

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Tom Stewart

Site Code: 25/203

(SU 8289 6641)

Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill, Wokingham, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Armour Heritage**

by Tom Stewart

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HPW25/203

January 2026

Summary

Site name: Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8289 6641

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th January 2026

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Tom Stewart

Site code: HPW 25/203

Area of site: 0.42ha

Summary of results: Two trenches were dug successfully as intended. However, no archaeological deposits nor artefacts were revealed and on the basis of these results the site is considered to have very low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 22.01.26 Steve Preston✓ 21.01.26
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Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Tom Stewart

Report 25/203

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8289 6641) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, on behalf of Hall Hunter Farms Ltd.

Planning consent (251260) for the extension to the existing pack house following demolition of existing structures has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council subject to a condition requiring a programme of archaeological work.

This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2023), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Farr 2025) approved by Ms Linden Ellicott, Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Stewart and Harriet Wright on 19th January 2026 and the site code is HWP25/203

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Archaeological Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 3km south-east of Wokingham in central Berkshire. It falls broadly centrally within the Heathlands Farm complex which includes a series of warehouse buildings, staff accommodation, polytunnels, the administrative offices of Hall Hunter Partnership and recently installed solar panels. The area to be developed lies due south of Heathlands Farmhouse (centred approximately at SU8289 6641) and various outbuildings and is bounded to the east by temporary staff accommodation, and to the south and west by a series of polytunnels. The site is broadly flat, lying at an elevation of 62m above Ordnance datum (aOD) and the underlying geology is recorded (BGS 1981) as Bagshot Formation (sand) with superficial River Terrace

Deposits and Head (both consisting of sands and gravels). A mixture of sands and gravels was confirmed by the evaluation.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been discussed in an impact assessment prepared by Armour Heritage (AH 2024). There is some evidence of prehistoric activity in the area with a small Mesolithic site being recorded at Easthampstead park, 1.9km to the north-east (Ford 1988), a Neolithic axe and arrowhead at Frensham Road, Crowthorne and a polished stone axe at Ravenswood house to the south-west. A Bronze Age site ‘burnt mound’ was excavated 2km to the east at Crowthorne Wood (Chittock *et al.* 2012) adding to the small number of such sites now known from the county (Ford 2017). In addition a possible Bronze Age ring ditch has been identified 350m to the south. In the wider area including in the valley of the River Blackwater, a number of Iron Age sites have been recorded (e.g., Hardy *et al.* 2019; Pine 2003; Platt 2013; Ford 2019), and a number of unexcavated iron production sites are represented by small slagheaps (Ford 1987) in the surrounding area. The site has long been in agricultural use and there may be potential for medieval or early post-medieval finds such as from manuring. The post-medieval site of Ravenswood deer park is also located in the wider area.

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 this project are:

- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by development;
- to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- to produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in such detail as to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site’s archaeological potential;
- to facilitate production of a mitigation strategy for the project; and
- to relate (where appropriate) the archaeological results to their local, county and regional context.

Two trenches, each measuring 15m in length and 1.8m wide were to be dug to determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or features. Topsoil and any overburden were to be removed to using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision expose the archaeologically relevant horizon or the natural geology. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. Where

archaeological features were possibly or certainly present, the area would be cleaned using the appropriate hand tools. Any archaeological features and deposits uncovered were to be sufficiently excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated in conditions pertaining to a full excavation.

The potential and significance of any such deposits revealed were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in Historic England's *Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or more local or thematic research priorities such as the *Solent Thames Research Agenda* (Hey and Hind 2014). The work was carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' standards (CIfA 2023a and b) .

Results

Trench 1 was dug as intended. however Trench 2 had to be shifted slightly to the west to avoid a static caravan (Fig. 3). The trenches were 1.6m wide and so were extended to maintain the sample fraction. They were therefore 17.9m and 18.3m long and 0.50–0.56m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig3, 4 Pls1-2)

Trench 1 was broadly aligned NE-SW and was 17.9m in length and 0.56m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.56m of topsoil/ landscaping layer composed of a dark brown grey loamy sand overlying a red yellow sand natural geology. Nothing of archaeological interest was identified.

Trench 2 (Fig 3, 4 , Pls3-4)

Trench 2 was broadly aligned E-W was 18.3m in length and 0.50m in depth. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.50m of topsoil/ landscaping layer composed of a dark brown grey loamy sand overlying a red yellow sand natural geology. Towards the western end of the trench the natural geology changed to mid grey sand and gravel. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

Conclusion

This evaluation was successful in its aims: the two trenches were dug as intended to the archaeological horizon. No archaeological features or deposits were identified. Based on these results, the archaeological potential for this site can be considered low.

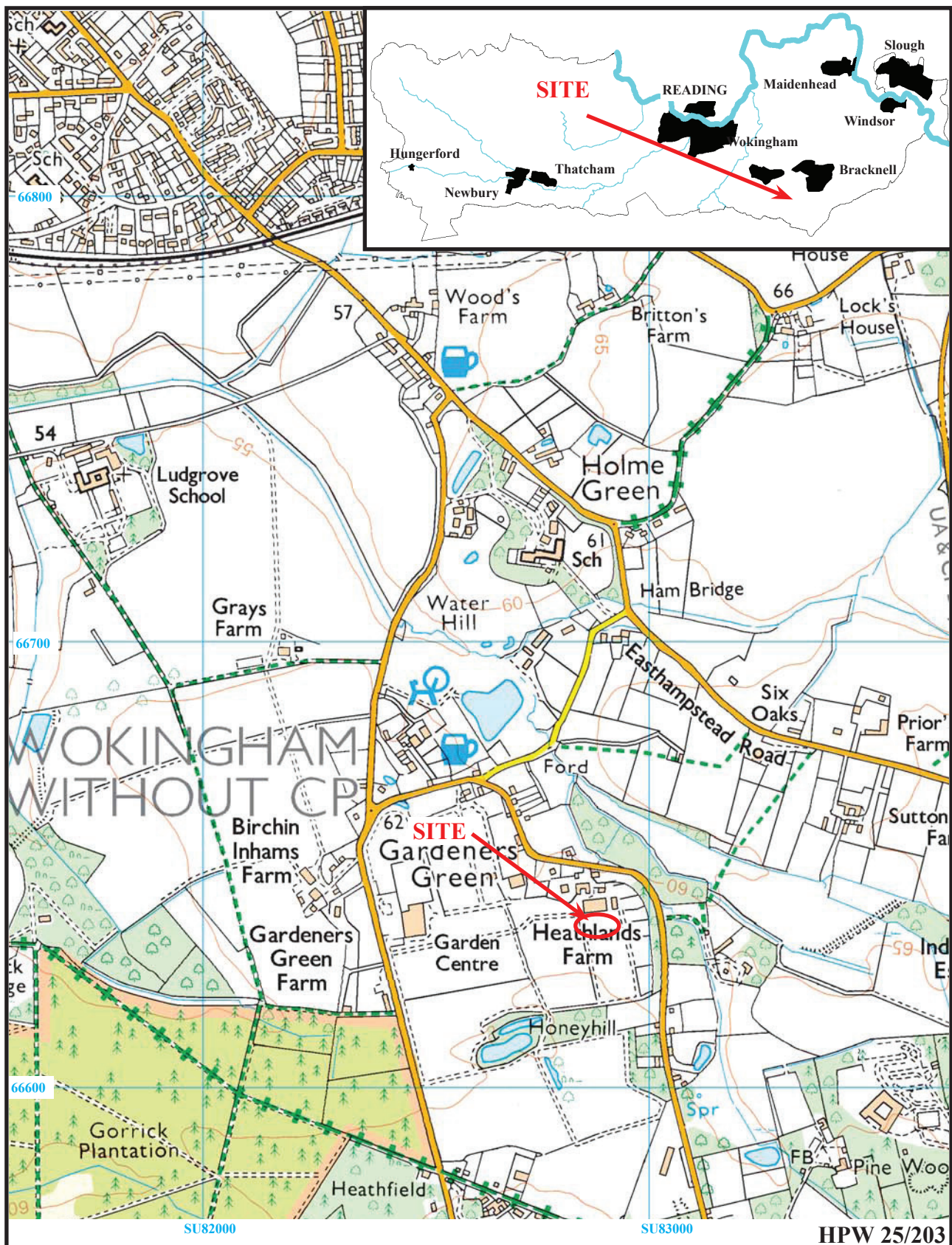
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south and west end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	17.9	1.6	0.56	0–0.56m topsoil/ landscaping layer dark brown grey loamy sand; 0.56m+ red yellow sand natural geology. [Pls 1 and 2]
2	18.3	1.6	0.50	0–0.50m topsoil/ landscaping layer dark brown grey loamy sand, 0.50m+ red yellow sand natural geology. [Pls 3 and 4]

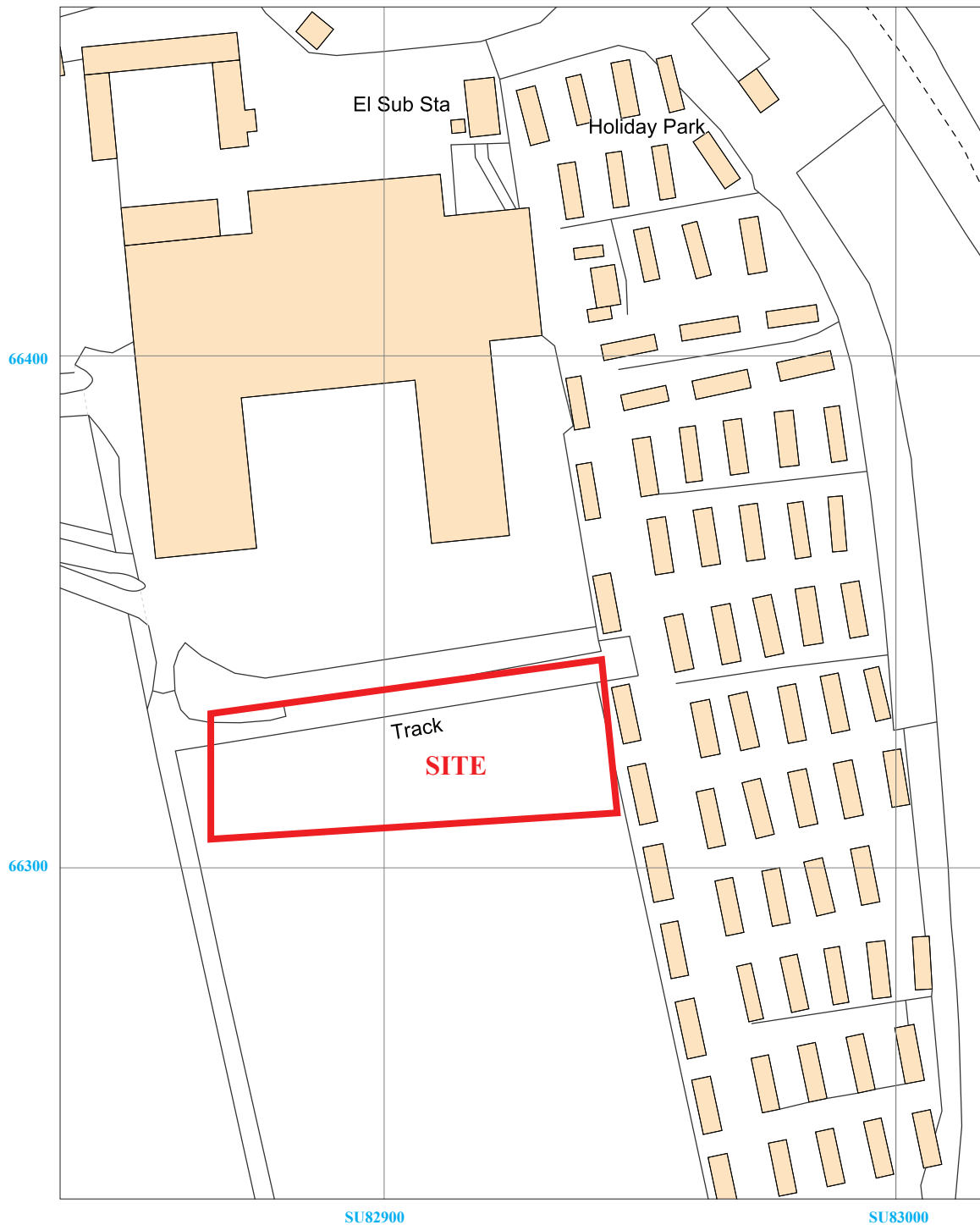


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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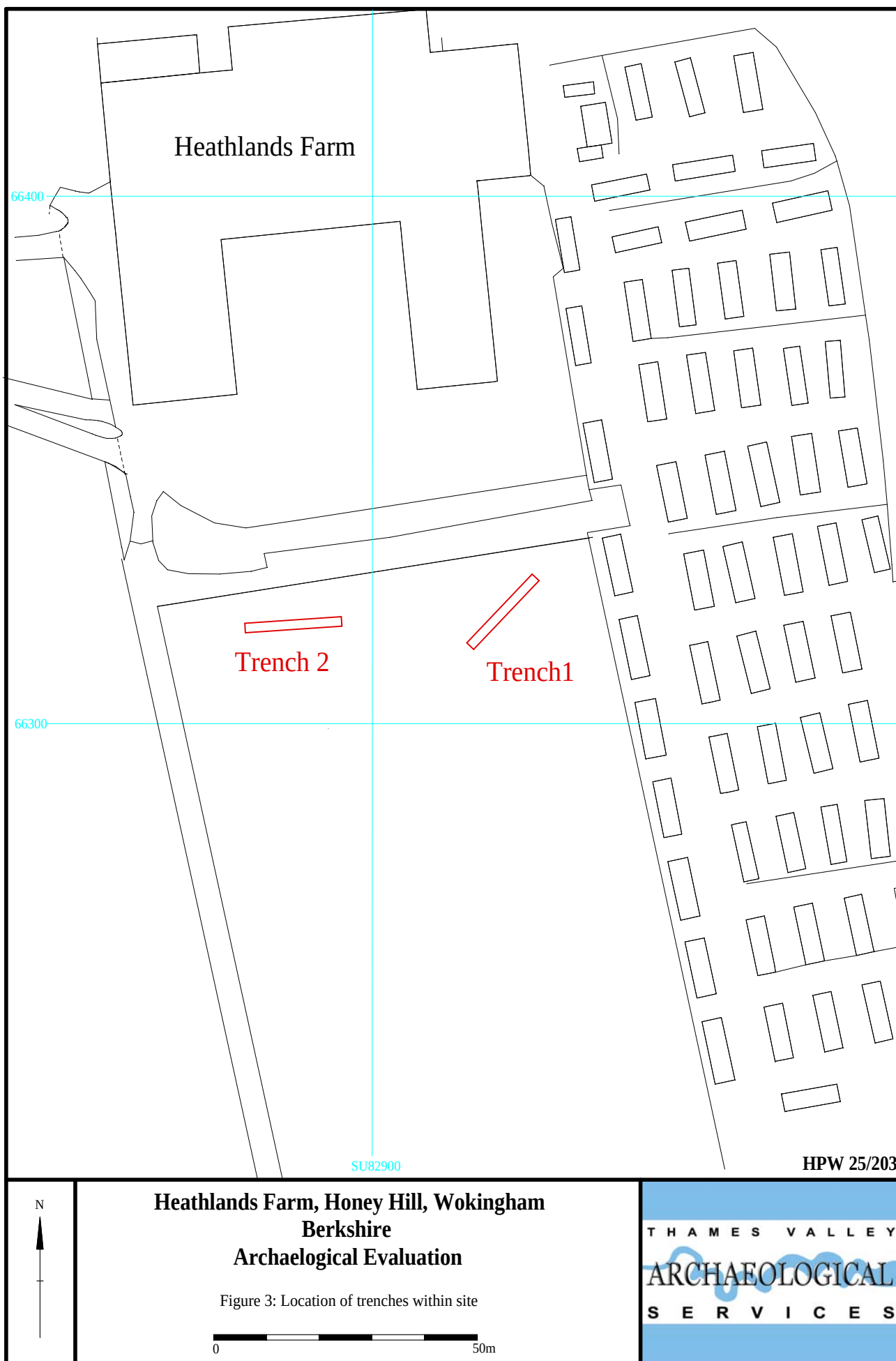


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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Trench 1

SW

NE [62.0m aod](#)

Top Soil/ Landscaping Layer

Light Red Yellow Sand natural geology

Trench 2

W

E [61.7m](#)

Top Soil/ Landscaping Layer

Light Red Yellow Sand natural geology

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**Land at Heathlands Farm, Honey Hill,
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Figure 4: Representative Sections

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 1 looking South-West,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 1 Section looking North-West Scales:
1m and 0.3m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking West,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

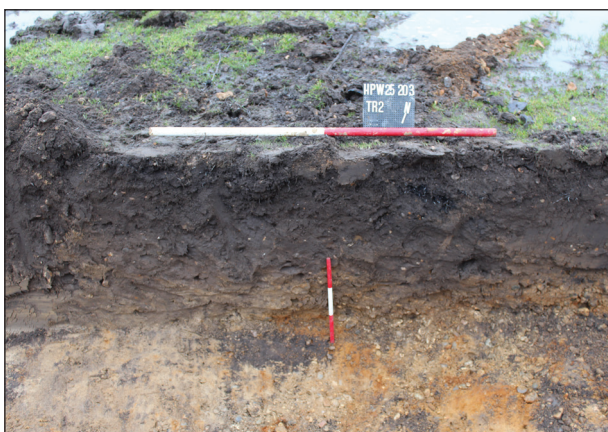


Plate 4. Trench 2, looking North-West,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 - 4.

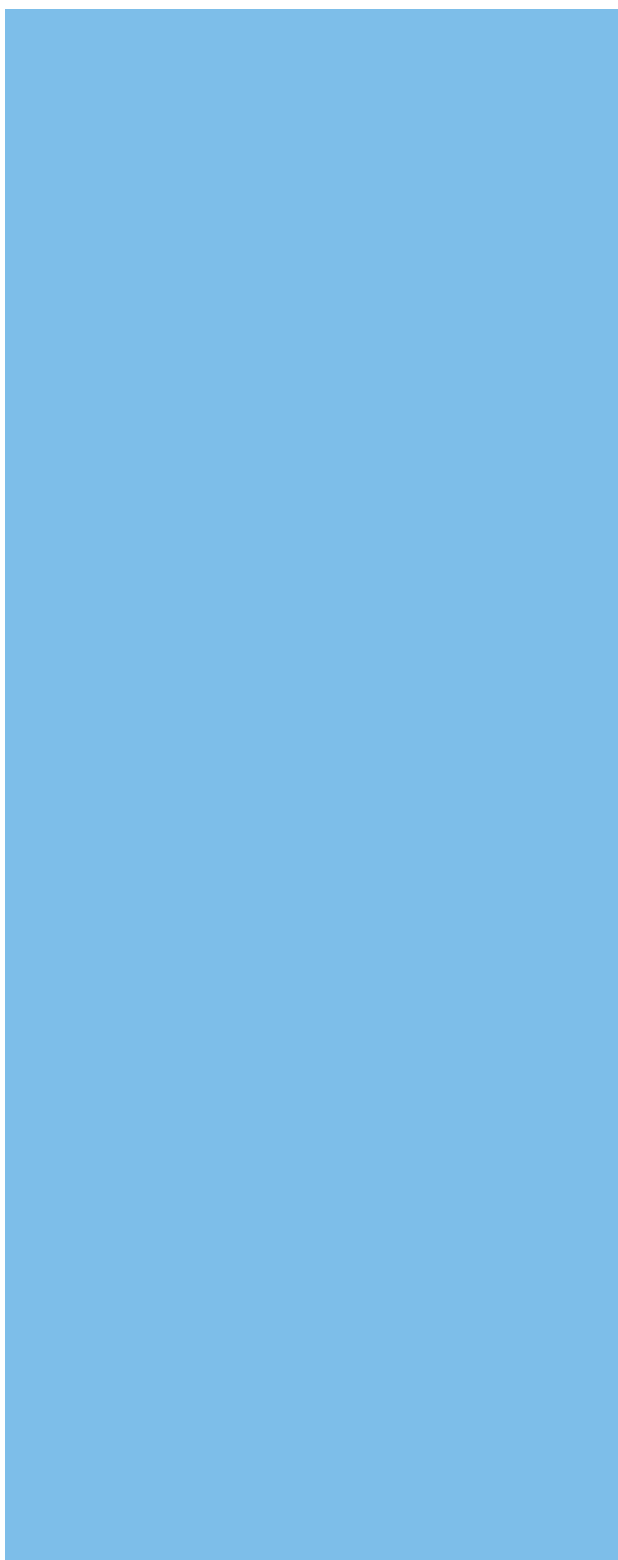
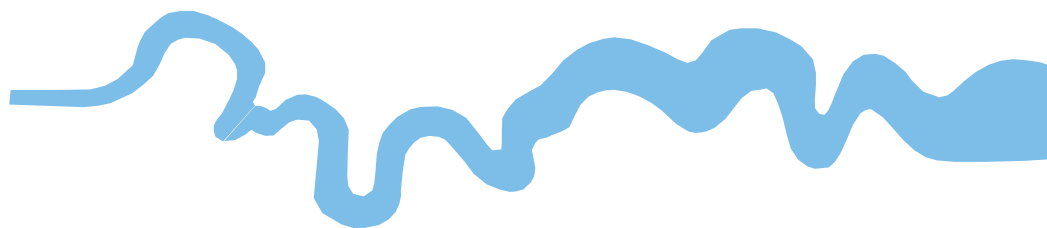
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TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 1/1 BC
Iron Age: Late	100 BC
Iron Age: Middle	400 BC
Iron Age: Early	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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