

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
Reading, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: HRT15/218

(SU 7905 7534)

**Land at rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
Reading, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hicks Developments Limited**

by Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HRT15/218

December 2015

Summary

Site name: Land at rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7905 7534

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 14th -16th December 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: HRT15/218

Area of site: c. 0.8ha

Summary of results: A single undated gully was excavated and recorded however no other features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered. The site therefore has a low 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 designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.12.15 Steve Preston ✓ Exxon.15

Land at rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford, Reading Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 15/218

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 58 Hurst Road, Twyford, Reading, Berkshire (SU 7905 7534) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Hicks of Hicks Developments Ltd, 15 Headley Road, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, RG5 4JB.

Planning permission (F/2014/2353) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of 12 new dwellings with access and parking. Due to the nature of the groundworks a condition (8) relating to archaeology has been placed on the consent requiring archaeological field investigation. This was to take the form, initially, of evaluation by trial trenches, following which further fieldwork might be required to mitigate the impact of the development no any archaeological remains found.

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 Ms Ellie Leary, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and William Attard between the 14th and 16th December 2015 and the site code is HRT15/218. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located approximately 1km south of the centre of Twyford (Fig. 1), between Hurst Road and the River Loddon, bounded by Hurst Road to the east and fenced fields on the northern, western and southern sides. This former paddock is a relatively rectangular parcel of land with a small spur of land leading out towards Hurst Road. The site has a significant slope from 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) on the eastern side to 36m aOD on the western side. The underlying geology as seen in the trenches is mapped as Lambeth Group, clay with flints (BGS 2000).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the lower Loddon Valley. Various survey work, such as fieldwalking (Ford 1987; Ford 1997) and aerial photography (Gates 1975) has revealed a wide range of sites and finds in surrounding areas. Most notably, to the south is part of a Roman settlement complex at Broadwater, Hurst (Barnes and Hawkes 1991) with a Mesolithic site further to the south (Harding and Richards 1993). A number of Palaeolithic handaxes are recorded nearby, but these are associated with the higher terrace gravels to the east of the site and not the low terrace on which the site lies.

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:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any dense Mesolithic activity is present on the site; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

A total of 17 trenches 10m long were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Any archaeological deposits identified were to be cleaned using hand tools, excavated and recorded. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for struck flint or any other finds of archaeological significance. The trench lengths were shorter than typical so as to increase the number of points examined in the landscape for the same sample size, so as to enhance the possibility of discovering restricted Mesolithic lithic scatters.

Results

The 17 trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3), except that trench 7 was slightly further south than planned. They ranged in length from 9.8m to 11.2m and in depth from 0.37m to 1m, all trenches were 1.6m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes the lone feature investigated.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned north to south and was 11m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil and 0.34m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and Pl. 1)

Trench 2 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 10.1m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.29m subsoil overlying the greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 11.2m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying the greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned east to west and was 10.2m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned north to south and was 10m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.17m subsoil overlying the greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3 and Pl. 2)

Trench 6 was aligned north to south and was 10.2m long and 0.51m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

Trench 7 was aligned east to west and was 11.1m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil and 0.36m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

Trench 8 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 10.1m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying the natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 10.4m long and 0.37m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned north to south and was 10.6m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.22m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned north-east to south-west and was 10.2m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.33m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 12 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Trench 12 was aligned north-west to south-east and was 10.2m long and 1m deep. The stratigraphy varied along the trench. At the north-west end it consisted of 0.2m of topsoil, 0.2m subsoil and 0.6m of alluvial clay over the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. At the south-east end 0.2m of topsoil, 0.2m of subsoil and 0.25m of alluvial clay overlay the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. A few fragments of modern pottery and china were recovered from the alluvial clay but not retained, this suggests that the alluvial deposit is of recent origin.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

Trench 13 was aligned north to south and was 10.1m long and 0.82m deep. The stratigraphy here also varied along the trench. At the northern end it consisted of 0.2m of topsoil, 0.16m subsoil and 0.42m of alluvial clay overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. At the southern end it consisted of 0.2m of topsoil,

0.16m of subsoil and 0.14m of alluvial clay overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Trench 14 was aligned north to south and was 10.1m long and 0.47m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.2m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 15 (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 5 and 6)

Trench 15 was aligned east to west and was 9.8m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.46m subsoil overlying the yellowish grey sandy gravelly clay natural geology. A single gully (1) was excavated and recorded, it measured 1m long, 0.54m wide and 0.16m deep it contained a single fill (52) which was a light brown grey clayey sand. No dating evidence was recovered.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

Trench 16 was aligned north to south and was 10.2m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of made ground and 0.2m subsoil overlying the greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

Trench 17 was aligned east to west and was 10m long and 0.43m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of made ground and 0.25m subsoil overlying the greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. No features were observed nor were any finds recovered.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the evaluation trenches proved that the site had been relatively undisturbed. However, despite the potential for Mesolithic occupation in such a riparian setting and as observed elsewhere in this section of the Loddon valley, none was encountered. A single undated gully was excavated and recorded but no other features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered. The site is therefore considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

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- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

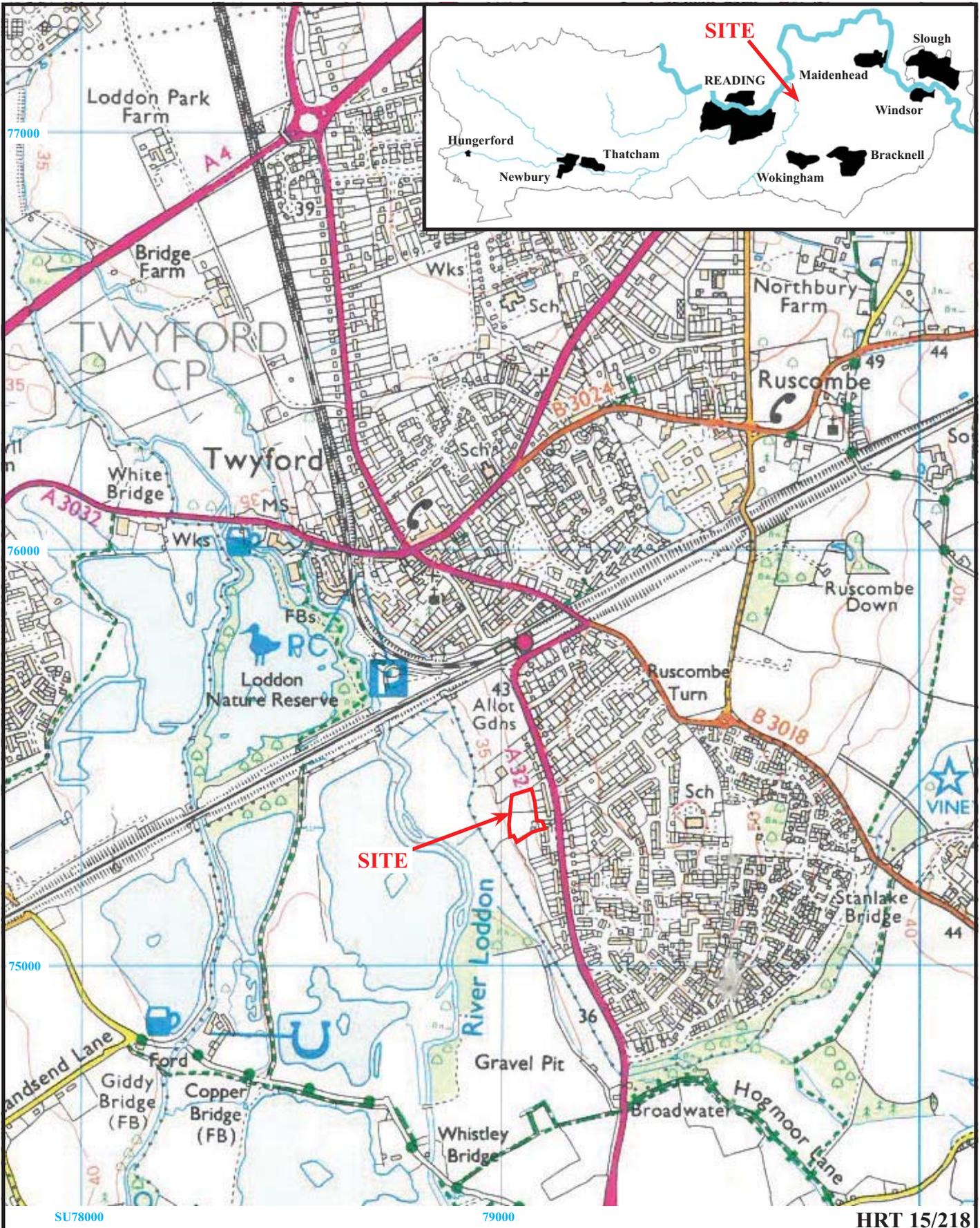
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at southern and western end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11	1.6	0.48	0-0.14m of topsoil; 0.14-0.48m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.48m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology.
2	10.1	1.6	0.47	0-0.18m of topsoil; 0.18-0.47m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.47m+ of mid greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 1]
3	11.2	1.6	0.43	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.43m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.43m+ of mid greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology
4	10.2	1.6	0.55	0-0.25m of topsoil; 0.25-0.55m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.55m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
5	10	1.6	0.47	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.47m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.47m+ of mid greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology
6	10.2	1.6	0.51	0-0.25m of topsoil; 0.25-0.51m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.51m+ of mid yellowish grey clayey sand natural geology. [Pl. 2]
7	11.1	1.6	0.52	0-0.18m of topsoil; 0.18-0.52m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.52m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
8	10.1	1.6	0.48	0-0.25m of topsoil; 0.25-0.48m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.48m+ of mid reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
9	10.4	1.6	0.37	0-0.17m of topsoil; 0.17-0.37m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.37m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
10	10.6	1.6	0.43	0-0.21m of topsoil; 0.21-0.43m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.43m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 3]
11	10.2	1.6	0.53	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.53m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.53m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
12	10.2	1.6	1	At SE end; 0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.4m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4-0.65m of mid bluish grey alluvial clay; 0.65m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology At NW end; 0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.4m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4-1m of mid bluish grey alluvial clay; 0.1m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology. [Pl. 4]
13	10.1	1.6	0.82	At N end; 0-0.24m of topsoil; 0.24-0.4m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4-0.82m of mid bluish grey alluvial clay; 0.82m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology At S end; 0-0.24m of topsoil; 0.24-0.4m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4-0.54m of mid bluish grey alluvial clay; 0.54m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
14	10.1	1.6	0.47	0-0.27m of topsoil; 0.27-0.47m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.47m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy clay natural geology
15	9.8	1.6	0.63	0-0.17m of topsoil; 0.17-0.63m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.63m+ of mid yellowish grey sandy gravelly clay natural geology. [Pls 5 and 6]
16	10.2	1.6	0.5	0-0.3m of made ground; 0.3-0.5m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.5m+ of mid greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology
17	10	1.6	0.43	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.43m of mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.43m+ of mid greyish yellow sandy clay natural geology

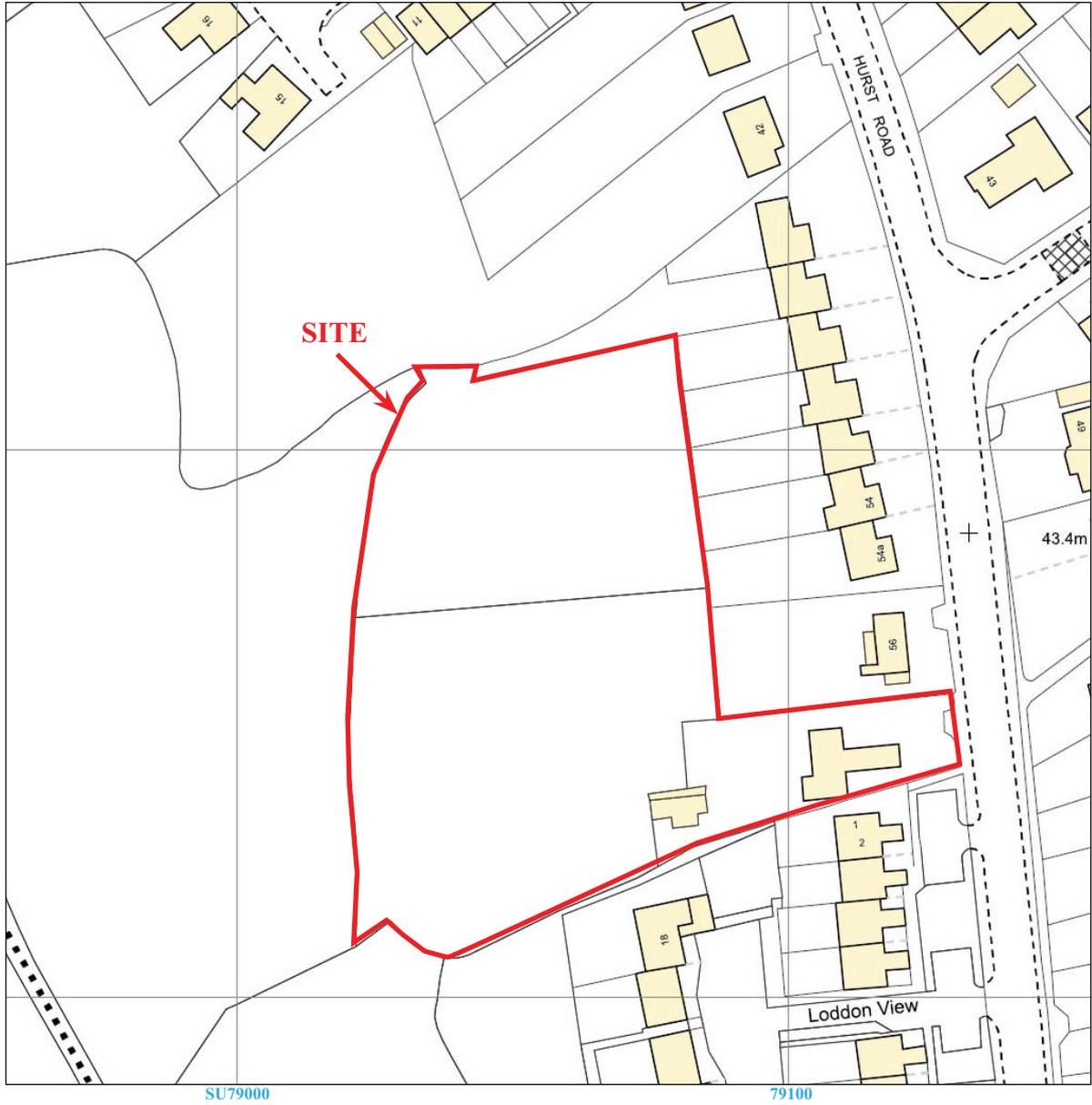
APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
15	1	52	Gully	undated	none



**Land to the rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
Berkshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 1. Location of site within Twyford and Berkshire.

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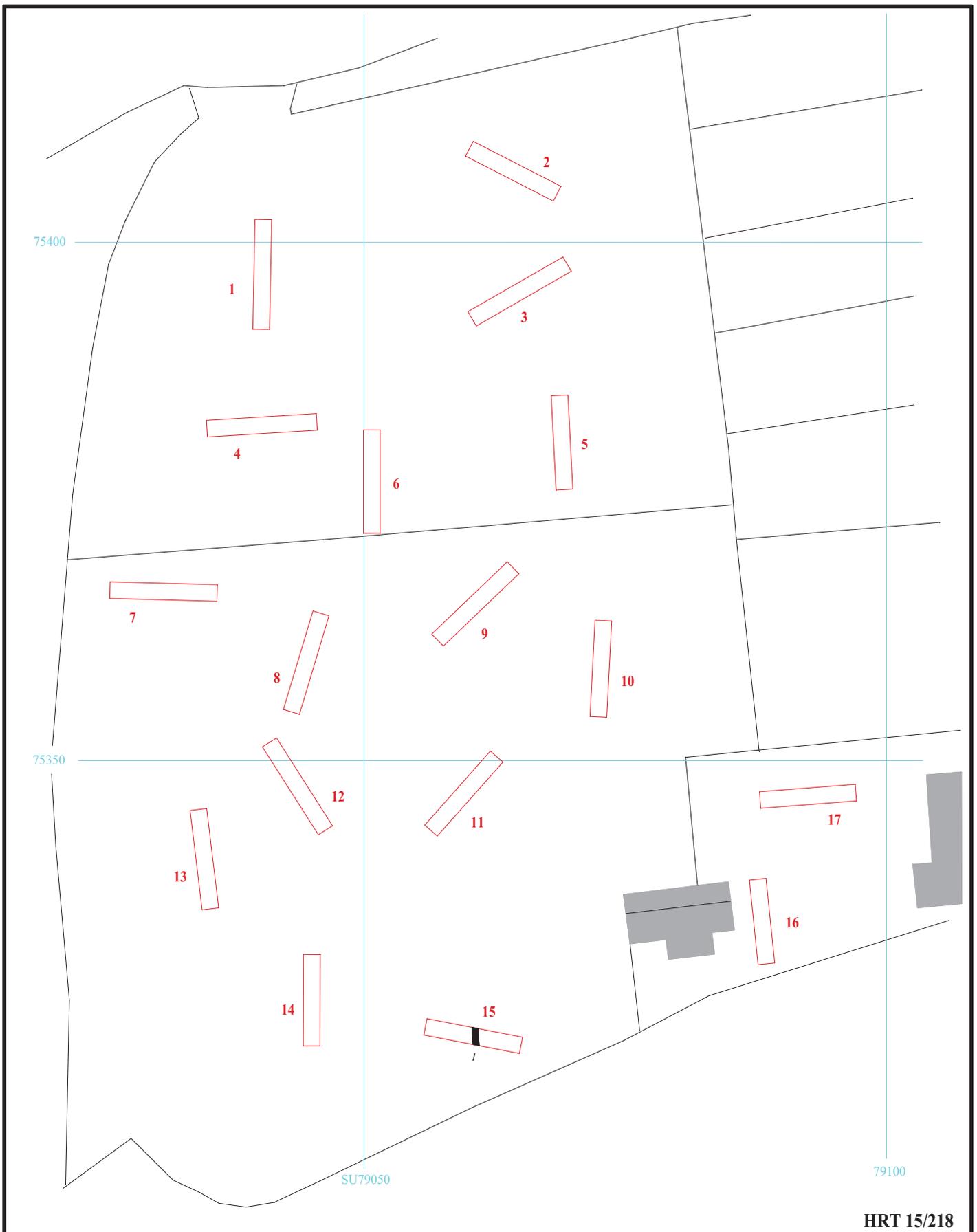


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**Land to the rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hurst Road.
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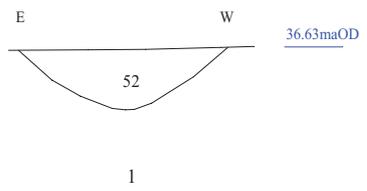
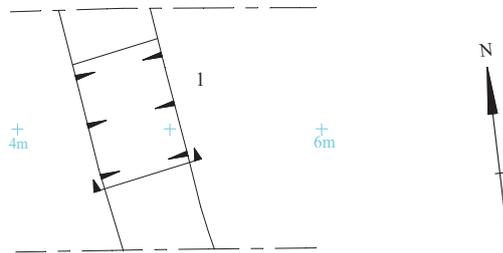
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 15



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 15.



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



Plate 2. Trench 6, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Land to the rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 10, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 12, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Land to the rear of 58 Hurst Road, Twyford,
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Plates 3 -4.

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Plate 5. Trench 15, looking east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 15, gully 1, looking north, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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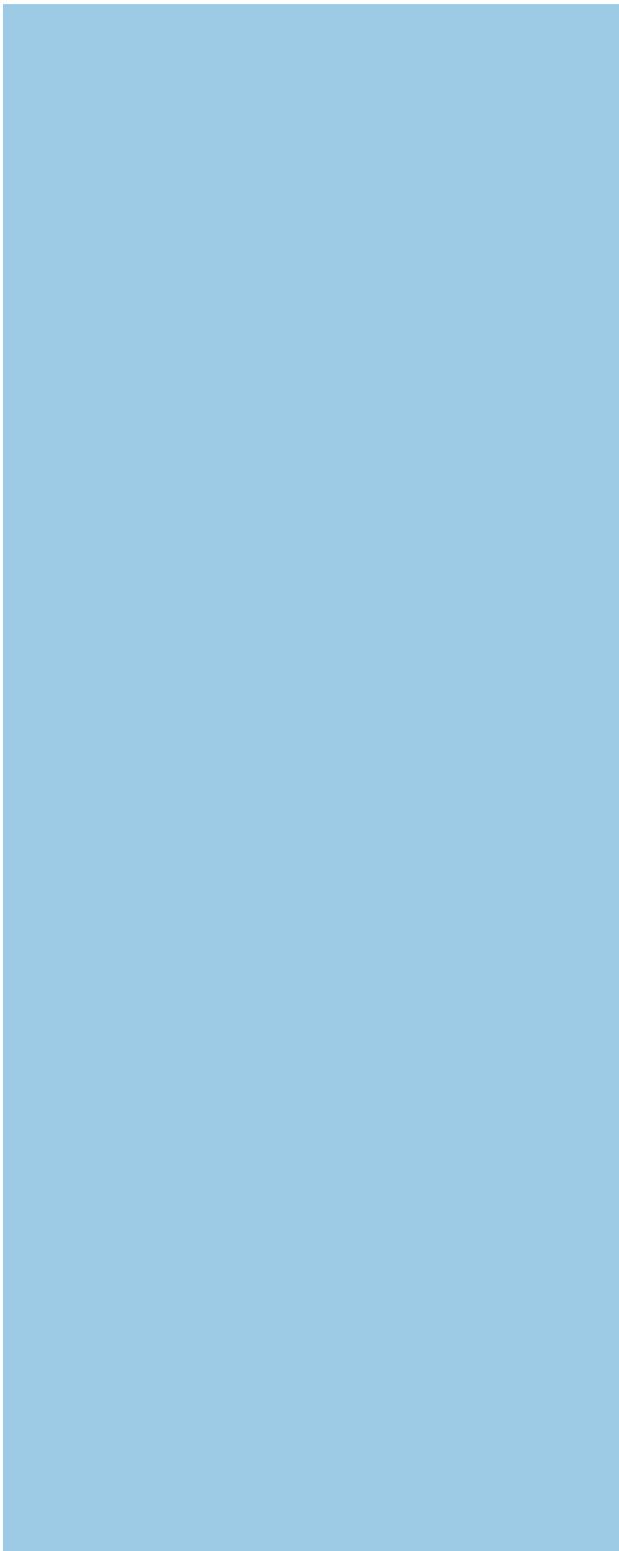
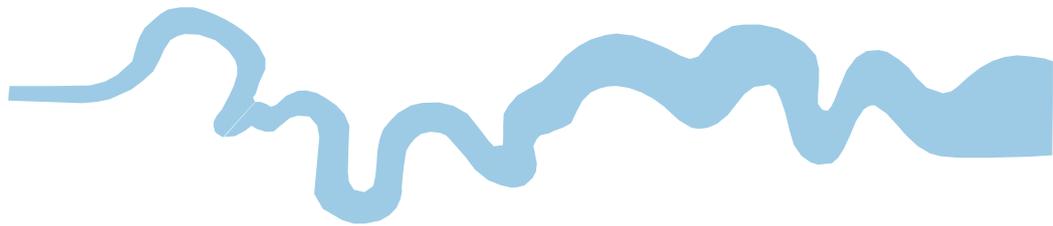
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Plates 5 - 6.

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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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