

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**23 Castle Walk
Calne, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: CWC15/189

(ST 9940 7095)

**23 Castle Walk,
Calne, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Armour Heritage**

by James McNicoll-Norbury
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CWC 15/189

September 2015

Summary

Site name: 23 Castle Walk, Calne, Wiltshire

Grid reference: ST 9940 7095

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 25th-26th August 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: CWC 15/189

Area of site: 0.1ha

Summary of results: The evaluation did not reveal any archaeological deposits.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 16.09.15 Andrew Munding 15.9.15
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23 Castle Walk, Calne, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 15/189

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 23 Castle Walk, Calne, Wiltshire (ST 9940 7095) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DP.

A planning application (15/06420/FUL) has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for the construction of a two-storey dwelling and driveway on the site. The results of a field evaluation in the form of test pits within the footprint of the proposed building are required in order to provide sufficient information on the archaeological potential of the site so as to mitigate the effects of the development.

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 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Benedikt Tebbit between 25th and 26th August 2015 and the site code is CWC 15/189. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Wiltshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Castle Walk which itself lies on the southern edge of Calne, 8km southeast from Chippenham in Wiltshire (Fig. 1). The site is comprised of terraced and sloped gardens and is bounded by hedgerows to the east and west, Castle Walk to the north and a small area of woodland to the south, the underlying geology is described as Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1993) and the site lies at 76m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The archaeological background of the site has been summarized in a written scheme of investigation prepared by Armour Heritage (AH 2015). In summary, the site lies just outside the Calne Conservation Area and in an

area where a range of sites and findspots of several periods are recorded in the Historic Environment Record. Several of these, of prehistoric date, are in the close vicinity of the site.

To the west (at 27 Castle Walk), a small assemblage of Mesolithic flints artefacts, including cores and tools were recorded. At the north east of the town, an Iron Age settlement site was discovered during excavation and a gold coin of similar date was reported c.1km to the east. To the north, a Bronze Age burial along with a slate wrist guard was excavated in the mid-19th century at a quarry site. Within 200m of the site, Iron Age through to medieval remains are recorded on Castle Hill, though there is little else of Roman date recorded, comprising findspots of pottery and two Roman coffins off London Road to the south of the site.

Later periods are represented by the church, listed in Domesday Book, and although the existing St Mary's Church dates to the 12th century, it is likely this was positioned on the same site (WCAS 2004). Saxon pottery has been recorded in the town during evaluation trenching on Church Street, and early medieval pottery was recovered during a watching brief within the grounds of Castle House. No obvious castle remains are visible today, though various construction works at Castle House have recorded substantial building foundations, which may relate to a defensive structure.

A Scheduled Monument is located approximately 1.1km to the south at Pinhills Farm, and comprises a moated site and fishpond, and Calne has a number of historic buildings.

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.

Five test pits were to be dug by hand measuring 1m x 1m within the footprint of the proposed building down to the depth of the archaeological horizon by suitably qualified archaeologists. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds and archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned prior to recording.

Results

The test pits were dug as intended within the building footprint (fig. 3) and measured 1m x 1m and were up to 0.94m deep. During excavation, a variety of post-medieval and modern finds of clay pipe, glass, brick, tile and metal were recovered, which suggest that the deposits dug through were all of 19th century or later date. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Test Pit 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

Test pit 1 was located at the NW corner of the proposed building and was 0.94m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil, 0.32m yellow brown silty clay and 0.40m grey brown silty clay with limestone inclusions (subsoil) which in turn overlay chalky grey brown silty clay natural geology.

Test Pit 2 (Figs 3 and 4)

Test pit 2 was located at the NE corner of the proposed building and was 0.82m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.50m grey silty clay with limestone inclusions (subsoil) and 0.10m brown silty clay subsoil overlying natural yellowish brown clay natural.

Test Pit 3 (Figs 3 and 4)

Test pit 3 was located at the SE corner of the proposed building and was 0.77m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.34m mottled yellow brown clay and grey silty clay and 0.20m grey silty clay with limestone inclusions (subsoil) overlying natural clay geology.

Test Pit 4 (Figs 3 and 4)

Test pit 4 was located at the SW corner of the proposed building and was 0.93m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.36m dark yellow brown silty clay with brick and clay pipe, 0.37m grey silty clay with limestone inclusions (subsoil) overlying natural clay geology.

Test Pit 5 (Figs 3 and 4)

Test pit 5 was located in the centre of the proposed building and was 0.88m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.34m dark yellow brown silty clay with brick and clay pipe, 0.29m grey silty clay with limestone inclusions (subsoil) overlying natural geology.

Finds

A number of post-medieval and modern finds were found throughout each layer encountered as were two earlier sherds of medieval pottery, considered residual.

Conclusion

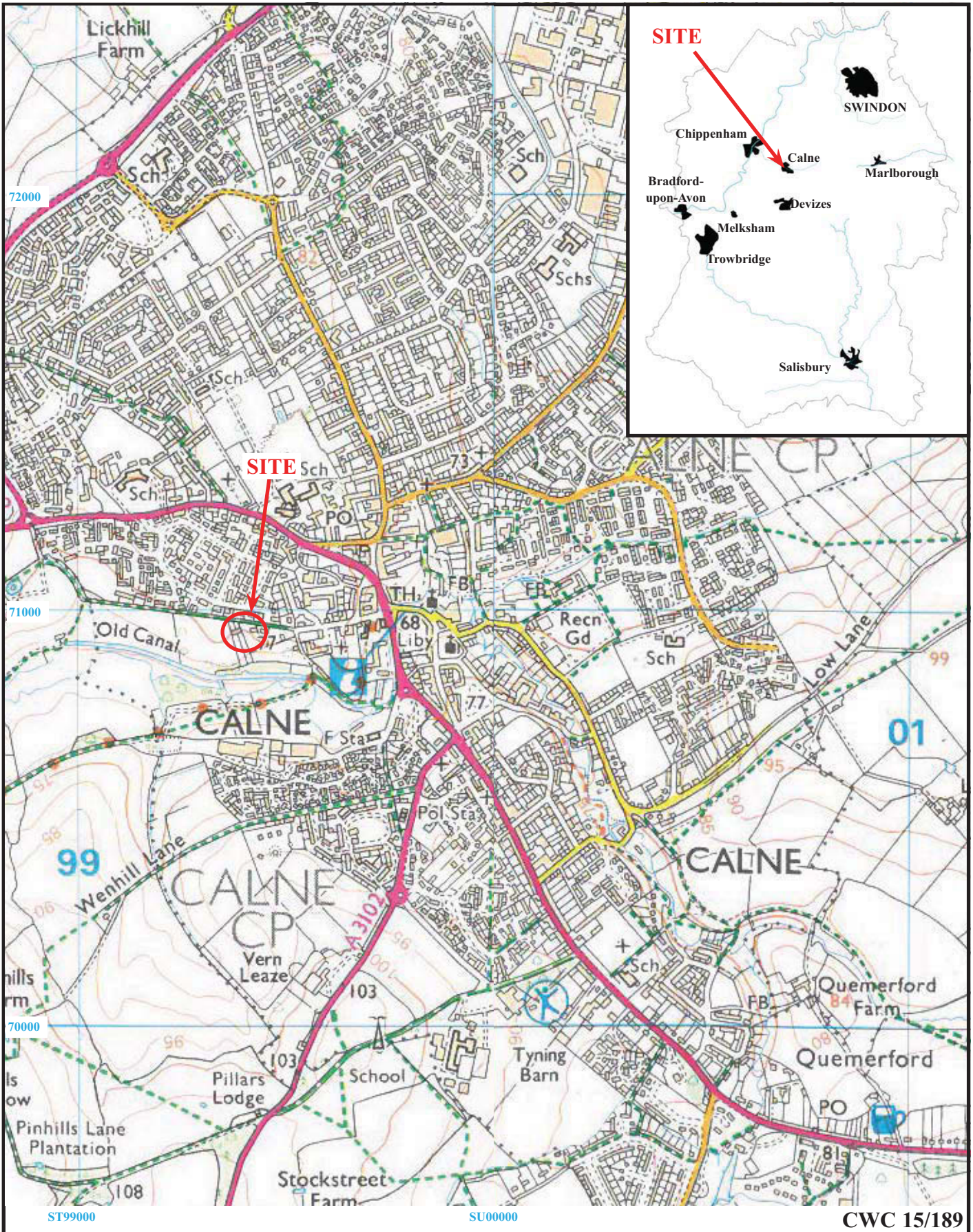
The stratigraphy encountered during the digging of the test pits would suggest that the site has been previously built up, which is further suggested by the terraced garden and the differing levels between where the proposed building is to be located and the existing building, as well as the building next door. Despite the terracing it is likely that the natural geology has not been significantly disturbed on the site due to the presence of subsoil encountered in each of the test pits, however no archaeological deposits were identified. The presence of two small fragments of earlier pottery included with the post-medieval to early modern material suggests that these can be considered to be residual and were most likely brought in with the material used for levelling the site.

References

- AH, 2015, '23 Castle Walk, Calne, Wiltshire: Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Test Pitting',
Armour Heritage, Frome
- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 266, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Test Pit Details

<i>Test Pit</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	1	1	0.94	0-0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.54m made ground, 0.54-0.94m subsoil, 0.86m+ natural geology
2	1	1	0.82	0-0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.73m subsoil, 0.73-0.83m brown clay, 0.83m+ natural geology
3	1	1	0.77	0-0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.57m made ground, 0.57-0.77m subsoil, 0.77m+ natural geology
4	1	1	0.93	0-0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.56m made ground, 0.56-0.93m subsoil, 0.93m+ natural geology
5	1	1	0.88	0-0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.57m made ground, 0.57-0.86m subsoil, 0.86m+ natural geology



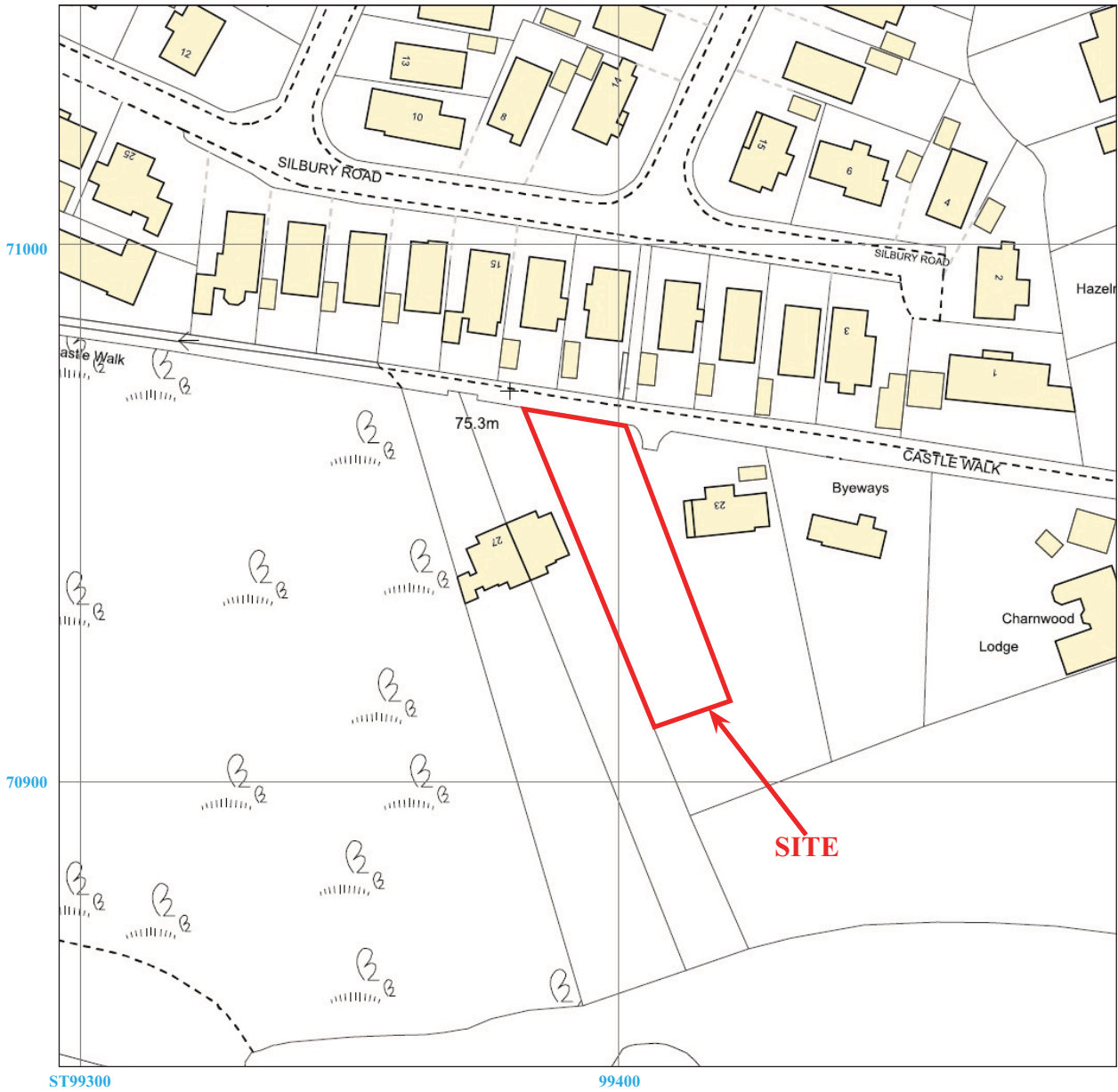
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Archaeological Evaluation (Test Pit)

Figure 1. Location of site within Calne and Wiltshire.

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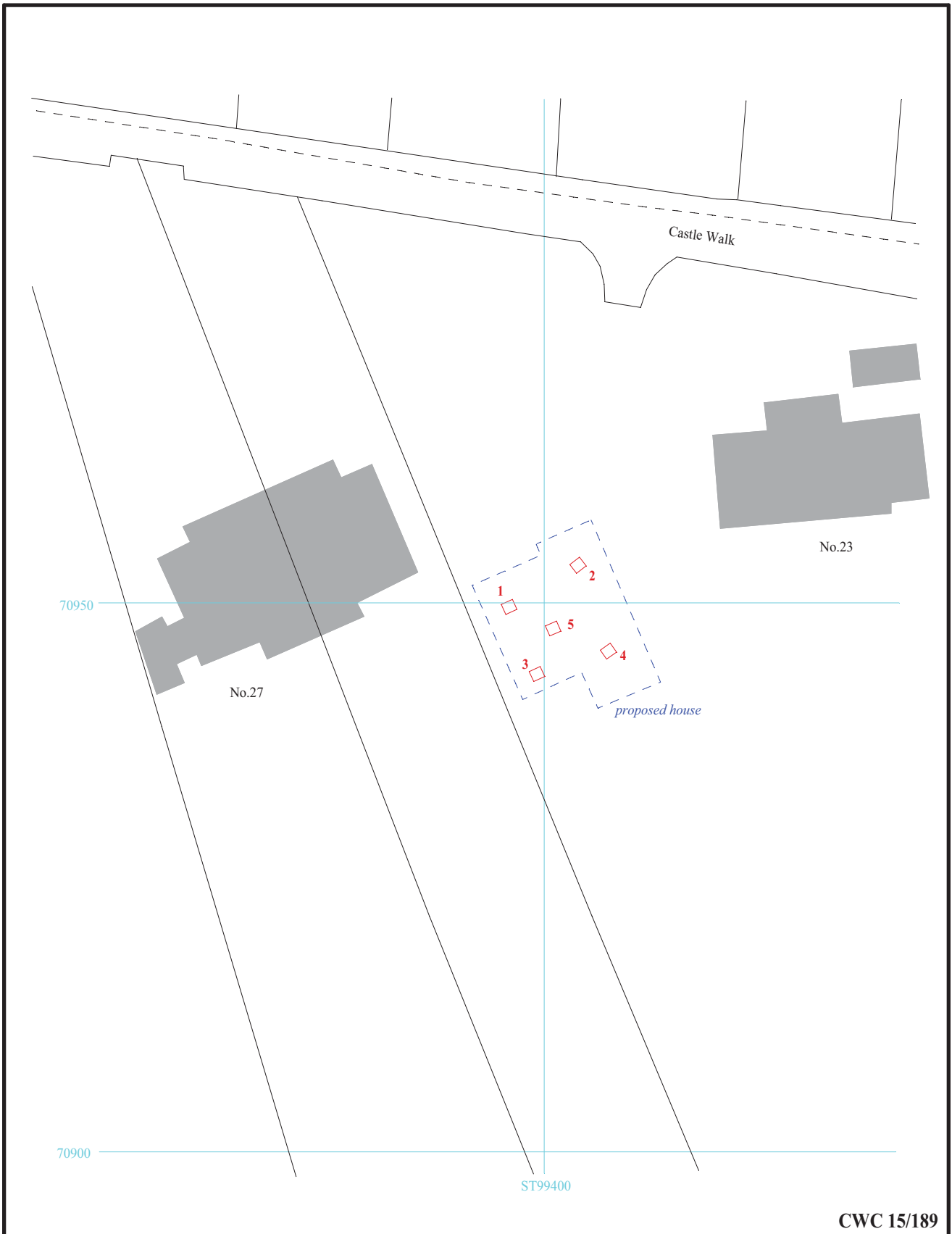
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Archaeological Evaluation (Test Pit)

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Castle Walk.

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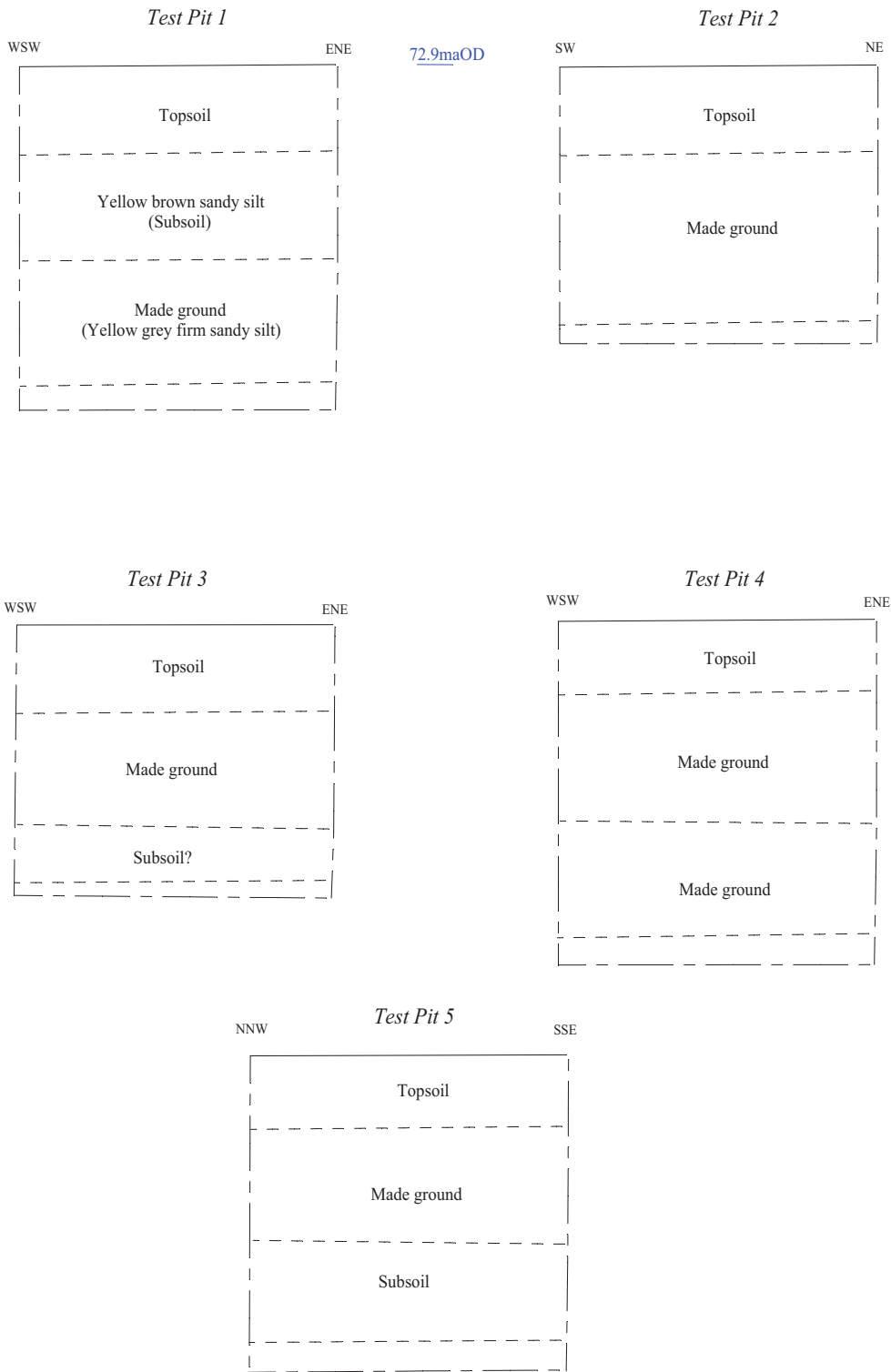


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Figure 3. Location of Test Pits.



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Figure 4. Sections.





Plate 1. Test Pit 1, looking south west,
Scales: 2x1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Test Pit 2, looking south east,
Scales: 2x1m and 0.5m.



Plate 3. Test Pit 3, looking south west,
Scales: 2x1m and 0.5m.



Plate 4. Test Pit 4, looking south,
Scales: 2x1m and 0.5m.

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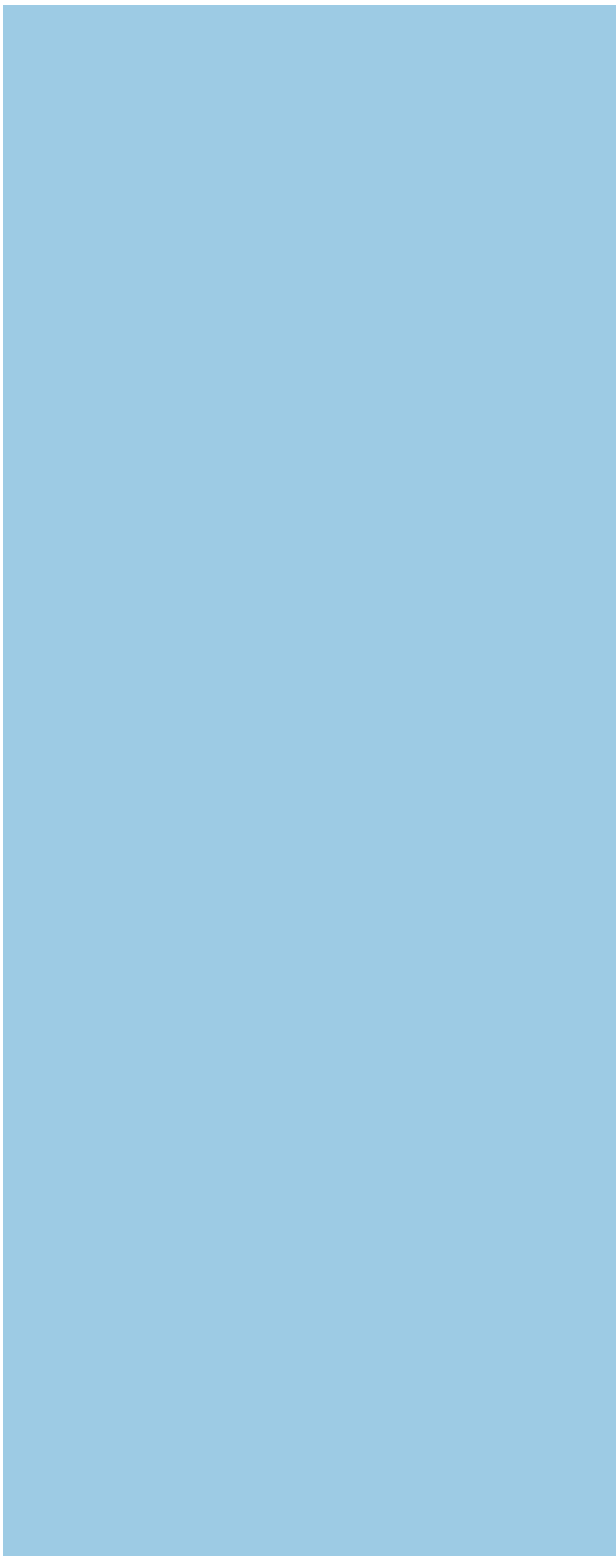
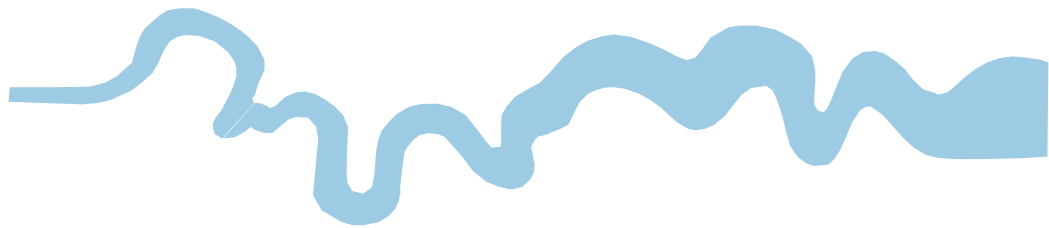
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Plates 1 - 4.

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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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