

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Clewborough House School,
Frimley, Surrey**

**Archaeological Evaluation
Phase 2**

by Jo Pine

Site Code: CHS07/146

(SU 8890 5840)

**Clewborough House School, St Catherine's Road,
Frimley, Surrey**

An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

for Banner Homes Ltd

by Jo Pine

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code CHS 07/146

March 2011

Summary

Site name: Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey (Phase 2)

Grid reference: SU 8890 5820

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 2nd March 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Joanna Pine

Site code: CHS 07/146

Area of site: 3.6ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified during this phase of the evaluation.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.03.11 Steve Preston✓ 17.03.11

Clewborough House School, St Catherine's Road, Frimley, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation (Phase 2)

by Jo Pine

Report 07/146c

Introduction

This report documents the results of the second phase of archaeological field evaluation carried out at Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey (SU 8890 5840) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Stuart Forrester of Banner Homes Limited, Penarth House, Otterbourne Hill, Otterbourne, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2EZ.

Planning consent (app no SU/09/0500) has been gained from Surrey Heath Borough Council to construct housing on the site of the former school. The consent is subject to a condition (25) relating to archaeology. Two phases of evaluation were proposed for the site due to the need to work around the demolition of existing buildings and the presence of numerous badger sets on the site; in the event three phases will be required. The first phase has been the subject of a previous report (McNicoll-Norbury 2010). This report deals with the second phase. Based on the results of the evaluation, a mitigation strategy will then be able to be devised as appropriate.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990; which has since been superseded by *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010)), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine on 2nd March 2011 and the site code is CHS 07/146. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Guildford Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land west of St Catherine's Road to the east of the historic centre of Frimley, on the slope of Burrow Hill which slopes down east to St Catherine's Road (Fig. 1). The site was previously occupied by the former school and associated structures, some of which have since been demolished, and has a terraced aspect to it (Fig. 2). The site lies on two geological outcrops comprising downwash gravels to the west and Barton Sand to the east (BGS 1976) both of which were observed in the trenches. The site rises from 86.77m above Ordnance Datum around the edge of the site to 97.47m AOD in its centre.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was initially highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Hopkins 2007). In summary, the site generally lies within a landscape zone (Surrey heathland) with relatively little recorded archaeology. In medieval times the site is likely to have lain within a deer park which will have placed restrictions on the extent of medieval occupation. The desktop study noted the presence of a few prehistoric flint tools in the area, however. The place name of 'Burrow Hill' may suggest the presence of one or more (presumed) Bronze Age round barrows and the location of one may have been identified within the western portion of the site (outside the area to be developed). Further burial or contemporary occupation deposits may be present elsewhere on the proposal site.

The first phase of evaluation (McNicoll-Norbury 2010) revealed that the northern part of the site has been previously built up especially in the trenches on the eastern side which have multiple layers of made ground above the natural geology, and in Trench 2 these overlay a buried turf line in the section whereas the trenches on the southern part of the site (17 and 18) showing that the area had been stripped of overburden. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

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 aims of the project are to:

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

- determine if archaeological deposits of Neolithic or Bronze Age date are present, in particular those associated with the possible round barrow(s) on the site; and to determine if archaeological deposits of any other period are present.

It was proposed to dig 18 trenches over two, now three phases of work. All trenches were to be 17m long and 2m wide. The trenches were to be dug with a JCB-type or 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision and metal detectors were to be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds. All discrete features of medieval or earlier date were to be investigated by hand with 50% of the volume of each pit and posthole being dug and a 25% sample of linear features, structural features requiring a 50% sample.

Results

Six trenches (7-9, 11, 13 and 14) were excavated during the phase 2 fieldwork (Figs 3 and 4). The trenches excavated were 1.8m wide and their lengths were increased to make up this deficit in width, apart from trenches 7 and 11 which could not be extended due to badger zone restrictions and health and safety issues. The trenches were dug with a 360⁰-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision .

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

Trench 7 (Pl. 1)

Trench 7 was aligned north–south and was 14.0m long and 0.50m deep. The trench location had to be shifted slightly to avoid a pile of demolition crush. The stratigraphy comprised 0.42m of demolition rubble in a sediment matrix overlying brown/ red/ yellow sands. No archaeological features were identified and the natural geology was truncated by modern disturbance.

Trench 8 (Pl. 2)

Trench 8 was aligned NW--SE and was 18.0m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.40m of demolition rubble in a sediment matrix sealing mid red/brown sands with gravel patches. No archaeological features were identified and again the natural geology was badly truncated by modern disturbance

Trench 9 (Pl. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned west–east and was 19.m long and between 0.30m and 0.47m deep. The trench's orientation was altered from that intended due to a pile of crush. The stratigraphy comprised 0.20m of demolition rubble in a sandy silt sediment above mid red brown sands with gravel patches. No archaeological features were identified and the natural geology was very disturbed by modern truncations and features likely associated with the buildings that previously stood in this area.

Trench 11 (Pl. 4)

Trench 11 was aligned NNW-SSE and was 17.00m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.48m of demolition rubble in a sediment matrix, above mid red brown sands with patches of gravel and white sand. The geology was badly disturbed by foundations and activities associated with demolition. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 13 (Pl. 5)

Trench 13 was aligned SW–NE and was 18.00m long and between 0.40m and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.25m of demolition rubble in a sandy silt overlying the natural geology of yellow and brown sands.

This natural geology was very disturbed by modern truncations and features likely associated with the buildings that once stood in this area. No archaeological features were observed.

Trench 14 (Pl. 6)

Trench 14 was aligned S–N and was 21m long and between 0.40m and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m of demolition rubble in a sediment matrix overlying yellow sand with reddish brown sand. This natural geology was disturbed by modern truncations and features likely associated with the buildings that once stood in this area. No archaeological features were observed.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during this phase of works.

Conclusion

Phase 2 of the evaluation took place in areas of the site where once stood the footprints of the school buildings recently demolished and removed. The results of the works illustrated that this area of the site was badly disturbed by these structures as predicted (McNicoll-Norbury 2010). None of the trenches showed any evidence of soil profiles (top- and or sub-soil), instead demolition debris overlay badly disturbed natural geology. This suggests the area has been substantially landscaped and disturbed during construction of the former school. This area of the site thus has no archaeological potential.

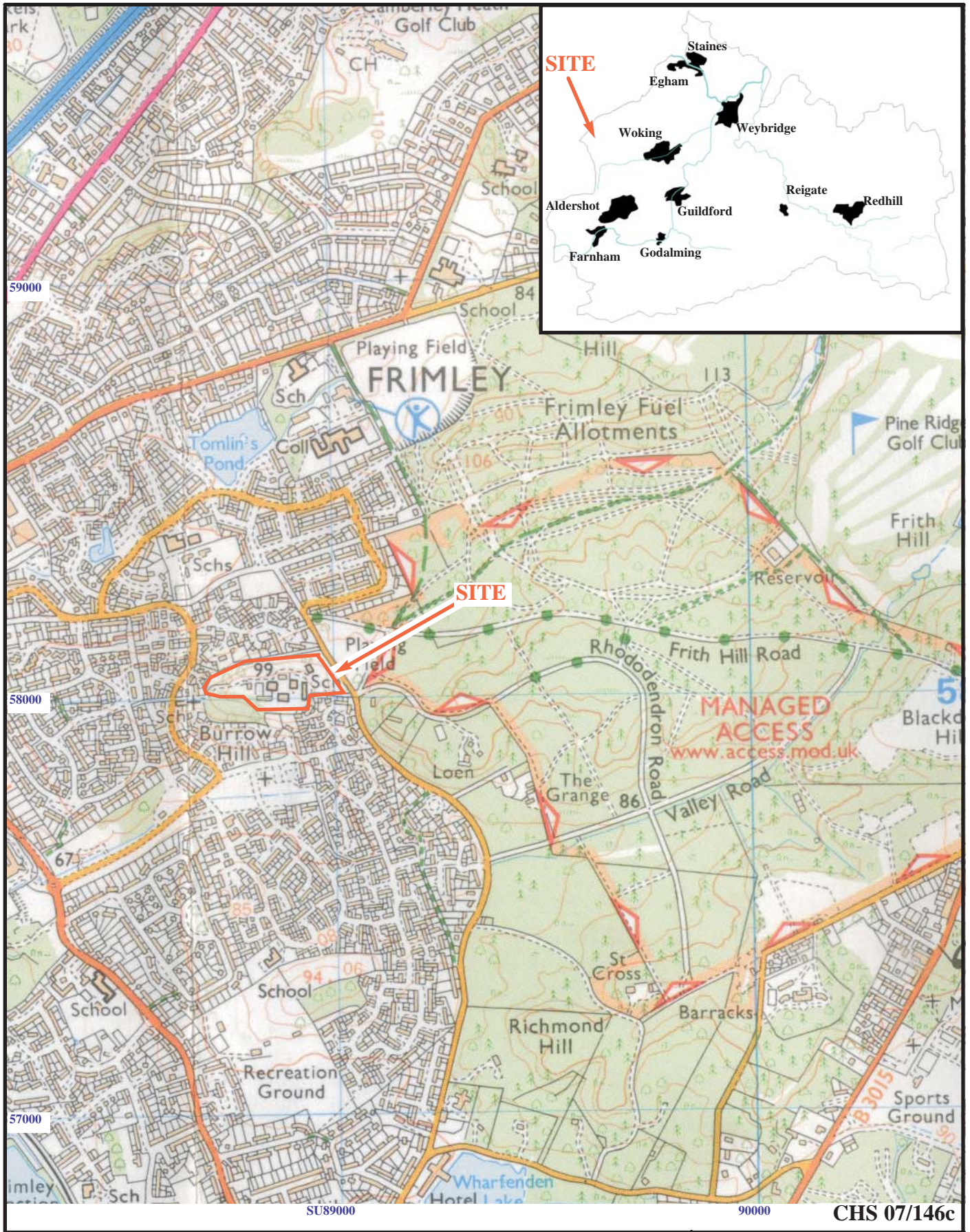
References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 285, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hopkins, H 2007, 'Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 07/146, Reading
- McNicoll-Norbury, 2010, 'Clewborough House School, Frimley, Surrey, an archaeological evaluation (Phase 1), Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/146b, Reading
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- PSS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

APPENDIX 1: Trench details (phase 2)

0m at south or west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
7	14.0	2.00	0.60S 0.42N	0–0.42m demolition rubble, 0.42m+ brown-red-yellow sand geology. [Pl. 1]
8	18.0	2.00	0.45SW 0.4NW	0–0.45m demolition rubble, 0.45m+ brown-red sand and gravel geology [Pl.2]
9	19.0	2.00	0.44E 0.40W	0–0.2m demolition rubble, 0.2+ brown-red sand with gravel patches geology. [Pl. 3]
10				Not dug yet
11	17.0	2.00	0.50S 0.44N	0–0.48m demolition rubble, 0.48m+ natural mid red-brown sand with gravel patches and white sand patches geology [Pl. 4]
12				Not dug yet
13	18.0	2.00	0.45NE 0.40SW	0–0.25m demolition rubble, 0.25m+ yellow sand with brown sand patches natural geology [Pl. 5]
14	21.0	2.00	0.60N 0.40S	0–0.2m demolition rubble, 0.2m+ light yellow sand and reddish brown sand (natural geology) [Pl. 6]



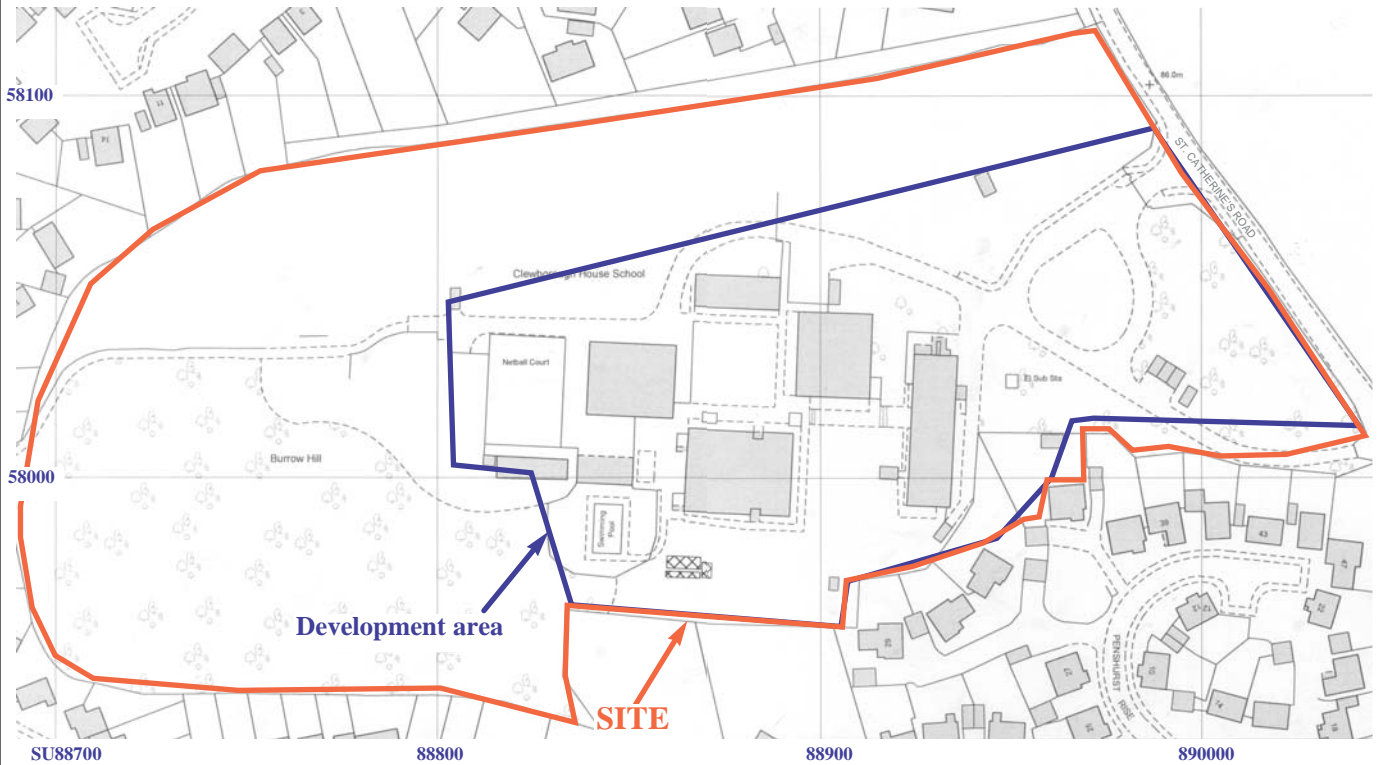
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 Figure 1. Location of site within Frimley and Surrey.

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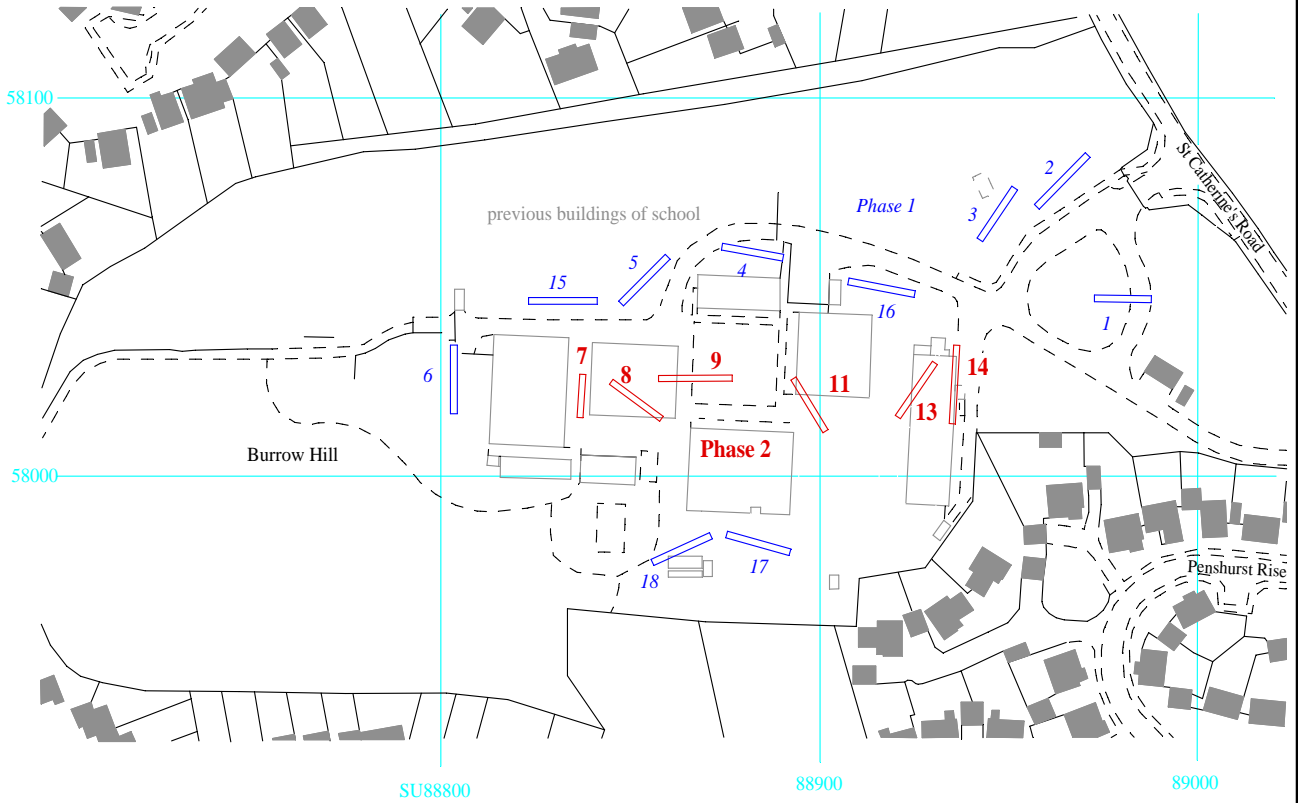


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St Catherine's Road.

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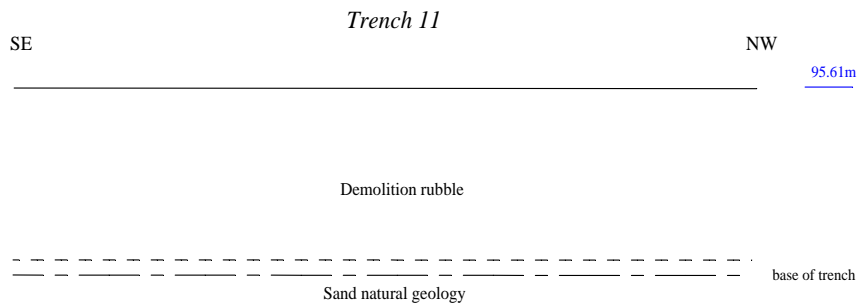
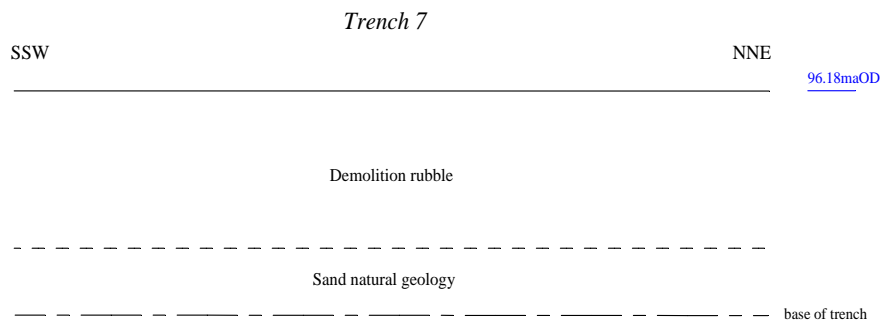
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative Sections



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Plate 1. Trench 7, looking north; Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 8, looking north west; Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 9, looking west; Scales: 2m, 1m



Plate 4. Trench 11, looking north; Scales: 1m and 0.3m

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Plates 3 and 4.

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Plate 5. Trench 13, looking south-west; Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 14, looking north; Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m

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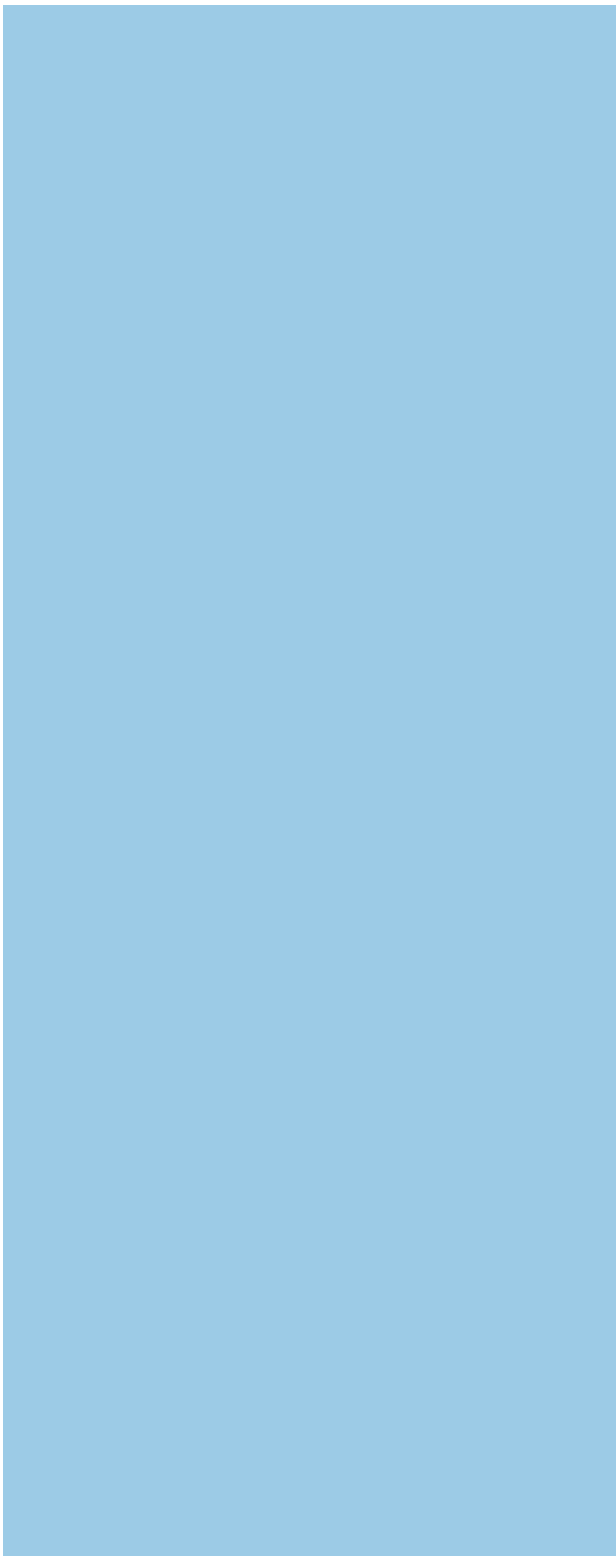
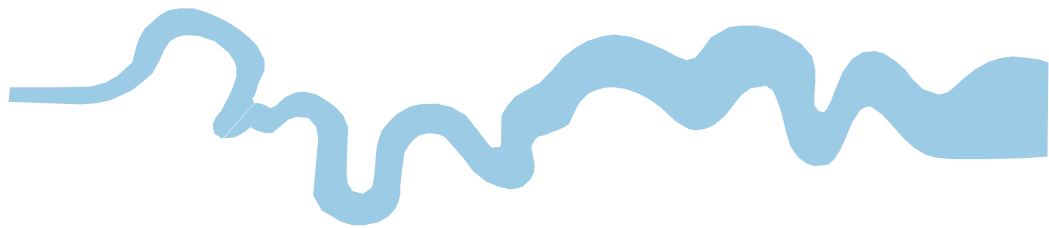
Plates 5 and 6.

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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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