THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Lewis and Joanna Pine

Site Code: WLW10/28

(SU6029 8842)

Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for The Trustees of the Bosley Family Settlement

by JamesLewisandJo Pine

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices

Ltd

SiteCodeWLW10/28

March 2010

Summary

Site name*:* Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU6029 8842

Site activity: Field Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th March 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford and Jo Pine

Site supervisor: James Lewis

Site code: WLW 10/28

Area of site: 770 sq m

Summary of results: A small number of undated features (two pits and two pits or ditch termini) were recorded.

Monuments identified: Undated pits or linear features

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ xx.xx.09 Steve Preston✓ 30.03.10

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Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by James Lewis and Jo Pine

Report 10/28

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, SU6029 8842 (Figs 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr John Spratley, Chartered Architect, Isis House, 43 Station Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1AT, on behalf of the Trustees of the Bosley Family Settlement.

Planning permission is to be sought from South Oxfordshire District Council to develop the site for a single house which is a replacement structure for the now derelict 24 Winterbrook Lane. This site potentially lies in an area of archaeological importance. Evaluations on land adjacent to the site to the south, west and north has highlighted the high archaeological potential of the area (Lewis 2009). Due to this high archaeological potential of the site an archaeological evaluation has been requested to inform the planning process. The results of the evaluation will enable an informed planning decision to be made.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and South Oxford District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, archaeological advisers to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis and James Early on 25th March 2010, and the site code is WLW10/28. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course

Location, topography and geology

The site currently consists of a small part of a undeveloped field on the south side of Winterbrook Lane, which is just south of Wallingford (Figs 1 and 2). The site is located on first (floodplain) terrace gravels (BGS 1980). It is at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted (in general terms) within a desk-based assessment for a large parcel of land at Winterbrook which includes the proposal site (Preston 2009) as well as a brief for that project prepared by Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. A subsequent evaluation (Lewis 2009; Smalley 2009) has added detailed field-derived information. In summary, the general area surrounding the site is one of generally high archaeological potential for almost all periods (Benson and Miles 1974, Cromarty *et al*. 2006). Previously recorded sites and monuments abound all around Wallingford, and the town itself is of exceptional historical and archaeological importance. On a general level, therefore, the site can be considered to be of moderate to high archaeological potential. The nearby evaluation (Lewis 2009) revealed prehistoric (Iron Age) occupation to the north-west and south-west, along with three human burial deposits (two of Early Bronze Age date and one undated). Cropmarks of circular monuments visible from the air, one of which lies to the south of the proposal area are possibly the remains of Bronze Age burial mounds. There was therefore reason to expect that development on the site might have an impact on buried archaeological remains.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/ absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project are:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

A single trench 15m in length and 1.6m wide was proposed to be excavated, targeted on the footprint of the proposed building, using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist (Fig.2). All spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief.

Results

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1 and 2)

The trench was aligned north-south and was 15.80m long and 0.66m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench comprised 0.21m of topsoil over a mid brownish/grey silty clay subsoil onto a greyish/yellow sandy silt natural geology. Four features were revealed within this trench and were investigated.

Pit 1 was sub-rounded in plan, 0.71m by 0.64m and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a mid brownish/grey sandy silt fill (52); no finds were retrieved from this.

Pit 2 was oval in plan, 0.71m by 0.67m and 0.46m deep again with steep sides but with an uneven base. It contained a mid brownish/grey sandy silt fill (53), no finds were retrieved from this deposit. Pit 2 cut pit 3.

Pit 3 was recorded being irregular in plan and truncated by pit 2. Again no finds were recovered from its silty clay fills (54 and 55) A sample of 20 litres of soil was processed for finds from the latter deposit although none were recovered. A pit or ditch terminal (4) was not fully exposed in the trench. It was 0.85m north-south, at least 0.30 east-west and 0.31m deep with steep sides and a rounded base. It contained a dark brownish/grey sandy silt fill (56). No finds were retrieved from this fill.

Finds

A sherd of mass produced white ware pottery of 20th century date and a sherd of brown glazed red earthenware of 16th to 18th century date were recovered from the topsoil. Fragments of tile, including peg tile, weighing 102g and a clay tobacco pipe stem were also recorded from the topsoil (not retained)

Conclusion

This evaluation has revealed a moderate density of archaeological deposits. None of these produced dating evidence though the character of their fills and stratigraphic position (beneath subsoil) indicates that they are of some antiquity (medieval or earlier) and are therefore of archaeological interest. The proposal site can be considered as having archaeological potential.

References

Benson, D and Miles, D, 1974, *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels,* Oxfordshire Archaeol Unit Survey **2**, Oxford

Cromarty, A M Barclay, A Lambrick G and Robinson M, 2006, (eds), *Late Bronze Age ritual and habitation on a Thames eyot at Whitecross Farm, Wallingford: the archaeology of the Wallingford bypass 1986–92,* Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **22**, Oxford, 201–24

Lewis J, 2009, 'Land at Winterbrook, Wallingford Oxfordshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 09/57b, Reading.

Oram, R, 2009, 'Land at Winterbrook Wallingford: Design Brief for Archaeological Field Evaluation', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, Oxford

Preston, S, 2009, 'Land at Winterbrook, Wallingford Oxfordshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 09/57, Reading.

PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*. DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16. (HMSO).

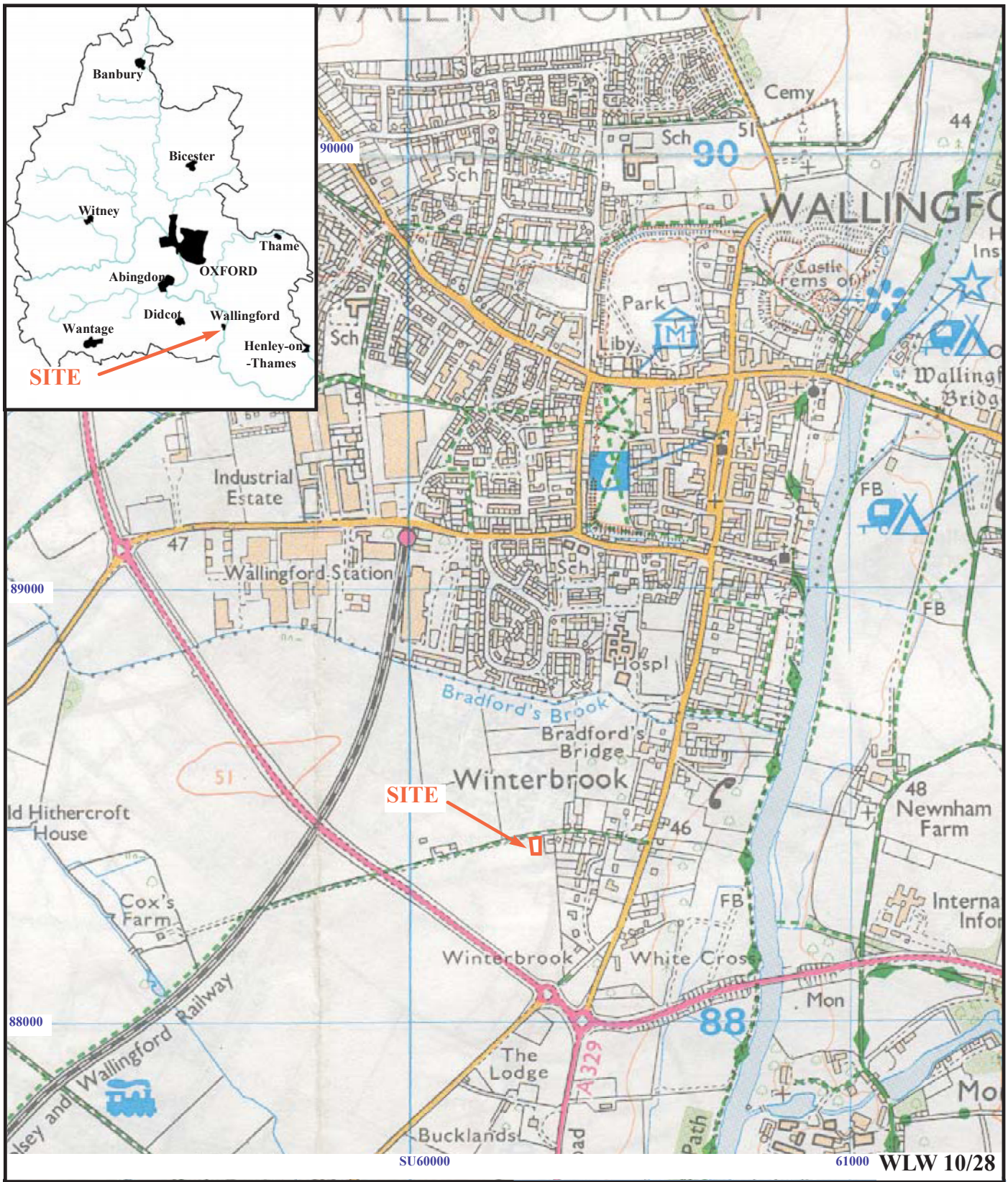
Smalley, R, 2009, 'Winterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, Geophysical Survey', Stratascan report 2629, Upton on Severn

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	15.80	1.6m	0.66m	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.58m subsoil, (mid brown/grey silty clay) onto 0.58m+ natural geology (grey/yellow silt) (Features 1-4). **[Plate 1]**

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52	Pit	-	
1	2	53	Pit	-	
1	3	54, 55	Pit	-	
1	4	56	Pit/Ditch Terminus	-	



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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Wallingford and Oxfordshire.

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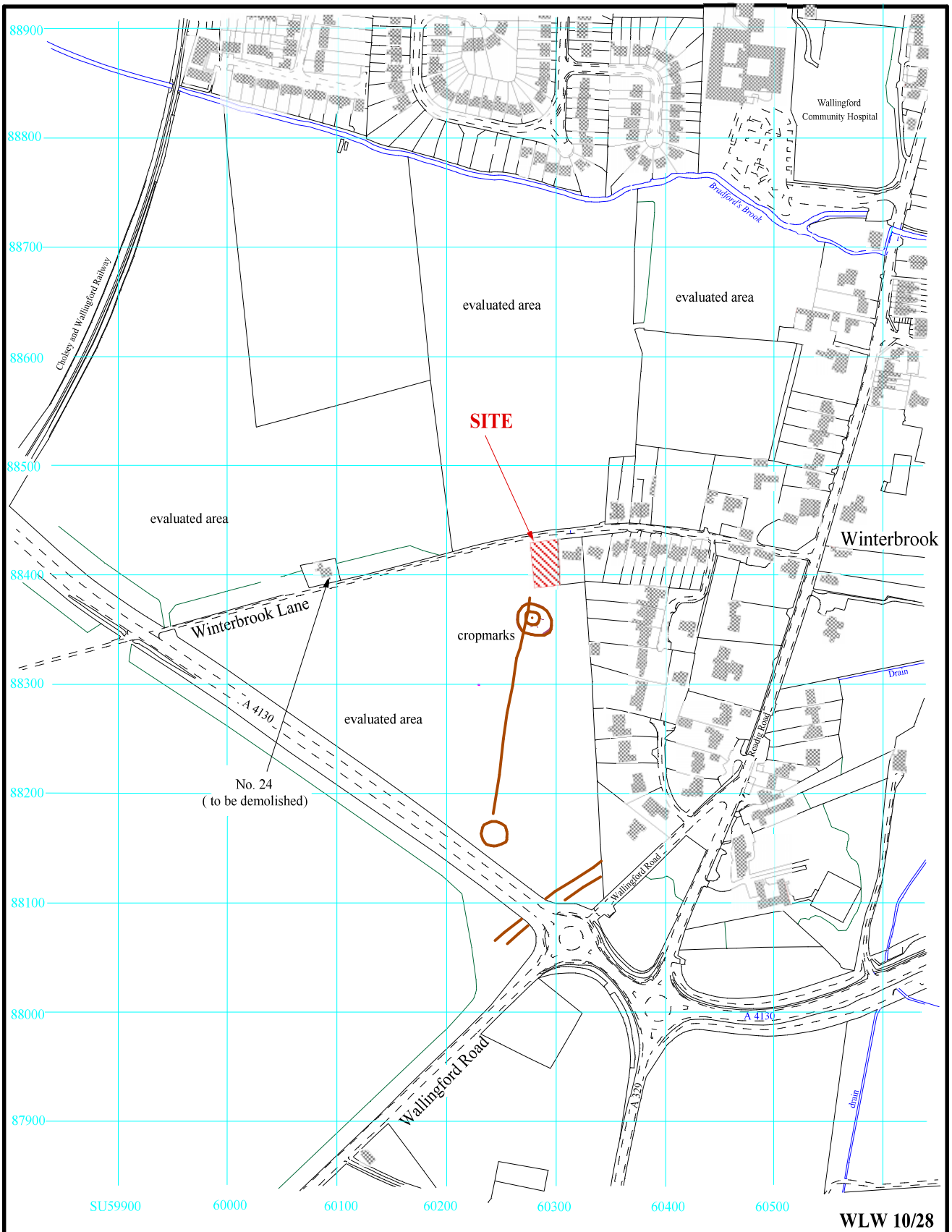

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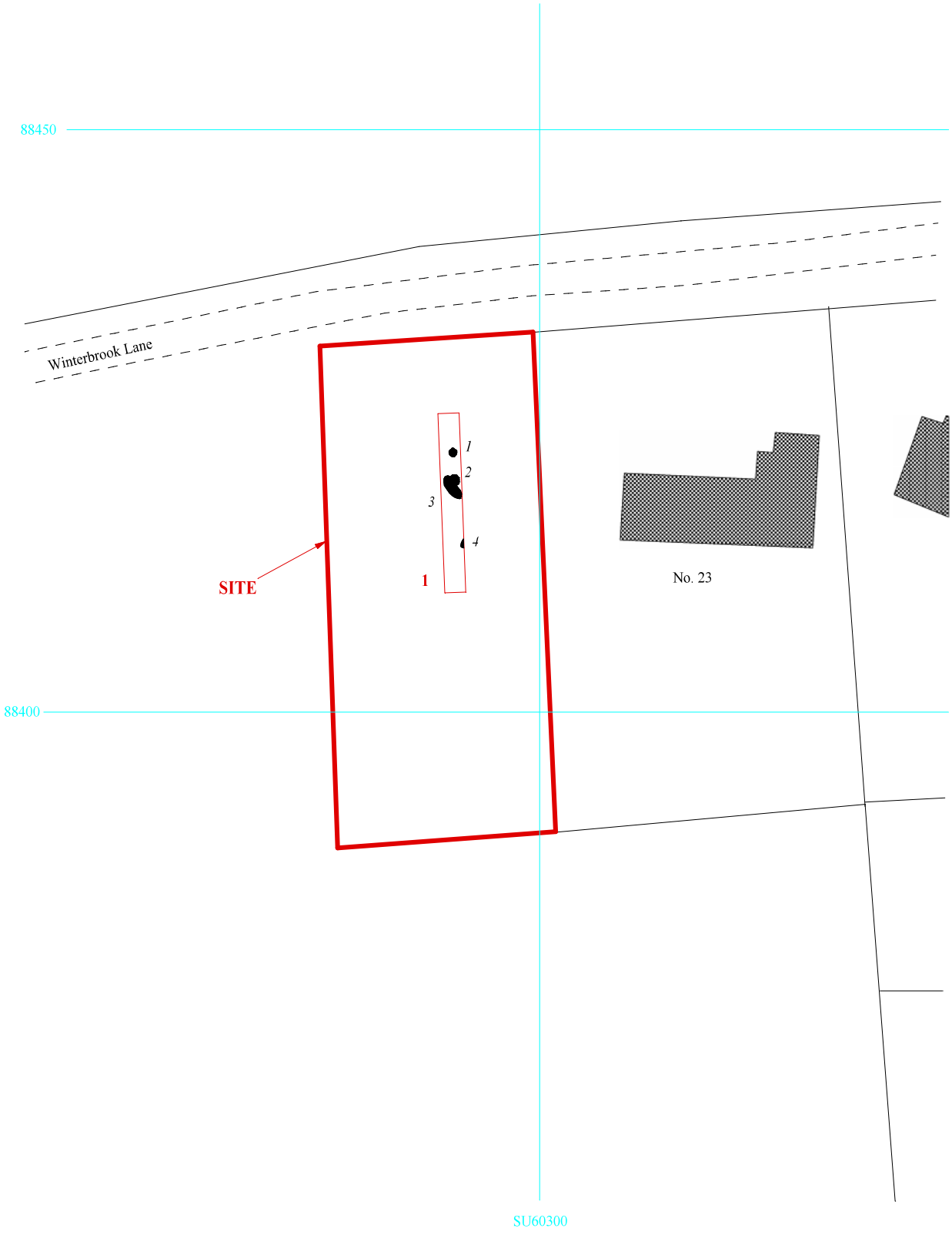
24 Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 2010 Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Location of evaluation in relation to geophysical anomalies and recent evaluation trenching (Lewis 2009).

0 250m

THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES



WLW 10/28

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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Location of trench.

0 25m

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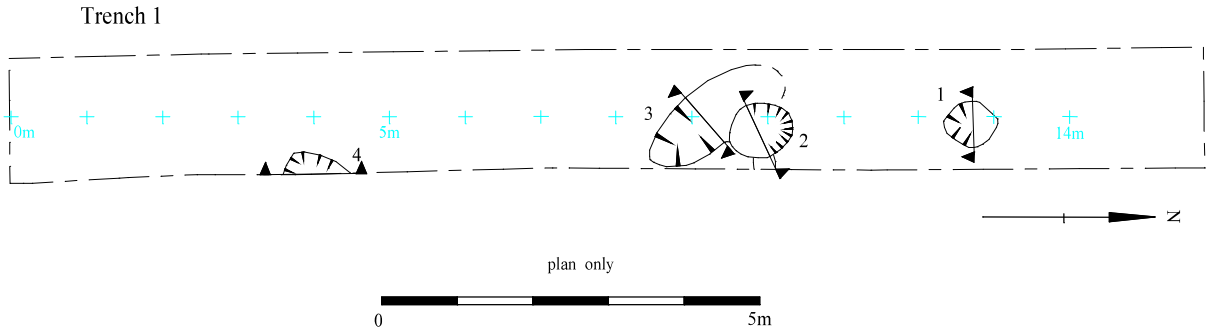

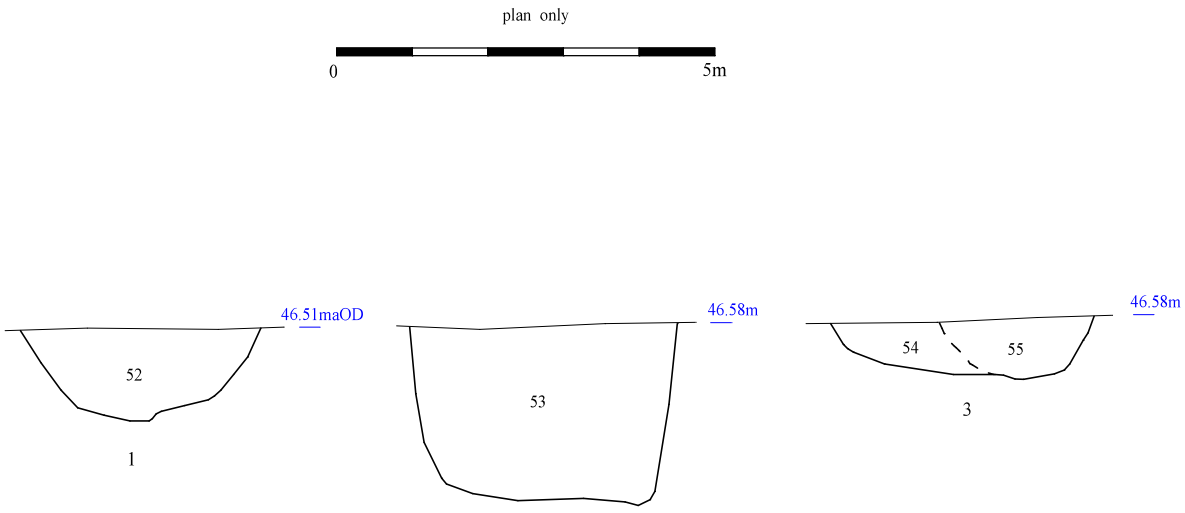

WLW 10/28

Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1 and sections.

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

Plate 2. Trench 1, pit 2, looking south, horizontal scale 1m, vertical 0.5m

WLW 10/28

Land at Winterbrook Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, 2010
Archaeological Evaluation

Plates 1 and 2

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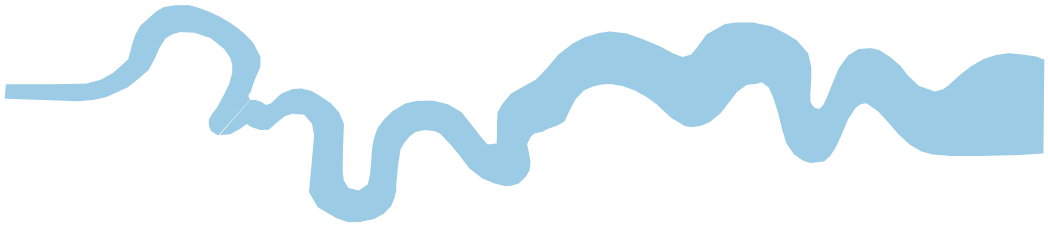
TIME CHART

	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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