

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

**Stoney Meadow, School Lane, North Mundham,
West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis

Site Code: SMC16/135

(SU 8750 0245)

**Stoney Meadow, School Lane, North Mundham,
West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hamlet Homes Ltd**

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code
SMC 16/135

August 2016

Summary

Site name: Stoney Meadow, School Lane, North Mundham, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 8750 0245

Site activity: Evaluation

Planning reference: NM/15/04160/FUL

Date and duration of project: 26th -27th July 2016

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: SMC 16/135

Area of site: c. 0.77 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation at Stoney Meadow, North Mundham successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed housing development. Despite the fact that the area has not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded. Based on these results, the site can be considered to have low, or 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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.08.16 Steve Preston✓ 17.08.16

Stoney Meadow, School Lane, North Mundham, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Teresa Vieira and Sean Wallis

Report 16/135

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the south of Stoney Meadow Farm, School Lane, North Mundham, West Sussex (SZ 8750 0245) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Neale of Hamlet Homes Ltd, Unit 5, Beaver Trade Park, Quarry Lane, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8NY.

Planning permission (NM/15/04160/FUL) has been sought from Chichester District Council for the construction of 25 dwellings on the site, along with associated access, car parking and landscaping. If granted, the consent is expected to be subject to a standard planning condition(s) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which will require a programme of archaeological evaluation prior to the commencement of groundworks.

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, the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes-Mateos and Teresa Vieira between 26th and 27th July 2016, and the site code is SMC 16/135. 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 to the north of the historic core of North Mundham, south-east of Chichester and is centred on NGR SU 8750 0245 (Figs 1 and 2). It consists of an arable field. The site is bounded to the north by Stoney Meadow Farm and Stoney Lodge, to the east by School Lane, to the south by the disused Chichester Ship Canal, and to the west by farmland. The area is reasonably flat and lies at height of approximately 7m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Alluvial Fan Deposits (clayey gravels) (BGS 1996), and this was confirmed during the evaluation with gravel being recorded in all of the trenches.

Archaeological background

The site is located on the West Sussex coastal plain, which is considered to be rich in archaeological deposits of all periods (Rudling 2003). It also lies within the hinterland of the Roman town of Chichester (*Noviomagus Reginorum*) (Manley 2008). Relatively few sites or finds are recorded within the close vicinity, but a probable Roman building was observed to the north-east. The site lies on the northern margins of North Mundham, which has late Saxon origins and at the time of Domesday Book (AD 1086) was a modestly prosperous village of 27 households (Williams and Martin 2002, 58). The village developed in the medieval period with the parish church of St Stephen being of 13th century date, and a moated manor present. Several post-medieval Listed Buildings stand to the east of the site. The now disused Chichester Ship Canal once ran immediately beyond the southern boundary of the site.

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.

Specific aims of the 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 archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Saxon period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the medieval and early post-medieval periods are present.

Nine trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length and between 1.60m and 1.80m in width, which represents a *c.* 5% sample of the development area. The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed redevelopment. These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to an agreed sample fraction, to satisfy the aims of the project, without

compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

The nine trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although some had to be moved or shortened slightly due to site logistics (Figs 3 and 4). All the trenches were 1.60m wide, and measured between 20.20m and 26.20m in length, and between 0.60m and 0.80m 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)

Trench 1 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 20.20m long and up to 0.60m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.25m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded along the length of the trench.

Trench 2

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 25.50m long and up to 0.70m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.35m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although two modern drains were observed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 26.10m long and up to 0.76m deep, and was orientated approximately SW-NE. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of subsoil (51). Four modern drains were observed along the length of the trench, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 4 (Pl. 2)

Trench 4 was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 25.40m long and up to 0.65m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of subsoil (51). Although several backfilled geotechnical test pits were noted, no archaeological finds or features were present. The trench started to fill with groundwater shortly after it had been excavated.

Trench 5 (Pl. 3)

This trench was 25.50m long and up to 0.80m deep, and was orientated approximately W-E. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.30m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded along the length of the trench.

Trench 6

Trench 6 was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 25.00m long and up to 0.80m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50) and 0.30m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 7

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 26.10m long and up to 0.75m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of subsoil (51). Two modern drains were observed within the trench, but no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 8

Trench 8 was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 26.20m long and up to 0.75m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.35m of topsoil (50) and 0.20m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded along the length of the trench.

Trench 9 (Pl. 4)

Trench 9 was orientated approximately S-N, and was 25.50m long and up to 0.70m deep. The natural gravel geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.40m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the evaluation.

Conclusion

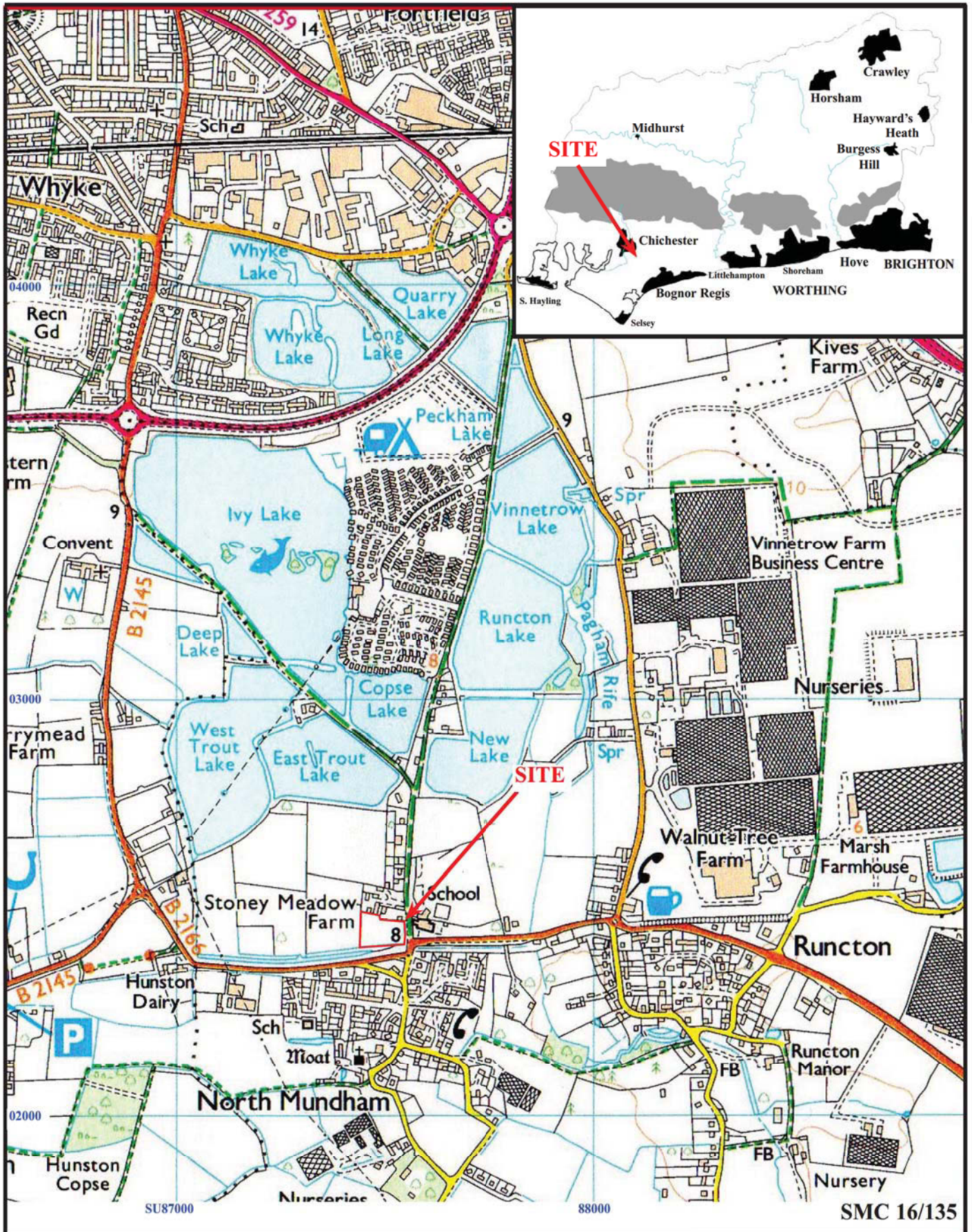
The evaluation at Stoney Meadow successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed housing development. Despite the fact that the area has not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were recorded. It is therefore felt that the archaeological potential of the site is low.

References

- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 317/332, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Manley, J (ed), 2008, *The Archaeology of Fishbourne and Chichester; a framework for its future*, Sussex Archaeol Soc, Lewes
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book; a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

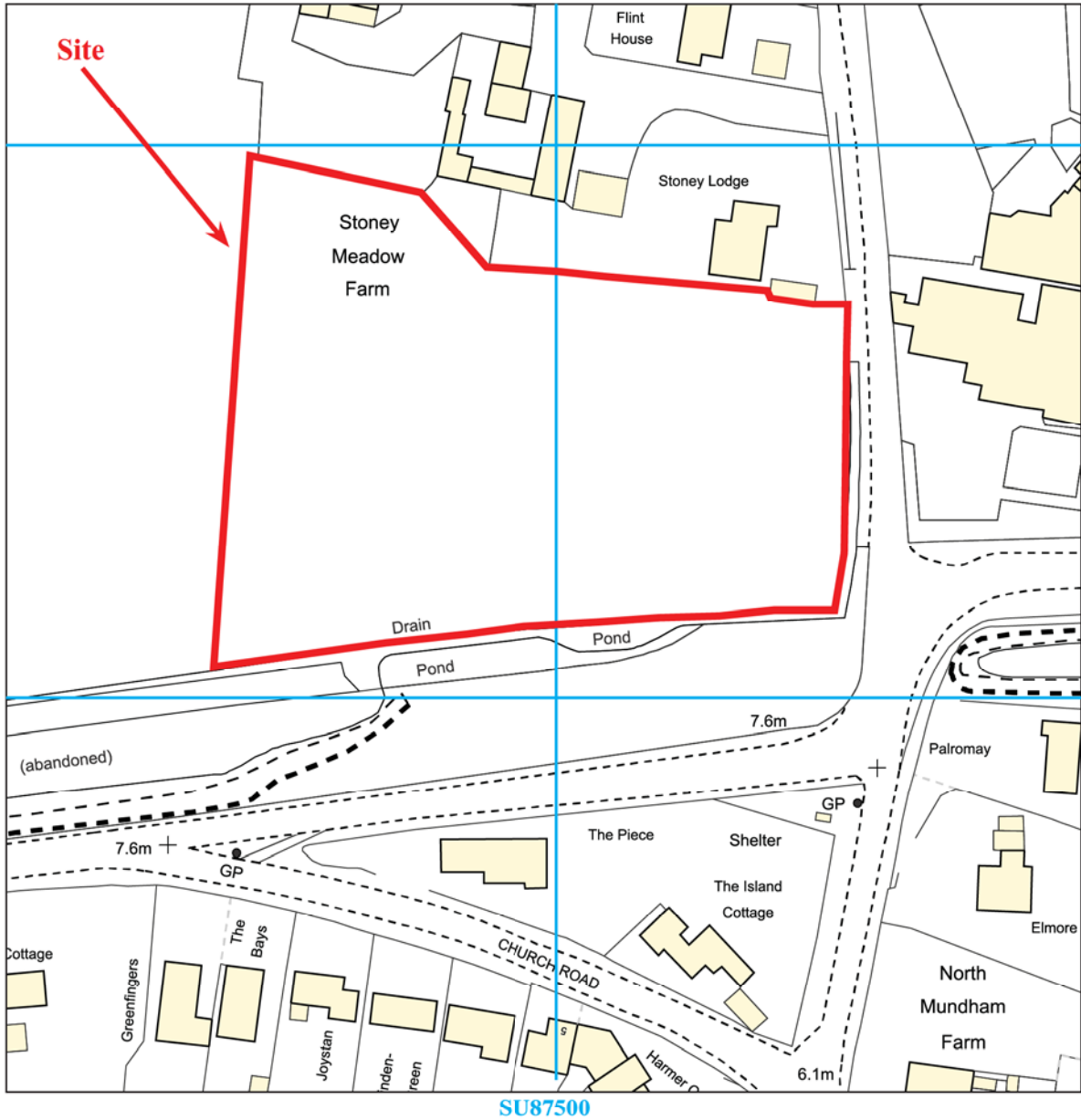
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	20.20	1.60	0.60	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.45m subsoil (grey/brown sandy silt (51); 0.45-0.60m+ natural geology (Gravel). [PI. 1]
2	25.50	1.60	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.70m+ natural geology (Gravel).
3	26.10	1.60	0.76	0-0.35m topsoil (50); 0.35-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.76m+ natural geology (Gravel).
4	25.40	1.60	0.65	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.45m subsoil (51); 0.45-0.65m+ natural geology (Gravel). [PI. 2]
5	25.50	1.60	0.80	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60-0.80m+ natural geology (Gravel). [PI. 3]
6	25.00	1.60	0.80	0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60-0.80m+ natural geology (Gravel).
7	26.10	1.60	0.75	0-0.35m topsoil (50); 0.35-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.75m+ natural geology (Gravel).
8	26.20	1.60	0.75	0-0.35m topsoil (50); 0.35-0.55m subsoil (51); 0.55-0.75m+ natural geology (Gravel).
9	25.50	1.60	0.70	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.60m subsoil (51); 0.60-0.70m+ natural geology (Gravel). [PI. 4]



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Figure 1. Location of site within North Mundham
and West Sussex.

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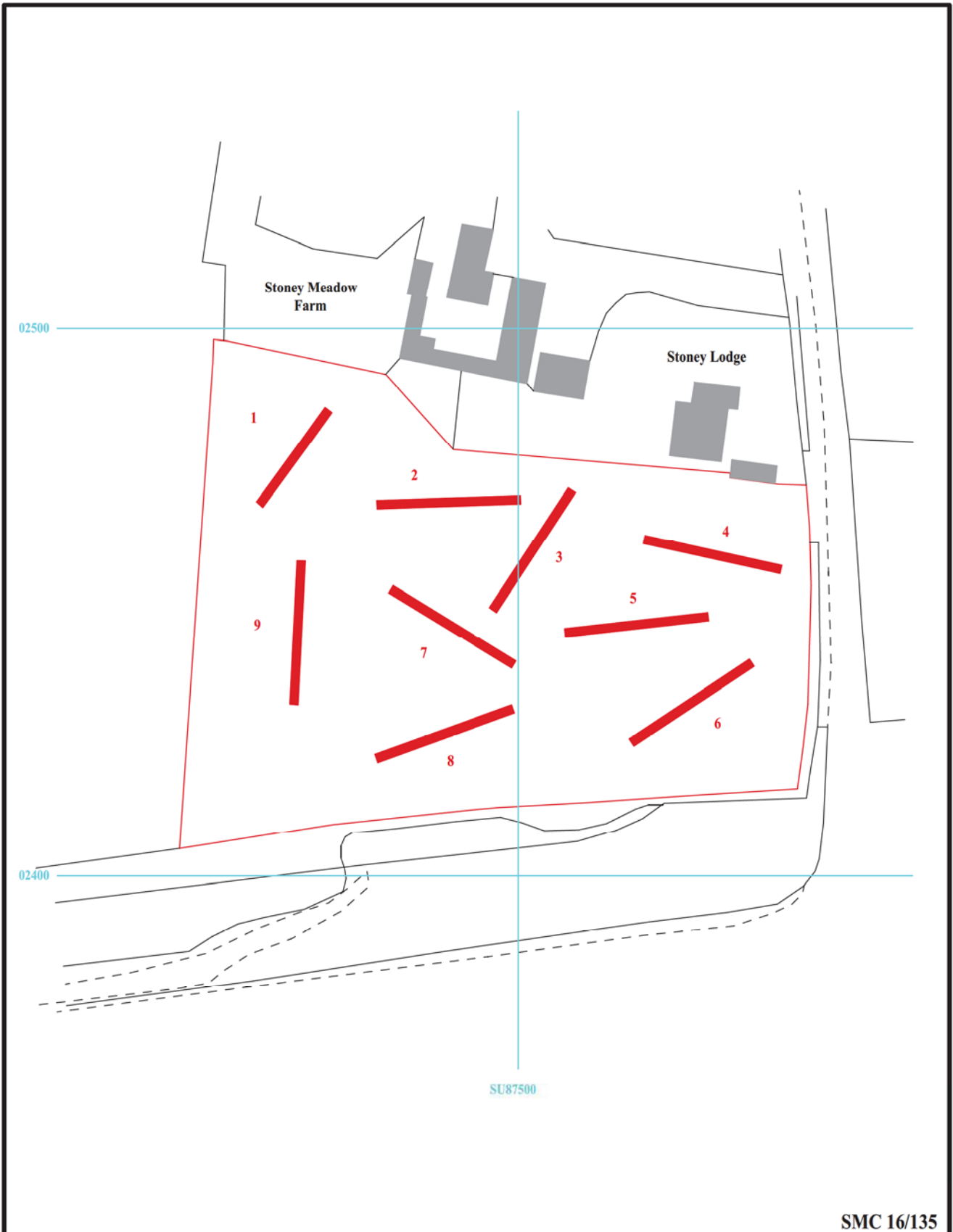


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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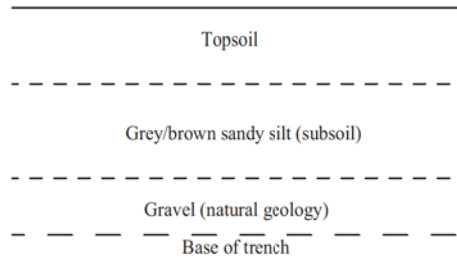
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Figure 3. Trench Locations

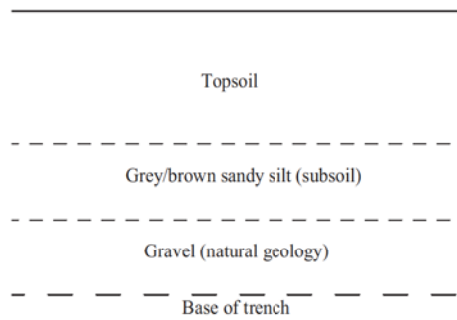


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Trench 1



Trench 8



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Figure 4. Representantive sections





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking North East. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 2. Trench 4, looking East. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

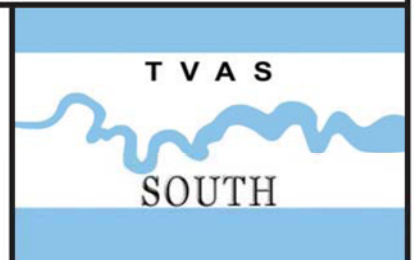




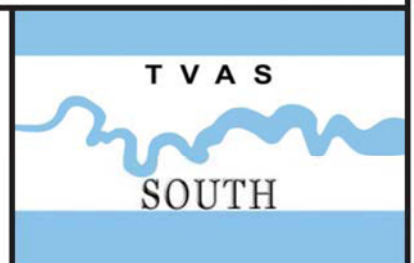
Plate 3. Trench 5, looking East. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 9, looking North. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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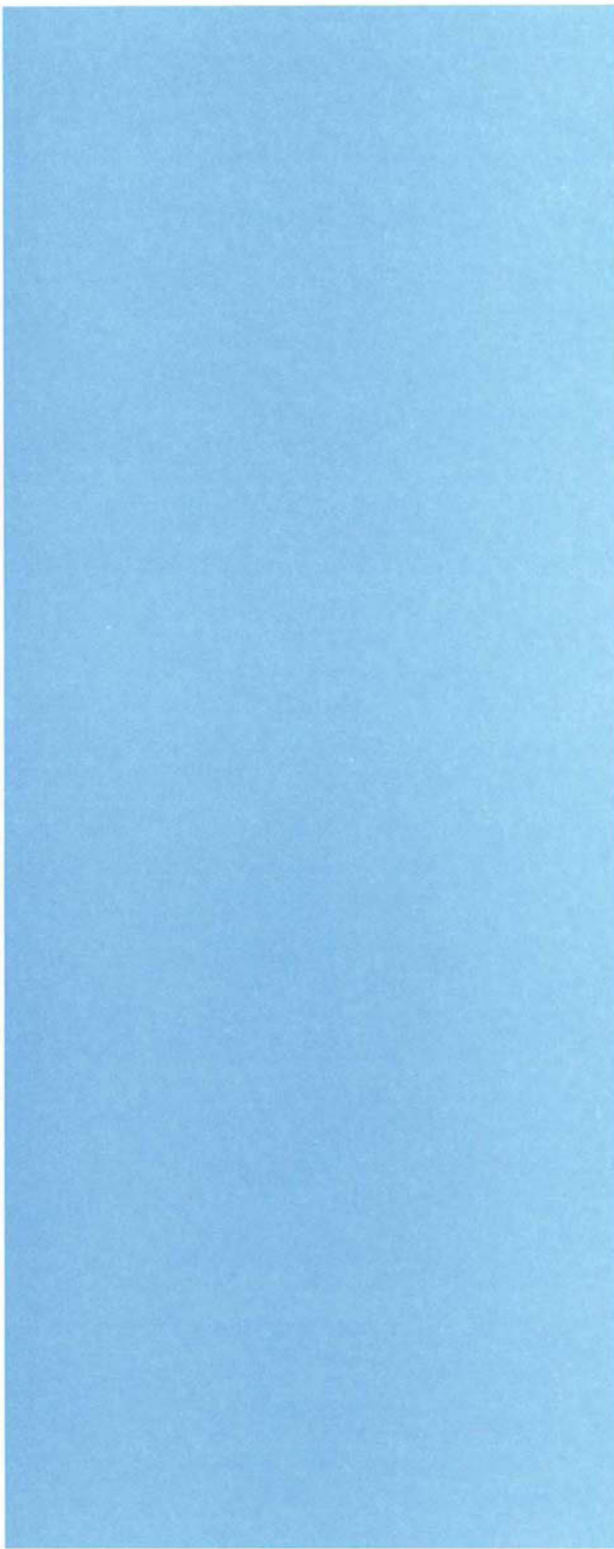
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Plates 3 - 4.**



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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