

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove,  
Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Kyle Beaverstock**

**Site Code: CMO16/08**

**(SU 2050 7431)**

# **Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Richard Iliffe**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CMO16/08

**April 2016**



## Summary

**Site name:** Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2050 7431

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 2nd March 2016

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Danielle Milbank

**Site code:** CMO16/08

**Area of site:** c. 225 sq m observed within site of 0.5ha

**Summary of results:** No finds or deposits of archaeological relevance were discovered during the course of the fieldwork.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: [www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.04.16 Steve Preston ✓ 19.04.16
---



# Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 16/08

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire (SU 2050 7431) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Iliffe of The Pools Yard, High Street, Ogbourne St George, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1SL.

Planning permission has been granted on appeal (APP/Y3940/W/15/3003195) by Wiltshire Council to construct a new farm accommodation building at Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires an archaeological investigation of the site. It was determined that this should take the form of a watching brief to 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 Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachel Foster, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 2nd March 2016 and the site code is CMO16/08.

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

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Ogbourne St George, bounded by Copse Drove to the north and Bytham Road to the west. The site is a relatively flat, square parcel of land (Fig. 2) approximately 160m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) which is currently being utilized for agricultural purposes. The site occupies a level zone in an area which otherwise slopes gently down to the west to the river Og, and sharply up to both the east and the north. The underlying geology is mapped as close to the boundary between Valley Gravel and Middle Chalk (BGS 1974): a light yellowish chalky clay was encountered, corresponding with the surface of the Middle Chalk.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to the projected line of the Roman road from *Cunetio* (Mildenhall, near Marlborough) to *Durocornovium* (Wanborough near Swindon) (as mapped on Figure 1). It is possible that such a location may have Roman occupation deposits such as a roadside settlement

or burial. The site lies some distance from the historic centre of the village which is late Saxon in origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). A watching brief (Bray 2012) undertaken just some 40m to the north-west, uncovered a ring gully containing a child burial which is likely of Iron Age origin. A number of Bronze Age round barrows and prehistoric or Roman field systems have also been recorded in the area.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular overburden removal, ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the new building, and any service runs.

All excavation was done by a 360<sup>0</sup>-type machine fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Any archaeologically relevant features or deposits which were threatened by groundworks would be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate tools.

## **Results**

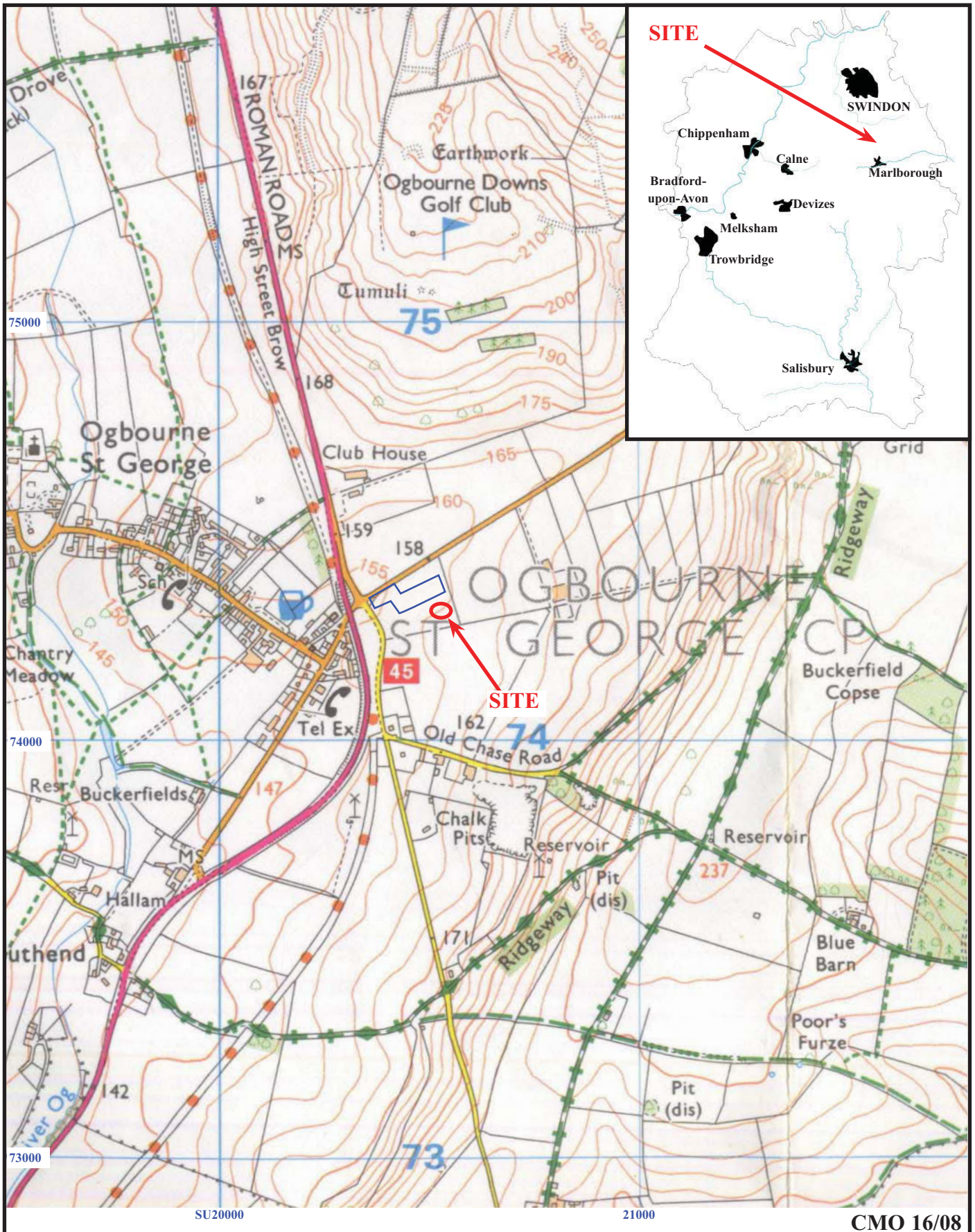
The full footprint of the new building was stripped of overburden (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.26m of topsoil and 0.12m of a reddish brown silty clay subsoil onto a light yellowish chalky clay natural geology. Although the archaeologically relevant horizon survived undisturbed, no archaeological deposits were observed nor finds recovered.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the archaeological potential of the site due to its proximity to a Roman road and the nearby burial discovered during a previous excavation (Bray 2012), no features or deposits of archaeological significance were observed during the course of the recording action. As the entire area was stripped to natural geology, it is deemed that the groundworks pose no threat to archaeological deposits.

## **References**

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 266, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
Bray, D, 2012, 'New Grain Store, Chapel Meadow, Copse Grove, Ogbourne St George, Wiltshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/07**, Reading  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



CMO 16/08

**Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St. George,  
Wiltshire, 2016**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Ogbourne St. George and Wiltshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 157 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880







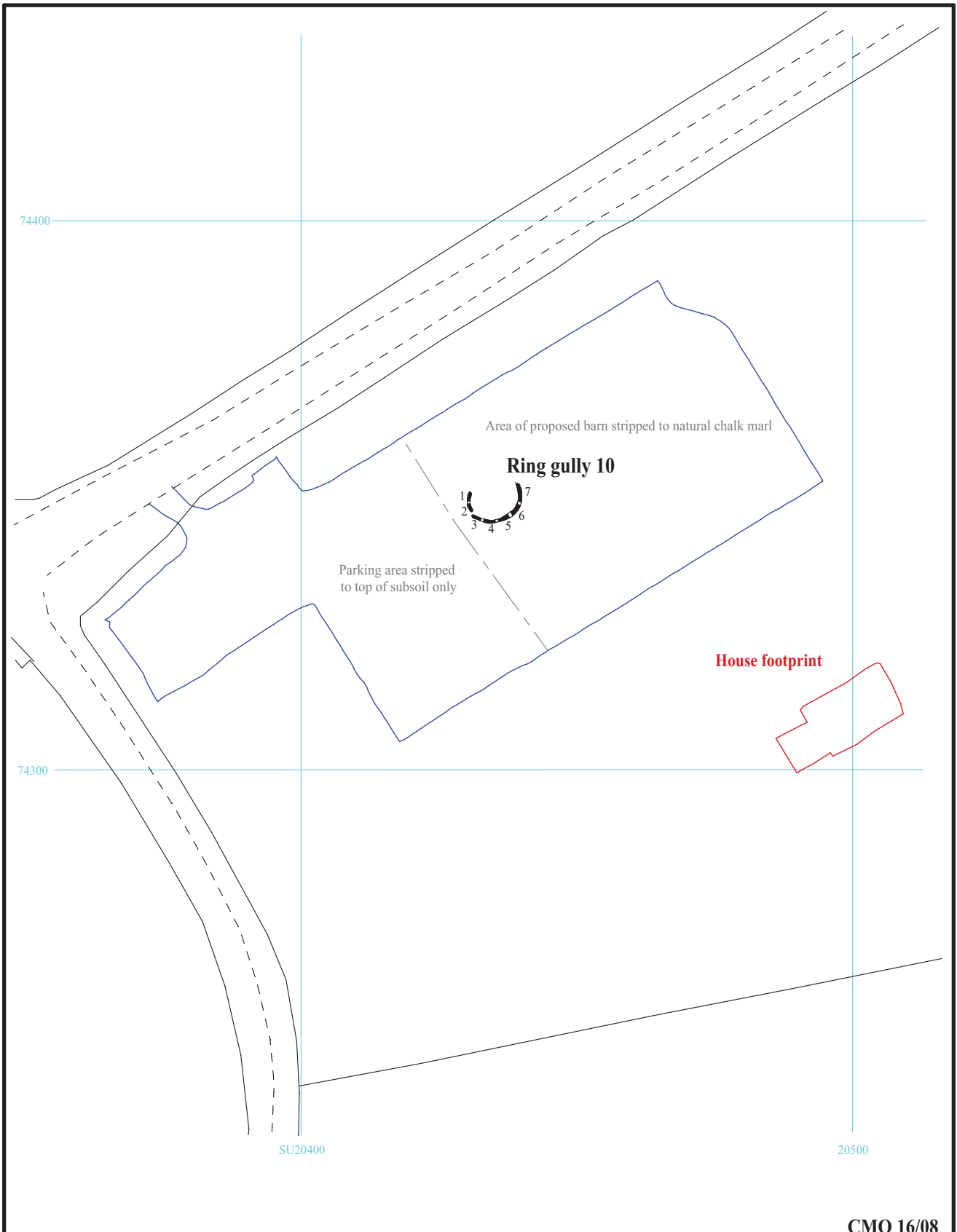
CMO 16/08



**Chapel Meadow, Copse Drive, Ogbourne St George,  
Wiltshire, 2016**  
**Archaeological watching brief**  
 Figure 2. Detailed location of site in relation to previous work.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.  
 Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:2500





**Chapel Meadow, Copse Grove,  
Ogborne St George, Wiltshire, 2016  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Plan of observed area relative to previous area of work.





Plate 1. Area of strip, looking south west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

CMO 16/08

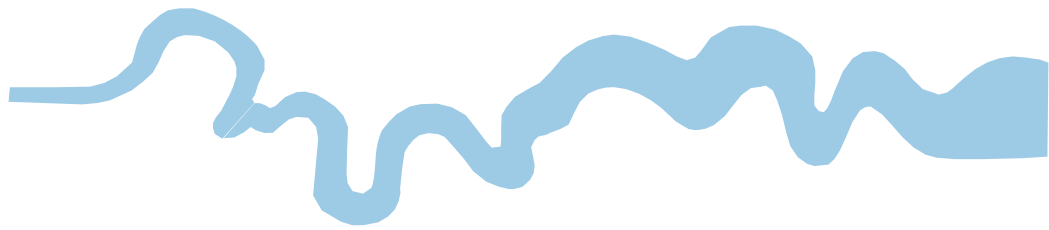
**Chapel Meadow, Copse Drove, Ogbourne St George,  
Wiltshire, 2016**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,  
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Fax: 0118 9260553  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**