

# **Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Southern Management Ltd**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FDH 08/111

**November 2008**

## Summary

**Site name:** Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 3460 6895

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd–28th October 2008

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** FDH 08/111

**Area of site:** c. 3.5 ha evaluated within overall site area of c. 4.8 hectares

**Summary of results:** Two small pits of possible Late Bronze Age date and a prehistoric posthole were identified

**Monuments identified:** An undated (prehistoric) posthole and two Bronze Age pits

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

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Report edited/checked by: Jennifer Lowe✓ 12.11.08 Steve Preston✓ 12.11.08
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# **Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Andy Taylor

**Report 08/111**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire (SU 3460 6895) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Alan Thomas of Archaeology and Planning Solutions, Hillview, 31 Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1XG on behalf of Southern Management Ltd, Ship House, 35 Battersea Square, London SW11 3RA.

Planning consent is to be sought from West Berkshire Council for the construction of new residential accommodation on a parcel of land at Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire. In order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological impacts of the proposed development, a field evaluation has been requested to accompany the application.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Vanja Blomqvist between 23rd and 28th October 2008 and the site code is FDH 08/111. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and it is anticipated that it will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Eddington lies on the north bank of the River Kennet opposite Hungerford, and south of the M4. The Lambourn Downs rise to the north (Fig. 1). The site is located on the north side of Bath Road to the west of the village. It is bounded by fields to the north and east with housing to the west and a garden centre and veterinary surgery to the south (Fig. 2). The site slopes down steeply from 115m above Ordnance Datum in the north to 95m above Ordnance Datum in the south and the underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk at the northern end of the site and river and valley gravels towards the south with a transitional material between (BGS 1947). A variety of these deposits were recorded in the trenches (below).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site comes from its location within the archaeologically rich Kennet Valley, its proximity to the village and specific finds and deposits present on and close to the site itself. Excavations to the south-west on the opposite side of the river revealed a complex of finds and deposits from various periods ranging from Upper Palaeolithic through to post-medieval (Ford 2002). Most occupation was located on the terrace edge, similar in topographic location to this site, but with some prehistoric use of gravel islands on the floodplain also attested. Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic occupation was represented by lithic artefacts, the Bronze Age by a small ceremonial monument (pit circle) and occupation site, followed by evidence of a Saxon sunken-featured building, and medieval farms. The flood plain was also used as water meadows during post-medieval times.

Archaeological investigations carried out during the 1950s located finds of Mesolithic flintwork and Iron Age/Roman pottery from the northern end of the proposal site, and it is considered that occupation of these periods may be present on the site itself (information from West Berkshire HER). The precise location of this excavation is unknown. Further prehistoric flintwork and Roman pottery has also been found nearby. A number of cropmarks visible from the air of uncertain origin are also recorded for the site.

Further work carried out by Mr D B Connah and a party of Grammar School boys found late Iron Age 'Belgic' and early Roman pottery in a bank to the east of St Saviour's Church. A pit was identified on the Church Way estate, which also contained 'Belgic' and Roman pottery (J. Greenaway pers. comm.)

The proposal site lies on the eastern margin of Eddington village, which is of late Saxon origins and is documented in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002).

## **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 finds or deposits are present relating to use of the area in prehistoric, especially Mesolithic times;

To determine if any deposits are present relating to use of the area in Iron Age/Roman times;

- To attempt to place in context, and locate the findings of the earlier excavations on the site;
- To determine if any deposits are present relating to the late Saxon/medieval origins are present;
- To determine the origin and nature of any cropmarks on the site.

It was proposed to dig 50 trenches, each 10m long and 1.6m wide using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

A total of 62 trenches were dug ranging in length from 9.6m to 12.0m and between 0.19m and 1.00m deep. All trenches were dug as near as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 3), however the presence of an aviation fuel pipeline on site was narrower than had originally been anticipated. As a result of this, further trenches were requested at the northern end of the site where it was deemed most likely archaeological deposits could be present, based on the presence of the material recovered during the 1950s investigations.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Most of the trenches contained nothing of archaeological interest, but the natural geology varied, as did the presence or absence of a subsoil deposit. The trenches are therefore described below, grouped by generalized stratigraphy. Except where otherwise stated, no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered.

### Trenches 1–9, 11, 18, 48

These trenches, were typically 0.30m deep, and the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil directly overlying gravel natural geology (Pl. 1).

### Trenches 10, 33, 55

These trenches, respectively were 0.40m, 0.38m and 0.60m deep and the stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Prehistoric pottery was retrieved from the subsoil of Trench 33 only.

### Trench 12

This trench measured 10.70m in length and was 0.33m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying both gravel and chalk natural geology .

Trenches 13–16, 20–23, 26, 27, 32, 42, 46, 47, 49

These trenches, were typically 0.20–0.30m deep, and the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying flinty chalk natural geology.

Trenches 17, 19, 24, 29

These trenches were 0.25–0.30m deep and the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying chalky, flinty clay natural geology.

Trench 25, 30, 31, 36, 38, 39, 50

These trenches were between 0.26m and 0.33m deep. Topsoil directly overlay clayey gravel natural geology.

Trenches 28, 40, 60, 61

These trenches were 0.40m to 0.42m deep and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying flinty chalk natural geology. Trench 60 was slightly deeper at 0.50m.

Trenches 34, 51

Trench 34 was 0.40m deep, Trench 51, 0.69m deep. The stratigraphy of both consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying chalk natural geology.

Trenches 35, 41

These trenches measured 0.27m and 0.30m deep respectively. The stratigraphy of both showed topsoil overlying chalk natural geology.

Trench 43, 57, 59

These trenches were respectively 0.37m, 0.40m and 0.42m deep and the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying chalky, clayey gravel natural geology.

Trenches 44, 45, 62

These trenches were 0.36m, 0.38m and 0.50m deep respectively and the stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clayey gravel natural geology.

Trenches 52–54

Trench 52 was 0.75m deep, Trench 53 was 1.00m deep and Trench 54 shallower at 0.58m. The stratigraphy of all three consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a buried soil (in Trench 52 this contained fragments of tile and iron), overlying flinty, chalky clay natural geology (less flinty in Trench 54).

Trench 56 (Figures 4 and 5, Plates 3 and 4)

This trench measured 10.50m in length and was 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil above gravel natural geology. A posthole (1) was located at 4.10m from the west end. This was half

sectioned and measured 0.29m in diameter and 0.10m deep. It contained six tiny fragments of animal bone and two struck flint flakes. Two pits were located at the eastern end of the trench. Pit 2 measured 0.55m wide and 0.33m deep. It was found to be vertical-sided and contained three sherds of Bronze Age pottery and nine pieces of animal bone. Pit 3 measured 1.00m wide but only 0.06m deep. It contained two sherds of likely late Bronze Age pottery and 23 pieces of animal bone.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Jane Timby*

The evaluation resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of 12 sherds of pottery, weighing 80g, dating to the later prehistoric period. Pottery was recovered from just three contexts: Trench 33 subsoil, Trench 56, pits 2 (53) and 3 (54) (Appendix 3). The material is of variable condition with some larger sherds and some more fragmented pieces. The overall average sherd weight is 6.6g. For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was scanned to assess its likely chronology and quantified by sherd count and weight for each recorded context. No comparative or library research has been carried out in conjunction with this assessment.

#### Later prehistoric

The assemblage comprised seven plain, handmade bodysherds, and one decorated bodysherd. This latter sherd has a horizontal line of finger-nail impressions probably on the shoulder zone of the vessel. All the sherds had a sandy paste with variable amounts of calcined flint ranging from fine up to 1–2 mm. The decorated sherd strongly suggests that this small group of material is likely to date to the later Bronze Age.

### *Animal Bone by Ceri Falys*

A very small amount of animal bone was recovered from three separate contexts within Trench 56. A total of 38 pieces of bone were present, weighing 21g (Appendix 4). The preservation of the remains was exceedingly poor, which precluded any possibility of identifying fragments to element or even species. A high degree of fragmentation was noted, with severe surface erosion. No further information could be obtained from the remains.

### *Struck Flint by Steve Ford*



Just two struck flints were recovered from the site, both from posthole 1 in trench 56. They are both flakes and are both in a fresh condition.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation identified a small number of archaeological deposits in a single trench. These comprised a posthole and two small pits and were located at the northern end of the site close to where a former bank is known to have been sited. If further archaeological deposits are present they are most likely located further up the slope, outside the proposal area. It would appear that after the removal of the bank (towards the end of the 20th century), the soil it created was spread across a thin strip along the top of the field, explaining the greater depth of the trenches, particularly at the north eastern corner. No trace was found of any features likely to have created cropmarks, nor of any previous excavation trench. It seems unlikely that the proposed development would have any impact on archaeological deposits over the vast majority of the site, and that, if any are present, they are to the north outside the area evaluated.

## **References**

- BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 2002, 'Charnham Lane, Hungerford, Berkshire, archaeological investigations 1988–97', TVAS Monograph 1, Reading
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

**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	11.90	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ gravel natural geology.
2	11.10	1.60	0.31	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.31m+ gravel natural geology.
3	10.70	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ gravel natural geology.
4	10.70	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.30m+ gravel natural geology. <b>[Plate 1]</b>
5	10.80	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
6	11.60	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
7	11.20	1.60	0.31	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.31m+ gravel natural geology.
8	10.60	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
9	10.50	1.60	0.28	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ gravel natural geology.
10	10.50	1.60	0.42	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.38m subsoil; 0.38-0.42m+ gravel natural geology.
11	10.80	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
12	10.70	1.60	0.33	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.33m+ gravel and chalk natural geology.
13	11.20	1.60	0.21	0.00m-0.21m topsoil; 0.21m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
14	10.90	1.60	0.19	0.00m-0.17m topsoil; 0.17-0.19m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
15	12.00	1.60	0.23	0.00m-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.23m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
16	10.60	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m+ chalky clay natural geology.
17	10.60	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.30m+ chalky, flinty clay natural geology.
18	10.80	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
19	9.60	1.60	0.25	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ chalky flinty clay natural geology.
20	10.30	1.60	0.24	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ flinty chalk natural geology. <b>[Plate 2]</b>
21	10.20	1.60	0.29	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.29m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
22	10.70	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.32m+ chalk natural geology.
23	10.30	1.60	0.23	0.00m-0.21m topsoil; 0.21-0.23m+ chalk natural geology.
24	10.20	1.60	0.26	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ chalky flinty clay.
25	10.20	1.60	0.33	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.33m+ clayey gravel.
26	10.10	1.60	0.25	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
27	10.70	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.30m+ flinty chalk.
28	11.50	1.60	0.42	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.40m subsoil; 0.40-0.42m+ flinty chalk.
29	11.30	1.60	0.28	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ chalky, flinty clay.
30	10.50	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.30m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
31	10.40	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.32m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
32	10.60	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.30m flinty chalk natural geology.
33	10.70	1.60	0.38	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.38m+ gravel natural geology.
34	10.00	1.60	0.40	0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18-0.38m subsoil; 0.38-0.40m+ chalk natural geology.
35	10.40	1.60	0.27	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ chalk natural geology.
36	10.70	1.60	0.26	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
37	10.70	1.60	0.24	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
38	10.80	1.60	0.26	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.26m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
39	10.40	1.60	0.28	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25-0.28m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
40	10.10	1.60	0.40	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.39m subsoil; 0.39-0.40m+ gravel natural geology.
41	10.00	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.30m+ chalk natural geology.
42	10.60	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.30m flinty chalk natural geology.
43	10.10	1.60	0.37	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
44	10.20	1.60	0.36	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
45	9.90	1.60	0.38	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.36m subsoil; 0.36-0.38m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
46	10.50	1.60	0.23	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
47	10.00	1.60	0.28	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
48	10.90	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ gravel natural geology.
49	11.10	1.60	0.27	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
50	10.80	1.60	0.30	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m+ clayey gravel natural geology.
51	10.00	1.60	0.69	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.67m subsoil; 0.67-0.69m+ chalk natural geology.
52	10.20	1.60	0.75 (N) 0.90 (S)	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.74m subsoil; 0.74-0.75m+ flinty chalky clay natural (N End). 0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.71m subsoil; 0.71-0.90m buried soil; 0.90m+ chalky clay natural geology. (S End).
53	10.10	1.60	1.00	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.67m subsoil; 0.67-0.98m buried soil; 0.98m-1.00m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
54	10.30	1.60	0.58	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29-0.54m subsoil; 0.54-0.58m+ chalky clayey natural geology.
55	10.60	1.60	0.60	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24-0.55m subsoil; 0.55-0.60m+ gravel natural geology.
56	10.50	1.60	0.40	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.36m subsoil; 0.36-0.40m+ gravel natural geology. Posthole 1; Pits 2 and 3. <b>[Plates 3, 4]</b>
57	11.00	1.60	0.40	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ chalky clayey gravel natural geology.
58	10.30	1.60	0.36	0.00m-0.33m topsoil; 0.33-0.36m+ chalky clay natural geology.
59	11.70	1.60	0.42	0.00m-0.37m topsoil; 0.37-0.42m chalky clayey gravel natural geology.
60	10.50	1.60	0.50	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27-0.47m subsoil; 0.47-0.50m+ flinty chalk natural geology.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
61	10.40	1.60	0.32	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.30m subsoil; 0.30-0.32m+ flinty chalk natural geology.
62	10.30	1.60	0.50	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26-0.48m subsoil; 0.48-0.50m+ clayey gravel natural geology.

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
56	1	52	Posthole	Prehistoric	Struck Flint
56	2	53	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery
56	3	54	Pit	Bronze Age	Pottery

**APPENDIX 3:** Catalogue of Pottery

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
33		51	6	10
56	2	53	3	17
56	3	54	2	53

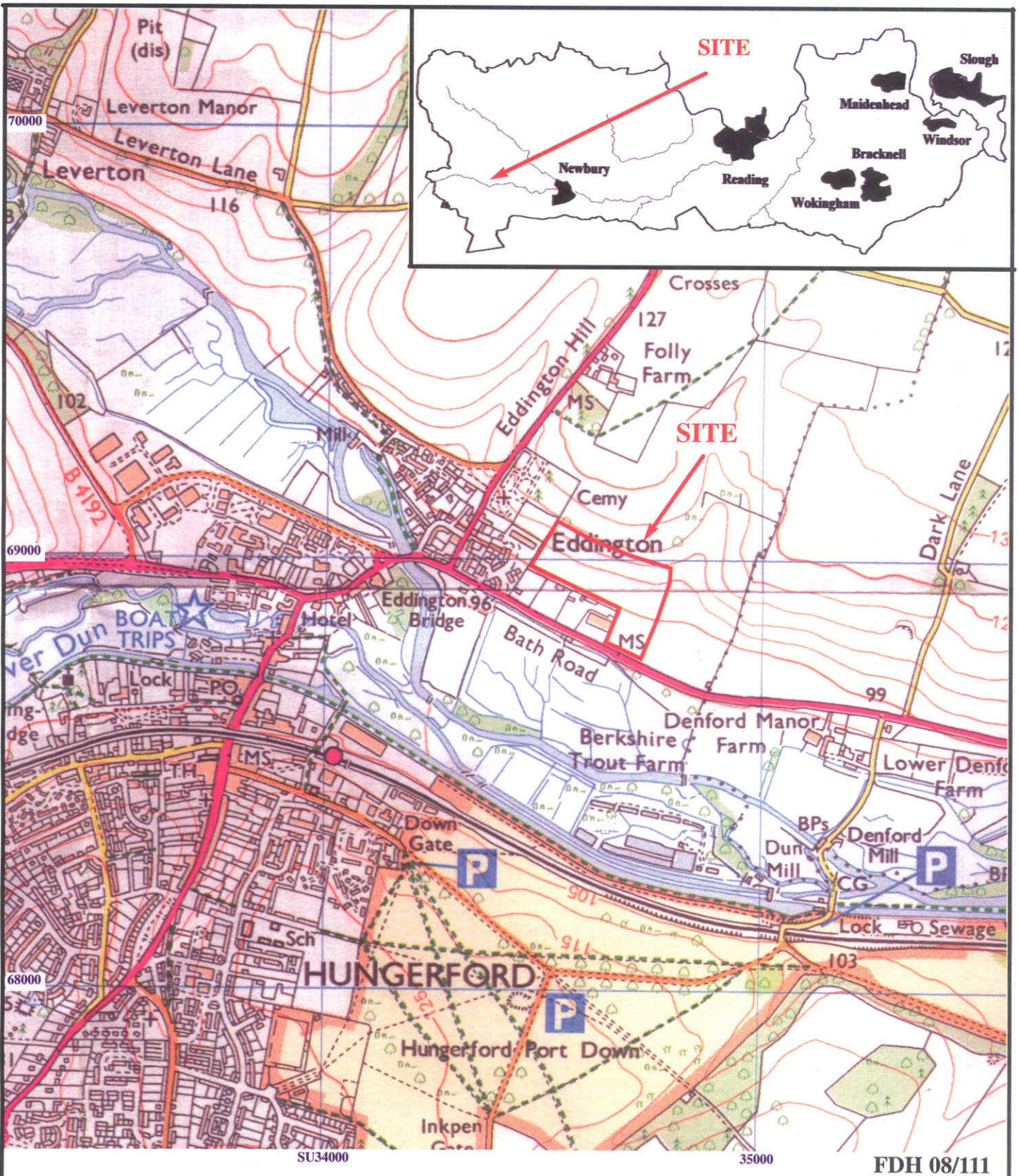
**APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Animal Bone**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>No. Frags</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>Identified</i>
1	52	6		
2	53	9	4	-
3	54	23	11	-
	Total	38	21	-

**APPENDIX 5:** Catalogue of Struck Flint

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>
1	52	2	23





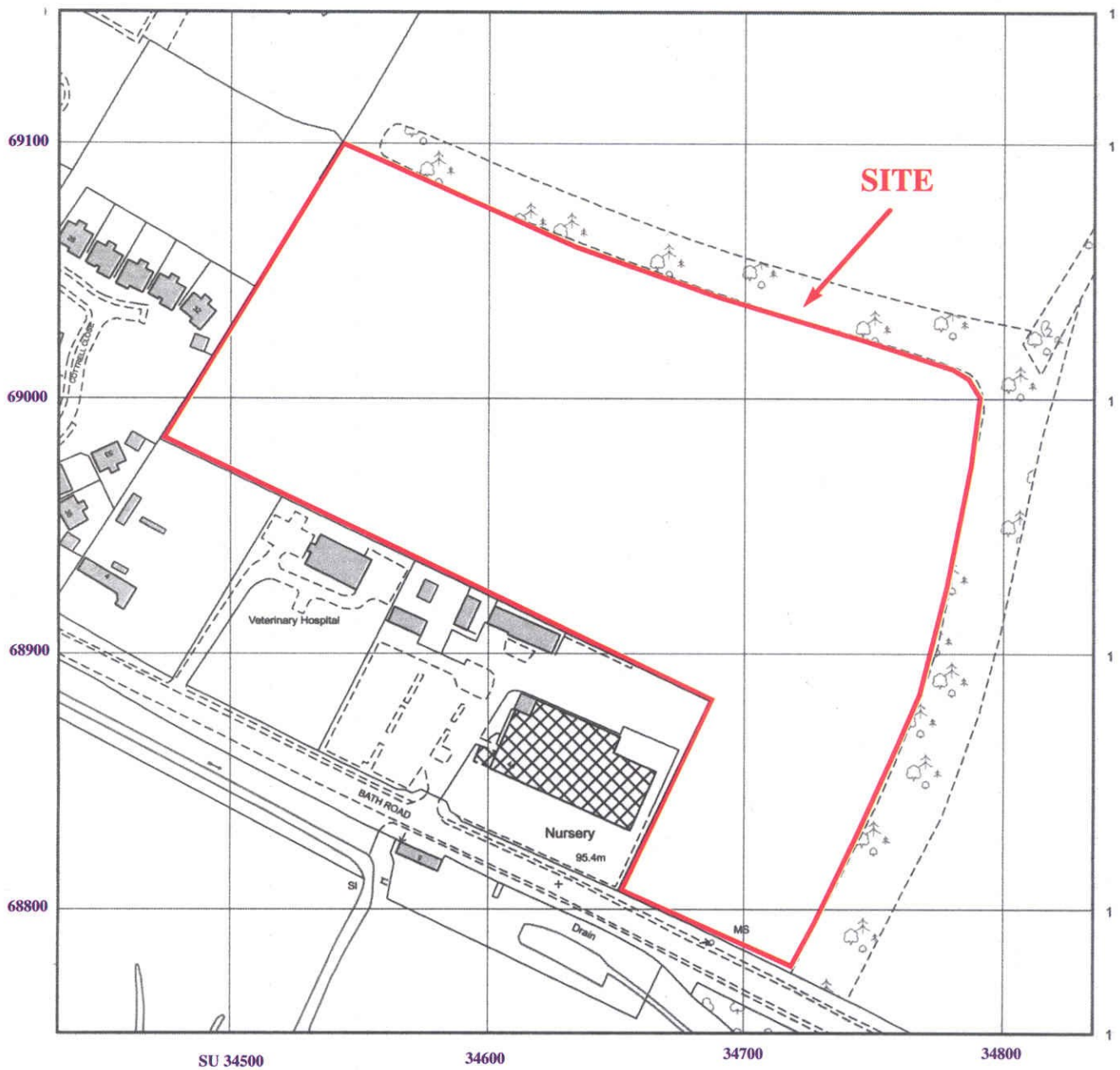
**Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford,  
West Berkshire, 2008  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Hungerford and Berkshire.

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**Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford,  
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bath Road.

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# Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire, 2008

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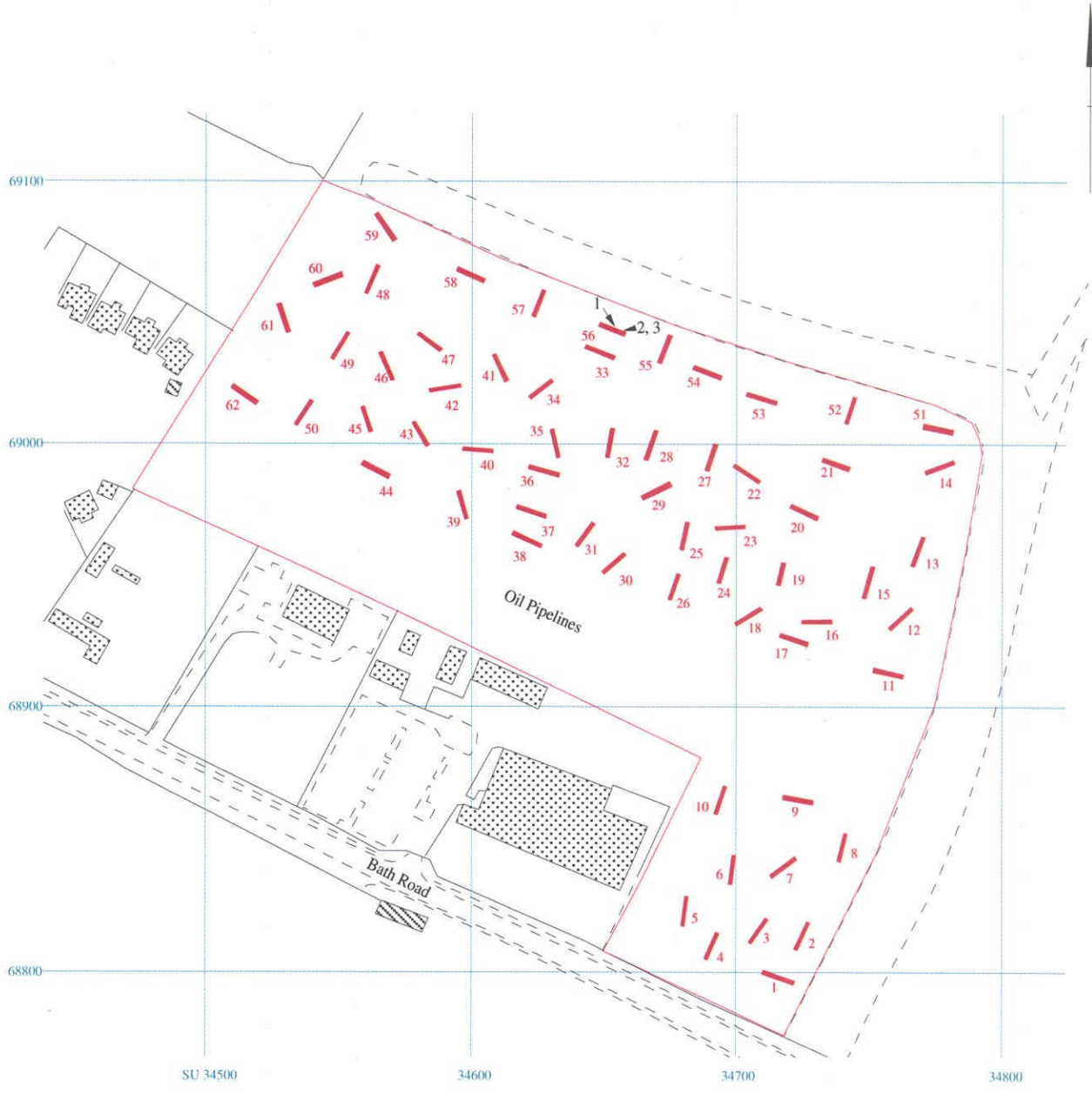


Figure 3: Trench Locations

# Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire 2008

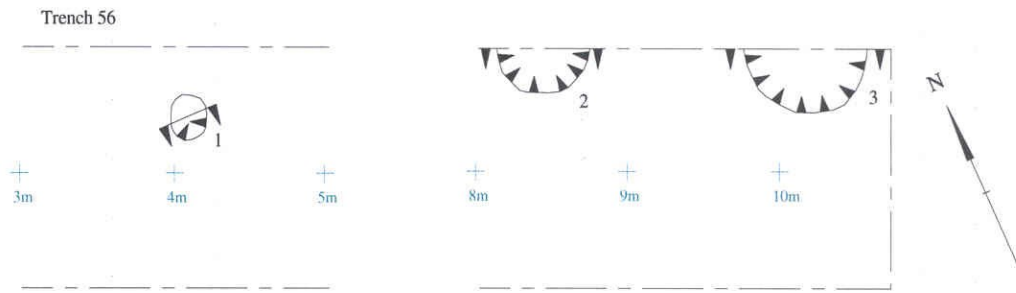


Figure 4: Trench Plan

# Folly Dog Leg Field, Eddington, Hungerford, West Berkshire 2008

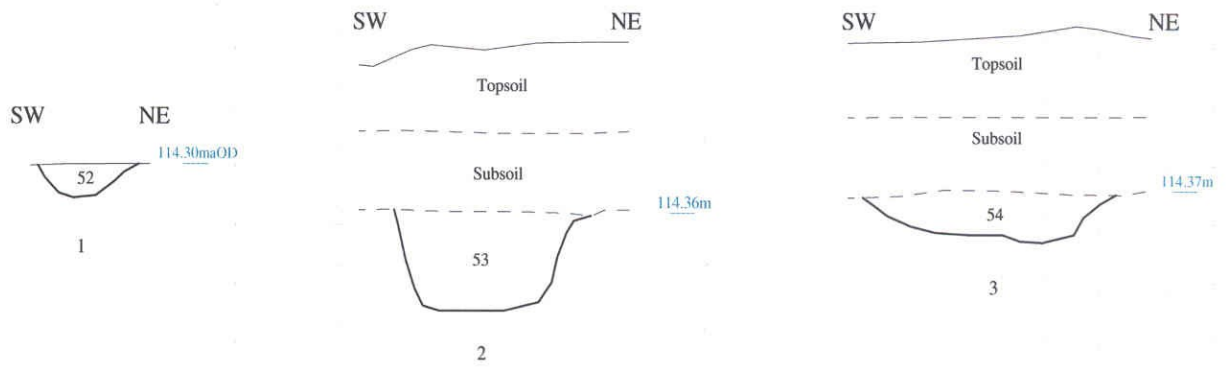


Figure 5. Sections of features





Plate 1. Trench 4 looking north north east, scales nearer 2m; further 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 20 looking east, scales 2m, 0.5m.





Plate 3. Trench 56 looking west, scales 2m, 0.5m.



Plate 4. Pit 3, South Facing Section, horizontal scale 0.5m, vertical scale 0.1m.