

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Meadow to the rear of Cottages 1 and 2, The Lamb Inn,
Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: CSH14/206

(SU 3410 6883)

**Meadow to the rear of Cottages 1 and 2, The Lamb Inn,
Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Nigel Thornton

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSH 14/206

November 2014

Summary

Site name: Meadow to the rear of Cottages 1 and 2, The Lamb Inn, Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 3410 6883

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: CSH 14/206

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 06.11.14 Steve Preston ✓ 04.11.14

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Report 14/206

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Meadow to the rear of Cottages 1 and 2, The Lamb Inn, Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire (SU 3410 6883) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nigel Thornton, 5 Faulknor Square, Charnham Street, Hungerford, Berkshire, RG17 0ER.

Planning consent (13/03164/OUTD) has been gained on appeal (APP/W0340/A/2219638) from West Berkshire Council for the development of a parcel of a land for two houses. As it was possible that the development area may contain archaeological deposits, and in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to mitigate the effects of the development, a field evaluation has been requested for the site. A single component of work was proposed initially, field evaluation by machine trenching. A further phase of fieldwork may have been required if significant archaeological deposits were revealed.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and West Berkshire Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Alex Godden, Archaeological Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on 28th October 2014 and the site code is CSH 14/206. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Charnham Street, which itself lies on the southern side of Hungerford. It is currently open grassland and is bounded by further fields to the south with properties to the east and north and the River Dun to the west; the river Kennet passes close by to the north and the Kennet and Avon canal is just south of the Dun. The underlying geology is mapped as alluvium (BGS 1947) however gravel was observed in both trenches. The site lies at a height of c.95m above Ordnance Datum on the floor of the steep valley created by the two rivers, with the land rising to over 125m on both slopes within a short distance.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within or close to the medieval Charnham suburb of Hungerford (Astill 1978). The location in the Kennet Valley is also considered to be rich in Mesolithic occupation sites and stray finds (Froom 1971; 2012), with the valley floor being especially productive. Areas to the north-west of the town were subject to extensive excavation in 1989 (Ford 2002) following earlier evaluation (Ford 1988; Walters 1987) and revealed a wide range of deposits from prehistoric through to post-medieval times. Recent evaluation followed by excavation to the north-west also revealed probable prehistoric deposits (Ford 2010; Ford 2014) although watching briefs elsewhere on Charnham Street did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Anthony 2004; Lewis and McNicoll-Norbury 2008). Evaluation immediately to the north of the site only revealed modern deposits (Ford 2012).

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 aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if there are any earlier prehistoric deposits or artefact scatters are present;
- to determine if there is any late Saxon or medieval settlement deposits relating to suburban Hungerford; and
- to determine if there is any late Saxon or medieval craft/industrial deposits on the site.

Two trenches each 10m long and 1.4–1.6m wide were to be dug, using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. This was done under constant archaeological supervision and all spoilheaps were monitored for finds. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

Both trenches were dug 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 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 10.90m in length and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.18m of subsoil. This overlay 0.16m of a dark grey brown silty clay overlying gravel natural geology.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned North West-South East and measured 10.80m in length and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil. This overlay 0.10m of a sandy gravelly silt overlying a dark grey brown silty clay overlying gravel natural geology.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology being present on the site the evaluation did not identify any deposits or finds of an archaeological nature.

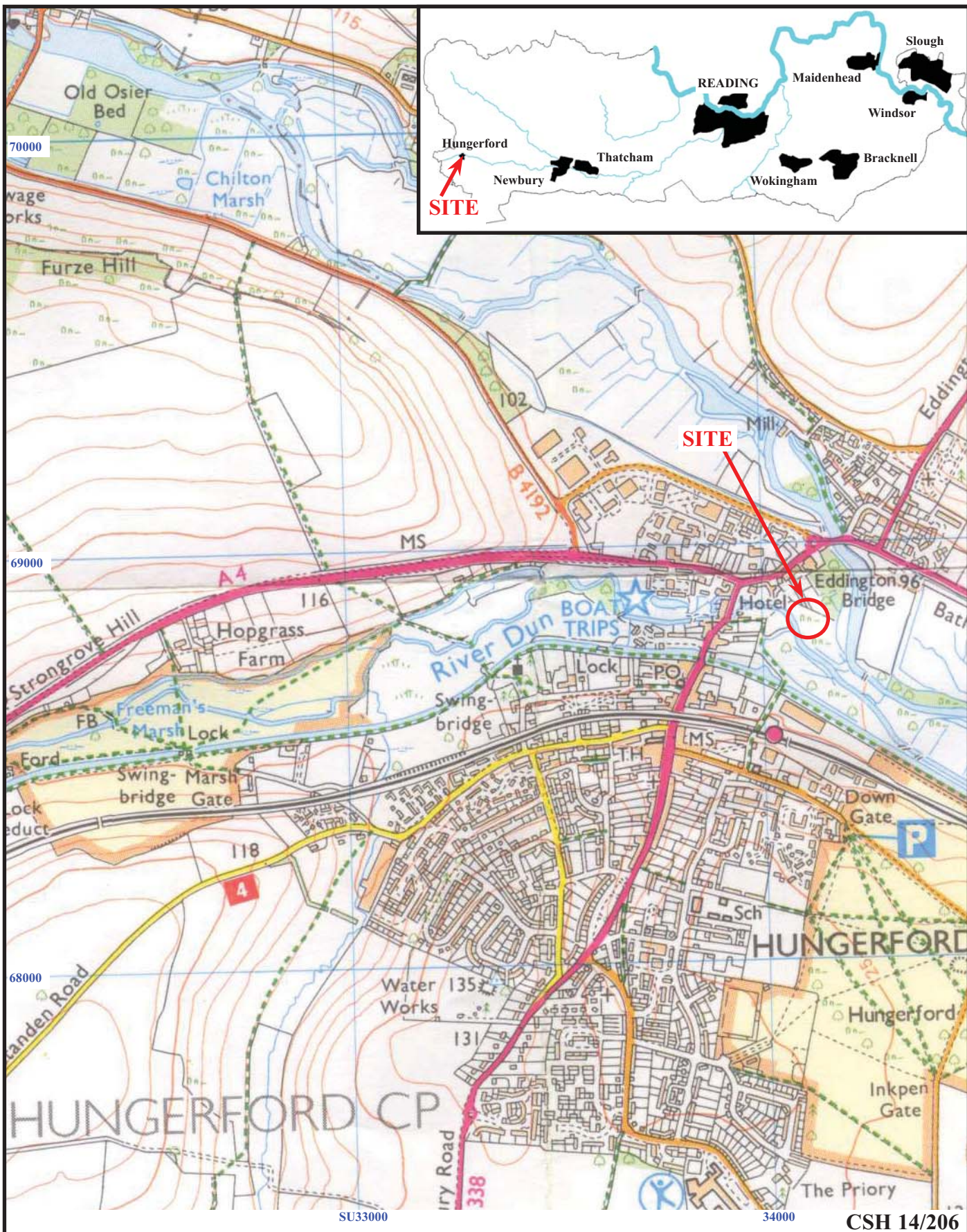
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.90	1.50	0.56	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.56m dark grey brown silty clay; 0.56m+ gravel natural geology. [Pl. 1]
2	10.80	1.50	0.70	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m-0.50m sandy gravelly silt; 0.50m-0.70m dark grey brown silty clay; 0.70m+ gravel natural geology. [Pl. 2]

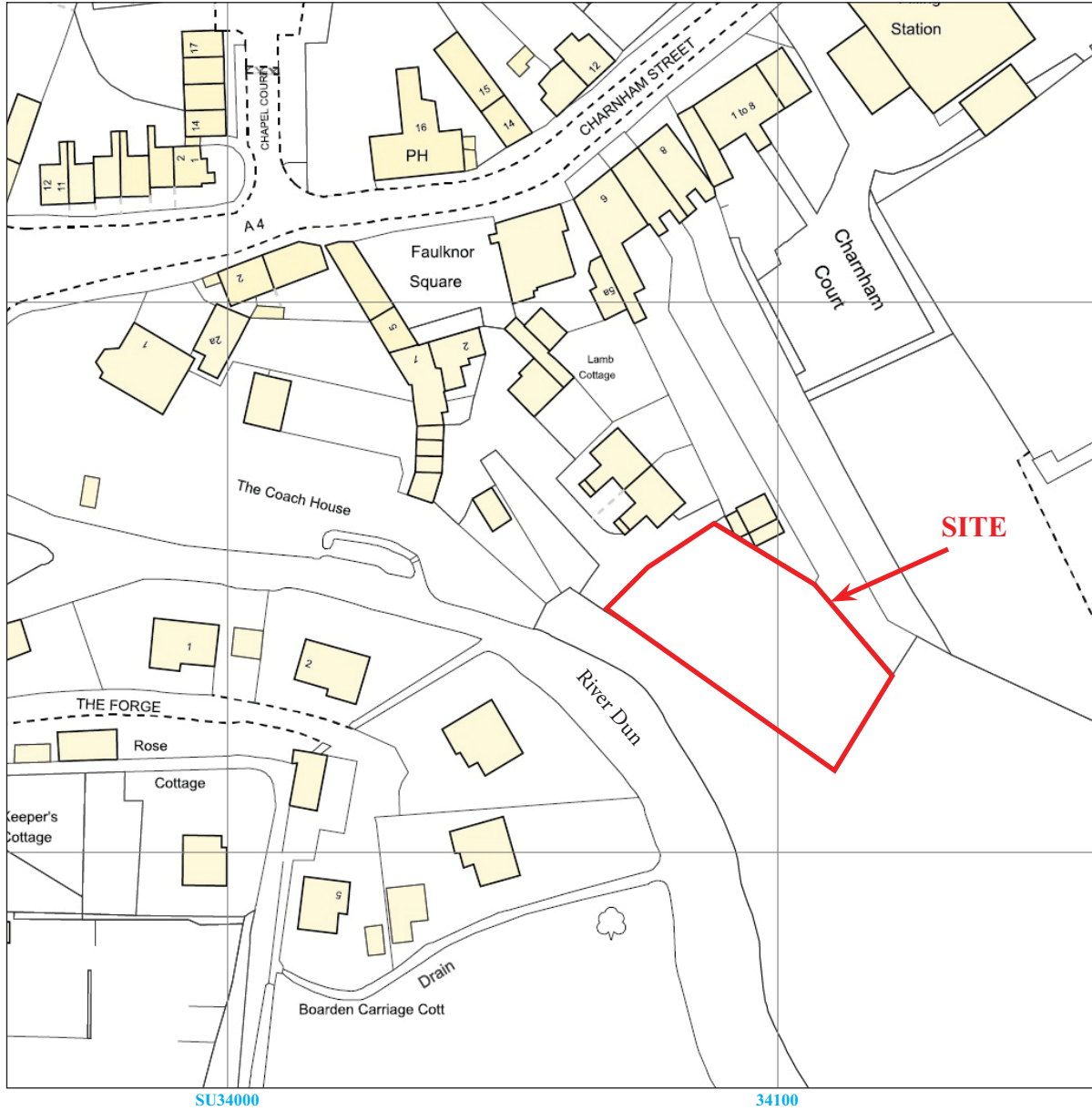


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Figure 1. Location of site within Hungerford and Berkshire.

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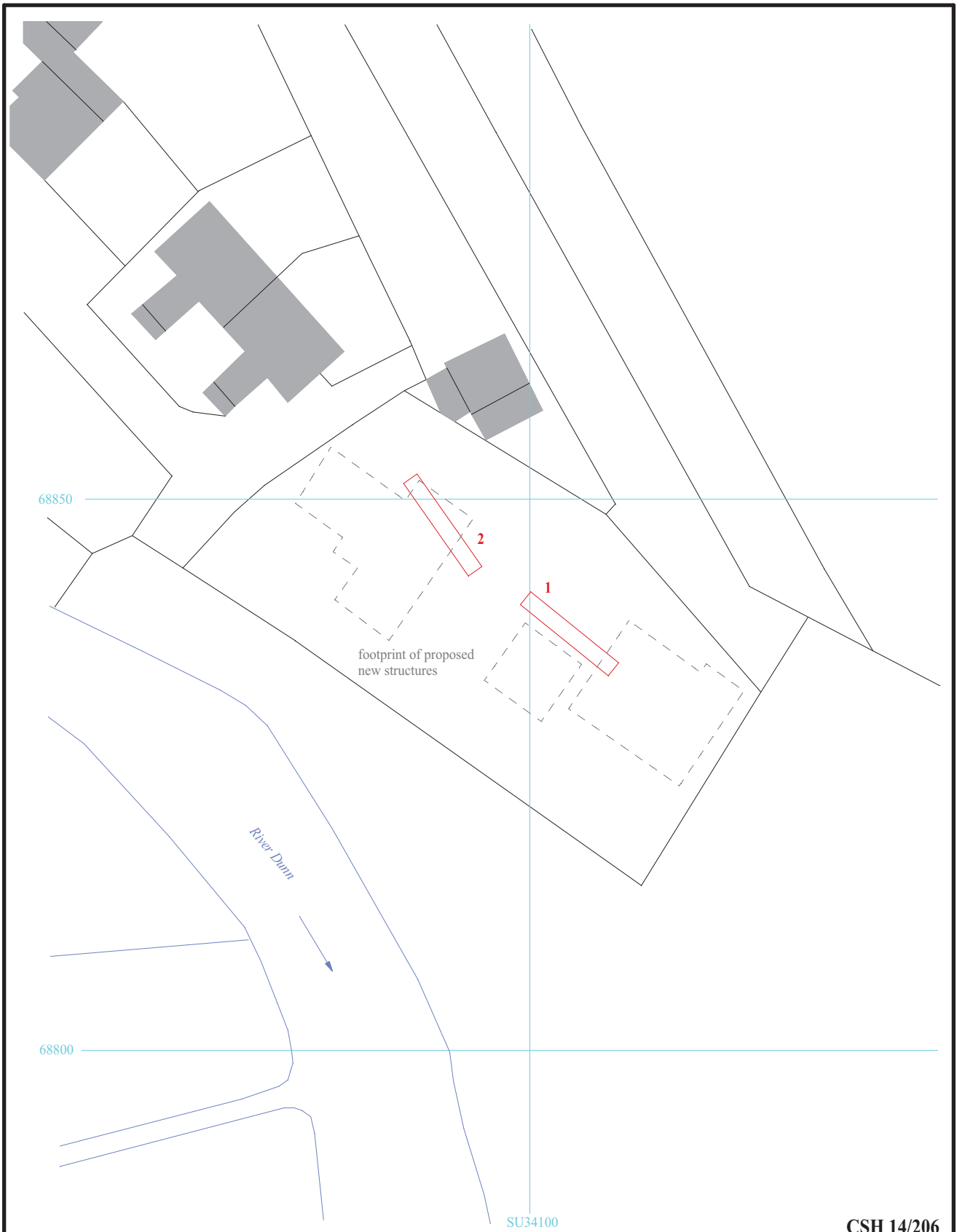


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Charnham Street.

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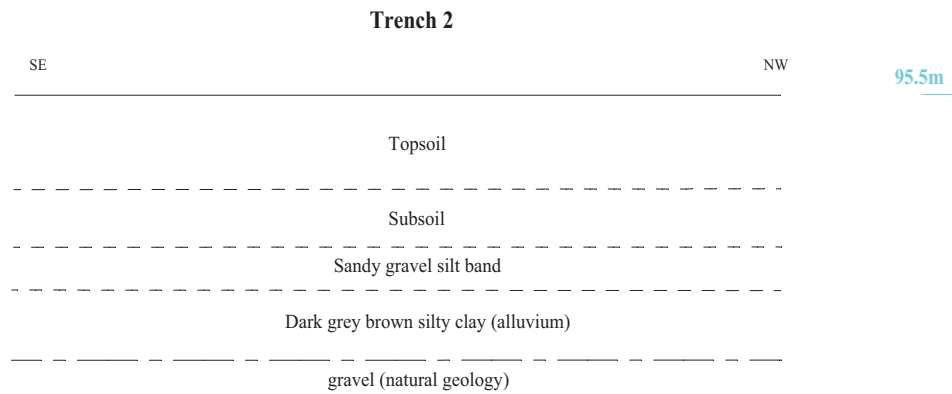
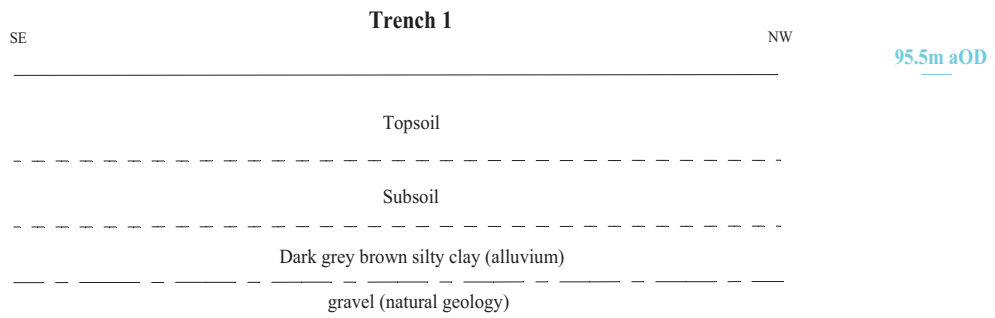


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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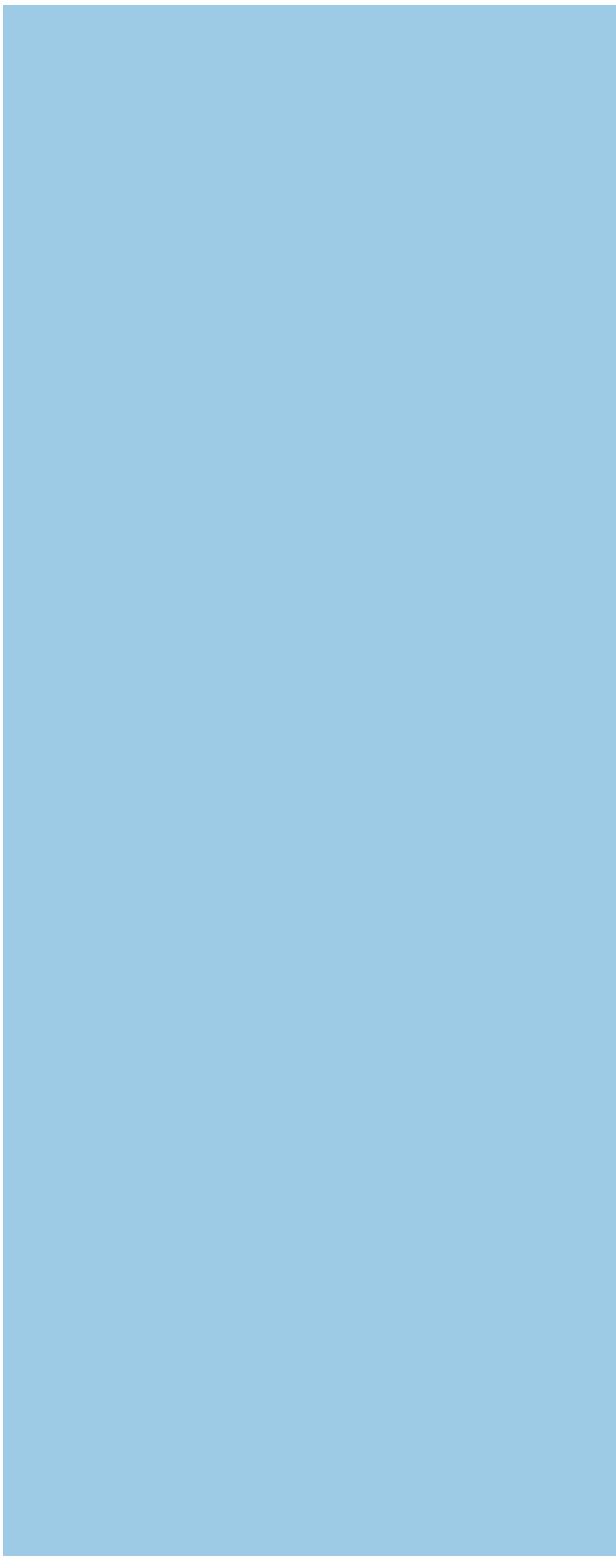
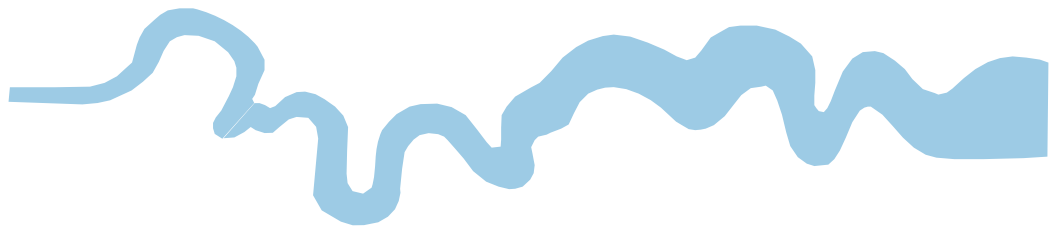
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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