

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row,
Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: OFR21/72

(SU 8716 7121)

**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green,
Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Millgate Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OFR 21/72

March 2021

Summary

Site name: Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8716 7121

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 22nd-24th March 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: OFR 21/72

Area of site: c.0.24 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed in the evaluation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material or Archaeology Data Service in due course.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 25.03.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 25.03.21

Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 21/72

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8716 7121) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Edward Smith, for Millgate Homes, Countryside Properties plc, Countryside House, The Drive, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 3AT.

Planning consent is to be sought from Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the erection of 10 new dwellings with associated car ports, garages, and landscaping. The consent is expected to be subject to a condition relating to archaeology. As a result, this report has been requested in order to allow an informed decision with regard to the proposal's archaeological implications. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, former Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough, and was monitored by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Aidan Colyer between 22nd and 24th March 2021 and the site code is OFR 21/72. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate local museum willing to accept archive material or the Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-eastern margins of Warfield, which itself lies c.3km north of Bracknell, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The site is situated at the western end of Old Farmhouse Row, off Abbey Place (Fig. 2). The site is open rough pasture, with areas of brick rubble piled along its western edge. It is bounded by residential properties to the west, south and east and an open field to the north, which is noticeably lower by about 1m. The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay (BGS 1981), which was observed in the trenches, and the site lies at a height of 58m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Mr. Roland Smith, formerly of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary the site lies less than 400m from the remains of a Middle Iron Age settlement excavated at Fairclough Farm in 1994 (Torrance and Durden 2003). Such sites are not commonplace on the clay-dominated landscape of east Berkshire but there may have been a focus of prehistoric settlement centred on the valley of The Cut, which lies 500m to the south of the site. In the wider landscape Roman occupation has been recorded at Cabbage Hill and other prehistoric finds and deposits have been found at Kennel Lane School and north of Manor Farm, including a small Bronze Age burnt mound (Ford 1989). Fieldwalking survey to the south and west has recovered Roman and medieval pottery (Ford 1987). Recent fieldwork to the south revealed a ditch of Roman date (Galleano 2017a and b; Esteves 2017) and to the west Roman and medieval farming activity in the form of paddocks was identified (Taylor 2015 and 2020).

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 representing prehistoric, Roman or medieval deposits are present, and if so their date and nature; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was proposed to dig four trenches each 20m long and 1.60m wide, targeting areas to be occupied by the new development. These were to be dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Sufficient of any identified archaeological deposits would be investigated to satisfy the aims outlined above, 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 trenches measured 1.60m wide and between 20m and 20.30m long and between 0.70m and 1.40m deep. Some slight repositioning of Trench 1 was necessary due to the presence of a live storm drain culvert. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned N-S and measured 20m long and 1.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.80m of redeposited clay containing modern brick rubble and plastic. This overlay 0.20m of buried subsoil overlying yellow brown sandy clay natural geology. A modern ditch containing concrete and rubble was observed between 8m and 10m, which was also observed in trench 2. Part of a modern concrete foundation was noted at 5m.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 20.30m long and 1.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.70m of redeposited clay. This overlay 0.40m of buried subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology. The same modern ditch observed in trench 1 was noted between 9m and 11m.

Trench 3 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 20m long and 0.70m deep at its SE end and 1.10m deep at its NW end. At the SE end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology. At the NW end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.60m of redeposited clay. This overlay 0.20m of buried subsoil overlying sandy clay natural.

Trench 4 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 20m long and 0.70m deep at its SE and 1m at its NW end. At the SE end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.45m of subsoil overlying sandy clay natural geology. From 7.30m to the NW end of the trench was a large area of modern truncation containing modern rubbish (metal, plastic, wires and brick rubble), the stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying made ground.

Finds

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

Conclusion

The evaluation was successfully carried out with the trenches dug as close as possible to their intended locations, with only trench 1 slightly repositioned due to a storm drain. Despite the site's potential for archaeology to be present no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed.

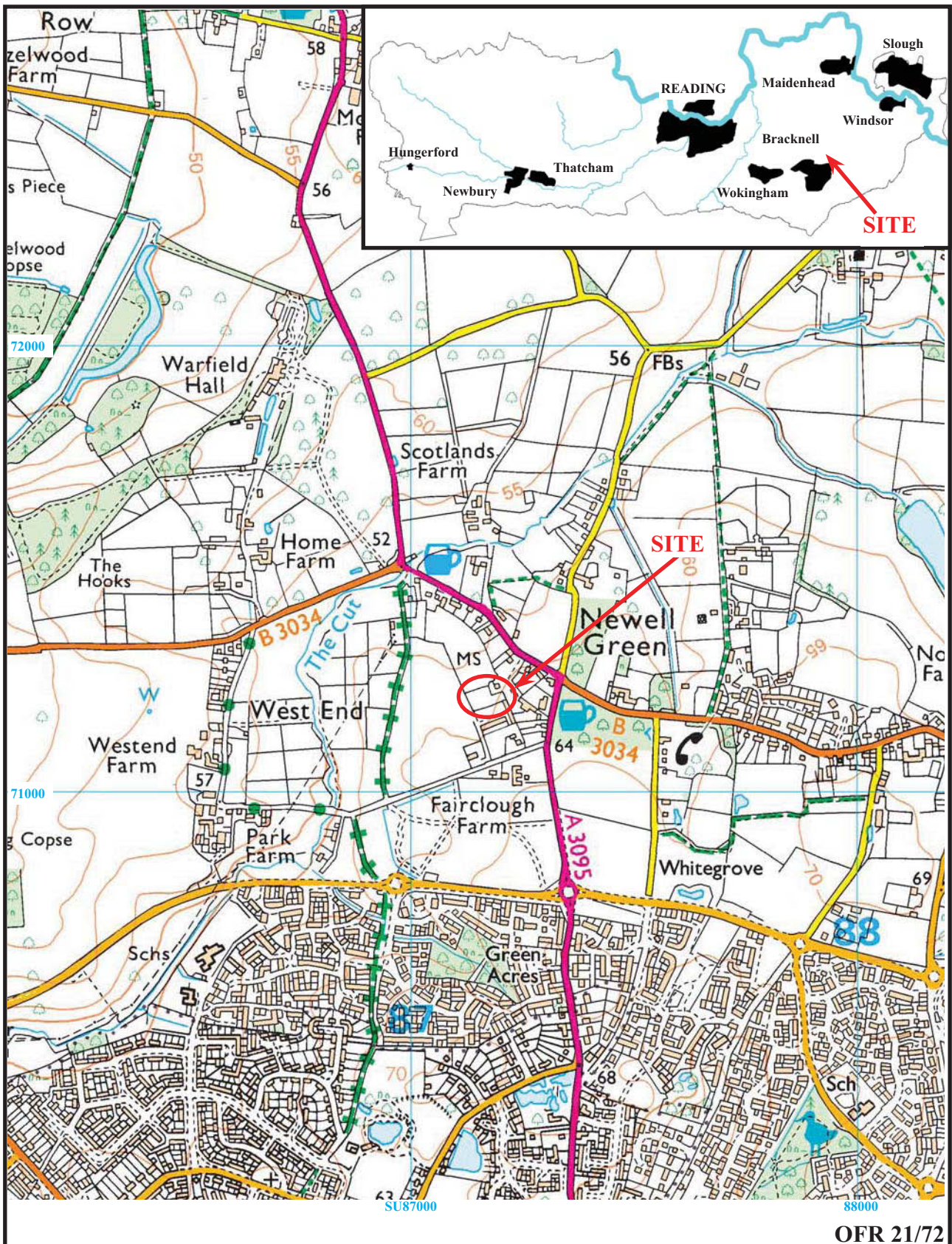
References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Esteves L, 2017c, Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire, An Archaeological Excavation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **17/105c**, Reading
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Ford, S, 1989, 'Park Farm Warfield, an archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **89/3**, Reading
- Galleano, C, 2017a, 'Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire, An Archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **17/105**, Reading
- Galleano, C, 2017b, 'Land at Watersplash Lane, Newell Green, Warfield, Berkshire, An Archaeological Evaluation part 2', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **17/105b**, Reading
- Mees, G, 1989, Cabbage Hill, Warfield, Berkshire Archaeol Soc Fld Res Grp newsl, 7.2. Reading
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Taylor, A, 2015, 'Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire (School Site)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **10/69d**, Reading
- Taylor A, 2020, 'Land at West End, Warfield, North Bracknell, Berkshire (West End Site)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **10/69k** Reading

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	20.00	1.60	1.30	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-1.10m redeposited clay; 1.10m-1.30m buried subsoil; 1.30m+ sandy clay natural geology. Pl. 1
2	20.30	1.60	1.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-1.00m redeposited clay; 1.00m-1.40m buried subsoil; 1.40m+ sandy clay natural geology. Pl. 2
3	20.00	1.60	SE 0.70 NW 1.10	SE: 0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m+ sandy clay natural geology. NW: 0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.90m redeposited clay; 0.90m-1.10m buried subsoil; 1.10m+ sandy clay natural geology. Pl. 3
4	20.00	1.60	SE 0.70 NW 1.00	SE: 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m+ sandy clay natural geology. NW: 0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-1.00m+ modern made ground. Pl. 4



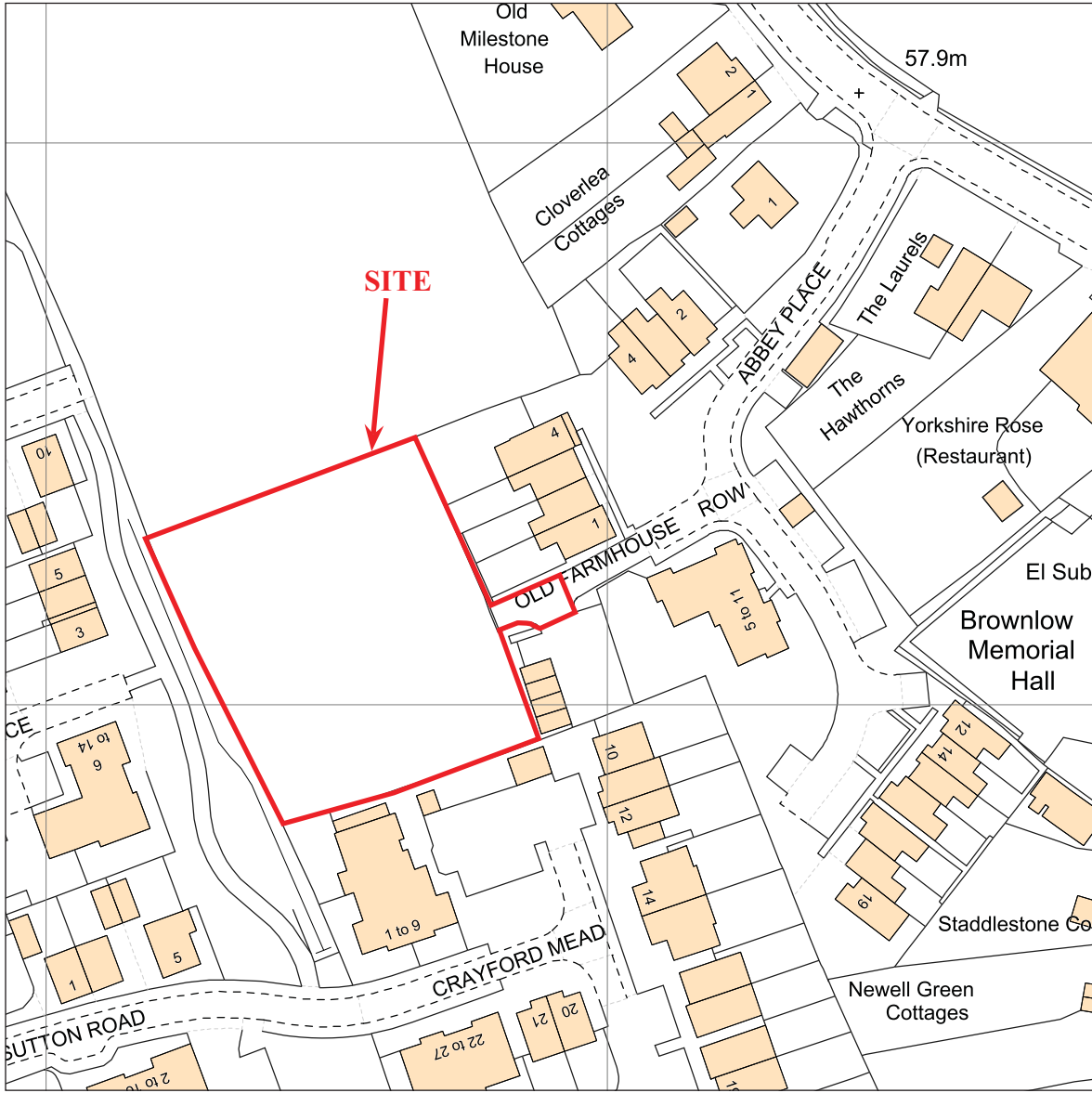
OFR 21/72

**Land to the rear of Old Farmhosue Row, Newells Green,
Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Newells Green and Berkshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved





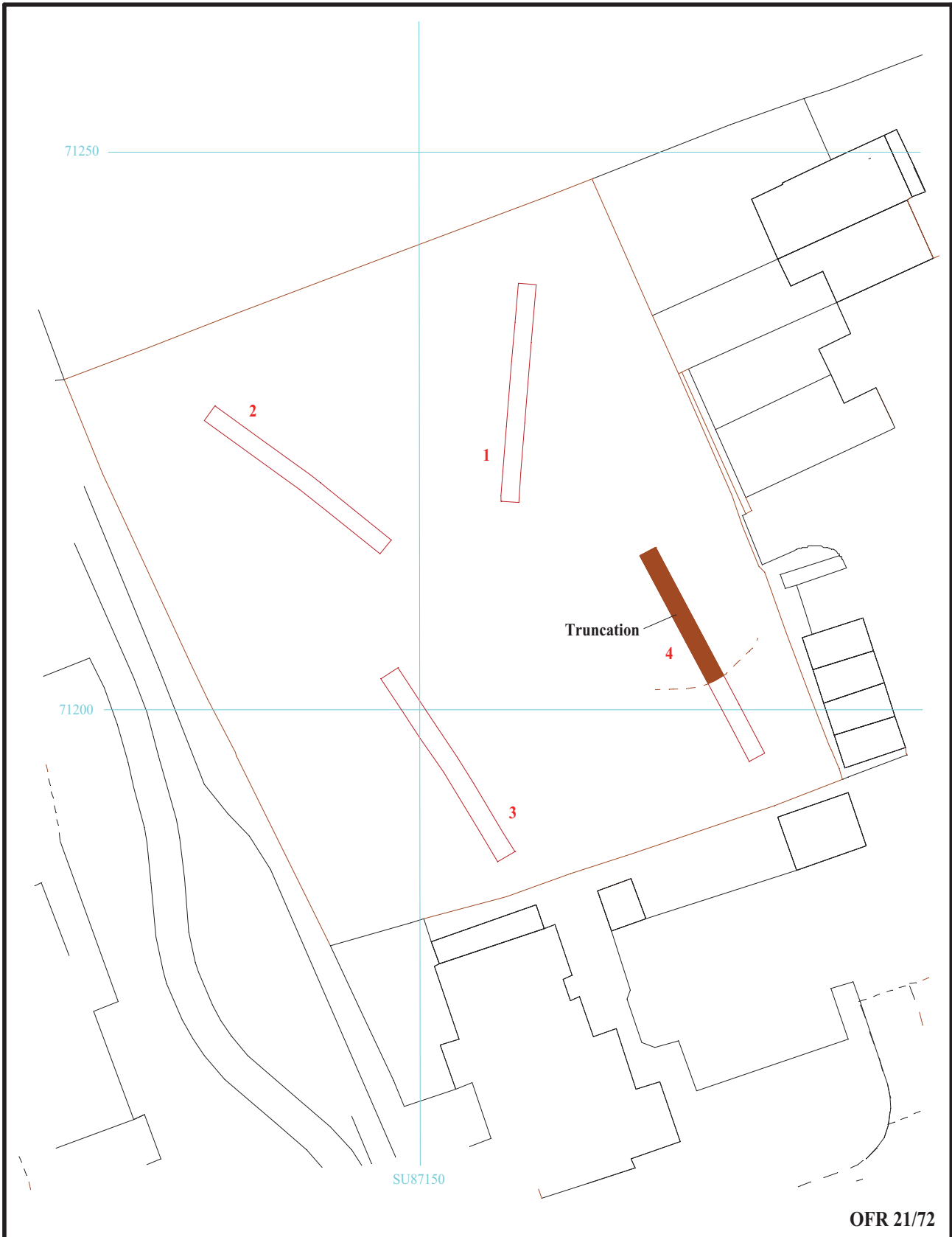
OFR 21/72



**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newells Green,
Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



OFR 21/72

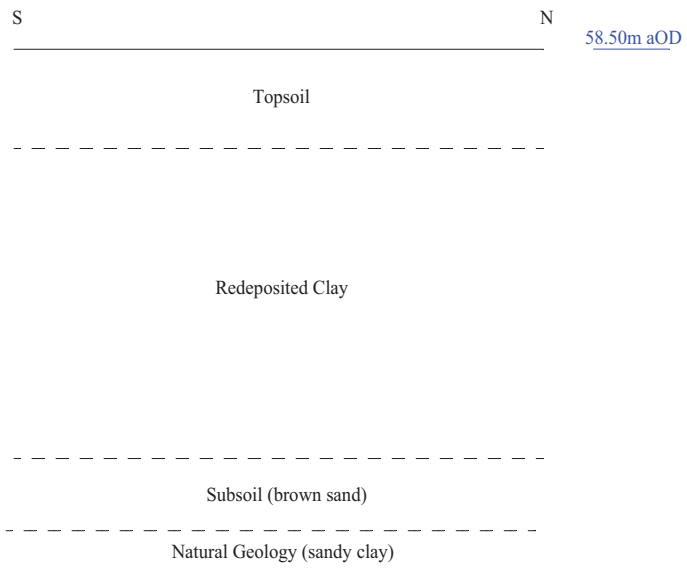
**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green,
Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

Trench 1



OFR 21/72

**Land to the rear of Old Framhouse Row, Newell Green,
Warfield, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative section.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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



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

OFR 21/72

**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green,
Warfield, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



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



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

OFR 21/72

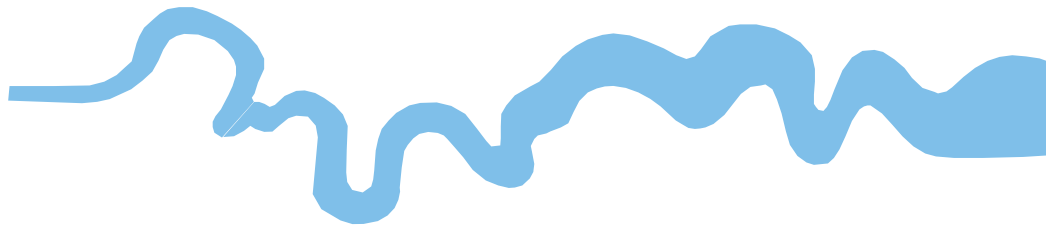
**Land to the rear of Old Farmhouse Row, Newell Green,
Warfield, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***