

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Wix Farm Barns, Epsom Road,
West Horsley, Surrey**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luis Esteves and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: WHS16/55

(TQ 0751 5219)

**Wix Farm Barns, Epsom Road,
West Horsley, Surrey**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For

Mr Andrew Burgess

by Luis Esteves and Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WHS 16/55

September 2016

Summary

Site name: Wix Farm Barns, Epsom Road, West Horsley , Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 07508 52192

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th - 23rd May 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: WHS 16/55

Area of site: c. 0.1ha

Summary of results: No finds nor features of archaeological significance were observed during ground reduction of the floor within the barn.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.09.16 Steve Preston ✓ 09.09.16

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Report 16/55b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Epsom Road, West Horsley, Surrey (TQ 07508 52192) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Miss Nikki Hacillo of Elspeth Beard Architects, 2 Kings Mews, 22-26 High Street, Godalming, GU7 on behalf of Mr Andrew Burgess of Wix Farm Barns.

Planning permission (Application number 10/P/00871) has been granted by Guildford Borough Council for the conversion of two barns on the site into dwellings. The consent includes a condition (14) which sets out that a programme of archaeological monitoring be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Luis Esteves between the 18th and the 23rd of May 2016 and the site code is WHS 16/55.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Guildford Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Wix Farm is located to the southwest of the village of West Horsley, on the north side of Epsom Road, opposite its junction with Wix Hill. It is also located immediately to the east of the National Trust property of Hatchlands Park (Fig. 2). The site lies at approximately 80m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is the Reading Beds (BGS 1976).

Archaeological background

West Horsley has medieval origins but is not mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086. Although the farm is of post-medieval date there is the possibility that it has earlier, late medieval origins. Wix Farm itself is a Grade II listed building with some structures dating from the 15th to the 17th and 18th Centuries. A more detailed analysis of the structure where the watching brief took place has also been carried out (Elliott 2016).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve examination of all service runs, foundation trenches and in particular ground reduction within the barn. Where bulk groundwork excavation was to be carried out by machine, this was to take place using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision.

The entire inner area of the barn was to be stripped down to the top of the natural geology in the first instance and examined for any archaeological features or any finds that may be present. Any archaeological features encountered were to be excavated and recorded.

Results

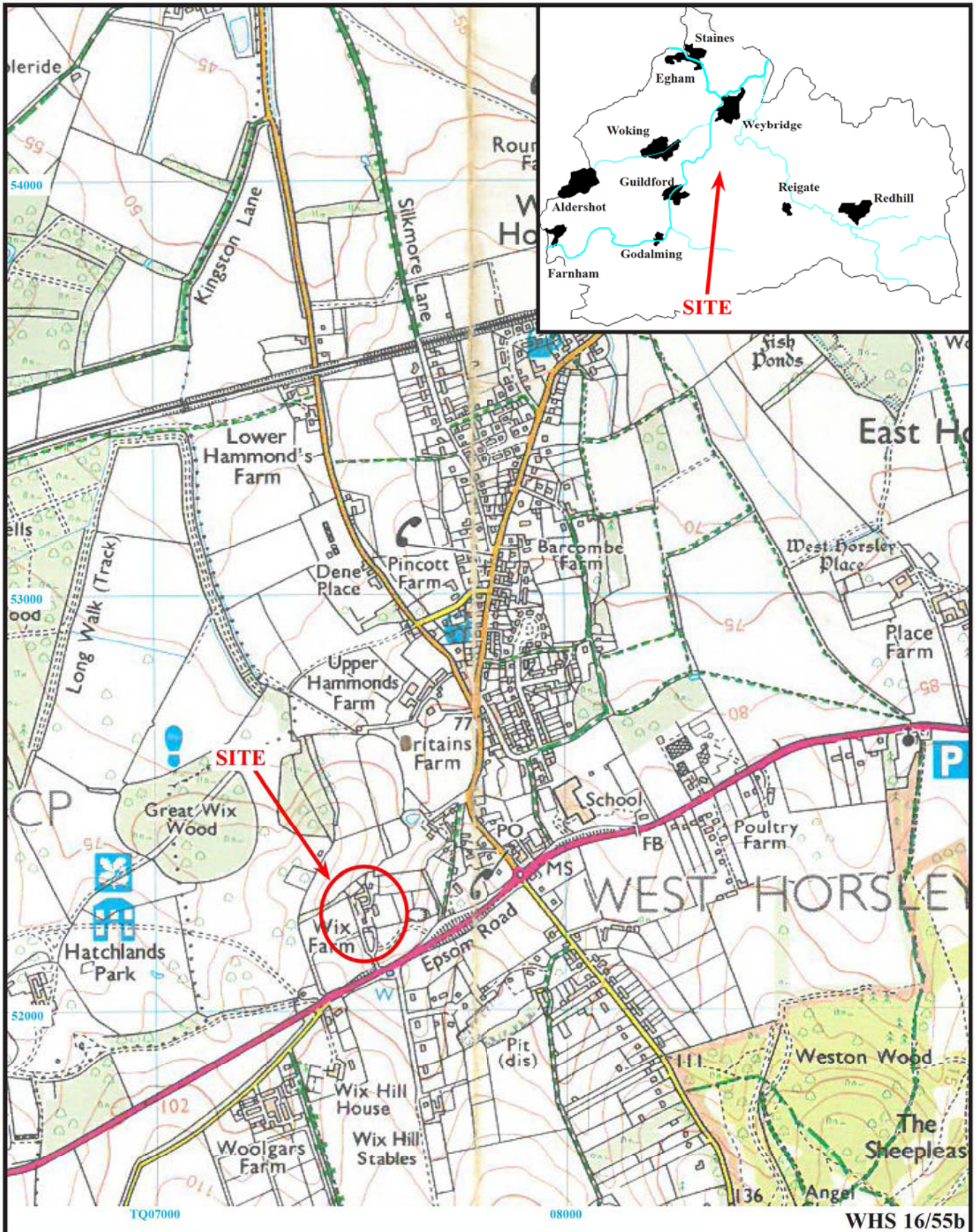
The fieldwork comprised monitoring of the ground reduction within the barn. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of concrete and 0.1m of hard standing overlying the natural chalk geology (Fig. 3, Pls 1 and 2). The foundation trench for a former modern inner partition wall was the only feature observed in the watching brief.

Conclusion

The watching brief examined the exposed surface of the natural geology across the whole interior of the barn with only a modern foundation trench being observed. No other finds nor features of archaeological significance was observed over the course of the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 285, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Elliott, G, 2016, *Wix Farm Barns*, Epsom Road, West Horsley, Surrey: Building Recording, TVAS report **16/55**, Reading
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



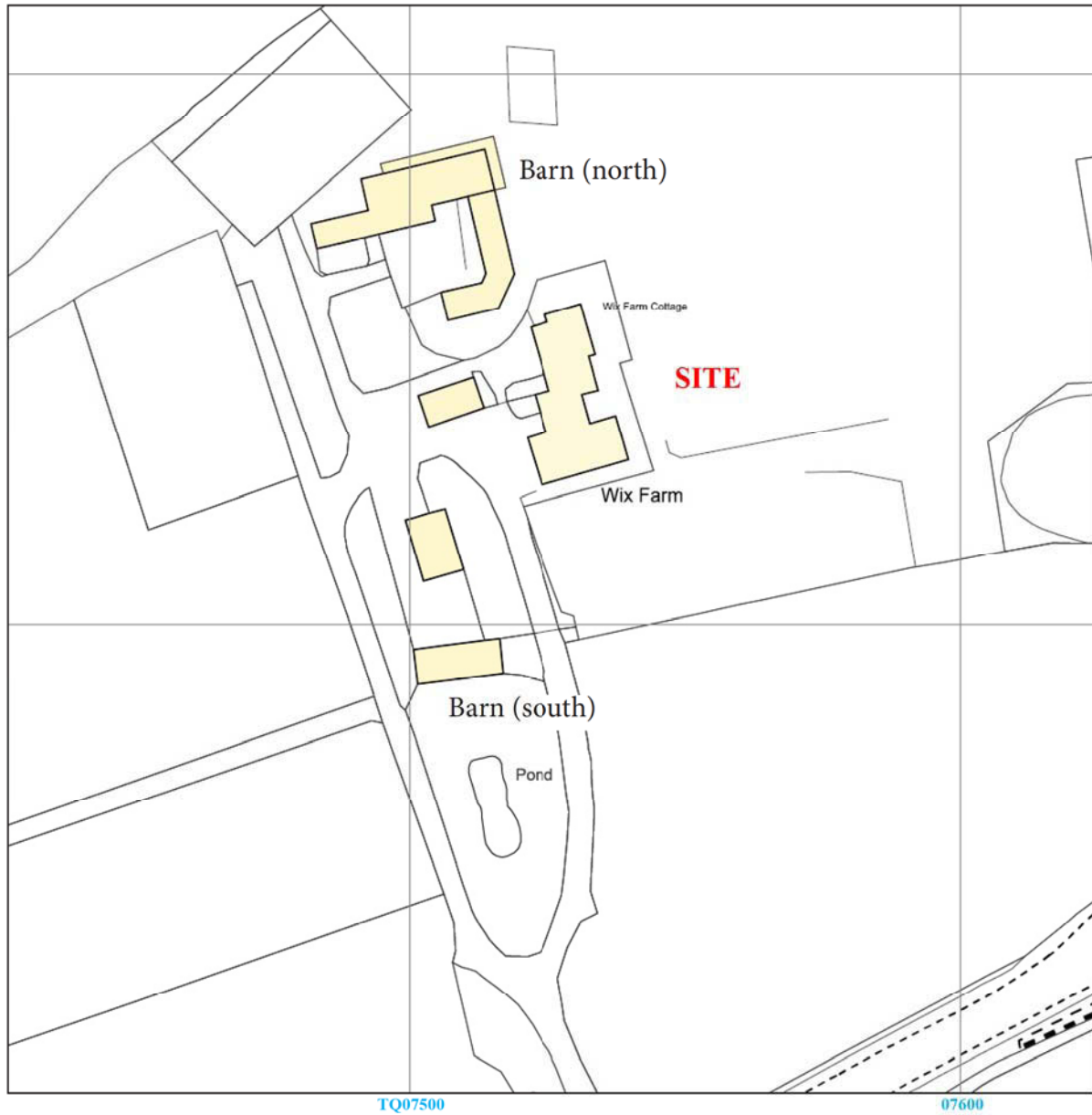
**Wix Farm, Epsom Road, West Horsley,
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Figure 1. Location of site within West Horsley and Surrey.

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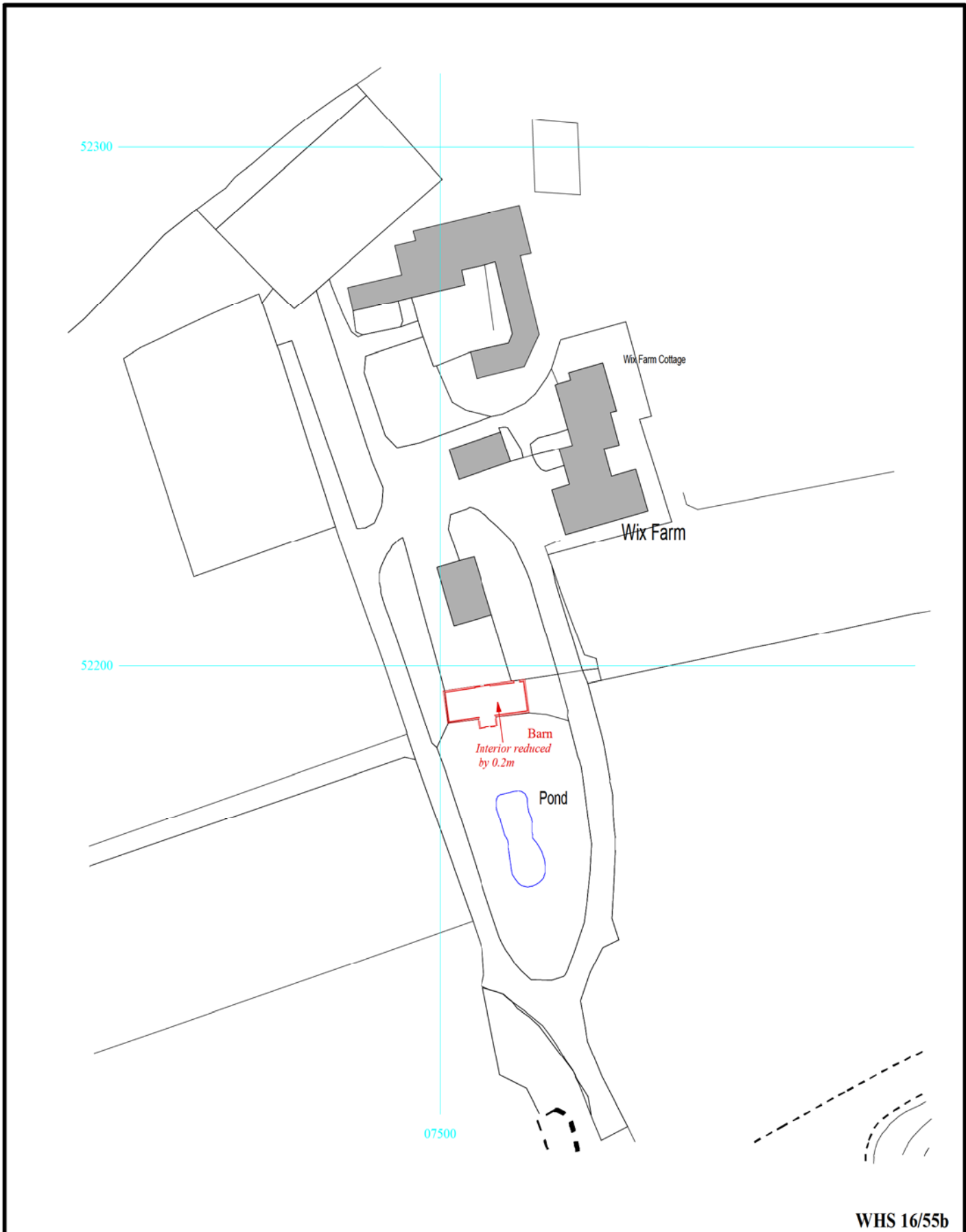
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Wix Farm.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Eastern side of barn interior after ground reduction, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Western side after ground reduction, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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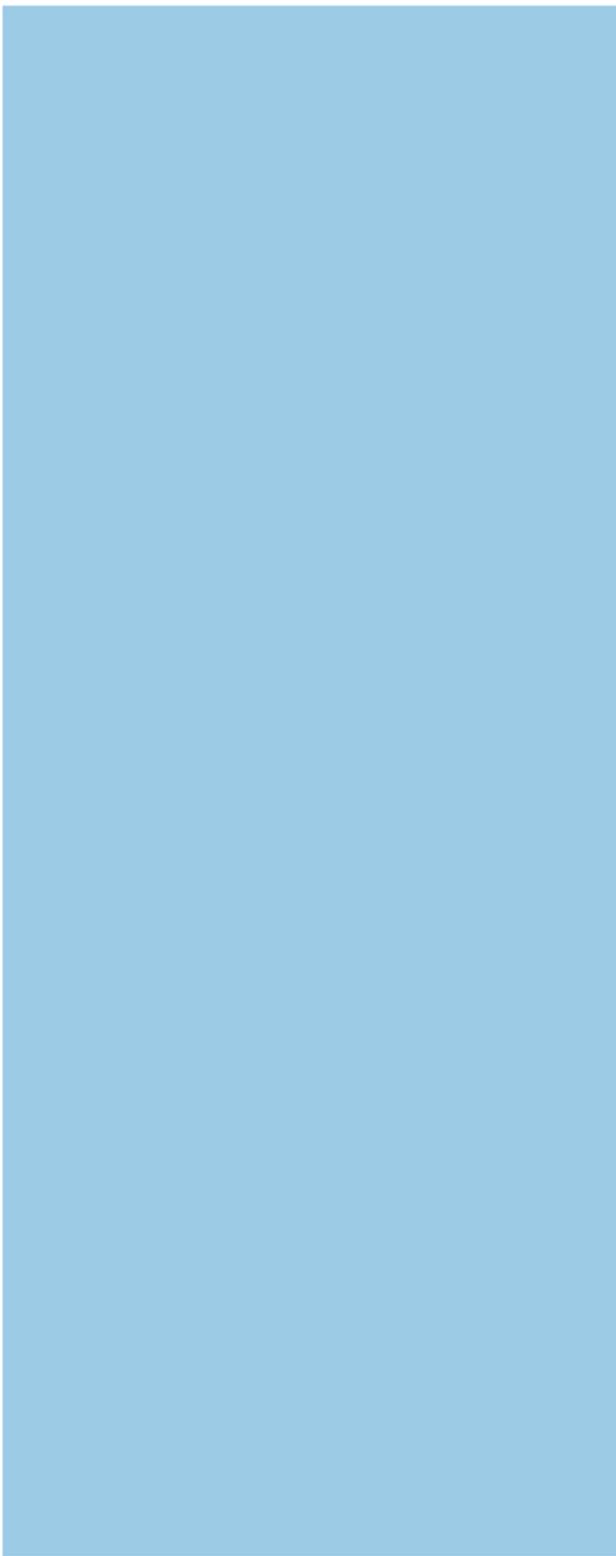
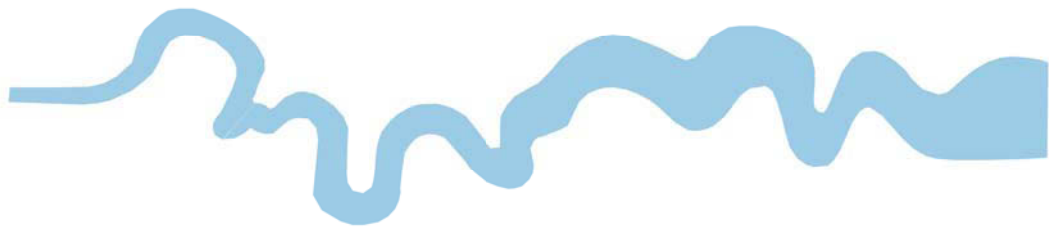
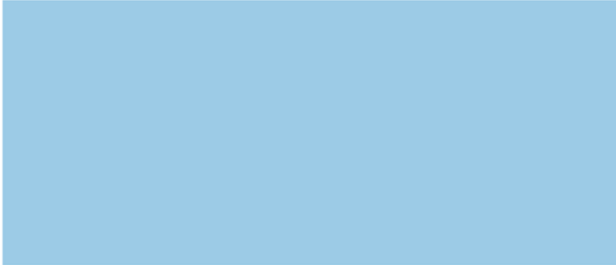
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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