

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**1 Church Street, Little Bedwyn,
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Site Code: LWB12/30

(SU 2901 6616)

**1 Church Street, Little Bedwyn,
Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Asset Plus One Limited**

by David Platt
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LBW12/30

March 2012

Summary

Site name: 1 Church Street, Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2901 6616

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th March 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt

Site code: LBW 12/30

Area of site: c. 0.1ha

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits nor artefacts were revealed. Four parallel gully-like features are likely to represent post-medieval agricultural, horticultural or construction activity were observed.

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

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

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Report edited/checked by: | Steve Ford ✓ 19.03.12 |
| | Steve Preston ✓ 19.03.12 |

1 Church Street, Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by David Platt

Report 12/30

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 1 Church Street, Little Bedwyn, Wiltshire (SU 2901 6616) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Irene Dymond of Fowler Architecture and Planning Ltd, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF on behalf of Asset Plus One Ltd, 22 South Audley Street, London, W1K 2NY.

A planning application is to be sought from Wiltshire Council to demolish an existing structure and replace it with a new house (planning ref. E/2011/1569/FUL). As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, fieldwork has been requested as detailed in 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. This is to determine the archaeological potential of the site and, if necessary, inform a mitigation strategy for the project. One component of the work was proposed; field evaluation by means of machine trenching.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Vaughan, Assistant County Archaeologist, Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and James Earley on the 13th March 2012 and the site code is LBW12/30. 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 on a small plot of land to the north of School Lane, c.200m north of the River Dun. It is currently used as a gravelled driveway and a double garage (Fig. 2). The site is at an elevation of c.120m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), rising towards the west, and the underlying geology is alluvium bordering Upper Chalk, this was seen in the trenches as a mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent large flint inclusions and some chalk present at the upper end of the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site was highlighted in a briefing document by Ms Clare King of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. In summary the site lies within the historic core of Little Bedwyn which was first documented in AD 880 and subsequently (along with Great Bedwyn) in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). The site lies generally within the archaeologically rich Wiltshire/Berkshire Downs region with a Neolithic causewayed enclosure up the valley at Crofton to the south-west (Palmer 1975; Lobb 1995). The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record notes that the downlands are rich in prehistoric monuments, with, for example, an Iron Age hillfort at Chisbury to the west. Various finds of Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon pottery are recorded from the general area of the site.

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 Late Saxon or medieval deposits are present on the site; and
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required.

It was proposed to dig 2 trenches, each 1.6m wide and 7m long. The trenching was positioned to target the footprint of the proposed building. Topsoil, and any other overburden was to be removed by a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. Excavation of exposed archaeological features was to be carried out by hand and spoil heaps were to be searched for artefacts. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions of full excavation.

Results

Trench 1 was dug as intended but Trench 2 was rotated slightly due the presence of a garden wall (Fig. 3). The trenches were both 7m long and varied in depth between 0.95m and 1.05m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. A list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4 and Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned NW–SE and was 7.0m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of gravel and hardcore above 0.29m of made ground. This overlay 0.40m of greyish brown clayey silt (subsoil/buried topsoil) which in turn overlay the natural geology. A series of shallow gullies (1-4) were uncovered, all on a parallel SW–NE alignment (Fig. 4) cut into the natural geology and beneath the subsoil. These were all investigated but contained no artefacts to provide dating evidence. These features were between 0.20–0.30m wide but only between 0.02–0.05m deep. They were all filled with a mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions. It is considered that they are not of archaeological origin.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3 and Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 7.0m long and 1.05m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.42m of gravel and hardcore above 0.30m of made ground. This overlay 0.30m of greyish brown clayey silt which in turn overlay the natural geology. No features were present and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Four undated gully-like features were uncovered in Trench 1. They were closely spaced, were shallow and of similar width, and were parallel to each other. It is considered that they are more likely a product of agricultural or gardening activity, or rutting by wheeled machinery. No features were evident in Trench 2. On the basis of these results it is considered that the site has low archaeological potential at best.

References

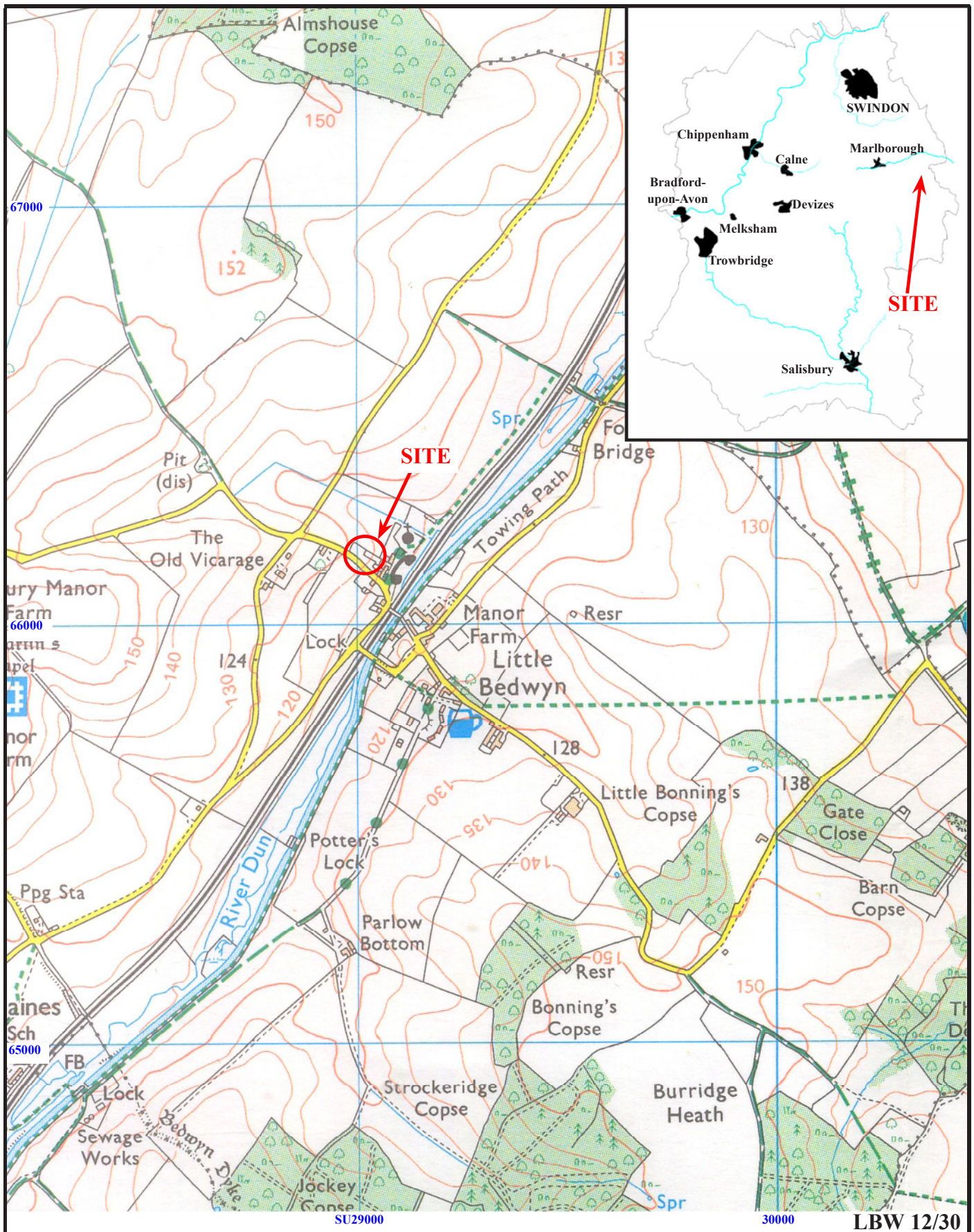
- BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,360, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Palmer, R, 1975, 'A causewayed enclosure at Crofton, Gt Bedwyn', *Wiltshire Archaeol Natur Hist Mag* **70/71**, 124–5
Lobb, S, 1995, 'Excavations at Crofton causewayed enclosure', *Wiltshire Archaeol Natur Hist Mag* **88**, 18-25
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
 0m at south east and south west end

| Trench | Length (m) | Breadth (m) | Depth (m) | Comment |
|--------|------------|-------------|-----------|---|
| 1 | 7.0 | 1.6 | 0.95 | 0-0.21m gravel and hardcore; 0.21-0.50m made ground; 0.50-0.90m greyish brown clayey silt; 0.90m+ mid brown sandy clay with chalk natural geology . Gully-like features 1-4. [PI. 1] |
| 2 | 7.0 | 1.6 | 1.05 | 0-0.42m gravel and hardcore; 0.42-0.72m made ground; 0.72-1.02m greyish brown clayey silt; 1.02m+ mid brown sandy clay natural geology. No features. [PI. 2] |

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Cut</i> | <i>Fill (s)</i> | <i>Type</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Dating evidence</i> |
|---------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 52 | Gully type feature | Unknown | None |
| 1 | 2 | 53 | Gully type feature | Unknown | None |
| 1 | 3 | 54 | Gully type feature | Unknown | None |
| 1 | 4 | 55 | Gully type feature | Unknown | None |

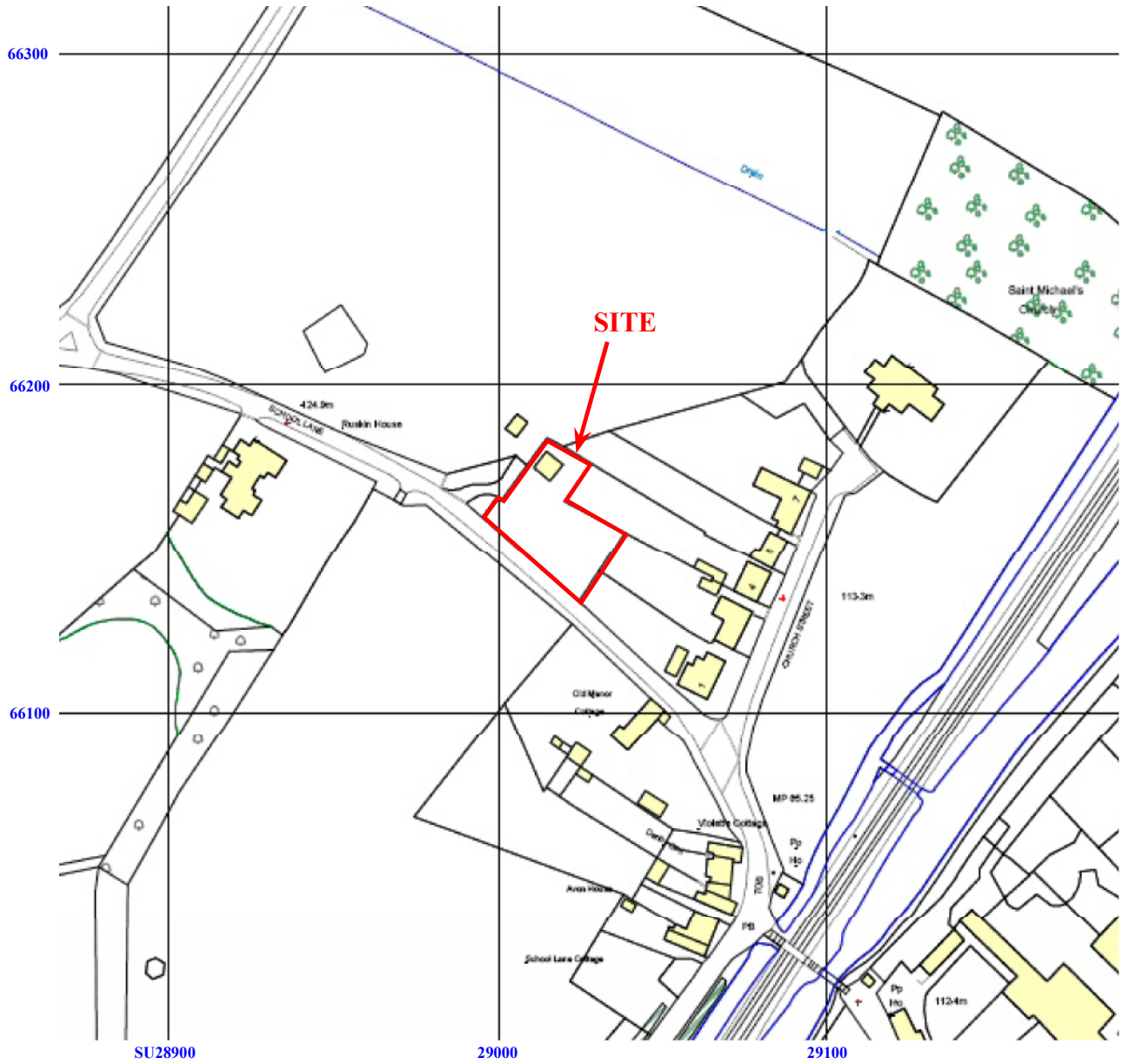


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Figure 1. Location of site within Little Bedwyn and Wiltshire.

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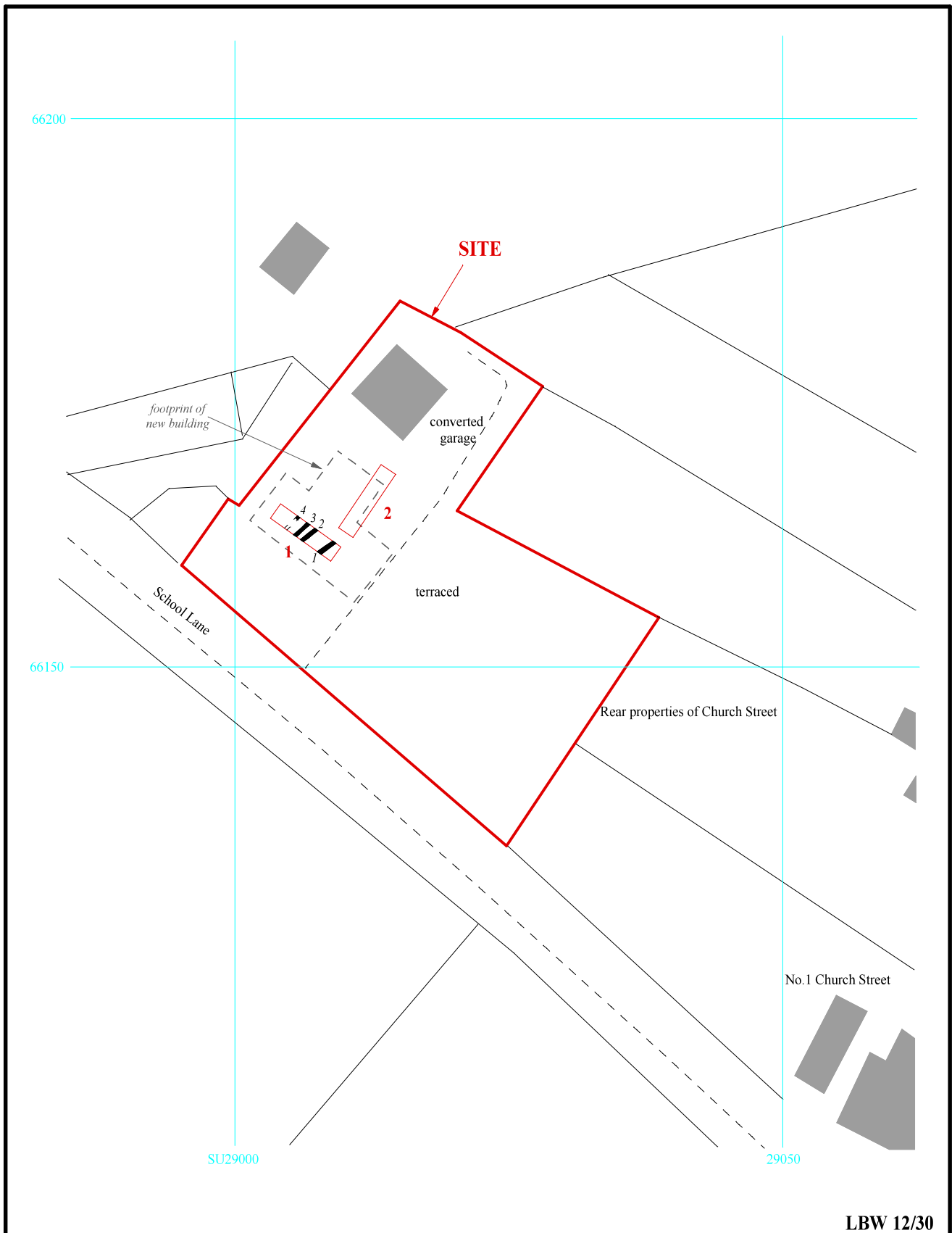
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Street.

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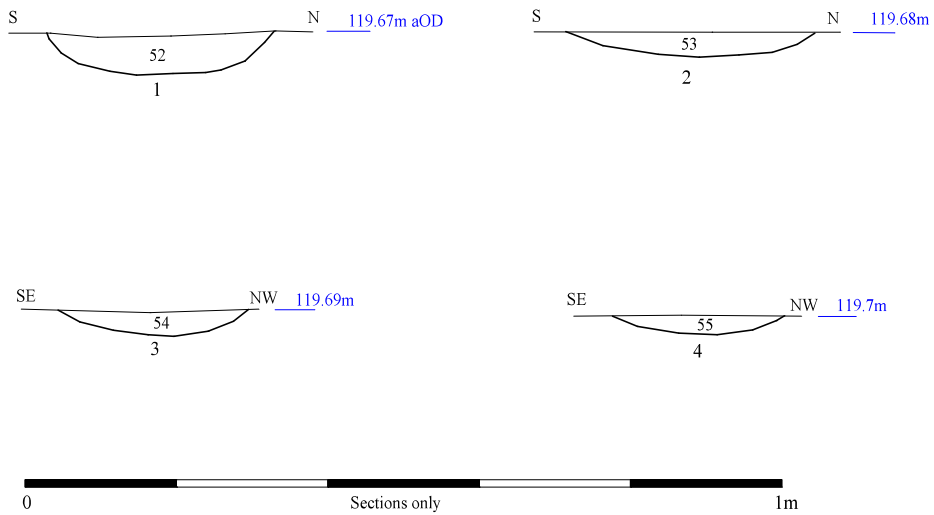
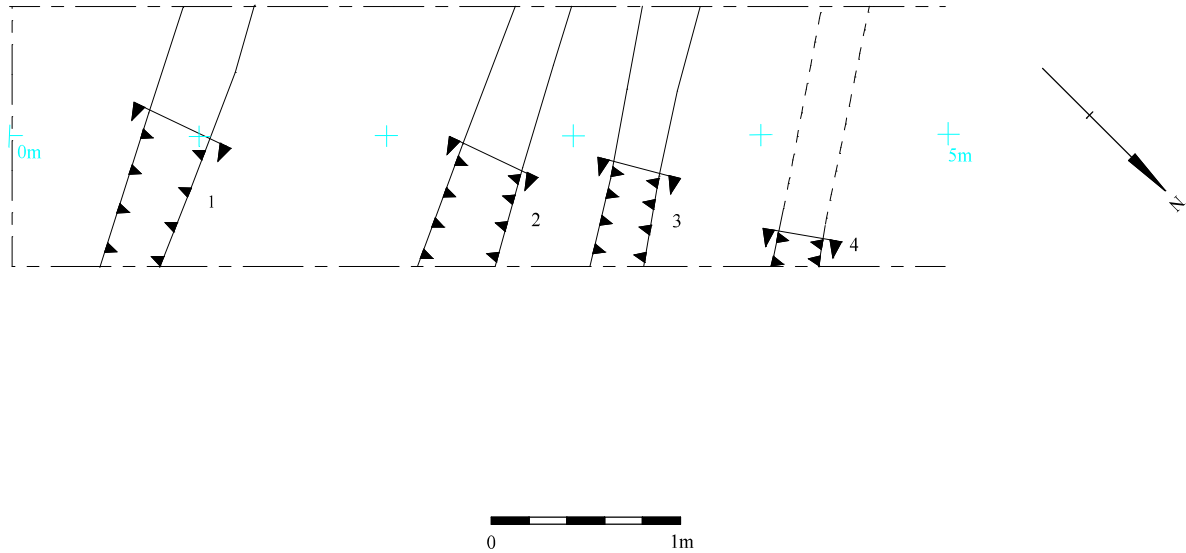
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Figure 3. Location of trenches



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Plan and sections of features in Trench 1.

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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north east, Scale: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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Archaeological Evaluation**

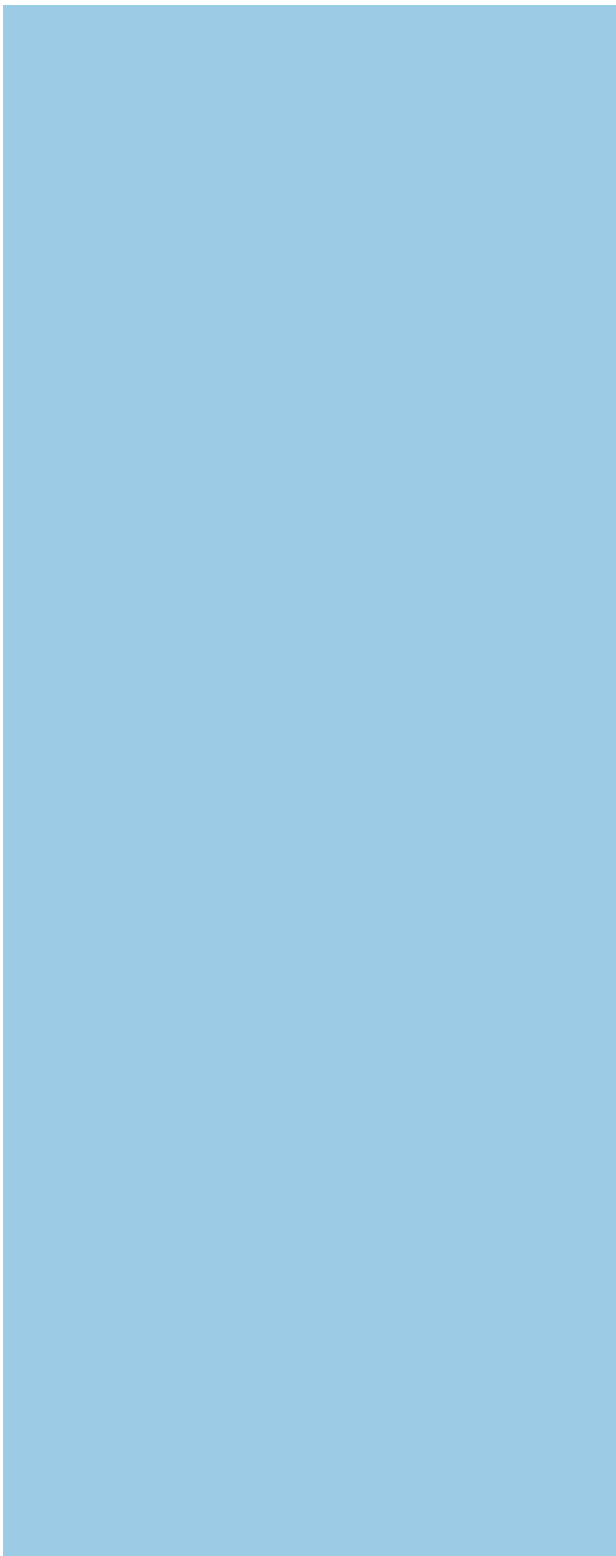
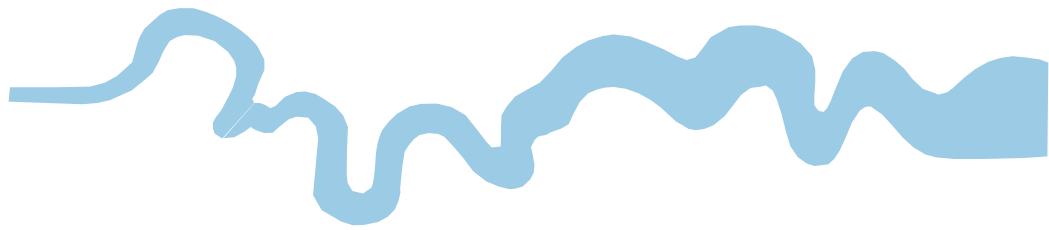
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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