

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Church of St Peter and St Paul,
Thrupton, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lizzi Lewins and Rebecca Constable

Site Code: TCH17/260

(SU 2889 4559)

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Thruxton, Hampshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For the Church of St Peter and St Paul Parochial Church Council

by Lizzi Lewins and Rebecca Constable

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TCH 17/260

December 2017

Summary

Site name: Church of St Peter and St Paul, Thruxton, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 2889 4559

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th - 6th December 2017

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Rebecca Constable

Site code: TCH 17/260

Summary of results: No graves or vaults were encountered during the excavation of the drainage trenches and only small fragments of disarticulated human bone were observed and retained on site.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 15.12.17 Steve Preston✓ 15.12.17

Church of St Peter and St Paul, Thruxton, Hampshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lizzi Lewins and Rebecca Constable

Report 17/260

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Thruxton, Hampshire (SU 2889 4559) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Rebecca Judge of The Goddard Partnership LLP, The Old Fire Station, Upper Basingwell Street, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, SO32 1PF on behalf of the Church of SS Peter and Paul Parochial Church Council.

A faculty has been gained from the Diocese of Winchester to excavate new drainage trenches at the Church for which an archaeological watching brief was requested in line with the Diocesan Advisory Committee guidelines on archaeology. This was due to the possibility of damage or destruction to archaeological deposits during the groundworks.

The field investigation was carried out to a written scheme of investigation. The fieldwork was undertaken by Rebecca Constable, on the 5th and 6th December 2017 and the site code is TCH 17/260.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with The Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north of the A303 in the west of the village of Thruxton and to the east of Thruxton Aerodrome (Fig. 1). The church is bounded to north by the remains of an earth banked and ditched enclosure and to the south by the 18th-century manor house (Fig. 2). The site is a flat parcel of land in use as a graveyard and lies at a height of c.80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 1993).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location at the parish church which is usually considered to lie at the centre of the historic core of a settlement, though in this case, the church lies away from the main thoroughfare of the town. The church may have had late Saxon origins as one is recorded in Domesday Book of

1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). The current building has early medieval (13th century) origins with 15th century additions, but was comprehensively restored in 1869. The church is Grade I listed. Immediately to the north of the church are the remains of an earth banked and ditched post-Norman enclosure which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (1001871, HA 265) and thought to be the site of the original manor house (HGT Research 2005). The 18th-century Grade II listed manor house stands immediately to the south of the church.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the digging of drainage trenches, specifically: to determine the extent to which human remains survived within the excavated area; and to observe the presence of any graves or vaults that could be uncovered during the excavation of the trenches. The groundworks were to be undertaken with full archaeological supervision at all times. Any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks were to be excavated and fully recorded with sufficient time allowed within the groundworkers' schedule to achieve this. Discovery of any human remains dated to the post-medieval or modern period were to be recorded and returned to the church for reburial. Should any remains of Medieval or earlier date be uncovered they were to be recorded and excavated following receipt of the appropriate Consistory Court approval. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Four drainage trenches were observed. No soakaway was dug as perforated pipes were used within the trenches negating the need for one. The trenches were each 10m long and ranged in width from 0.34m-0.36m and depth between 0.36m-0.60m. The natural chalk geology was only partially exposed in Trench 2, and was not seen in the remaining three trenches.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

The trench was located south of the porch at the south-west corner of the church, orientated N–S with a 20° turn to the west at the mid-point. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil overlying 0.32m of a red brown silt gravesoil with occasional chalk inclusions. Small amounts of disarticulated human bone, brick and animal bone were seen within the subsoil and retained on site.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

The trench was orientated NW–SE, heading south-east from the east end of the south wall of the nave. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying a brown silt gravesoil overlying the natural chalk geology

which was only partially exposed in the corner of the trench. A single fragment of disarticulated human bone and two fragments of brick were retained on site.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

The trench was orientated SW-NE from the north-east corner of the north aisle. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.13m of topsoil overlying 0.23m of grey brown silt gravesoil with moderate flint inclusions. A brick dump was observed 3m from the northern end of the trench. Glass, modern pottery, brick, slate, a fragment of animal bone and a fragments of disarticulated human bone were seen within the subsoil and retained on site.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 4)

The trench was located north of the church's west end, orientated S-N, turning east towards the west end of the north aisle. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil overlying a grey brown silt gravesoil which contained modern debris relating to the digging of an earlier soakaway situated under the new trench. No archaeological finds were encountered.

Finds

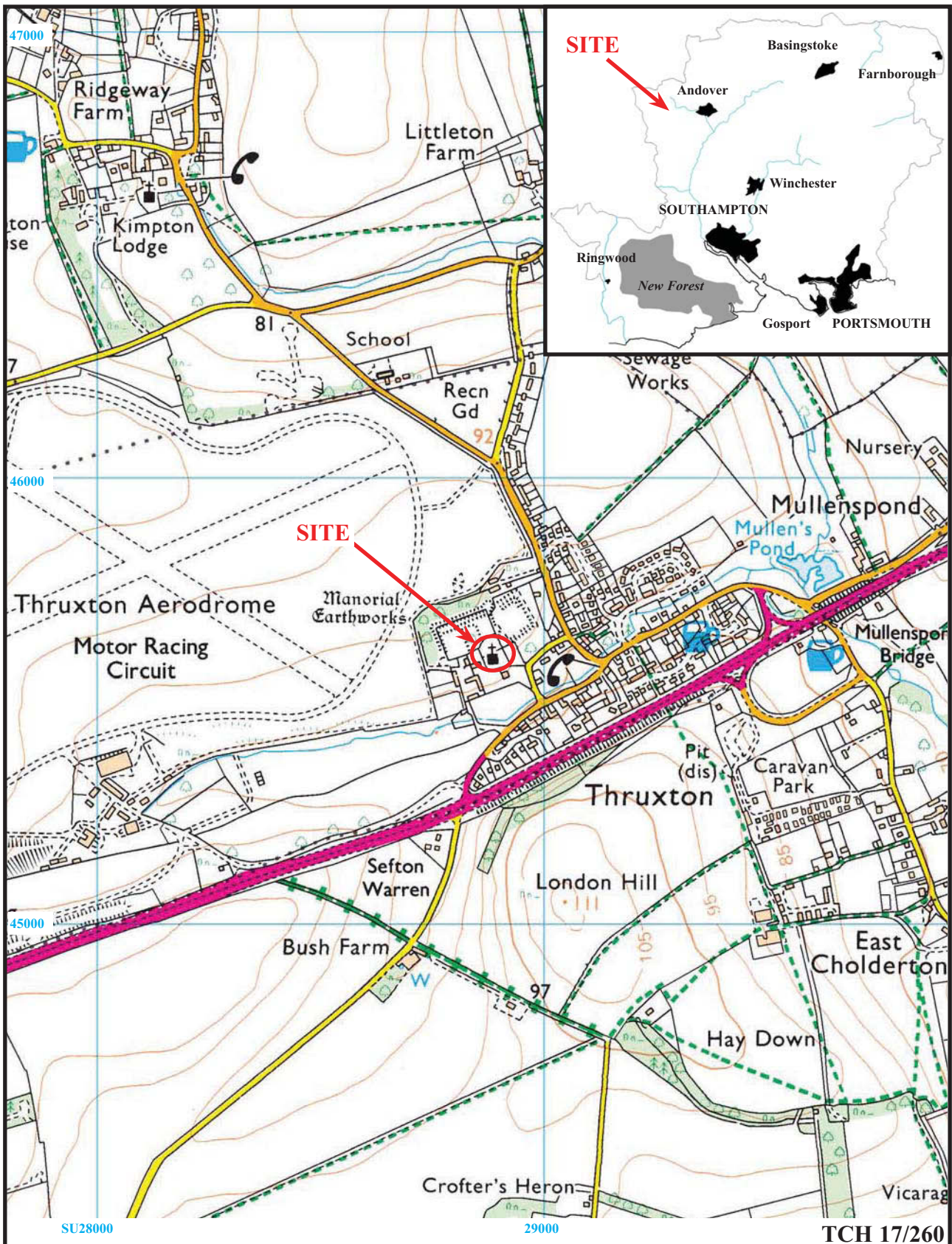
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered: modern finds and debris were retained on site. Small quantities of unidentifiable disarticulated human bone were also noted and retained at the church.

Conclusion

Four drainage trenches were observed around the church. No graves or vaults were encountered during the excavation of the trenches and only small fragments of disarticulated human bone were observed and were retained on site.

References

- BGS, 1993, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 283, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
HGT Research, 2005, *Thraxton Manor House*, <http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/thraxton-manor-house/>, Accessed 13th December 2017
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



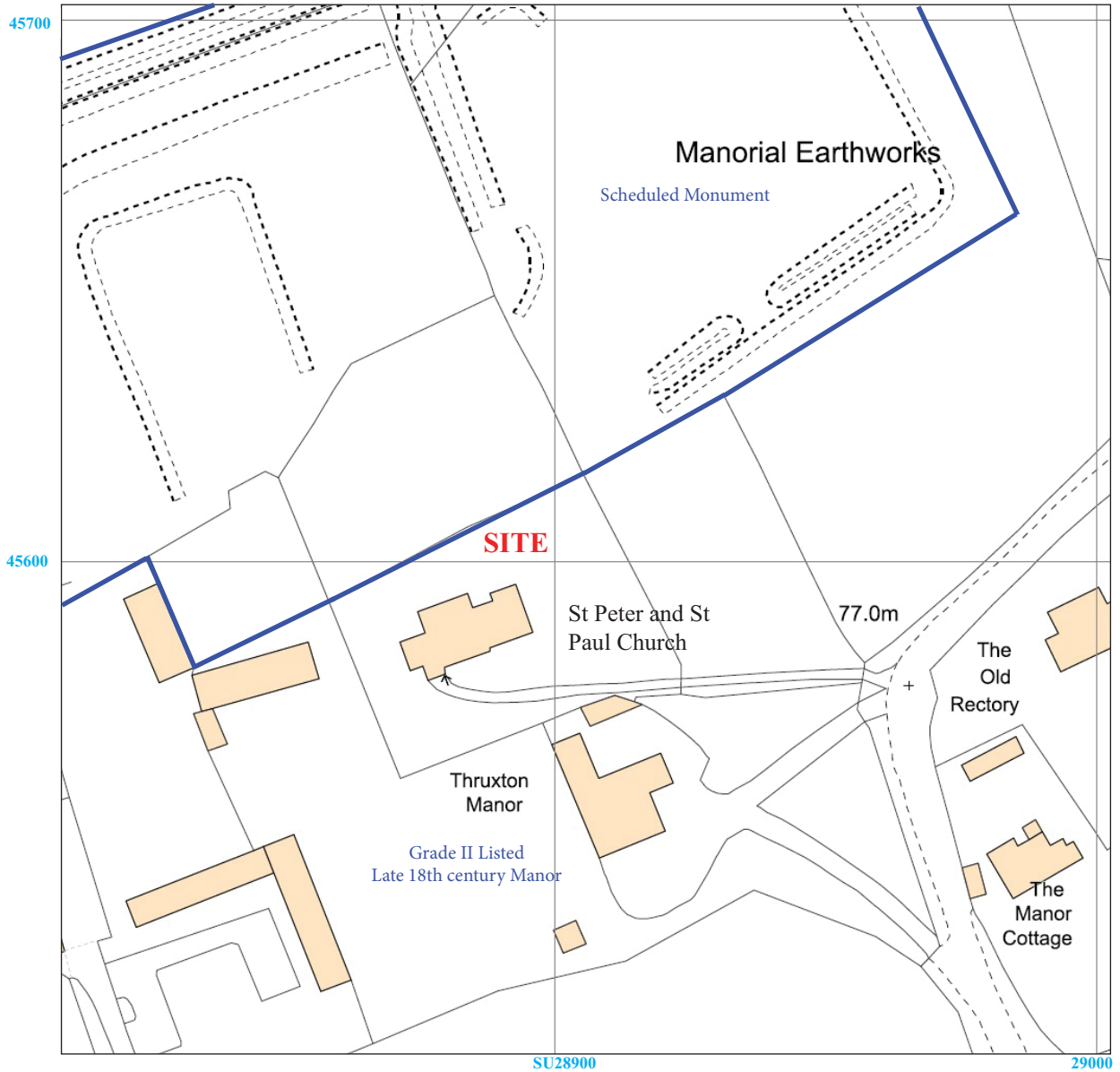
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Figure 1. Location of site within Thruxton and Hampshire.

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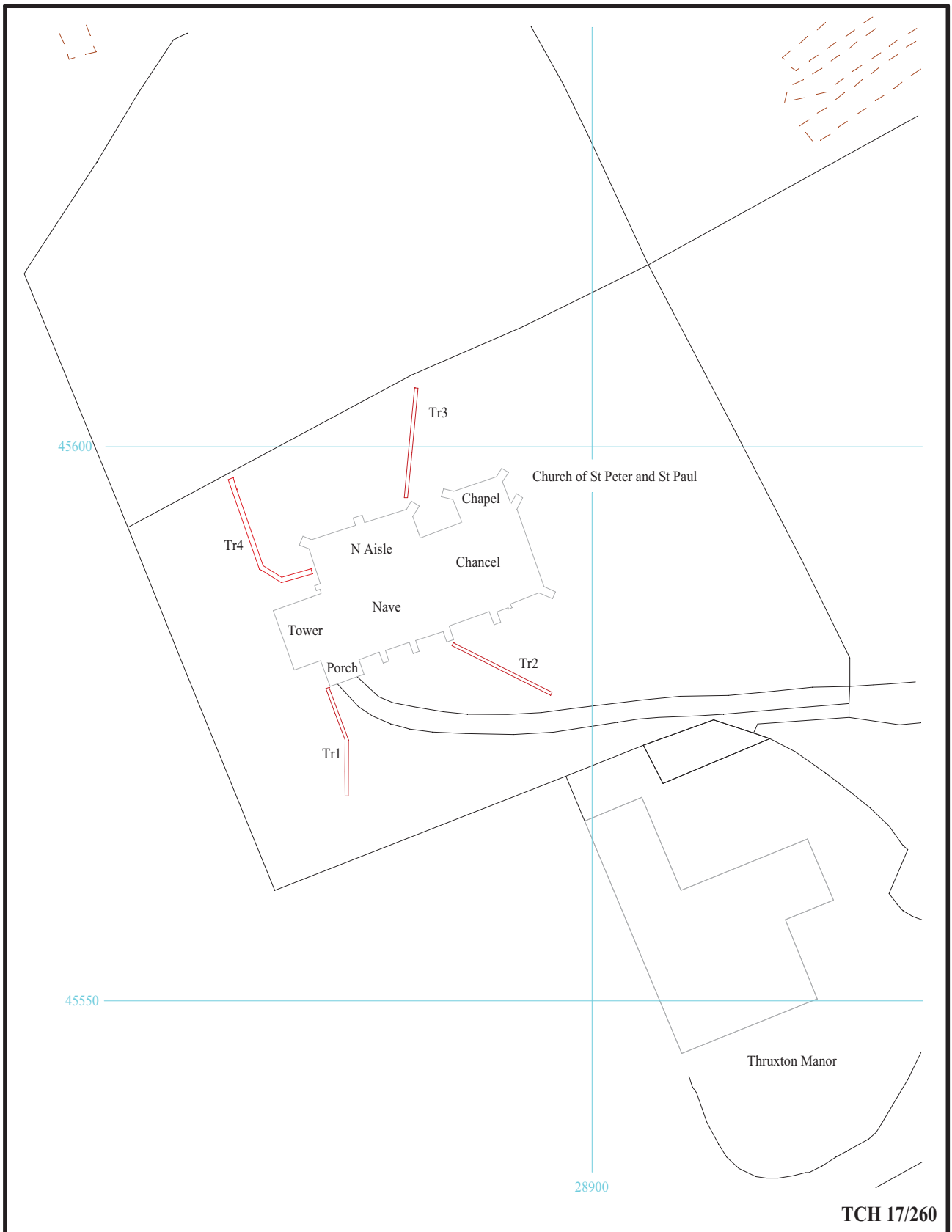
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site; and historical setting.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



Trench 1

Topsoil

Red brown silt with occasional chalk inclusions

Trench 2

Topsoil

Brown silt with occasional chalk inclusions

Trench 3

Topsoil

Grey brown silt with moderate flint inclusions

Trench 4

Topsoil

Grey brown silt with modern debris

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Figure 4. Trench sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north-east, Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking south-east.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 2, looking south-east, Scale: 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 4, looking north-east, Scale: 0.3m.

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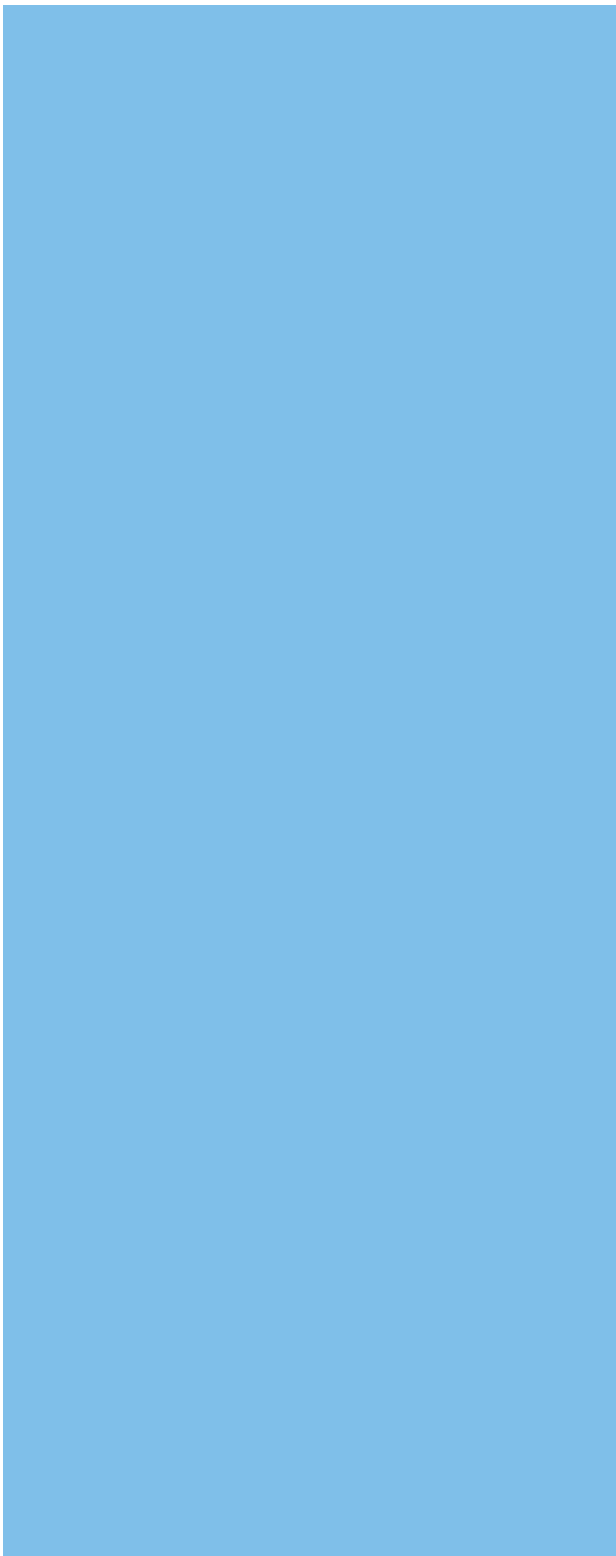
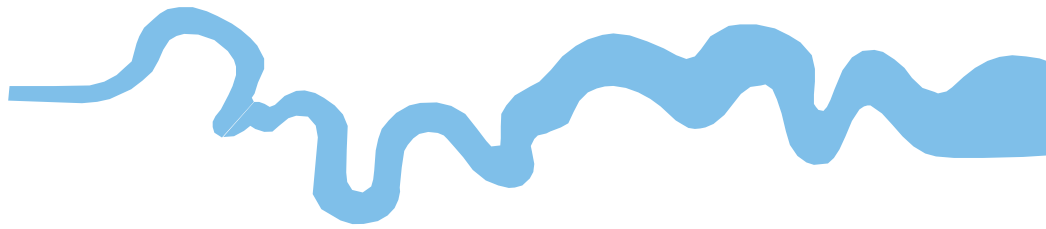
**Church of St Peter and St Paul, Thruxton,
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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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





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