

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Land at Clay Lane, Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Felicity Howell

Site Code: CLF14/27

(SU 8385 0548)

Land at Clay Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex

An Archaeological Evaluation

For Pallant Homes Ltd

by Felicity Howell

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
CLF 14/27

July 2014

Summary

Site name: Land at Clay Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 8385 0548

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference : FB13/02278/OUT

Date and duration of project: 14th – 16th July 2014

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Felicity Howell

Site code: CLF 14/27

Area of site: c. 0.62 ha

Summary of results: The evaluation has successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the redevelopment of the site. Despite the fact that the site had not been significantly disturbed in the past no archaeological finds were recovered and only one undated feature (a small pit or large posthole) was recorded. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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Land at Clay Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Felicity Howell

Report 14/27

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at on land at Clay Lane, Fishbourne, Chichester, West Sussex (SU 8385 0548) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Edward Van der Wee of Pallant Homes Ltd, Cawley Place, 15 Cawley Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1UZ.

Planning permission (FB13/02278/OUT) has been gained from Chichester District Council to redevelop the site for new housing with associated car parking and landscaping. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed redevelopment, a field evaluation was carried out to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, District Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Felicity Howell and Sean Wallis between 14th and 16th July 2014, and the site code is CLF 14/27. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Chichester Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of the Chichester Bypass, north of Fishbourne and immediately south of Clay Lane (SU 8385 0550) (Fig. 2). At the time of the evaluation the site was occupied by unused farmland. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 10m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Alluvial Fan Deposits: clayey gravels bounded by Aeolian Deposits (Brickearth) (BGS 1996), and this was confirmed during the evaluation, as a mid orange brown clay, with frequent gravel inclusions was recorded in all the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its position on the archaeologically rich Sussex coastal plain with a wealth of sites and finds, especially from the Bronze Age to the Medieval period (Manley 2008), and more specifically within the hinterland of historic Chichester. The Iron Age, Roman and medieval city lies further to the east though the site may lie within the zone occupied by the outlying Iron Age and Roman defences (the Chichester entrenchments). More significantly, perhaps the proposal site lies close to the site of Fishbourne Roman Palace which lies some 500m to the south. The site lies on the potential trajectory of Hook Dyke (J Kenny pers comm.), a large earthwork shown on early maps running west from Chichester's Westgate which could possibly be the line of a Roman road. Various sites and finds are recorded in the West Sussex Historic Environment Record for the environs of the site, with the closest being Roman coins and a Palaeolithic hand axe found directly to the south east. However, evaluation on a site to the west produced negative results.

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 proposed development. The work was to be carried out to comply with the West Sussex County Council requirements for archaeological fieldwork (WSSCC 2007).

Specific aims of the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site.

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Ten trenches were to be dug, each measuring 16m in length and 1.60m in width (*c.* 4% of the site by area), targeting those parts of the site that would be most affected by the proposed development. These were to be dug using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The ten trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3), although trench 3 was shifted south-eastwards on a similar alignment with trench 2 due to changes in development plans. All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured between 14–18m in length, and between 0.46–0.85m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 16.20m long, and up to 0.55m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil and 0.43m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, but two land drains were noted. The natural clay contained frequent gravel inclusions, particularly towards the south-east end of the trench.

Trench 2

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and was 15.60m long, and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.22m of topsoil and 0.42m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, but a band of head deposit was observed within the natural clay, at 8m to 10.50m from the south-west end of the trench.

Trench 3 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and was 16m long, and up to 0.49m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.22m of topsoil and 0.37m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were recorded, but the band of head deposit that was observed in Trench 2 was also recorded within this trench, between 6m and 11m from the south-west end of the trench.

Trench 4

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and was 17.10m long, and up to 0.48m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil and 0.41m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, although a modern brick-lined field drain was noted. The natural clay became increasingly sandier towards the south of the trench.

Trench 5

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and was 17.60m long, and up to 0.47m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil and 0.40m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, but two field drains were noted, including a bone-lined example.

Trench 6

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and was 14m long, and up to 0.50m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil and 0.42m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 7

This trench was aligned approximately ESE-WNW, and was 17.60m long. The trench reached a depth of up to 0.85m, where a test pit was excavated at the east end. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.24m of topsoil and 0.42m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, but two field drains were noted, including a brick-lined example.

Trench 8

This trench was aligned approximately NNE-SSW, and was 16.20m long, and up to 0.47m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil and 0.37m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, but a modern brick-lined field drain was noted.

Trench 9

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 15.90m long, and up to 0.46m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil and 0.35m of subsoil. No archaeological finds or features were observed, but two field drains were noted.

Trench 10 (Figs 4 and 5; Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE, and was 18m long, and up to 0.52m deep. Natural geology was observed beneath 0.24m of topsoil and 0.41m of subsoil. A possible feature (1) was investigated towards the north-east end of the trench. It was 0.40m wide and 0.19m deep (Pl. 4), with a single fill of dark brown silty clay (52) containing no finds. Three modern field drains were also noted within this trench.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

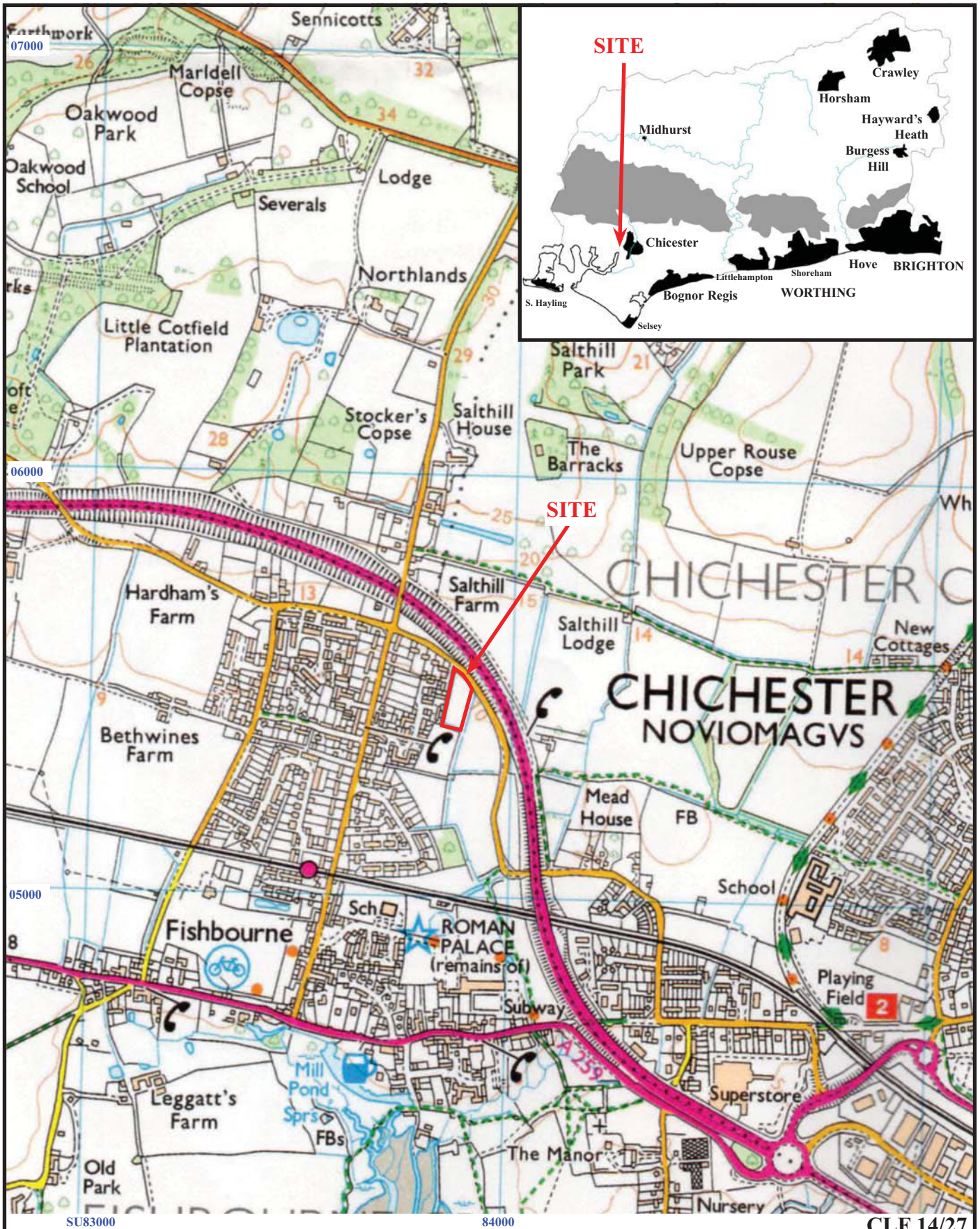
The evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed development. Only one possible archaeological feature was recorded and there was no trace of anything that might correspond to the Hook Dyke. On the basis of these results, the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000 Sheet 317/332, Bedrock and Superficial Deposits Edition, Keyworth
- Manley, J (ed) 2008, *The archaeology of Fishbourne and Chichester*, a framework for its future, Sussex Archaeological Society, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, Centre for Continuing Education, University of Sussex, Brighton
- WSCC 2007, Standards for archaeological fieldwork, recording and post-excavation work (development control), West Sussex County Council, Chichester

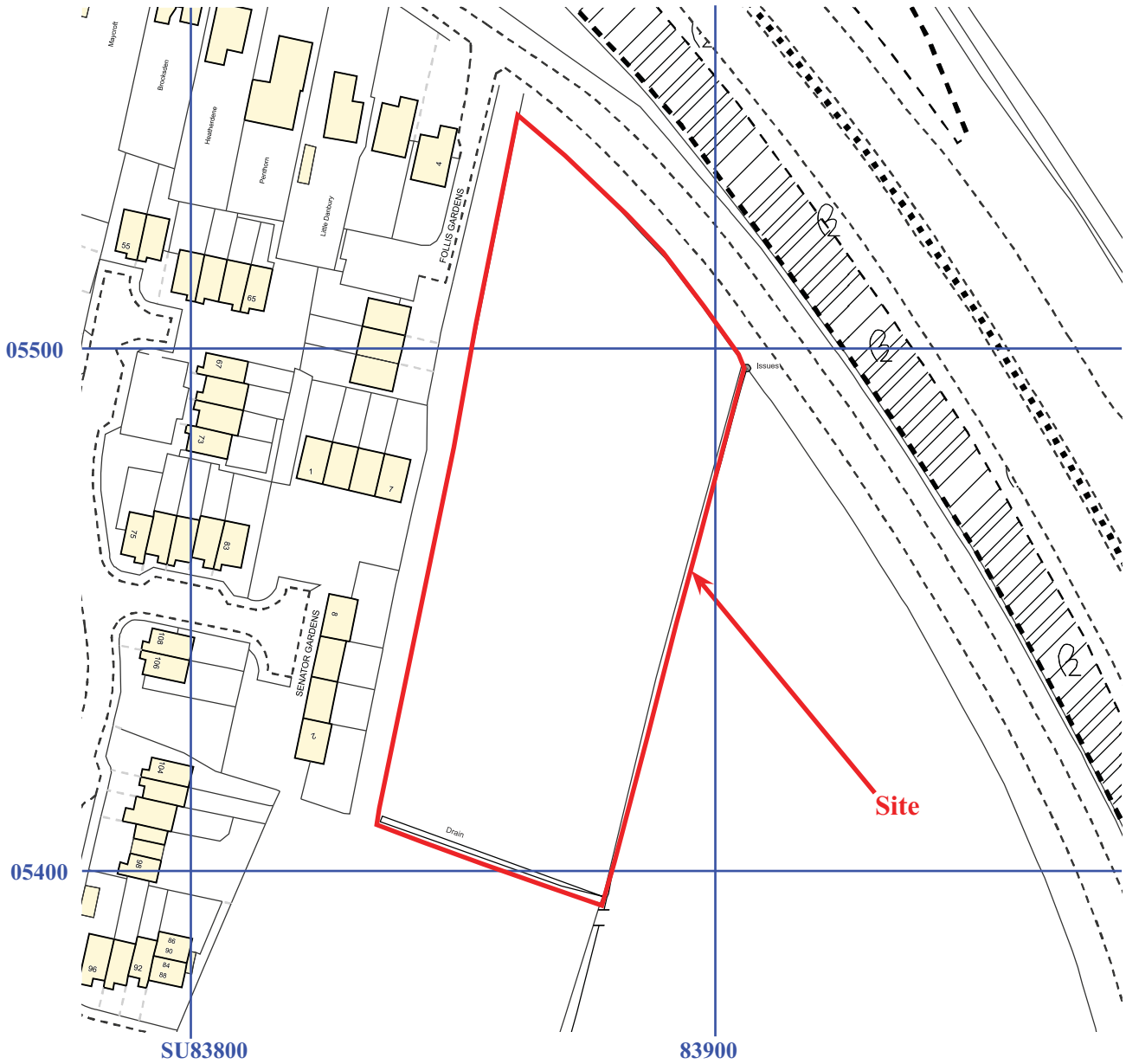
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	16.20	1.60	0.55	0-0.28m turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.43m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.43m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel). [Pl. 1]
2	15.60	1.60	0.48	0-0.22m turf and topsoil; 0.22-0.42m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.42m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
3	16.00	1.60	0.49	0-0.22m turf and topsoil; 0.22-0.37m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.37m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel). [Pl. 2]
4	17.10	1.60	0.48	0-0.28m turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.41m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.41m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
5	17.60	1.60	0.47	0-0.25m turf and topsoil; 0.25-0.40m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.40m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
6	14.00	1.60	0.50	0-0.28m turf and topsoil; 0.28-0.42m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.42m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
7	16.00	1.60	0.48 (W) 0.85 (E)	0-0.24m turf and topsoil; 0.22-0.42m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.42m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
8	16.20	1.60	0.47	0-0.20m turf and topsoil; 0.20-0.37m mid yellow brown sandy silt subsoil; 0.37m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
9	15.90	1.60	0.46	0-0.20m turf and topsoil; 0.20-0.35m mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.35m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel).
10	18.00	1.60	0.52	0-0.24m turf and topsoil; 0.24-0.41m mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil; 0.41m+ natural geology (Brickearth with gravel). [Pls 3 and 4]



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 Figure 1. Location of Site within Fishbourne and
 West Sussex.

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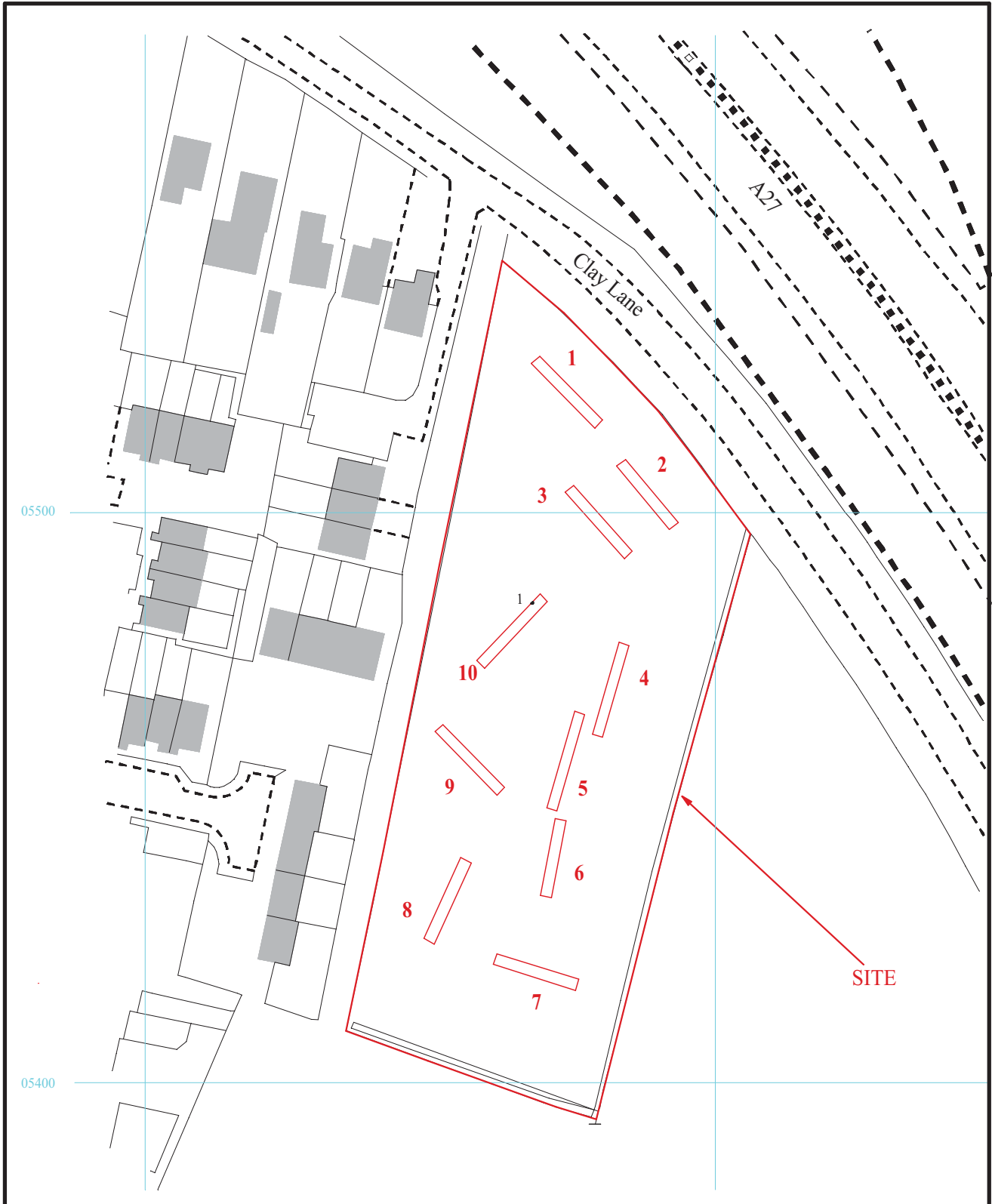
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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Figure 3. Location of trenches showing features.



Trench 10



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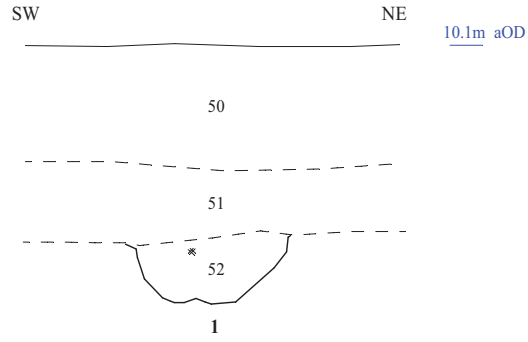
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Figure 4. Plan of trench.



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Trench 10



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Figure 5. Sections





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south-east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 2. Trench 3 looking north-west,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 3. Trench 10 looking north-east,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Feature 1, looking north-west,
Scales: 1m and 0.1m

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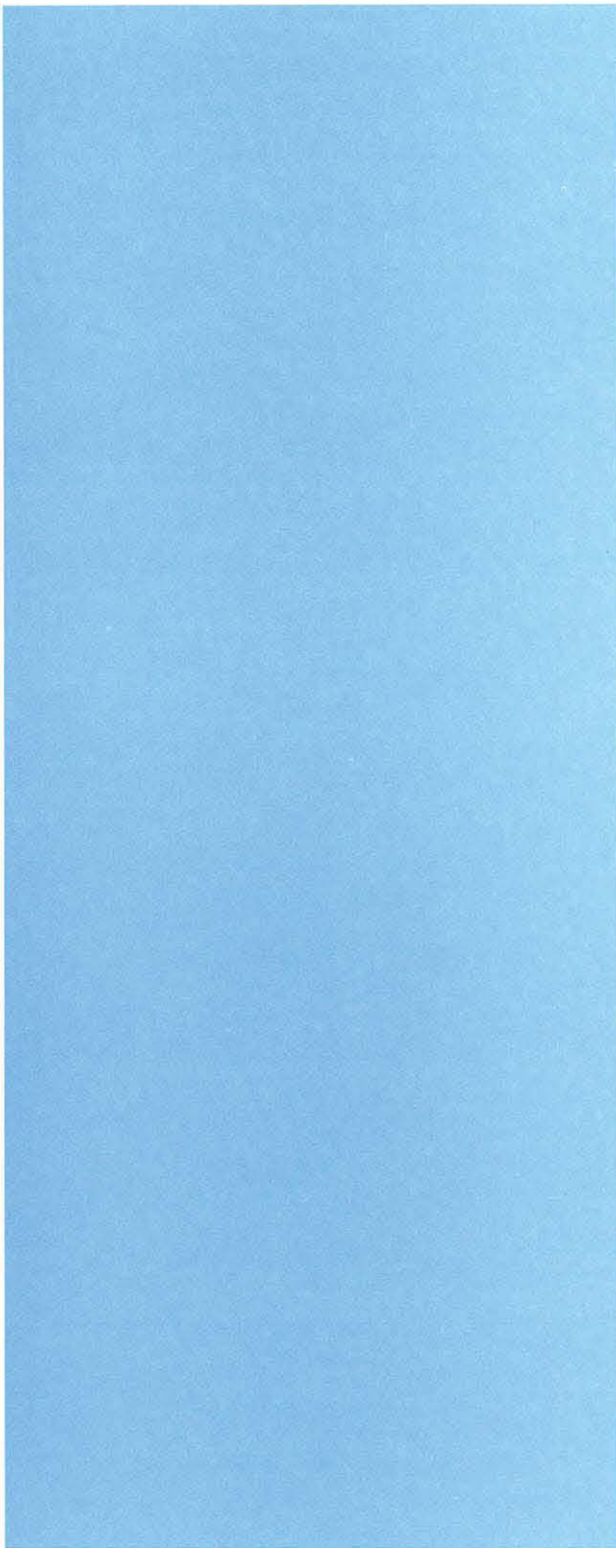
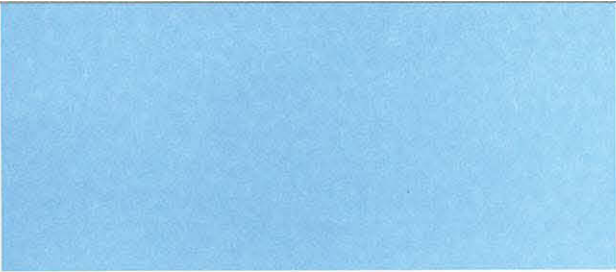
Plates 1-4

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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
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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