

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green,  
Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Maisie Foster**

**Site Code: WGL21/242**

**(SP 6613 1769)**

# **Land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr Richard Harris**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WGL 21/242

**December 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire

**Grid reference:** SP 6613 1769

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 2nd December 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Maisie Foster

**Site code:** WGL 21/242

**Area of site:** c. 0.3ha

**Summary of results:** The evaluation was carried out as intended and five trenches were successfully excavated. Linear features and a pit cluster were identified in two of the five trenches. Gully 1 and pit 3 each contained small quantity of late medieval pottery, although gully 1 also had post-medieval and modern finds. The site is considered to have some archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire Museum Service with the agreement from the landowner in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.12.21 Steve Preston✓ 17.12.21
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# Land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Maisie Foster

Report 21/242b

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Westhaven and Green View, The Green, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire (SP 66126 17691) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Harris of Green View, The Green, Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9NZ.

Planning permission (19/04081/APP) has been gained from Buckinghamshire Council to erect three new houses on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (15) relating to archaeology, requiring the implementation of an archaeological investigation, prior to groundworks at the site, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's *Local Plan* policies. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field evaluation has been requested. This was to take the form of a geophysical survey followed by trial trenching. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Philip Markham Senior Archaeology Officer for Buckinghamshire Council. The geophysical survey (Beaverstock 2021) detected anomalies which may be evidence of structural remains or potential magnetically-enhanced debris from later activity. This report documents the results of the trial trenching.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Maisie Foster and Sophie Peng, on 2nd December 2021 and the site code is WGL 21/242. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Service, including finds with the agreement of the landowner, in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

Ludgershall is located c. 10km south-east of Bicester, in western Buckinghamshire close to the county boundary with Oxfordshire. The site is located towards the north end of the village, just south of the junction between High Street, Salters Lane and Bicester Road. The site covers a sub-rectangular parcel of land, bounded by residential properties to the north, east and west and open green space to the south. There are ponds to both west and south. The site lies at a height of approximately 70m above Ordnance Datum and is the grassed back garden

to the Westhaven property. The underlying geology is Stewartby Member Mudstone, overlain by alluvium (BGS 1994), which was observed during the evaluation.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Ms Lucy Lawrence of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service drawing on data in the county Historic Environment Record. In summary, the site lies within the historic core of Ludgershall which has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). No heritage assets are recorded for the site itself but a number of components of the historic (medieval) village are recorded nearby. Ludgershall is also within the environs of the major Medieval and early post-medieval pottery industry referred to as Brill / Boarstall (McCarthy and Brooks 1998). In Ludgershall itself, earthworks which may include house platforms and hollow ways have been recorded. Parts of the medieval ridge and furrow agricultural landscape were recorded 600m to the south-east (JMHS 2006) and a watching brief 400m to the west revealed post-medieval deposits (JMHS 2011). Of particular interest for the current site is the discovery of a late medieval tile manufactory site 150m to the east (Blinkhorn and Saunders 2006).

## **Objectives and methodology**

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

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any deposits of Late Saxon or Medieval deposits are present

Five trenches were to be dug using a 360°-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 were 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 five trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 2) except for a slight change in Trench 5's positioning to avoid a fence. The trenches ranged from 5m to 12.20m in length and 0.65m to 0.82m in depth: all were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadth, depths and a description of sections and geology is given Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarised in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned south–north and was 11m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying a mid yellow clay natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

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

Trench 2 was aligned NE - SW and was 9.3m long and up to 0.82m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.44m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (5) was observed at the N end of the trench on a ESE – WNW alignment and measured 1.05m in width. North-east of this appeared to be a cluster of pits, or a natural feature. Potential features in this trench were planned but could not be excavated due to rapid trench flooding.

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

Trench 3 was aligned W - E and was 5m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

### Trench 4 (Figs 2–5; Pls 4, 6 and 7)

Trench 4 was aligned close to W - E and was 12.2m long and 0.76m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.4m subsoil overlying natural geology. A gully (1) was observed in the middle of the trench between 5.8m and 6.7m, aligned north–south. A slot measuring 1m in length was hand excavated, and the gully was shown to be 0.25m deep with a shallow concave profile. Six sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this fill, along with one possibly post-medieval, a modern nail and a lump of concrete that also appears likely to be modern. In addition a small pit cluster consisting of three pits (2-4) was observed near the eastern end of the trench. A slot was hand excavated through these but failed to establish their stratigraphic relationships, though five sherds of medieval pottery were recovered. Medieval pottery and animal bone were also recovered from the subsoil.

### Trench 5 (Figs x and x; Pl. 6)

Trench 5 was aligned S - N and was 5.2m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.4m subsoil overlying a light blue yellow clay natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Sue Anderson*

Seventeen sherds of pottery weighing 446g were collected from three contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric and a summary catalogue is included as Appendix 3. A full record is included in the archive in MS Access format. Local medieval wares were identified with the aid of Mellor (1994). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes. Methods and form terminology follow MPRG recommendations (MPRG 1998; 2001).

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Date range</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt/g</i>	<i>eve</i>
Sandy medieval coarseware	MCW	12th-14th century	1	3	
Brill Boarstall coarseware	BRCW	Late 12th-15th century	7	190	0.12
Brill Boarstall glazed ware	BRIL	13th-15th century	7	233	0.20
Unidentified	UNID	Late Medieval?	2	20	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>SU M(A BOV E)</b>	<b>SUM( ABOV E)</b>	<b>0.32</b>

A body or base sherd of unprovenanced medieval (broadly 12th to 14th century) sandy type was recovered from gully 1 fill (52). The fabric was medium sandy and hard, black-grey in colour and had been knife-trimmed externally.

The majority of pottery recovered was of Brill/Boarstall type. This included some unglazed body sherds of probable high medieval date in gully 1 and pit 3 fill (54), and a glazed thumbed base fragment from the subsoil in Trench 4. Two other sherds of high medieval glazed Brill ware came from pit 3, one with green glaze externally. The latter may have been a waster or second, as the surface was slightly concave close to the broken edge. Two sherds of a Brill-type jug in an orange fabric with splashes of thick green glaze came from subsoil in Trench 4. The jug had a squared rim and knife-slashed handle, which is typical of the medieval and late medieval industry, but the orange colour suggests a late medieval date (Hurman 1988, 135). Two sherds of a small globular vessel, possibly a drinking jug, with a large spot of green glaze externally, were also of late medieval date and were found in gully fill (52).

Probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date were three sherds of a bowl with an everted rounded wedge rim, measuring 380mm in diameter, from subsoil in Trench 4 and gully 1 fill (52). This vessel had been overfired, and it is possible that it was originally glazed. It may be a waster, given the proximity of a late medieval Brill-type production site in the village (Blinkhorn and Saunders 2006), although none of the illustrated bowls from there have a similar rim type. Similar forms were recovered from the 17th-century kilns at Brill (Farley 1979, fig. 6.9), so a post-medieval date is possible.

Two sherds found in pit 3 fill (54) of a hard-fired sandy greyware with a thin red external surface may also be a late medieval product, perhaps of the Ludgershall kiln, but the fabric is similar to some late medieval reduced wares.

Overall, most of the sherds recovered seem to be of late medieval or early post-medieval date, although some were certainly earlier. The two stratified contexts are likely to be of later 15th- or 16th-century date, and some of the pottery may relate to the nearby production site.

#### *Metalwork by Aidan Colyer*

A single ferrous artefact weighing 7.7g was recovered from gully 1 deposit (52) in Trench 4. The artefact is a complete nail with a circular cross section shaft, of modern production.

#### *Fired clay by Danielle Milbank*

A modest quantity (4 pieces weighing 60g) of fired clay was recovered, all from gully slot 1 (52). This comprised small fragments and no complete fired clay objects. The fabric is a fine clay with sparse sandy inclusions and a red to red grey and black colour. No wattle marks were observed, occasional straw marks were present, and the pieces may represent fragmented daub.

#### *Animal Bone by Ceri Falys*

A small assemblage of non-human bone was recovered from three features within the evaluated area. Weighing 200g, a total of 16 pieces of bone were present for analysis (Appendix 4). The remains were generally well preserved, with occasional damage or erosion to the cortical bone surfaces (root activity) noted. A moderate degree of fragmentation was present.

Initial analyses roughly sorted elements based on size, not by species, into one of three general categories: “large”, “medium”, and “small”. Horse and cow are represented by the large size category, sheep/goat, deer and



pigs are represented in the medium size category, and any smaller animal (e.g. dog, cat, etc.) are designated to the “small” category. Wherever possible, specific identification of skeletal element/side and species of origin was undertaken using reference to Hillson (1992). The minimum number of animal individuals was assessed, both within and between animal species and contexts, based on the duplication of skeletal elements or differences in skeletal development.

Osteological analysis found the small assemblage contained a minimum of two animal individuals: one “large” (a cow) and one “small” animal individual (possibly a dog). Evidence of “large” sized animals was recovered from each of the three contexts containing animal bone, which resulted in a total of 11 fragments (68.8% of the total assemblage; Appendix 4). Of these, a minimum of one cow was identified by the presence of a mandibular fragment in the top soil (deposit 51). Other identified “large” elements included portions of rib midshafts (deposits 51 and 54), and a fragmented unidentified long bone shaft collected from (52). Some fragments of this “large” long bone shaft were able to be refit into a larger portion, which displayed evidence of being modified. A localised area of the outermost cortical bone layer has been shaved away in multiple longitudinal cuts, which has resulted in the bone taking on a similar appearance to a piece of whittled wood.

A single “small” sized animal was identified in pit 3 (54), based on the presence of a portion of distal femoral condyles, a proximal tibia and a rib shaft fragment. The remains were possibly canine in origin.

In summary, a minimum of two individuals was present with the small assemblage of bone, including one cow and one “small”-sized animal (possibly a dog). No further information could be retrieved from the remains.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation was carried out as intended with only a minor adjustment to the alignment of Trench 5 during excavation to avoid a fence. Certain or possible archaeological features were identified in two trenches, however unfortunately due to a high water table, Trench 2 flooded very quickly and the linear feature and possible pit cluster observed here could not be excavated but were recorded in plan. A further linear potentially representing a boundary feature as well as a small shallow pit cluster were recorded in Trench 4, with late medieval pottery recovered from these features. Modern finds in gully 1 might easily be intrusive into a medieval feature. The site can be considered to have archaeological potential, with the medieval date of the features appearing to relate to the wealth of medieval remains found on nearby sites. Some of the pottery may have been wasters from a nearby kiln.

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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at W, N, S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11	1.6	0.65	0-0.02m topsoil; 0.2-0.5m subsoil mid brown grey silty clay; 0.5m+ mid yellow grey clay natural geology. <b>[PI. 1]</b>
2	9..30	1.6	0.82	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.69m subsoil; 0.69m+ mid yellow grey clay natural geology. Undated Linear 5 <b>[PI. 2]</b>
3	5	1.6	0.8	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.6m subsoil; 0.6m+ mid yellow grey natural geology <b>[PI. 3]</b>
4	12.2	1.6	0.76	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.76m subsoil; 0.76m+ mid grey green silty clay natural geology. Gully 1 and pit cluster 2-4 <b>[PIs 4, 6 &amp; 7]</b>
5	5.2	1.6	0.7	0-0.3m topsoil; 0.3-0.7m subsoil light bluish grey brown silty clay with limestone inclusion; 0.7m+ light bluish grey yellow silty clay natural geology <b>[PI. 5]</b>

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
2	5	56	Ditch – unexcavated	Undated	
4	1	52	Gully	Modern	Medieval pottery, concrete
4	2	53	Pit	Undated	
4	3	54	Pit	Medieval	Pottery
4	4	55	Pit	Undated	

### APPENDIX 3: Summary pottery catalogue by context

A full catalogue is included in the archive as an Access database

Trench	Cut	Context	Fabric	Type	No	Wt/g	MNV	Form	Rim	Notes	Spot date
4		Subsoil	BRCW	R	2	102	1	BL	EV	partly oxid int, poss overfired? rounded wedge rim	15-17?
4		Subsoil	BRIL	RH	2	120	1	JG	FTBD		14-15
4		Subsoil	BRIL	B	1	38	1	JG			13-14
4	1	52	BRCW	R	1	35		BL	EV		15-17?
4	1	52	BRCW	U	2	34	1				13-14
4	1	52	BRCW	U	1	13	1				13-14
4	1	52	MCW	U	1	3	1			KT, poss base	12-14
4	1	52	BRIL	D	2	20	1			small globular vessel - drinking jug?	14-15
4	3	54	BRIL	D	1	51	1				13-14?
4	3	54	BRIL	U	1	4	1				13-14?
4	3	54	BRCW	U	1	6	1				13-14?
4	3	54	UNID	U	2	20	1			v hard-fired sandy ware, grey with thin red surface	med/lmed

Type: R – rim; B – base; H – handle; U/D – undecorated/decorated body sherd.

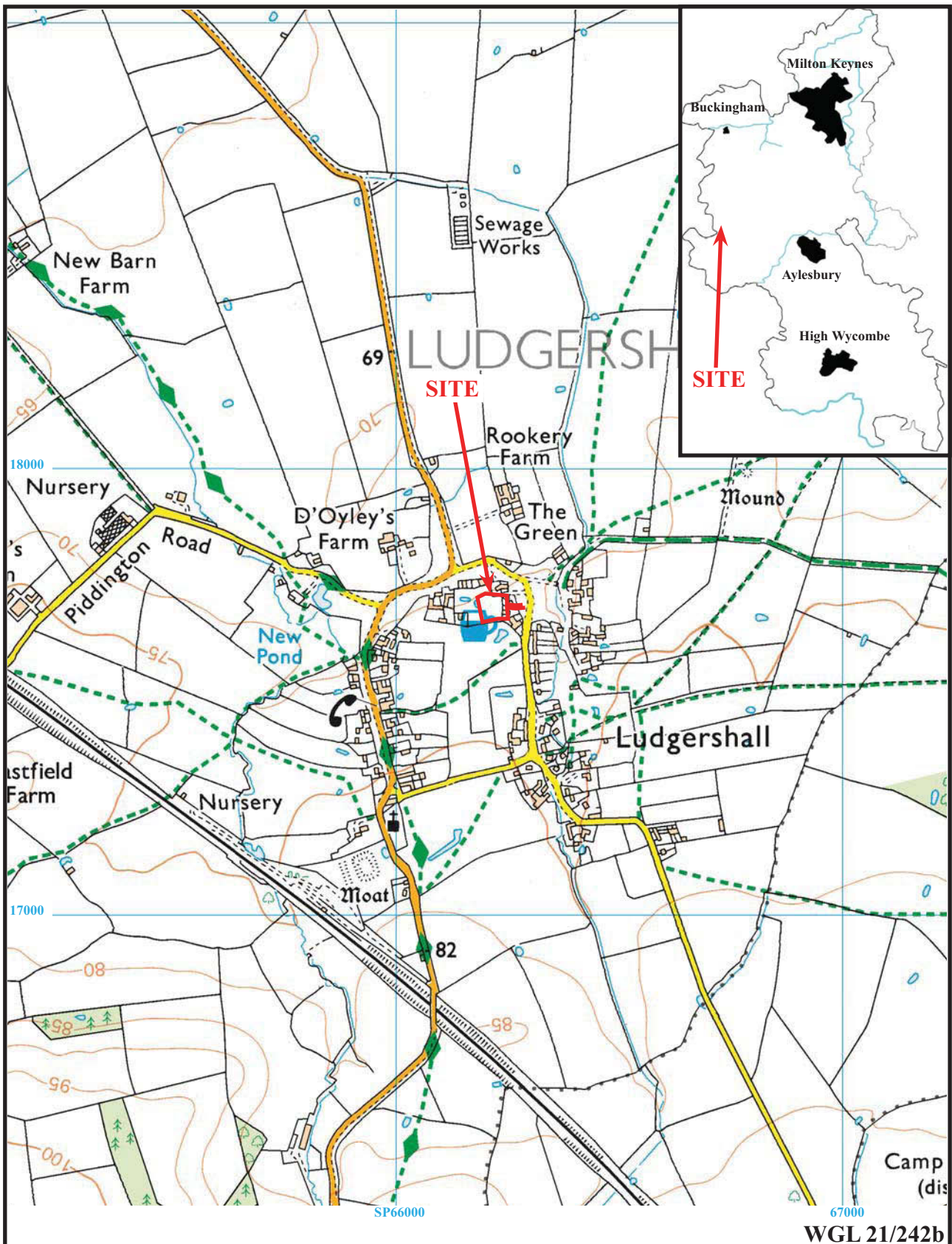
Form: BL – bowl; JG – jug.

Rim: EV – everted; FTBD – flat-topped beaded

### APPENDIX 4: Inventory of animal bone.

Context		# of Frag	Weight (g)	Identified fragments – by animal size			Unidentified	Comments
Cut	Deposit			Large	Medium	Small		
-	51	3	80	2 (cow)	-	-	1	Cow: mandibular fragment with in situ tooth; “Large”: rib shaft
								“Large”: lbsf (some pieces able to be refit into larger shaft fragment). The element has evidence of being modified – portions of the external cortical bone has been cut away along the length of the shaft (similar appearance to “whittled” wood)
1	52	8	88	8	-	-	-	“Large”: rib midshaft fragment; “Small”: distal femoral condyles, proximal tibia, rib shaft fragment
3	54	5	32	1	-	4	-	
Total/MNI		16	200g	11 fragments (1 cow)	-	4 fragments (1 “small”)	1 fragment	-

Key: lbsf = long bone shaft fragment

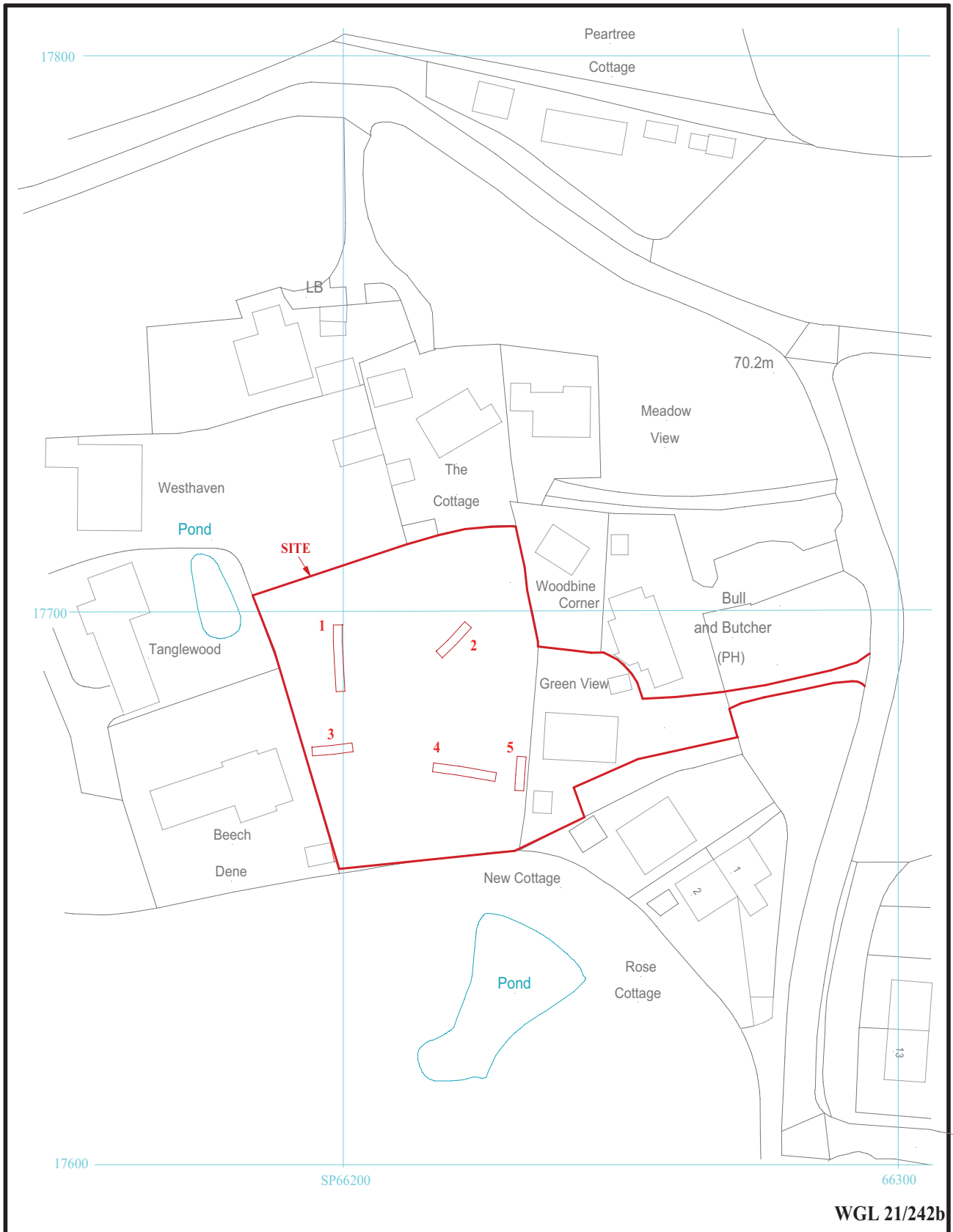


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Figure 1. Location of site within Ludgershall and Buckinghamshire.

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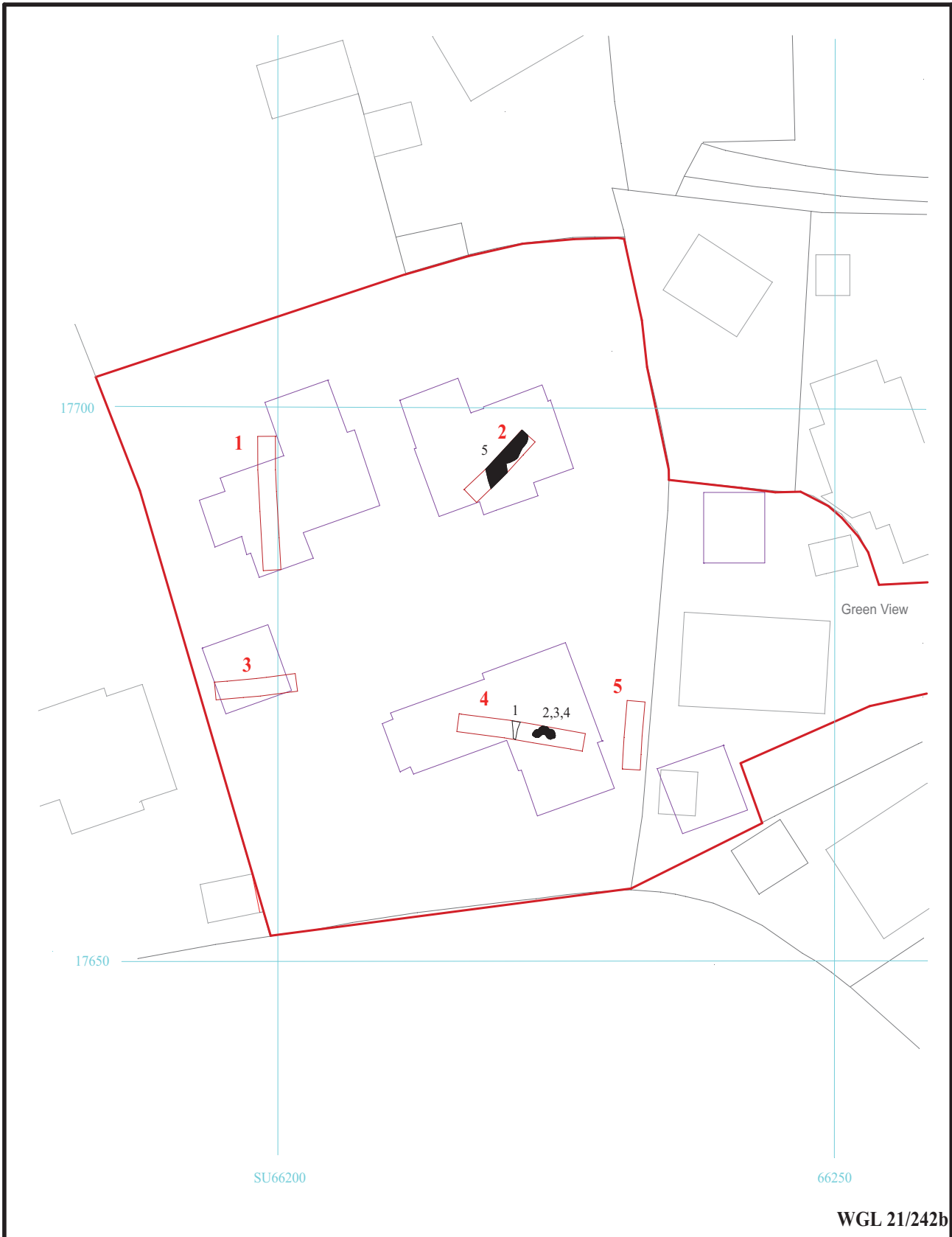
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Figure 2. Location of trenches.



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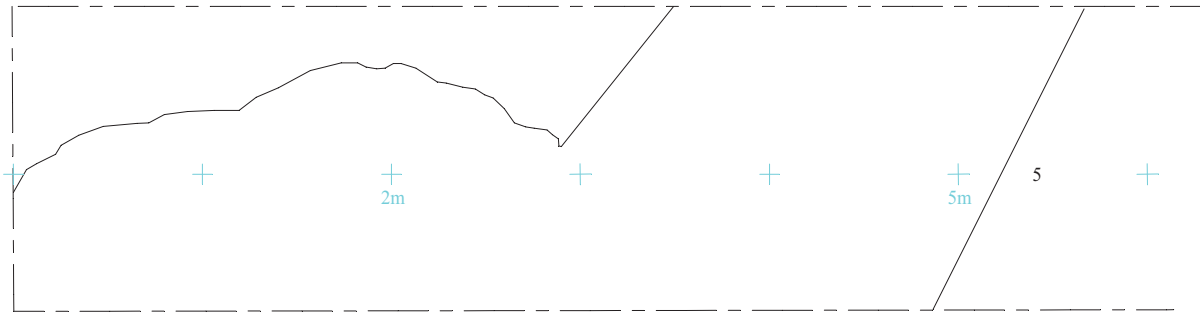
Figure 3. Detail of features in trenches.



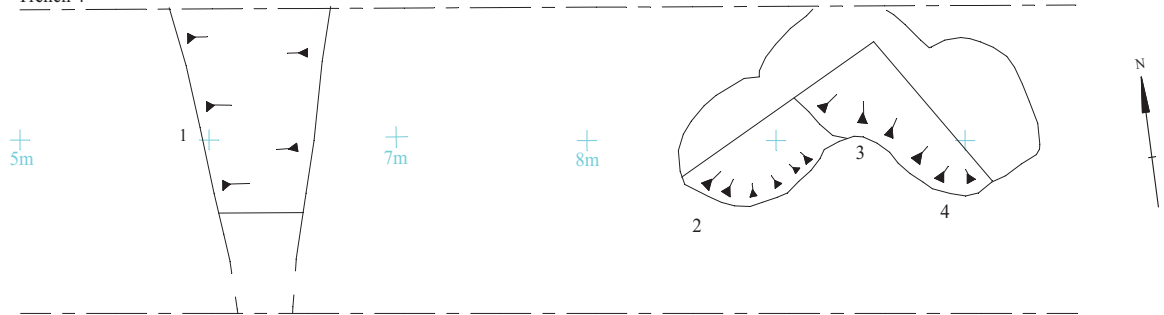
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Trench 2



Trench 4



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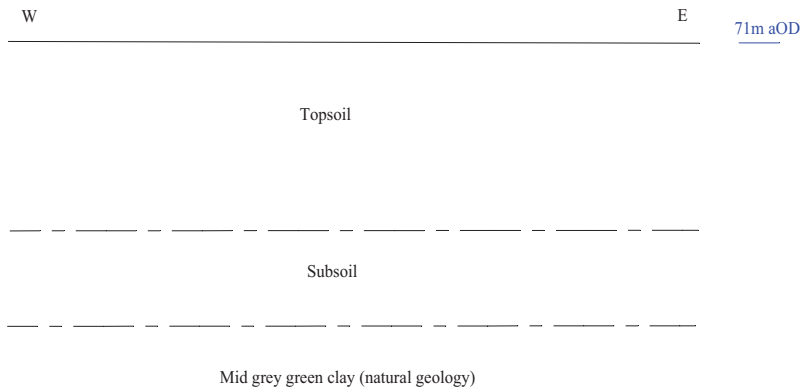
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Figure 4. Trench plans.

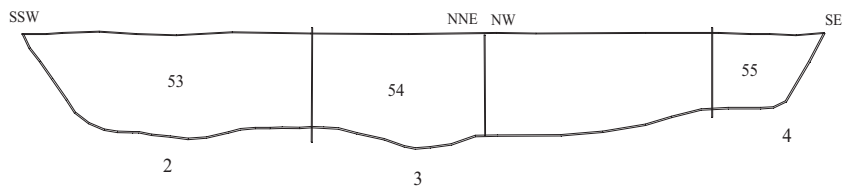


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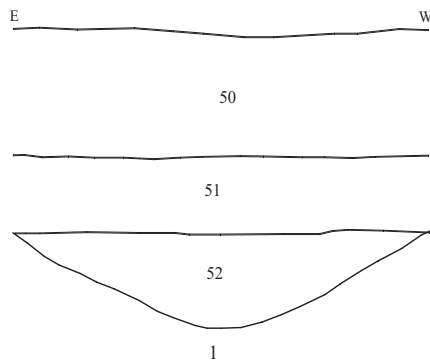
Trench 4



Trench 4



Trench 2



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Figure 5. Sections.



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



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



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



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



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

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Plates 1-5**

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Plate 6. Gully 1, looking North, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Pit cluster 2-4, looking North West, Scales: 0.5m, 0.3m, 0.2m and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Site shot, looking East.



Plate 9. Site shot, looking South.



Plate 10. Site shot, looking North West.

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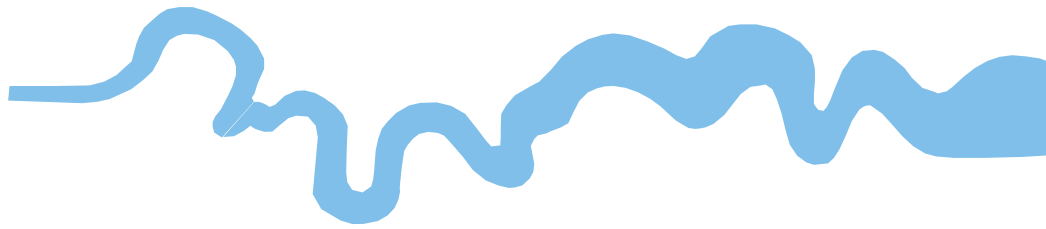
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Plates 6-10**

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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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