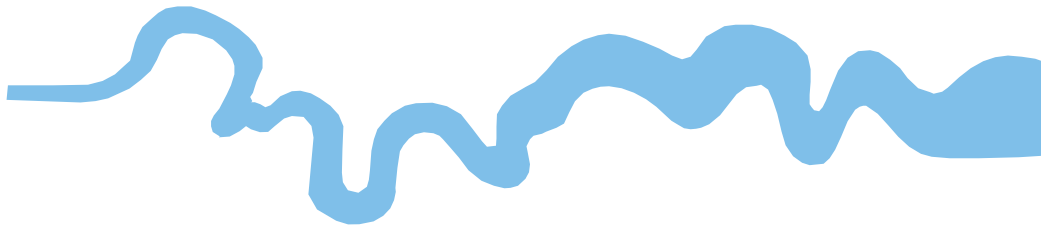


**T V A S**



**NORTH MIDLANDS**

**Land at Clarksville Farm,  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester**

**Archaeological Assessment**

**by Garreth Davey**

**Site Code CFM 17/248**

**(SD 8503 0180)**

**Land at Clarksville Farm,  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Breckside Estates LLP**

by Garreth Davey

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CFM 17/248

**March 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Clarksville Farm, Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester

**Grid reference:** SD 8503 0180

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 26th February - 2nd March 2018

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Garreth Davey

**Site code:** CFM 17/248

**Area of site:** 1.8 ha

**Summary of results:** The trenches were mostly excavated as intended though it was not possible to follow some features to their full depth. Trenches 1 and 5-9 contained no features or finds of archaeological interest. The main area of evidence was in Trenches 2-4 where foundations and surfaces were uncovered. These walls and pathways are likely evidence for the former house at Clarksville Farm, and can be seen to correlate with locations shown in historic mapping.

**Location of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries 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 ✓ 27.03.18 Steve Preston ✓ 27.03.18
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# Land at Clarksville Farm, Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester An Archaeological Evaluation

by Garreth Davey

**Report 17/248b**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological evaluation carried out at land at Clarksville Farm, Crescent Road, Crumpsall, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 8503 0180) (Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by Mr David Rose of New Park Commercial on behalf of Breckside Estates LLP.

Planning consent (Planning application 115139/FO/2017) is being sought from Manchester City Council for a residential development on land at Clarksville Farm. This evaluation report will accompany the application in order to inform the planning process with regard to potential archaeological and heritage implications. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the City Council's heritage policies. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the council's Heritage Management Director, Mr Norman Redhead. The fieldwork was undertaken by Garreth Davey and Josh Hargreaves, between 26th February and 2nd March 2018 and the site code is CFM17/248.

The archive is presently held at TVAS North Midlands, Stoke-on-Trent and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located approximately 4km north of the centre of Manchester in the Lower Crumpsall area (Fig. 1) on the north side of Crescent road between an unnamed access road and Brookwood Avenue. The development area is centred on NGR SD 8503 0180 and lies on a south facing slope falling from 70m above Ordnance Datum in the north to around 50m above Ordnance Datum in the south of the site. The geology of the site is a bedrock of Permian mudstone, siltstone and sandstone and Triassic conglomerate and sandstone overlain by superficial deposits of Till and Glacial sand and gravels (BGS 2017). The soils of the site are characterized as slowly permeable seasonally wet acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (UKSO 2017).

## **Archaeological background**

The site's archaeological potential has been investigated in desk-based assessment (Davey 2017). Clarkesville Farm is recorded in the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) and while the former farm buildings are no longer extant, foundations and footings may still be present. There is only one entry within the HER relating to archaeological deposits within proximity of the site – a findspot of a Neolithic flint tool to the south-west of the site. The majority of entries relate to Medieval and Post-Medieval buildings. The lack of archaeological deposits may reflect a lack of formal archaeological investigation rather than any lack of past activity in the area.

## **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 aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeology relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if archaeological deposits associated with Prehistoric, Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation are present;
- to determine if deposits from the Saxon and medieval periods are present;
- to determine if deposits from the post-medieval period are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy if necessary.

Nine trenches were proposed to be dug, ranging in length from 20–40m long and each 2m wide. Topsoil and any other overburden were to be removed to expose archaeologically sensitive levels by a 360-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were then to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might better be investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

## **Results**

The nine trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 2). All the trenches were 2m wide, and measured between 17m and 42.5m in length, and between 0.50m and 1.5m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. The excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was 17m long, 2.0m wide and varied from 0.48m to 1.45m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of a layer of levelled demolition rubble directly above the red/yellow mottled clay natural. The south-western extent of the trench was a rubbish pit containing modern waste such as building rubble, car wheels and old plastic pipes.

### Trenches 2 and 3 (Fig 3 and 4)

Trenches 2 and 3 were respectively 20m and 22m long, 2.0m wide and over 1.5m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of a layer of levelled demolition rubble above the backfill of a structure and red/yellow mottled clay natural. Trench 3 contained significant building remains, representing the cellars of the former house on the site as shown in historic mapping (Figs 5 and 6). The walls are built of red bricks, 20 x 90 x 100mm in size and laid in a English bond on the outer walls (60) and a double thickness stretcher bond on the interior walls (61) (Pl. 2). Up to 17 courses survived and there may be more below the base of the trench. The rooms of the cellar are filled with brick rubble (62) and it appears the demolition of the house was simply by levelling it into its own cellar space. To the south of the trench on what is likely the back wall of the building, there is possible evidence for a hearth of which at least 10 courses survived, though this extended beyond the limits of excavation (Pl. 1). Trench 2 also contained some evidence of the building's footings (63 and 64) however a significant portion of this trench had been truncated by later demotion works. Neither trench was fully excavated due to health and safety concerns based upon the limited safe spoil space and accessibility due to the overall depth.

### Trench 4 (Fig 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 4 was 26.3m long, 2.0m wide and approximately 0.50m deep. The trench contained at least two pathway surfaces of different material construction. The most prominent of these is the excavated surface area (54) which is approximately 1.2m wide and 6m long (north–south). The cobbled surface is formed of regularly shaped 100 x 100mm Yorkshire stones. The surface is well preserved aside from a modern footing (55) that appears to sit on top

of the cobbles. A further surface (56) located in the middle of the trench is approximately 0.9m wide and 3.7m in length. This surface is aligned NNW–SSE and constructed of red bricks, 100 x 20 mm in size laid in a stretcher bond with a Yorkshire stone outer lining (57). The relationship between the cobbled surface (54) and brick surface (56) is unclear due to truncation likely related to demolition of the farmhouse or the construction of the former barns on site. It is likely that the cobbled surface formed the main driveway to the house at Clarksville Farm as shown on historic maps, whilst the brick surface may have been a smaller path.

#### Trenches 5-9 (Figure 4)(Plates 4 to 6)

Trenches 5-9 were between 29.2m and 42.5m in length, except Trench 6 which was reduced to 18.5m due to access restrictions and overgrowth. Each of the trenches was 2.0m wide and varied from 0.70m to 1.00m deep. The stratigraphy of the trenches consisted of a loose, mid brown, sandy silt topsoil, above a loose dark yellow sandy clay subsoil above the natural red sand and gravel geology. Several field drains were identified but none of the trenches contained any archaeological features and no finds were recovered.

### **Finds**

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

The 9 trenches were mostly excavated as intended though it was not possible to follow the building foundations to their full depth. Trenches 1 and 5-9 contained no features or finds of archaeological interest. The main area of evidence was in Trenches 2-4 where well-preserved foundations and surfaces were uncovered. These walls and paths are from the former house at Clarksville Farm, and can be seen to correlate with locations shown in historic mapping.

### **References**

- BGS 2017, <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/home.html> (accessed: 30th November 2017)  
Davey 2017, 'Land at Clarksville Farm, Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', TVAS unpubl rep **17/248**, Stoke-on-Trent  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London  
UKSO 2017, <http://mapapps2.bgs.ac.uk/ukso/home.html> (accessed: 30th November 2017)

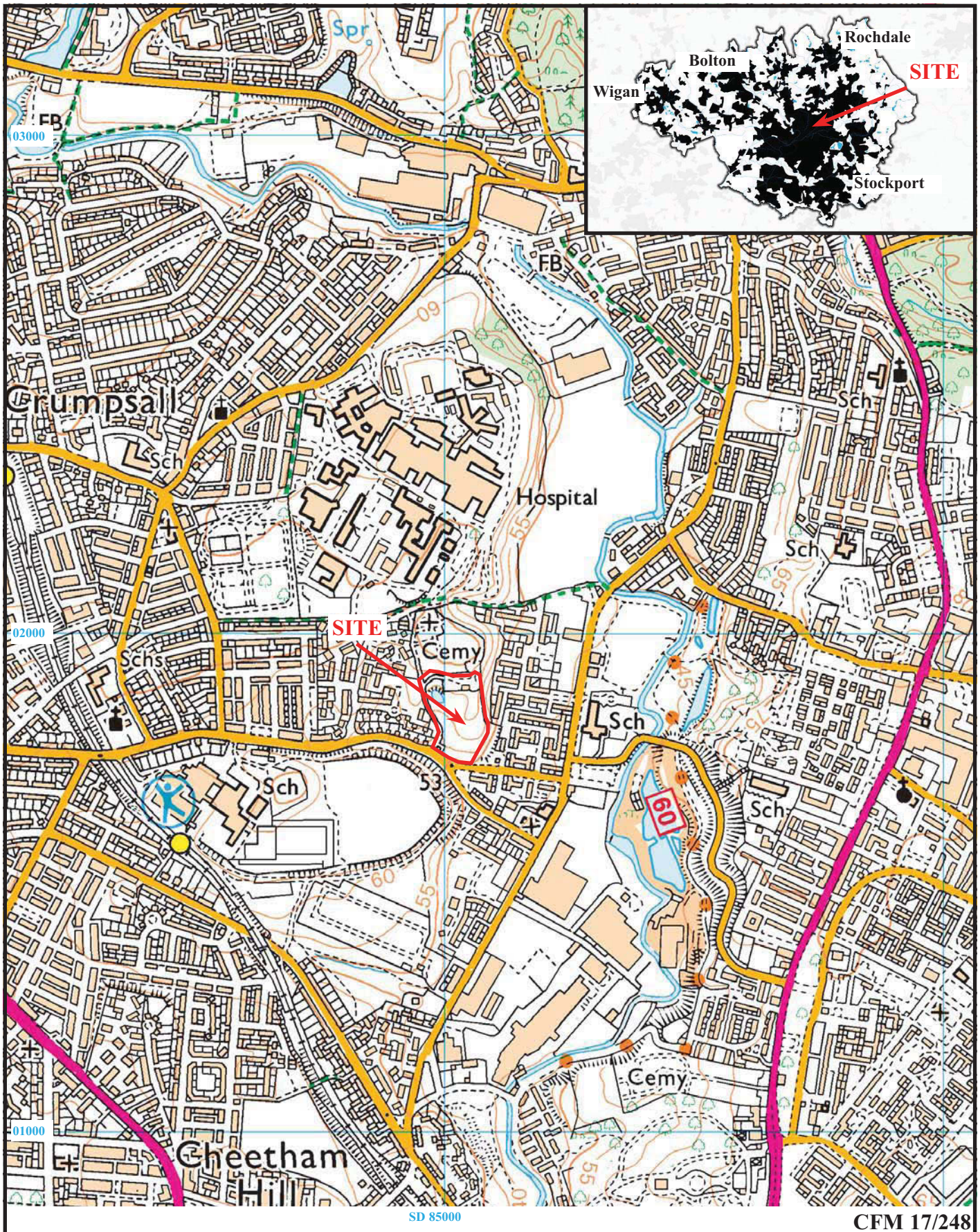
## APPENDIX 1: Trench Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	17.0	2.0	1.45	0-0.46m demolition materials and clinker, 0.46m+ natural red/yellow mottled clay. Southern extent 0.46m+ bricks, waste and modern scrap.
2	20.4	2.0	1.5+	0-0.48m demolition materials and clinker, 0.48m+ natural red/yellow mottled clay natural.
3	22.0	2.0	1.5+	0-0.40m demolition materials and clinker, 0.40m+ natural red/yellow mottled clay natural. Southern extents 0.40m+ structure cellars. <b>[Pls 1 and 2]</b>
4	26.3	2.0	0.50	0-0.50m demolition materials and clinker, 0.50m+ natural red/yellow mottled clay. <b>[Pl. 3]</b>
5	29.2	2.0	1.00	0-0.36m soft dark brown silt topsoil, 0.36-1.0m orange sandy clay subsoil, 1.0m+ red clay with yellow and grey mottling. <b>[Pl. 4]</b>
6	18.5	2.0	0.72	0-0.40m soft dark brown silt topsoil, 0.40-0.72m orange sandy clay subsoil, 0.72m+ red clay with yellow and grey mottling.
7	42.5	2.0	0.90	0-0.26m soft dark brown silt topsoil, 0.26-0.90m orange sandy clay subsoil, 0.90m+ red clay with yellow and grey mottling. <b>[Pl. 5]</b>
8	40.4	2.0	0.80	0-0.50m soft dark brown silt topsoil, 0.50-0.80m orange sandy clay subsoil, 0.80m+ red clay with yellow and grey mottling.
9	29.0	2.0	0.70	0-0.36m soft dark brown silt topsoil, 0.36-0.70m orange sandy clay subsoil, 0.70m+ red clay with yellow and grey mottling. <b>[Pl. 6]</b>



## APPENDIX 2: Feature Details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Fill[s]</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1-9	50	natural		
5-9	51	subsoil		
1-4	52	demolition rubble	modern	
5-9	53	topsoil		
4	54	surface	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
4	55	cobbles	19th-20th century	Cartographic
4	56	surface	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
4	57	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
4	58	surface	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
4	59	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
3	60	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
3	61	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
3	62	fill	20th century	Bricks
2	63	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic
2	64	foundation	19th-20th century	Bricks, cartographic

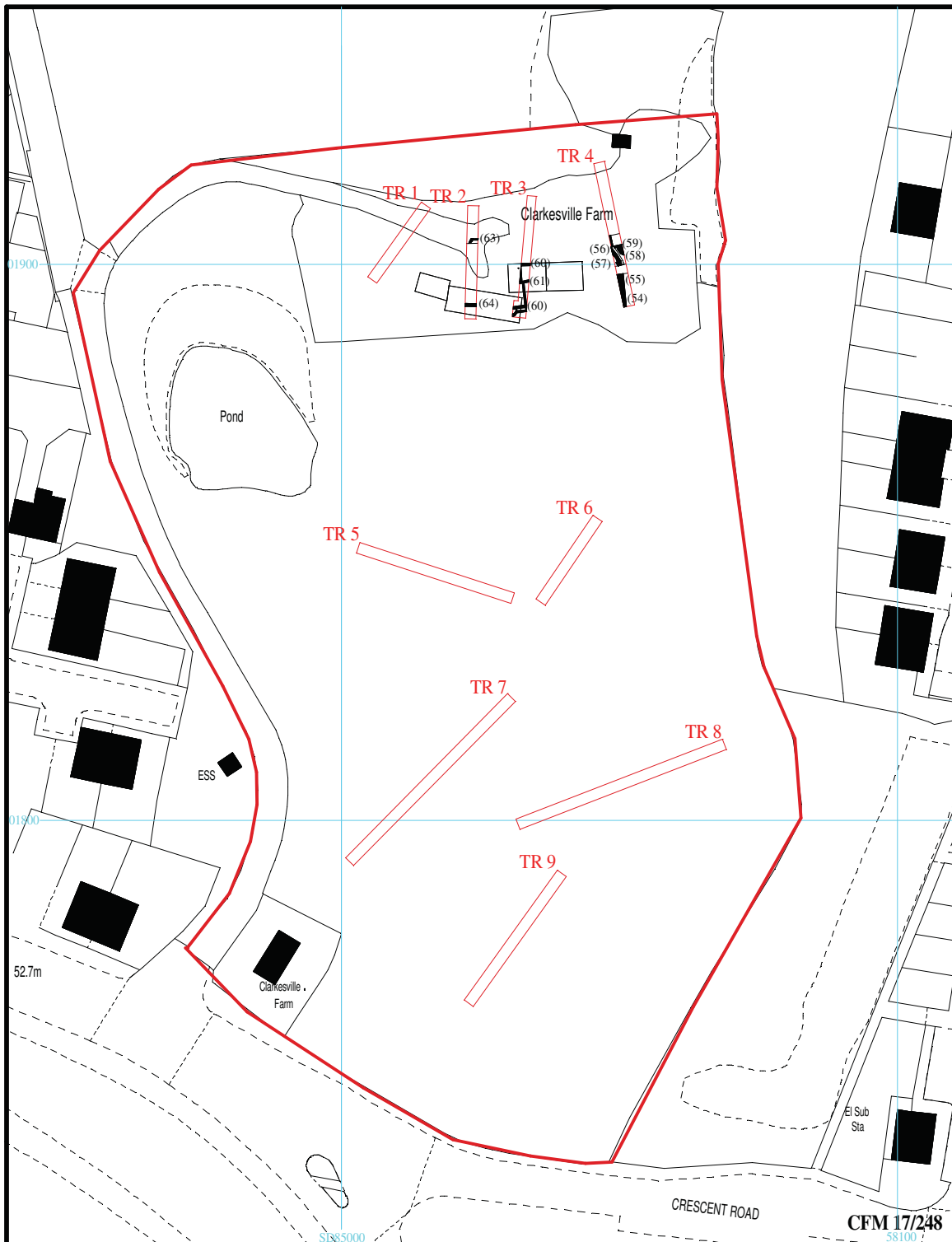


**Land at Clarksville Farm,  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Lower Crumpsall and Greater Manchester.

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**Land at Clarksville Farm,  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Trench plan and features

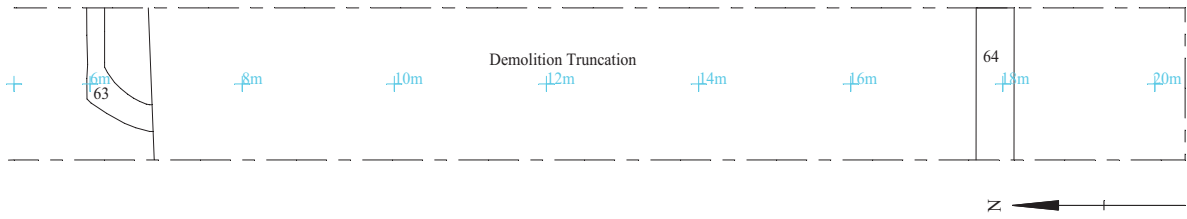


0 50m

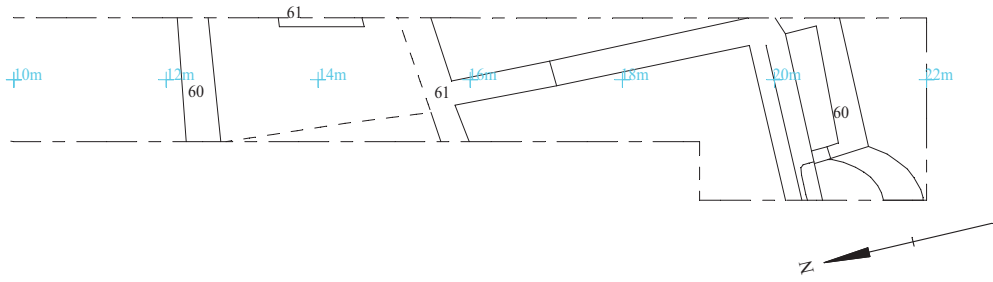


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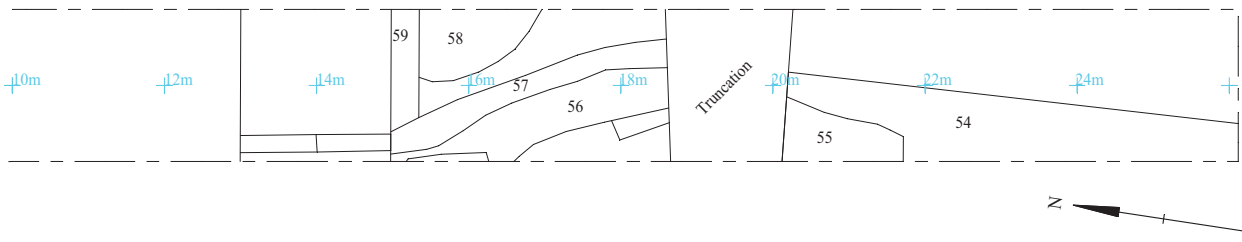
Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4

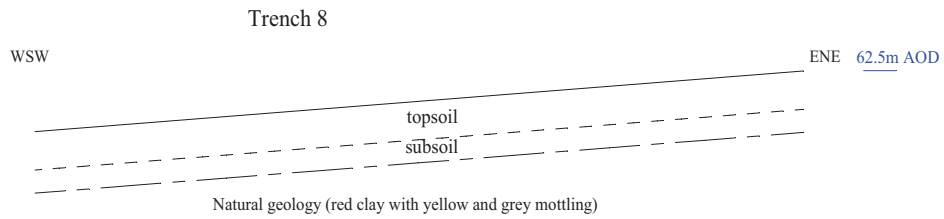
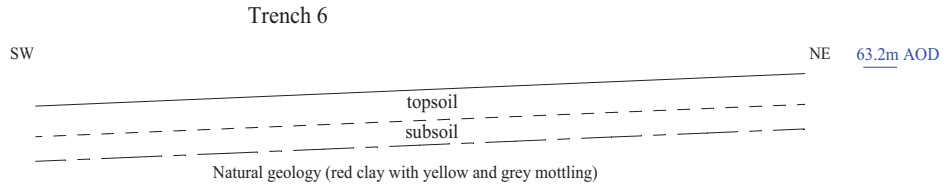
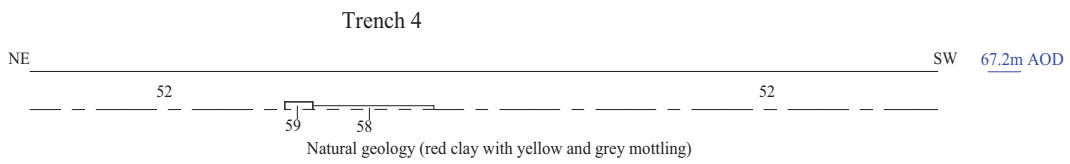
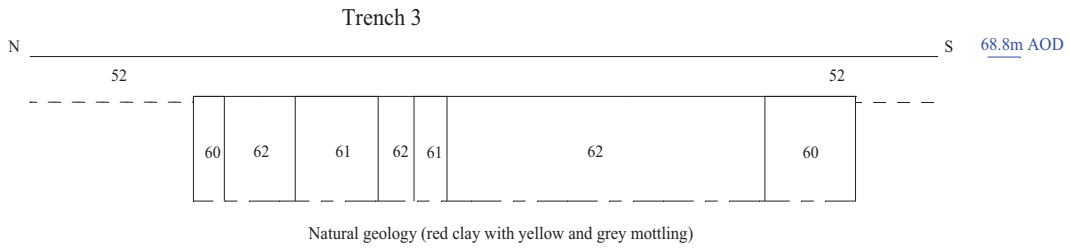
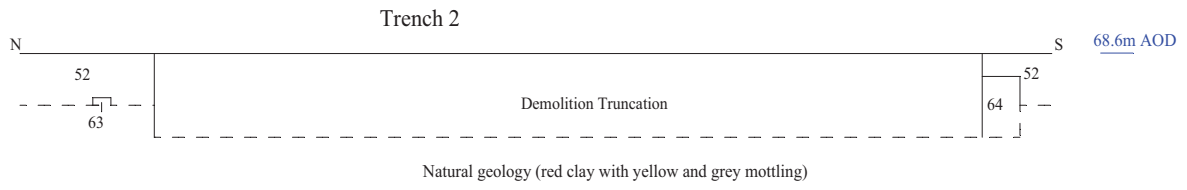


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Land at Clarksville Farm  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 3. Detailed trench plans



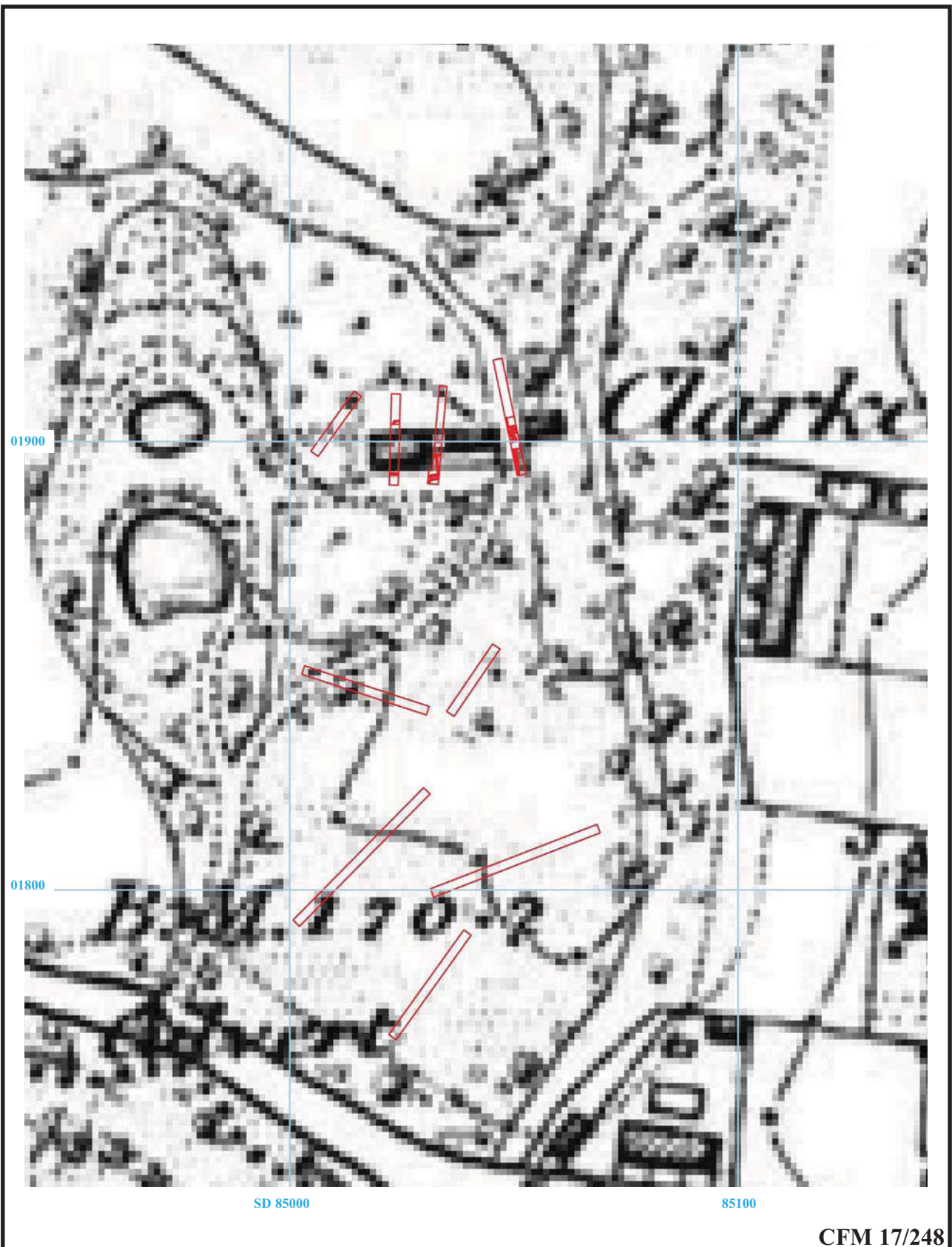


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**Land at Clarksville Farm  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2018  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Representative trench sections



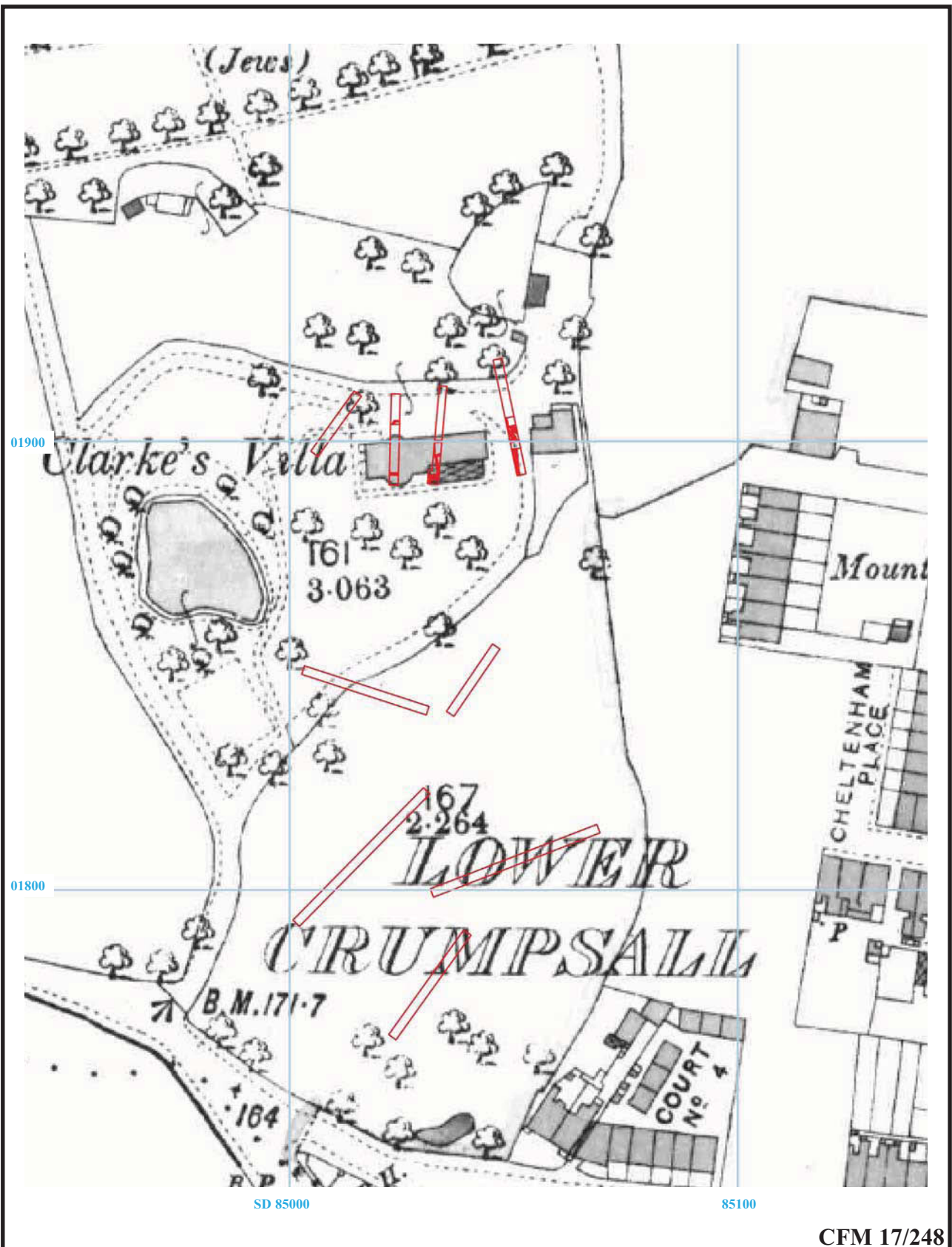


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**Land at Clarksville Farm**  
**Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2017**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
 Figure 5. Trenches and features overlaid on OS map of 1843.





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**Land at Clarksville Farm  
Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2017  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 6. Trenches and features overlaid on OS map of 1893.





Plate 1. Possible hearth, looking south west,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. Foundation wall, looking north east,  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 4, looking north east,  
Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Trench 5, looking west,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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**Land at Clarksville Farm**  
**Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2018**  
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Plates 1 to 4.

T V A S  
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Plate 5. Trench 7, looking north east,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 9, looking north east,  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 7. Northern area post excavation.



Plate 8. Southern area post excavation.

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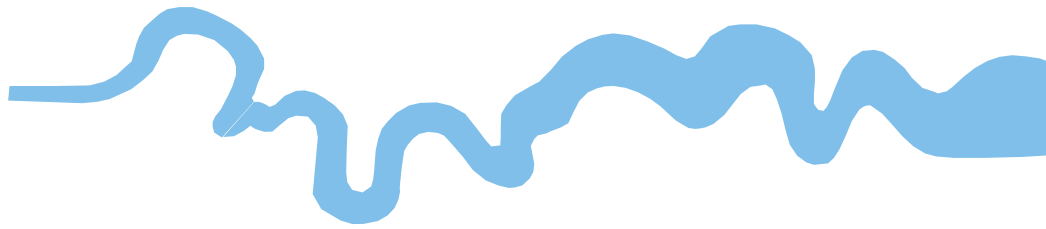
**Land at Clarksville Farm**  
**Lower Crumpsall, Greater Manchester, 2018**  
**Archaeological Evaluation**  
Plates 5 to 8.



## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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





**TVAS (North Midlands),  
2B Stanton Road, Meir  
Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648  
Email: [northmidlands@tvas.co.uk](mailto:northmidlands@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands](http://www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands)**