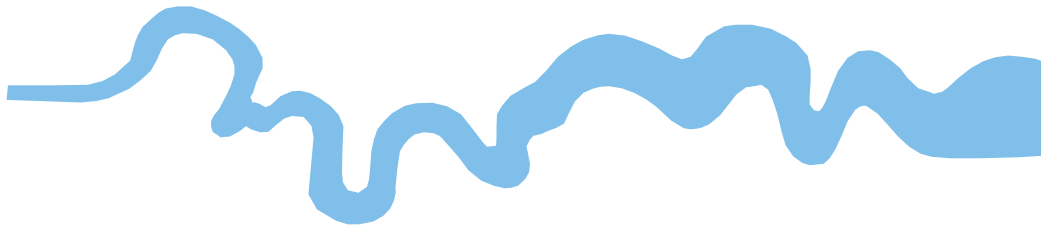


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: BLC17/273**

**(TR 1072 5469)**

# **Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Akehurst Homes Limited**

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code  
BLC 17/273

**February 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent

**Grid reference:** TR 1072 5469

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 19th – 20th February 2018

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** BLC 17/273

**Area of site:** c.1.0 ha

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation on land at Bakers lane, Chartham successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by a new housing development. Despite the fact that the area had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological features were recorded. A small number of prehistoric finds were recovered from the subsoil at the north-east end of the site.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton, and will be deposited with Canterbury 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 ✓ 28.02.18 Steve Preston ✓ 28.02.18
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# Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane, Chartham, Kent An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 17/273

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Hill House, Bakers Lane, Chartham (TR 1072 5469) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Lench of Akehurst Homes Limited, 22 Claremont Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5DD.

Planning permission (16/00046) has been gained from Canterbury City Council for a new residential development on the site, along with associated access and landscaping. The permission is subject to a standard planning condition (22) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the development.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the City Council's policies on archaeology. It was determined that the investigation should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenching, based on the results of which, further work might be required. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rosanne Cummings, the Canterbury City Council Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis between 19th and 20th February 2018, and the site code is BLC 17/273. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton, and will be deposited with Canterbury Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

Chartham is located south-west of Canterbury in the Stour valley. The site is located to the north of Bakers Lane, which runs between the modern part of Chartham village and the small hamlet of Shalmsford Street. The historic core of Chartham lies on the other side of the River Stour, to the north of the present site. The site is generally bounded to the north by modern residential developments, and to the south by Bakers Lane, Hill House, and a small area of woodland. It is centred on NGR TR 1072 5469 (Figs 1 and 2). The northern part of the site consists of a grassy field, which is separated from the southern part of the site by a line of mature trees which are to be retained. The southern part of the site had previously formed part of the garden for Hill House, and numerous

trees had been cut down shortly before the project started. The site generally slopes down towards the north as the Stour cuts a deep valley, and, as a result, the height varies between approximately 26m above Ordnance Datum (Trench 1) and 36m aOD (Trench 14) (Pl. 1). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Upper Chalk (BGS 1982). However, whilst chalk was encountered in the southern part of the site (Trenches 7–14), the natural geology recorded in the lower (northern) part of the site (Trenches 1–6) consisted of a mid reddish brown clayey sandy silt, with varying levels of flint gravel inclusions.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a desk-based assessment (Wilkinson 2015). In summary, the site is located to the south-west of Canterbury, which was a major town in the Roman period. Rather surprisingly, very few Roman finds have been discovered in the area around Chartham, although two roads are believed to have existed to the north and south of the present site. Recent archaeological fieldwork at 'The Crescent', about 350m south of the present site, revealed extensive evidence for occupation in the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age periods. The HER contains entries relating to possible Saxon barrow cemeteries on the chalk uplands to the south of Chartham. There are records of several barrows being excavated in the 19th century, and it is possible that others have been lost to modern housing developments. The village of Chartham lies on the north bank of the River Stour, and has late Saxon origins. The present site is located to the south of the river, close to the hamlet of Shalmsford Street.

## **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 proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the prehistoric period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Roman period are present; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Saxon period are present.

Fourteen trenches were to be dug, each measuring 20m in length and 1.60m in width. The trenches were largely positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the proposed redevelopment.

These were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools, and sufficient of the features were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above.

## **Results**

The fourteen trenches were excavated as planned, although several had to be moved or shortened due to various logistical considerations: other trenches were extended to compensate for those that were shortened (Fig. 3). All the trenches were 1.85m wide, and measured between 14.60m and 24.20m in length, and between 0.30m and 0.76m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 19.80m long and up to 0.76m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.32m of topsoil (50) and 0.24m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). One sherd of probably Bronze Age pottery was recovered from the subsoil, along with a flint flake, but no archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 2 (Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was orientated W-E, and was 20.70m long and up to 0.55m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.23m of topsoil (50) and 0.27m of subsoil (51). Three small sherds of late Iron Age pottery, all from the same vessel, were recovered from the subsoil layer, but no archaeological features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 3 (Pl. 4)

Trench 3 was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 17.20m long and up to 0.58m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25–0.28m of topsoil (50) and 0.17–0.23m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

### Trench 4 (Pl. 5)

Trench 4 was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 21.80m long and up to 0.62m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.33m of topsoil (50) and 0.25m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 5 (Pl. 6)

Trench 5 was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 21.70m long and up to 0.40m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 6 (Pl. 7)

Trench 6 was orientated approximately W-E, and was 23.60m long and up to 0.33m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.05m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 7

Trench 7 was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 19.50m long and up to 0.45m deep. At the northern end of the trench the natural geology was observed immediately beneath 0.30m of topsoil (50). At the southern end of the trench the natural geology was revealed beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.23m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 8 (Pl. 8)

Trench 8 was orientated approximately N-S, and was 14.60m long and up to 0.30m deep. The natural geology was observed immediately beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 9

Trench 9 was orientated approximately WNW-ESE, and was 18.10m long and up to 0.32m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.18m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 10

Trench 10 was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 24.20m long and up to 0.37m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.21m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, but a modern animal burial was partially exposed at the southern end of the trench.

#### Trench 11 (Pl. 9)

Trench 11 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 20.80m long and up to 0.32m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.13m of topsoil (50) and 0.07m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 12 (Pl. 10)

Trench 12 was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 21.20m long and up to 0.30m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.06m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 13 (Pl. 11)

Trench 13 was orientated approximately NE-SW, and was 20.50m long and up to 0.31m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.14m of topsoil (50) and 0.09m of subsoil (51) (Fig. 4). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

#### Trench 14 (Pl. 12)

Trench 14 was orientated approximately NNE-SSW, and was 19.70m long and up to 0.39m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.23m of topsoil (50) and 0.31m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded, although some modern disturbance was noted along the eastern edge of the trench.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Richard Tabor*

The pottery assemblage comprised a total of four sherds, weighing 17g, all from the subsoil and in two contrasting fabrics. A single sherd from Trench 1 was in a coarse flinty fabric, SF1 and three sherds from a single vessel (Trench 2) were in a medium quartz and grog fabric, GQ1. None of the sherds had formally diagnostic traits.

Fabric SF1 corresponds most closely with McNee's FSa/9 (McNee 2012, appendices 3 and 4), with currency exclusive to her later Bronze Age ceramic phase 3 (McNee 2012, 360; tab 5.3). An earlier, Middle Bronze Age date should not be excluded but a later date can be ruled out as recent detailed fabric analysis of an assemblage from Rainham suggested that flint inclusions tended to be sparser by the Early Iron Age (MacPherson-Grant 1992, 60; Seager Thomas 2014, tab 5).

Fabric GQ1 resembles Late Iron Age and Roman fabrics found across southern Britain from Devon to the eastern counties. However, the specific inclusion of pale grog may indicate correspondence with fabric B9.3, one of several previously identified local glauconitic 'Belgic' wares dating to the first three decades AD (Lyne 2006, 3, 6; tabs. 1 and 3).

#### Middle to Late Bronze Age: sandy flint

**SF1:** (coarse) Moderately hard pink, micaceous sandy fabric with pink surfaces including poorly sorted moderate to common fine (<1mm) to sparse medium (<2mm) and rare coarse (<3mm) angular burnt flint and rare reddish brown iron oxides (<1mm). 1 sherd, 12g.



### Later Iron Age: grog and quartz

**GQ1:** (medium) Moderately hard grey, moderately micaceous fabric with buff orange exterior and dark grey interior surfaces including well-sorted abundant medium (<1mm) sub-rounded and sub-angular quartz, poorly-sorted sparse pale sub-rounded grog (<3mm) and rare fine (<1mm) red iron oxides. 3 sherds, 5g.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

A single flint flake, patinated a light blue, was recovered from the subsoil in trench 1. It is not chronologically distinctive but is probably of later neolithic or Bronze Age date.

### **Conclusion**

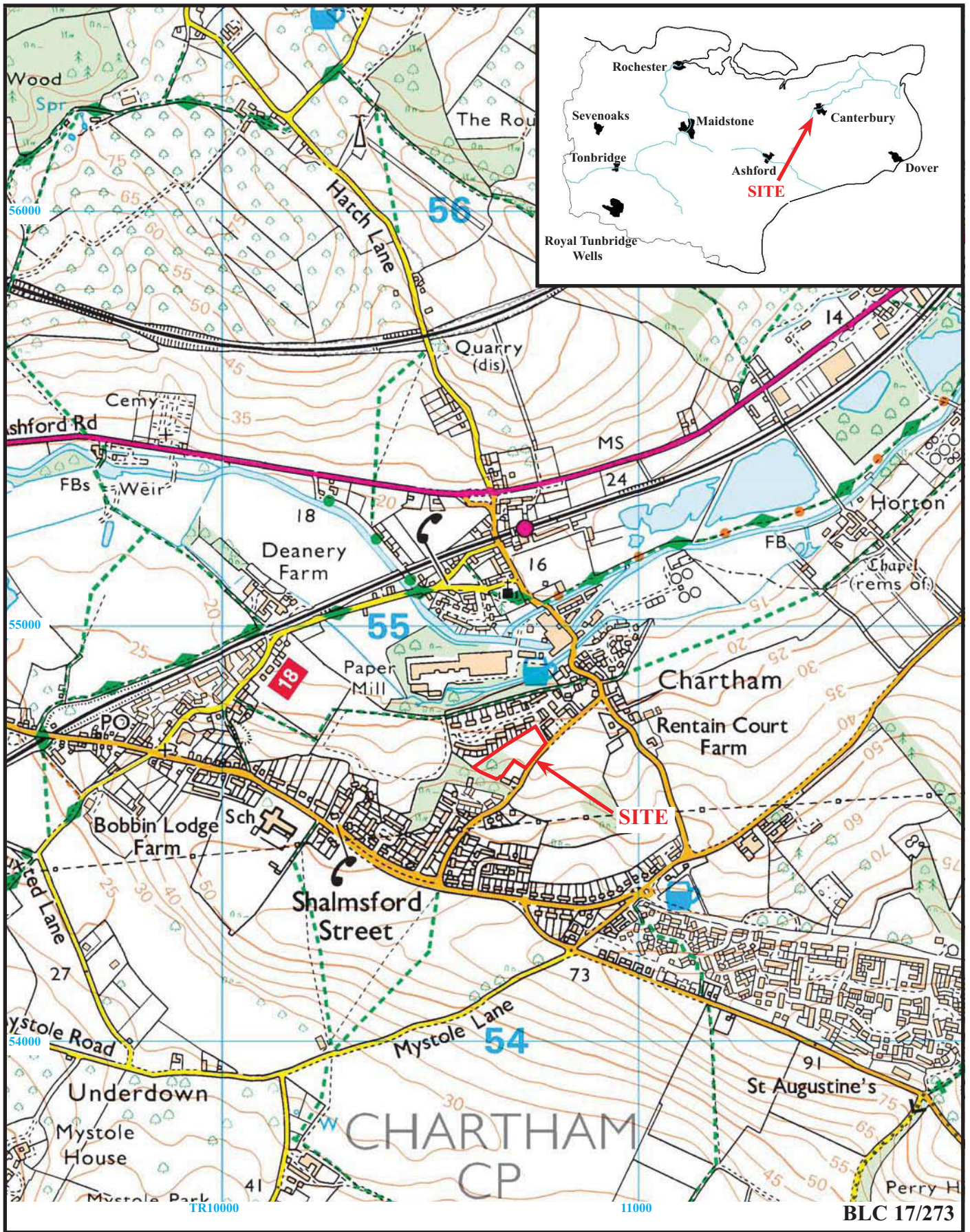
The archaeological evaluation at Bakers Lane, Chartham, successfully investigated those areas which will be most affected by the re-development of the site. Despite the fact that the area had not been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological features were recorded but a small number of prehistoric finds were recovered from the subsoil layer at the north-east end (the lowest part) of the site. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

### **References**

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- Lyne, M, 2006, 'The late Iron Age and Roman Pottery from Snarkhurst Wood, Hollingbourne, Kent (ARC SNK99)', CTRL Specialist Reports Series, <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/ctrl/cerspr/downloads.cfm?volume=LATresearch&CFID=140790&CFTOKEN=C488637E-7EE5-4F2B-A00D4ED487172C1F> (accessed: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018)
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**APPENDIX 1: Trench details**

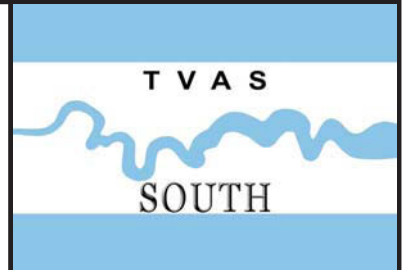
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	19.80	1.85	0.76	0-0.32m topsoil (50); 0.32-0.56m subsoil (51); 0.56-0.76m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel). <b>[Pl. 2]</b>
2	20.70	1.85	0.55	0-0.23m topsoil (50); 0.23-0.50m subsoil (51); 0.50-0.55m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel). <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
3	17.20	1.85	0.58 (N) 0.45 (S)	North end: 0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28-0.51m subsoil (51); 0.51-0.58m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt). <b>[Pl. 4]</b> South end: 0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.42m subsoil (51); 0.42-0.45m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel).
4	21.80	1.85	0.62	0-0.33m topsoil (50); 0.33-0.58m subsoil (51); 0.58-0.62m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel). <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
5	21.70	1.85	0.40	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26-0.35m subsoil (51); 0.35-0.40m+ natural geology (Light orange brown clayey silt at NW end. Flint gravel and chalk at SE end). <b>[Pl. 6]</b>
6	23.60	1.85	0.33	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30-0.33m+ natural geology (Reddish brown clayey silt at W and E ends. Flint and chalk in central part of trench). <b>[Pl. 7]</b>
7	19.50	1.85	0.40 (NE) 0.45 (SW)	North-east end: 0-0.30m topsoil (50); 0.30-0.40m+ natural geology (Chalk). South-west end: 0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.38m subsoil (51); 0.38-0.45m+ natural geology (Chalk).
8	14.60	1.85	0.30	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25-0.30m+ natural geology (Chalk). <b>[Pl. 8]</b>
9	18.10	1.85	0.32	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.28m subsoil (51); 0.28-0.32m+ natural geology (Chalk. Mid orange brown clayey silt at eastern end).
10	24.20	1.85	0.37	0-0.21m topsoil (50); 0.21-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32-0.37m+ natural geology (Chalk).
11	20.80	1.85	0.32	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13-0.20m subsoil (51); 0.20-0.32m+ natural geology (Chalk). <b>[Pl. 9]</b>
12	21.20	1.85	0.30	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.21m subsoil (51); 0.21-0.30m+ natural geology (Chalk). <b>[Pl. 10]</b>
13	20.50	1.85	0.31	0-0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.23m subsoil (51); 0.23-0.31m+ natural geology (Chalk). <b>[Pl. 11]</b>
14	19.70	1.85	0.39	0-0.23m topsoil (50); 0.23-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31-0.39m+ natural geology (Chalk). <b>[Pl. 12]</b>



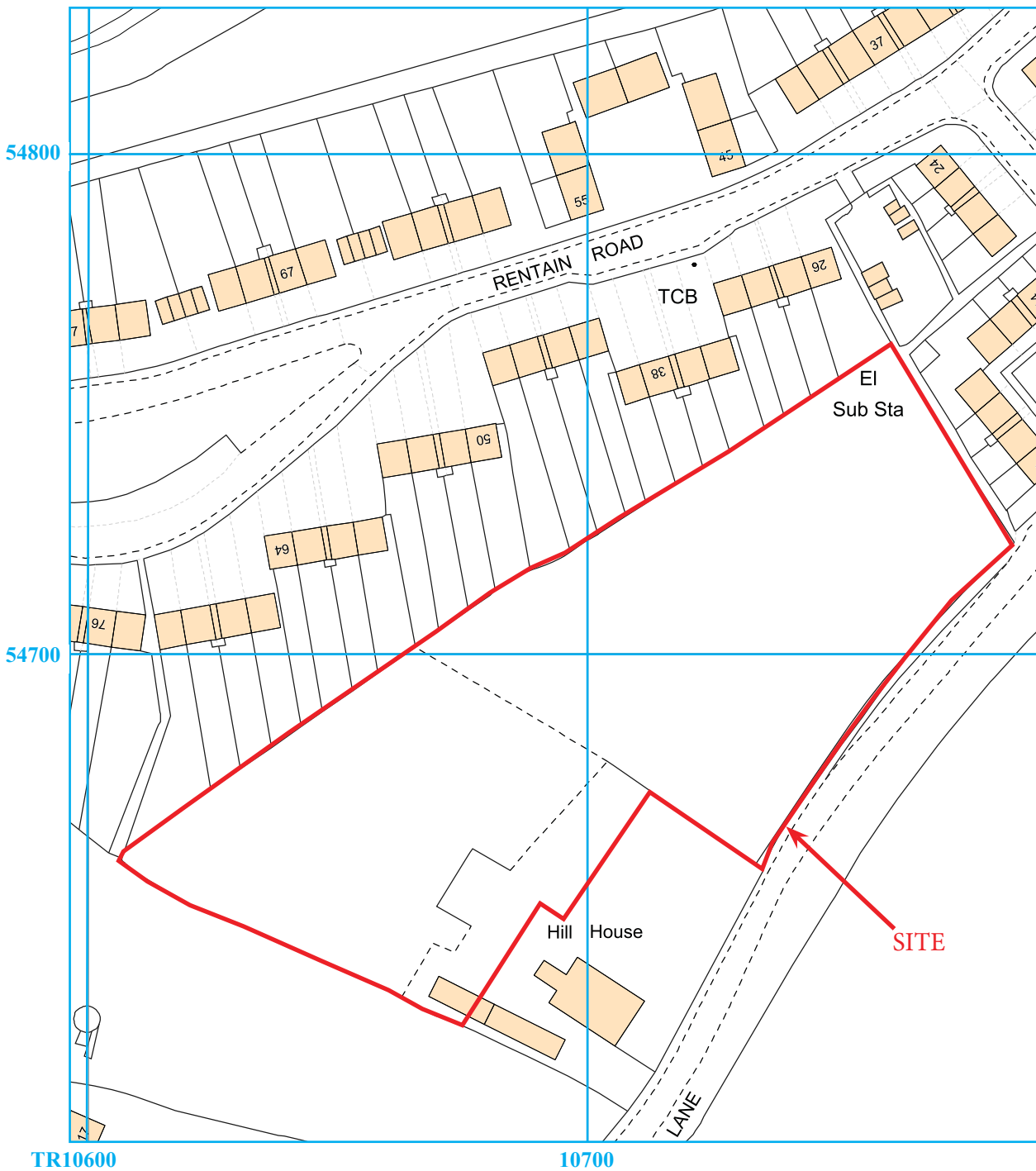
**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Chartham and Kent.

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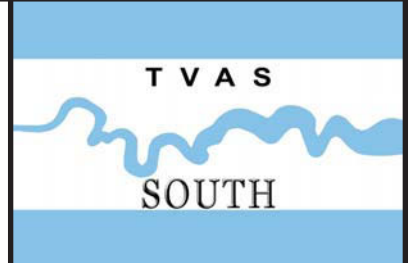
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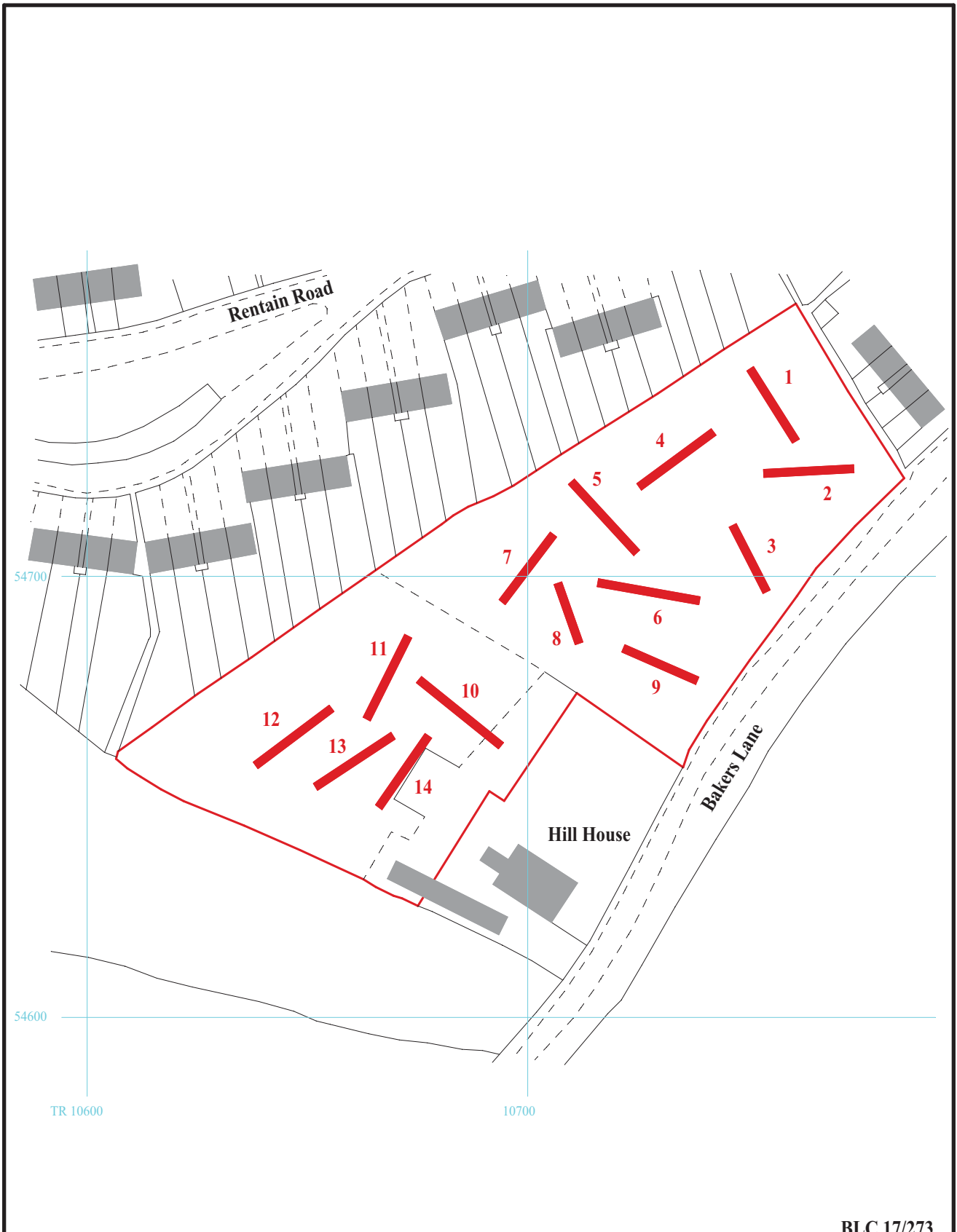


**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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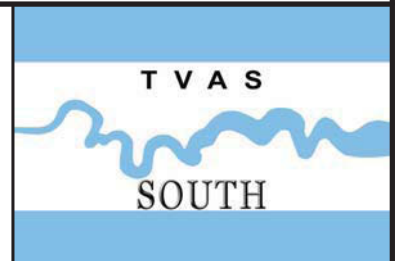




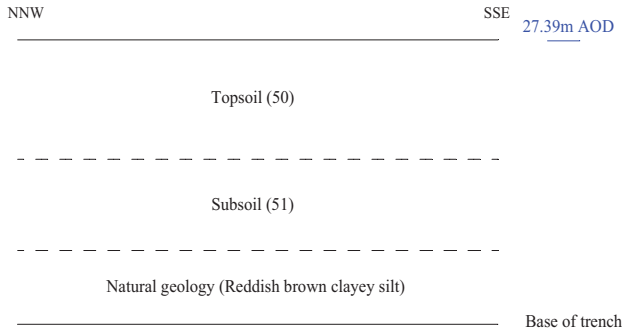
BLC 17/273

**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

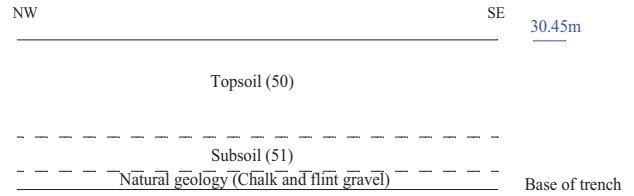
Figure 3. Site plan showing excavated trenches.



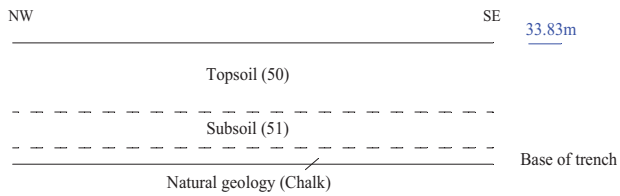
**Trench 1**



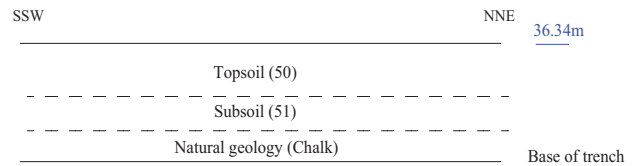
**Trench 5**



**Trench 9**



**Trench 13**



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**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative sections.

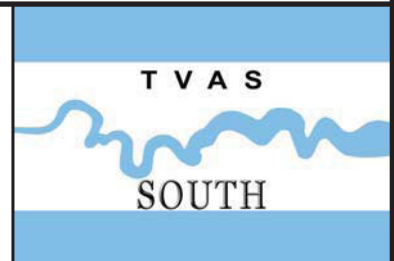




Plate 1. General view of site looking South-west from north-eastern end.



Plate 2. Trench 1, looking South-south-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 3. Trench 2, looking West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 4. Trench 3, looking South-south-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 5. Trench 4, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 6. Trench 5, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 1 - 6.**





Plate 7. Trench 6, looking West-north-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 8. Trench 8, looking South-south-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 9. Trench 11, looking South-south-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 10. Trench 12, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 11. Trench 13, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.



Plate 12. Trench 14, looking South-south-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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**Land at Hill House, Bakers Lane,  
Chartham, Kent, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 7 - 12.**

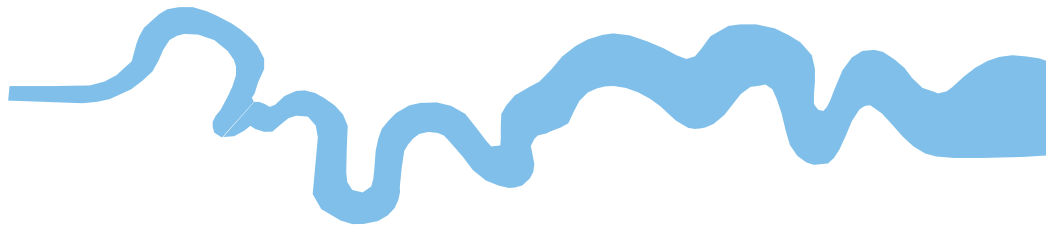




## TIME CHART

	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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