

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S

**2 Lanham Way, Littlemore,
Oxford**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Lewis

Site Code: LWO10/123

(SP5360 0265)

**2 Lanham Way,
Littlemore, Oxford**

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Mrs J L Hall

by James Lewis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code LW010/123

December 2010

Summary

Site name: 2 Lanham Way, Littlemore, Oxford

Grid reference: SP5360 0265

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 3rd December 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis

Site code: LWO 10/123

Area of site: 300 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were found nor artefacts recovered. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 13.12.10
	Steve Preston ✓ 08.12.10

Land adjacent to 2 Lanham Way, Littlemore, Oxford An Archaeological Evaluation

by James Lewis

Report 10/123

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 2 Lanham Way, Littlemore, Oxford (SP5360 0265) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Mr William Tuckett of John D Wood, Oxford on behalf of Mr and Mrs Hall, William Hall, Gutchpool Farm, Gillingham, SP8 5QP.

Planning permission (10/01627/FUL) has been sought for the building of new house with vehicle access. Due to the possible presence of archaeological deposits on the site a archaeological field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process. Based on the results, further fieldwork might be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and Oxford City's Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford Oxford City Council Archaeologist. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis on 3rd December 2010 and the site code is I LWO 10/123. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Oxfordshire Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the centre of village of Littlemore which itself is located on the southern edge of Oxford city to the south of the ring road (A4142). The site is surrounded by residential buildings with the north-west edge bounded by Sandford Road and the north-east edge by Lanham Lane (Fig. 2). To the south-west is the River Thames (Isis) which flows within 700m of the site and the Littlemore Brook is a similar distance to the south. To the north, east and west are the suburbs and the modern day city of Oxford. The underlying geology is Beckley Sands (BGS 1994). Sand and calcareous sandstone were observed in all trenches. The site is at present a wooded garden and lawn and lies at a height of 71m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies within the historic core of Littlemore. To the south-east of the site at the Littlemore Science Park was a Saxon settlement which consisted of 10 to 12 sunken-featured buildings (Moore 2001). Fieldwork located

200m to the northeast just south of the Church of St Mary and St Nicholas revealed a range of deposits of medieval date (Ford 1995). Fieldwork just to the west of the site located a number of possible archaeological features including ditches, pits and postholes, but these are likely to be of post-medieval date, although a few sherds of Roman and medieval pottery were recorded (Lewis and McNicoll-Norbury 2009; Munding 2009). The areas to the south and south-east of Oxford City are notable for the large numbers of Roman kiln sites whose products were traded widely across southern England (Young 1977).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeological relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits relating to Saxon or Danish settlement of the area are present;
- to determine if any deposits relating to medieval or post-medieval suburb are present; and
- to determine if any Civil War deposits are present.

It was proposed to dig two trenches 5m long and 1.6m wide using a machine fitted with a ditching bucket. The trenches were to be excavated either down to the natural geology or until archaeological features were encountered under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded. All spoil heaps were to be monitored for artefacts and metal-detected.

Results

Two trenches were dug but their locations had to be changed from intended due to restricted space from the presence of trees (Fig. 3). These changes were undertaken with the agreement of Mr David Radford, Oxford City Council Archaeologist. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

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

Trench 1 was aligned west–east and measured 7m in length, 1.6m wide and 1.05m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil (50), 0.35m thick, above reddish brown sandy subsoil (51), 0.45m thick. Underneath this was found the natural geology of Beckley Sands. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found in this trench.

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

Trench 2 was aligned west–east and measured 3.5m in length, 1.6m wide and 0.88m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil (50), 0.1m thick overlying a thin layer of white-yellow sand (52) 0.05m thick. Underneath this was the reddish brown sandy subsoil (52), 0.63m thick. Underneath this was the natural geology of Beckley Sands. No archaeological deposits or artefacts were found in this trench.

Conclusion

The evaluation found no artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

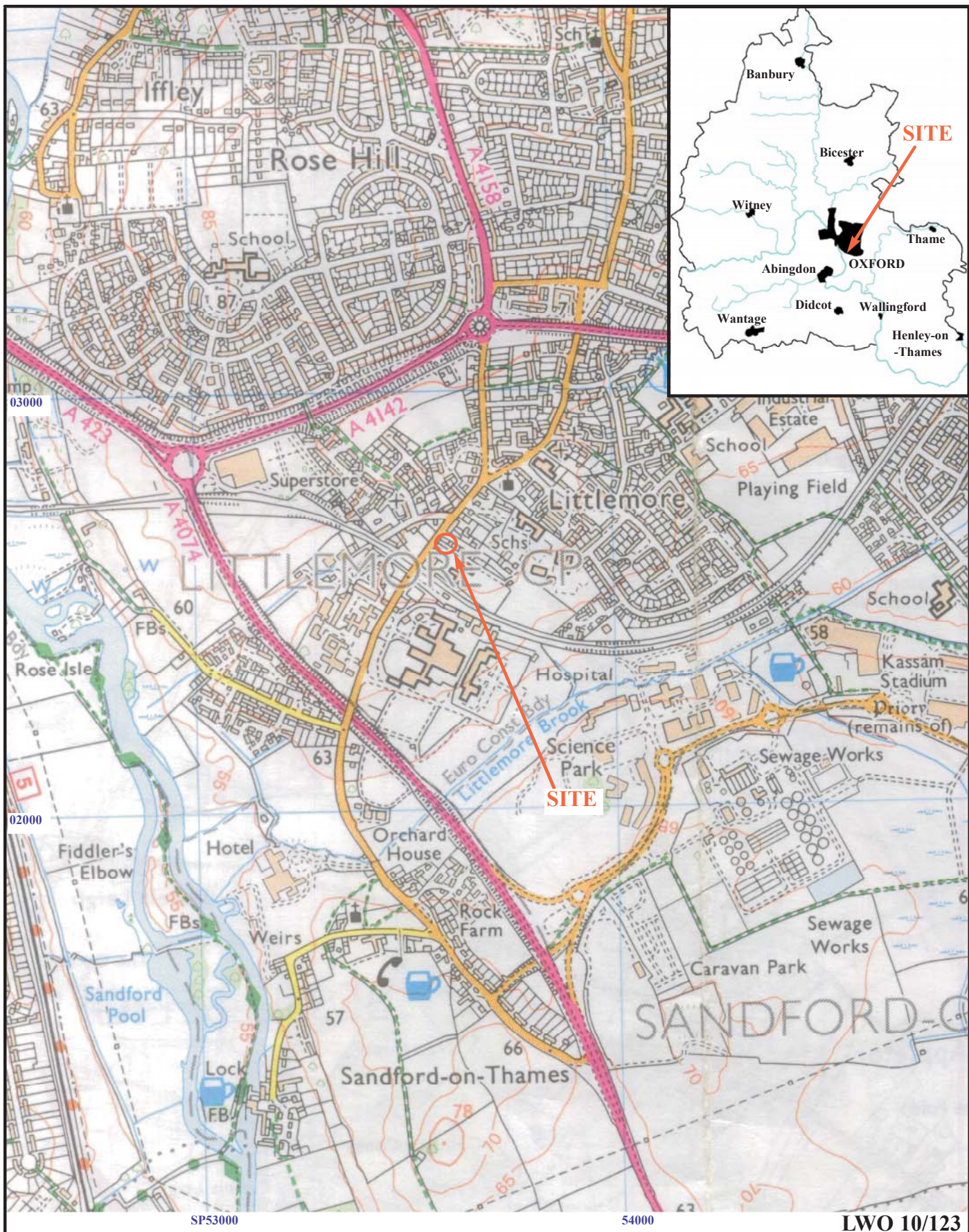
References

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- Mundin, A, 2009, 'Beenhams, Railway Lane, Littlemore, Oxford: An Archaeological Watching Brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep **07/83b**, Reading.
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW end

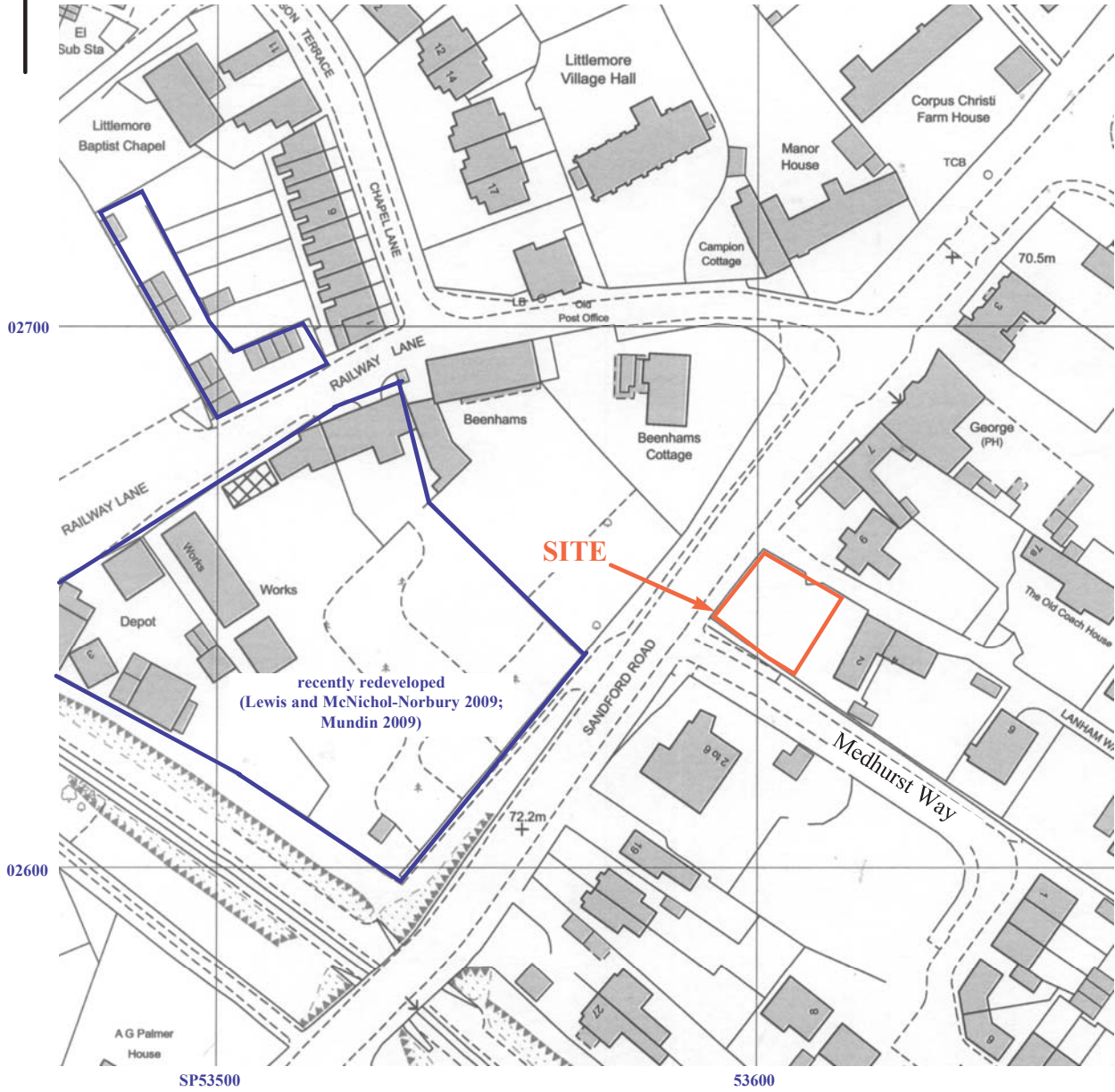
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	7.0	1.6	1.05	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35–0.8m subsoil; 0.8m+ natural geology (Beckley Sand). [Plate 1]
2	3.5	1.6	0.88	0–0.1m topsoil; 0.1–0.15m white/yellow sand (made ground);, 0.15–0.78m subsoil; 0.78m+ natural geology. [Plate 2]



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Figure 1. Location of site within Littlemore, Oxford and Oxfordshire.

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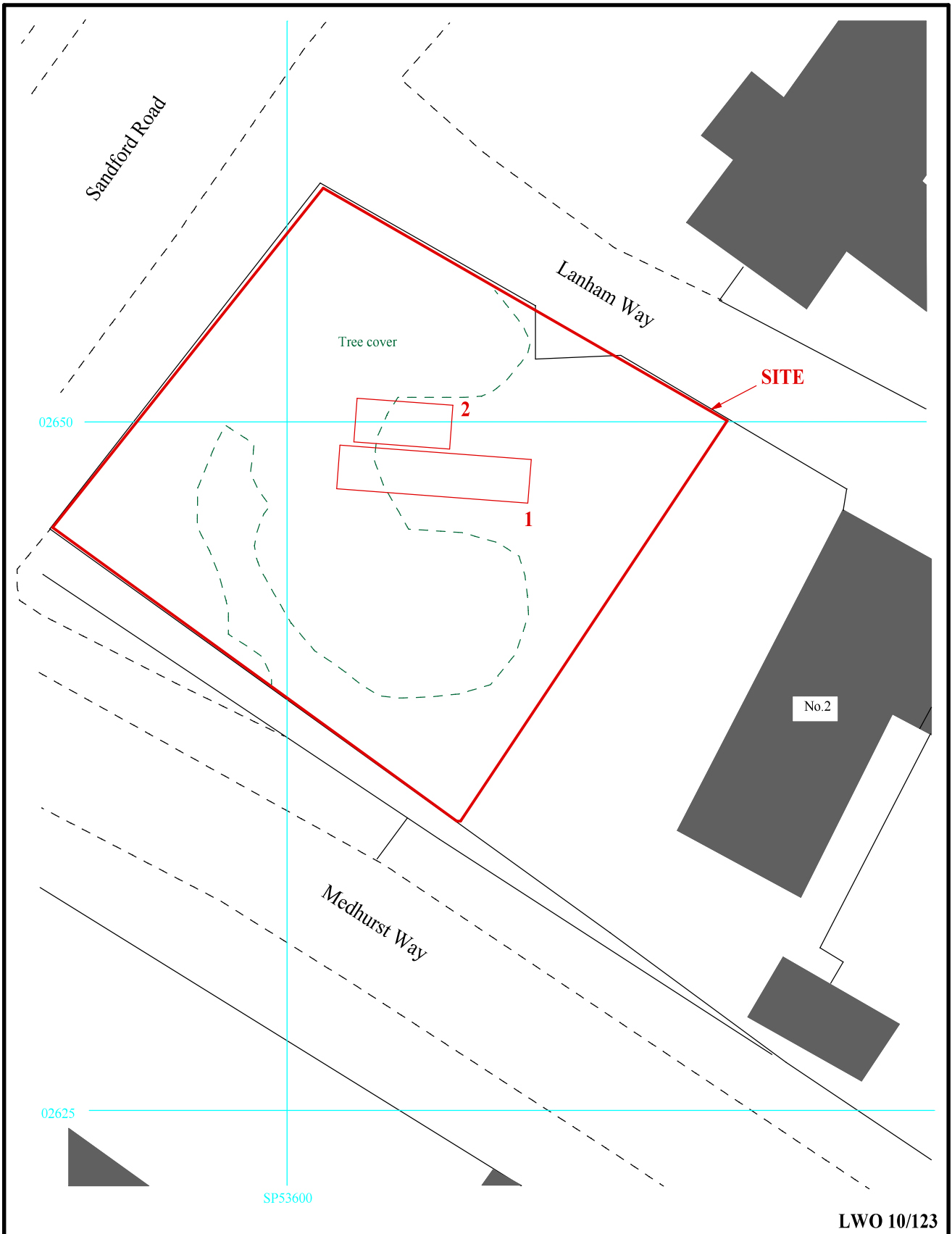


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Sandford Road and Lanham Way

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Figure 3. Trench Locations

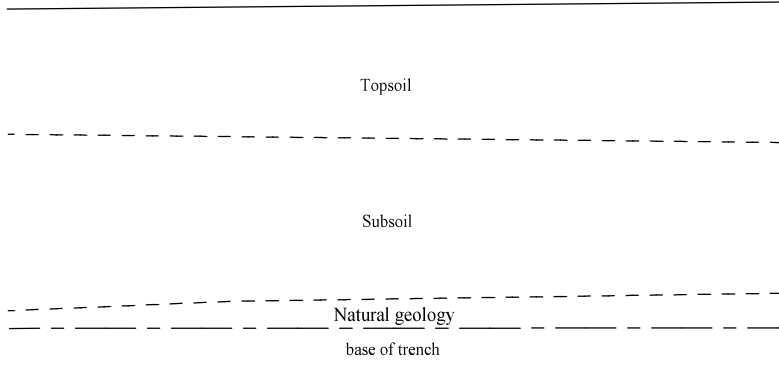


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Figure 4. Representative section of Trench 1.



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



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

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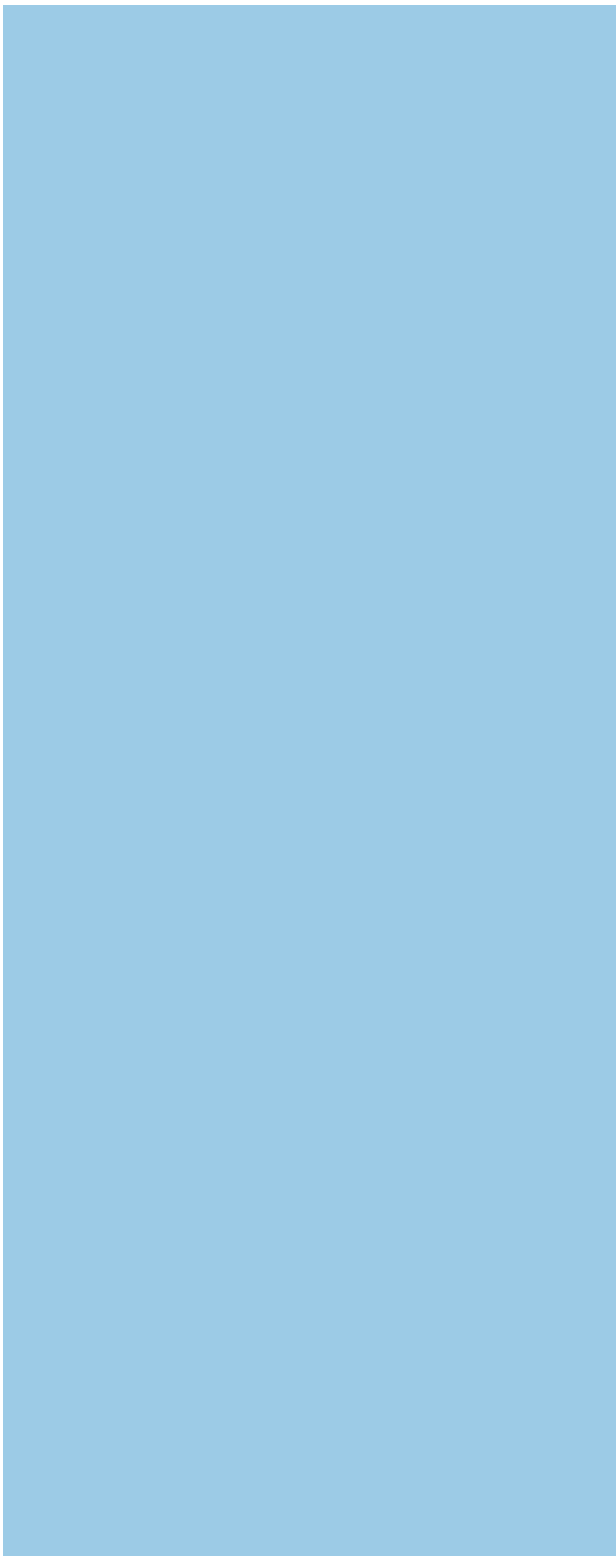
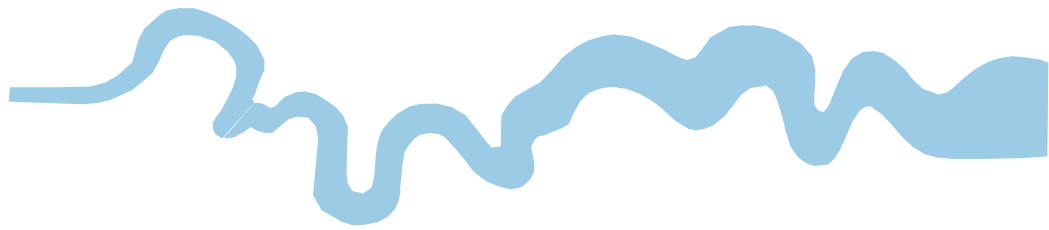
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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