

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Millers Mushroom Farm, Coronation Road,
Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and David Platt

Site Code: MMM11/46

(SU8382 7970)

**Millers Mushroom Farm, Coronation Road,
Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Bellwood Homes**

by Daniel Bray and David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code MMM 11/46

September 2011

Summary

Site name: Millers Mushroom Farm, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU8382 7970

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th August 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: MMM 11/46

Area of site: 0.768ha

Summary of results: None of the 10 trenches excavated contained any archaeologically sensitive material. Eight of the trenches had modern truncations including pipes, soakaways and concrete piles. Parts of the site have been truncated by modern development

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved repository at an appropriate time

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 07.09.11
	Steve Preston ✓ 05.09.11

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Report 11/46

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Millers Mushroom Farm, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire located at NGR SU 8382 7970 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr George Herman of Bellwood Homes, PO Box 1384, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP12 9AZ. A revised planning consent has been gained (10/02061) from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of three new houses on the site with access and garage. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to the archaeology.

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits which could be damaged or destroyed during construction on the site a field evaluation has been requested. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mrs Mary Neale, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Timothy Dawson on 25th August 2011 and the site code is MMM 11/46. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved repository at an appropriate time.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the former Millers Mushroom Farm which lies to the south of Littlewick Green, Berkshire off the A4 Bath Road between Knowl Hill and Maidenhead (Fig 1). The site is located to the rear of Horseshoe House off Coronation Road and the other limits defined by field boundaries (Fig 2). The underlying geology is mapped as upper chalk (BGS 1981). As well as chalk, the natural geology observed in the trenches also contained a reddish brown clay capping. The site lies at a height of 55m above the Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, the potential stems from the site's location in an area where the Berkshire HER has previously recorded prehistoric findspots and deposits. Cropmarks to the north of the site suggest the presence of a ring ditch and a burnt mound beyond (Ford 1987). Evidence of a Roman building and associated activity has been found to the north of the site and fieldwork to the east, for a pipeline route, uncovered prehistoric and medieval finds. The site is also located adjacent to the historic (medieval) core of the village, though a recent watching brief to the north revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Dawson 2009).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. The 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 a full excavation.

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 deposits relating to prehistoric occupation and the cropmarks to the north are to be found on the site; and
- to determine if any deposits representing Roman building and other occupation continue into the development area.

Twelve trenches were originally proposed to be excavated targeting the footprint of the new houses and garages. The trenches were to be 20m in length and were all 1.60m wide. All trenches were to be excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under direct archaeological supervision. Machine excavation was to be taken down to the top of the natural geology or the top of the relevant archaeological level. Topsoil and subsoil heaps were to be examined for archaeological artefacts including use of a metal detector.

Results

Ten trenches were eventually dug between 22.40m and 28.30m in length and all 1.60m wide (Fig. 3). Due to a part of the development now including retained buildings, one trench had to be repositioned and two trenches

could not be dug as intended, but other trenches were increased in length. These adjustments took place in consultation with the Berkshire archaeological officer. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Description of the trenches falls into two groups.

Trenches 1-4

The stratigraphy of these trenches typically comprised 0.08-0.18m of demolition debris/hardcore overlying 0.06-0.19m of brown clayey subsoil overlying chalky clay natural geology (Fig. 4). No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches and modern intrusions including pipes, soakaways and concrete piles were found in trenches 2, 3, and 4. (Pl. 1).

Trenches 5-10

The stratigraphy of these trenches typically comprised 0.02-0.23m of demolition debris/hardcore directly overlying chalky clay natural geology, though trench 5 retained some subsoil at its southern end. In trenches 8 and 9 the natural geology was discoloured a dark blue-grey. No archaeological features were observed and further modern disturbance was found in trenches 5-9 (Pl. 2). The topography of the ground (a slight hollow) and the shallowness of the demolition rubble indicates that the natural geology in this zone of the site had been truncated by previous development (Fig. 3).

Conclusion

The excavated trenches only revealed modern cut features, all presumably relating to the recently demolished farm. No archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed and the archaeologically relevant level on a part of the site had been truncated. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

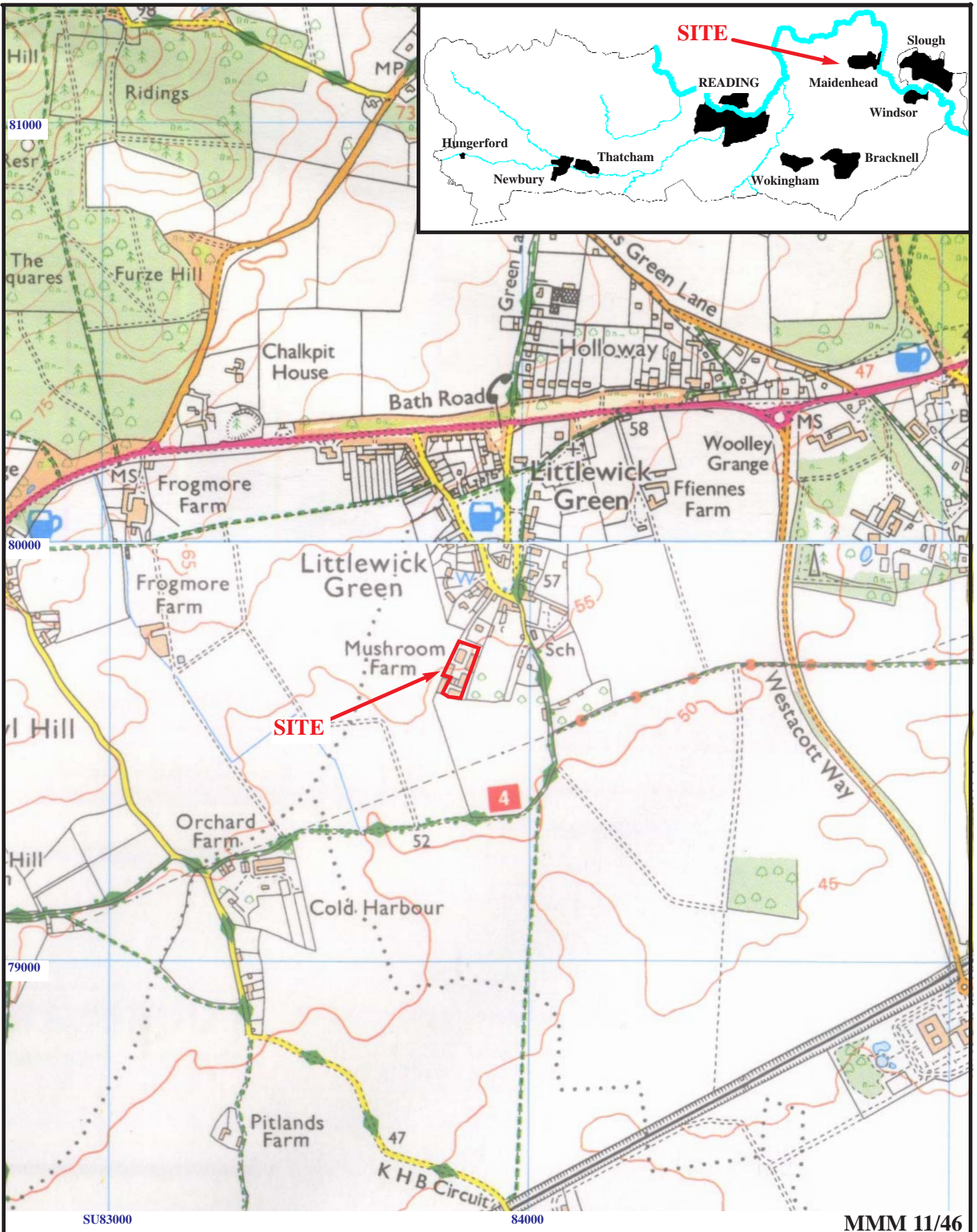
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- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dawson, T 2009, '2 Island Cottages, Jubilee Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 09/71, Reading
- Ford, S 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading.
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

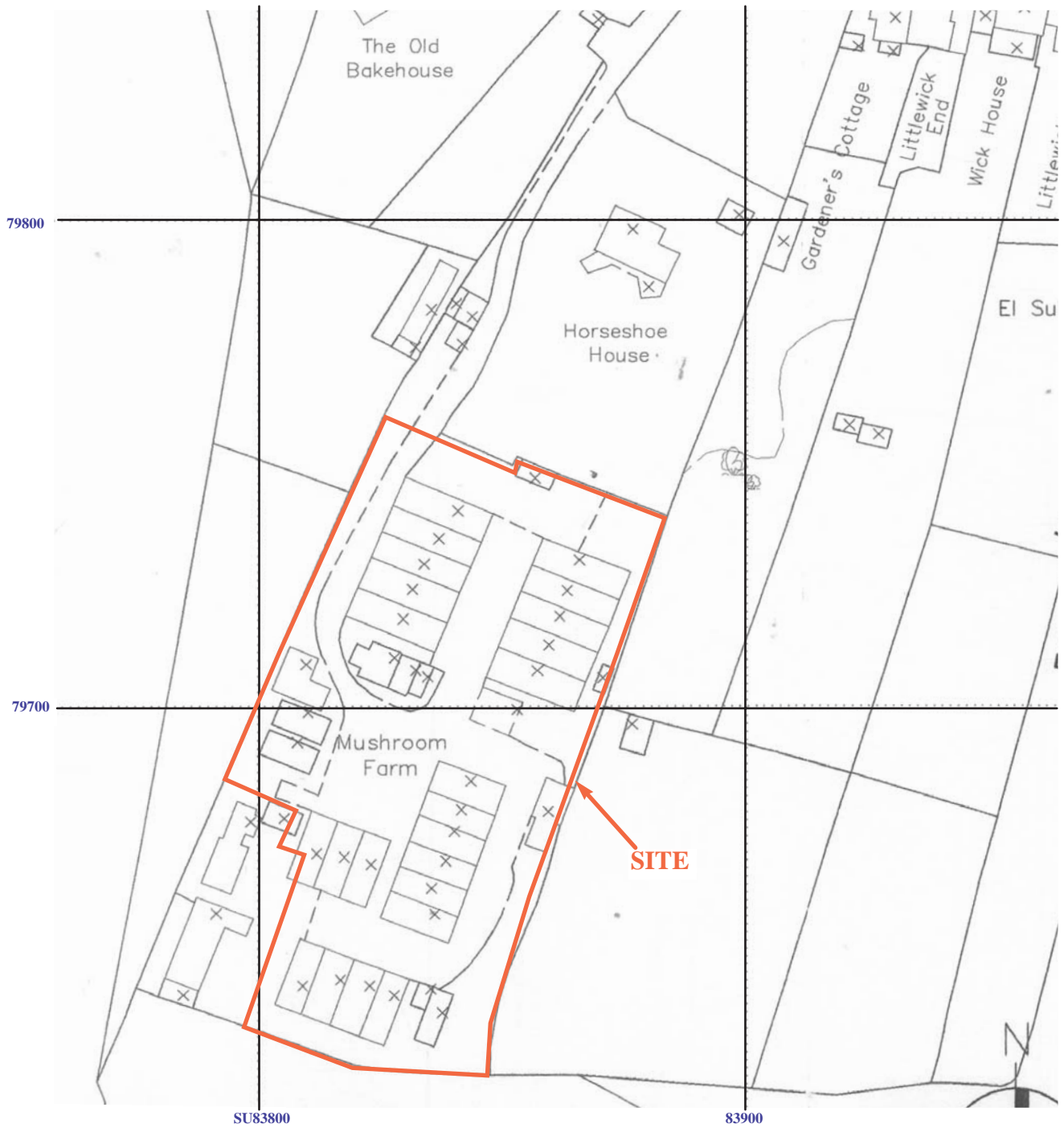
Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	25.00	1.60	0.33-0.46	SW 0m-0.08m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.08m-0.27m subsoil; 0.27m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology). NE 0m-0.14m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.14m-0.36 subsoil; 0.36+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
2	25.40	1.60	0.27-0.35	W 0m-0.11m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.11m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) E 0m-0.17m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.17m-0.33 subsoil; 0.33+ reddish brown clay (natural geology)
3	23.10	1.60	0.38-0.67	S 0m-0.12 disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.12-0.34m subsoil; 0.34+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) N 0m-0.39m hardcore; 0.39m-0.49m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.49m-0.66 subsoil; 0.66+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
4	24.20	1.60	0.25-0.42	SW 0m-0.18m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.18m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) NE 0m-0.06m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.06m-0.33m subsoil; 0.33m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) [Pl. 1]
5	28.30	1.60	0.21-0.24	SW 0m-0.02m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.02m-0.17m subsoil; 0.17m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) NE 0m-0.24m subsoil; 0.24+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
6	24.30	1.60	0.29	NW 0m-0.23 disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.23m-0.28m subsoil; 0.28m+ reddish brown clay (natural geology) SE 0m-0.22m disturbed ground; 0.22m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
7	28.20	1.60	0.08-0.22	SSE 0m-0.15m disturbed ground/hardcore; 0.15m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) NNW 0m-0.08m disturbed ground/hardcore; 0.08m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) [Pl. 2]
8	18.10	1.60	0.17-0.18	NW 0m-0.02m disturbed ground/gravel; 0.02m-0.14m dark blue grey clay; 0.14m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) SE 0m-0.03m disturbed ground/gravel; 0.03m-0.16m dark blue grey clay; 0.16m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
9	24.40	1.60	0.11-0.31	NW 0m-0.02m disturbed ground; 0.02m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology) SE 0m-0.03m disturbed ground/gravel; 0.03m-0.28m dark blue grey clay; 0.28+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)
10	22.40	1.60	0.10-0.23	S 0m-0.23m disturbed ground/ topsoil; 0.23m+ reddish brown clay (natural geology) N 0m-0.07m disturbed ground/topsoil; 0.07m+ reddish brown clay and chalk (natural geology)



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

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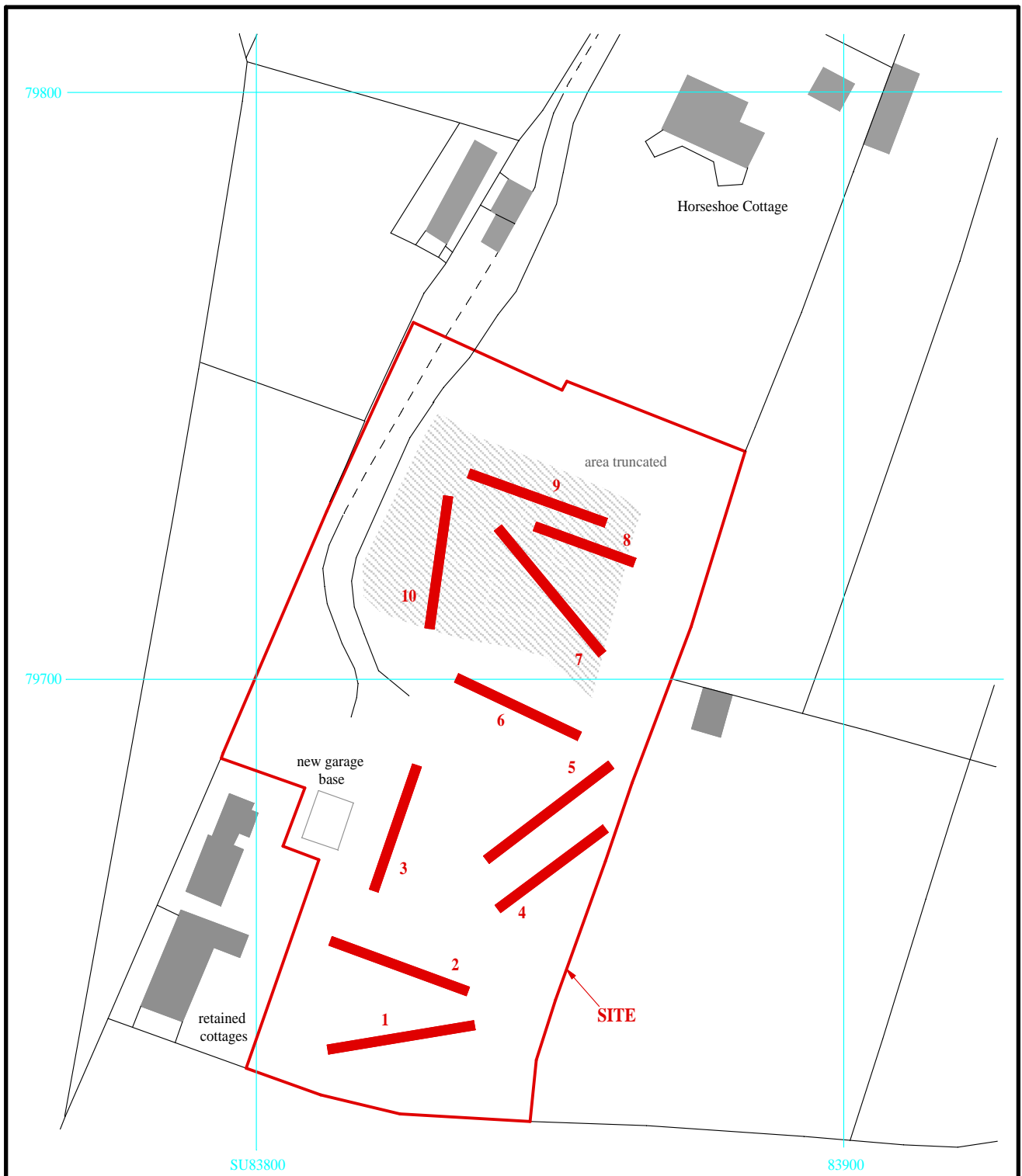


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site, prior to development.

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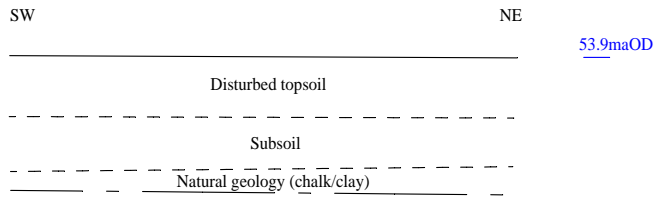
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 4



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Figure 4. Representative section of trench 4.





Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



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

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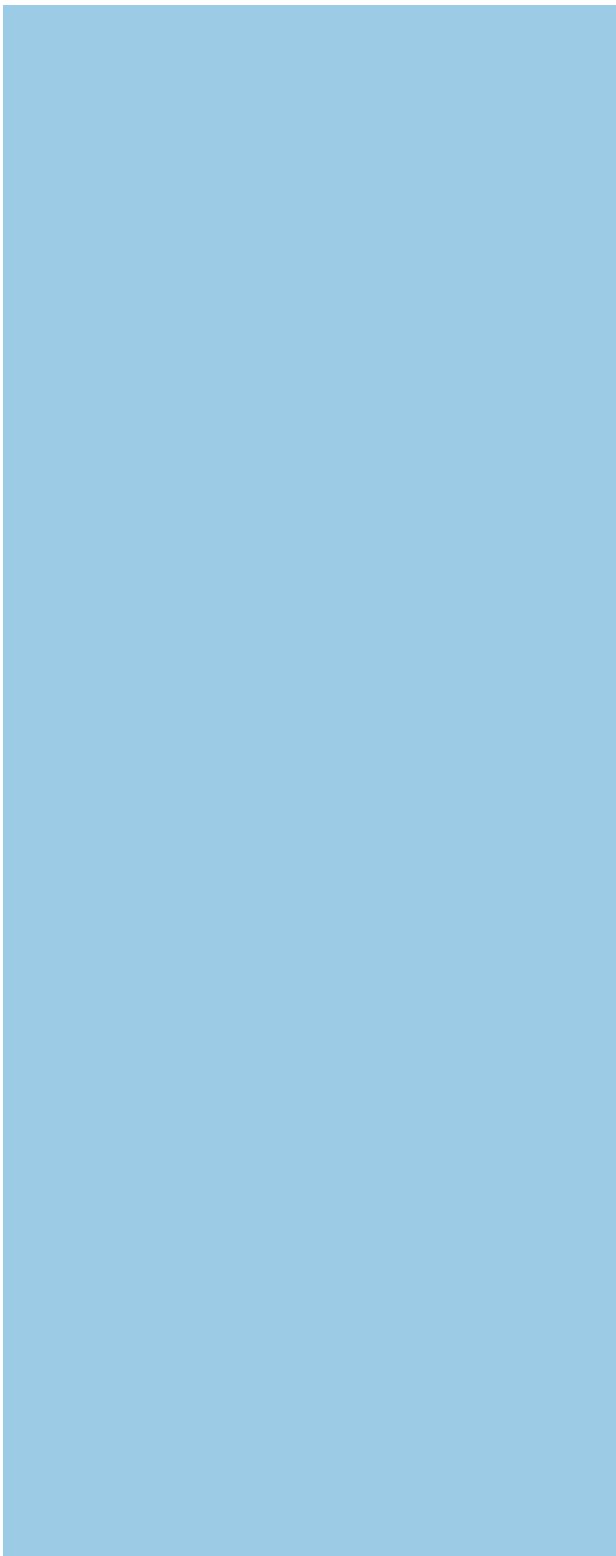
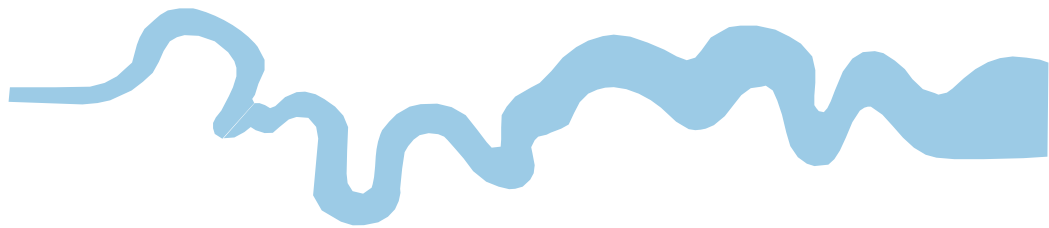
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Plates 1 and 2

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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