

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 44-52 Oatlands Road,
Shinfield, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: ORS09/102

(SU 7360 6830)

**Land to the rear of 44–52 Oatlands Road,
Shinfield, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Maultway Homes Ltd**

by JamesMcNicoll-Norbury
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices
Ltd

SiteCodeORS09/102

December 2009

Summary

Site name: Land to the rear of 44–52 Oatlands Road, Shinfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7360 6830

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 10-11th December 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: ORS 09/102

Area of site: 0.23ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were identified on the site.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 18.12.09
	Steve Preston✓ 18.12.09

Land to the rear of 44–52 Oatlands Road, Shinfield, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 09/102

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the land rear of 44–52 Oatlands Road, Shinfield, Berkshire (SU 73600 68300) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ian Lewis of Maultway Homes Ltd, Maultway House, Harpton Parade, Village Way, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 7SB.

Planning application number F/2009/0605 has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of seven houses and one bungalow with associated parking, new access road and landscaping on the site. Condition 14 of the planning permission requires a programme of archaeological work to be carried out on the site.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Matt Gittins on 10th and 11th December 2009 and the site code is ORS 09/102. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in an irregular parcel of land to the rear of 44–52 Oatlands Road on the northeast side of Shinfield near the junction of Oatlands Road and Cutbush Lane (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as London Clay and plateau gravel (BGS 1946), a mixture of which was observed in the excavated trenches. The site was previously used as domestic gardens and lies at a height of c. 48m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary the site lies close to an area where archaeological finds of Iron Age and Roman date have been recorded. Recent fieldwork, approximately 330m to the north of the site, revealed Iron

Age ditches, pits and postholes, along with Roman ditches and an undated cremation burial or pyre deposit (Taylor 2001 and in press). A number of cropmarks have been noted in farm land adjacent to the development site (Gates 1975), and an archaeological evaluation confirmed that some of these are Iron Age and Roman in date, and may relate to a Roman field system and possible settlement. In general, the site lies on the margins of the Loddon Valley for which field survey has revealed the presence of a range of prehistoric and later sites (Ford 1997).

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. The specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine if any Iron Age or Roman deposits were present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Five trenches were proposed to be dug, each 15m long and 1.6m wide in areas of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development with a contingency of 10m of trench should it be required to clarify findings made in the initial evaluation.

Results

The trenches were dug as intended and ranged in length from 14.6m to 15.9m and between 0.45m and 0.64m in depth. Two additional trenches were dug on the site and were between 5.1m and 5.9m in length and 0.56m in depth. Some of the trenches had to be shortened due to logistical problems. As a result of this, other trenches were lengthened (Fig. 3). The two additional trenches would have ideally been placed along the proposed access road, however due to the presence of the main drain, this was not possible. The spoilheaps were monitored for finds including use of a metal detector.

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 and Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW–NE and was 14.9m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.06m topsoil overlaying 0.48m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising brown sandy gravel

with orange/brown patches of sand. Small patches of grey silty clay which were investigated were revealed to be thin subsoil patches in the natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SE–NW and was 14.6m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.12m topsoil overlaying 0.40m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising sandy gravel. A modern drain was found 10m from the SE end running across the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned SSW–NNE and was 14.9m long and 0.57m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.08m topsoil overlaying 0.41m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising sandy gravel with orange/brown patches of clay and thin subsoil patches. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned SE–NW and was 15.9m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.11m topsoil overlaying 0.49m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising orange/brown sandy clay. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned SE–NW and was 15.1m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.12m topsoil overlaying 0.30m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising of orange/brown sandy clay. A modern pipe was found at 7.5m from the SE end of the trench. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned ESE–WNW and was 5.1m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.16m topsoil overlaying 0.35m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising sandy gravel with orange/brown sandy clay patches. No archaeological features were identified.

Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned SE–NW and was 5.9m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.14m topsoil overlaying 0.36m grey silty clay subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology comprising sandy gravel. No archaeological features were identified.

Finds

No finds were recovered during the course of the evaluation.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed that archaeological levels have remained intact on the site with a small amount of modern truncation present in the form of drain pipes on the site, however no archaeological features were identified or finds recovered. It is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

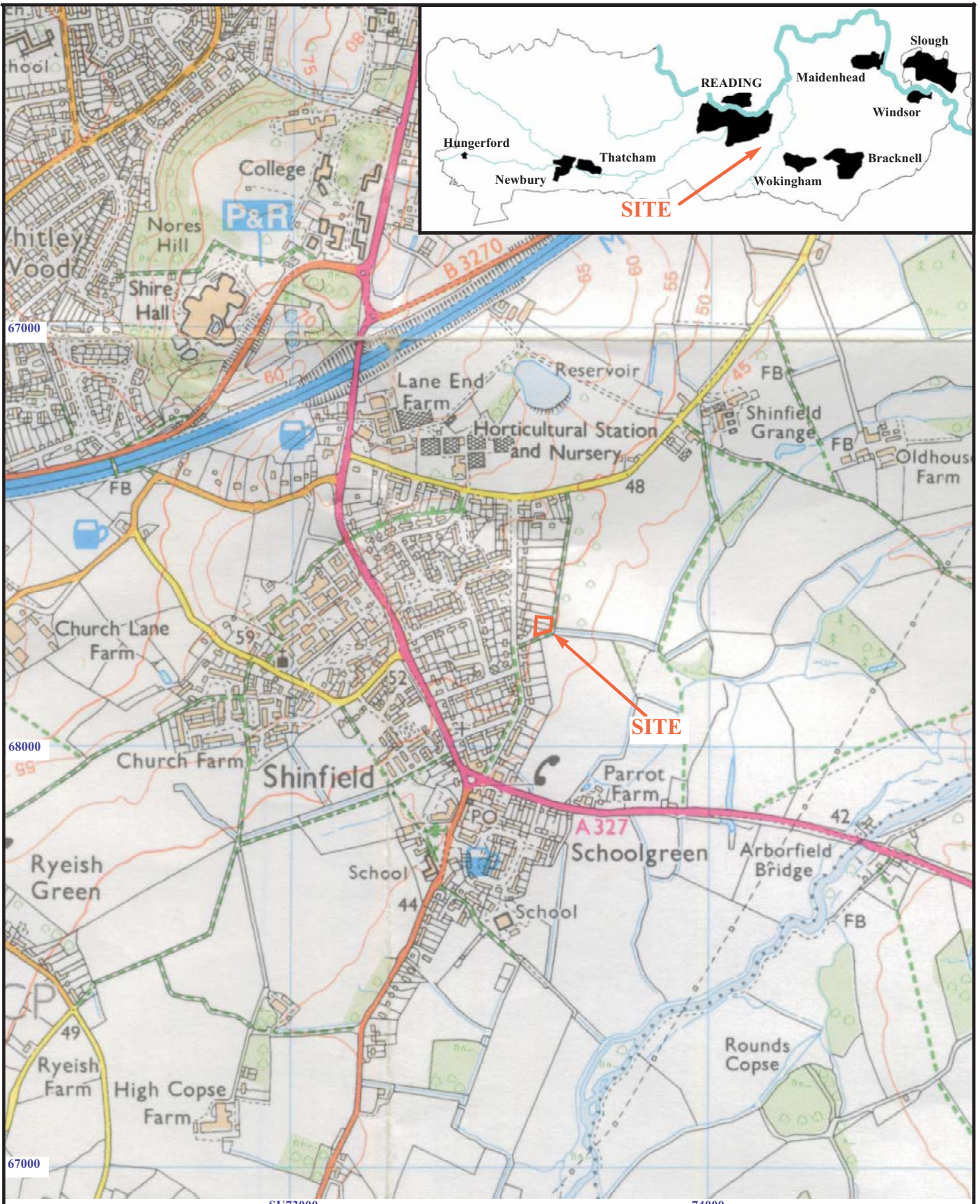
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S, W or SW end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	14.9	1.8	0.56	0-0.06m topsoil; 0.06-0.48m grey silty clay subsoil; 0.48m+ brown sandy gravel with orange/brown patches (natural geology). [Plate 1]
2	14.6	1.8	0.54	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.40m subsoil; 0.4m+ gravel (natural geology).
3	14.9	1.8	0.57	0-0.08m topsoil; 0.08-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m+ gravel with patches of orange/brown clay (natural geology).
4	15.9	1.8	0.64	0-0.11m topsoil; 0.11-0.49m subsoil; 0.49m+ orange/brown sandy clay (natural geology).
5	15.1	1.8	0.45	0-0.12m topsoil; 0.12-0.30m subsoil; 0.3m+ orange brown sandy clay (natural geology). [Plate 2]
6	5.1	1.8	0.56	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m+ gravel (natural geology).
7	5.9	1.8	0.56	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ gravel (natural geology).



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Figure 1. Location of site within Shinfield and Berkshire.

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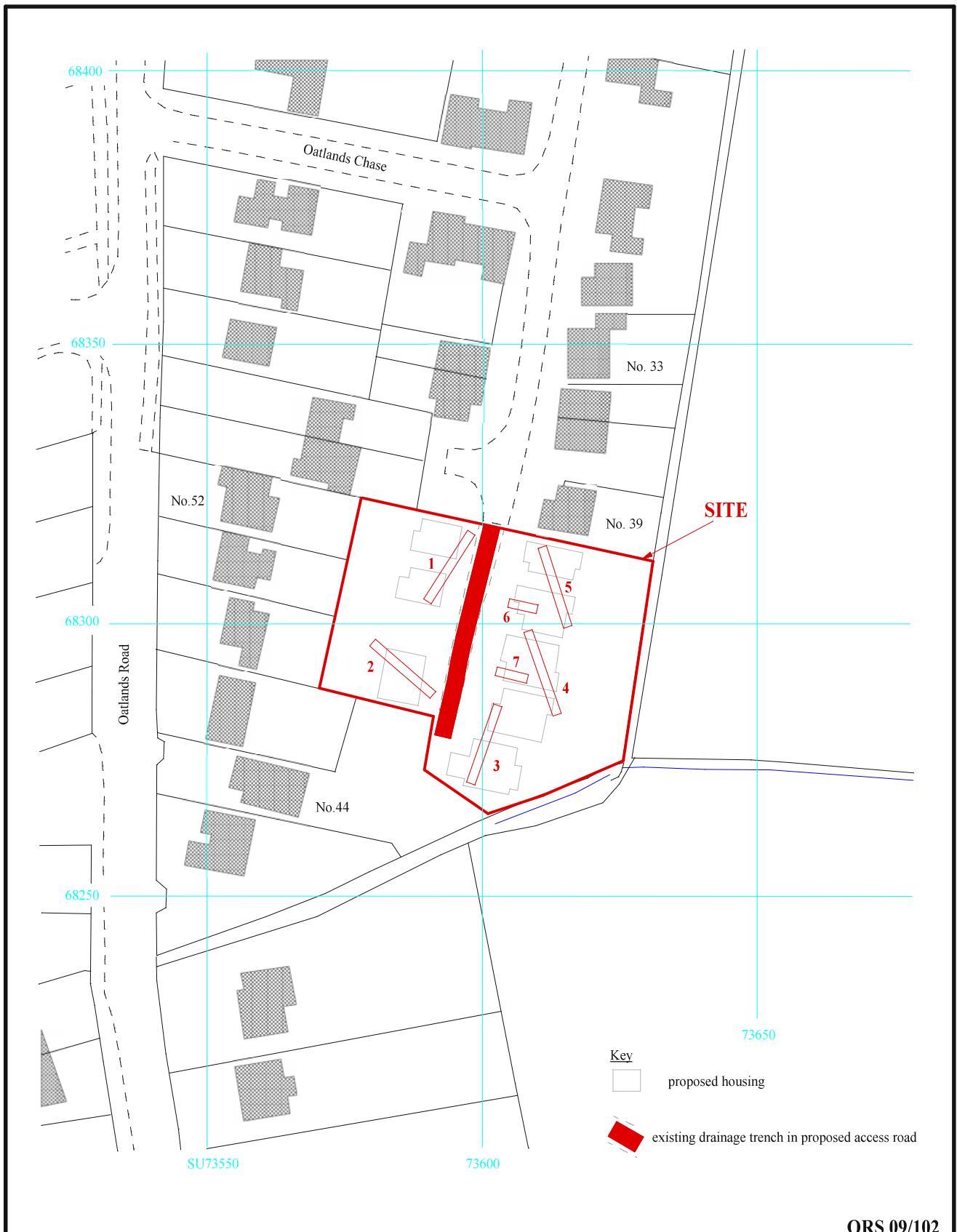


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Figure 2. Location of site off Oatlands Road.

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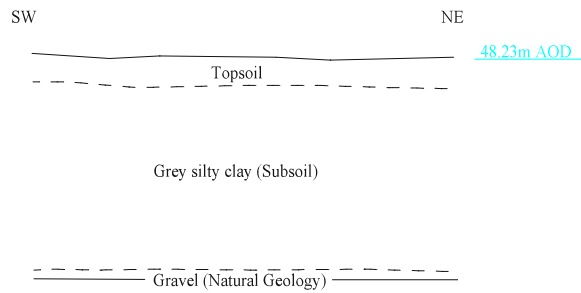
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

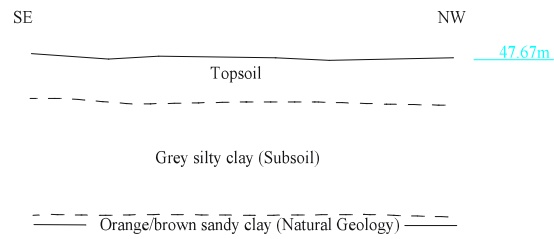


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Trench 1



Trench 5



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Figure 4. Representative Sections





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



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking NE

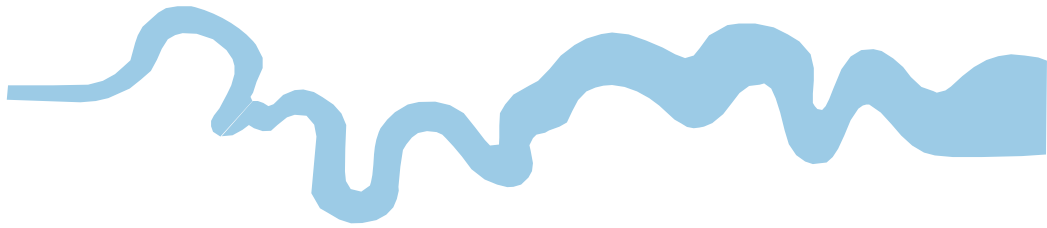
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Plates 1 and 2.

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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