

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road,
Lambourn, West Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: BRL10/57

(SU 3110 7805)

**Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road,
Lambourn, West Berkshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr and Mrs Brunskill

by SteveFord

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeBRL10/57

June 2010

Summary

Site name: Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 3110 7805

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 17th June 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: BRL 10/57

Area of site: c.0.075 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of an archaeological nature were observed during the evaluation. Spoil dumping from a nearby development had taken place on the site. The site is not considered to have archaeological potential

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

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Report edited/checked by: Danielle Milbank ✓ 22.06.10

Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 10/57

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn, West Berkshire (SU 3110 7805) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Janine Gosling of Michael Fowler Architects, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF on behalf of Mr and Mrs Brunskill, Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn, West Berkshire, RG17 7BN. Planning permission (app 10/01175/FULD) is being sought from West Berkshire Council for the construction of a new agricultural tied house on the site. The application is to be supported by the results of field evaluation by trial trenching to determine the archaeological potential of the site, from which a mitigation strategy could be devised as appropriate. This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment*, (PPS5, 2010) and the Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr. Duncan Coe, Archaeology Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Aiji Castle on 17th June 2010 and the site code is BRL10/57. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Baydon Road at Farncombe Farm which lies 1.5km south west of Lambourn. The site forms a rectangular area of grassland on a moderately steep slope which is close to the base of a dry valley. It is bounded to the south by a ménage, to the west by a farm track, to the north by a barn which has been terraced into the slope and to the east by a pasture field (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Middle Chalk (BGS 1947) with gravel just to the north. The geology encountered consisted of chalk with some flint and some orange silty clay patches in the south of the site, with orangey brown clayey silt with some small stones to the north east. This latter material is possibly of alluvial or colluvial origin. The site lies at a height of approximately 150m above Ordnance Datum at the southern end and 145m at the northern end.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the area has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Mr. Duncan Coe, archaeological officer of West Berkshire Council. The potential is derived from the location of the site within the archaeologically rich chalkland landscape of the Berkshire Downs (Richard 1978). Much of the archaeology of the area is recorded from air with extensive tracts of Roman fields visible as crop- and soil- marks, though areas close to Lambourn lack such features, presumably as they were overlain by later, medieval open fields (Bowden et al 1993). Several earthworks are recorded such as Earlier Bronze Age round barrows and including Late Bronze Age linear ditches thought to have functioned as territorial boundaries. One such ditch lies to the south on Coppington Down (Ford 1982). More specifically, a now levelled round barrow (a ring ditch) of presumed Bronze Age date is visible from the air as recorded by the English Heritage National Mapping Programme. This feature lies about 60m to the west of the proposal site with traces of ancient field systems beyond. There has also been the discovery of human remains on or immediately adjacent to the site in 1990 with the possibility that they represent part of a cemetery.

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 archaeological deposits representing burial activity of any period are present.

A total of 5 trenches were to be dug, measuring 6m in length and 1.6m wide. The trenches were located randomly across the site. These would all be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The trenches all measured 1.60m wide and between 5.3m and 7.5m in length (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches and test pits giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4)

This trench measured 5.8m in length and was 0.93m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.6m of made ground. The made ground comprised a compact mixture of grey brown clay with chalk pockets and flint nodules with very occasional fragments of brick and slate. This made ground was overlying 0.23m of dark brown silty clay considered to be a remnant old topsoil. This overlay the natural geology which was chalk with some flints. No deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 2

This trench measured 6.0m in length and was 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.25m of made ground overlying 0.23m of dark brown silty clay also considered to be a remnant old topsoil. This overlay the natural geology which was chalk with some flints and red/brown clayey silt patches. No deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4)

This trench measured 5.3m in length and was 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.35m of made ground overlying the natural geology which was chalk with some flints. No deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 4 (Pl. 1)

This trench measured 6.0m in length and was 0.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.25m of made ground overlying the natural geology which was a red/brow silty clay with frequent small flint inclusions. No deposits of archaeological interest were present.

Trench 5 (Pl 2)

This trench measured 7.5m in length and was 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of turf/topsoil overlying 0.45m of made ground overlying the natural geology which was chalk with some flints. No deposits of archaeological interest were present.

FINDS

A few pieces of brick, slate and concrete were observed from within the made ground deposits (not retained) but otherwise no artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded.

Conclusion

Despite the site lying within an area containing known archaeological deposits, no such deposits were identified in the evaluation trenches. The site had been used for the dumping of spoil from an adjacent development and this had led to some truncation of the original ground though this probably only comprised the removal of topsoil. On the basis of these results, the site is not considered to have any archaeological potential.

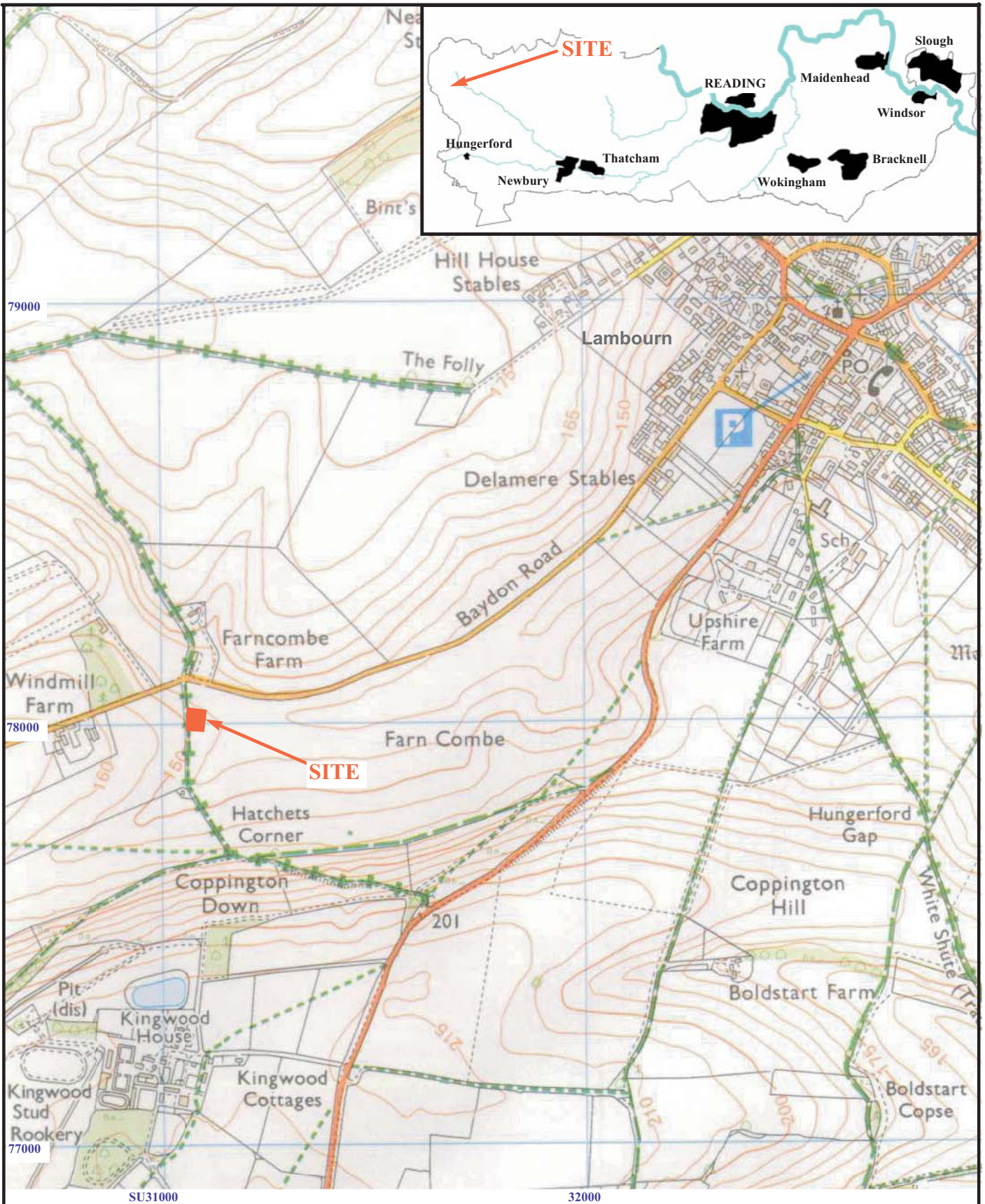
References

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- Ford, S, 1982, 'Linear earthworks on the Berkshire Downs', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **71**, 1–20
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	5.80	1.60	0.93	0-0.10m topsoil/turf; 0.1-0.7m made ground; 0.7-0.93m dark brown silty clay (buried old topsoil?); 0.93m+ chalk with flints (natural geology).
2	6.0	1.60	0.58	0-0.13m topsoil/turf; 0.13-0.38m made ground; 0.38-0.51m dark brown silty clay (buried old topsoil?); 0.51m+ red brown clay/chalk (natural geology).
3	5.30	1.60	0.47	0-0.10m topsoil/turf; 0.1-0.45m made ground; 0.45m+ chalk with some flint (natural geology).
4	6.0	1.60	0.40	0-0.10m topsoil/turf; 0.1-0.35m made ground; 0.35+ brown/red silty clay with frequent small flint pieces (natural geology). [Plate 1]
5	7.50	1.60	0.60	0-0.10m topsoil/turf; 0.1-0.55m made ground; 0.55m+ chalk with flints (natural geology). [Plate 2]



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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Lambourn and within Berkshire.

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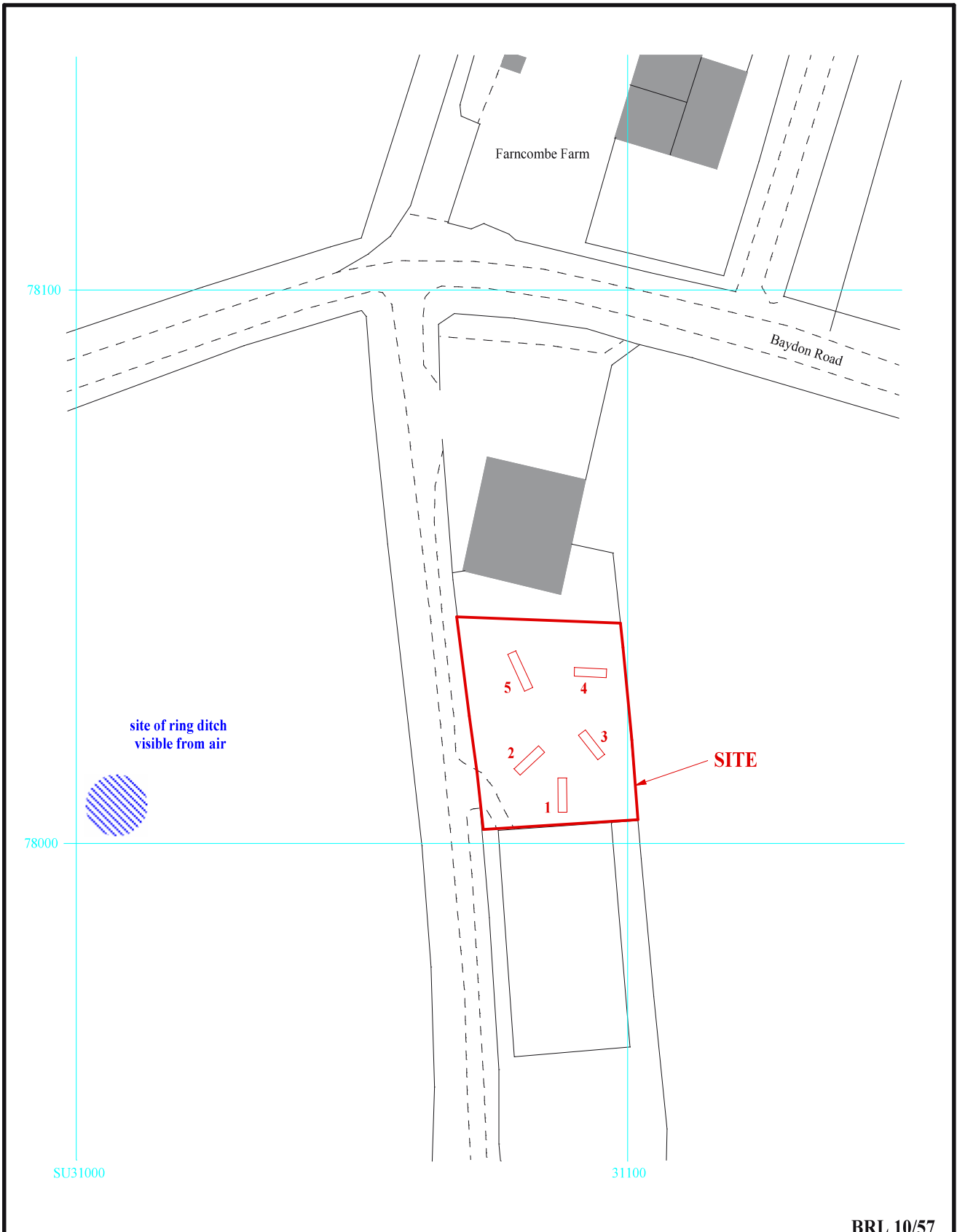
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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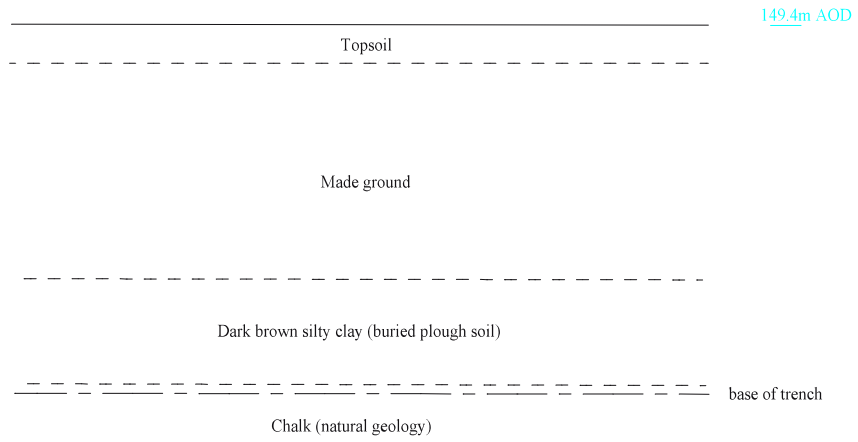
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

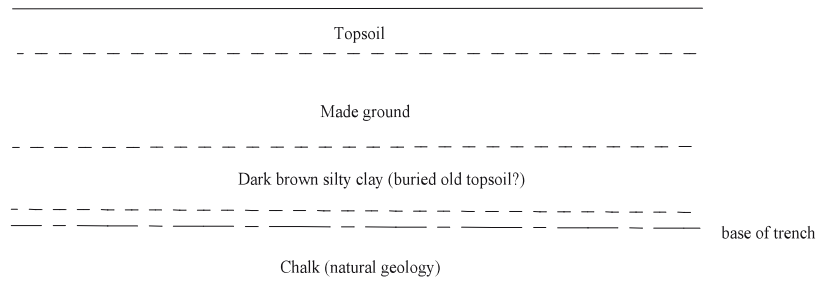


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Trench 1



Trench 3



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 4, looking west, scales: 1m and 0.1m.



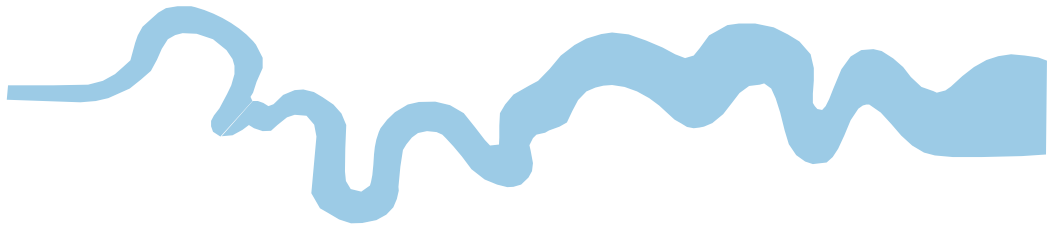
Plate 2. Trench 5,

**Land at Farncombe Farm, Baydon Road, Lambourn,
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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





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

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**