

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Sadler's End, Sindlesham,  
Wokingham, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: SES05/87A**

**(SU 7815 6930)**

# **Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Taylor Wimpey West London**

by Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeSES05/87

**June 2010**

## Summary

**Site name:** Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7815 6930

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 14th–22nd June 2010

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James Lewis and Andy Taylor

**Site code:** SES 05/87

**Area of site:** *c.*7 hectares

**Summary of results:** A modest number of shallow gullies and small pits/post holes were recorded episodically across the site. They were not well dated but where pottery evidence was recovered this was of Middle Iron Age date. One gully was possibly of Late Iron Age date. The most significant discovery was a bloomery iron working site comprising a furnace, slag dump and associated features. This is also possibly of Iron Age date.

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

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.06.10<br>Steve Preston ✓ 30.06.10 |
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# Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

**Report 05/87b-2**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 7815 6930) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr William Luck of Taylor Wimpey West London, Stratfield House, Station Road, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9PQ

Planning permission (F/2008/0619) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council to develop the site for a sports club. The development proposal requires extensive earthmoving and landscaping operations. The consent is subject to a condition (15) relating to archaeology, requiring a phased programme of investigation on the site. Initially this was to take the form of field evaluation by trial trenching, based on the results of which, a further stage of work might be required in order to satisfy the condition. 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 with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The site work was monitored by Ms O'Donoghue and Ms Fiona MacDonald, of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and James Lewis along with Susan Colley and Steve Crabb between 14th–22nd June 2010 and the site code is SES 05/87. 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 on a c.7 hectare parcel of land to the south of Sadler's Lane, Sadler's End, Sindlesham, south of Wokingham, Berkshire (Fig. 1). It is currently agricultural land with a public footpath crossing the centre of the site. Further agricultural land lies to the east with a church and woodland to the south. The site slopes gently down from south to north with a central 'dry valley' running north-south across the whole site (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Lower Bagshot Beds and Plateau Gravel (BGS 1971) with some silty clay (brickearth) capping also observed across the site. Where land drains had been cut through deeply, clay was evident in the backfill. The site slopes from south to north from c.70m to 65m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment for the project (Preston 2005). In summary the site lies within an area where there is a modest range of archaeological finds and sites recorded. Results from the Loddon Valley Survey fieldwalking project (Ford 1994-7) which took place in a zone west of the site, has added considerably to our knowledge of the archaeology of this area, and concluded that, generally, the London Clay and other Eocene geological outcrops in the London Basin were not much favoured for early settlement, but certainly cannot be entirely 'written off'. Due to the relatively large size of the plot of land, the site was considered likely to have moderate, generalized, potential for remains of almost any period.

## **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 provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

It was determined that 75 trenches were to be dug across the site in areas that were to be affected by the proposed development. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results**

All 75 trenches were dug in their intended positions, although those nearest the public footpath and overhead power cables had to be slightly shortened (Fig. 2). This was in consultation with the monitor. A further 11 trenches, as part of an agreed contingency, were dug in order to clarify the nature of the deposits identified, bringing the total of trenches to 86. The trenches were all 1.80m wide and between 8.50m and 28.50m in length.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

The stratigraphy of the trenches was fairly consistent across the site with topsoil (ploughsoil) overlying subsoil overlying an orange/brown silty clay (brickearth) and gravel natural geology across the whole site. The exception was for trenches 1-4 which revealed a much more clayey natural geology. The majority of trenches

contained nothing of archaeological interest. Only those trenches containing possible archaeological deposits are discussed below. All archaeological linear features which traversed the width of the trenches were fully excavated within the trench after initial sampling, in order to maximize finds retrieval. The plans show the initial sample slot only. Similarly, posthole- sized features were also fully excavated.

#### Trench 2 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 5)

This trench measured 26.50m in length and was 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying a sandy clay natural geology. A possible gully was observed in the western end of this trench. A slot (1) was dug into it measuring 0.86m in length, 0.25m wide and 0.08m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

#### Trench 9 (Figs 4 and 8; Pl. 1)

This trench measured 28.50m in length and 0.29m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. Two postholes were observed in this trench, both of which were half sectioned. Posthole 2 measured 0.38m across and 0.08m deep. Its light yellow grey silt clay fill (53) contained 19 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. Posthole 3 measured 0.50m wide and 0.05m deep with an irregular base, suggesting either a double post or disturbance caused by the removal of one post. No dating evidence was recovered from the latter.

#### Trench 16 (Figs 4 and 8)

This trench measured 26.00m in length and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural geology. A posthole (4) was observed in this trench measuring 0.50m wide and 0.08m deep. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 26 (Figs 5 and 8; Pl.6)

This trench measured 26.40m in length and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A gully terminus was observed at 15.50m. A slot (5) was dug across it to reveal it was 0.45m wide and 0.14m deep. Its light grey brown sandy silt fill (56) contained two small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery.

Trench 27 (Figs 5 and 8; Pl. 2)

This trench measured 25.00m in length and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. Two gullies were observed in this trench at 3m and 14m from the south end. Gully 6 was 0.65m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a piece of burnt flint and was cut by a land drain on a slightly different alignment. Gully 7 was 0.90m wide and 0.20m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 31 (Figs 5 and 8; Pl. 3)

This trench measured 24.90m in length and 0.28m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. Two gullies were located at 9m and 16m from the south-west end. Gully terminus 8 was 0.60m wide and 0.27m deep. No dating evidence was recovered. Gully 9 was 0.40m wide and 0.17m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 38 (Figs 5 and 8)

This trench measured 24.80m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural geology. A possible posthole/scoop (10) was located at 11.80m. This measured 0.70m in length, 0.30m wide and 0.05m deep. It did not contain any dating evidence.

Trench 40 (Figs 5 and 8)

This trench measured 23.40m in length and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A posthole (11) was located at 7.50m and measured 0.24m in diameter and 0.12m deep. It contained a single piece of burnt flint.

Trench 42 (Figs 5 and 8)

This trench measured 27.00m in length and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A possible pit/treebole (12) was located at 24.50m. This measured 1.40m in length, 1.05m wide and 0.07m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 48 (Figs 6 and 8)

This trench measured 25.20m in length and 0.38m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel and brickearth natural geology. A gully was located at 16m. Slot 13 was dug across it and revealed it was 0.60m wide and 0.09m deep. No finds were recovered.

#### Trench 53 (Figs 6 and 8; Pl. 7)

This trench measured 24.60m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A gully was located at 21m. A slot (14) was dug across it and revealed it was 0.65m wide and 0.28m deep. Its mid grey sandy silt fill (65) contained a single piece of brick or tile, two sherds of Late Iron Age pottery and six pieces of metal.

#### Trench 60 (Figs 6 and 8; Pls 4 and 8)

This trench measured 25.60m in length and 0.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A large deposit of burning and iron working slag was observed at the western end of this trench. This was investigated and determined to be part of an iron working forge. The furnace base (66) and part of the flue (68) of this structure were observed, with stakeholes (15 and 16) below this. Several postholes were also observed immediately eastwards of this area possibly suggesting a structure adjacent to the iron working area. Only two of these were investigated. Posthole 22 measured 0.35m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained 12g of iron slag. Posthole 23 measured 0.40m wide and 0.15m deep. It contained two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and 641g of iron slag. Pits and postholes 17-21 and 24 were not dug as it was deemed more appropriate to deal with this structure under excavation conditions.

#### Trench 63 (Figs 6 and 8)

This trench measured 25.40m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural geology. An area of burning was observed on the northern edge of the trench at 11.50m and the width of the trench was extended by a further metre to expose this feature. This pit (25) measured 1.20m in length, 0.70m wide and 0.15m deep. This contained 138g of slag.

#### Trench 70 (Figs 7 and 8)

This trench measured 23.70m in length and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel and clay natural geology. A gully was located at 4m in this trench. A slot (26) was dug across it measuring 0.90m in length, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. No dating evidence was recovered.

#### Trench 76 (Figs 7 and 8)

This trench measured 18.00m in length and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural geology. Further evidence of the burning and slag spread in Trench 60



was observed in this trench as well as further possible pit (28). No further work was carried out in this trench as it was deemed to be best dealt with under excavation conditions.

#### Trench 77 (Figs 7 and 8)

This trench measured 15.50m in length and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth and gravel natural geology. As with Trench 76 further evidence of the burning and slag spread was observed in this trench as well as another pit and a posthole (29, 30). Again no further work was carried on this trench at this time.

#### Trench 79 (Figs 7 and 8)

This trench measured 9.00m in length and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. A posthole (27) was located at 5.80m. This measured 0.30m wide and 0.07m deep. No finds were recovered.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Malcolm Lyne

A small collection comprising 25 sherds of pottery was recovered from the site, from four contexts (Appendix 3) and in just two fabrics:

- F1. Friable soft black fabric with silt, mica and sparse-to-moderate ill-sorted 0.01<3.00 mm. calcined-flint poorly distributed in clumps within the fabric. Some sherds are polished internally and externally.
- F2. ?*Terra Rubra* with surface greying (TR3)

With the exception of the tiny sherd of possible *terra rubra*, all the pottery is of Middle Iron Age currency, and probably not particularly late in that tradition.

### *Metalwork* by Steve Crabb

A small number of metal finds were recovered from the evaluation, weighing 132g. All were made of iron and came from just two contexts. Three iron nails were recovered from the subsoil of Trench 15 (Cat. Nos. 7, 8, 9) and a small assemblage of 6 objects recovered from gully slot 14 (fill 65) (Cat. Nos. 1–6). Of these 3 are indistinguishable lumps (Cat. Nos. 2–4), one is a highly corroded nail (Cat. No. 5), one is a small right angled bar (Cat No. 1) and the last is an iron ring (Cat. No. 6). The iron ring has a diameter of 5.5cm and it has an opening of 0.5cm. It is made of 3mm thick wire visible where the corrosion has broken off.

## *Slag* by Steve Crabb

A total of 13.2kg of slag and industrial debris were recovered from the evaluation (Appendix 4). This can be distinguished into 6 categories: furnace slag, furnace lining, slagged furnace lining, tap/raked slag, fuel ash slag, magnetic residue and natural iron ore. The majority of this was recovered from the furnace structure and associated deposits in trench 60. Of this slag the vast majority is associated with iron smelting in the form of furnace and tap slag, a small quantity of undiagnostic and fuel ash slag were recovered but these are also to be expected from an iron smelting furnace.

Initial examination of this slag indicates that this furnace was producing iron using the direct or 'bloomery' process. The direct process results in the production of a spongy mass of iron and slag which can be worked to produce malleable iron which can then be made into an artefact. It is a solid state process during which the iron is transformed from ore into metal without becoming liquid. It is a two stage process, firstly iron ore reduced into metallic iron and then the formation of slag from the gangue or waste materials (Pleiner 2000, 132). The direct process requires very rich ores as the slag formation consumes a portion of the iron oxide (McDonnell 1995).

The slag recovered from the features in Trench 60 have the same physical properties, they are all dark grey in colour, dense, and with low to moderate porosity. Where the fragments have been broken the crystalline structure is visible to the naked eye this suggests that the slag was cooled slowly inside the furnace. The tap/raked slag does not show this as it would have been removed from the furnace probably during the process to remove the bloom. The small volume of tap or raked slag suggests that this furnace may not be a slag tapping furnace but this is also an effect of the small sample size. The tap or raked slag and furnace slag are essentially indicative of the same process. The types of slag recovered are diagnostic of iron smelting (Salter 2003).

The furnace lining recovered is split between heat-affected earth suggesting the external structure of the furnace and slagged furnace lining indicating the internal surface of the furnace. The slagged furnace lining has evidence of directly slag attacked lining and vitrified lining.

Magnetic residue is likely to be a mixture of partially reduced iron ore covered with a thin layer of slag and small prills (small pieces of metallic iron).

The natural iron ore recovered is in nodular form from the gravel natural present within the clay on site. Comparison between this ore and the slag would show if the ore occurring on site was exploited in the furnace.

## Conclusion

The evaluation revealed a moderate amount of archaeological deposits scattered across the site, with two areas of concentration. A single posthole (or small pit) in Trench 9 also contained a relatively large amount of Middle Iron Age which may indicate the presence of further features of that date in the immediate vicinity of this trench, although an additional trench, 84, adjacent to it did not reveal any other deposits.

One of the concentrations was centred around Trenches 26, 27 and 31 where linear features were identified. Although mostly undated one of these (23) contained two small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and it is possible that the others are also of this date.

The other area was concentrated around Trenches 60, 76 and 77. These identified an area of burning and iron working with slag deposits with a probable furnace site at the western end of Trench 60. Further pits and postholes were also identified around this deposit suggesting the presence of structures which may be associated with this industrial activity. The date of the iron working is unknown except that the process represented, bloomery production, was in use from the Iron Age and did not go out of use until the development of blast furnaces in the post-medieval industrial revolution. Posthole 23 in Trench 60 contained two sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery and fragments of iron slag and may well provide a plausible date for the whole complex.

Other examples of prehistoric and Roman iron working have been identified in nearby areas including sites at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works (Pine 2003) and Baird Road (Hammond forthcoming), both in Arborfield. There are also a range of other unexcavated iron-working sites represented by slag heaps recorded in south-east Berkshire (Ford 1987, fig. 38), thought to be exploiting iron ore from the tertiary geological outcrops, most notably Bagshot Beds (Salter and Ehrenreich 1984). Similar geological outcrops have also been exploited in West Berkshire with particularly noteworthy and nationally important late Bronze Age ironworking sites at Dunston's Park and Harts Hill Copse, both in Thatcham (Fitzpatrick, 1995; Collard *et al.* 2006).

It is likely that further archaeological deposits are located across the site and as such further work would be required to excavate and record these before any development on the site takes place.

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## 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             | 26.60             | 1.80               | 0.40             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.40m+ sandy clay natural geology.  |
| 2             | 26.50             | 1.80               | 0.38             | 0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.38m+ sandy clay natural geology. Gully 1                                    |
| 3             | 26.50             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ sandy clay natural geology.  |
| 4             | 27.50             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.28m+ sandy clay natural geology.  |
| 5             | 26.80             | 1.80               | 0.33             | 0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.33m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 6             | 25.10             | 1.80               | 0.36             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m-0.36m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 7             | 25.40             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 8             | 26.30             | 1.80               | 0.34             | 0.00m-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.34m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 9             | 28.50             | 1.80               | 0.29             | 0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology. Pits 2, posthole 3 <b>[Plates 1 and 5]</b> |
| 10            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 11            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 12            | 26.20             | 1.80               | 0.40             | 0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 13            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.40             | 0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 14            | 26.20             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 15            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 16            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology. Posthole 4                                 |
| 17            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 18            | 25.50             | 1.80               | 0.45             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.45m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 19            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 20            | 24.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 21            | 26.30             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 22            | 22.40             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 23            | 21.20             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.08m topsoil; 0.08m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 24            | 26.20             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 25            | 18.30             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 26            | 26.40             | 1.80               | 0.45             | 0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.45m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully Terminal 5 <b>[Plate 5]</b>          |
| 27            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.50             | 0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.46m subsoil; 0.46m-0.50m+ brickearth natural geology. Gullies 6 and 7 <b>[Plate 2]</b>           |
| 28            | 24.60             | 1.80               | 0.33             | 0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.33m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 29            | 25.30             | 1.80               | 0.45             | 0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.37m subsoil; 0.37m-0.45m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 30            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.48             | 0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.41m subsoil; 0.41m-0.48m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 31            | 24.90             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully Terminal 8; Gully 9 <b>[Plate 3]</b> |
| 32            | 27.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 33            | 26.60             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 34            | 25.30             | 1.80               | 0.27             | 0.00m-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.27m+ brickearth natural geology.  |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>  |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 35            | 26.20             | 1.80               | 0.33             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.33m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 36            | 25.50             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 37            | 25.20             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 38            | 24.80             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology. Posthole 10  |
| 39            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.40             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.36m subsoil; 0.36m-0.40m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 40            | 23.40             | 1.80               | 0.40             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.40m+ brickearth natural geology. Posthole 11  |
| 41            | 24.00             | 1.80               | 0.31             | 0.00m-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.31m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 42            | 27.00             | 1.80               | 0.44             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.44m+ brickearth natural geology. Pit/Treebole 12  |
| 43            | 24.60             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.17m topsoil; 0.17m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 44            | 25.60             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 45            | 25.10             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 46            | 26.00             | 1.80               | 0.32             | 0.00m-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.32m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 47            | 25.60             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 48            | 25.20             | 1.80               | 0.38             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.34m subsoil; 0.34m-0.38m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully 13   |
| 49            | 25.40             | 1.80               | 0.32             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.32m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 50            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 51            | 24.00             | 1.80               | 0.38             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.35m subsoil; 0.35m-0.38m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 52            | 24.50             | 1.80               | 0.28             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.28m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 53            | 24.60             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully 14 <b>[Plate 7]</b>  |
| 54            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.14m topsoil; 0.14m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 55            | 24.50             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 56            | 25.40             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 57            | 18.90             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 58            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 59            | 24.40             | 1.80               | 0.33             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.33m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 60            | 25.60             | 1.80               | 0.20             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.18m subsoil; 0.18m-0.20m+ brickearth natural geology. Stakeholes 15 and 16; Furnace Base 66; Flue 69; Postholes 17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 24; Pits 18, and 21 <b>[Plates 4 and 8]</b> |
| 61            | 19.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 62            | 26.40             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.18m topsoil; 0.18m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 63            | 25.40             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology. Pit 25   |
| 64            | 22.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 65            | 26.20             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 66            | 25.60             | 1.80               | 0.32             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.32m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 67            | 24.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.13m topsoil; 0.13m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 68            | 25.30             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.31m subsoil; 0.31m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 69            | 25.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.26m subsoil; 0.26m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 70            | 23.70             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology. Gully 26   |

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i>  |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---|
| 71            | 25.10             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 72            | 24.50             | 1.80               | 0.27             | 0.00m-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m-0.27m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 73            | 24.40             | 1.80               | 0.33             | 0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.33m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 74            | 24.00             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 75            | 20.20             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 76            | 18.00             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology. Continuation of Slag Deposits from Tr 60 |
| 77            | 15.50             | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.32m subsoil; 0.32m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology. Continuation of Slag Deposits from Tr 60 |
| 78            | 9.00              | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 79            | 9.00              | 1.80               | 0.35             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m subsoil; 0.30m-0.35m+ brickearth natural geology. Posthole 27                              |
| 80            | 8.50              | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 81            | 14.00             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.22m subsoil; 0.22m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 82            | 12.00             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.12m topsoil; 0.12m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 83            | 10.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 84            | 13.30             | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.09m topsoil; 0.09m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 85            | 9.70              | 1.80               | 0.25             | 0.00m-0.11m topsoil; 0.11m-0.23m subsoil; 0.23m-0.25m+ brickearth natural geology.  |
| 86            | 10.00             | 1.80               | 0.30             | 0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m-0.30m+ brickearth natural geology.  |

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

| <i>Cut</i> | <i>Trench</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i>    | <i>Date</i>       | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1          | 2             | 52              | Gully          |                   |                        |
| 2          | 9             | 53              | Posthole       | Middle Iron Age   | Pottery                |
| 3          | 9             | 54              | Posthole       |                   |                        |
| 4          | 16            | 55              | Posthole       |                   |                        |
| 5          | 26            | 56              | Gully Terminus | Middle Iron Age   | Pottery                |
| 6          | 27            | 57              | Gully          |                   |                        |
| 7          | 27            | 58              | Gully          |                   |                        |
| 8          | 31            | 59              | Gully Terminus |                   |                        |
| 9          | 31            | 60              | Gully          |                   |                        |
| 10         | 38            | 61              | Posthole       |                   |                        |
| 11         | 40            | 62              | Posthole       |                   |                        |
| 12         | 42            | 63              | Pit/Treebole   |                   |                        |
| 13         | 48            | 64              | Gully          |                   |                        |
| 14         | 53            | 65              | Gully          | Late Iron Age?    | Pottery/ Tile/Iron     |
|            | 60            | 66, 68          | Furnace        | Pre- 16th century | Bloomery production    |
| 15         | 60            | 71              | Stakehole      |                   |                        |
| 16         | 60            | 72              | Stakehole      |                   |                        |
| 17         | 60            | 77              | Posthole       | Not dug           |                        |
| 18         | 60            | 78              | Pit            | Not dug           |                        |
| 19         | 60            | 79              | Posthole       | Not dug           |                        |
| 20         | 60            | 80              | Posthole       | Not dug           |                        |
| 21         | 60            | 81              | Pit            |                   |                        |
| 22         | 60            | 73, 74          | Posthole       |                   |                        |
| 23         | 60            | 75              | Posthole       | Middle Iron Age   | Pottery                |
| 24         | 60            | 82              | Posthole       | Not dug           |                        |
| 25         | 63            | 83              | Pit            |                   | None                   |
| 26         | 70            | 84              | Gully          |                   | None                   |
| 27         | 79            | 85              | Posthole       |                   | None                   |
| 28         | 76            | -               | Pit            | Not dug           |                        |
| 29         | 77            | -               | Pit            | Not dug           |                        |
| 30         | 77            | -               | Pit            | Not dug           |                        |



### APPENDIX 3: Pottery catalogue

| Trench | Cut | Context | Fabric | Form                  | Date-range  | No sherds | Wt (g) | Comments         |
|--------|-----|---------|--------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------|--------|------------------|
| 9      | 2   | 53      | 1      | jar                   | c.500–300BC | 19        | 78     | Fresh 1 pot      |
| 26     | 5   | 56      | 1      |                       | c.500–300BC | 2         | 1      |                  |
| 53     | 14  | 65      | 2      | ?ovoid beaker         | c.AD1–60    | 2         | 1      |                  |
| 60     | 23  | 75      | 1      | Base of ?saucepan pot | c.500–300BC | 2         | 19     | Fresh. Polished. |

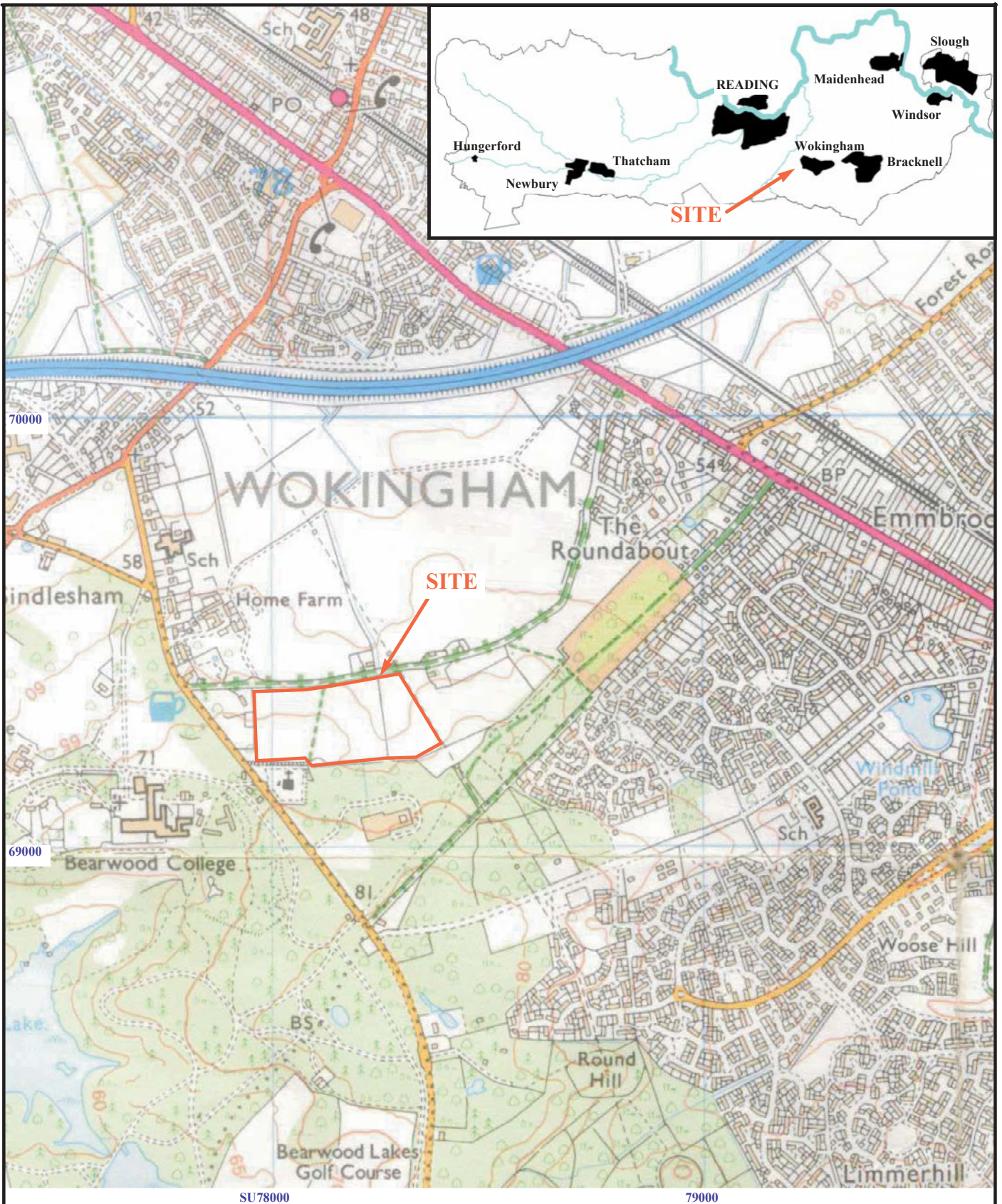
## APPENDIX 4: Metalworking debris

### (a) Summary

| <i>Debris Type</i>     | <i>Weight (KG)</i> | <i>%</i> |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Smelting               | 10258              | 75.7     |
| Furnace Lining         | 1991               | 14.7     |
| Slagged Furnace Lining | 706                | 5.2      |
| Undiagnostic Slag      | 12                 | 0.08     |
| Magnetic Residue       | 305                | 2.3      |
| Fuel Ash Slag          | 12                 | 0.08     |
| Natural                | 266                | 1.9      |

### (b) Catalogue by Context

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Deposit</i> | <i>Group</i> | <i>Type</i>            | <i>No</i> | <i>Wt (g)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| Tr.60         |            | 66             |              | Magnetic Residue       |           | 259           | Sample 2       |
| 60            |            | 66             |              | Smelting Slag          | 27        | 791           |                |
| 60            |            | 66             |              | Smelting Slag          |           | 4275          | Sample 2       |
| 60            |            | 66             |              | Furnace Lining         | 4         | 1007          |                |
| 60            |            | 66             |              | Slagged Furnace Lining | 7         | 588           |                |
| 60            |            | 66             |              | Slagged Furnace Lining |           | 118           | Sample 2       |
| 60            |            | 67             |              | Furnace Lining         | 1         | 540           |                |
| 60            |            | 68             |              | Smelting Slag          | 19        | 422           |                |
| 60            |            | 69             |              | Smelting Slag          |           | 183           | Sample 3       |
| 60            |            | 69             |              | Magnetic Residue       |           | 46            | Sample 3       |
| 60            |            | 70             |              | Smelting Slag          | 73        | 3550          |                |
| 60            |            | 70             |              | Smelting Slag          |           | 157           | Sample 4       |
| 60            |            | 70             |              | Furnace Lining         |           | 444           | Sample 4       |
| 60            |            | 70             |              | Fuel Ash Slag          | 1         | 12            |                |
| 60            | 16         | 72             |              | Smelting Slag          |           | 113           | Sample 5       |
| 60            | 22         | 73             |              | Undiagnostic Slag      | 2         | 12            |                |
| 60            | 23         | 75             |              | Smelting Slag          | 11        | 641           |                |
| 63            |            | -              |              | Natural Iron Ore       | 2         | 266           |                |
| 63            | 25         | 83             |              | Smelting Slag          | 5         | 106           |                |
| 63            | 25         | 83             |              | Smelting Slag          | 6         | 32            | Sample 6       |



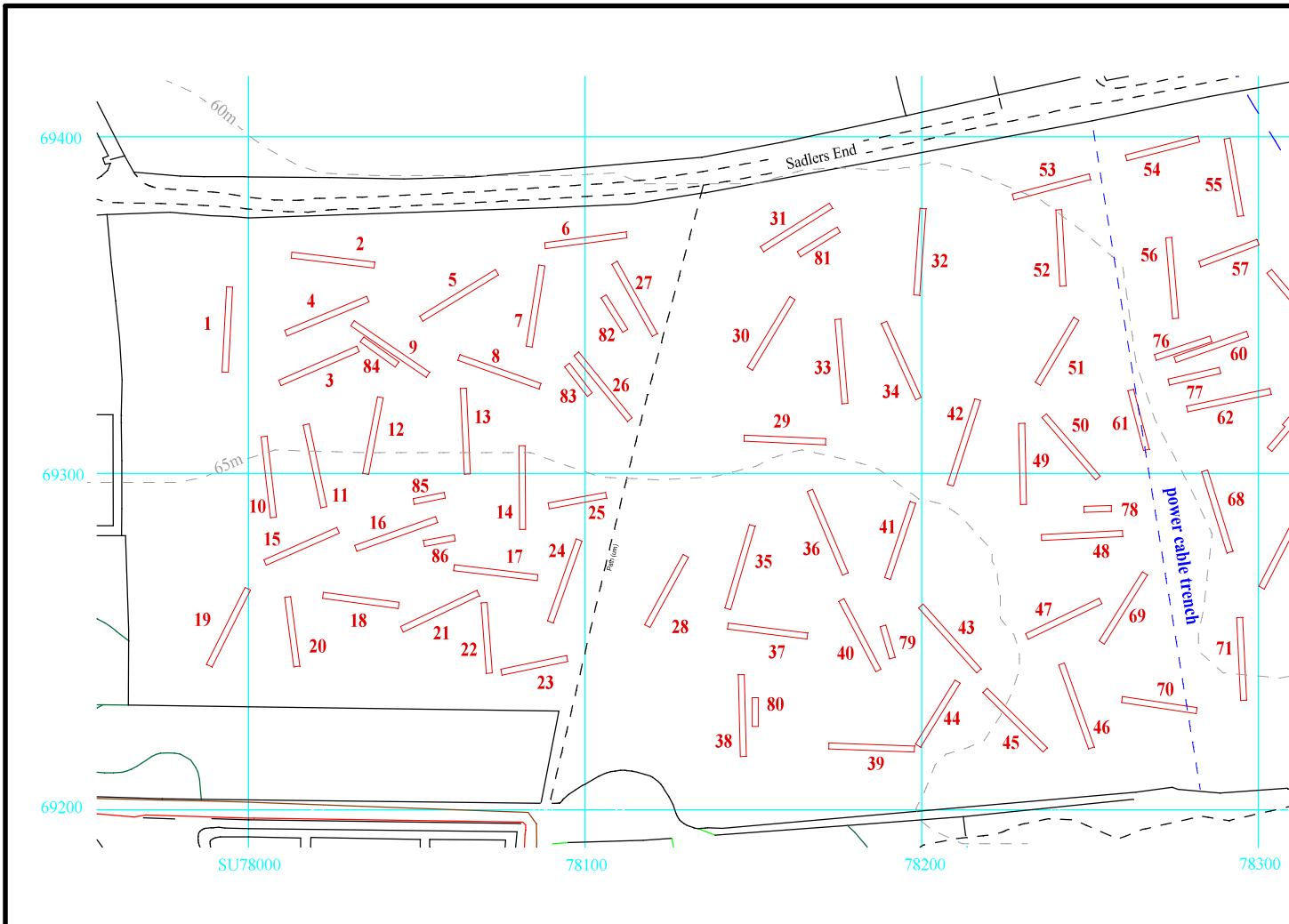
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Sindlesham,  
Wokingham and within Berkshire.

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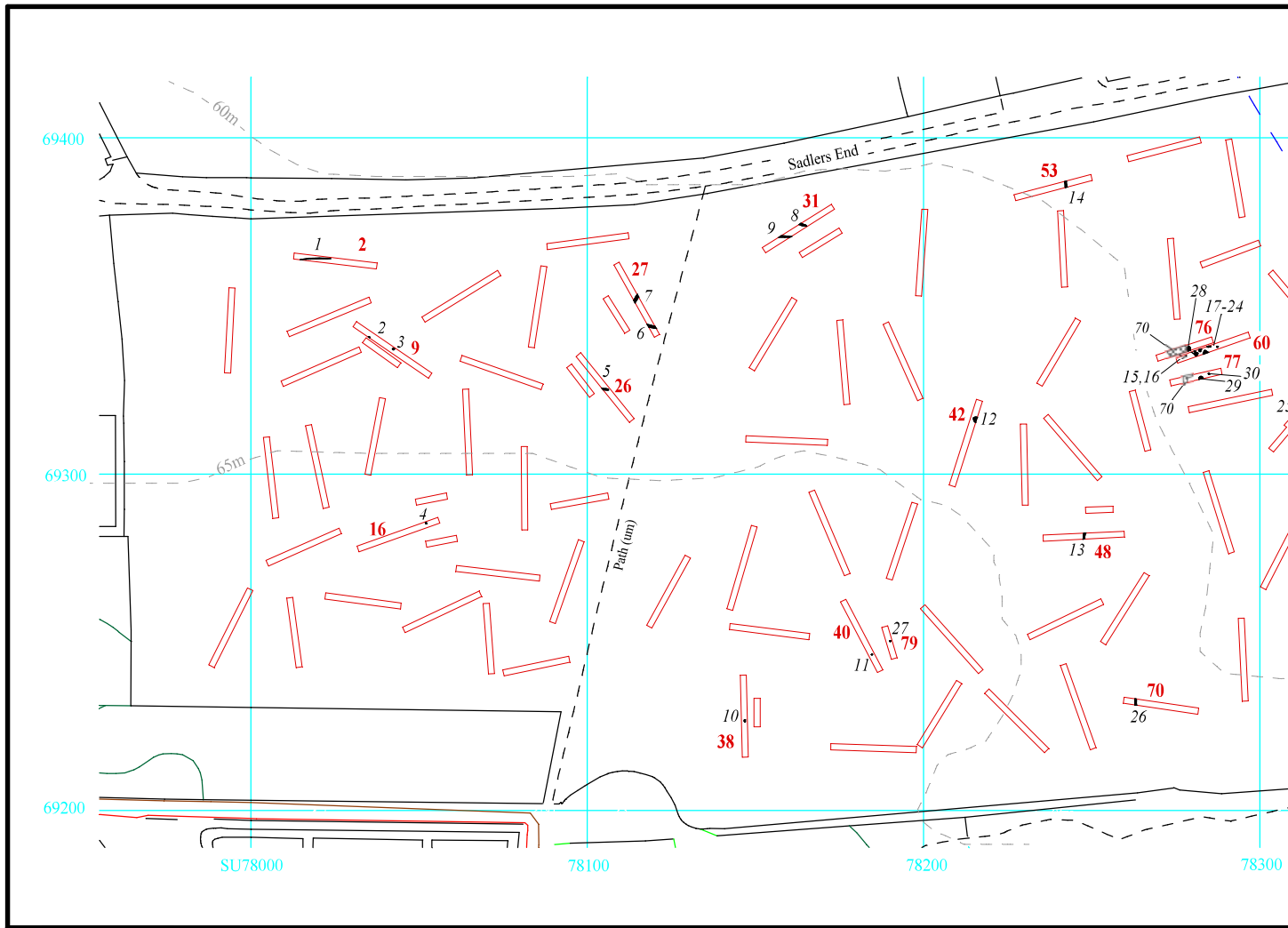
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Figure 2. Detail of trenching.



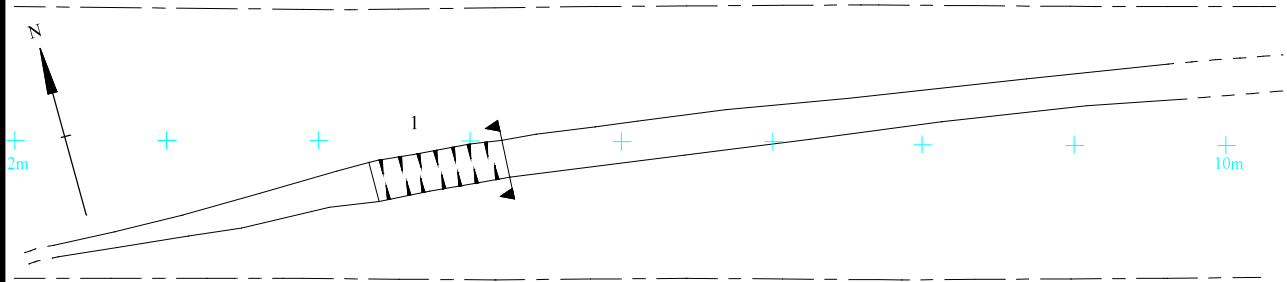


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Archaeological Evaluation**

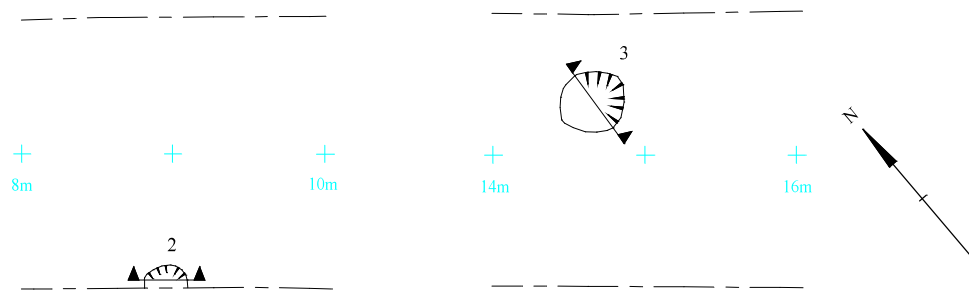
Figure 3. Detail of features in trenches.



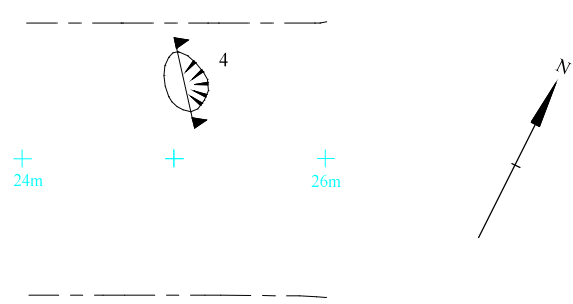
Trench 2



Trench 9



Trench 16



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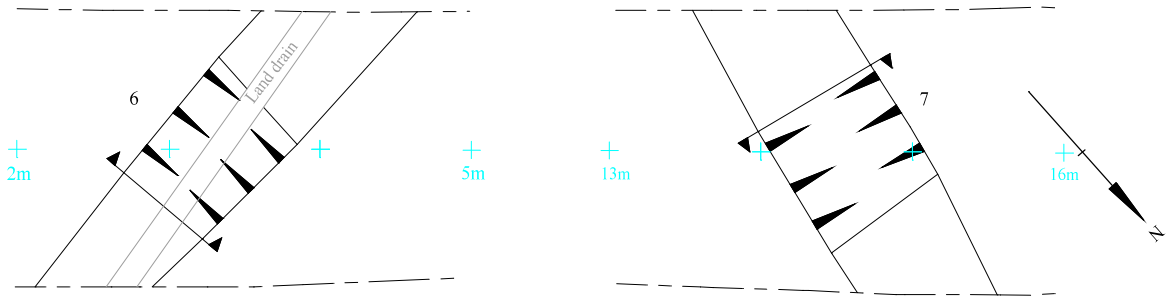
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Figure 4. Detail of Trenches.

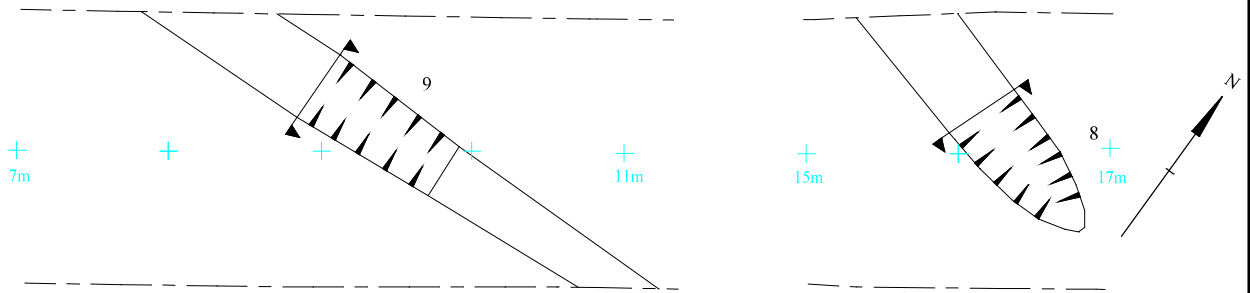


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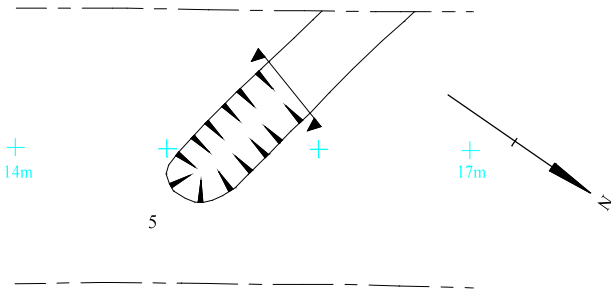
Trench 27



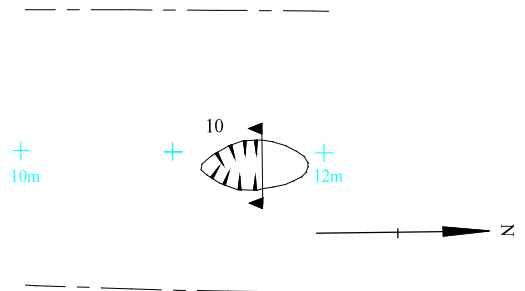
Trench 31



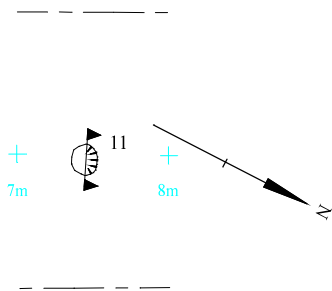
Trench 26



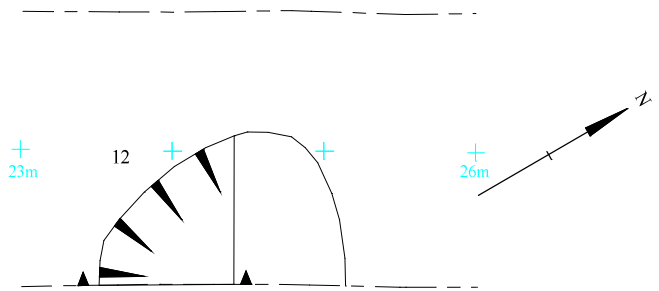
Trench 38



Trench 40



Trench 42



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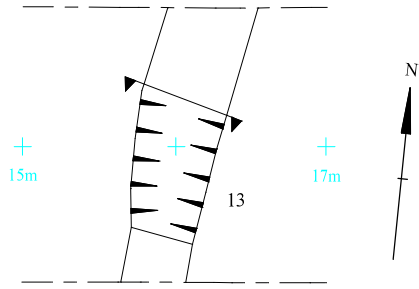
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Figure 5. Detail of Trenches (continued).

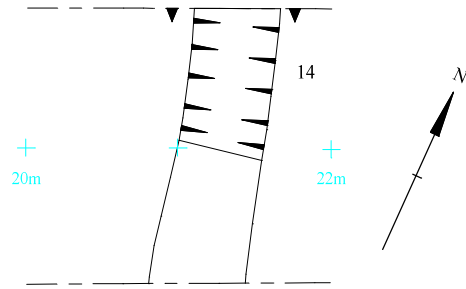


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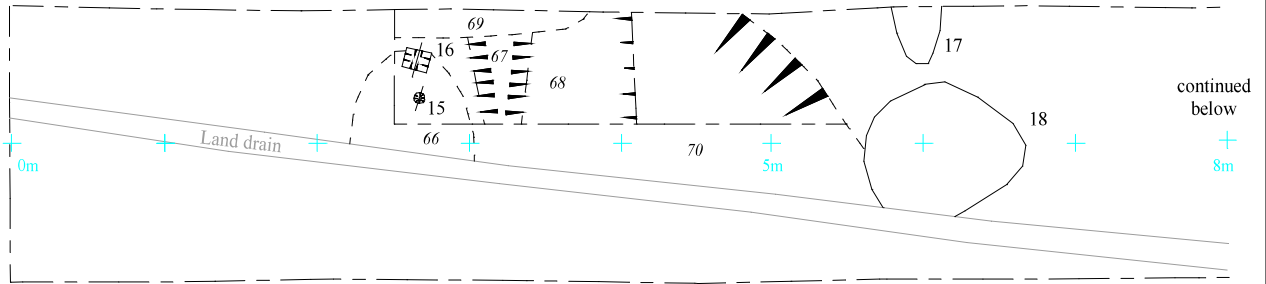
Trench 48



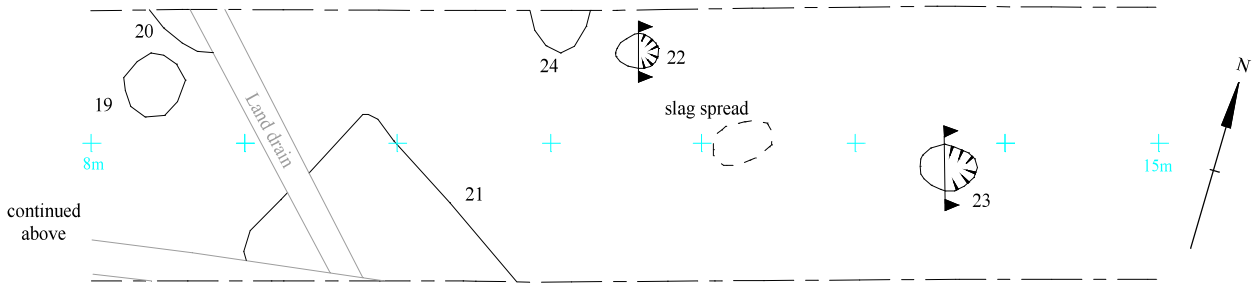
Trench 53



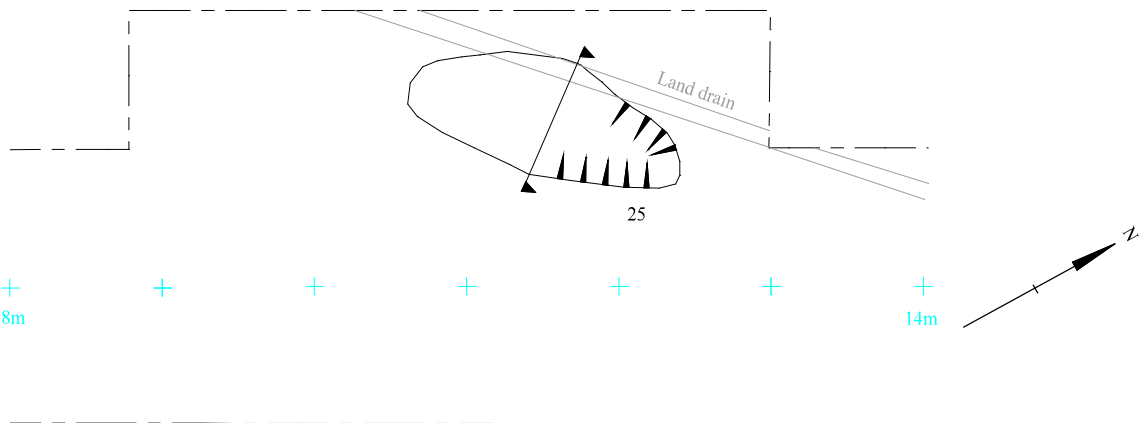
Trench 60



Trench 60 continued



Trench 63



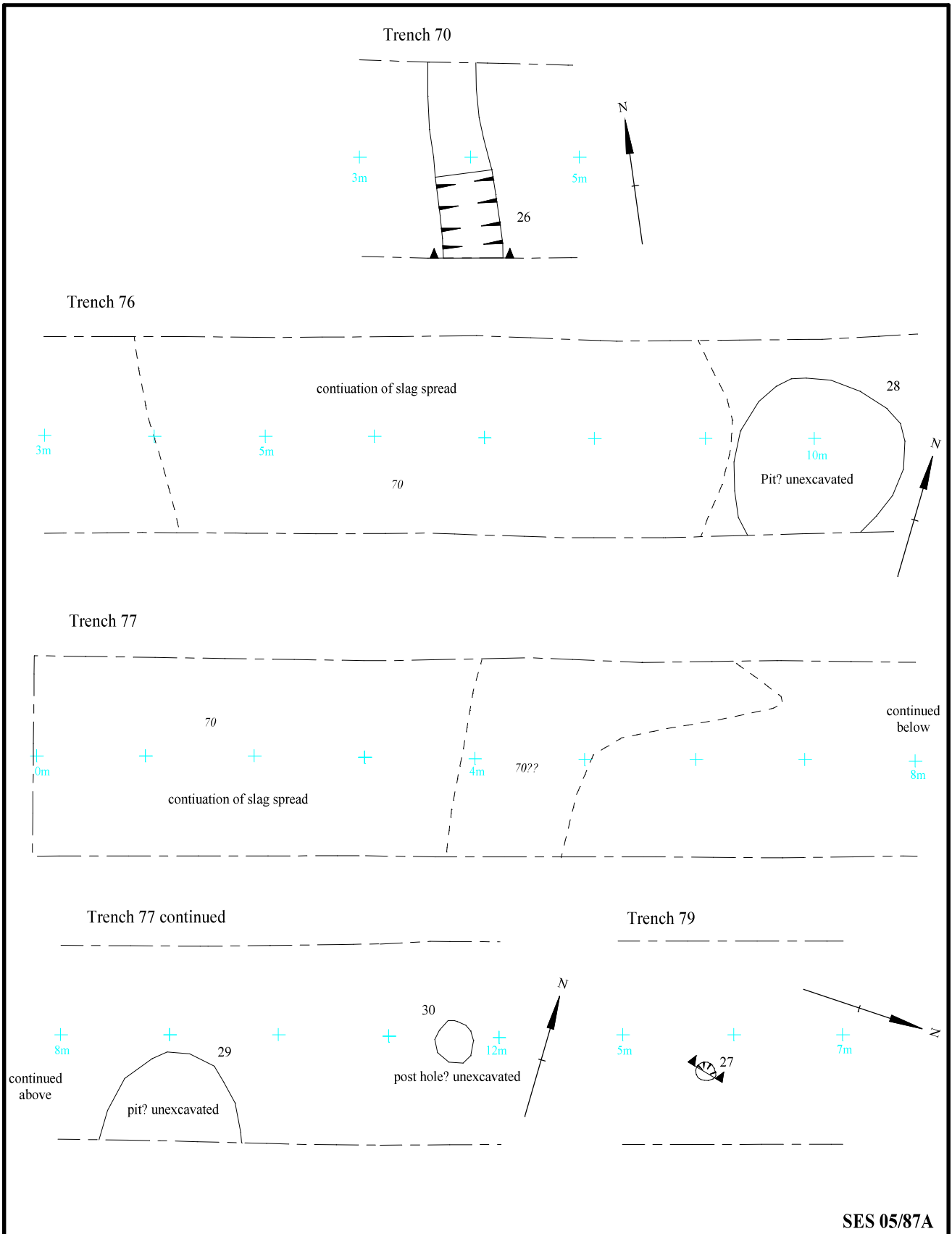
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Figure 6. Detail of Trenches (continued).





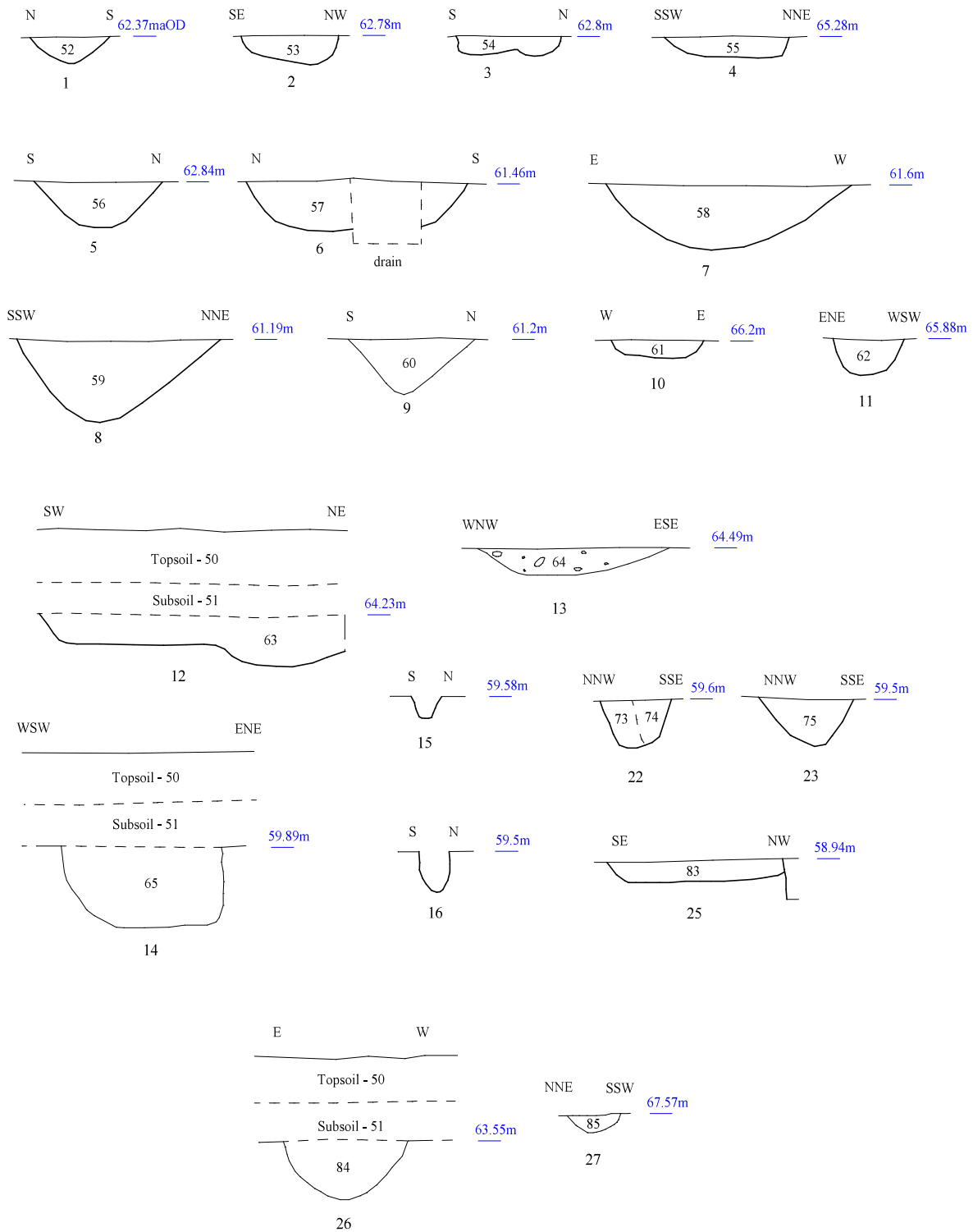


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Figure 6. Detail of Trenches (continued).





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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 8. Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 9, looking south-east, scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 27, looking north-west. scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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Plates 1 and 2

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Plate 3. Trench 31, looking north-east, scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 60, looking south-west. scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3.

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Berkshire, 2010**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 3 and 4

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 5. Trench 9, pit 2, looking north -west, scale: 0.1m.

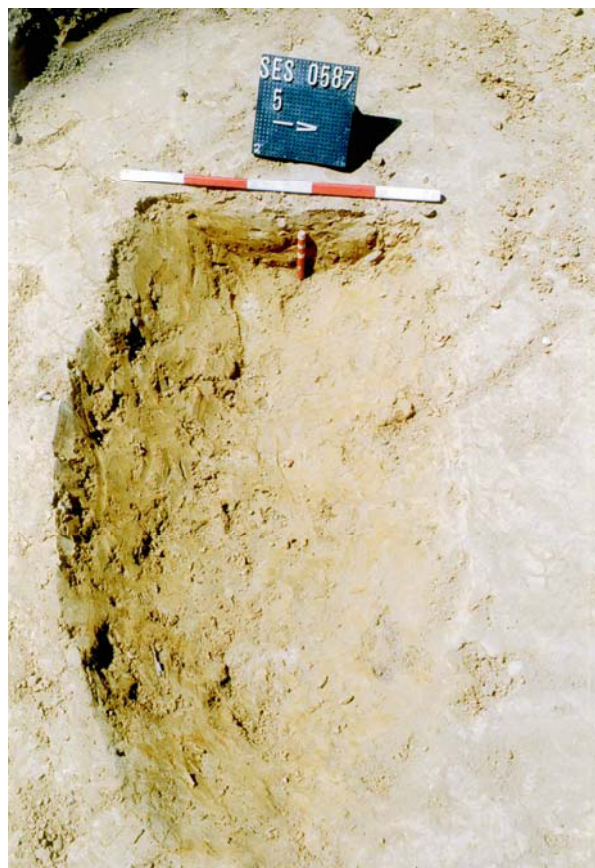


Plate 6. Trench 26, gully terminal, 5, looking west, scales: horizontal 0.5m and vertical 0.1m.

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Land off Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham,  
Berkshire, 2010  
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 5 and 6

THAMES VALLEY  
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Plate 7. Trench 53, gully 14, looking north  
scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



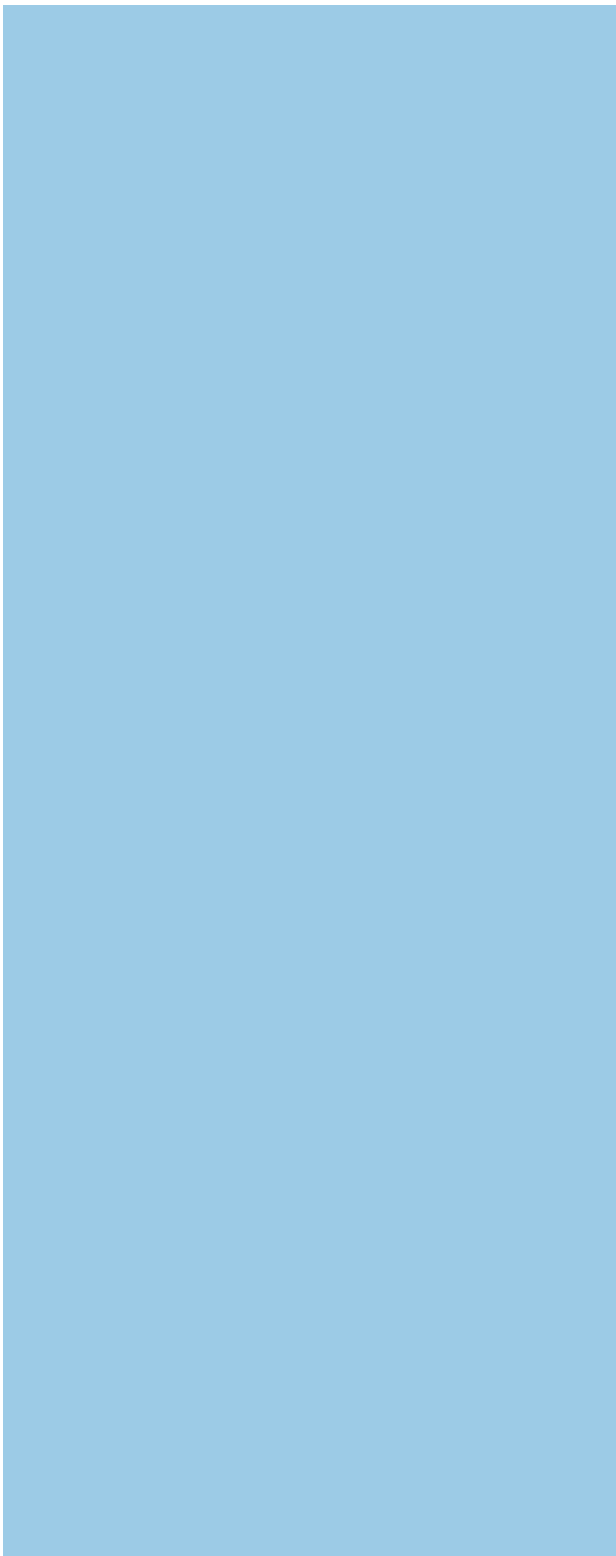
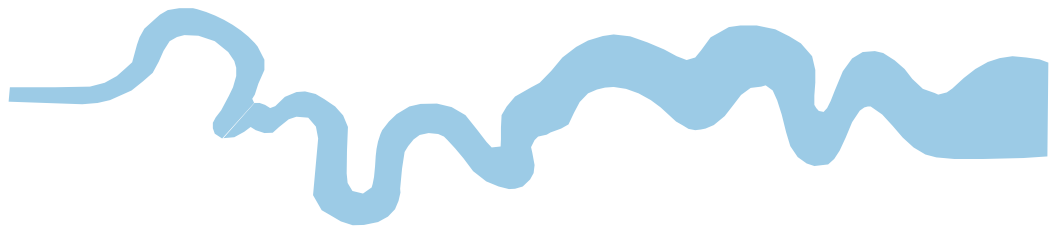
Plate 8. Trench 60, Furnance 66/70  
west, scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

**Land off Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham,  
Berkshire, 2010  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 7 and 8**

## 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<br>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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