

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 W E S T

**Land at Grove House, The Common,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site Code: GHS17/28

(SU 0655 4394)

Land at Grove House, The Common, Shrewton, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
For Landmark Estates (GB) Limited**

by Agata Socha-Paszkiwicz
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GHS 17/28

March 2017

Summary

Site name: Land at Grove House, The Common, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0655 4394

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 23rd February 2017

Project manager: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site supervisor: Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Site code: GHS 17/28

Area of site: c. 0.11ha

Summary of results: The evaluation revealed a small volume of archaeological features comprising a medieval ditch and a Post Medieval/Modern brick surface. The site is considered to have some archaeological potential.

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

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	Steve Preston ✓ 07.03.17

Land at Grove House, The Commons, Shrewton, Salisbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz

Report 17/28

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Grove House, The Common, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 0655 4394) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben Olds of Landmark Estates (GB) Limited, Unit 9&10 Fridays Court, Ringwood, BH24 1 AB.

Planning application (16/11817/FUL) has been sought from Wiltshire Council to construct three new houses on a c. 0.11ha parcel of land. The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document provided by Ms Claire King of Wiltshire Council and in view of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed development the Assistant County Archaeologist has recommended that a field evaluation by means of machine trenching is carried out prior to the determination of the planning application to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and Council's policy on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Claire King, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Agata Socha-Paszkwicz and Mariusz Paszkiewicz on 23rd February 2017 and the site code is GHS17/28. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-west outskirts of the village of Shrewton which is set in the middle of Salisbury Plain on the A360 road between Stonehenge and Tilshead (Fig. 1). It is bounded by residential properties to the north, east and south east with 19th century Grove House amongst them (Fig. 2). To the west and south it is bounded by mature trees and hedgerows with farmland beyond. The site is at the foot of a steep dry valley of a former west-to-east tributary of the river Till (itself in a steep north-to-south valley) but the site is itself relatively flat and lies at the height of 84m above Ordnance Datum. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology is comprised of warm seas chalk within Seaford Chalk Formation. (BGS 1980)

Archaeological background

The proposed development lies within archaeologically rich Salisbury Plain where numerous sites and finds of prehistoric date have been recorded. There is also evidence of substantial prehistoric activity within the parish of Shrewton. A scheduled monument, the Neolithic causewayed enclosure of Robin Hood's Ball is located approximately 3.5km to north-west, and Rollestone Down with many barrows recorded lies on the south-west outskirts of Shrewton. Also dated as prehistoric is a field system to the north and enclosure to the south-east of the village. For later periods there have been stray finds of Roman coins and pottery and Saxon artefacts.

Historically the village of Shrewton is made up of at least seven communities and was, until 1934 three separate parishes. In Domesday Book (AD1086) all the settlements here were called "Winterbourne" with three main estates: Shrewton which was held by Edward of Salisbury, Sheriff of Wiltshire in 1086; Maddington which was in the possession of Amesbury nunnery (Williams and Martin 2002, 176); and Rollestone which was named from the tenant of the manor in the 1240s.

There are four entries in Wiltshire Historic Environment Record within 100m radius from the site. A levelled round barrow is recorded approximately 50m to the north of the site. The medieval yard in Shrewton, and medieval farmstead lie to the south-east. Baden to the north-east and Grove House itself were 19th-century farms.

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 development.

The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to provide information in order to draw up an appropriate mitigation strategy if required; and
- to report on the findings of evaluation;

It was proposed to dig a total of 3 trenches, each 10m long and 1.6–2m wide across the site. Topsoil and any other overburden was to be removed by a JCB machine. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels, under constant archaeological supervision. 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 sufficiently sampled by hand to satisfy

the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which might warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

Trenches were excavated as intended with some minor adjustments to avoid obstacles such as drains and mature trees (Fig. 2). Trenches varied from 10m to 11.20m in length and from 0.50m to 0.60m in depth and all were 2m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. All discrete features of medieval or earlier date were cleaned and investigated using hand tools. Post - medieval deposits were cleaned and investigated using hand tools and with agreement of Ms Claire King of Wiltshire Council removed by machine. A complete list of features investigated forms Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 2, 3 and 4, and Pls 1 and 5)

Trench 1 was aligned south-west to north-east and was 11.2m long and a maximum of 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of dark grey to black topsoil and 0.21m thick subsoil (grey brown silty clay) overlying a mottled light red and creamy white chalk with frequent flint nodules, the natural geology. At c.1.6m from the south-west trench end was Ditch 1 aligned WNW–ESE. Ditch 1 was 0.98m wide and 0.20m deep filled with dark brown to black silty clay with frequent coarse gravel and fine chalk debris (52) which contained a sherd of 13th-century pottery.

Trench 2 (Figs 2 and 4 and Pls 2, 5 and 6)

Trench 2 was aligned west–east, was 10m long and a maximum of 0.60m deep. Present yard level (53) loose grey gravel firmed up at the surface, extended from the east end of the trench westwards for 8.30m, 0.24m deep. This laid over a mixed buried topsoil and brick layer (54). The topsoil was similar to Trench 1, extended for 1.7m from the western end of Trench 2 was 0.26m thick. The brick layer was made of 7 bricks laid flat in a single course which extended for 1.1m from the eastern end of the trench. The bricks were 64mm thick. One sample brick was retrieved and broadly dated from the late 17th century to the middle of the 18th century. Layer 54 lay on top of made ground (55) which consisted of firm dark grey silty clay with frequent fired clay fragments and chalk debris, and extended throughout Trench 2. The finds assemblage recovered from the made ground comprised 1 sherd of Saxo – Norman pottery, 9 sherds of pottery ranging from late post-medieval to mid 19th – early 20th century date, 4 non-diagnostic tiles, an undated clay pipe fragment, a complete glass bottle dated between 1870 and 1913, along

with five fragments of animal bone. The made ground overlaid creamy white chalk with frequent flint nodules which was the natural geology.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2 and Pl. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 10.10m long and up to 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil similar to Trench 1 which was 0.30m thick beneath which was a garden soil (56) moderately firm, organic rich dark brown silty clay. This extended for approximately 4m in eastern part of the trench and was 0.20m thick. Garden soil overlaid subsoil similar to Trench 1. Beneath was a light red-brown and cream white chalk natural geology. Trench 3 contained no archaeological features.

Finds

Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 5 sherds with a total weight of 175g. It was all Saxo-Norman or later. The following fabric types were noted:

SAL: Sand and Limestone, Saxo-Norman? 1 sherd, 20g
LAV: Laverstock ware, 13th – 16th century (Musty *et al.* 1969). 1 sherd, 13g
VER: Verwood Ware, 17th – 18th century (Brown 2002, 21). 3 sherds, 142g.

The medieval and post-medieval pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 3. All the wares are fairly typical finds in the region, and are in good condition.

The sherd of SAL is from the rim of an unglazed jar. It has a simple everted form. This ware has been noted at a number of excavations in Salisbury, where it occurs in Saxo-Norman deposits. Its exact source is unknown, but Crockerton appears a likely candidate (Mephram 2000).

The piece of LAV is from a jug with a fragment of a red slip stripe, and the three fragments of VER are all from the same vessel, an internally-glazed bowl. These are all typical products of their respective traditions.

Modern Pottery by Andrew Weale

The modern pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 157g, all from made ground layer 55 (Appendix 3). Two of the sherds (17g) are from a single refined white earthenware plate with blue transfer-printed decoration (WHEW), of mid 19th - early 20th century date. Three are fragments of the rim of an earthenware flower-pot (FP) of similar date (37g). The sixth fragment is a rim (24g), from a plate in an 18th- or

19th-century glazed red earthenware (PMGRE). The last is a part of the base of a white glazed stoneware (WGSW) bottle (79g) of mid 19th - early 20th century date (Brears 1969).

Ceramic Building Material by Andrew Weale

A small assemblage of four fragments of tile came from made ground deposit (55) in Trench 2 while a single complete brick was retained as a sample from deposit (54) in Trench 2 (Appendix 4). None of the tile fragments were diagnostic and in total weighed 409g. The complete brick appeared to be hand made, moulded and wire cut with sanding on five surfaces but not on the wire cut surface. It measured 222mm by 109mm by 64mm and weighed 3015g. The brick was unfrosted and the fabric was an orange-red colour. The dating of brick is problematic as regional variations are common as well as local handmade bricks containing into the age of industrialization which could give this brick a date range from the late 17th century through to the middle of the 18th century (Harley 1974). Stratigraphically, however layer 54 cannot be earlier than 19th century, so the brick must be presumed to have been re-used.

Clay Tobacco Pipe by Andrew Weale

A single 5g fragment of clay pipe stem was recovered from deposit 55 in Trench 2. It is too small to date other than to broadly late post-medieval.

Glass by Andrew Weale

A single intact glass vessel was recovered from deposit 55 in Trench 2. It is a short bottle brown glass weighing 99g, which appeared to be moulded. One side was embossed 'Bovril Limited', whilst the opposite side was embossed 'Bovril Rd 100848'. The bottle appeared hand-finished in that it had a tooled lip which would suggest a date between 1870 and 1913 (Licence 2015).

Animal Bone by Lizzi Lewins

Five fragments of animal bone weighing a total of 101g were recovered, all from deposit 55. The remains comprised a partial long bone fragment that had been sliced and was un-fused, and a partial tibia shaft that had been chopped, both from a medium-sized mammal (sheep/goat, pig, deer). A partial long bone shaft that was un-fused and sliced and a partial acetabulum that had been chopped were classified as large mammal (cattle, horse).

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed a small volume of archaeology which comprised a small ditch within Trench 1 dated by a single sherd of 13th century pottery. An area of late post-medieval/ modern brickwork was revealed elsewhere on the site. On the basis of the results the site is considered to have some archaeological potential

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South, West or South West end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	11.20	2.00	0.55	0–0.25m Topsoil; 0.25-0.46m Subsoil; 0.40m+ light red and creamy-white chalk with frequent flint nodules (Natural Geology). Ditch 1 [Pls 1 and 4]
2	10.0	2.00	0.60	West end: 0-0.26m Topsoil; 0.26-0.52m Made ground (55); 0.52m+ cream white chalk with frequent flint nodules (Natural Geology). East end: 0-0.24m Present yard level (53); 0.24-0.35m Brick layer (54); 0.35-0.42m Made ground (55); 0.42m+ creamy white chalk with frequent flint nodules (Natural Geology). [Pls 2, 5 and 6]
3	10.10	2.00	0.50	South west end: 0-0.30m Topsoil; 0.30-0.45m Subsoil; 0.4m+ light red-brown and cream white chalk (Natural Geology). East end: 0-0.30m topsoil. 0.30-0.40m Garden soil (56); 0.40m+ light red-brown and creamy white chalk (Natural Geology). [Pl. 3]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

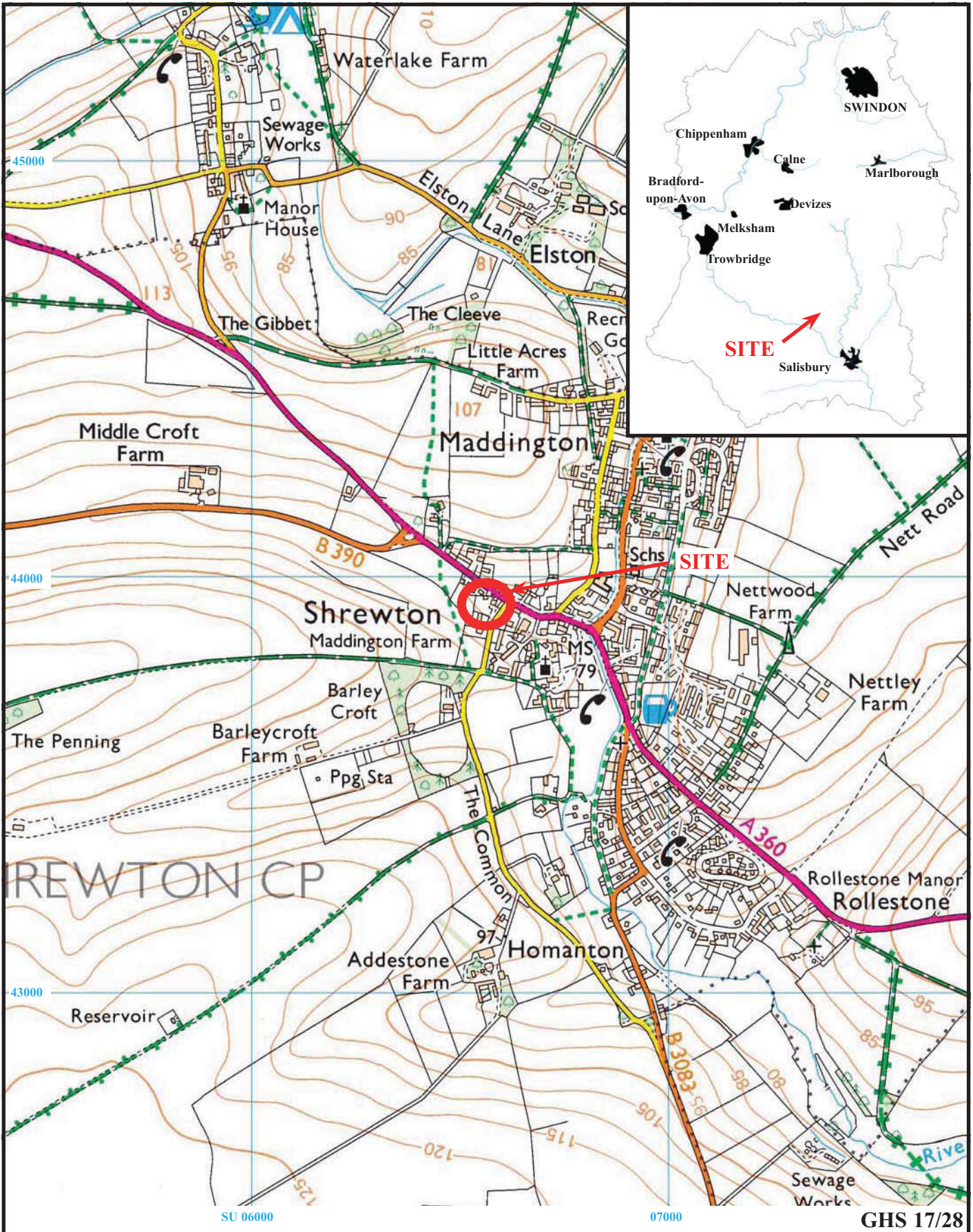
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
2		53	Present yard level	Modern	Stratigraphy
2		54	Brick layer	Modern	Stratigraphy

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

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	SAL		LAV		VER		WHEW		PMGRE		WGSW		FP	
			<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt</i>
1	1	52			1	13										
2		55	1	20			3	142	2	17	1	24	1	79	3	37
		Total	1	20	1	13	3	142								

APPENDIX 4: Brick and tile by weight and context.

Trench	Cut	Deposit	No. frags	Wt (g)	Comments
2	-	54	1	3015	Complete Brick (sample)
2	-	55	4	409	Tile
		Total	5	3424	



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Figure 1. Location of site within Shrewton and Wiltshire.

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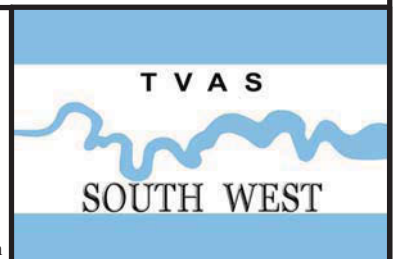




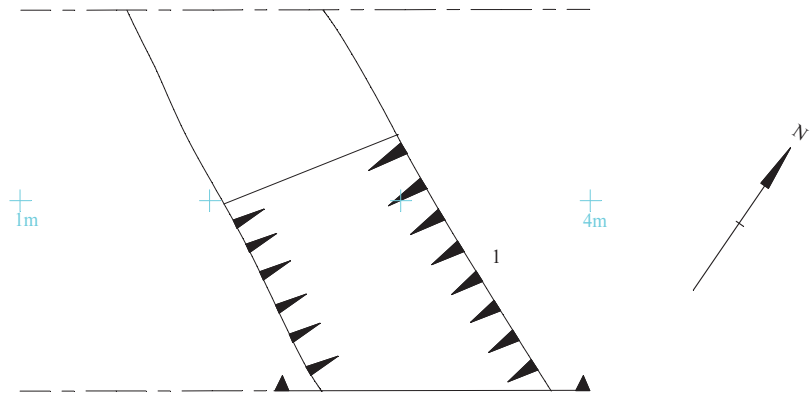
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Figure 2. Location of Trenches



Trench 1



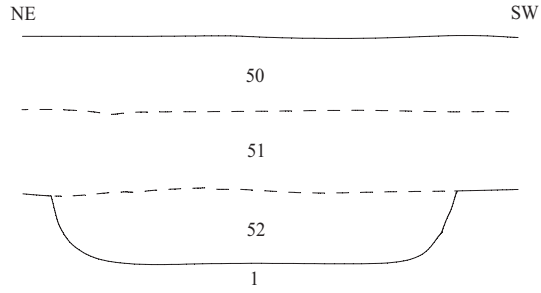
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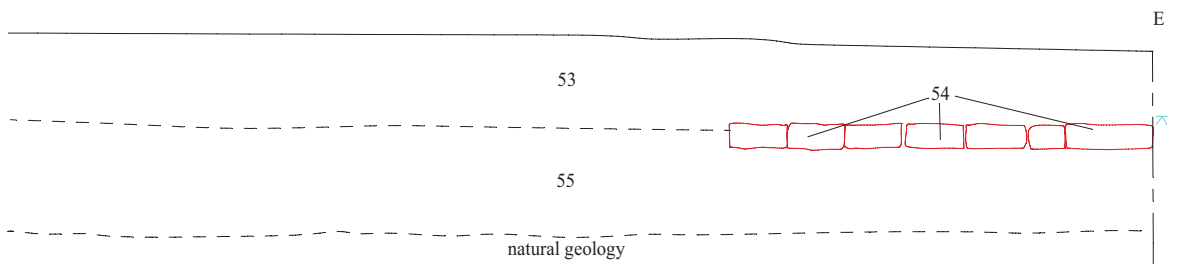
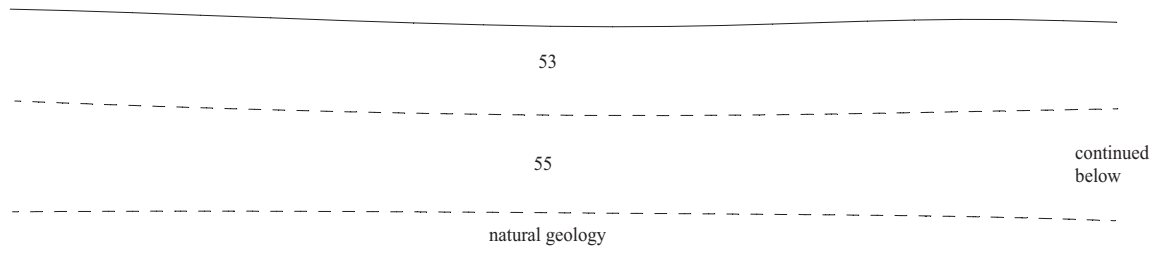
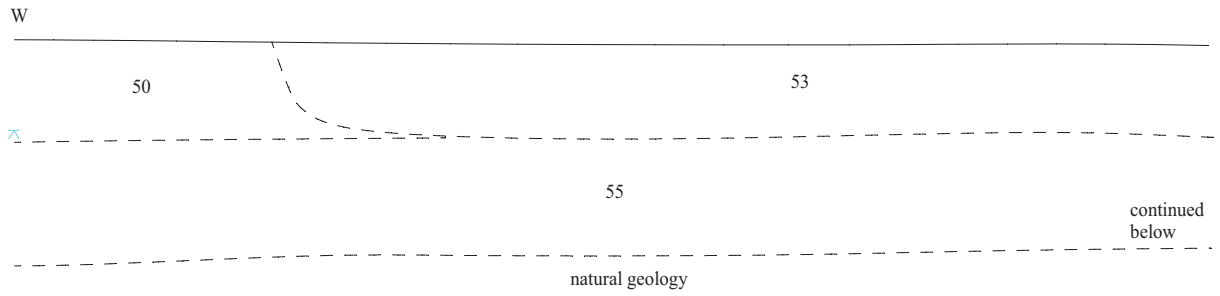
Figure 3. Trench Plan



Trench 1



Trench 2



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Figure 4. Sections





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



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking east. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m

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Plates 1 and 2.

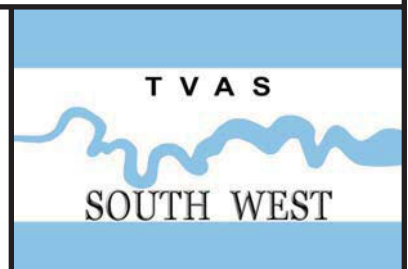




Plate 3. Trench 3, looking north east. Scales: 2m, 1 m and 0.5m



Plate 4. Trench 1, Ditch 1, looking south east. Scales: 2m and 1m

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Plates 3 and 4.

T V A S

SOUTH WEST



Plate 5. Trench 2, Removal of made ground(55), looking east. Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m



Plate 6. Trench 2, Present yard (53), bricks (54) , made ground (55), looking north. Scales: 2m and 1m

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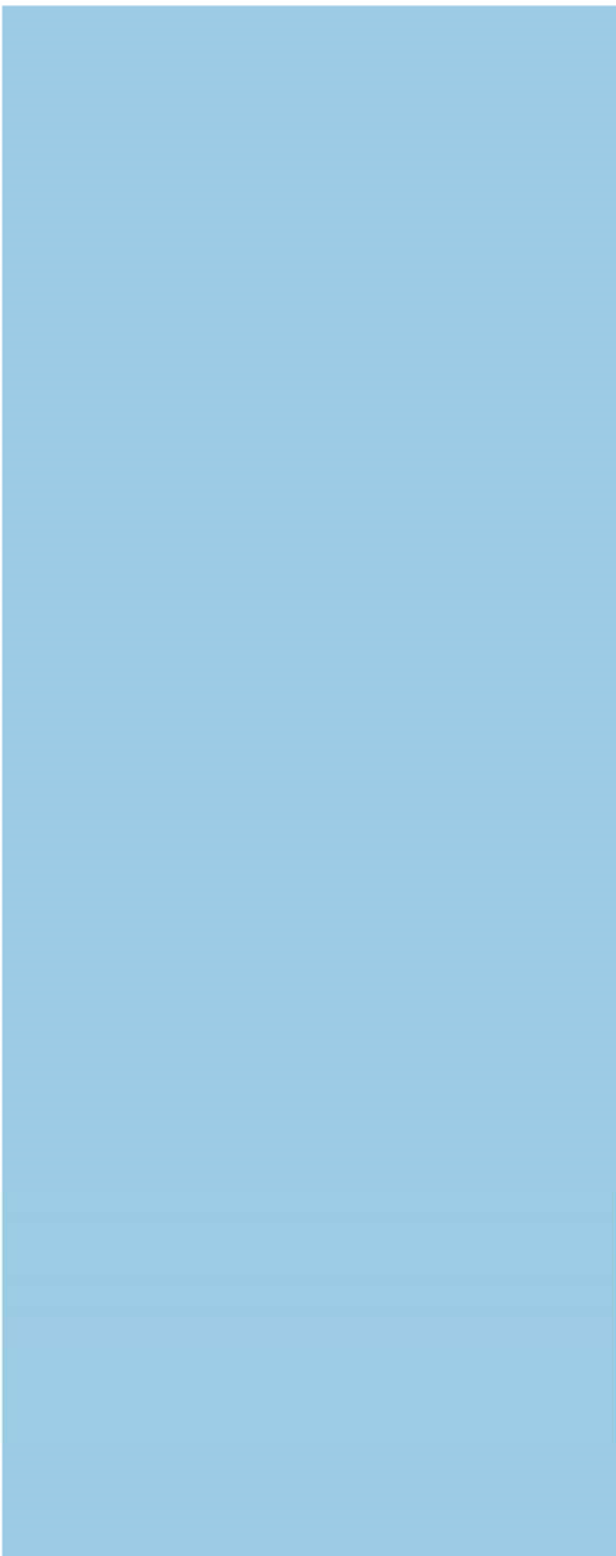
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Plates 5 and 6.**



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 West),
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,
Frobisher Way, Taunton,
Somerset, TA2 6BB**

**Tel: 01823 288 284
Fax: 01823 272 462
Email: southwest@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**