

**The Bungalow, Bishops Farm Close,
Oakley Green, Windsor, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mrs Belinda Crocker

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BOG 08/81

July 2008

Summary

Site name: The Bungalow, Bishops Farm Close, Oakley Green, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9278 7654

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th July 2008

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: BOG 08/81

Area of site: c. 0.25ha

Summary of results: A single gully of medieval or later date was found.

Monuments identified: Gully

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.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 23.07.08
	Steve Preston ✓ 24.07.08

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Report 08/81

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Bungalow, Bishops Farm Close, Oakley Green, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9278 7654) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mrs Belinda Crocker, of The Bungalow, Bishops Farm Close, Oakley Green, Windsor, Berkshire.

Planning consent (08/00757) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of the current house on the site and its replacement on a different footprint, along with a new garage and access. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to development. It was determined that this should take the form of, initially, an archaeological evaluation by means of trial trenching in order to assess the potential for the survival of archaeological remains, based on the results of which a scheme for mitigation could then be devised if required.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters related to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass on the 16th July, 2008 and the site code is BOG 08/81. 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 the north-western edge of the hamlet of Oakley Green, itself situated on the western edge of the developed area comprising Windsor, Clewer Green and Dedworth, some 800m to the south of the river Thames (Fig. 1). It lies on the north side of Bishops Farm Close. The site is quite flat, at a height of approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum and the geology, is London Clay (BGS 1981). At present the site is used as a grassed garden area, and backs onto open fields used for grazing (Fig. 2).

Archaeological background

The archaeological background for the site derives in the main from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley, from which numerous sites have been identified by a variety of methods (Ford, 1987; Gates 1975; Foreman *et al.* 2002). Approximately 400m to the north a Bronze Age 'burnt mound' has been located by trial trenching (Pine 1996) and immediately to the east of the site lies the early 15th-century timber-framed hall of Bishops Farmhouse, a grade II listed building. Earthworks visible in the adjacent field may also be of medieval origin, comprising a possible three-sided enclosure and ridge and furrow (remnants of medieval cultivation). The ridge and furrow appears to extend into the bounds of the property although at some time in the recent past much of the garden was landscaped for a tennis court (B. Crocker, pers. comm.).

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 objectives of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if any deposits relating to Saxon and/or medieval occupation are to be found on the site.

Two trenches were to be excavated, each 5m in length and 1.6m wide, located to investigate the area of likely disturbance by the foundations for the new building. They were to be excavated by a JCB-type machine using a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were to be checked for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above. 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.

Results

The two trenches were excavated as intended (Fig. 3) A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was 4.5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.6m deep; orientated approximately north-south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of topsoil sealing 0.2m of greyish brown clayey silt. This overlay a yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel interpreted as the natural geology (London Clay). This trench contained a single gully (1), orientated NNE–SSW (Figs 3 and 4). This feature was 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, filled with a pale grey silty clay and contained a single abraded sherd of medieval pottery.

Trench 2

This trench was 5.6m long, 1.6m wide and 0.5m deep; orientated NE–SW. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of topsoil, above 0.2m of subsoil which lay above the natural clay. A single pit of modern origin was observed at 3.5m along the trench, visible cutting through the subsoil and containing modern ceramic building material and pottery fragments; these were not retained. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were recorded for this trench.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

A single sherd of medieval pottery was noted in gully 1 (50). It weighs 1g. The fabric comprises moderate to dense quartz along with small quantities of fine flint and ironstone. It is likely to be from the ‘poly-tempered sandy wares’ tradition of east Berkshire and west Surrey as defined by Jones (1998, 231), which has the same range of minor inclusions, and probably dates to the late 11th – 14th century.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a single feature of medieval or later date, in the form of a shallow gully. Besides a modern pit, no other archaeological finds or features were encountered during the course of the fieldwork. This find points to a low level of medieval activity in the area, perhaps reflecting areas used as paddocks close to a more intensively utilized and occupied zone.

References

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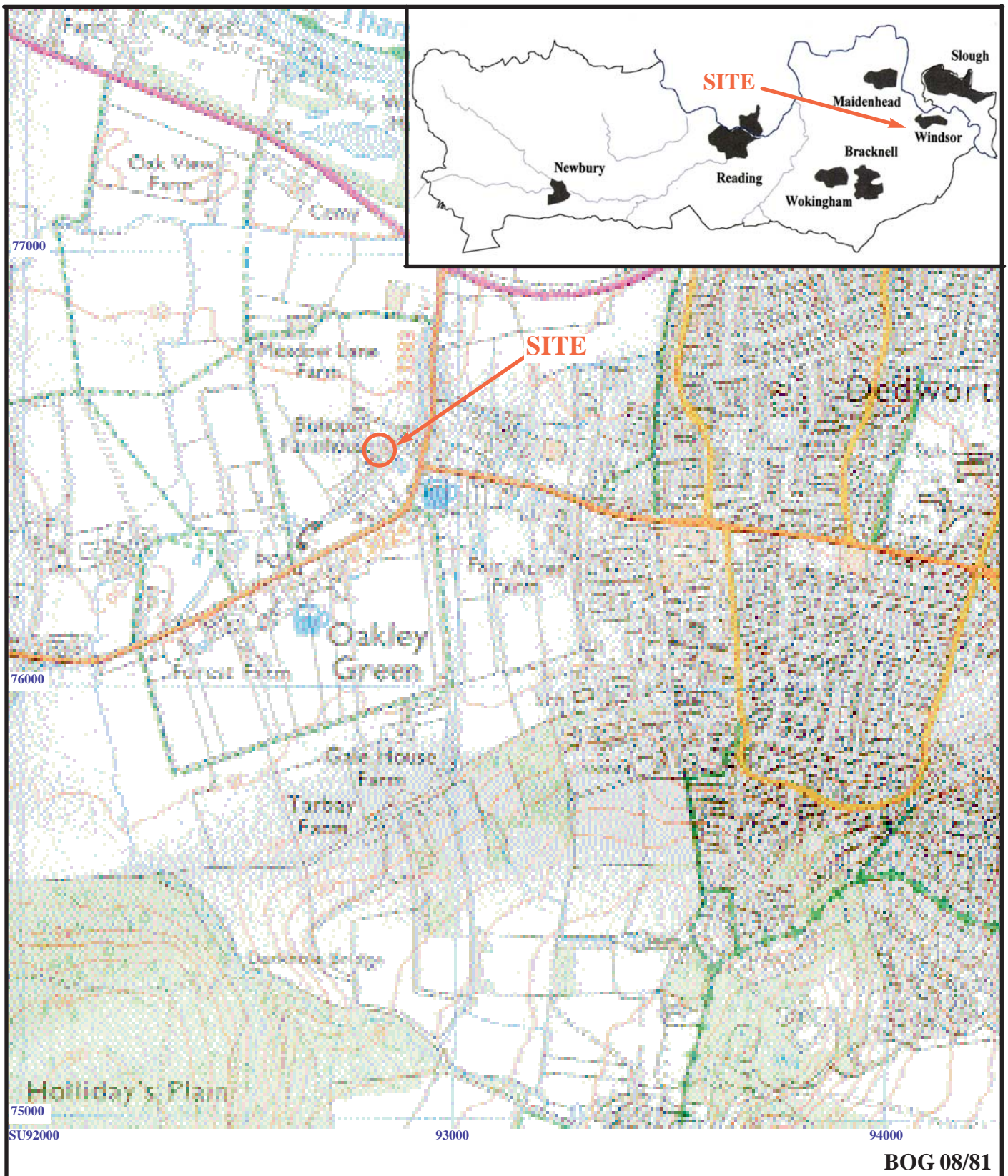
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	4.5	1.6	0.6	0-0.3m Topsoil; 0.3-0.5m greyish brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.5m+ yellowish brown silty clay with occasional gravel natural geology. Gully 1 [Plates 1 and 2]
2	5.6	1.6	0.5	0-0.3m Topsoil; 0.3-0.4m greyish brown clayey silt subsoil; 0.5m+ Natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	50	Gully	Medieval (or later)	Pottery (abraded)



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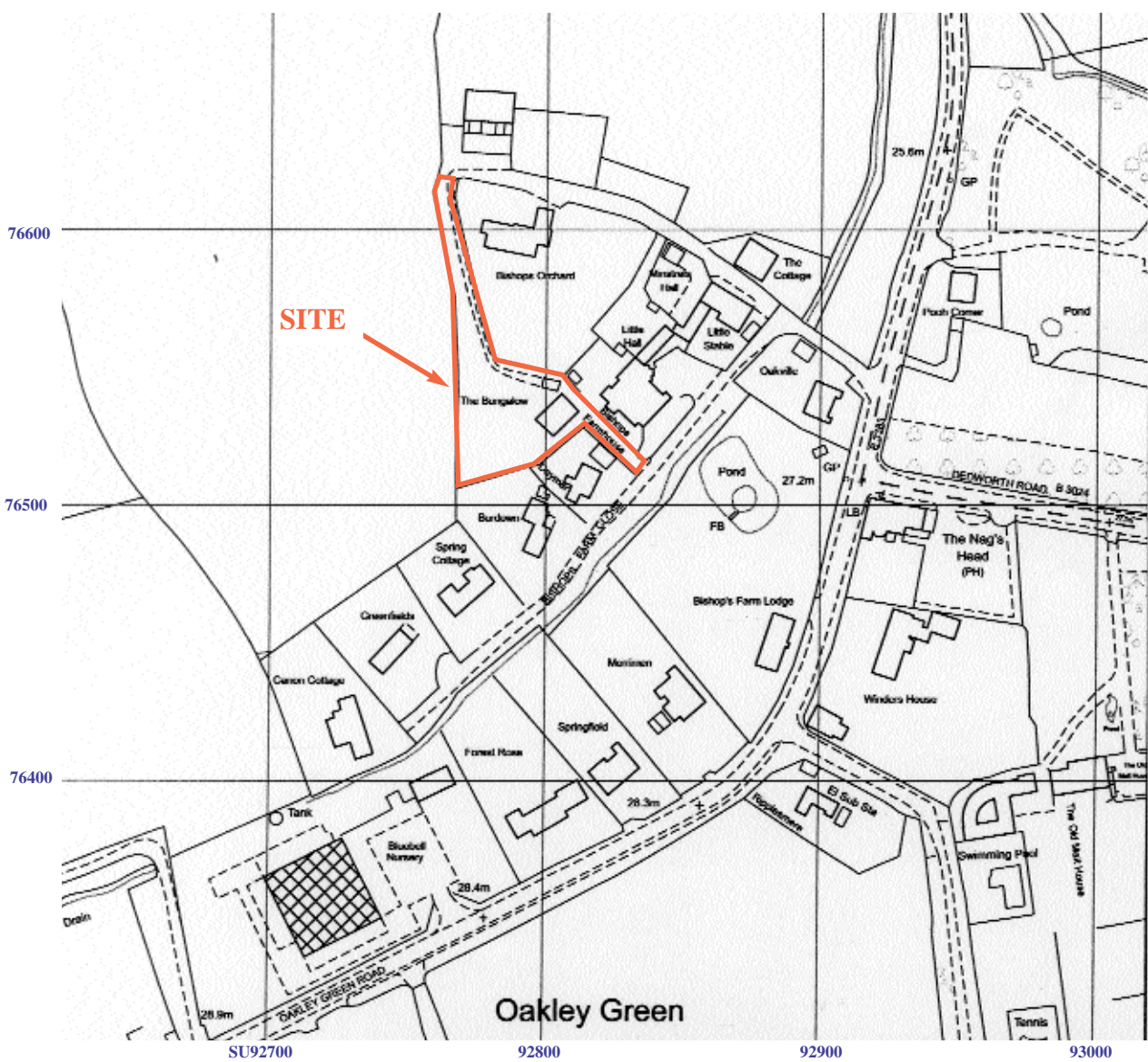
Figure 1. Location of site within Oakley Green and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Bishops Farm Close.

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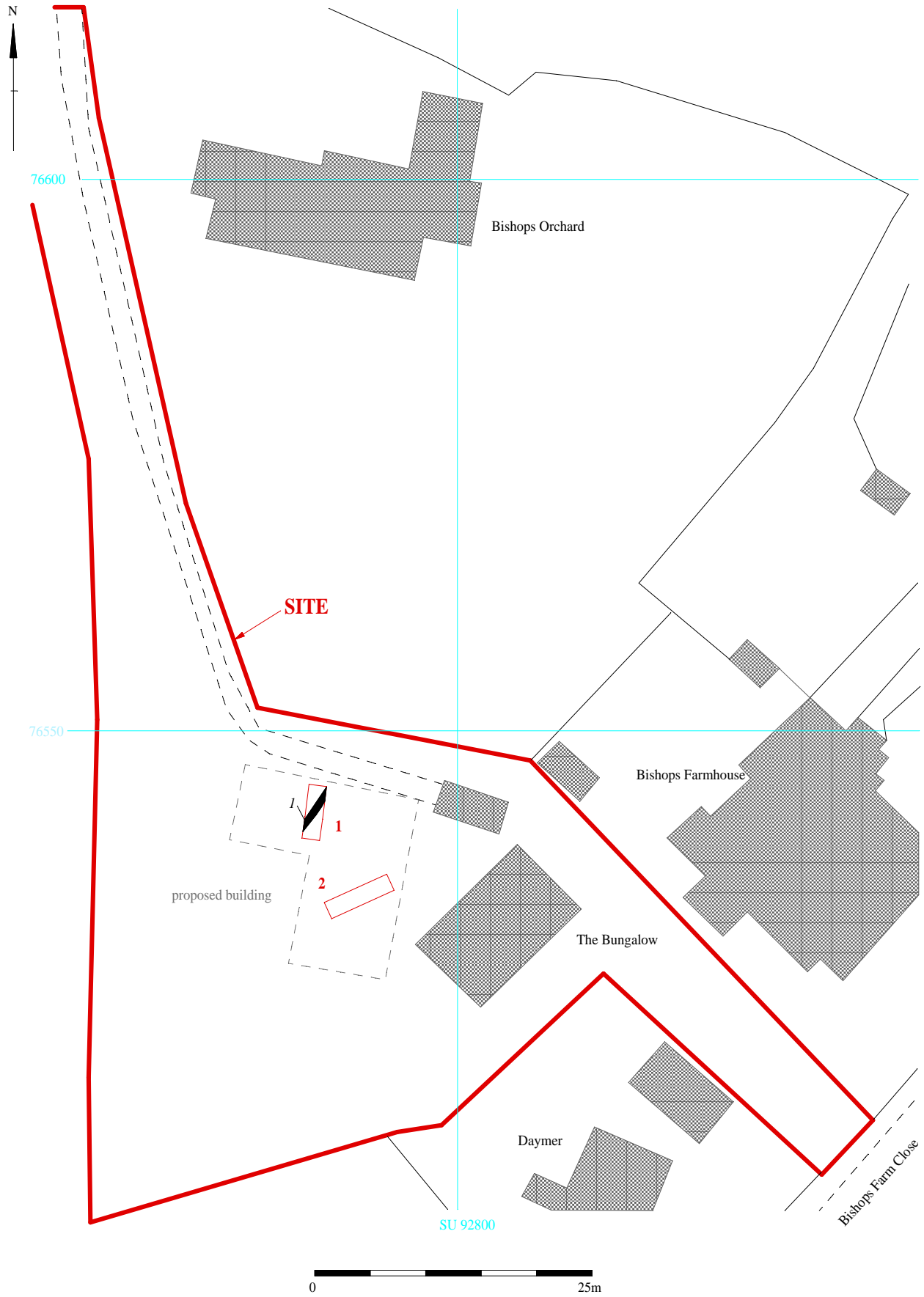


Figure 3. Location of trenches.

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Trench 1

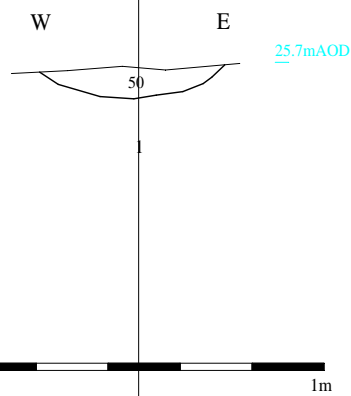
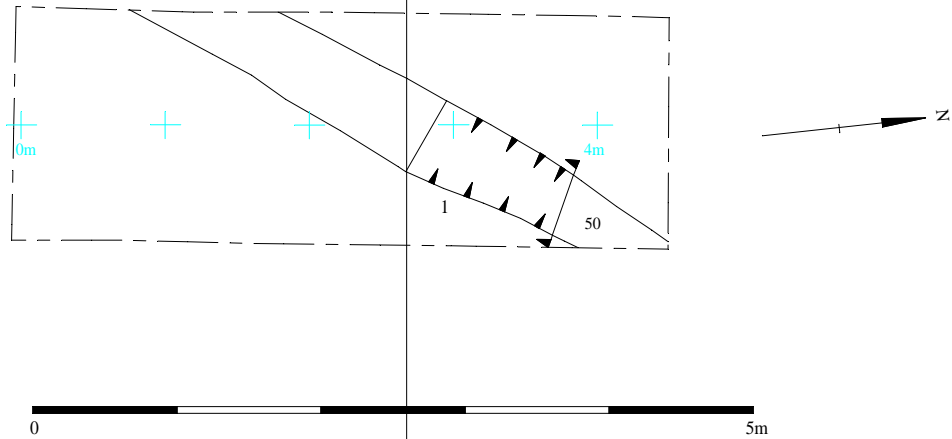


Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1 and section of gully 1.

