THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

Orchard House, Stratford Road, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: OHS13/232

(SU 1334 3199)

Orchard House, Stratford Road, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Hazeley Developments

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code OHS 13/232

September 2014

Summary

Site name: Orchard House, Stratford Road, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1334 3199

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 27th-29th August 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: OHS 13/232

Area of site: *c.*0.82 hectares

Summary of results: Two inter-cutting features, a gully and a ditch, of possibly Iron Age or later date were located which corresponded the position of a rectangular enclosure identified by geophysics, though there is some doubt as to whether these are related. A gully and very shallow ditch of post-medieval date were also recorded

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 16.09.14
	Steve Preston✓ 15.09.14

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Orchard House, Stratford Road, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Genni Elliott

Report 13/232c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Orchard House, Stratford Road, Stratford-sub-Castle, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 1334 3199) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Thomas Penfold, of Hazeley Developments Ltd, Hazeley Road, Twyford, Hampshire, SO21 1QA.

An application is to be made to Wiltshire Council for the construction of new housing on the site. As a result of a desk-based assessment (McNicoll-Norbury 2014) and geophysical survey (Dawson 2014) an archaeological evaluation had been requested in order to inform the planning process with regard to any potential archaeological implications of the proposal.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist with Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott and Dan Strachan between 27th and 29th August 2014 and the site code is OHS 13/232. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Stratford Sub Castle lies to the west of Old Sarum and to the north of Salisbury (Fig. 1). The proposal site is within a sub rectangular shaped plot with an area of *c*. 0.82ha. To the north and south the site is bounded by residential buildings and to the east is Stratford Road. On the west side it is separated from fields by wooden fencing and a hedge. The development area is centred on NGR SU 1334 3199.

The site itself comprises Orchard House and later additions with gardens extending to the west (Fig. 2) bounded by hedgerows and wooden fences. Orchard House is a Grade II listed building which was previously a children's care home, now disused.

The site lies at a height of *c*. 50m above Ordnance Datum and slopes down slightly from east to west. The geology of the surrounding area is described as valley gravels and alluvium with areas of upper chalk further from the site (BGS 1974). The geology found in the trenches consisted of gravel with patches of sand.

Archaeological background

The proposal site is set in New Sarum to the north of Salisbury and to the west of Old Sarum both of which are areas of archaeological interest for several periods. This area is covered by the extensive urban survey (WCAS 2005) of Old Sarum and Sorviodunum which highlights the archaeological background for this region and summarised in the desk-based assessment for the project (McNicoll-Norbury 2014).

The immediate area is dominated by the Iron Age hillfort of Old Sarum to the north of the site. The hillfort was the main focus of settlement in the area with an associated settlement to the south-east of the fort. Following the Roman conquest mention is made in the 'Antonine Itinerary' of *Sorviodunum* (Borthwick and Chandler 1984), a settlement originally believed to be based on the hillfort at Old Sarum, but which more recent evidence has shown is concentrated around Stratford-sub-Castle (James 2002) with the hillfort likely to have been abandoned during the Roman period. Archaeological work in the area has revealed a large number of Roman finds and indeed the settlement itself (Algar 2002) is believed to have occupied an area to the south of the site aligned south-west to north-east in line with the Roman road which excavation has dated between the 1st and 4th centuries.

During the Saxon period the Roman settlement is believed to have been abandoned and the hillfort once more became the focal point for settlement. It was on this site that William I built a castle following his conquest and his nephew Bishop Osmund de Sees had a cathedral built in the town in 1092. The medieval settlement is believed to broadly span eastwards towards the Hospice of St John and westwards towards Stratford sub-Castle to the north of the proposal site. During the 12th century following a dispute between the clergy and the military at the nearby castle the decision was taken to move the cathedral to nearby Salisbury where it stands to this day.

During the post-medieval period the immediate area around the proposal site is dominated by estate farms including Parsonage Farm and Chancellors Farm (now Orchard House) the boundaries of which are still extant.

Recent geophysical survey (Dawson 2014) confirmed the existence of a positive and negative anomaly likely to represent a rectangular enclosure, which corresponded closely with the line of a low earthwork bank still visible on the site, but also demonstrated a large amount of disturbance across parts of the area (Fig. 3).

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 were;

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 Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits are present on the site;

to determine the nature and date of the rectangular geophysical anomaly; and

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

A total of seven trenches were to be dug between 8m and 25m long by 1.6m wide, predominantly targeted on the proposed areas for development. A single trench targeted the rectangular anomaly identified by geophysics. The trenches were to be excavated using a 360° machine with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision down to the natural or archaeologically relevant layers, whichever was higher. Any archaeological features were to be cleaned by hand and excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the evaluation, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Seven trenches were excavated in approximately the locations indicated in the written scheme of investigation, though some were slightly adjusted in terms of size and location with the approval of Ms Clare King of Wiltshire Council. Trench 1 was shorter than intended and wider; Trench 2 was slightly longer to compensate for the lack of area excavated on Trench 1. Trench 3a was slightly shorter than intended, but wider. Trench 3b was narrower than intended due to the confined space and abandoned after 2.5m when it became clear that a service ran the entire length of the trench. Trench 5 was shifted to the north-east to avoid substantial shrubbery. Apart from Trenches 1 and 3b, the trenches were all 1.8m wide rather than 1.6m. The trenches eventually ranged in length from 2.5m to 25m and in depth from 0.35m to 0.84m

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Features investigated are summarized as Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

Trench 1 was aligned northeast - southwest and was 5.50m long, 2.4m wide and 0.58m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil and 0.14m of subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. No archaeological layers or features were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned northwest - southeast and was 11.40m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.42m of topsoil and 0.16m of subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. No archaeological layers or features were present.

Trench 3a (Fig. 3)

Trench 3a was aligned northeast - southwest and was 7.5m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.22m of subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. No archaeological layers or features were present but a modern, chalk-filled drain or soakaway was present.

Trench 3b (Fig. 3)

Trench 3b was aligned northwest - southeast and was 2.5m long and 0.35m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil overlying subsoil. The trench was abandoned due to a service running the length of the trench; the archaeologically relevant horizon was not reached.

Trench 4 (Figs 3-5; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 4 was aligned northeast - southwest and was 25m long and up to 0.84m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.14m of subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. Cut into the subsoil were two post-medieval features (2 and 4). Wide but shallow ditch 4, aligned north - south was approximately 4m wide by 0.24m deep with an upper chalk fill and a lower greyish brown soil fill. Gully 2 was 0.5m wide by 0.13m deep with a 'U-shaped' profile. Its only fill (53) was dark brownish grey, silty sand. Both features contained post-medieval roof tile.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned northeast - southwest and was 20m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of topsoil and 0.28m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological layers or features were

present. However the natural geology was not reached at the northeast end due to a probable sewer trench and other assorted services within the subsoil.

Trench 6 (Figs 3-5; Pls 2 and 6)

Trench 6 was aligned northeast - southwest and was 15.20m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.30m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A gully (1) and a ditch (3) were present at the southwest end of the trench.

Feature 1 was a gully, aligned northwest - southeast and was 0.83m wide by 0.15m deep. It was cut into the uppermost fill (54) of ditch 3. Its fill, (52), was dark brownish grey, silty clay with chalk inclusions which contained a single sherd of probably Iron Age pottery.

Feature 3 was a ditch, aligned northwest - southeast and was 2.54m wide and 1.07m deep. It had steep sides with a slightly rounded base, but was essentially 'v-shaped' in profile. There were three fills; the uppermost of which, 54 was cut by feature 1 and was yellowish brown, sandy clay with occasional stones, 0.13m thick. Below 54 was fill 55, brownish yellow, sandy clay, containing occasional stones, 0.51m thick. Both fills 54 and 55 were re-deposited natural, likely natural silting. The primary fill, 56, was pale greyish brown, sandy clay, containing frequent stones, 0.57m thick. Finds consisted of a sherd of Iron Age pottery and a fragment of bone from a medium sized mammal from the uppermost fill and ten fragments of bone from a medium sized mammal from the lowest fill of the ditch.

Both features correspond with the enclosure geophysical anomaly but are not quite on the same alignment. The trench unfortunately intersects just where the geophysical anomaly becomes less clear cut and it might well be that the anomaly changes direction at this point. There is also a slight earthwork that defines the enclosure geophysical anomaly but this can be seen to directly overlie both ditch and gully and thus is not upcast from them (Fig. 5). It is possible therefore that these features are unrelated to each other

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of two small bodysherds of handmade pottery weighing 14g. The sherds came from the fill of gully 1 (52) and ditch 3 (54). Both are in a well-fired black sandy fabric with sparse clay pellets suggesting broad contemporaneity. In the absence of any diagnostic pieces the sherds can only be provisionally dated to the Iron Age.

Struck flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising two struck flints was recovered during the fieldwork. These comprised a spall (piece less than 20x20mm) from gully 1(50) and a flake from ditch 3(54). The spall is not datable and may be a relatively modern accidental by-product. The flake is also not closely datable but is likely to be of (Neolithic/Bronze Age date and probably a residual find in the ditch where it was found.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a small number of cut archaeological features, two of which are likely to be of archaeological origin. Dating of these is based on the recovery of two tiny sherds of possible Iron Age pottery. These two features, a gully cut into a ditch, were located in a position coincident with a rectangular enclosure indicated by geophysical survey though it could not be determined if these two components are related.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or west end

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	5.50	2.4	0.58	0–0.40m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.40m–0.54m subsoil, dark brown, sandy silt with occasional ceramic building material and chalk; 0.54m+ natural geology, yellowish brown, sandy clay and stones.
2	11.4	1.8	0.60	0–0.42m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.42m–0.58m subsoil, dark brown, sandy silt with occasional ceramic building material and chalk; 0.58m+ natural geology.
3a	7.5	1.8	0.54	0–0.28m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.28m–0.50m subsoil, pale greyish brown, silty clay with common chalk inclusions; 0.50m+ natural geology.
3b	2.5	1.2	0.35	0–0.28m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.28m+ subsoil, greyish brown, silty clay with common chalk inclusions.
4	25	1.8	0.84	0–0.32m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.32m–0.46m subsoil, greyish brown, sandy clay; 0.46m+ natural geology. Features 2 and 4. **[Pls 1 and 3]**
5	20	1.8	0.80	0–0.32m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.32m–0.60m subsoil, greyish brown, sandy clay with chalk inclusions; 0.60m+ natural geology, pale yellowish white, sand.
6	15.2	1.8	0.72	0–0.30m topsoil, very dark brown, sandy silt loam; 0.30m–0.60m subsoil, greyish brown, sandy silt loam with chalk flecks; 0.60m+ natural geology. Features 1 and 3. **[Pls 2 and 4].**

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

Trench	*Cut*	*Fill (s)*	*Type*	*Date*	*Dating evidence*
6	1	52	Gully	Iron Age?	Pottery
4	2	53	Gully	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material
6	3	54–56	Ditch	Iron Age	Pottery
4	4	57	Ditch?	Post-medieval	Ceramic building material

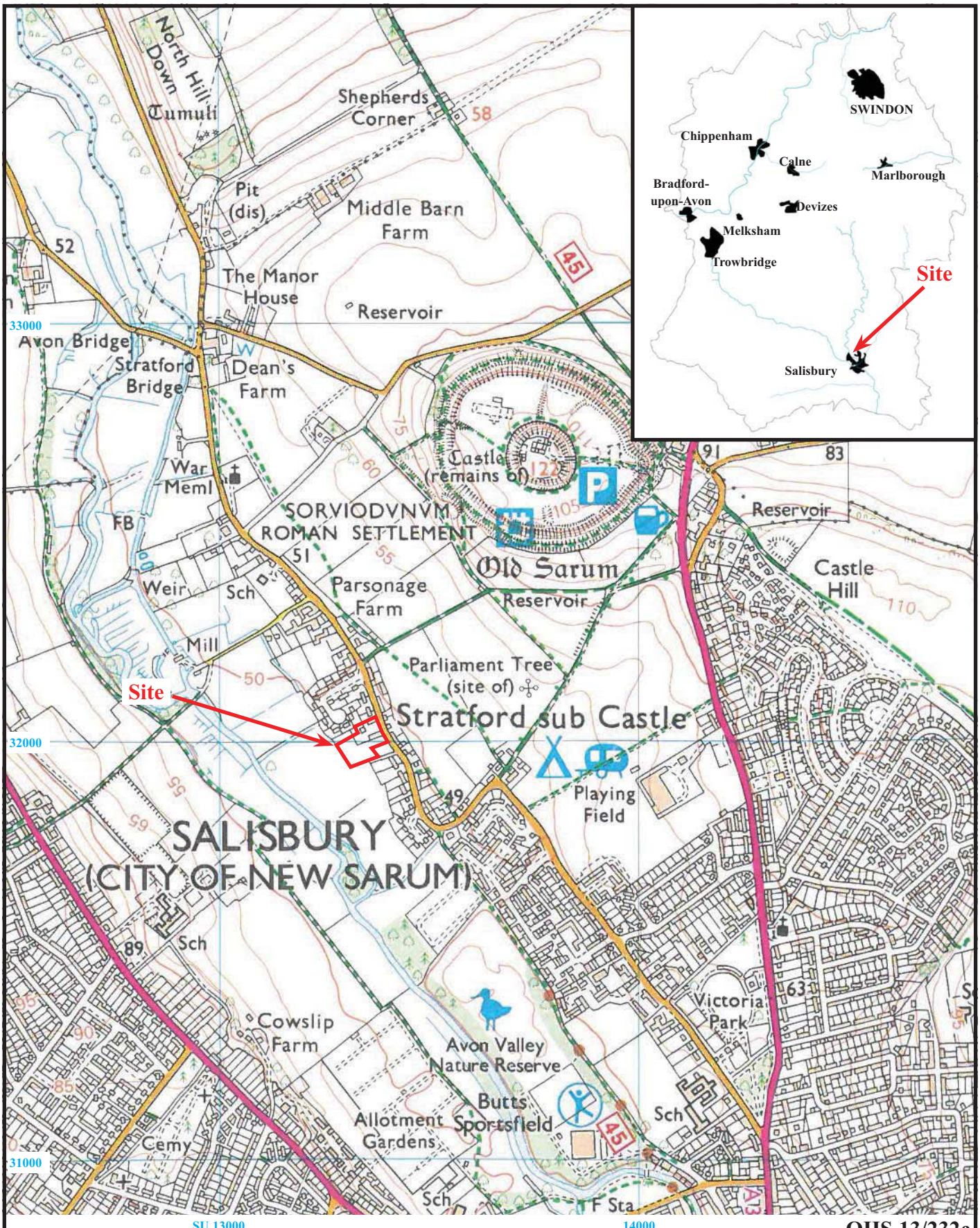

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Figure 1. Location of site within Stratford-sub-Castle and Wiltshire.

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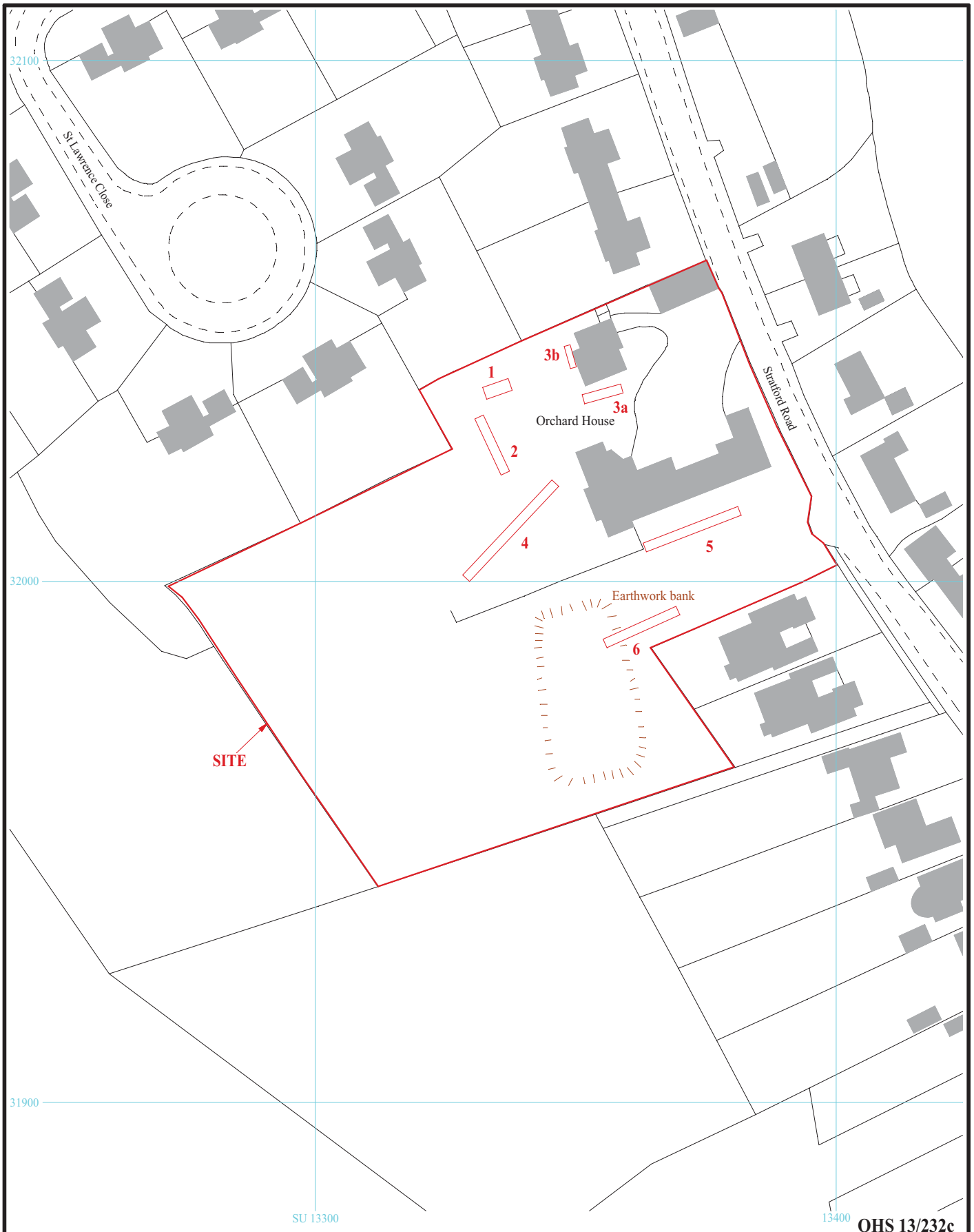

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Figure 2. Location of trenches.

0 50m

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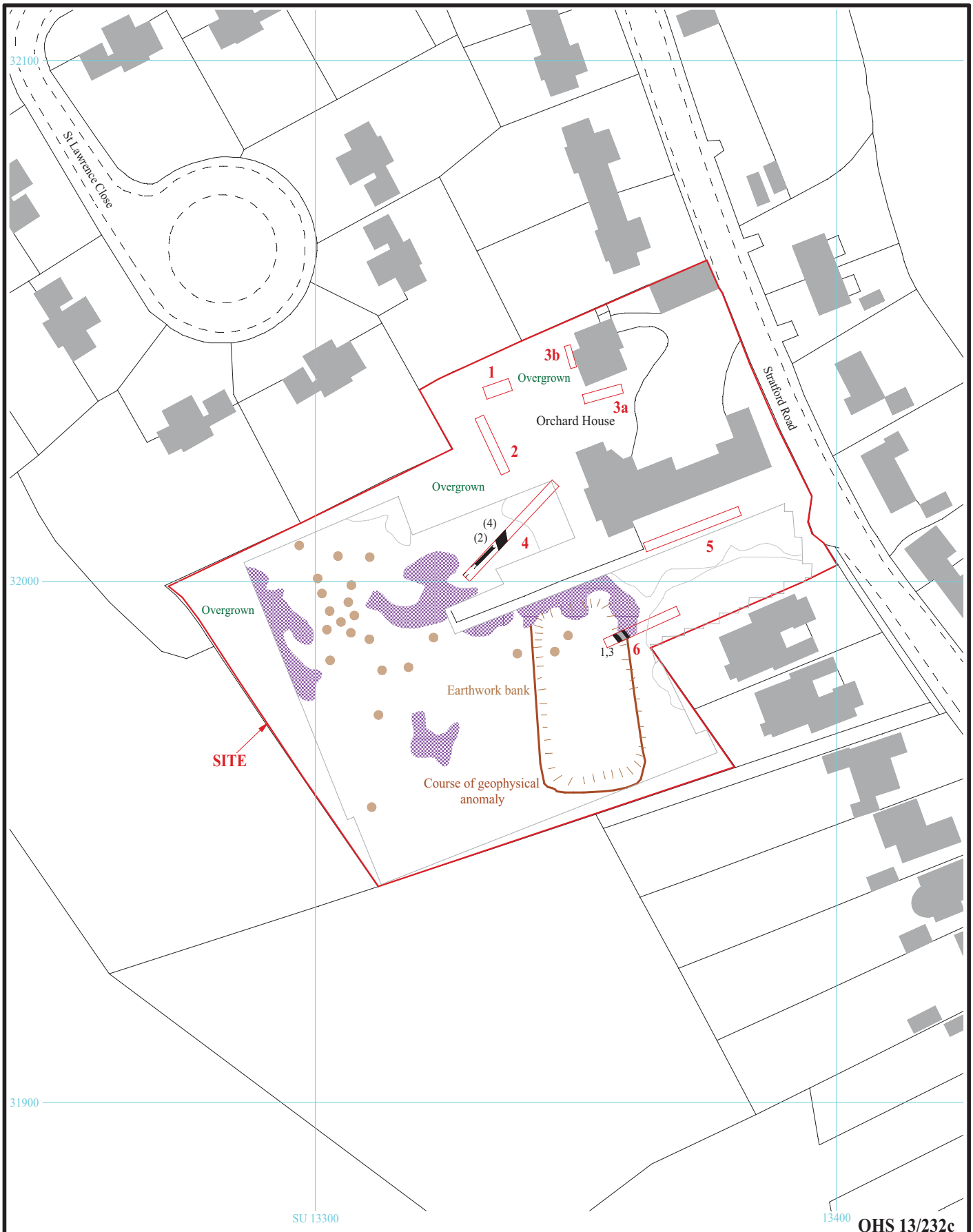

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Figure 3. Location of features and geophysical anomalies.

0 50m

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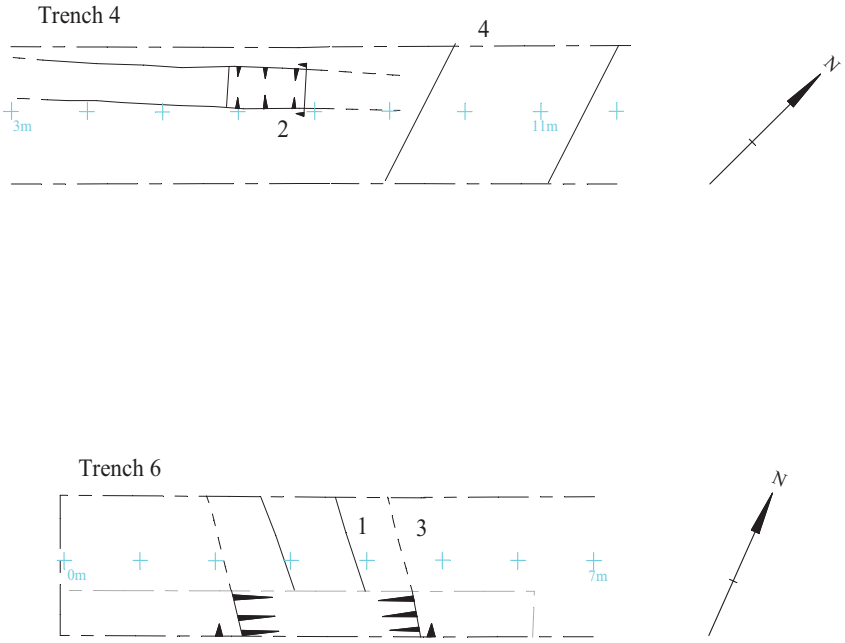

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Figure 4. Plan of trenches.

0 5m

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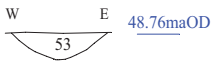
Trench 4



2

Trench 6

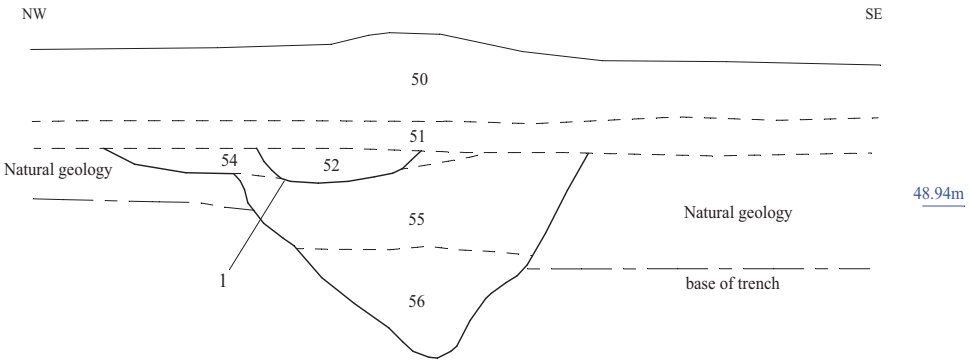


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Figure 5. Sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Trench 4, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

Plate 2. Trench 6, looking north east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 4, gully 2, looking south, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

Plate 4. Trench 6, ditch 3 and gully 1, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

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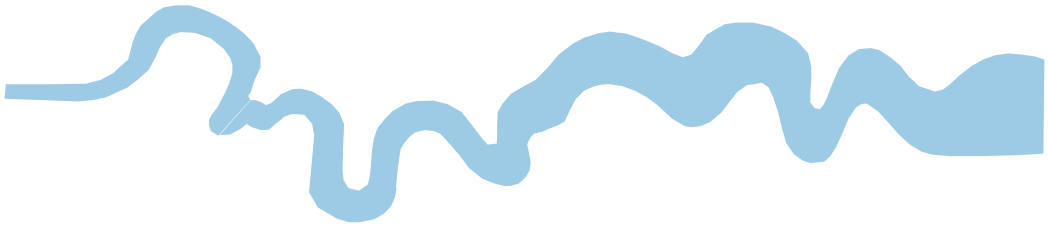
TIME CHART

	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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