THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andrew Taylor

Site Code: PLW10/83

(SU 7880 7115)

Land off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Bewley Homes Plc

by Andy Taylor

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodePLW 10/83

September 2010

Summary

Site name: Land off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7880 7115

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 20th–22nd September 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: PLW 10/83

Area of site: 1.39 hectares

Summary of results: A single gully of post-medieval date was identified in two trenches. Not deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded

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.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 30.09.10 Steve Preston✓ 30.09.10

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR

Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; website: www.tvas.co.uk

Land off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 10/83

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 7880 7115) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Wright, of Bewley Homes Plc, Inhurst House, Brimpton Road, Baughurst, Hampshire, RG26 5JJ.

Planning permission (F/2007/0629) has been gained on appeal (APP/X0360/A/2063134) from Wokingham Borough Council to develop the site for housing. The development site is to occupy a parcel of land of 1.39 hectares with a further 1.6 hectares of land designated as public open space. The consent is subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of investigation prior to development. This was to take the form initially of evaluation by means of trial trenches, based on the results of which a mitigation strategy could be devised as appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990) (now superseded by PPS5 *Planning for the Historic Environment)*, and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology.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 fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Tim Dawson between 20th and 22nd September 2010, and the site code is PLW 10/83. 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 roughly 3ha hectare parcel of land to the east of Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, just under half of which is to be developed. It consists of a former horse paddock, now overgrown. Wokingham lies *c.* 2km to the east with Reading *c.* 6km to the west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Valley Gravel (BGS 1946), which was observed in all trenches. The site lies at a height of *c.*42m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an area where there is a modest range of archaeological finds and sites recorded, especially within the urban area of Winnersh. In general, finds from the Loddon Valley Survey fieldwalking project (Ford 1994-7) which took place in zones mainly to the north and south of Winnersh, have shown that the valley is rich in archaeological sites and finds of many periods. There is a findspot of Middle Bronze Age pottery just to the south of the proposal site, with a Roman findspot to the north (Ford 1987). An evaluation to the west of the site (Hindmarch 2001) identified two ditches, one undated, the other 19th-century in date and the foundations of two 19th-century buildings. Recent fieldwork to the south of Winnersh at Sindlesham has revealed evidence of an Iron Age ironworking site along with a number of isolated Bronze Age urns (Taylor 2010; Lewis in prep).

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; and

to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Thirteen trenches were to be dug targeting impact areas for the proposed development. Ten test pits were also to be dug with 100L of material sieved from each. These were to be dug using a JCB type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The 13 trenches were dug as intended, all measuring 1.60m wide and between 29.20m and 30.80m in length. A further 10 test pits were dug measuring 1.60m wide and between 1.60m and 2.32m in length (Fig. 3).

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Features excavated are listed in Appendix 2.

Trenches

Trench 1
This trench measured 29.20m in length and was aligned N-S. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 2
This trench measured 29.80m in length and was aligned W-E. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 3
This trench measured 30.55m in length and was aligned SW-NE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 4
This trench measured 30.12m in length and was aligned W-E. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)
This trench measured 30.40m in length and was aligned NW-SE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. A gully was located at 14m from the south end of the trench. A slot (2) was dug across it measuring 0.89m in length, 0.28m wide and 0.17m deep. Seven small pieces of post-medieval tile were recovered from this slot, not retained. This feature, which cut the natural gravel and was sealed by the subsoil, was also evident in Trench 6.

Trench 6 (Fig. 4; Pls 2 and 3)
This trench measured 30.03m in length and was aligned W-E. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. A continuation of the gully in Trench 5 was also evident in this trench, at 26m from the west end. A slot (1) was dug across it, 0.93m in length, 0.29m wide and 0.17m deep. No finds were recovered from this slot.

Trench 7
This trench measured 30.80m in length and was aligned SW-NE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 8
This trench measured 29.50m in length and was aligned N-S. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 9
This trench measured 30.20m in length and was aligned NW-SE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 10
This trench measured 29.80m in length and was aligned NW-SE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 11
This trench measured 30.65m in length and was aligned N-S. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 12
This trench measured 29.60m in length and was aligned SW-NE. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 13
This trench measured 30.50m in length and was aligned N-S. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil overlying subsoil overlying clay and gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Test Pits

Test Pit 1
This measured 2.32m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Sieving of the topsoil produced seven pieces of post-medieval tile. Sieving of the subsoil did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 2 (Pl. 4)
This measured 1.98m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Sieving of the topsoil produced one small piece of china, a piece of glass, eight pieces of post-medieval tile and an iron nail. Sieving of the subsoil produced two pieces of post-medieval tile and a piece of modern glass.

Test Pit 3
This measured 1.82m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced two small pieces of ceramic building material. Subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 4
This measured 1.99m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced two small pieces of post-medieval tile and a piece of modern bottle glass. Subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 5
This measured 1.60m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced a highly abraded piece of tile and two pieces of glass. Subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 6
This measured 1.85m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced a single iron nail. Subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 7
This measured 1.95m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced three pieces of post-medieval tile, a piece of 19th- or 20th-century china and two shards of modern bottle glass. Subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 8
This measured 1.70m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil and subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Test Pit 9
This measured 1.62m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil sieving produced three pieces of post-medieval tile. Subsoil sieving produced five pieces of brick and tile.

Test Pit 10
This measured 1.86m in length and consisted of topsoil overlying subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. Topsoil and subsoil sieving did not produce any finds.

Finds

Pottery by Andy Taylor

Two pieces of modern china were recovered from topsoil sieving weighing 15g (Appendix 3). These finds were retained on-site.

Brick and Tile by Andy Taylor

Gully 2 produced seven small pieces of ceramic building material weighing a total of 8g (Appendix 4). Topsoil sieving of various test pits produced 26 pieces of post-medieval brick and tile (mainly tile) weighing a total of 187g. Subsoil sieving produced seven pieces of post medieval brick and tile weighing a total of 92g. These finds were retained on-site.

Glass by Andy Taylor

Six pieces of modern glass were recovered from topsoil sieving weighing a total of 12g (Appendix 5). Subsoil sieving produced one piece of glass weighing 6g. These finds were retained on-site.

Metalwork by Andy Taylor

Two iron nails were recovered from topsoil sieving weighing 18g (Appendix 6). These finds were retained on-site.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site, no archaeological features or finds were observed during the evaluation. The single feature identified was a post-medieval gully. The sieving of topsoil and subsoil from the ten test pits only produced material of post-medieval to modern date. It therefore seems very unlikely that the proposed development will threaten any archaeological deposits and the site can be considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth

Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading

Ford, S, 1994-7, Loddon Valley (Berkshire) fieldwalking survey, *Berkshire Archaeol J*, **75**, 11-33

Hindmarch, E, 2001, 'Land at Chatsworth Avenue, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire', an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 01/102, Reading

Lewis, J, in prep, 'The excavation of an Iron Age iron smelting site and Bronze Age urns at Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire', Thames Valley Archaeological Services project 05/87B-2, Reading

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning Policy Statement 5, The Stationery Office, Norwich

Taylor, A, 2010, 'Sadler's End, Sindlesham, Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/87B-2, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	29.20	1.60	0.33	0.00m–0.12m topsoil; 0.12m–0.24m subsoil; 0.24m–0.33m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
2	29.80	1.60	0.38	0.00m–0.14m topsoil; 0.14m–0.35m subsoil; 0.35m–0.38m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
3	30.55	1.60	0.34	0.00m–0.14m topsoil; 0.14m–0.29m subsoil; 0.29m–0.34m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
4	30.12	1.60	0.29	0.00m–0.12m topsoil; 0.12m–0.26m subsoil; 0.26m–0.29m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
5	30.40	1.60	0.37	0.00m–0.18m topsoil; 0.18m–0.29m subsoil; 0.29m–0.37m+ clay and gravel natural geology. Gully 2. **[Pl. 1]**
6	30.03	1.60	0.30	0.00m–0.18m topsoil; 0.18m–0.25m subsoil; 0.25m–0.30m+ clay and gravel natural geology. Gully 1 **[Pls 2, 3]**
7	30.80	1.60	0.24	0.00m–0.16m topsoil; 0.16m–0.23m subsoil; 0.23m–0.24m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
8	29.50	1.60	0.34	0.00m–0.22m topsoil; 0.22m–0.31m subsoil; 0.31m–0.34m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
9	30.20	1.60	0.32	0.00m–0.11m topsoil; 0.11m–0.28m subsoil; 0.28m–0.32m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
10	29.80	1.60	0.43	0.00m–0.18m topsoil; 0.18m–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m–0.43m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
11	30.65	1.60	0.34	0.00m–0.11m topsoil; 0.11m–0.29m subsoil; 0.29m–0.34m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
12	29.60	1.60	0.31	0.00m–0.14m topsoil; 0.14m–0.28m subsoil; 0.28m–0.31m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
13	30.50	1.60	0.31	0.00m–0.12m topsoil; 0.12m–0.28m subsoil; 0.28m–0.31m+ clay and gravel natural geology.
TP1	2.32	1.60	0.34	0.00m–0.15m topsoil; 0.15m–0.34m subsoil; 0.34m+ gravel natural geology.
TP2	1.98	1.60	0.36	0.00m–0.17m topsoil; 0.17m–0.36m subsoil; 0.36m+ gravel natural geology. **[Pl. 4]**
TP3	1.82	1.60	0.44	0.00m–0.20m topsoil; 0.20m–0.42m subsoil; 0.42–0.44m+ gravel natural geology.
TP4	1.99	1.60	0.42	0.00m–0.17m topsoil; 0.17m–0.36m subsoil; 0.36m–0.42m+ gravel natural geology.
TP5	1.60	1.60	0.33	0.00m–0.18m topsoil; 0.18m–0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ gravel natural geology.
TP6	1.85	1.60	0.33	0.00m–0.16m topsoil; 0.16m–0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ gravel natural geology.
TP7	1.95	1.60	0.47	0.00m–0.19m topsoil; 0.19m–0.47m subsoil; 0.47m+ gravel natural geology.
TP8	1.70	1.60	0.28	0.00m–0.16m topsoil; 0.16m–0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ gravel natural geology.
TP9	1.62	1.60	0.32	0.00m–0.15m subsoil; 0.15m–0.32m subsoil; 0.32m+ gravel natural geology.
TP10	1.86	1.60	0.38	0.00m–0.19m topsoil; 0.19m–0.38m subsoil; 0.38m+ gravel natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
5	2	53	Gully	Post-Medieval	Tile
6	1	52	Gully	Post-Medieval	[Same as 5]

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of China

Test Pit	*Deposit*	*No*	*Wt (g)*
2	Topsoil	1	1
7	Topsoil	1	14

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Brick and Tile

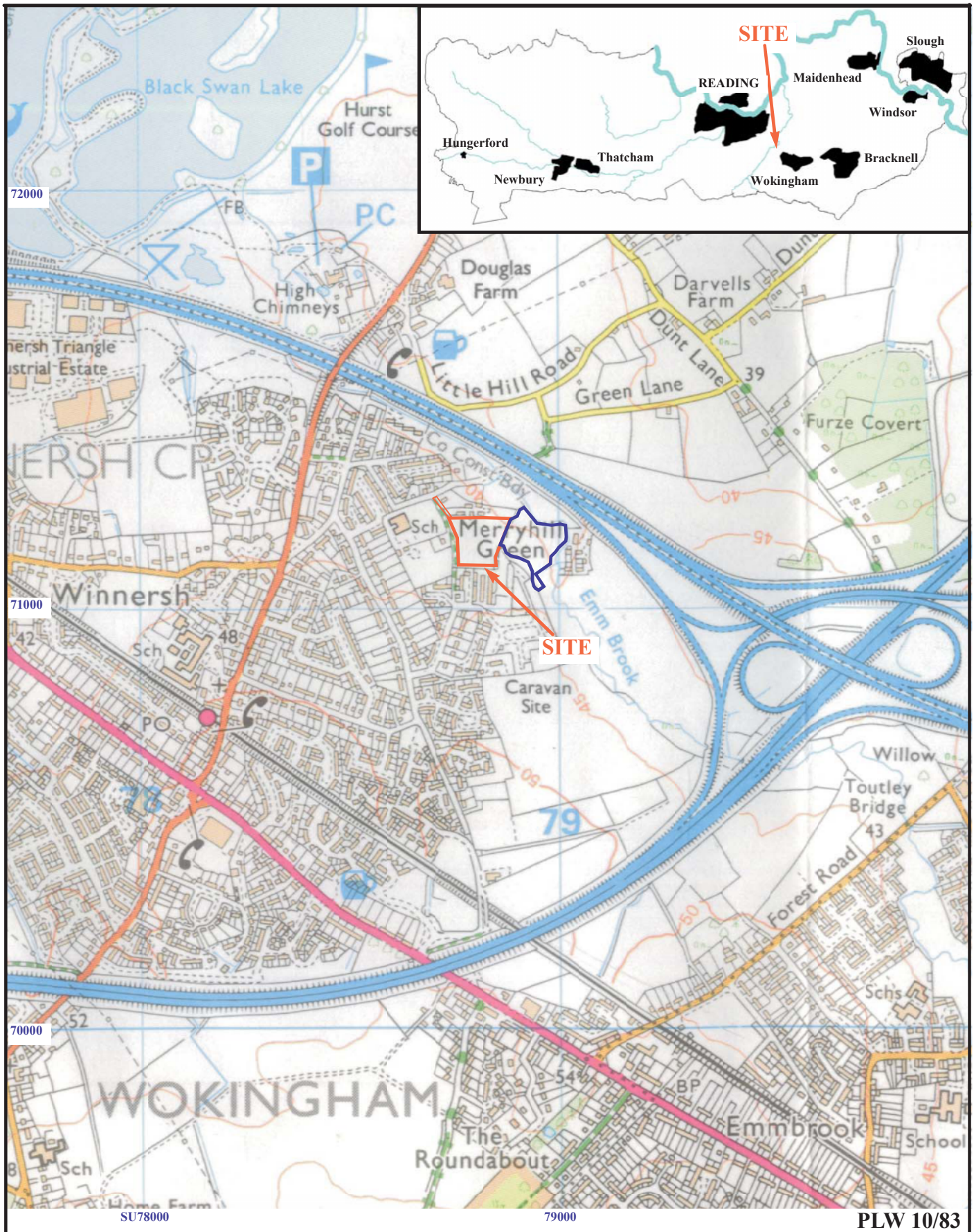
Trench/Test Pit	*Cut*	*Deposit*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*
Tr 5	2	53	7	8
TP 1		Topsoil	7	29
TP 2		Topsoil	8	72
TP 2		Subsoil	2	32
TP 3		Topsoil	2	2
TP 4		Topsoil	2	6
TP 5		Topsoil	1	5
TP 7		Topsoil	3	37
TP 9		Topsoil	3	29
TP 9		Subsoil	5	60

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Glass

Test Pit	*Deposit*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*
2	Topsoil	1	1
2	Subsoil	1	6
4	Topsoil	1	2
5	Topsoil	2	7
7	Topsoil	2	2

APPENDIX 6: Catalogue of Metalwork

Test Pit	*Deposit*	*No.*	*Wt (g)*
2	Topsoil	1	3
6	Topsoil	1	15

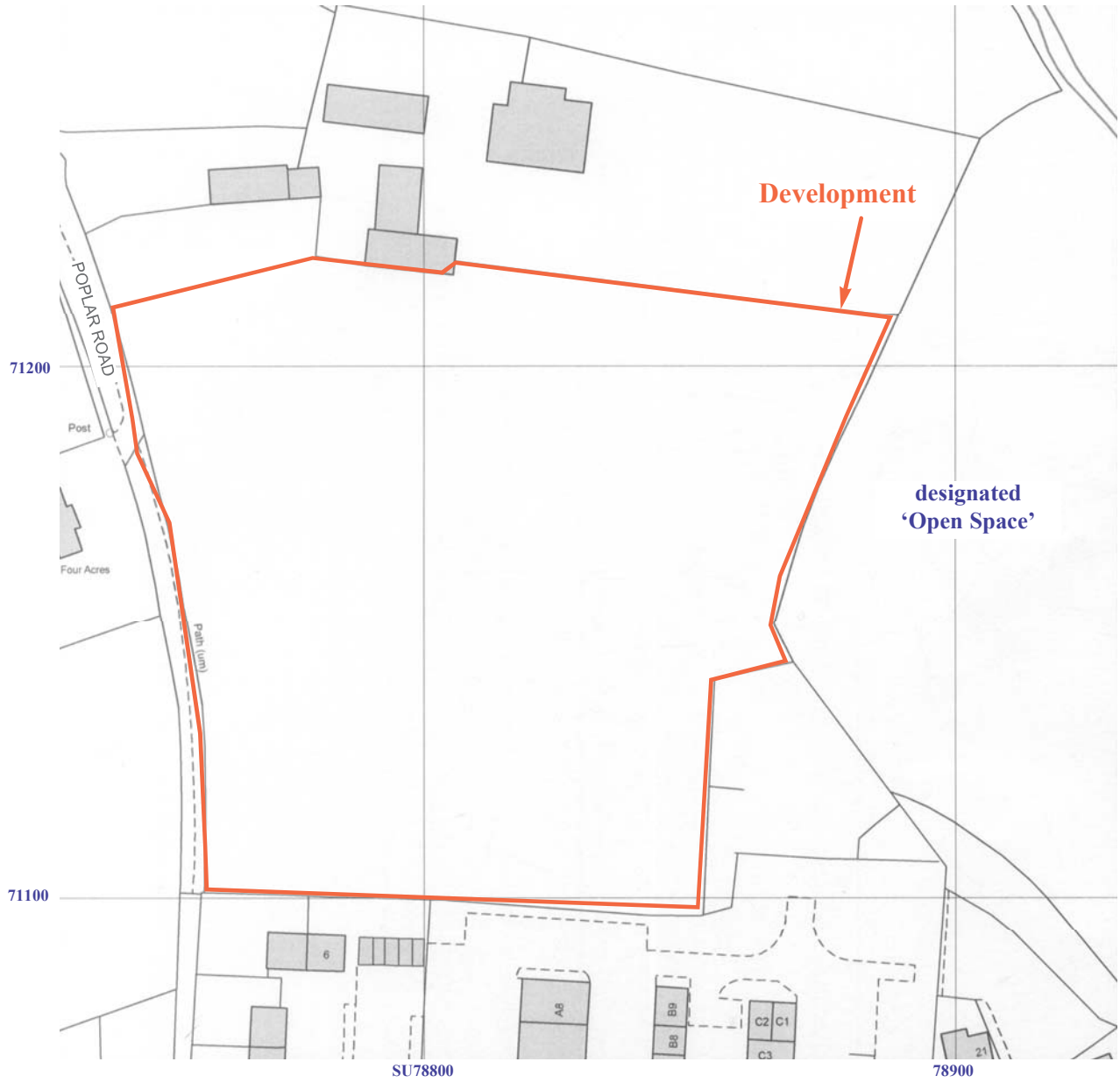


PLW 10/83

Land off Poplar Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

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

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

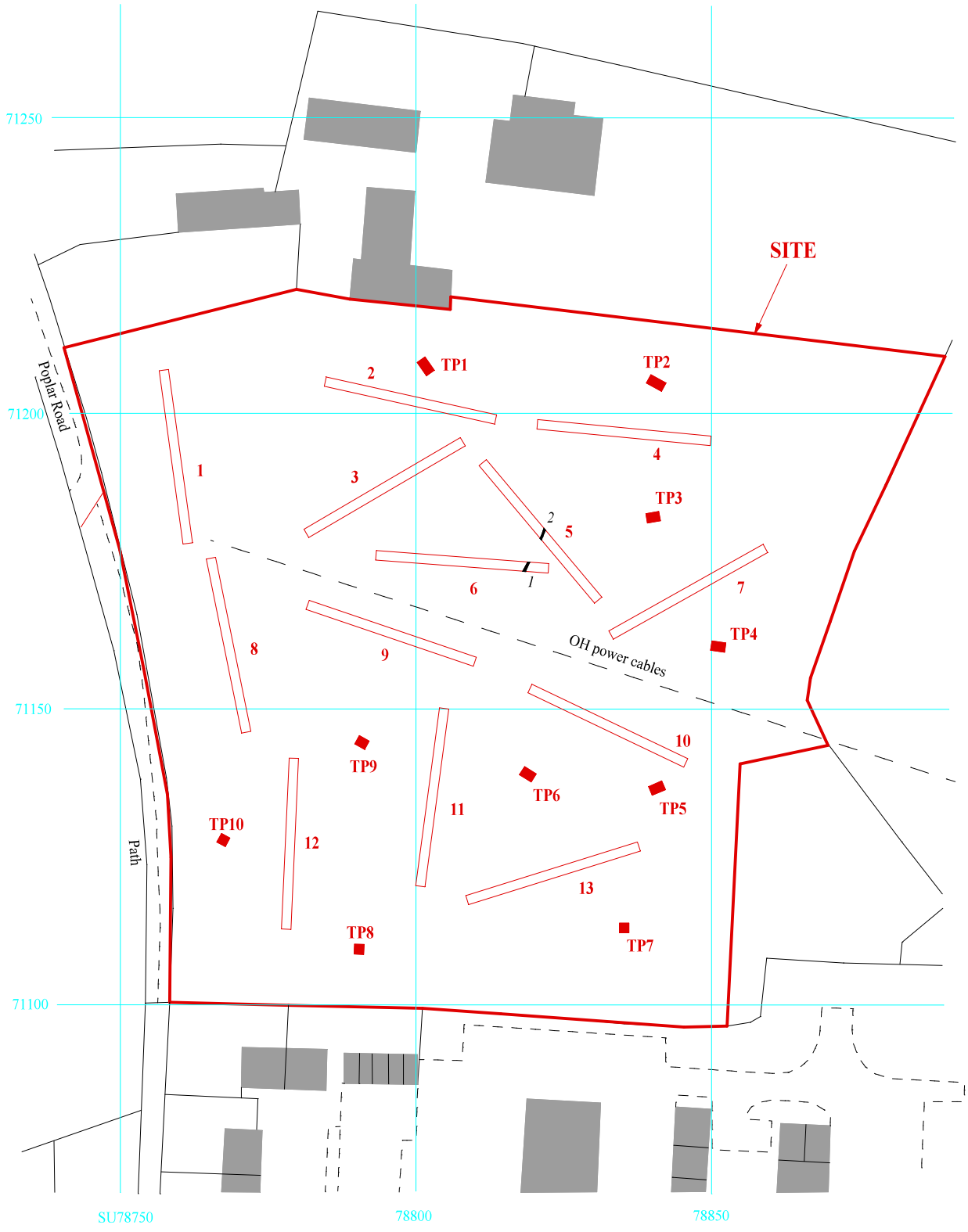


PLW 10/83

Land off Poplar Lane, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of part of site to be developed.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



PLW 10/83

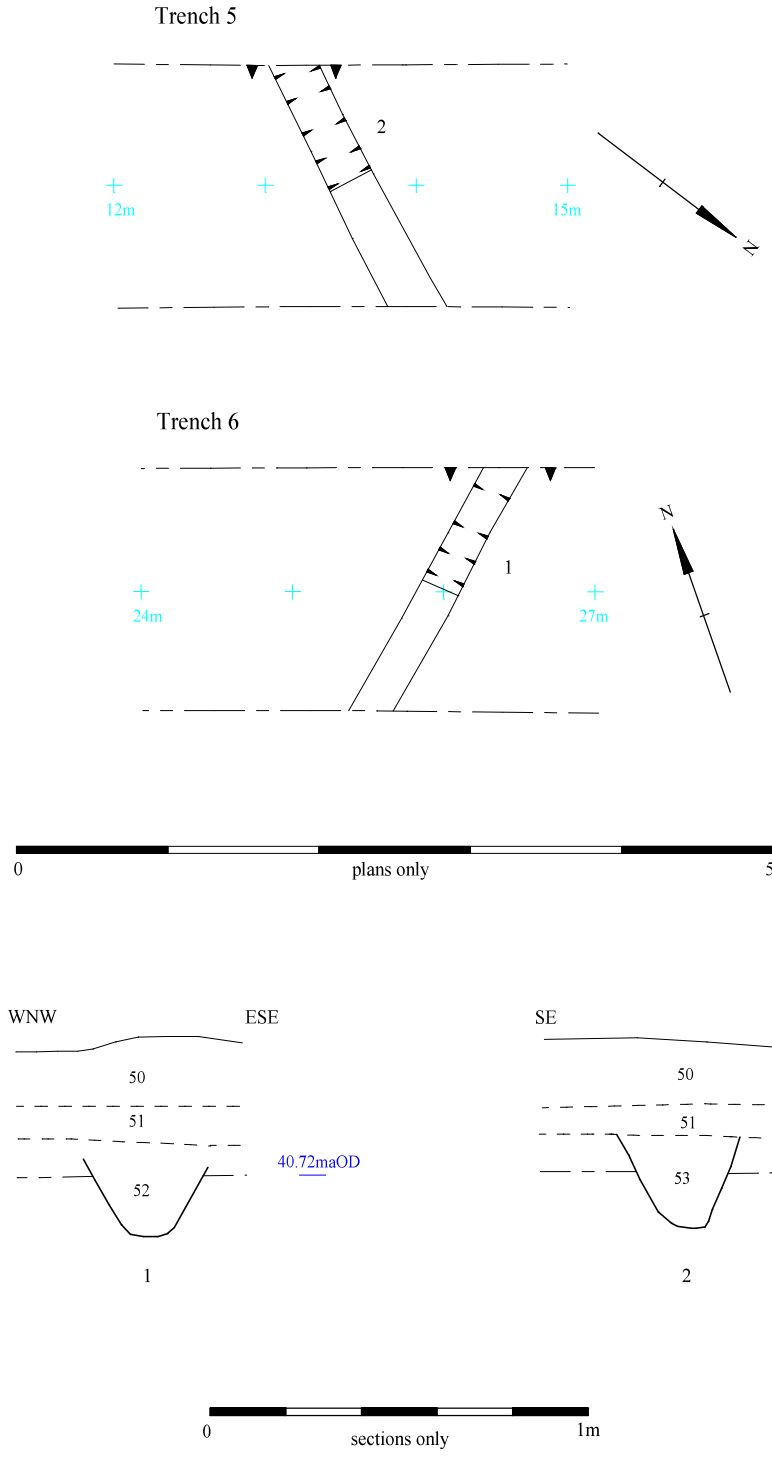
N

Land off Poplar Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 50m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



PLW 10/83

Land off Poplar Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of features identified in Trenches 5 and 6.

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 1. Trench 5, looking north west, scales: 1m and 2m.

Plate 2. Trench 6 looking east, scales: 1m and 2m.

PLW 10/83

Land off Poplar Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Plate 3. Trench 6, gully 1, looking north, scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.

Plate 4. Test Pit 2, looking north west, scales: 1m and 0.5m.

PLW 10/83

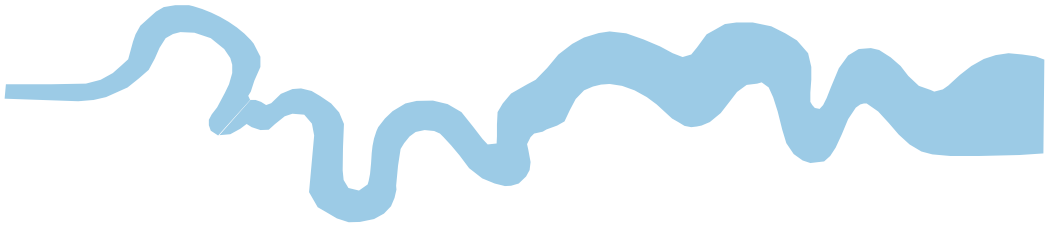
Land off Poplar Road, Winnersh, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 3 and 4

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

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