

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road,
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: SLC22/201

(SU 8220 6310)

**Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road,
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Belgrave Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SLC 22/201

November 2022

Summary

Site name: Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8220 6310

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th November 2022

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: SLC 22/201

Summary of results: No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. On the basis of these results 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 The Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 12.12.22
	Steve Preston ✓ 15.03.23

Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 22/201

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berkshire (SU 8220 6310) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Simon Haskett, of Belgrave Homes, 3 Wellington Business Park, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6LS.

Planning permission (16/01193/FUL) has been gained from Bracknell Forest Council for the construction of new housing and garages in part of the grounds of Sandhurst Lodge. This consent is subject to a condition (21) relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site, a field evaluation has been requested in order to determine the site's archaeological potential and to allow a mitigation strategy to be devised as appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Dr Edward Peveler, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on 29th November 2022 and the site code is SLC 22/201. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with The Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The site is set back from the west side of Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, which lies c.6.5km south west of Bracknell, Berkshire (Fig. 1). The trench lay between two rows of garages on an area of hard standing consisting of tarmac and concrete. The underlying geology is mapped as Barton Beds (BGS 1981), with a pale grey gravelly sand observed in the trench and the site lies at a height of 86m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within a zone of East Berkshire not previously noted for its wealth of archaeological deposits (Ford 1987), perhaps on account of the poor agricultural qualities of the heathland soils which occupy much of the surrounding land. Nevertheless recent development-led fieldwork has recorded a number of new Iron Age and Roman occupation sites in locations thought previously to be lightly settled. There are a number of sites in the area, the most distinctive being 'Caesars Camp' Iron Age hillfort, the only one in this region, with a number of upstanding Bronze Age round barrows also recorded. Evidence of contemporary settlement for these monuments is quite rare, but with a small Middle Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age site recorded at the former RAF Staff College (Lowe 2013) and an Iron Age site at Amen Corner (Lovett 2019). A recently excavated 'burnt mound' (a Bronze Age cooking place?) lies to the north (Chittock et. al. 2021). Of possible interest is the presence of Iron Age iron production sites, utilising the iron-rich deposits derived from the local heathland deposits (Ford 2019) with one small site at Finchampstead (Platt 2013) and others in the Blackwater Valley to the south (Hardy and Young 2019).

The major Roman road from Silchester to London lies to the north and a substantial Roman settlement is located close to this road at Wickham Bushes (Corney and Gaffney 1985).

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 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 provide information about the archaeological potential in order to draw up a mitigation strategy if necessary.

It was proposed to dig one trench 20m long and between 1.6 and 2m wide. This was dug with a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This was dug under constant archaeological supervision and the spoilheap was monitored for finds. Sufficient of any identified archaeological deposits would be investigated to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

The trench was dug as intended (Fig. 3) and measured 20m long and 0.51m deep. 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; Pls. 1 and 2)

The trench was aligned E-W and measured 20m long and 0.51m deep. In the eastern half of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of Tarmac overlying 0.25m of brick rubble and sand made ground. This overlay a dark brown grey silty sand (subsoil) overlying sand with gravel natural geology. In the western half of the trench the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of concrete overlying 0.28m of subsoil overlying sand natural geology.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the evaluation. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

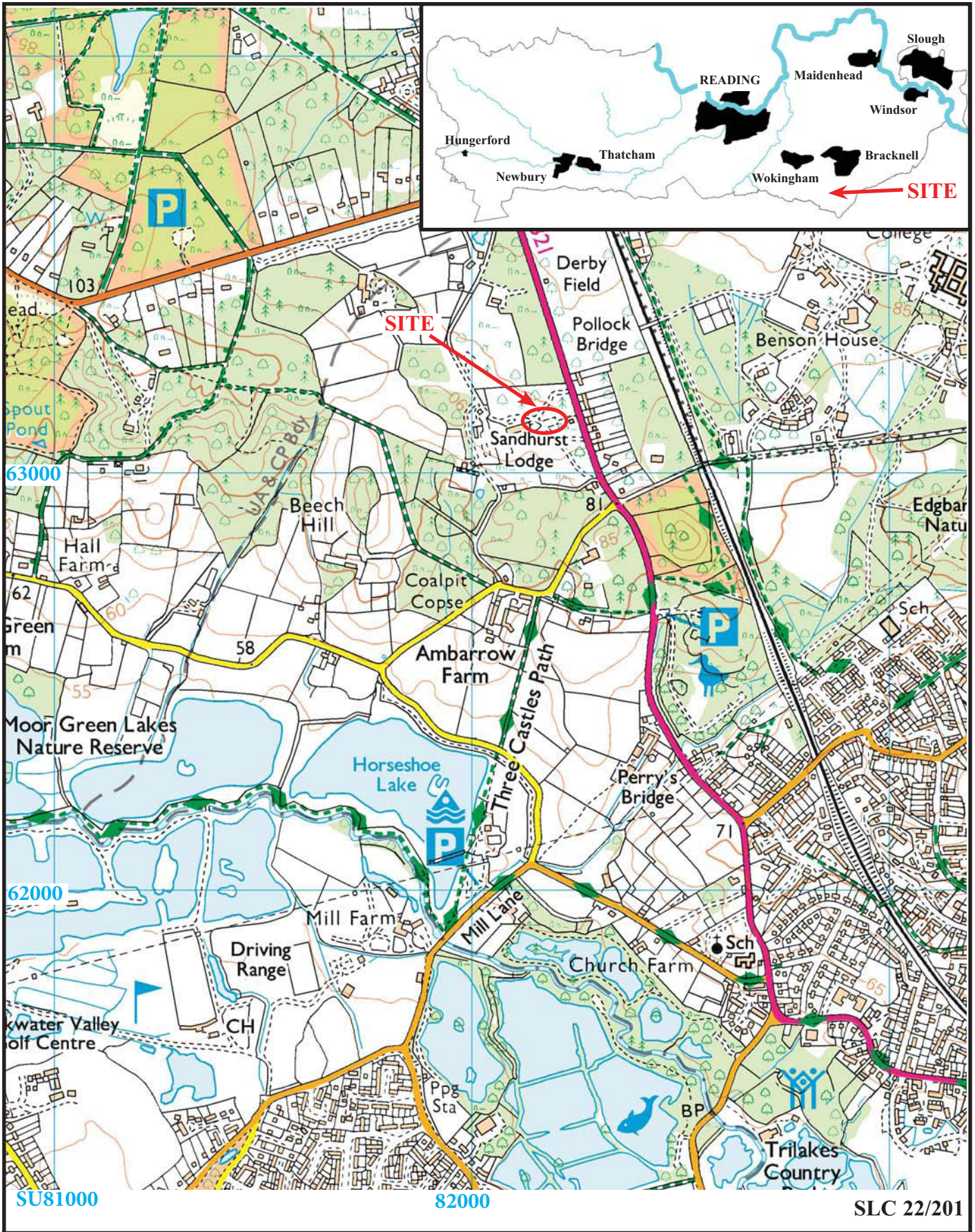
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.00	1.60	0.51	E End: 0.00-0.05m Tarmac; 0.05m-0.30m made ground (brick rubble and sand); 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m-0.51m+ sand with gravel natural geology. W End; 0.00m-0.20m concrete; 0.20m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.51m+ sand with gravel natural geology. Pls 1 and 2



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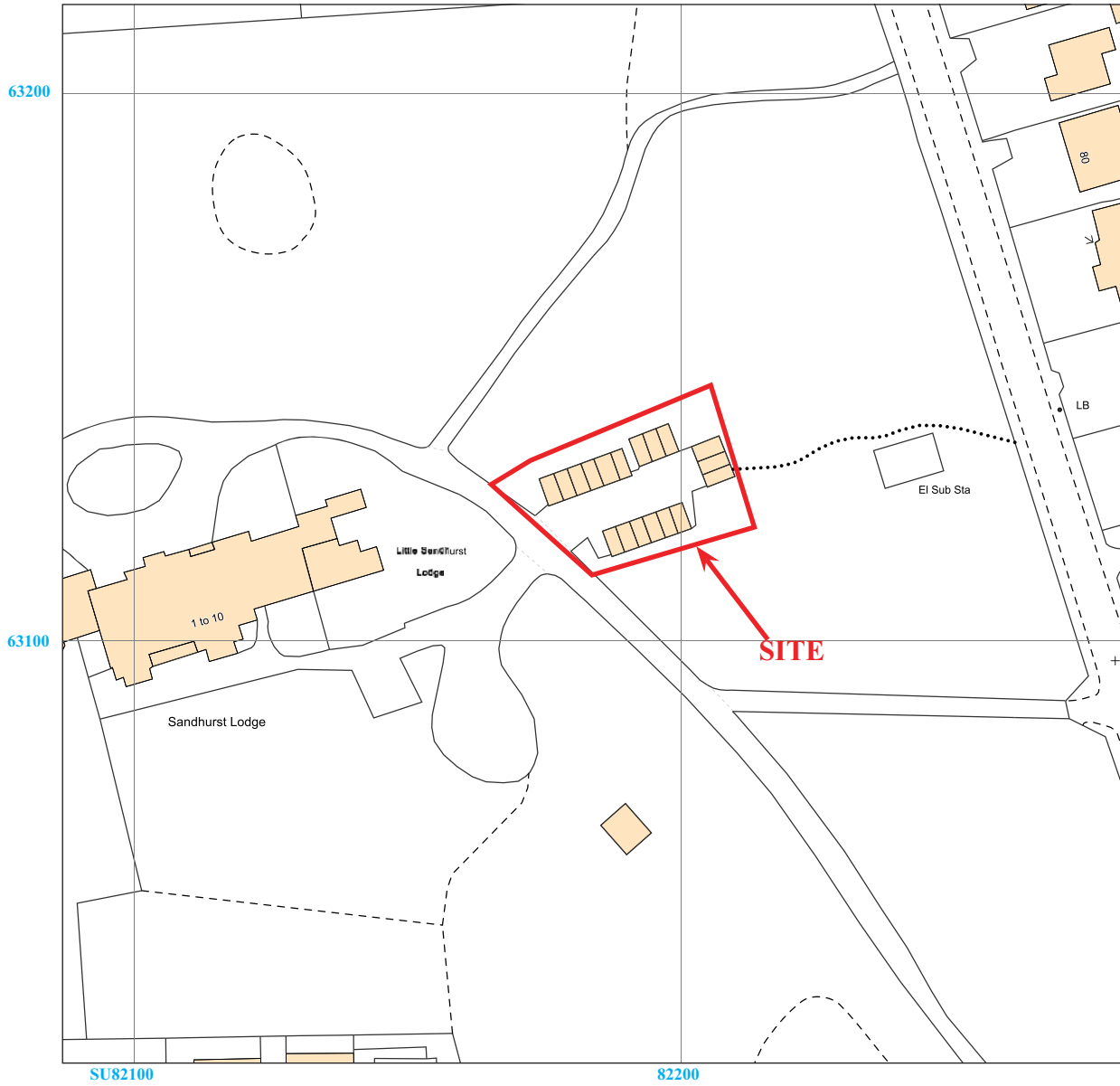


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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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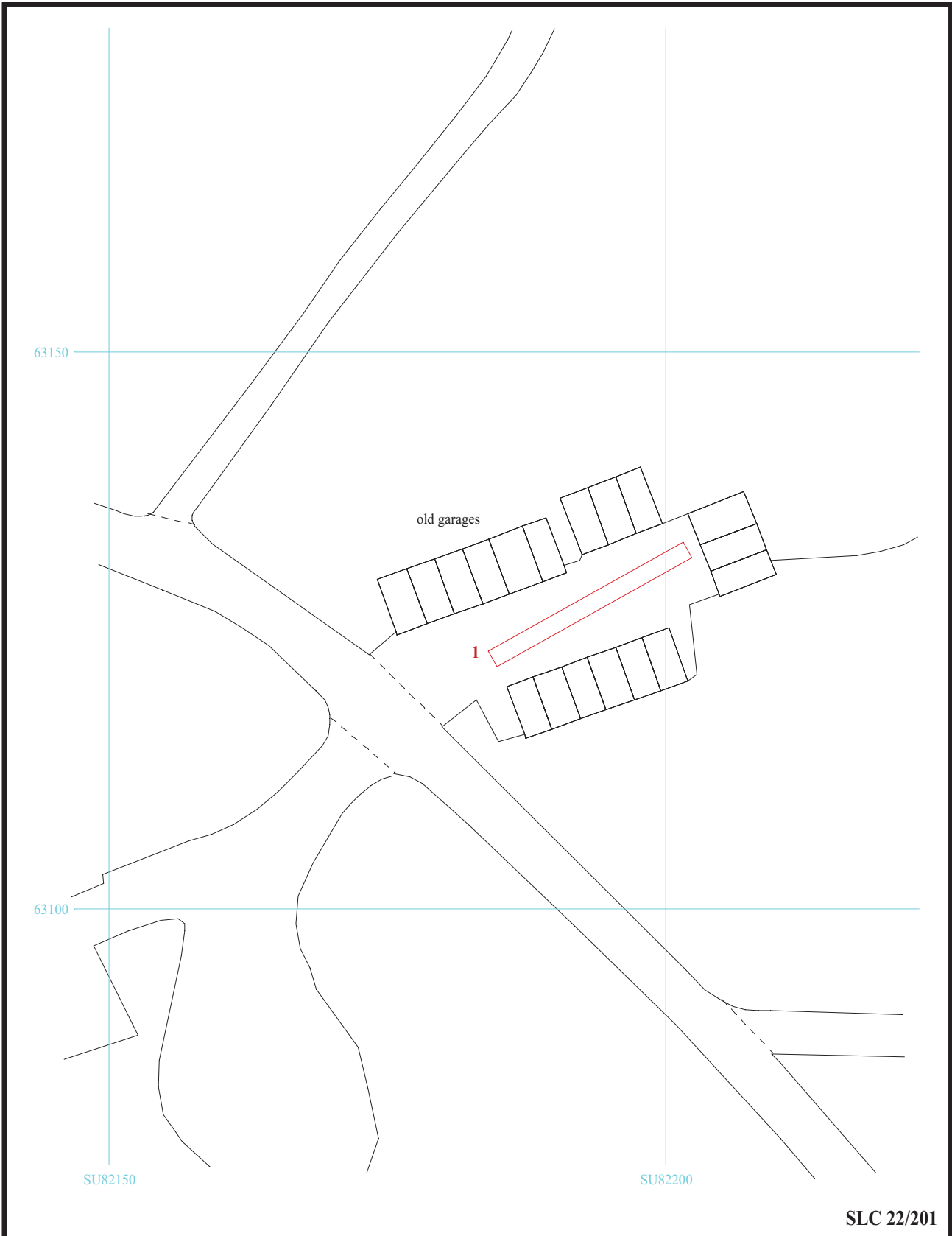
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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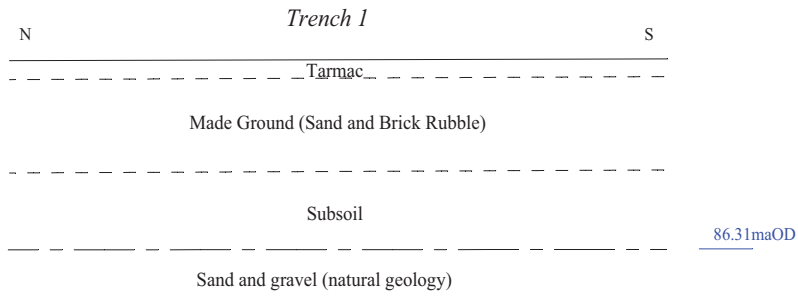


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Figure 3. Location of Trench 1.



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. General view of site, looking East.



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

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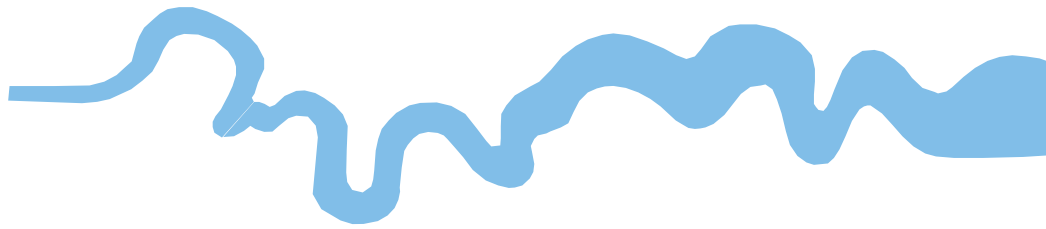
**Sandhurst Lodge, Wokingham Road,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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