

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 Calleywell Lane, Aldington,  
Ashford, Kent**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Teresa Vieira**

**Site Code: CLA15/64**

**(TR 0612 3701)**

# **Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Bouygues UK Ltd**

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CLA15/64

**October 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent

**Grid reference:** TR 0612 3701

**Planning reference:** 12/01457/AS

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 19th March – 11th May 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Teresa Vieira

**Site code:** CLA 15/64

**Area of site:** c. 0.72ha

**Summary of results:** The watching brief successfully investigated those parts of the site which were to be most affected by the creation of a new carehome complex. The only archaeological features observed were a pit and probable post-hole, possibly dating from the medieval period, which were identified close to the northern edge of the site. The stratigraphy observed elsewhere on the site indicated that the area had not been significantly disturbed in the past.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with a local approved museum in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 23.10.15 Steve Preston✓ 19.10.15
---

# Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

**Report 15/64**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on a parcel of land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent (centred on TR 0612 3701) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Thomas of Bouygues UK Ltd, Denne Court, Hengist Field, Borden, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8FH.

Planning permission (12/01457/AS) had been gained from Ashford Borough Council to construct a new carehome complex on the site. The permission is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

Due to the potential for archaeological deposits to be present on the site, an archaeological watching brief was required during groundworks. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation. The fieldwork was carried out by Sean Wallis and Teresa Vieira between 19th March and 11th May 2015, and the site code is CLA 15/64. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading, and will be deposited with a local approved museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site lies immediately east of Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford, Kent (Fig. 2). Prior to the commencement of groundworks, the site had been a small arable field. The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 75m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Hythe Beds (BGS 1974): the geology observed on site was Kentish ragstone (part of the Hythe beds).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from the fact that a hoard of Roman coins was found a few hundred metres or so to the south-east of the site. Little is recorded immediately adjacent to the site itself, but a Roman settlement may be anticipated somewhere in the area. The site lies relatively close to the Roman road that forms the main street through Aldington. A number of late medieval/early post-medieval buildings are recorded in the surrounding area.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to consist primarily of monitoring any significant ground reduction and the digging of footing trenches for the new carehome. Sufficient time was to be allowed within the developer's and groundworkers' schedules to record any archaeological features revealed.

## **Results**

The groundworks for the new care home were monitored for the majority of the site and comprised the eastern part of the new access road a soakaway in the north-east corner of the site and the new buildings themselves (Fig. 3). The new care home essentially consists of three blocks (A-C), linked by corridors. For blocks A and C, the new access road and the soakaway, the areas were initially stripped down to the top of the natural geology, under archaeological supervision (Pl. 1). Once these areas were recorded, the digging of foundations commenced without further archaeological monitoring. Due to site logistics, a different approach was required for block B, and the digging of the actual footing trenches was monitored, following the removal of topsoil.

The stratigraphy recorded during the watching brief varied very little across the site, and generally consisted of about 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of orange brown sandy clay subsoil (51), overlying the natural geology (Kentish Ragstone) (Fig. 5; Pl. 2). A small amount of archaeological material (tile, slag, one sherd of pottery), probably dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods, was recovered from the topsoil (50) during stripping.

The only archaeological features recorded during the watching brief were found in the northern part of block C (Figs 4 and 5). A sub-rectangular pit (1) was half-sectioned (Pl. 3), and eighteen medieval pottery sherds recovered from its single fill of dark greyish brown silty clay (52), along with animal bone. The pit was 3.50m long and 2.90m wide, but only 0.30m deep, with a flattish irregular base.

A possible post-hole (2) was recorded in one corner of the pit during excavation, but unfortunately the relationship between the two features could not be determined (Pl. 4). No finds were recovered from the mid greyish brown silty clay fill (53) of this post-hole, which measured 0.30m in diameter and was 0.18m deep.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Luke Barber*

The archaeological monitoring recovered a small assemblage of pottery from the site. A single abraded 6g oxidized bodysherd, tempered with moderate fine quartz, was recovered from stripping (context 50). Although not particularly diagnostic in isolation a 14th to 15th century date is probable.

The remainder of the pottery was recovered from pit 1 (52). This deposit produced a small, slightly ambiguous group of sherds dominated by sandy wares. All appear to have suffered slightly in an acidic burial environment but otherwise do not appear to have seen substantial reworking. The largest sherds are from the base of a reduced sandy ware jar (3/86g) of Canterbury Sandy Ware type (Canterbury fabric EM1). The other sandy sherds (10 sherds, 34g) all consist of featureless bodysherds from perhaps five further vessels. There are also five small sherds (24g) of shell tempered pottery, mostly oxidized. Although most can be comfortably paralleled with Canterbury's EM2 shell tempered ware, two of the sherds are slightly unusual in also having a little organic matter incorporated. Taken together the group suggests a 12th century date to be the most likely, but some sherds could represent residual earlier pieces.

### *Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber*

A small assemblage of generally heavily abraded peg tile was recovered from the topsoil (50) during stripping. Four different tile fabrics were recovered:

**T1** A fine fabric with sparse to common calcareous inclusions (voids) to 1mm. Quite well made and medium/hard fired. Tiles measure 12-13mm thick. Probably mid 15th to 16th century, but possibly a little later. 6 fragments, weighing 88g

**T2** A fine fabric with moderate/abundant marl swirls and iron oxide/clay pellets to 1mm. Quite well made and medium fired. Tiles measure 11-12mm thick. Probably 16th to early 18th century. 2/36g

**T3** A fine fabric with sparse fine sand and occasional iron oxides and flint grits to 0.5mm. Quite well made and medium fired. Tiles measure 10mm thick. Probably 17th to 18th century. 11/71g

**T4** A fine fabric with sparse fine quartz and sparse/common iron oxides to 0.5mm. Well made and hard fired. Tiles measure 10-11mm thick. Probably 18th to 19th century. 2/14g

Overall the tile represents a background scatter from manuring during the late medieval to post-medieval period. Two small pieces (8g) of amorphous sandy burnt clay were also recovered from the topsoil (50).

### *Slag* by Luke Barber

A fairly fresh 74g piece of tap slag was recovered from the topsoil (50). This undoubtedly derived from Roman or medieval iron smelting activity, but the piece's isolation suggests this activity was not occurring in the vicinity of the current site.

### *Animal Bone* by Danielle Milbank

A modest assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone was collected during the excavation, from a single context (pit 1, 52). A total of 28 fragments were recovered, weighing 128g. The preservation of the remains was poor, with high fragmentation and frequent surface erosion. The small fragment size greatly decreased the amount of identifiable bone. Bone which was not identifiable by species was classified as being from a medium-sized animal (sheep/goat, deer or pig), and no small mammals or bird bones were identified.

Overall, the assemblage was dominated by medium-sized mammal elements, including tooth and long bone fragments. Cattle was tentatively identified by a left scapula. Sheep/goats were represented by a tooth, possible left femur, and a right metatarsal. Butchery marks were identified in the form of a neat cut across the top of the femur fragment.

Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was found to be 1 cattle and 1 sheep/goat. Nor further information could be derived from the poorly preserved remains, but over all the animal bone is likely to represent domestic consumption.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief at this site successfully examined those areas which were to be most affected by the construction of a new carehome. A medieval pit was recorded during the watching brief, in the north-eastern part of the site, along with an undated post-hole.

## **References**

BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 305/306, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth.  
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Department of Communities and Local Government, London (TSO).



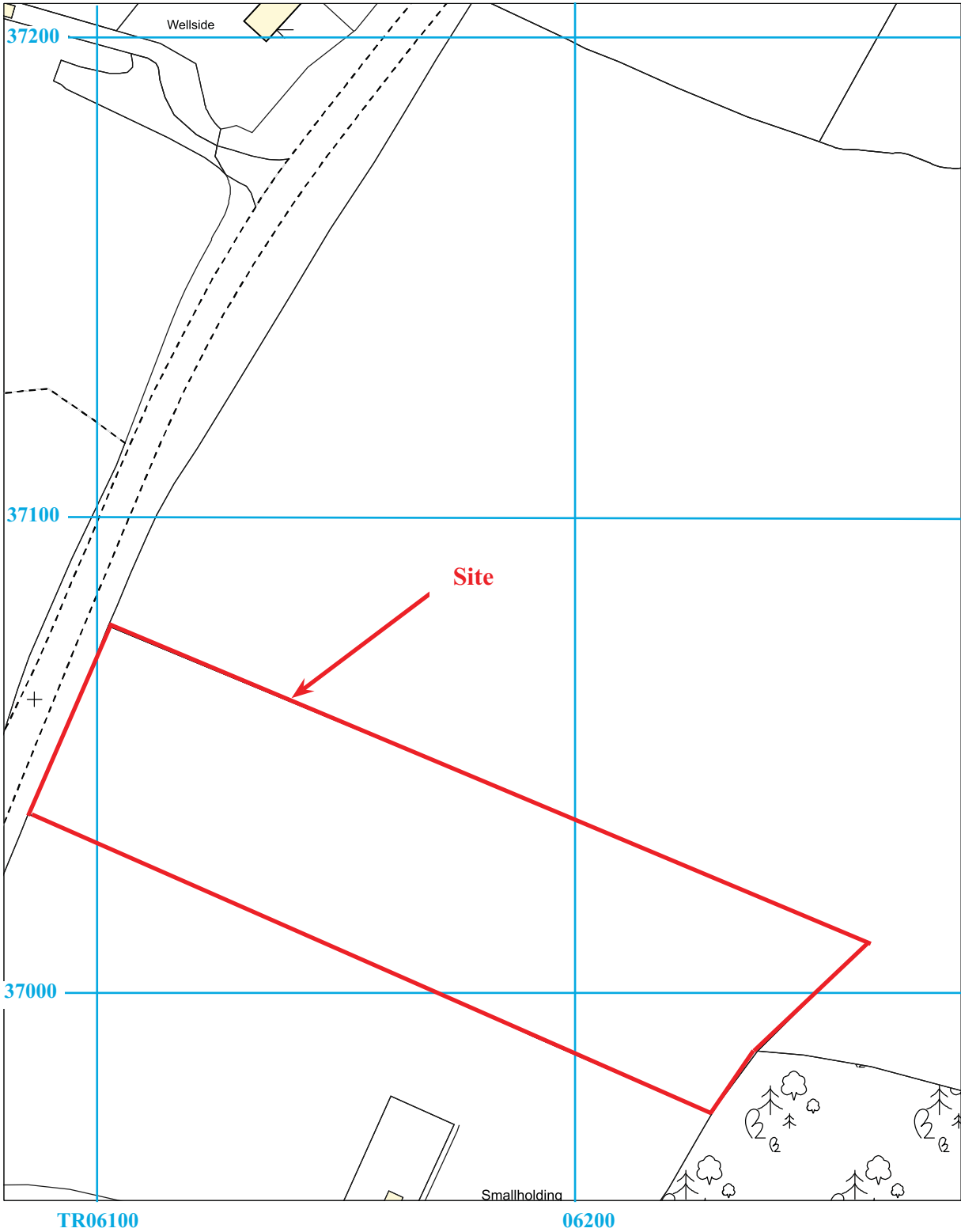
**APPENDIX 1: Feature details**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Pit	Medieval	Pottery
2	53	Post hole	Undated	None



**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford,  
Kent, 2015**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
 Figure 1. Location of site within Aldington and Kent.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 137 at 1:12500  
 Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



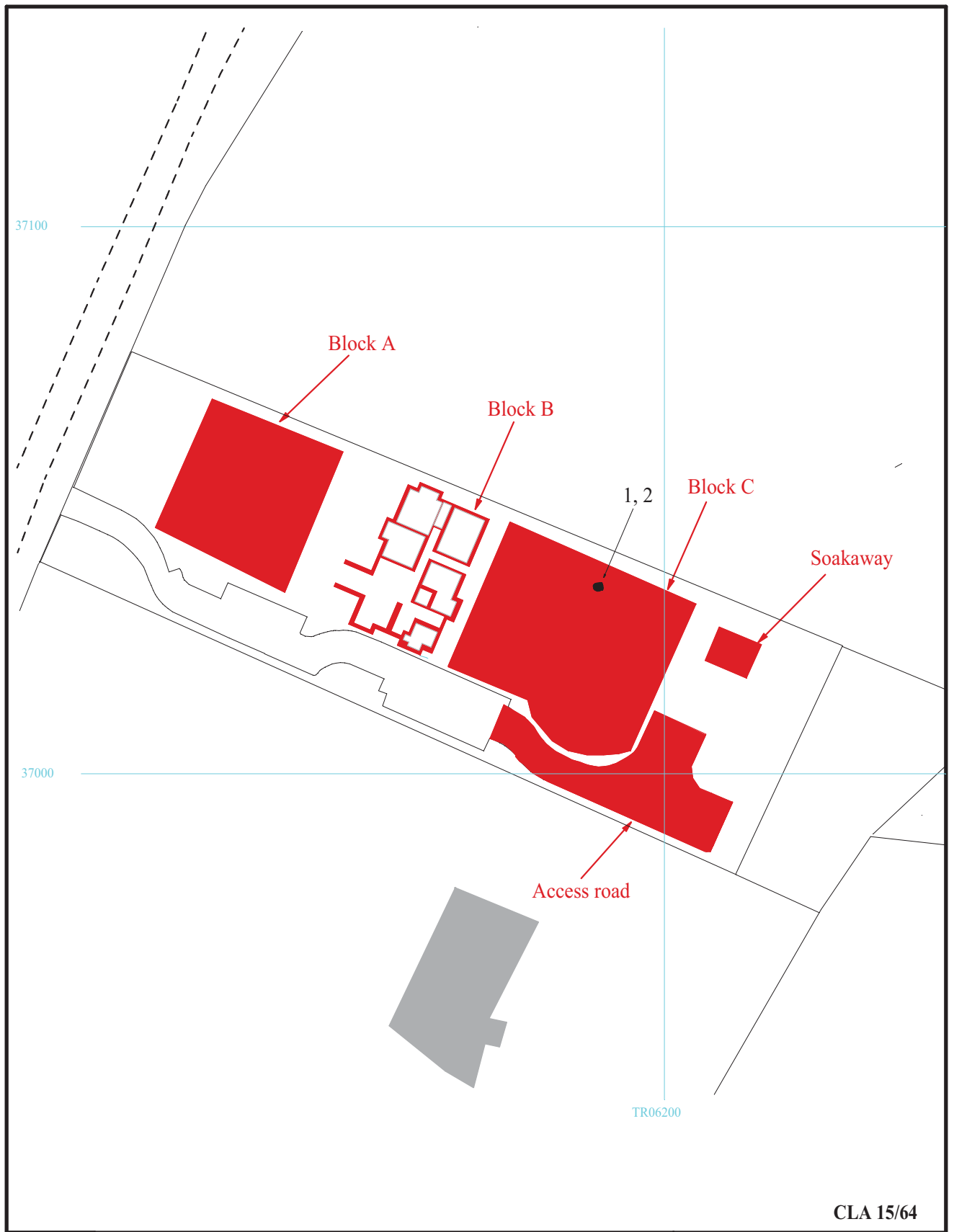
CLA 15/64



**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford  
East Sussex, 2015  
Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping at 1:1250  
Crown Copyright Reserved.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH

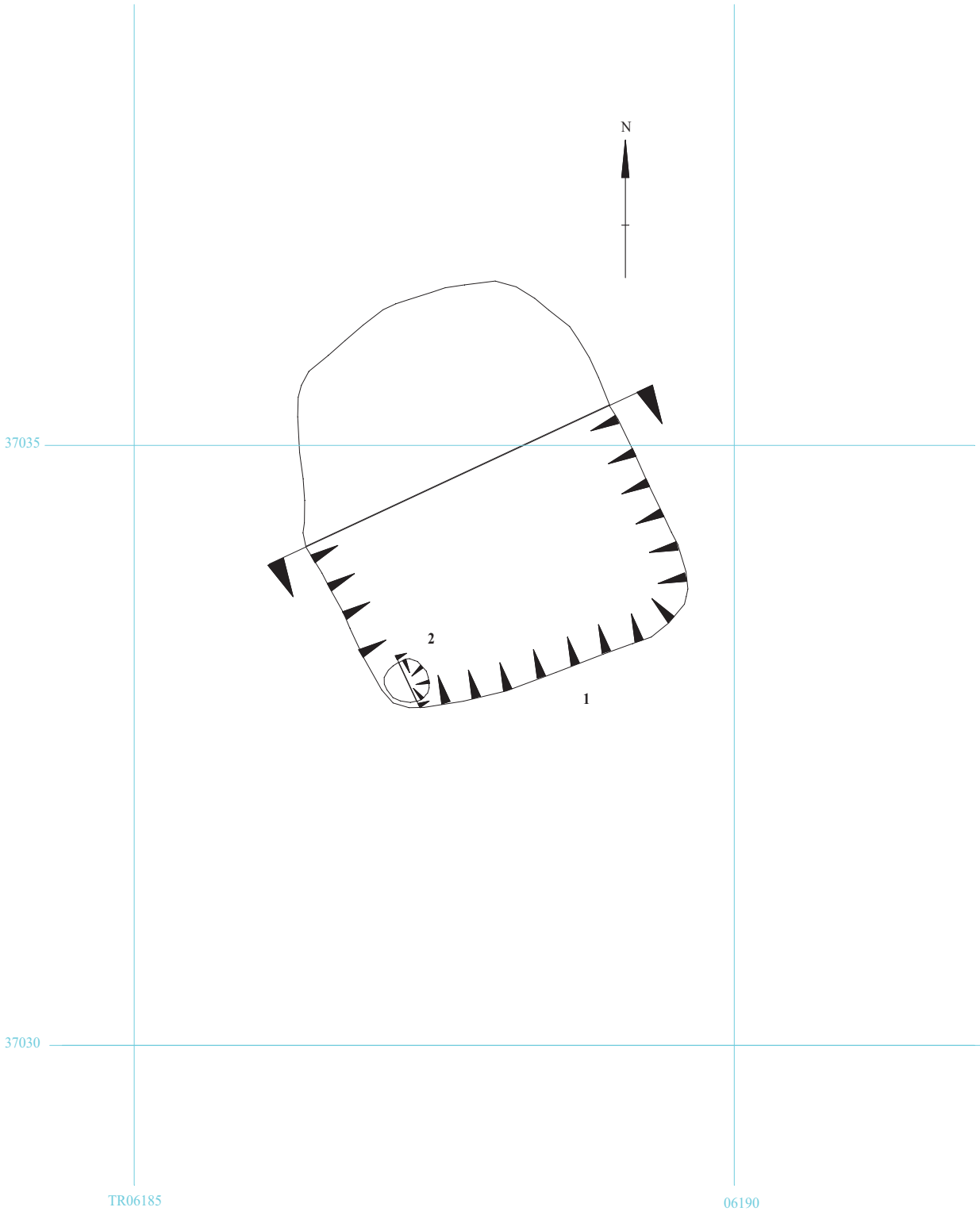


CLA 15/64

**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford  
Kent, 2015  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of areas monitored.





CLA 15/64

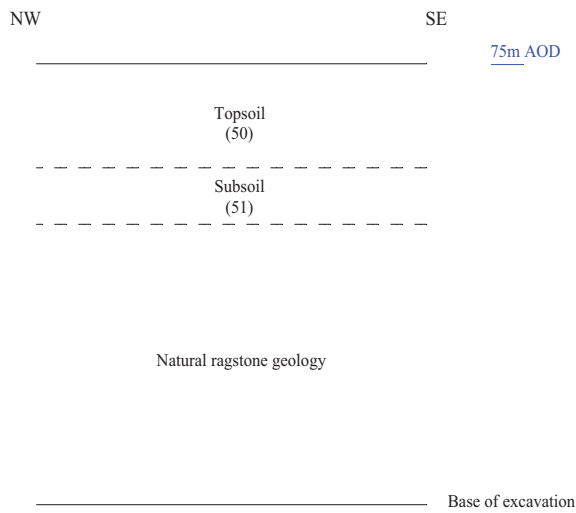
**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington  
Ashford, Kent, 2015  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Plan of features 1 and 2.

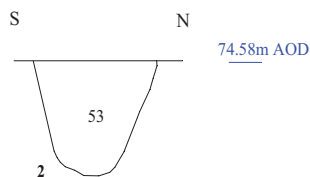
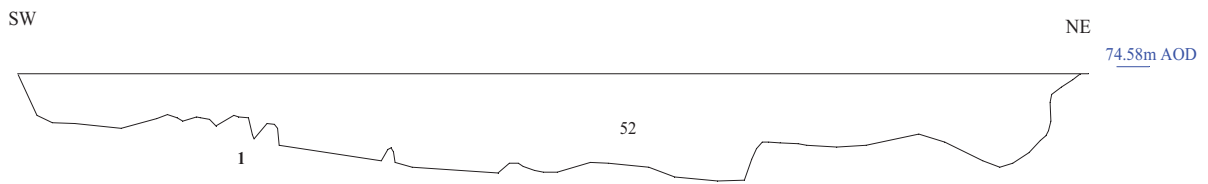
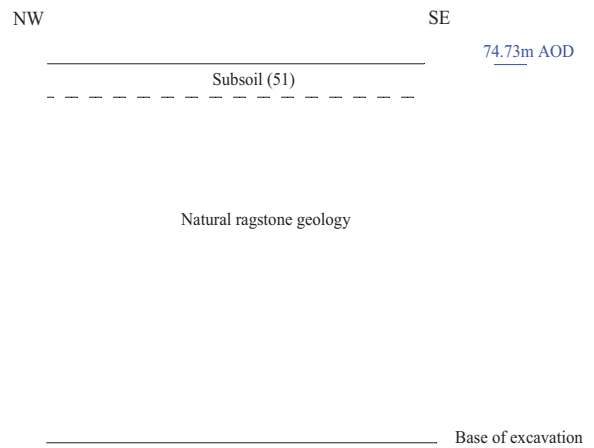
0 5m

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH

*General stratigraphy at south-east corner of the site - road excavation*



*General stratigraphy at Block B - footings trenches (topsoil already removed)*



CLA 15/64

**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington  
Ashford, Kent, East Sussex, 2015  
Watching Brief**

Figure 5. Sections





**Plate 1. General site conditions during stripping, Block A, looking south-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.**



**Plate 2. Representative section, road area, looking south-west, Scale: 1m.**



**Plate 3. Pit 1, looking north-west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.**



**Plate 4. Post hole 2, looking north-east, Scales: 0.5m and 0.3m.**

**CLA 15/64**

**Land at Calleywell Lane, Aldington, Ashford  
East Sussex, 2015  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 - 4.**

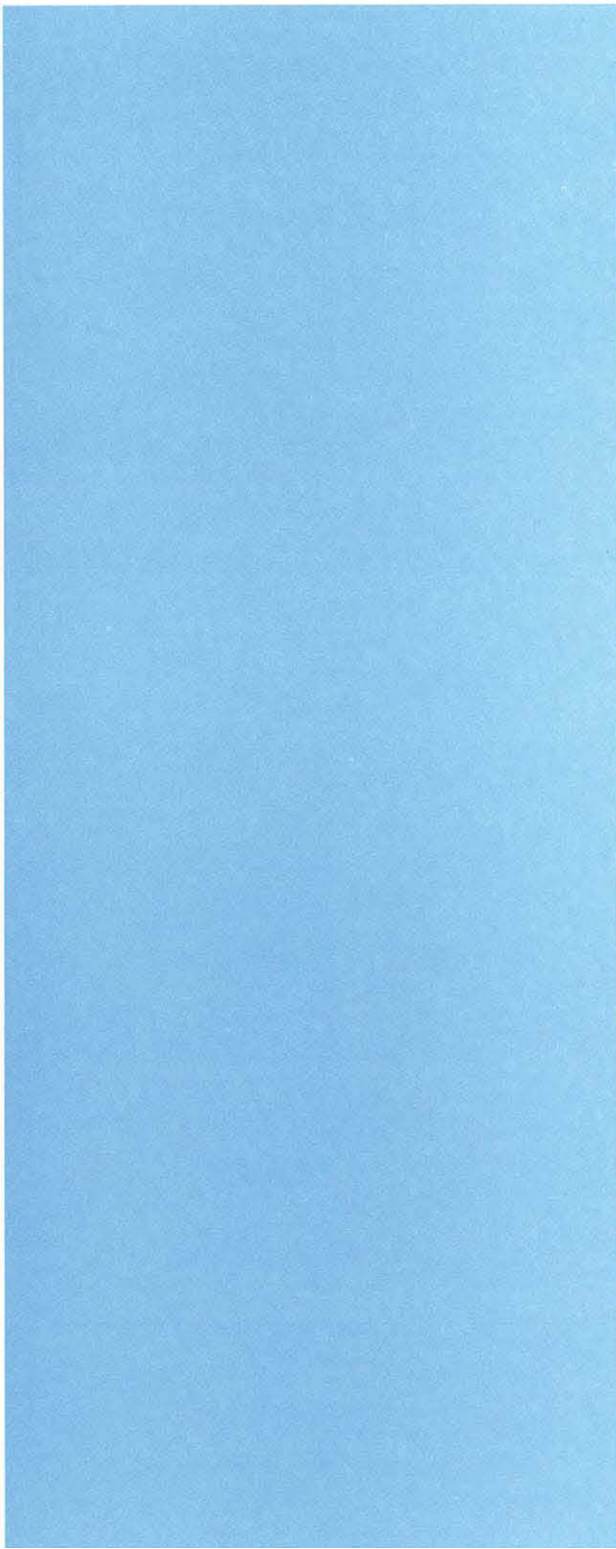
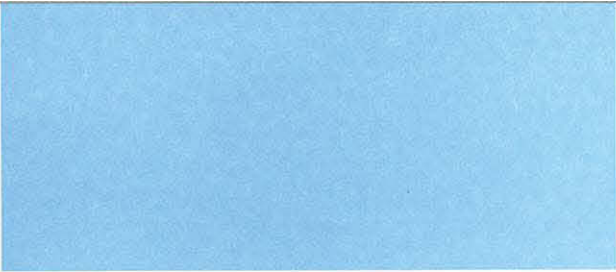
**THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH**

## 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







**TVAS (South)**  
**77a Hollingdean Terrace, Brighton**  
**Sussex, BN1 7HB**

**Tel: 01273 554198**  
**Fax: 01273 564043**  
**Email: [south@tvas.co.uk](mailto:south@tvas.co.uk)**  
**Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**