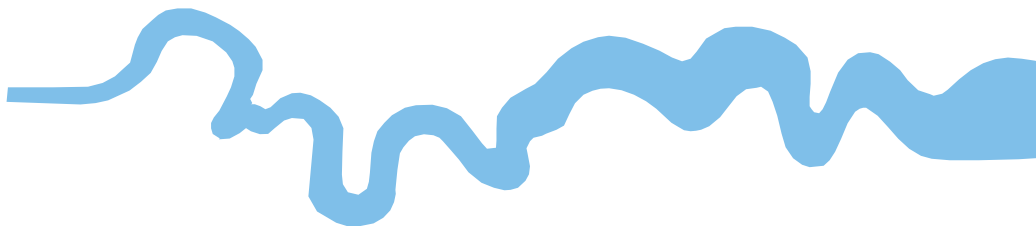


**T V A S**



**SOUTH WEST**

**Land at 1 Longhedge Cottage, Longhedge,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andrew Weale**

**Site Code: LCS17/183  
(SU 1444 3398)**

# **1 Longhedge Cottages, Longhedge, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For**

**Heatherdene Properties Ltd**

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LCS 17/183

**September 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at 1 Longhedge Cottage, Longhedge, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1444 3398

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 6th September 2017

**Project manager:** Andrew Weale

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Weale

**Site code:** LCS 17/183

**Area of site:** c. 0.48 ha

**Summary of results:** A single posthole and pit were encountered during the watching brief however both were undated. It is possible that both are related to the surrounding Bronze Age trackway and field systems but the posthole may be related to a modern hedge and fenceline that had been previously removed during the building works

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 16.10.17 Steve Preston✓ 16.10.17
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# **Land at 1 Longhedge Cottage, Longhedge, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Andrew Weale

**Report 17/183**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 1 Longhedge Cottage, Longhedge, Salisbury Wiltshire (SU 14437 33978) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Mark Morris of Heatherdene Properties Ltd, Office 5 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Voluntary House, 112-113 Commercial Street, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan CF34 9DL.

Planning permission (17/01880/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council for the erection of 10 semi-detached houses with associated parking on land at 1 Longhedge Cottage, Longhedge, Salisbury. The planning permission is subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology that required an archaeological 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 Clare King Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council Archaeology, of Wiltshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale on the 6th of September 2017 and the site code is LCS 17/183.

The archive is presently held at TVAS South West, Taunton and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum, in due course.

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located within the hamlet of Longhedge alongside the A345 with Old Sarum, and Salisbury to the south, the hamlet of High Post to the north and the villages of Winterbourne Gunner and Winterbourne Earls to the east (Fig. 1). The site is located immediately adjacent to (east of) the A345, between Old Sarum and the recent housing development at Longhedge. The site comprises a triangular-shaped area (c. 4800 sq m), which had been laid to lawn, on relatively level ground, sloping gently downwards from north to south (Fig. 2). It is bounded to the north by the house and garden of No 1 Longhedge Cottages, the south by a small copse (Rockshill Plantation), the east by fields (part of the Longhedge village expansion) and the west by the A345. It

is situated on the lower slopes of Highpost Hill at an elevation of *c.* 78m OD. The underlying geology comprises Cretaceous Seaford Chalk Formation, Upper Chalk (BGS 2006). Hard chalk was encountered across the site during the works.

## **Archaeological background**

The site is located within an area of significant archaeological interest, particularly with regard to prehistoric activity and occupation, as has been highlighted by several recent development-led surveys, evaluations and excavations in the vicinity. Old Sarum hillfort lies just to the south, as do several Roman roads: The Portway Silchester to Old Sarum (Margary 1973 route 4); Winchester to Old Sarum (Margary 1973 route 45a); and Old Sarum to Mildenhall (Margary 1973 route 44) as well as two settlements. The A345 at least in part follows the Roman road from Old Sarum to Mildenhall (Margary 1973 route 44) and is just beyond the northern border of the site. Slightly further north at High Post, an Early and Middle Iron Age enclosure and Roman occupation have been excavated (Powell 2011).

Archaeological investigations undertaken prior to the construction of the Beehive Park and Ride, *c.* 700m to the south of the site, identified three large Middle Neolithic pits and undated but probably Bronze Age ditches (Heaton 2003). Excavations along the route of the Old Sarum pipeline (Powell *et al.* 2005) identified a concentration of archaeological features to the north of Old Sarum hillfort and *c.* 700m south of the Site. These included Middle Neolithic pits and with Late Neolithic and Beaker features (Powell *et al.* 2005, 252–8). At the Old Sarum Spur, *c.* 1km to the south-west of the site, a Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement was identified, revealing roundhouses and contemporaneous human and animal burials (Powell *et al.* 2005, 268–72).

The most extensive archaeological investigations in the area have been those leading up to the construction of a large housing development *c.* 600–800m to the east of the site, where excavations revealed an extensive ritual and funerary landscape spanning the Neolithic and Bronze Ages (WA2006),

Geophysical survey on land immediately to the north and east located a probable circular enclosure and level din round barrows (Sabin and Donaldson 2013) and evaluation revealed an Iron Age enclosure and triple ditch boundary feature ditches (Orczewski 2015).

The site itself has been evaluated (Gibson 2014) and revealed a truncated pit of Later Bronze Age date, an undated posthole and a few stray finds of struck flint and Bronze Age pottery (Gibson 2014).

Longhedge Cottage is the site of an outfarm of the now demolished 19th-century Longhedge Farm, Laverstock (Edwards and Lake 2014)

## Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundations, landscaping and service trenches, along with any required ground reduction. All archaeological deposits which were threatened by groundworks were to be excavated and recorded.

## Results

A tracked 360° excavator equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket was used to remove topsoil and subsoil down to underlying natural geology for each of the rectangular footing trenches, typically 12m by 11m (maximum dimension) for the house plots (Fig. 2). The remaining area within the footprint of each plot was not excavated. The access road into the new development was to be built up on existing ground levels preserving any archaeological features *in situ*. The topsoil across the site was strung with modern rubbish which appeared to be from site clearance. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 1.

### Plot 1-2 (Fig. 2)

Plot 1-2 was towards the northern edge of the site. It was excavated along the line of the footing trenches in a rectangle 1.5m wide and a maximum of 0.21m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of topsoil which was above 0.02m of subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was compact white chalk natural geology. No archaeological features or datable artefacts were observed.

### Plot 3-4 (Fig. 2; Pl. 1)

Plot 3-4 was in the northern half of the site. It was excavated to a maximum of 0.26m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil which was above 0.06m of subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was compact white chalk natural geology. The remains of the evaluation trench 1 aligned north-west to south-east appeared within the north-west and south-east arms of the Plot. No archaeological features or datable artefacts were observed.

### Plot 5-6 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 2)

Plot 5-6 was towards the centre of the site. The excavation was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil which was above 0.05m of subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was compact white chalk natural geology. At 4m from the south-west edge of the south-eastern arm of Plot 5-6 was Pit 2 (Pl. 6). Pit 2 was

roughly circular in plan 0.55m in diameter and up to 0.07m deep. Pit 2 was filled with a reddish-brown silty clay (53) with moderate chalk fragments but no other datable artefacts.

#### Plot 7-8 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Plot 7-8 was towards the southern half of the site. It was excavated to a maximum of 0.18m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil which was above 0.03m of subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was compact white chalk natural geology. No archaeological features or datable artefacts were observed.

#### Plot 9-10 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 4)

Plot 9-10 was towards the southern part of the site and was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil which was above 0.05m of subsoil. Beneath the subsoil was compact white chalk natural geology. Located 8m from the south-west edge of the north-western arm of Plot 5-6 was Posthole 1. Posthole was roughly circular in plan 0.19m in diameter and up to 0.05m deep (Pl. 5). Posthole 1 was filled with a light brown silty clay (52) with moderate chalk fragments which contained no datable artefacts.

## **Conclusion**

Two discrete features were identified across the site, a posthole and a pit. Neither were dated but it is assumed that the pit is of Bronze Age date. The posthole in Plot 9-10 may also be of prehistoric date however it is close to the site of a recently removed hedgerow and fence line (M Morris pers. comm.) and could thus be modern.

## **References**

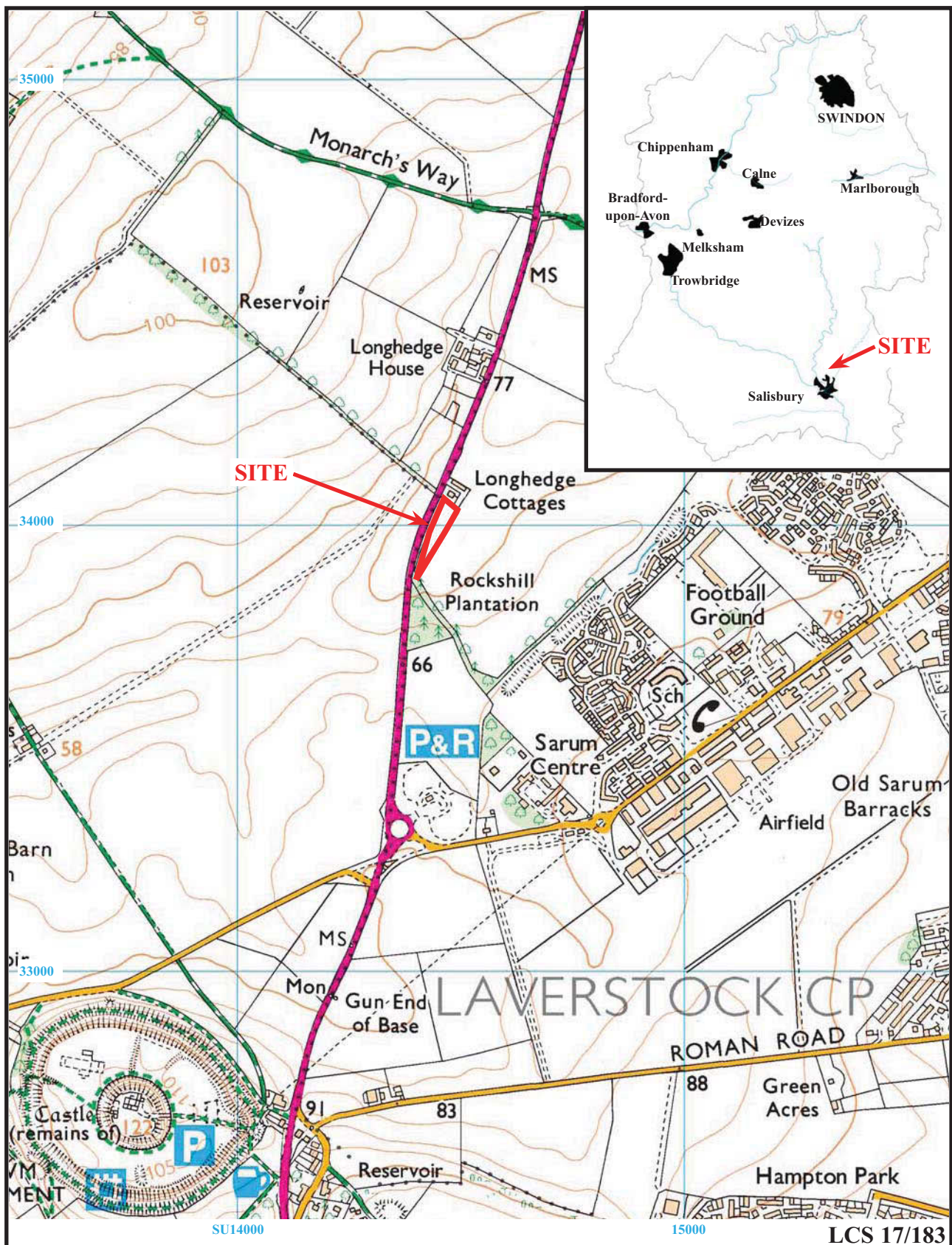
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**APPENDIX 1:** Feature details

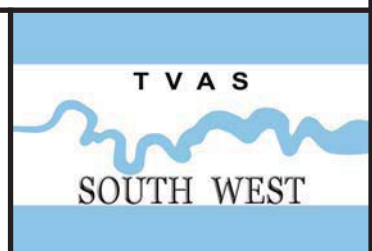
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9-10	1	52	Post hole	-	-
5-6	2	53	Pit	?Prehistoric	-

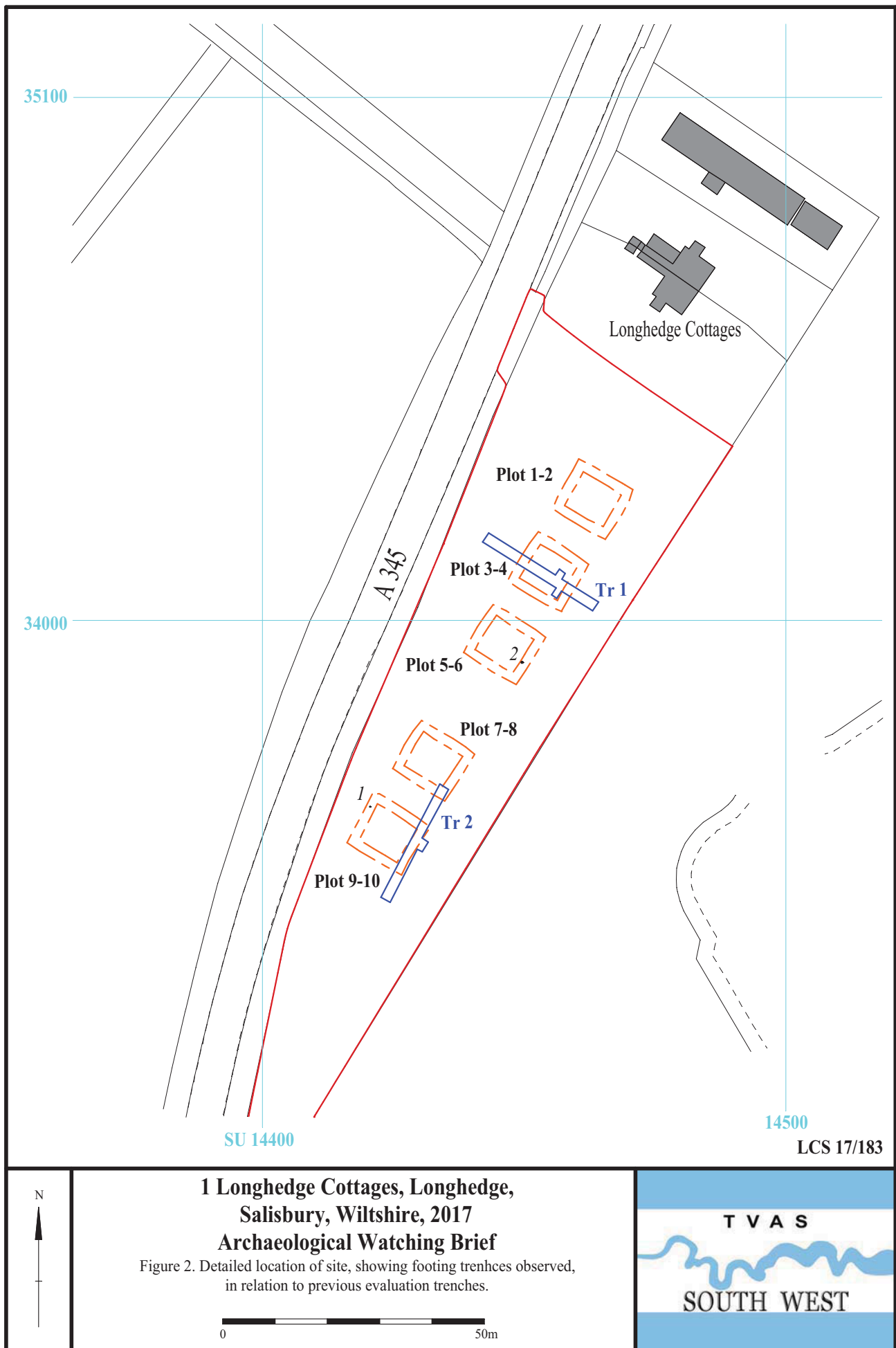


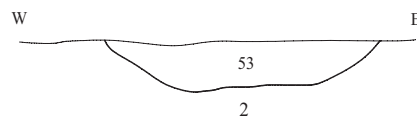
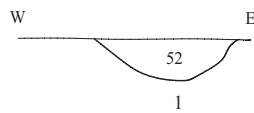
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Salisbury and within  
Wiltshire.**

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Figure 3. Sections.

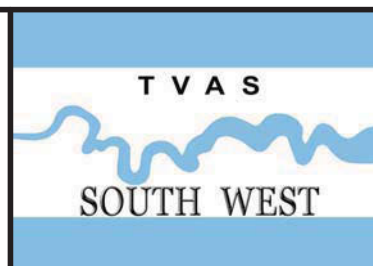






Plate 1. Plot 3-4 looking east, showing edge of Evaluation Trench 1. Scales: 1m and 0.2m



Plate 2. Plot 5-6 Looking east Scales 1m and 0.2m

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Plates 1 and 2.







Plate 3. Plot 7-8, Looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m



Plate 4. Plot 9-10, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.3m

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Plates 3 and 4.







Plate 5. Posthole 1 Plot 9-10, looking north, Scale: 0.1m



Plate 6. Pit 2. Plot 5-6 looking north, Scale: 0.3m

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Land at 1 Longhedge Cottage,  
Longhedge, Salisbury, Wiltshire 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 5 and 6.



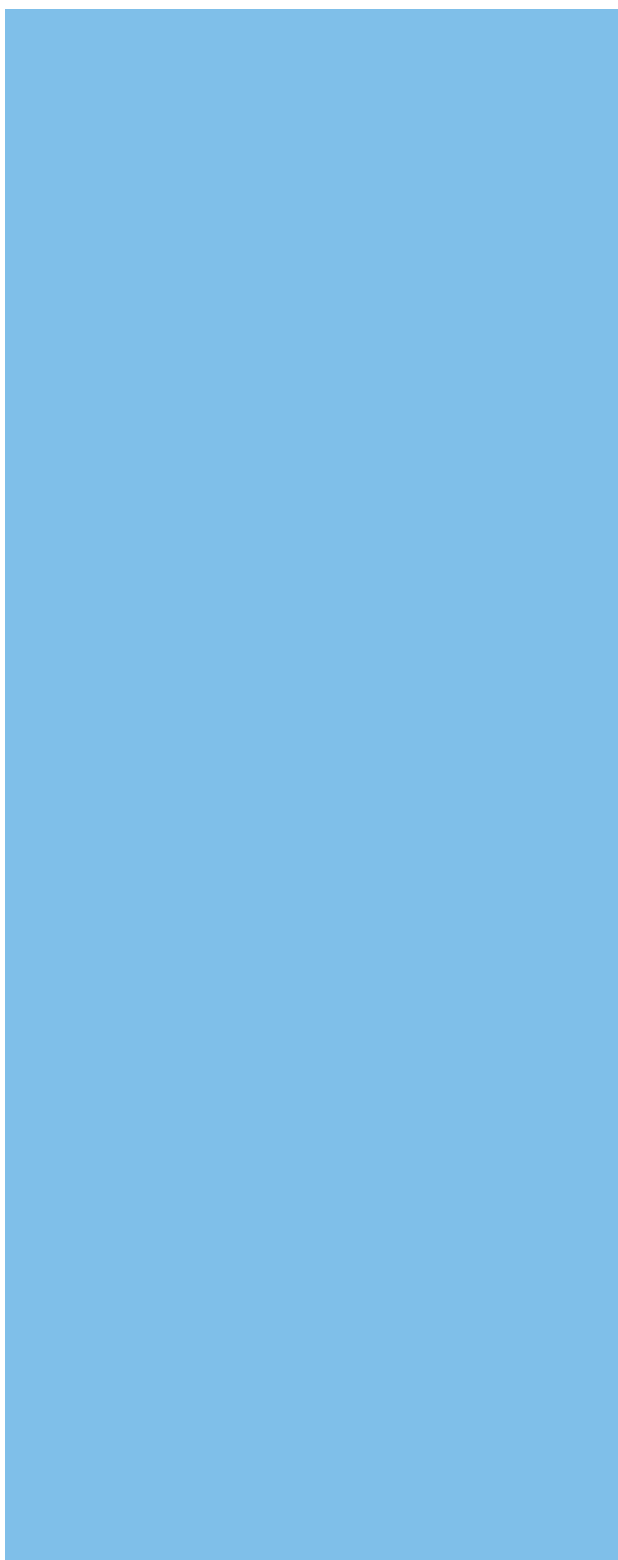
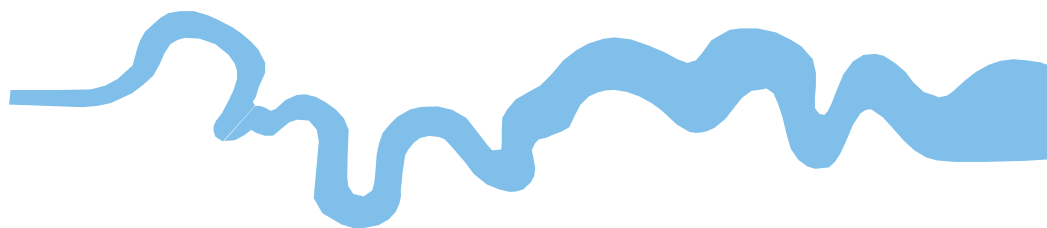
## TIME CHART

### Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	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







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