

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**White Cottage, Chapel Hill,
Effingham, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank

Site Code: CHE17/67

(TQ 1172 5369)

**White Cottage, Chapel Hill,
Effingham, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Beaufoy Homes Limited**

by Danielle Milbank

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CHE 17/67

July 2017

Summary

Site name: White Cottage, Chapel Hill, Effingham, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 1172 5369

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 6th July 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: CHE 17/67

Area of site: c. 500 sq m

Summary of results: One linear feature was encountered in two evaluation trenches on the site. It contained a small quantity of pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date and a few struck flints.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 14.07.17 Steve Preston ✓ 14.07.17

White Cottage, Chapel Hill, Effingham, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Milbank

Report 17/67

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at White Cottage, Chapel Hill, Effingham, Surrey (TQ 1172 5369) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jim Messina, for Beaufoy Homes Wyvern House, 1 Church Road, Great Bookham, Surrey, England, KT23 3PD.

Planning permission (17/P/00473) has been sought from Guildford Borough Council for the erection of a new house with access and associated works on land at Chapel Hill, Effingham, Surrey (TQ 1172 5369). Any consent gained is expected to be subject to a condition relating to the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. An initial field evaluation by means of trial trenching has therefore been requested, based on the results of which, further work may be necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Nicholas Truckle, Archaeological Officer with Surrey County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 6th July 2017 and the site code is CHE 17/67. 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

The site is located within the garden at the west of White Cottage, to the north of Chapel Hill (Fig. 1), near the centre of the village. The site area comprises a small roughly rectangular plot of land, currently occupied by lawns and a small greenhouse, belonging to White Cottage to the east (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Lewes, Seaford and Newhaven chalk formation (BGS 1981), however superficial geological deposits (clay, sand and gravels) were observed in the trenches. The site lies at a height of *c.* 73m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location at the centre of the historic village and falls within Effingham Conservation Area. The known history of the site and its environs has been detailed in a heritage statement (WYG 2017). Effingham has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday book (Williams and Martin 2002). The street pattern began to be established during medieval times, with the earliest listed buildings in the area dating from the 12th century onwards. Archaeological finds dating from prehistoric periods, through Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods are recorded in the area. White Cottage itself is a locally listed building of interest, with many listed and locally listed buildings surrounding the site. The site is within an Area of High Archaeological Potential in the local plan.

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 development.

Specific research aims of the project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;

It was proposed to dig 2 trenches each measuring 10m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket, and were to be excavated under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using the appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the features excavated to an agreed sampling fraction, to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any features which might warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The trenches were dug within the garden (Fig. 3), with the location of trench 2 adjusted to target the proposed house footprint due to constraints in the area of the proposed drive. This adjustment was made in consultation with the county archaeological officer. The trenches were both 1.6m wide, and were 10.2m and 8.1m long respectively, with depths of 0.86m and 0.90m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a

description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarize in Appendix.

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Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

This trench was aligned SSE–WNW and measured 10.2m long and 0.86m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.88m of a dark brown organic garden soil with occasional brick and moderate subangular flint fragments. This overlay a mottled orange grey very sandy clay which comprised the natural geology.

At 5m from the southern end of the trench, a linear feature (1) crossed the trench aligned east–west. This was 0.56m wide and 0.24m deep, with a concave but slightly irregular profile. The excavated slot was extended to the full width (1.6m) of the trench. It was infilled with single deposit (51) which comprised a grey brown slightly silty clay sand, with frequent small and occasional medium subangular flint and moderate small and medium burnt flint fragments. Burnt, unworked, flint weighing 1kg was collected from this deposit, which also contained three struck flint flakes. A sieved soil sample (40 litres) contained a further 1kg of burnt flint and small fragments of pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date. A single piece of burnt bone weighing 4g (possibly a long bone fragment) was also recovered from the sample. No carbonized plant remains were present in the flot.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 4)

This trench was aligned SSW–NNE and measured 8.1m long. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.81m of garden topsoil (as above) which directly overlay the clayey sand geology. At the north-east end, slot 2 was excavated through a linear feature, which is likely to represent a continuation of the feature excavated in Trench 1. Here, the feature was at least 0.49m wide, and 0.26m deep, with a concave but uneven base. This was infilled with a grey brown slightly silty clay sand deposit (52), with frequent small and occasional medium subangular flint and moderate small and medium burnt flint fragments. Burnt flint weighing 1kg was collected from this deposit, which also contained another three flint flakes.

Finds

Pottery by Richard Tabor

All five prehistoric sherds weighing 8g were recovered from the soil sample from cut 1. They were in a similar fabric and may be from a single vessel. The moderately well-fired and moderately hard grey to buff sandy fabric had surfaces with the same range of colours. The matrix included poorly-sorted sparse medium clear rounded quartz grains (<1mm), sparse to moderate fine and sparse medium (<2mm) angular burnt flint.

There were four wall or indeterminate sherds and one rim. The simple rounded rim formed the lip of an inturned neck set over a weak high shoulder with a thickness of 5mm or less. The vessel was handmade. The form is not especially diagnostic but together with the thickness it would be consistent with a bowl of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, the latter favoured by the sparseness of flint inclusions.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection of six flint flakes was recovered during the evaluation. These comprised three flakes recovered from gully 1 (51), one of which was patinated. The remaining three flakes came from gully slot 2 (52). None of the pieces are closely datable, other than to the broad Neolithic or Bronze Age, with at least two periods represented due to the presence of the one patinated piece. One piece from ditch 1 is in a good condition, whereas the others show some abrasion.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a single linear feature, which was fairly irregular and from which pottery of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date was recovered. The feature indicates a small amount of activity in the area, of that date, but it is unclear if this represents a boundary feature or if it relates to an occupation site. However, the small size of the site makes the isolated feature difficult to interpret.

Despite the site's potential for Saxon or medieval archaeology to be present, no deposits or features of this period were identified. The remaining areas of the house footprint to the south revealed undisturbed natural geology and no further archaeological deposits indicated here.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 301, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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
WYG 2017, 'Heritage Statement prepared in relation to proposed development at White Cottage, Chapel Hill, Effingham', White Young Green, Belfast

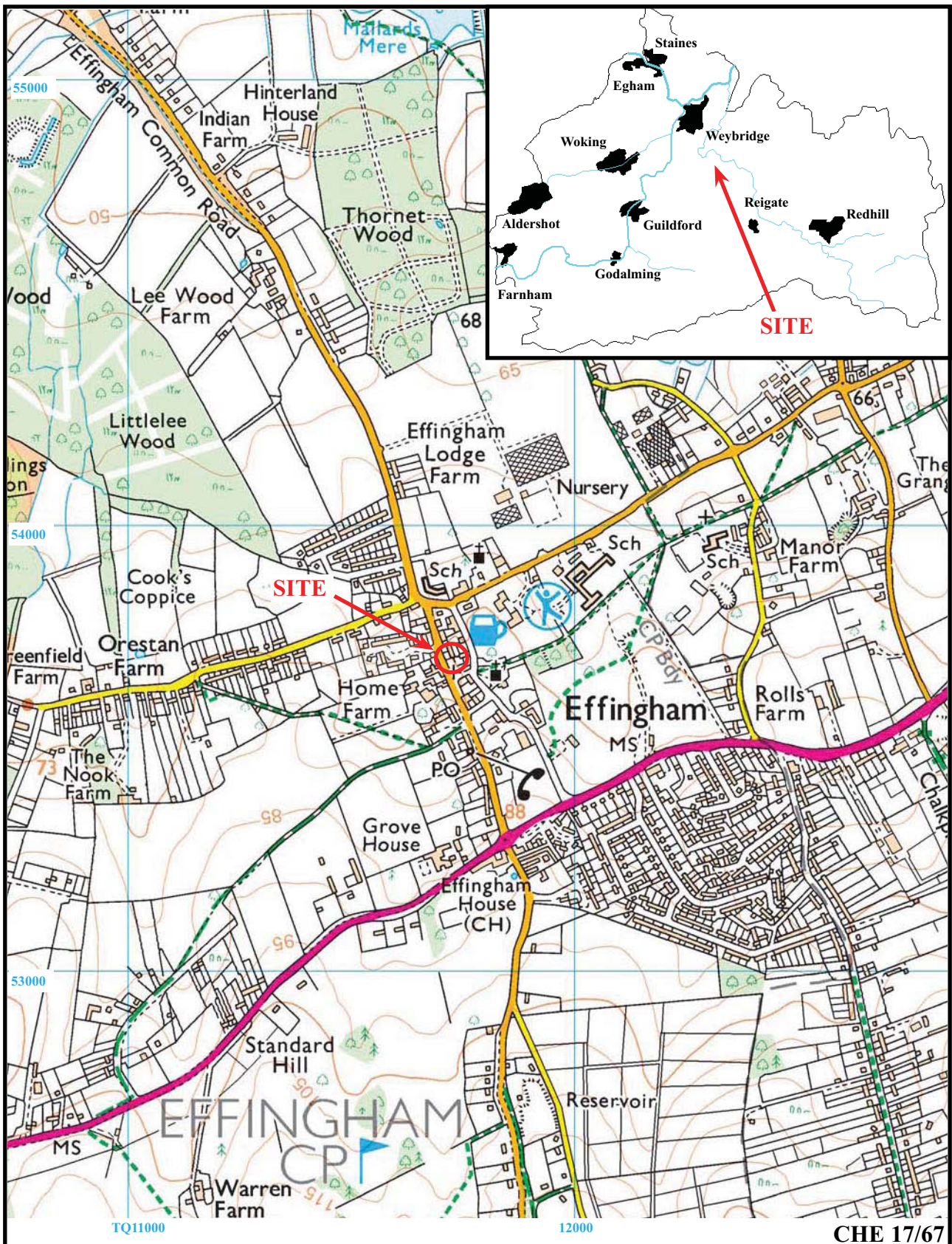
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.10	1.60	0.86	0-0.80m topsoil; 0.80m+ orange brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 1 [Pls 1 and 3]
2	8.10	1.60	0.90	0-0.85m topsoil; 0.85+ orange brown sandy clay natural geology. Ditch 2 [Pls 2 and 4]

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	51	Gully	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Pottery, flint
2	2	52	Gully	Late Bronze Age/early Iron Age	Flint; same as 1



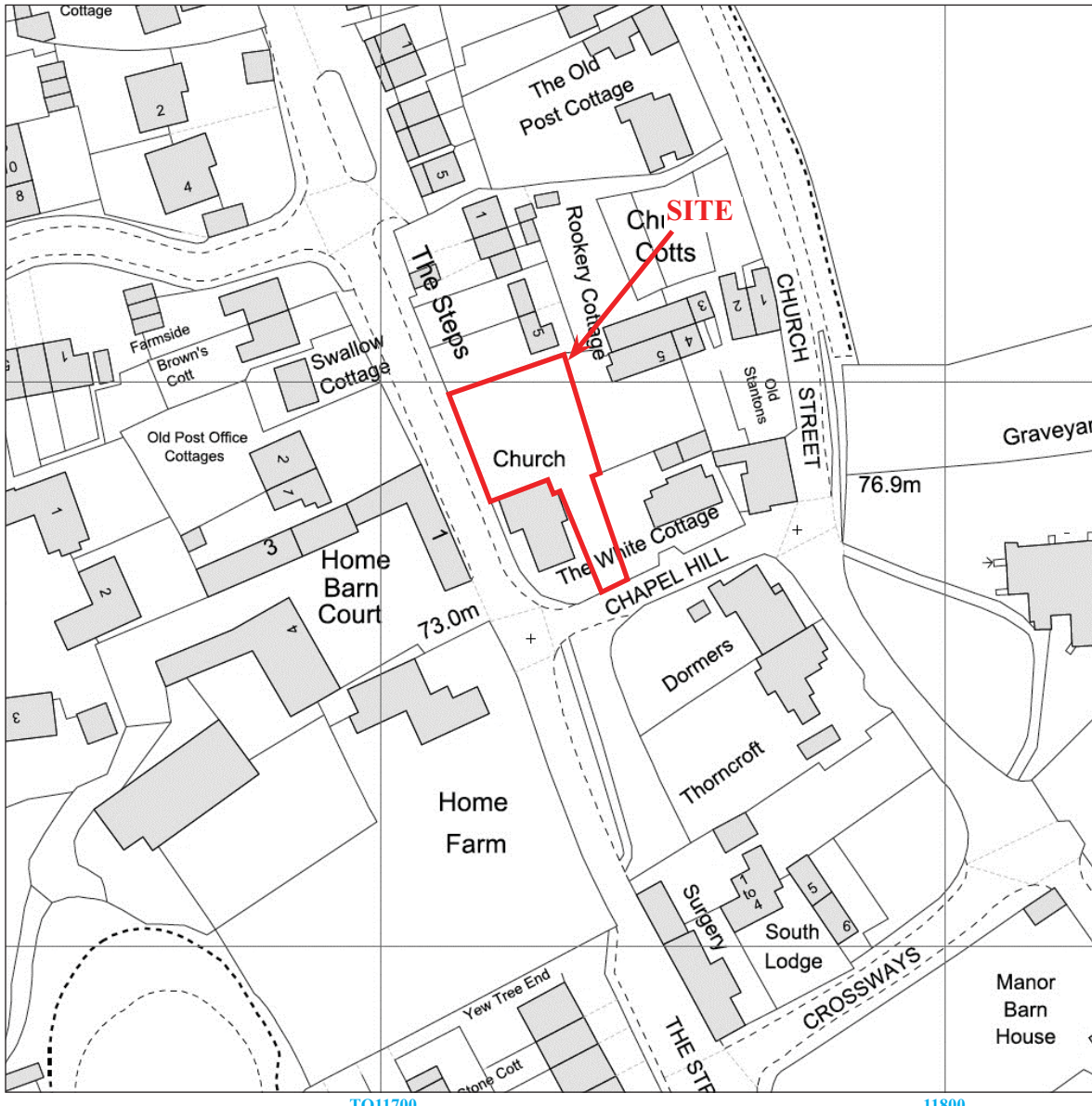
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Figure 1. Location of site within Effingham and Surrey.

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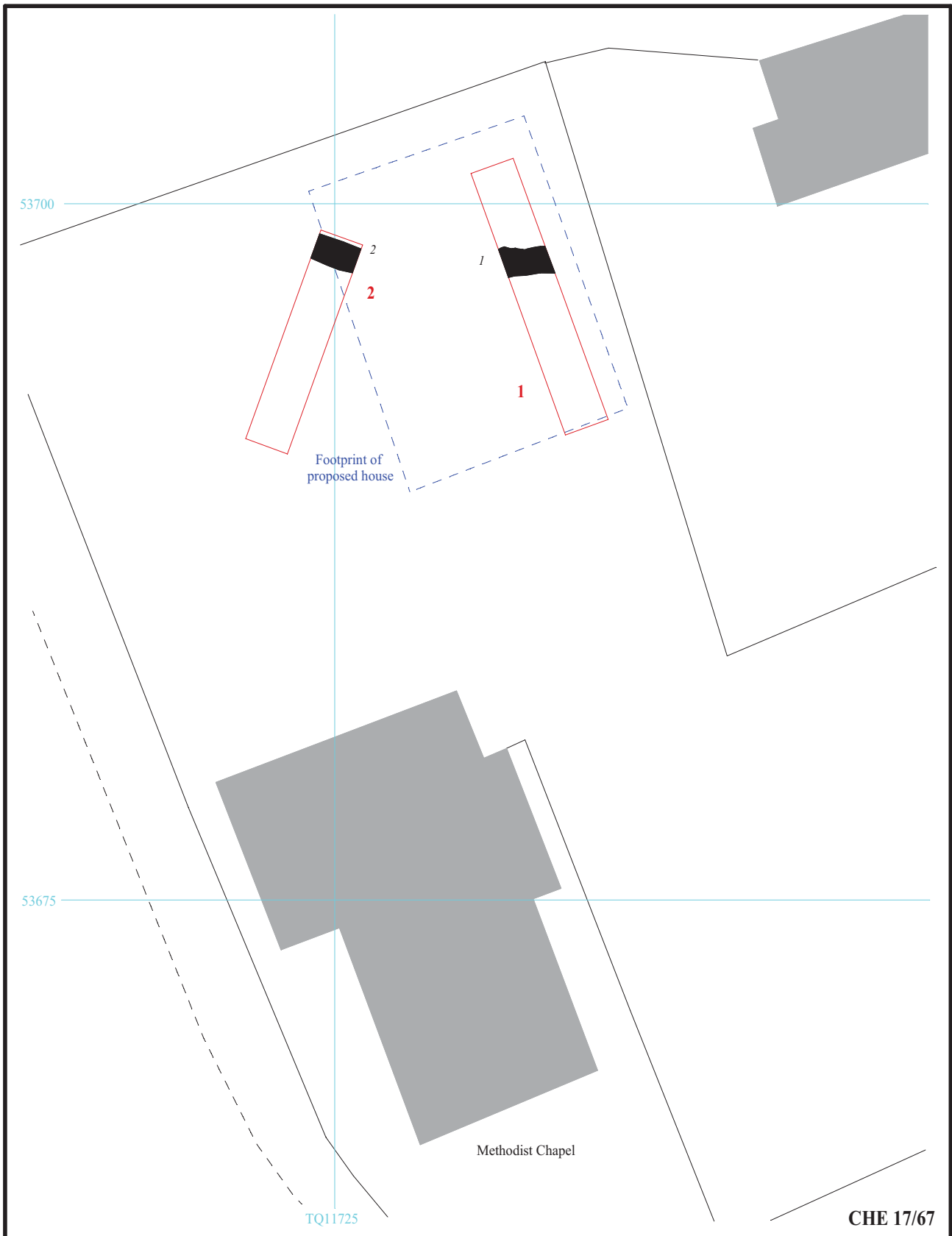
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site at Chapel Hill.

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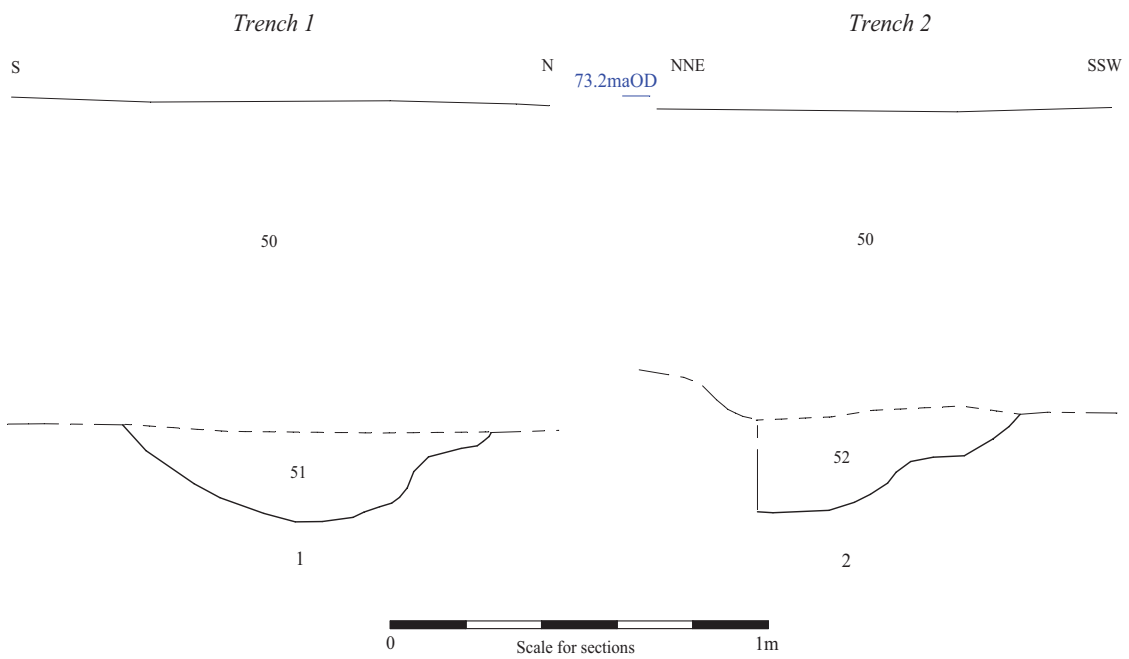
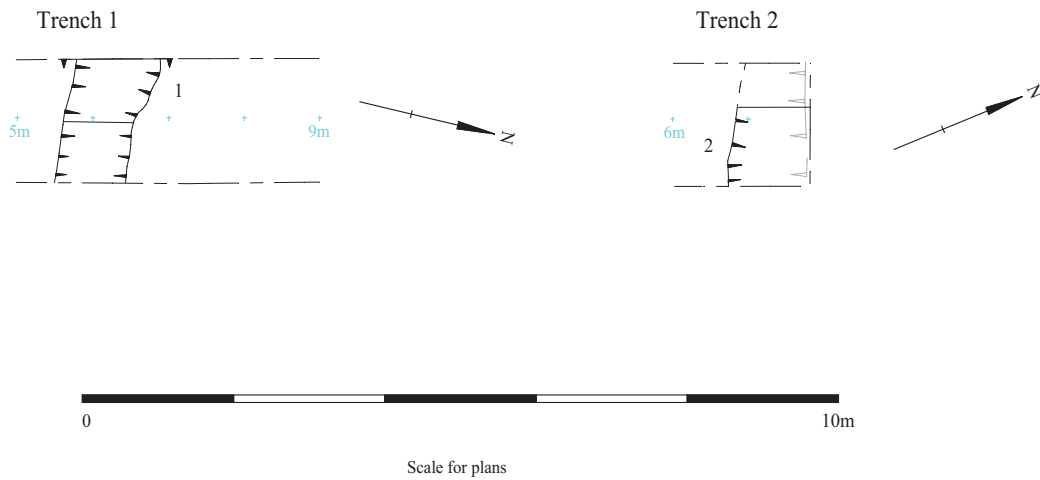
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.





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Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking south west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at White Cottage, Chapel Hill,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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



Plate 4. Trench 2, gully 2, looking south east, Scales: 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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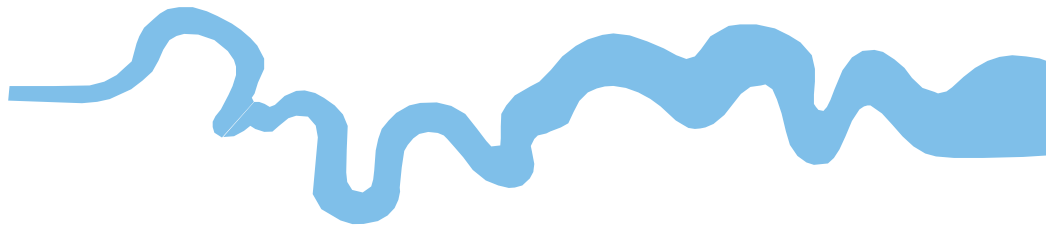
**Land at White Cottage, Chapel Hill,
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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 RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

***Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***