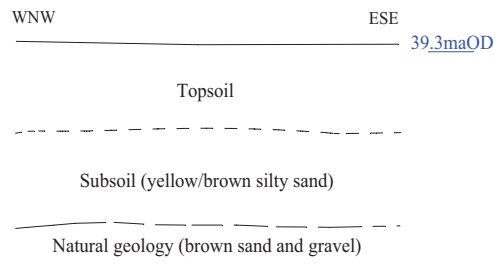
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Figure 2. Location of trenches within site.



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*Trench 2*



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Figure 3. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



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



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking North East,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 to 4**

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Plate 5. Trench 5, looking North West, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 3 stratigraphy, looking South, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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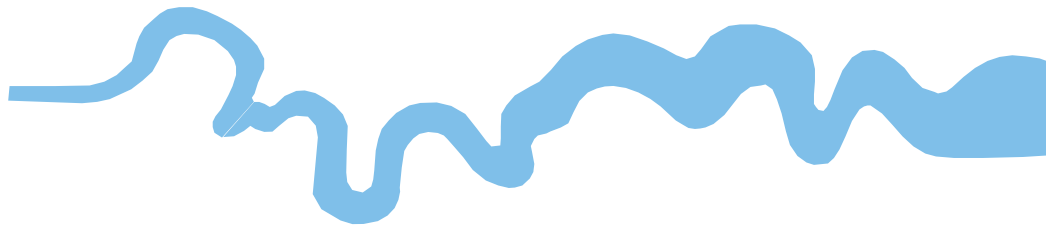
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Plates 5 and 6.**

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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<br>AD 0 BC |
| Iron Age _____             | 750 BC           |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Bronze Age: Late _____     | 1300 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Middle _____   | 1700 BC          |
| Bronze Age: Early _____    | 2100 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Neolithic: Late .....      | 3300 BC          |
| Neolithic: Early .....     | 4300 BC          |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Mesolithic: Late .....     | 6000 BC          |
| Mesolithic: Early .....    | 10000 BC         |
| <br>                       |                  |
| Palaeolithic: Upper .....  | 30000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Middle ..... | 70000 BC         |
| Palaeolithic: Lower .....  | 2,000,000 BC     |





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