

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**57 High Street, Pewsey,  
Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Susan Porter**

**Site Code: HSP11/33**

**(SU 1663 6020)**

**57 High Street, Pewsey,  
Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Mr Jerry Kunkler**

By Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code HSP11/33

**June 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** 57 High Street Pewsey, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1663 6020

**Site activity:** Field Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 7th June 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Susan Porter

**Site code:** HSP 11/33

**Area of site:** c. 1500sq. m

**Summary of results:** Two trenches were excavated within the vicinity of proposed new building works. Nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.06.11 Steve Preston ✓ 08.06.11
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# 57 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

By Susan Porter

**Report 11/33**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out 57 High Street Pewsey (SU 1663 6020) (Fig. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Janine Gosling of Michael Fowler Architects, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire SN9 5AF on behalf of Mr Jerry Kunkler, 57 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF.

Planning consent (K/59033/F) was granted by Wiltshire Council for the construction of a garage and four new houses to the rear of 57 High Street, Pewsey, subject to a condition relating to archaeology. This condition required a programme of work to consist, initially, of a field evaluation, consisting of two trenches, in order to provide sufficient information regarding the archaeological potential of the site. Based on the results of this, further work may have been required to mitigate the effects of the development on any archaeological remains encountered.

This was in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990) (since superseded by *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Council's policies on archaeology.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 Mr David Vaughan and was monitored by Ms Clare King, both of Wiltshire Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Aiji Castle on 7th June 2011 and the site code is HSP 11/33. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located to the rear of the Moonrakers public house (no.57) High Street, Pewsey (Fig. 1). The site consists of a somewhat overgrown garden area and an unofficial pub car park with two sheds (Fig. 2). Behind the existing buildings on the High Street the site slopes steeply upward to the north-west at around 115m above Ordnance Datum. However, the addition of a large cellar/ basement to the Moonrakers pub in the late 1960s has resulted in a terracing of the slope, as material extracted during construction of the basement has been deposited across the site. The north-west side of the site is bordered by a tree protection zone and there is a newly

constructed house to the west. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is upper greensand (BGS 1959) and this was confirmed in the evaluation trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Vale of Pewsey, (Fig. 1) with a Neolithic causewayed enclosure to the north-west at Knap Hill. The village of Pewsey is recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002), and has late Saxon origins. The parish church retains 9th-century features and other Saxon finds, including a gold pendant have been recorded in the area, along with a variety of prehistoric struck flint. On the High Street itself previous work has recorded medieval remains (WA 1996).

## **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 research aims of the project were:

- to determine if any archaeologically relevant levels or deposits had survived on the site, specifically any late Saxon or Medieval deposits; and

- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

Two trenches (Fig. 3) were to be dug 1.6m wide, one 10m long located at the north end of the site in the area where the four new houses were to be constructed, and the second to a length of 5m close to an existing shed in the footprint of the new garage. A contingency was allowed for another 5m of trenching should it be needed to clarify the initial findings.

The trenches were to be excavated by a JCB-type machine using a toothless ditching bucket to remove all topsoil and overburden in order to cleanly expose archaeological layers, supervised at all times by an archaeologist. The spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds. If archaeological features were encountered they were to be cleaned and excavated using hand tools and soil samples taken as appropriate. A photographic record was taken of all trenches and stratigraphy and the trenches were to be backfilled and compacted leaving the area safe and tidy.

## **Results**

Both trenches were dug though their locations varied from intended due to logistical constraints on the site, such as buried services and preserved trees. (Fig. 3). The trenches were 9.6m and 4.5m long respectively, and 1.1m and 1.08m in depth. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was 9.6m in length, 1.6m wide and 1.1m deep, it was oriented roughly ENE–WSW located at the highest part of the site close to an area of tree protection. The stratigraphy observed in the trench consisted of a relatively deep topsoil (0.38m), over 0.28m of made ground (presumably from the construction of the pub cellar), consisting of brick, tile and chalk rubble mixed with dark brown silty sand, below which was a layer of mid green/brown sand subsoil, 0.36m deep, overlying a lighter, clean green/brown sand (the natural geology of upper greensand). No archaeological features were observed. After observations at the top level of the natural the trench was taken down a further 0.1m into the greensand to verify that this was the top of natural geology (the archaeologically relevant horizon).

### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 3 and 4)

Trench 2 was 4.5m in length, 1.6m wide and 1.08m deep, It was oriented NW - SE and located close to an existing shed in a gravelled car park. The stratigraphy consisted of a thin gravel drive surface above a compacted gravel and sand layer 0.14m deep, below which was a 0.6m deep layer of made ground (rubble from the cellar construction) consisting of brick, tile and burnt refuse. Below this was a 0.34m deep layer of mid green/brown sand which overlay the lighter upper greensand. No archaeological features were observed.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered. Modern building materials were retained on site.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the potentially significant location of the site to the rear of the medieval High Street, neither trenches produced anything of archaeological interest. Previous activity on the site, in particular construction of the pub cellar and subsequent terracing of the area to the rear, has not truncated the site but had build the area up, as subsoil survived in both trenches; nevertheless, at the level of the natural geology there was no indication of any

archaeological deposits. On the basis of these results, the site may be considered to have no archaeological potential.

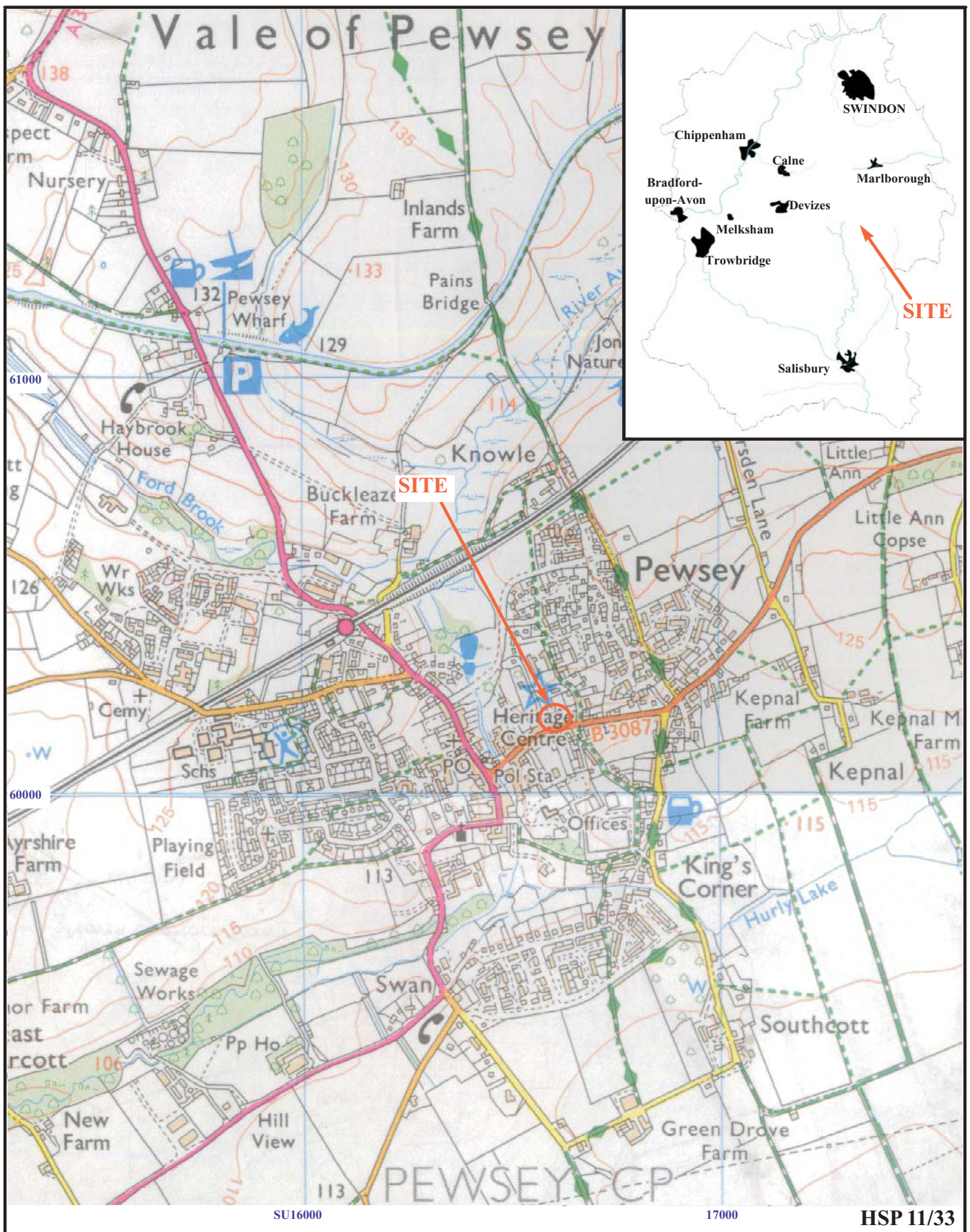
## **References**

BGS, 1959, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 282, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO  
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich  
WA, 1996, 'Former Pewsey Motors Site, Pewsey WCC no. 1996.044', Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Doomsday Book, a complete translation*, London

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**  
0m at SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	9.6	1.6	1.1	0-0.38m topsoil; 0.38-0.64m made ground consisting of brick, chalk, rubble mixed with dark brown silty sand; 0.64-1m mid green-brown sand; 1m+ light yellow-green sand (greensand) natural geology. <b>[Plates 1 and 2]</b>
2	4.5	1.6	1.08	0-0.07m hard standing gravel drive; 0.07-0.14m made ground, brick crush; 0.14-0.74m made ground consisting of brick, tile, burnt refuse; 0.74-1.08m mid green brown sand; 1.08m+ light yellow-green sand (greensand) natural geology. <b>[Plates 3 and 4]</b>



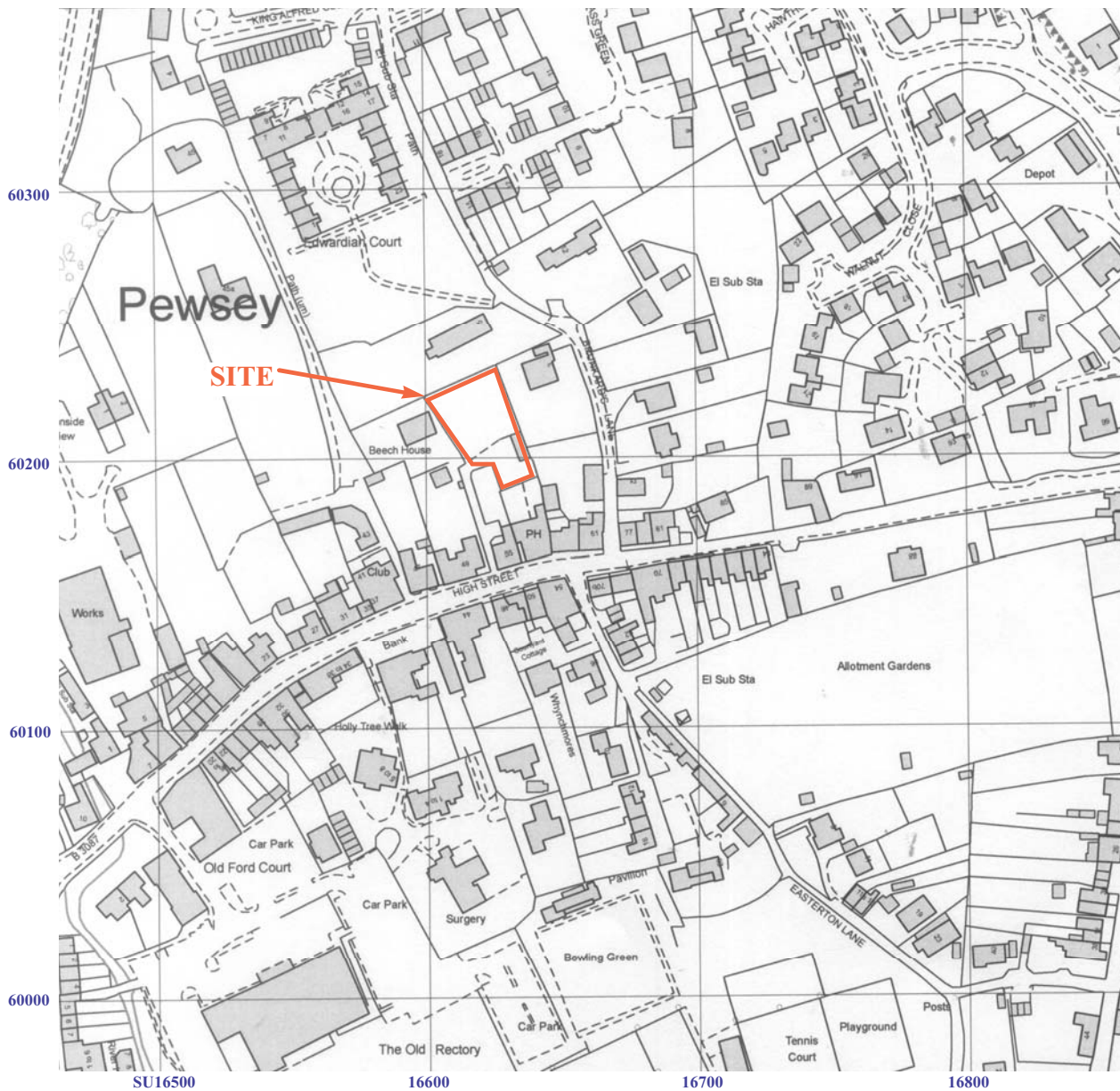


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Figure 1. Location of site within Pewsey and Wiltshire.

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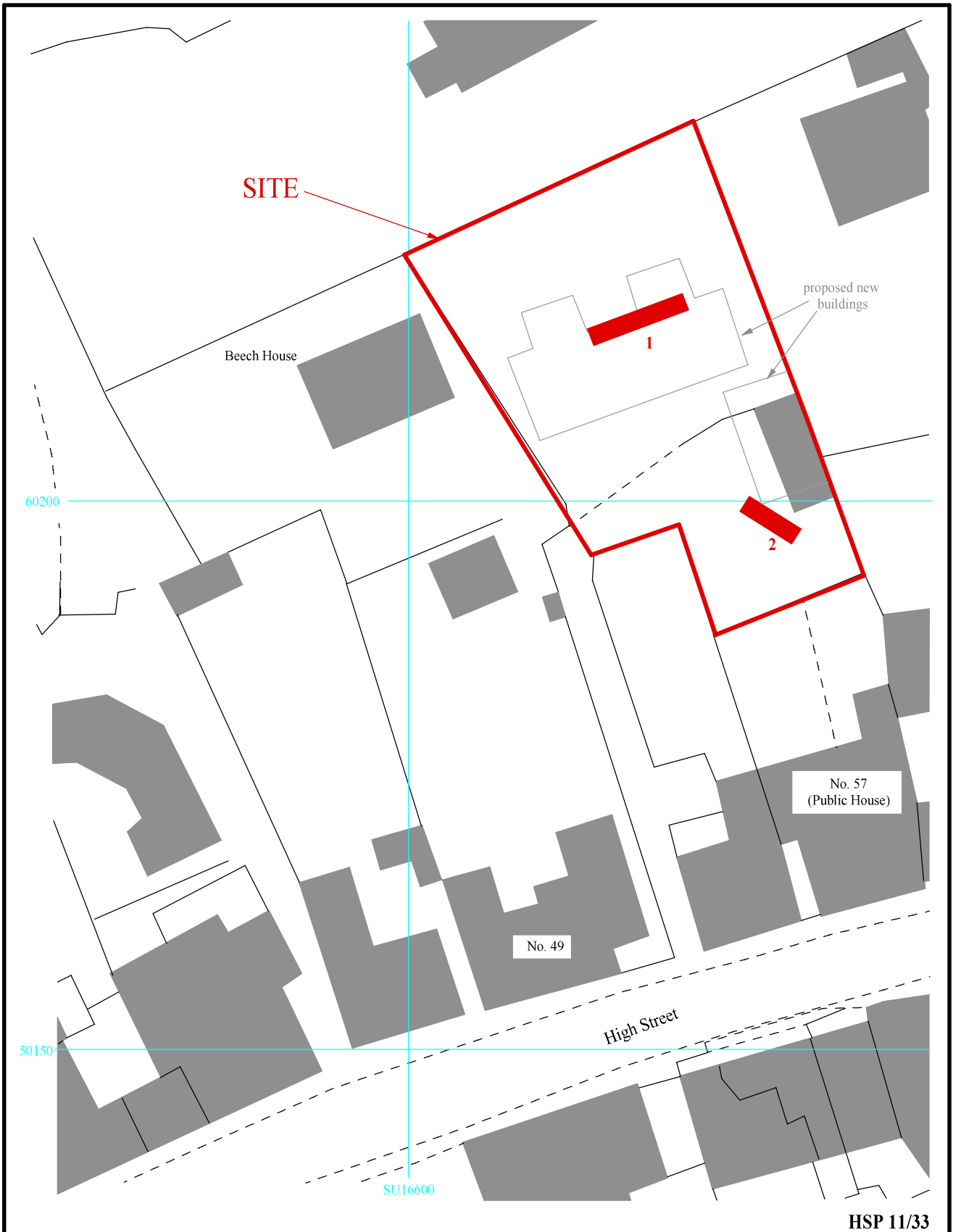


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off the High Street.

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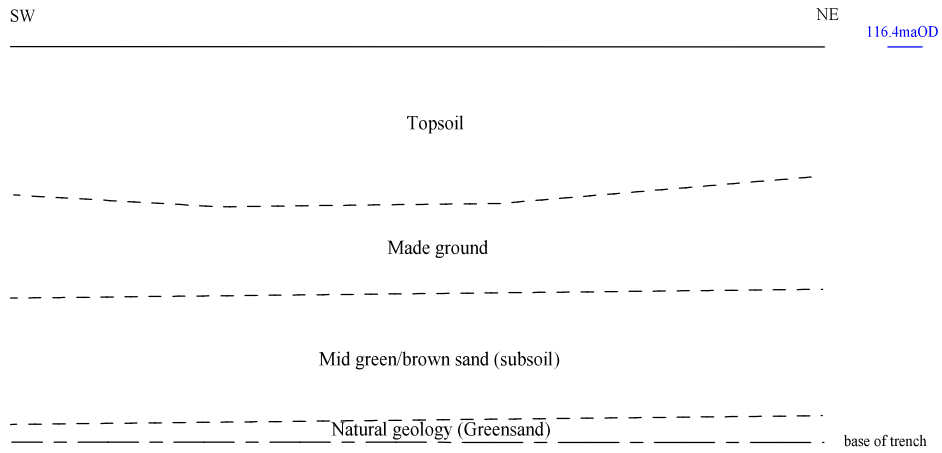
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

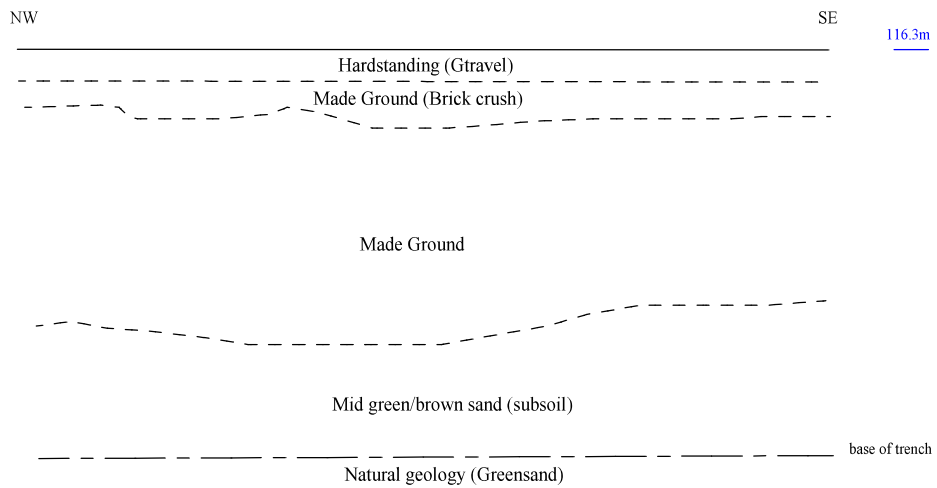


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### Trench 1



### Trench 2



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1 representative section, south-east facing section. Scale: 0.5m

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

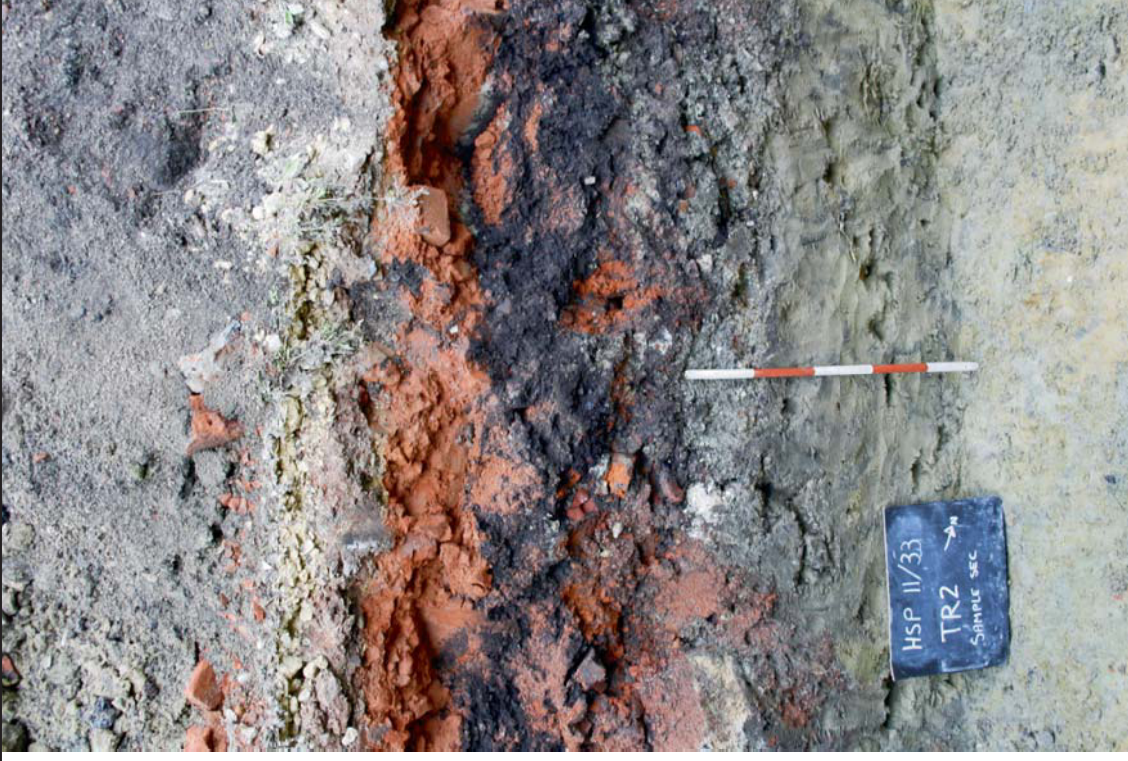


Plate 4. Trench 2 representative section, north east section Scale: 0.5m.

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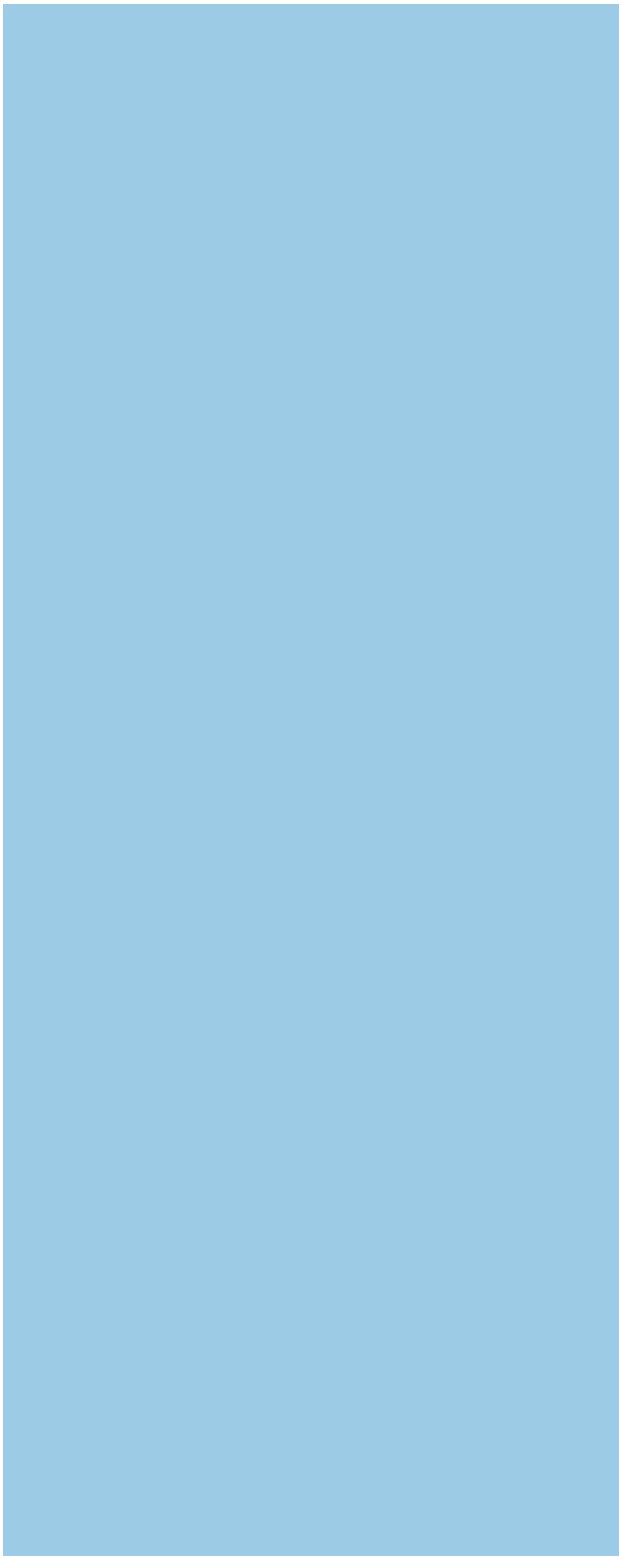
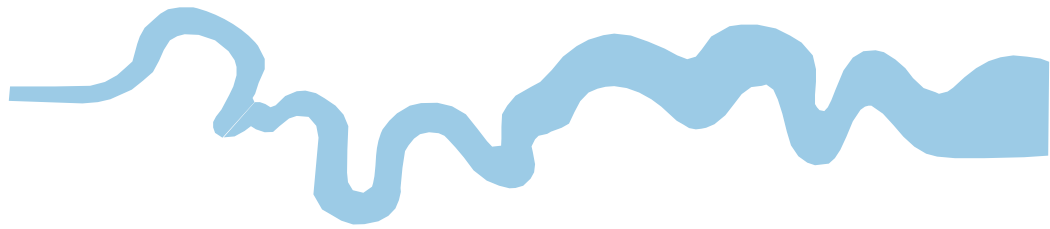
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Plates 3 and 4.

## 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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