

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Land at Church Farm, Lower Church Road,  
Sandhurst, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: CFS14/212**

**(SU 8247 6185)**

# **Land at Church Farm, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Scozak Development Limited**

by James McNicoll-Norbury  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CFS 14/212

**November 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Church Farm, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8247 6185

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 19th November 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** CFS 14/212

**Area of site:** 0.11ha

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or deposits were encountered in the evaluation and 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 an appropriate museum in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 28.11.14
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# Land at Church Farm, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 14/212

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Church Farm, Lower Church Road, Sandhurst (SU 8247 6185) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gary Smallbone of Scozak Development Limited, Chandlers House, Chandlers Lane, Yateley, Hampshire, GU46 7SP.

A planning consent has been gained (App14/00323/FUL) from Bracknell Forest Borough Council to construct new housing on the parcel of land at Church Farm. The consent is subject to a condition (13) relating to archaeology which requires a scheme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of work) to assess the archaeological potential of the site.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 19th November 2014 and the site code is CFS 14/212. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Lower Church Road and the eastern boundary of Church Farm, further to the east of the site lies St Michael's Church and Sandhurst itself (Fig. 2). The site is covered predominantly by uneven grass on a gentle North-South slope with a concrete track running down the centre of the site and the underlying geology is described as alluvium (BGS 1981) and lies at 59.5m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by Mr. Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary the site lies in the Blackwater Valley, the archaeology of which was, until recently poorly known (Ford 1987). Recent fieldwork has now located various sites and finds, most notably

those associated with iron production (Platt 2013; Sheldon 2009). However, the significance of this site is its location close to the Medieval parish church at Sandhurst, Typically the church is located towards the centre of a settlement. Sandhurst is not mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086, but is documented from the 13th century. An evaluation to the south east of the proposal site did not locate any deposits of archaeological interest but recovered a little medieval pottery and a few prehistoric struck flints (Ford 2000).

## **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 this project are;

- a) To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- b) To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- c) To determine if any deposits representing late Saxon or medieval deposits are present, and if so their date and nature.
- d) To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Two trenches were proposed to be dug at 20m in length and 1.6m wide targeting the areas that will be occupied by the proposed development. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB - type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist. If archaeological deposits were encountered these were to be hand cleaned and further excavated by hand.

## **Results**

The trenches were dug as intended and ranged in length between 19.8 and 20.0m and in depth from 0.54-0.61m and were 1.8m in width. 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, Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 20.0m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural sands and gravel geology. The cut of a disconnected gas pipe was identified at the northern end of the trench.

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4, pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 19.8m long and 0.61m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying natural sands and gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were identified.

### **Finds**

No finds were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation has revealed that whilst the archaeological horizon is relatively undisturbed and sealed by a small layer of subsoil, no archaeological deposits were identified. The site therefore is considered to have low archaeological potential.

### **References**

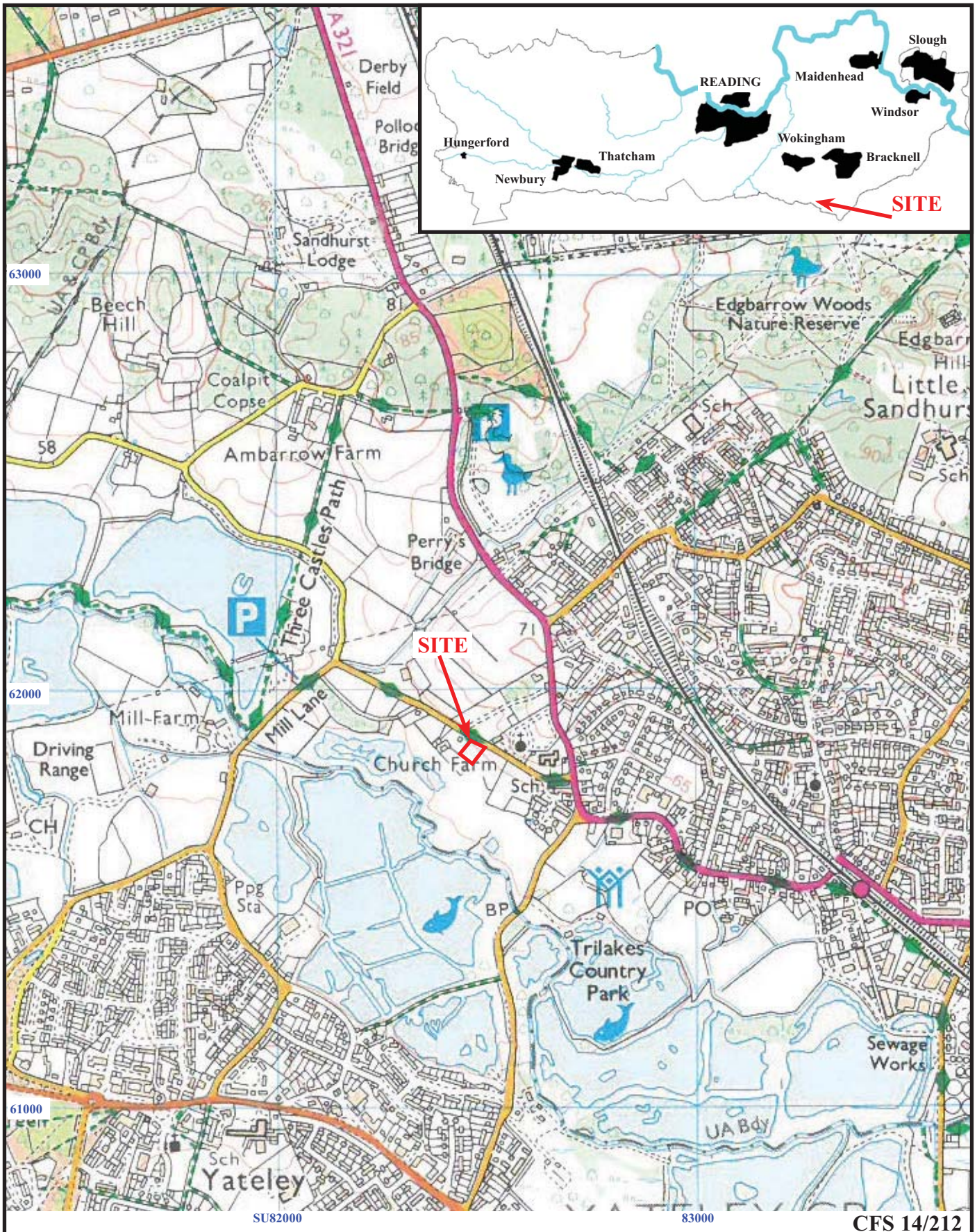
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- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
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- Sheldon, S, 2009, Land at Fleet Hill Farm, Finchampstead, Wokingham, summary report for 2009, Cotswold Archaeology, report 10020, Kemble

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW or SSW end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	20.0	1.8	0.54	0–0.33m topsoil, 0.33-0.54m subsoil, 0.54m+ sands and gravel (natural geology). No archaeology. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	19.8	1.8	0.61	0–0.34m topsoil, 0.34-0.56m subsoil, 0.56m+ sands and gravel (natural geology). No archaeology. <b>[Pl. 2]</b>





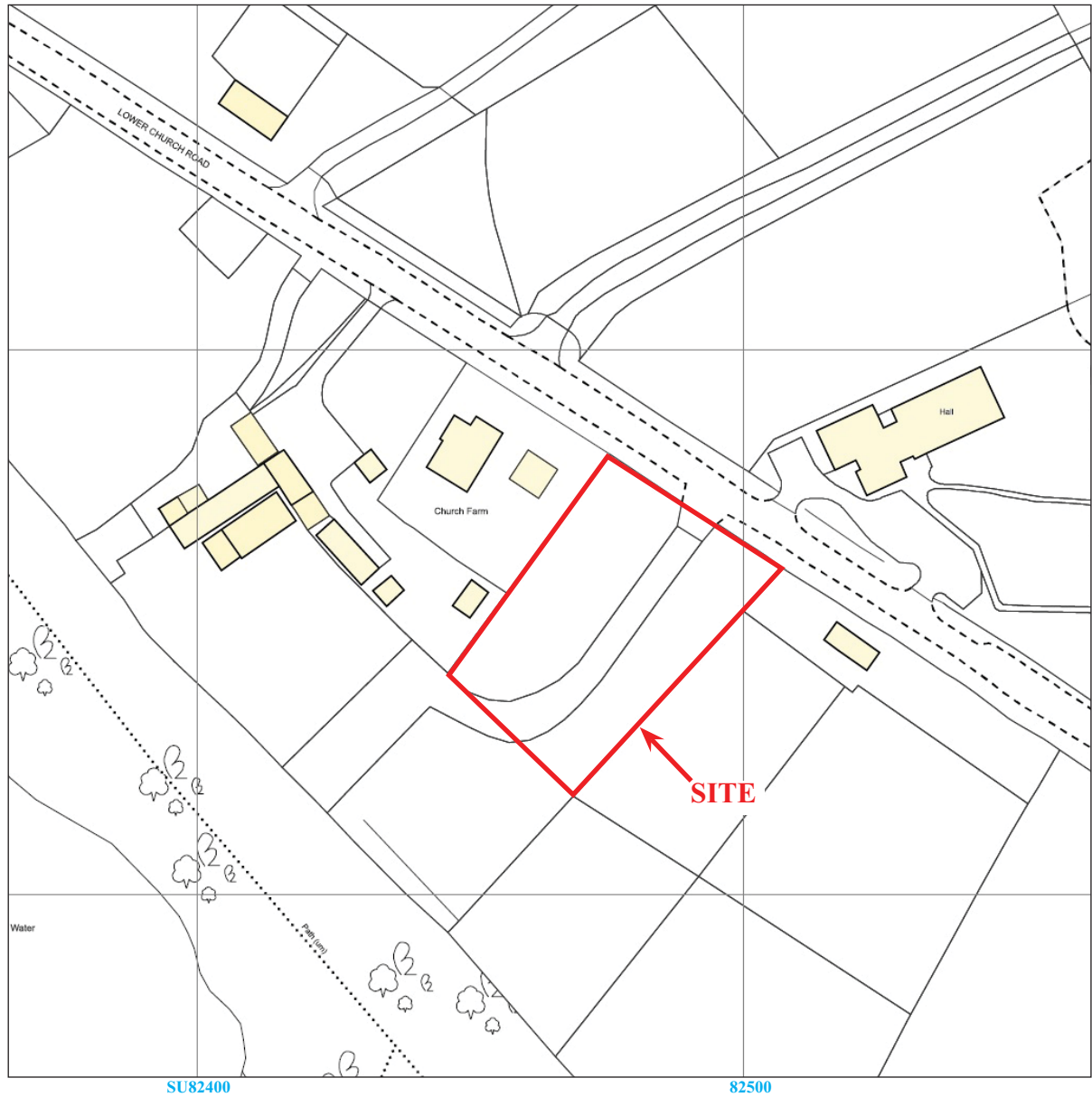
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Figure 1. Location of site within Sandhurst and Berkshire.

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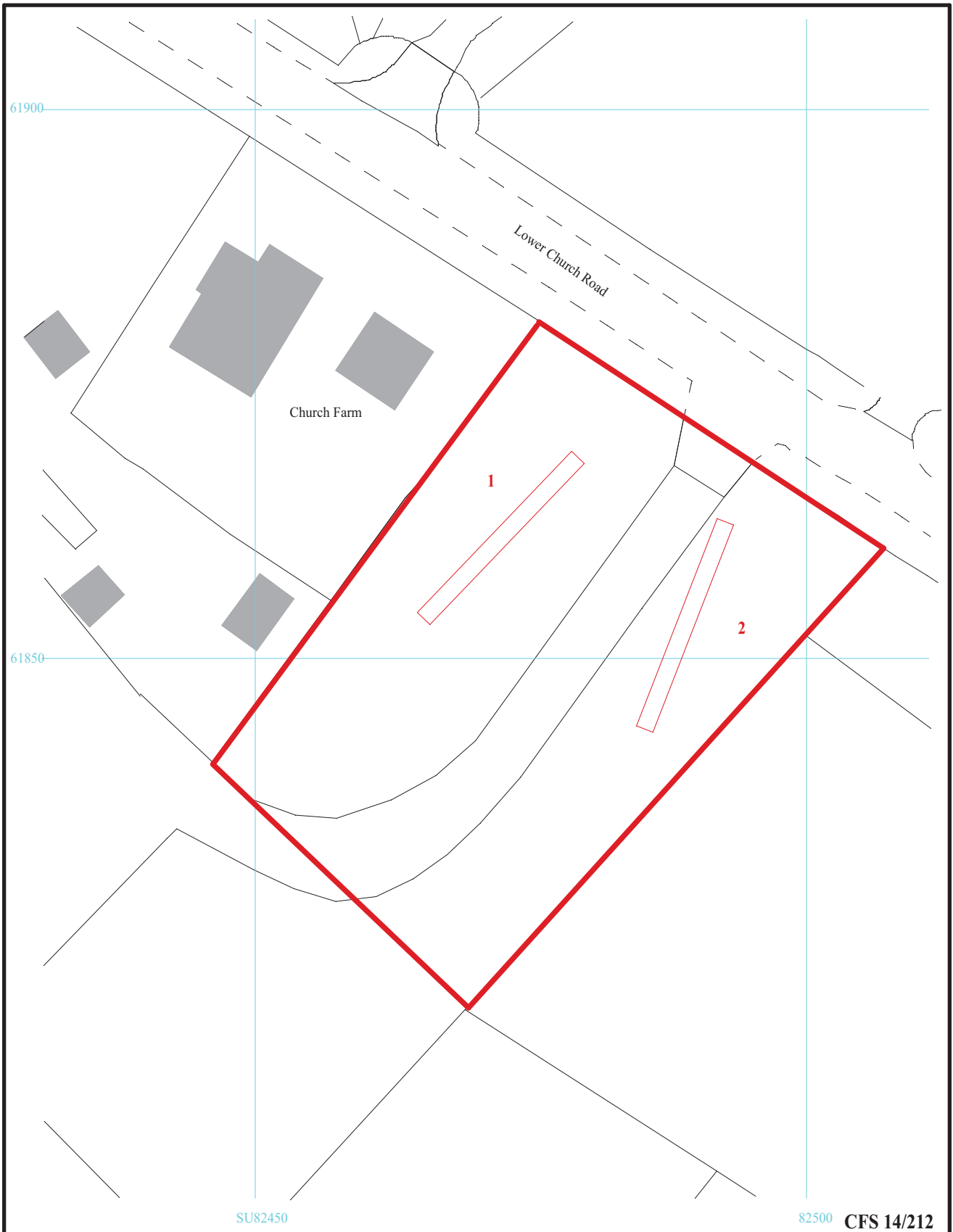


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Lower Church Road.

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Figure 3. Trench Location



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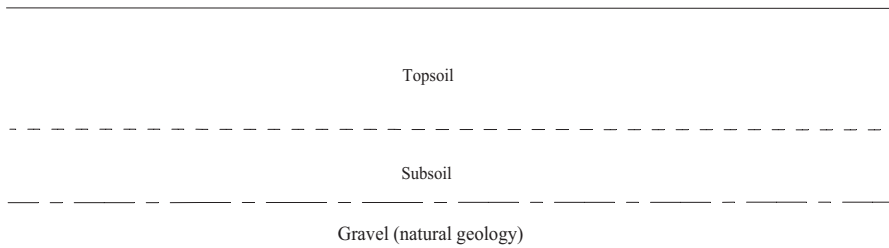
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**Trench 1**

SW

NE

59.3m AOD

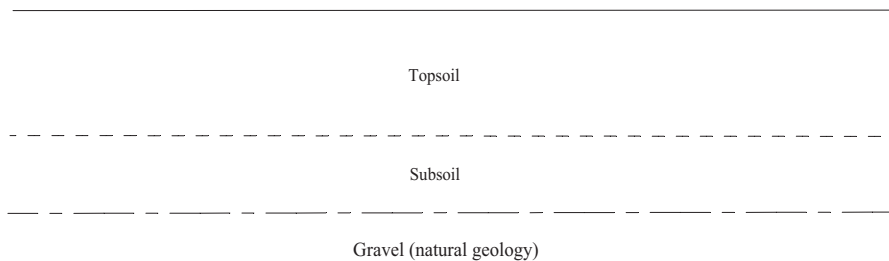


**Trench 2**

NNE

SSW

59.5m AOD



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

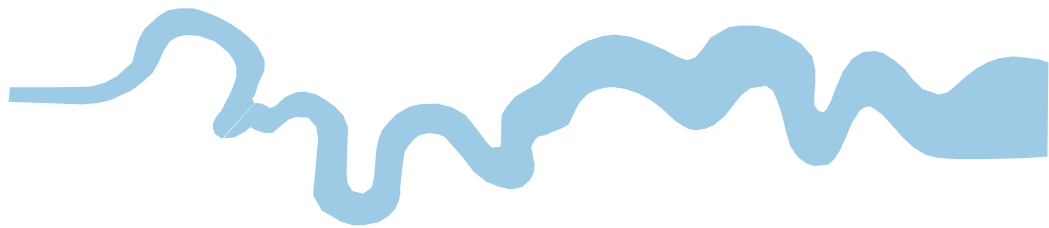
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**