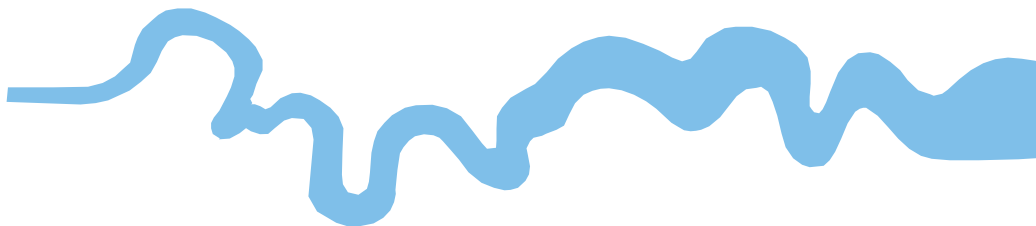


**T V A S**



# **NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Land south of The Vicarage, High Street,  
Cheswardine, Shropshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Garreth Davey**

**Site Code HSC 18/28**

**(SJ 7197 2984)**

# **Land south of The Vicarage, High Street, Cheswardine, Shropshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr S. Senior**

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

HSC 18/28

**March 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land south of The Vicarage, High Street, Cheswardine, Shropshire

**Grid reference:** SJ 7197 2984

**Site activity:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 13th February to 13th March 2018

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Garreth Davey

**Site code:** HSC 18/28

**Summary of results:** The watching brief was carried out as intended and monitored preliminary overburden stripping followed by the excavation of foundation trenches, however, no finds nor features of archaeological interest were identified during the course of this fieldwork.

**Location of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with an approved local 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 ✓ 21.03.2018 Steve Preston ✓ 21.03.2018
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# **Land south of The Vicarage, High Street, Cheswardine, Shropshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Garreth Davey

**Report 18/28**

## **Introduction**

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land south of The Vicarage, High Street, Cheswardine, Shropshire (SJ 7197 2984) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Helen Martin-Bacon of Commercial Archaeology Limited on behalf of Mr S. Senior.

Planning permission (17/03426/FUL) has been granted by Shropshire County Council for the construction of a two-storey detached residence. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Governments *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012). It was determined that this investigation would take the form of an archaeological watching brief during construction. The field investigation was carried out to a specification supplied by Commercial Archaeology Limited (Martin Bacon 2017) and approved by Mr Andrew Wigley, Planning Archaeologist at Shropshire County Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey between 13th February and 13th March 2018 and the site code is HSC 18/28. The archive is presently held at TVAS Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited with an approved local museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is a rectangular parcel of land currently utilised as garden. It is located on the east side of High Street, in the centre of Cheswardine, Shropshire and approximately 21km north-west of Stafford (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies at approximately 140m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as sedimentary bedrock of the Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation with no recorded overlying superficial deposits (BGS 2018).

## **Archaeological background**

The site area lies within the historic core of the historic village of Cheswardine. The settlement has late Saxon origins and is recorded in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). There are no recorded heritage assets within the site area, however within a 1 km study area there are a number of features recorded. These comprise a Scheduled Ancient Monument and four listed buildings.

Cheswardine Castle is a Scheduled Ancient Monument located approximately 220m north-west of the site and includes the earthwork and buried remains of a medieval moated site. The site occupies a prominent location in an area of undulating land. The water-filled moat forms a square island 30m across with arms 28m wide and over 2m deep with the exception of part of the western arm which has been enlarged to form a pool. Whilst there are no upstanding remains, blocks of cut red sandstone indicated the nature of some of the medieval building that survive beneath the surface. The site is considered to be the centre of the manor of Cheswardine, which was granted to Hamo le Strange by Henry II in 1155. Between 1250 and 1330, the manor was rebuilt as a castle and in 1330 the castle was reported to be of little strength.

The listed buildings detailed are The Old Hall and three individual records related to the Church of Saint Swithun. The Old Hall, located 100m north is a mid-18th century house with a possible earlier core and 19th century additions, constructed in red brick with red sandstone dressings. The Church of Saint Swithun is a parish church. The current church is thought to be at least the third on the site and was rebuilt in the late 19th century. Evidence for features from the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries have also been recorded at the site and several individual features have been independently listed.

## **Methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits prior to any impact caused by the ground works and involved the archaeological monitoring of all areas of intrusive ground works, in this case the excavation of foundation trenches.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to provide information on the early development of the site and of the village of Cheswardine;
- to highlight relevant research aims identified by the watching brief; and
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting including potentially in period relevant journals and/or journals dealing with historic industrial processes.

## **Results**

The main area of the new foundations was initially stripped of approximately 0.4m of topsoil. Foundation trenches, 0.6m wide, were then dug using a mini-360 type machine under archaeological monitoring (Fig. 3). The average depth of the foundation trenches was approximately 1.1m and the stratigraphy typically revealed this was entirely through red sand natural geology (Fig. 4, Pl. 1-4).

No archaeological features were identified within any of the excavated foundation trenches.

## **Finds**

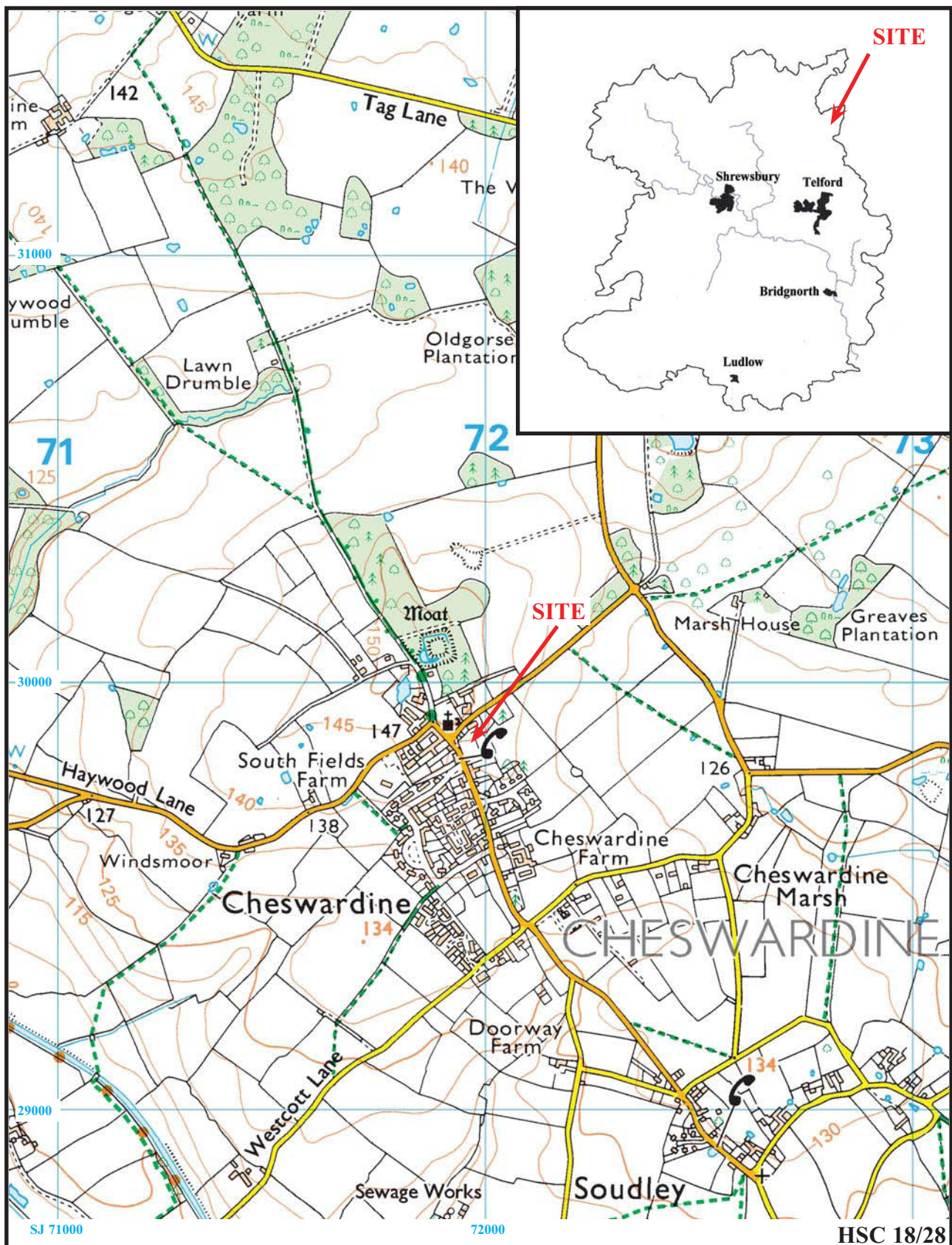
No finds of any archaeological interest were identified within any of the excavated foundation trenches.

## **Conclusion**

The watching brief was carried out as intended and monitored both an area of overburden stripping followed by the excavation of the foundation trenches. These were monitored for finds and features of archaeological interest however none were identified during the course of this fieldwork.

## **References**

- BGS 2018, *British Geological Survey*, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk>  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Martin-Bacon, H 2017, 'Land South Of The Vicarage, High Street, Cheswardine, Shropshire. Written Scheme Of Investigation For An Archaeological Watching Brief', Commercial Archaeology Limited, Stoke-on-Trent  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



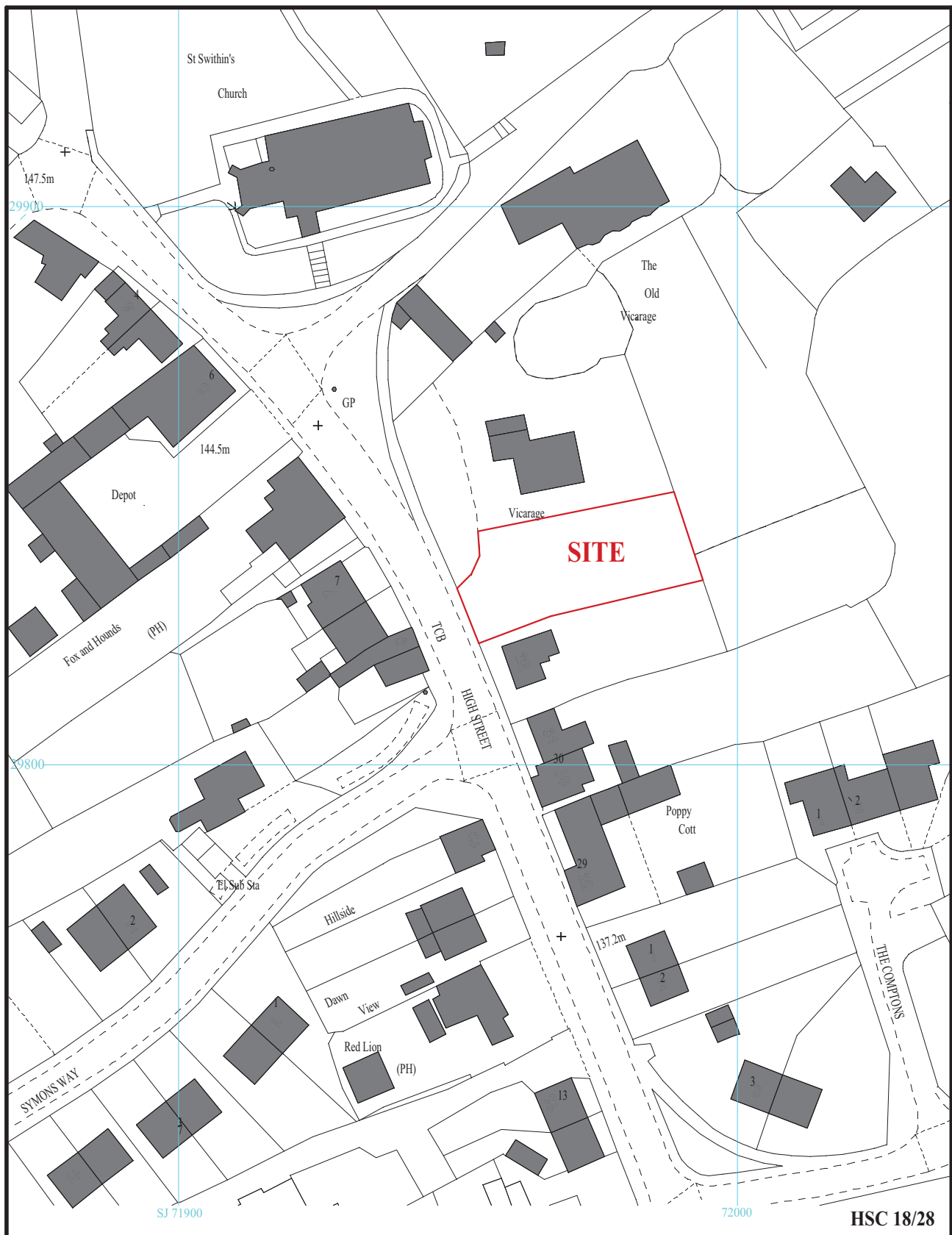
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Figure 1. Location of site within Cheswardine and Shropshire.

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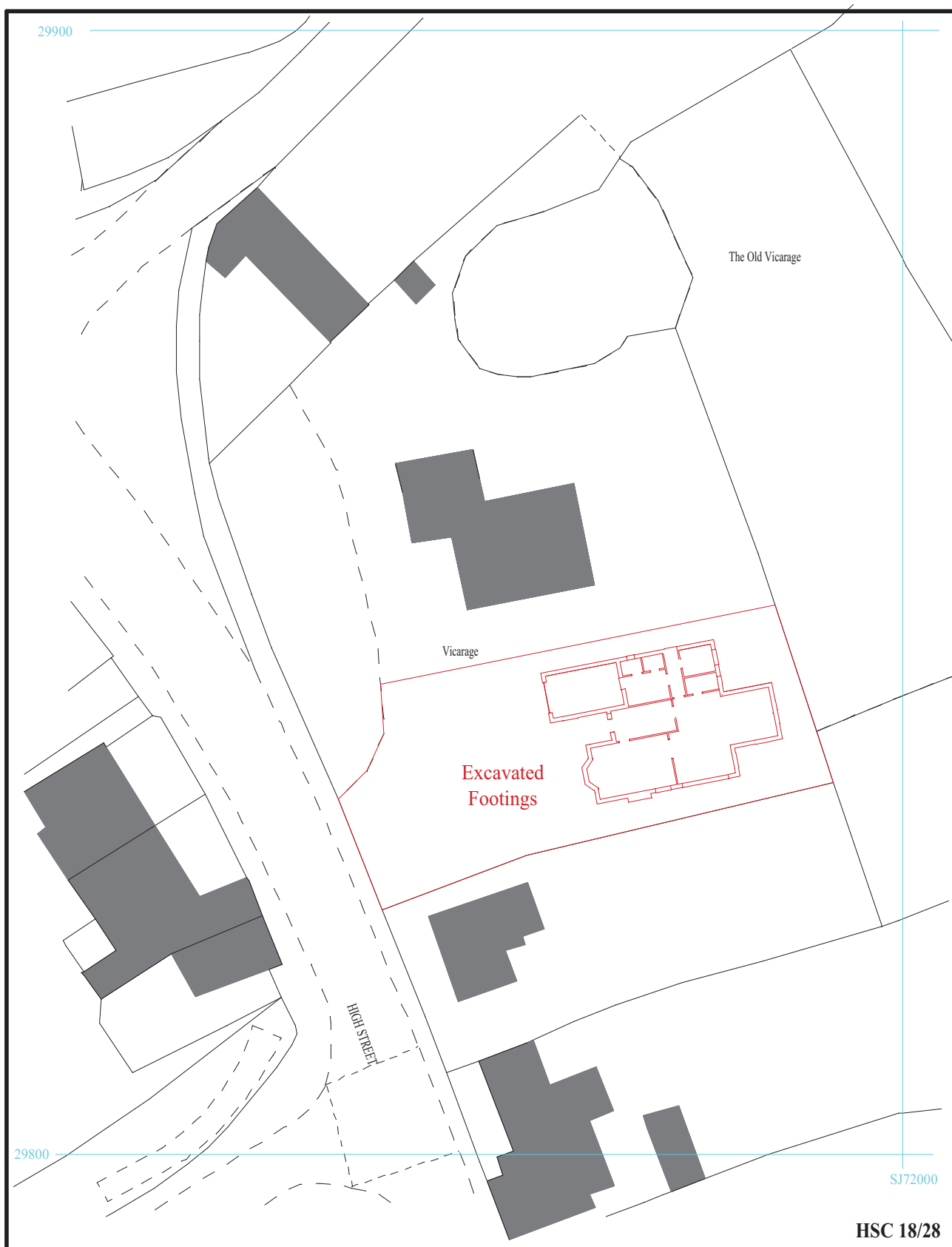
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

0 50m







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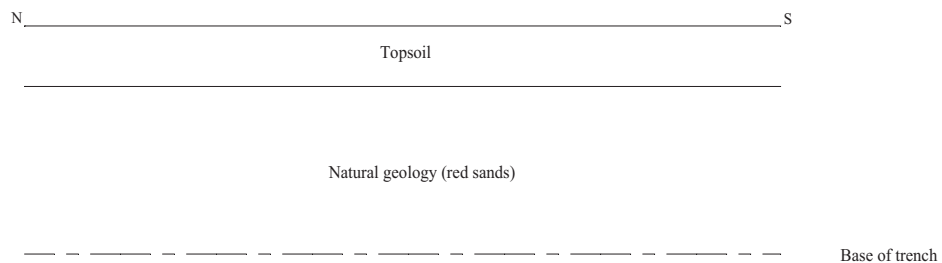
Figure 3. Plan of excavated footings monitored

0 25m

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Figure 4. Representative section.



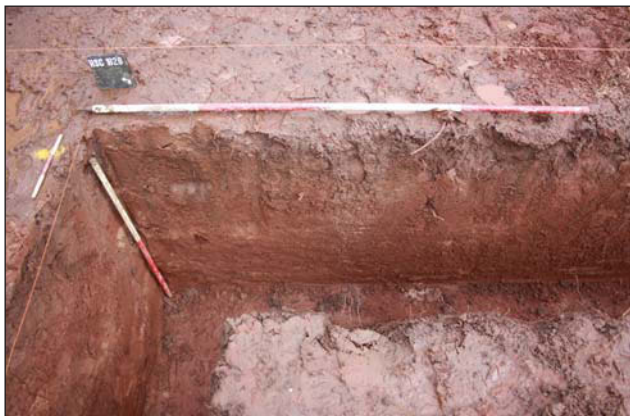


Plate 1. Trench section, looking east  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench section, looking north  
Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 3. Trench section, looking east  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench section, looking east  
Scales: 2m and 1m.

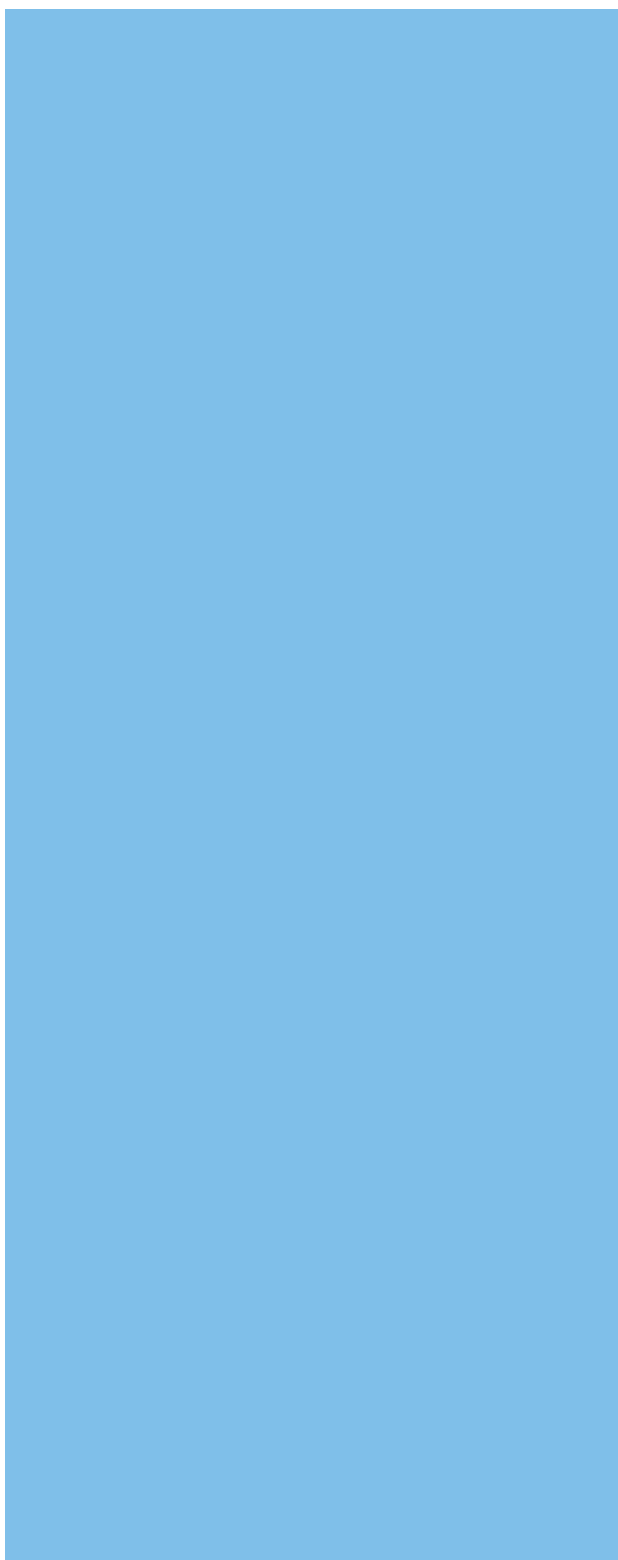
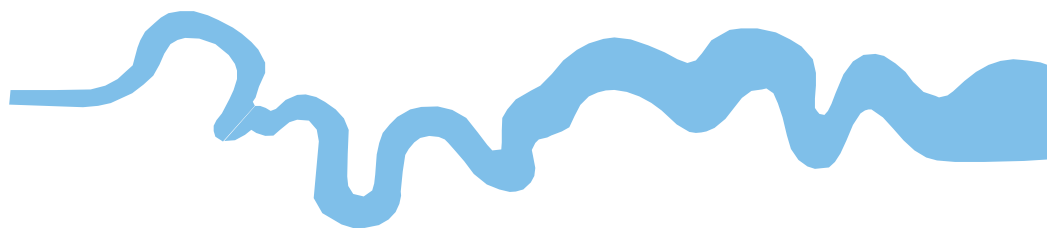
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Plates 1 to 4.**



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
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
↓	↓



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