

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Daniel Bray and Daniel Strachan**

**Site Code: LCB15/79**

**(SP 6991 0920)**

**18 Chearsley Road,  
Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**for Mr J Austen-Smith**

by Daniel Bray and Daniel Strachan

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LCB 15/79

**May 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** 18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire

**Grid reference:** SP 6991 0920

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Daniel Strachan

**Site code:** LCB 15/79

**Area of site:** c. 2000 sq m

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation revealed a high density of ditches and pits dating mainly to the Iron Age with some Roman activity also. The site can be considered as having high archaeological potential.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: [www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 29.05.15 Steve Preston ✓ 29.05.15
---

# 18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Daniel Bray and Daniel Strachan

Report 15/79

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire (SP6990 0920) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jake Collinge, JCPC Ltd, 5 Buttermarket, Thame, OX9 3EW on behalf of Mr J Austen-Smith, 18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.

Outline planning permission (15/00553/AOP) has been sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council to re-develop part of the land as a new house at 18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire. The site lies within an archaeological notification area and as a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a field observation was requested. A single component of work was proposed at this stage, a field evaluation by means of machine trenching.

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 Phillip Markham, Senior Archaeology Planning Officer at Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service, who advises the Local Planning Authority in archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Strachan and Benedikt Tebbit on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2015 and the site code is LCB 15/79. The archive is currently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire Museums Services in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the garden of 18 Chearsley Road which lies on the southern side of the road in the village of Long Crendon overlooking the church to the southwest (Fig. 2). The site is slightly uneven; sloping downward towards the southwest into a valley containing what appears to be a natural pond/marsh. The underlying geology is described as Portland Sand Formation – Limestone and Calcareous Sandstone (BGS 1994) which was observed in the trench. The site lies at an average of 105.7m aOD.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the environs of the site has recently been summarised in detail by Buckinghamshire County Council's *Long Crendon: Historic Town Assessment Report* (BCC 2009). The site lies within or marginal to the historic core of the settlement within the Church End focus. The settlement is mentioned in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002) and it is anticipated that any Saxon origins to the settlement will be in the general vicinity to the Church. The site lies *c.* 90m northeast of the Parish Church which has 12<sup>th</sup> century origins. A medieval manorial complex lies to the southeast of the church. A comprehensive set of historic maps in the study show that the site has been undeveloped since early post-medieval times.

Of similar significance is the presence of Iron Age and/or Roman occupation at locations just to the northeast of the site. One set of observations recorded deposits in a water trench (Carstairs 1984) and another small investigation recorded Iron Age deposits (Cowell 1978). Roman pottery is also recorded just to the south west of the site. It is suggested that Chearsley Road itself is of Roman origin (BCC 2009). However evaluation to the east revealed nothing of archaeological interest (McNicoll-Norbury 2014).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the evaluation were to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of the proposed development. This was to be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation in-situ, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. The specific research aims of this project were;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- to determine whether archaeological deposits relating to Iron Age or Roman settlement were present; and
- to determine whether archaeological deposits relating to late Saxon and medieval settlement were present.

It was proposed to excavate two trenches *c.* 10m in length and 1.6m wide in the location of the new development using a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and to be monitored by an archaeologist. The archaeological deposits were sufficiently dug and recorded, pending further excavation and investigation of the site.

## Results

Both trenches were dug close to the intended positions and both measured 1.60m wide (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned N - S and was 9.50m long and 0.54m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil above 0.23m of mid-brownish grey sandy silt subsoil overlying the natural green grey limestone geology. Quarry pit 8 was recorded at the northern end of the trench which was 3.00m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.35m. To the south of the quarry pit, three ditches were observed (9-11) of which only one ditch (9) was excavated. This ditch was aligned east-west and was 1.60m wide and 0.40m deep with steep sides and flat base. Four sherds of residual Iron Age pottery were recovered from the single dark grey brown sandy silt fill (59) along with two sherds of Roman pottery. Unexcavated ditches 10 and 11 were aligned east-west and north east-south west respectively.

### Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned E - W and was 10.80m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil and 0.26m of mid-brownish grey sandy silt subsoil overlying natural geology. At the eastern end of the trench linear 1 was observed. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from the upper fill (50) which was a grey brown in colour and silty sand in composition. The primary deposit of this ditch was a light yellow brown silty sandy (51) which produced no finds. Directly south, pit 2 was 1.00m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.50m but not bottomed. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery and animal bone was recovered. The relationship between ditch 1 and pit 2 was unclear. To the west of these was pit 3 which was 1.04m and 0.51m deep and produced five sherds of Iron pottery and the partial skeleton of a dog and other animal bone remains. Further west of this, ditch 6 was observed truncating pit 4 and 5. The relationship between the latter two was unclear. The ditch was 0.90m wide and 0.18m deep and three sherds of Iron Age pottery and animal bone fragments were recovered. At the western end of the trench pit 7 was recorded which 1.00m wide and 0.53m deep. Two sherds of Iron Age pottery and animal bone including pig was recovered. An unexcavated linear feature 12 aligned north east-south west was partially revealed at the western end of the trench.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn*

The pottery assemblage comprised 18 sherds with a total weight of 135g. It was all Iron Age or Romano-British.

The following fabric types were noted:

#### **Iron Age**

**IA 1: Fine Shell.** Sparse to moderate shell fragments up to 3mm, most 1mm or less. 11 sherds, 85g.

**IA 2: Sandy.** Moderate to dense fine quartz up to 0.2mm. 3 sherds, 21g.

**IA 3: Coarse Shell.** Moderate to dense shell fragments up to 5mm. 2 sherds, 22g.

The range of fabric types is typical of Iron Age sites in the region (eg. Knight, 1993). The vessels are all hand-built, and likely to be of middle-late Iron Age date.

#### **Roman**

The Roman pottery was recorded using the coding system of the Milton Keynes Archaeological Unit type-series (Marney 1989), as follows:

**F3: Grey Sandy Ware,** late 1st – 4<sup>th</sup> century. 2 sherds, 7g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. The sherds are all in good condition, and appear to be reliably stratified

### *Animal Bone by Will Attard*

The animal bone assemblage reported here was both hand collected from 7 contexts, recovered during both excavation and from the sieving of soil samples. 47 fragments were recovered, weighing in total 262g (Appendix 4). The material recovered varies widely in quality of preservation from poorly preserved fragments through to well preserved intact elements (including a small quantity of articulated material, detailed below). It should be noted that despite the fragmentary nature of much of the assemblage, evidence of significant surface erosion is present on only one fragment (the sole fragment recovered from deposit 56). Approximately 40% (19/47) of the elements recovered were identifiable to a species level. Where the bone was too fragmentary for specific identification, specimens have been assigned to one of three categories, namely:

Small Animal (cat, dog, rabbit)

Medium Animal (sheep/goat, deer, pig)

Large Animal (cattle or horse).

Of all specifically identifiable elements, only two species are represented, namely dog and pig. Whilst dog was found only 1 deposit, pig was recovered from 3 separate deposits.

Dog was represented by a several elements, all from pit 3. Notably, this included 3 articulated thoracic vertebrae and a skull with mandible (complete aside from postmortem damage) and with a near-complete dental set (upper right canine/upper incisors notwithstanding). Also present were two metapodials (tentatively identified as 4th and 5th respectively), one phalange and one rib. The mandible measures 123.4mm in length, with adult teeth present, suggesting an animal more than a year in age. This is corroborated by the presence of wear to the distal end of both lower canines. Of the material identified to species level, 13 of the 19 specimens represent dog (68.4%).

Pig was represented by two fragments of mandible (from separate contexts), a handful of teeth, one lumbar vertebra and a fragmented piece of scapula. The vertebra is small (25.6mm x 14.2mm) and the pads of the centrum are unfused, suggesting a juvenile animal. None of the pig remains display cut marks or other evidence of butchery.

There was a complete lack of duplicated skeletal elements in the assemblage, leaving the MNI as 1 pig, 1 dog, 1 small animal and 1 medium animal. Of the total assemblage, just under 60% was recovered from a single context (53), including all of the dog remains and 13 small animal fragments.

### *Fired Clay* by Daniel Bray

A single fragment of fired clay weighing 18g which had a maximum length of 51mm, width of 27mm and was 18mm deep was recovered from ditch 9. The fragment which is brownish red in colour has rounded edges and organic impressions are visible on the interior surface. The fragment might be part of a mould or loom weight.

### *Sieved Soil Samples* by Daniel Bray

A total of 4 samples, all 10 litres and taken during the evaluation were processed. The flots were sieved to 0.25mm and air dried and the resultant flots examined. No macrobotanical plant seeds were present. A small quantity of charcoal was present in samples <1> [2] (52) and <3> [7] (57)



## Conclusion

The evaluation was successful in confirming the archaeological potential of the site. A high density of ditches and pits dating mainly to the middle to late Iron Age were recorded with two sherds of Roman pottery from a ditch hinting at later activity on the site. Both Iron Age and Roman material has been found in the local vicinity. No deposits of Saxon or Medieval date were present. The site is considered to have archaeological potential

## References

- BCC, 2009, *Long Crendon: Historic Town Assessment Report*, Buckinghamshire County Council
- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Carstairs, P, 1984, 'Iron Age occupation at Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire', *Recs Bucks* **26**, 92-101
- Cowell, R, 1978, 'Middle Iron Age pottery from Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire', *Recs Bucks* **20**, 617-20
- Knight, D, 1993, Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Pottery from Pennyland and Hartigans in R J Williams, *Pennyland and Hartigans. Two Iron Age and Saxon Sites in Milton Keynes* Bucks Archaeol Soc Monog Ser 4
- Marney, PT, 1989, *Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes, 1972-82* Buckinghamshire Archaeol Soc Monog Ser 2
- McNicol-Norbury J, 2014, 18C Chearsley Road, Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 14/08, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	9.50m	1.60m	0.54m	0-0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.44m subsoil, 0.44m+ natural geology (light pale greeny grey limestone) Quarry pit 8, Ditch 9, unexcavated ditches 10 and 11 [Pl. 1]
2	10.80m	1.60m	0.62m	0-0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.46m subsoil, 0.46m+ natural geology. Ditches 1, 6 and 12, Pits 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. [Pls 2-4]

## APPENDIX 2: Feature details

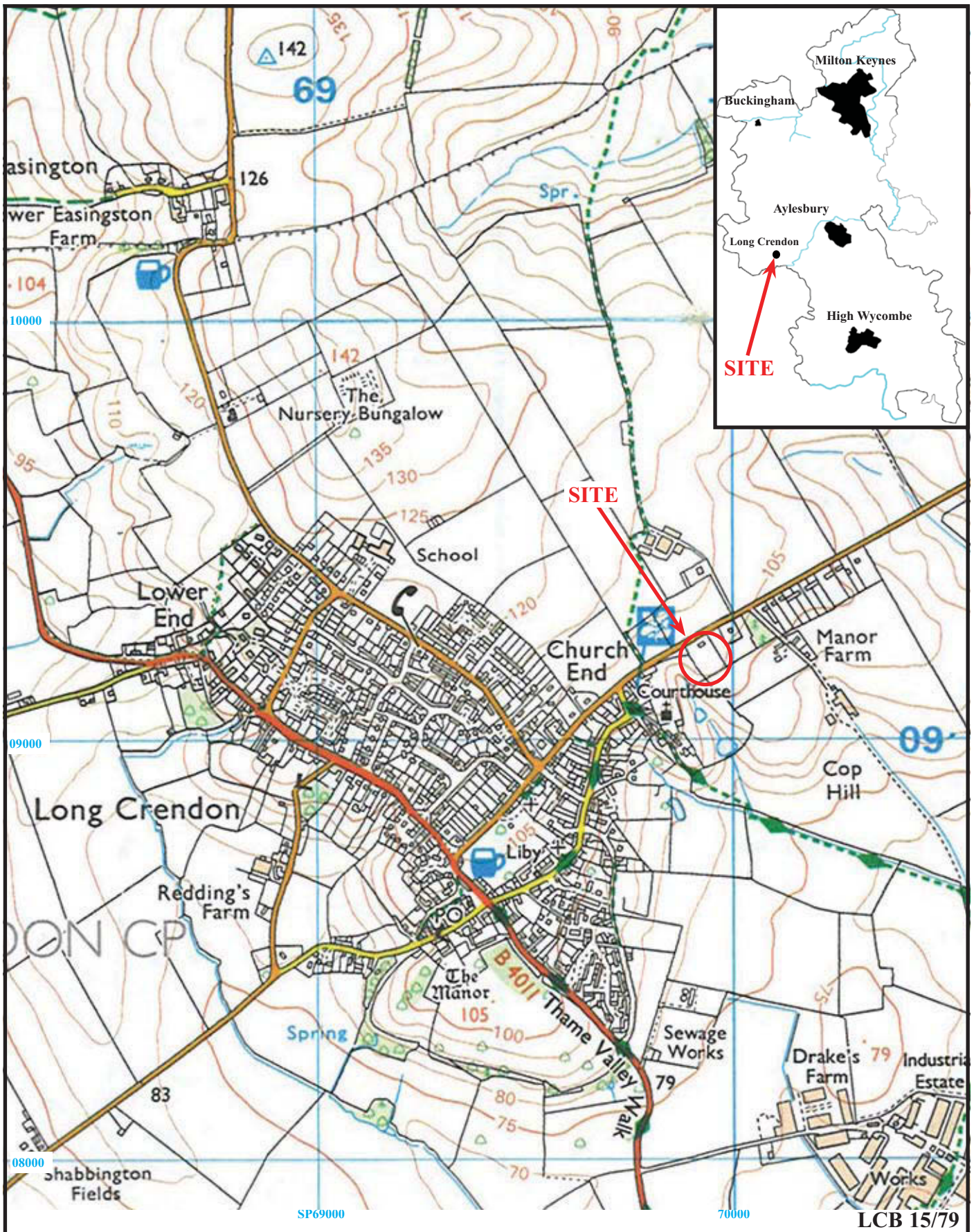
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	8	58	Quarry pit		
1	9	59	Ditch	Roman?	Pottery
1	10	62	Ditch		
1	11	63	Ditch		
2	1	50	Ditch		
2	1	51	Ditch	MIA – LIA	Pottery
2	2	52	Pit	MIA – LIA	Pottery
2	3	53	Pit	MIA – LIA	Pottery
2	4	54	Pit		
2	5	55	Pit		
2	6	56	Ditch	MIA – LIA	Pottery
2	7	57	Pit	MIA – LIA	Pottery
2	12	64	Ditch		

## APPENDIX 3: Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type.

Cut	Fill	IA1	IA2	IA3	F3				
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
1	51					1	13		
2	52	1	15						
3	53	3	5	1	2	1	9		
6	56	3	22						
7	57	2	6						
9	59	2	37	2	19			2	7
	Tot al	11	85	3	21	2	22	2	7

## APPENDIX 4: Animal Bone catalogue

Cut	Deposit	Sample	No Fragments	Wt (g)	Pig	Dog	Medium animal	Small animal
1	51		2	22	1		1	
2	52	1	8	28	1		4	3
3	53	2	28	152		12	3	13
6	56		1	4				1
7	57	3	6	50	3		1	2
9	59		2	16			2	
		Total:	47	262				
				MNI	1	1	1	1



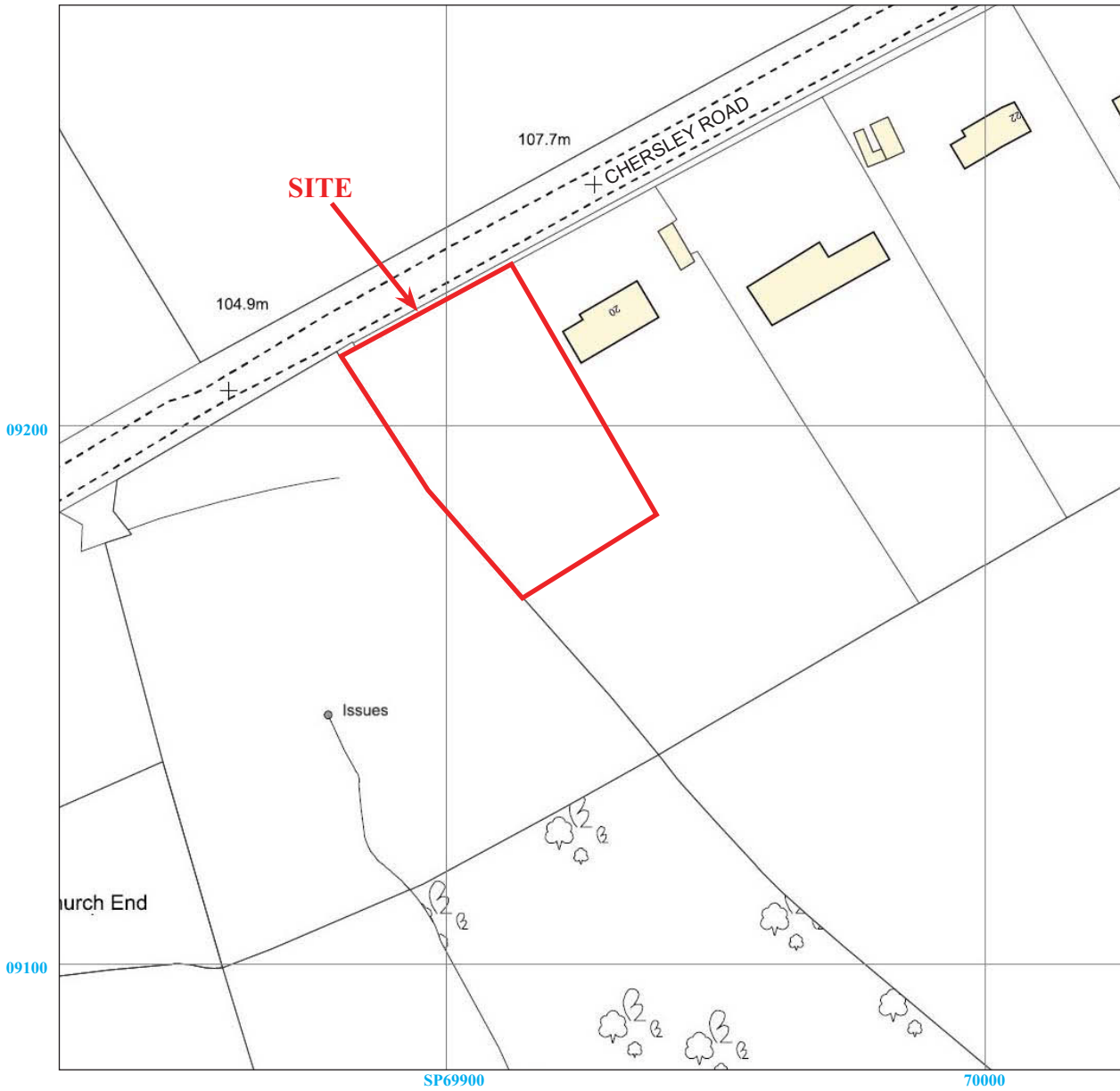
**18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Long Crendon and Buckinghamshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 180 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





LCB 15/79

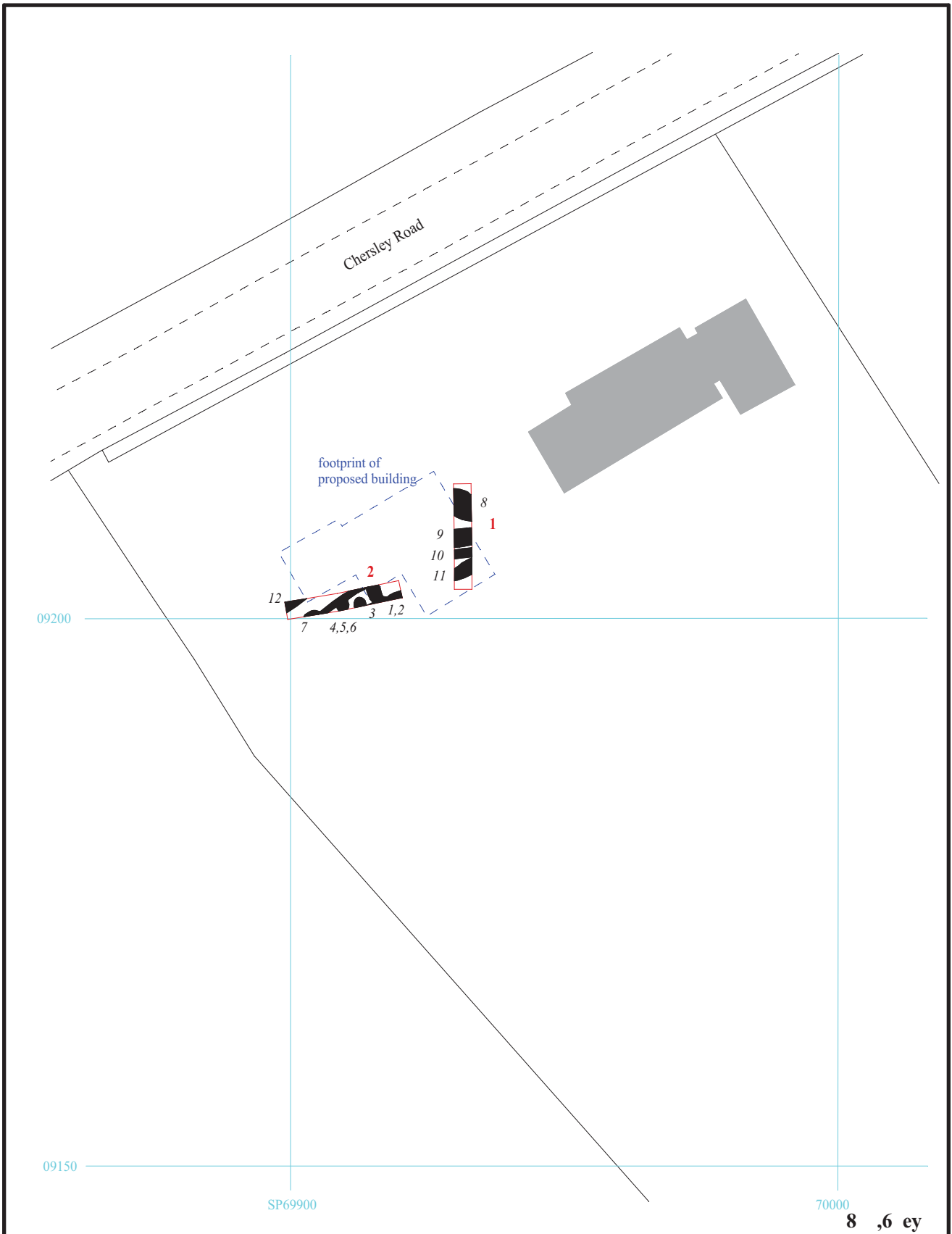


**18 Chersley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chersley Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



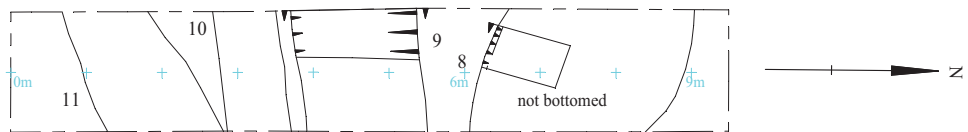
**18 Chersley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

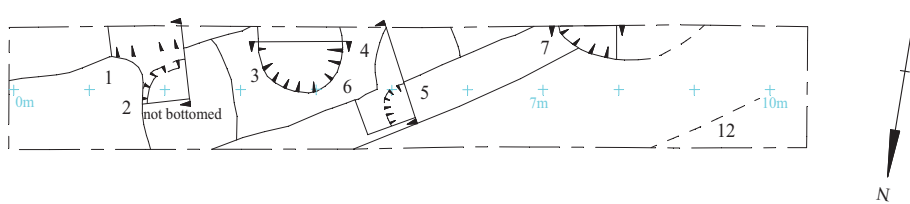


THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

Trench 1



Trench 2



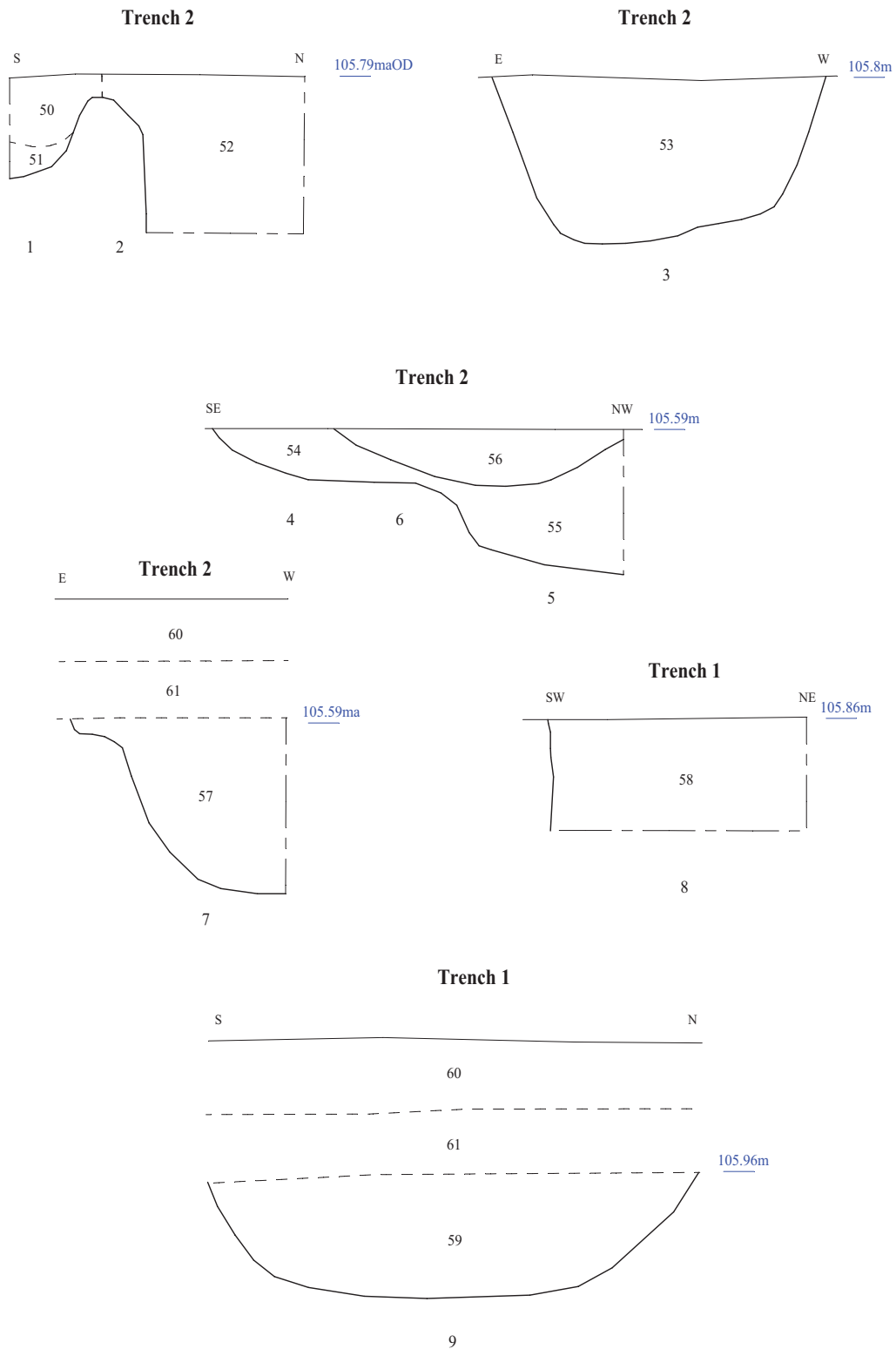
LCB 15/79

18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



LCB 15/79

18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



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



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

LCB 15/79

**18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 - 2.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





Plate 3. Trench 2, relation of ditch slot 1 and pit 2, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 2, pit 7, looking south, Scales: 0.5m.

LCB 15/79

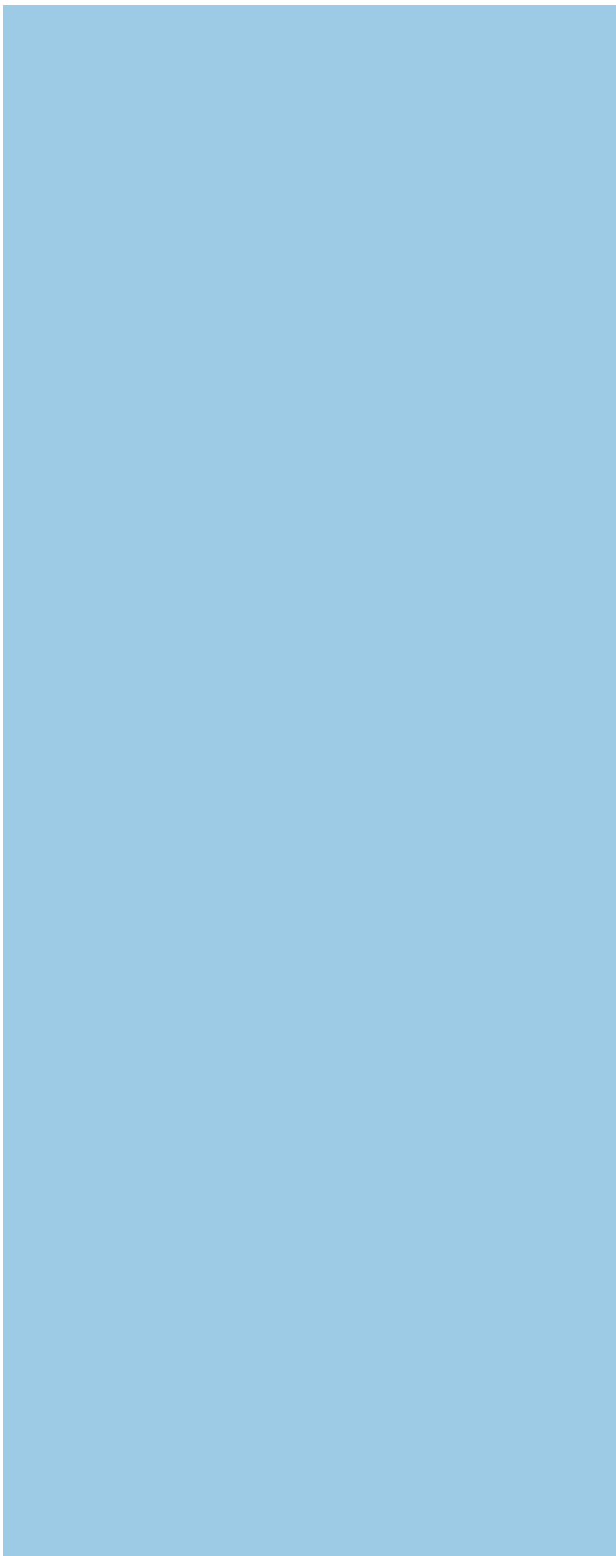
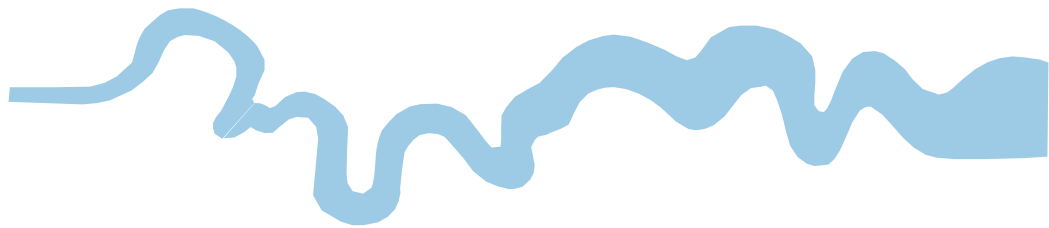
18 Chearsley Road, Long Crendon,  
Buckinghamshire, 2015  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,  
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Fax: 0118 9260553  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**