

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**White Acres, Maiden Lane,
Cherhill, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: WAC18/147

(SU 0389 7007)

White Acres, Maiden Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Armour Heritage Limited**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WAC 18/147

September 2018

Summary

Site name: White Acres, Maiden Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0389 7007

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 19th-20th September 2018

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: WAC 18/147

Area of site: 790 sq m

Summary of results: Two ditches and a pit/tree throw of post-medieval or modern date were the only features recorded and the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museums in Devizes in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 24.09.18 Steve Preston✓ 24.09.18
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White Acres, Maiden Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 18/147

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at White Acres, Maiden Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire, SN11 8UZ (SU 0389 7007) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DG, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Morgan, the homeowners.

A planning application (18/06245/FUL) has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for the construction of two detached dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. A field evaluation has been requested in order to inform the planning process with regards to potential archaeological implications. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Daniel Haddad between 19th and 20th September 2018 and the site code is WAC 18/147. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museums in Devizes in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a roughly square plot of land in part of the garden of White Acres, on the south-eastern edge of Cherhill (Fig. 1). It is on the western side of Maiden Lane with the A4 on its southern side and residential properties on its northern side (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Lower Chalk (BGS 1974), which was observed in all three trenches and the site lies at a height of c.123m above Ordnance Datum on the steep side of the valley of the River's Brook to the north.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a desk-based assessment (Armour Heritage 2018). In summary, deposits from the Mesolithic onwards have been recorded for the area. Mesolithic findspots

have been recorded to the west and north of the site and a Neolithic causewayed enclosure is located on the western edge of Cherhill overlying a Mesolithic site. Three Bronze Age barrows lie 800m to the south with a beaker and ditches recorded closer to the north-west. Further to the south lies Oldbury Camp Iron Age hillfort. Roman burials were recorded 235m north-west of the site and a Roman villa with mosaic was recorded at the village Church, itself a 15th-century structure with 12th-century origins. Prior to the Norman Conquest Cherhill was part of the King's estate of Calne and is not recorded in Domesday Book.

Objectives and methodology

Aims of the evaluation were:

- to clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the site that may be impacted by the development;
- to identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth of any surviving remains within the site;
- to assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits; and to
- produce a report presenting the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the site's archaeological potential, and inform an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Three trenches were to be dug, each measuring 1.6m wide and 8m long. These were dug using a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. 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 to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the brief, 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

Three trenches were dug measuring 1.5m wide, between 8.40m and 8.90m long and between 0.53m and 0.63m deep. Trenches 1 and 2 had to be slightly re-orientated due to the presence of trees.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 8.90m long and 0.63m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.29m of topsoil overlying 0.34m of subsoil overlying natural chalk geology. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed.

Trench 2

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 8.40m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil overlying 0.29m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were revealed.

Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 2)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 8.70m long and 0.53m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying chalk natural geology. Three possible features were investigated.

Ditch 1 was aligned west-east towards the south-east end of the trench. It was 0.97m wide, 0.50m deep and contained two fills (52 and 53). Fill 52 was a light brown grey silty clay that produced six pieces of animal bone and a piece of brick/tile. Fill 53 was a pale yellow grey silty chalky clay but this did not produce any finds.

At the NW end of the trench a second ditch was cutting through a possible pit or tree throw. The ditch (3) measured 0.43m deep and also had two fills (55 and 56). Deposit 55 was a mid brown grey silty clay which did not produce any finds. Fill 56 was a light brown grey silty clay which contained 22 pieces of animal bone and modern concrete. The ditch was cutting pit/tree throw (2), which was 0.15m deep and its light yellow grey silty clay fill (54) and produced an iron nail. A second nail came from the subsoil nearby.

Finds

Metalwork by Danielle Milbank

Two contexts produced metal objects (total 21g). Subsoil layer 51 (trench 3) and deposit (54) each contained a single badly corroded iron nail of uncertain date.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

Ditch 1 (52) contained a small piece of brick which was of broadly post-medieval date. Ditch 3 (56) contained a lump of modern concrete.

Animal Bone by Danielle Milbank

A small assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone comprising 29 pieces (382g) was hand collected from three contexts encountered in the evaluation (Appendix 3). The condition of the pieces was variable, with fragments from ditch 1 in good condition, with minimal fragmentation and little surface erosion, and fairly hard bone fabric, and the remainder of the material in poorer condition with greater fragmentation and weaker fabric.

The bone was categorized according to animal size, large (cattle, horse), medium (sheep/goat, deer, pig) or small (rodent, cat, dog) and where possible identified by species. Identified fragments are discussed below.

From ditch 1 (52), a cat metatarsal and right calcaneus was recovered, in addition to four pieces of long bone from a medium-sized animal (probable sheep-goat).

From ditch 3 (55), a right cattle metapodial unfused proximal end was recovered, indicating a juvenile animal.

Ditch 3 (56) contained 22 pieces weighing 320g. These were fragmented pieces of rib from a large animal, probably cattle, and a cattle right talus bone.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a small number of features of possible archaeological interest consisting of two ditches and a possible pit or tree throw. The material from ditch 1 suggests a late post-medieval to modern date while ditch 3 contained modern concrete. Pit or tree-throw 2 contained only a nail, also most probably modern or late post-medieval. On the basis of these results the site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

References

- Armour Heritage, 2018, 'White Acres, Maiden Lane, Cherhill, Wiltshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', **AH714**
BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 266, Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

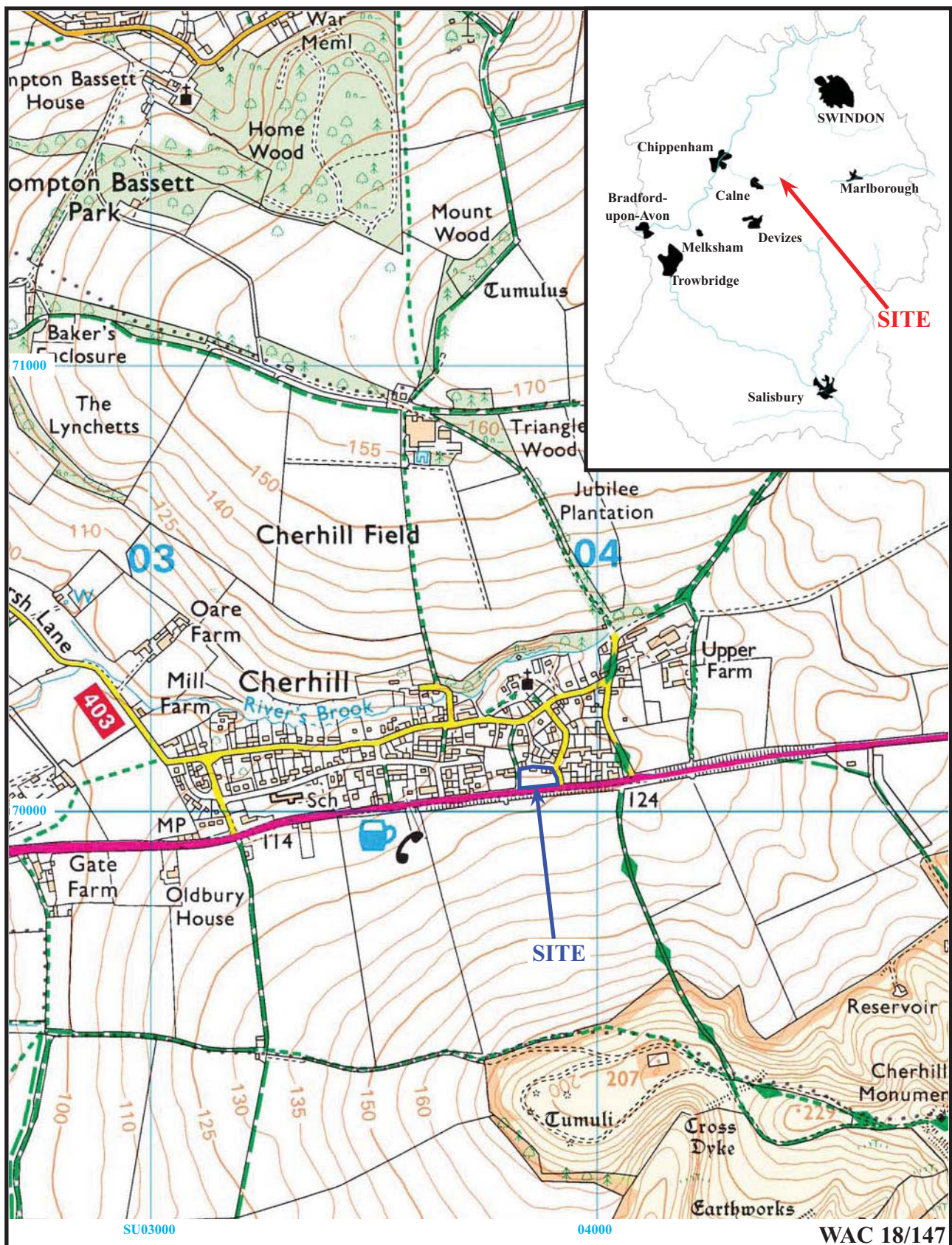
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	8.90	1.50	0.63	0-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.63m subsoil; 0.63m+ chalk natural geology.
2	8.40	1.50	0.56	0-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ chalk natural geology.
3	8.70	1.50	0.53	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m+ chalk natural geology. Ditches 1 and 3, Pit/tree throw 2; Pls. 1 and 2

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
3	1	52, 53	Ditch	Post-medieval	brick
3	2	54	Pit/Tree Throw	Post-medieval	Nail; cut by 3
3	3	55, 56	Ditch	Modern	Concrete; and cuts 2

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of animal bone

<i>Tr</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No Frags</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>
3	1	52	Ditch	6	33	-	2	4
3	3	55	Ditch	1	29	1	-	-
3	3	56	Ditch	22	320	1	-	1
			Total	29	382			



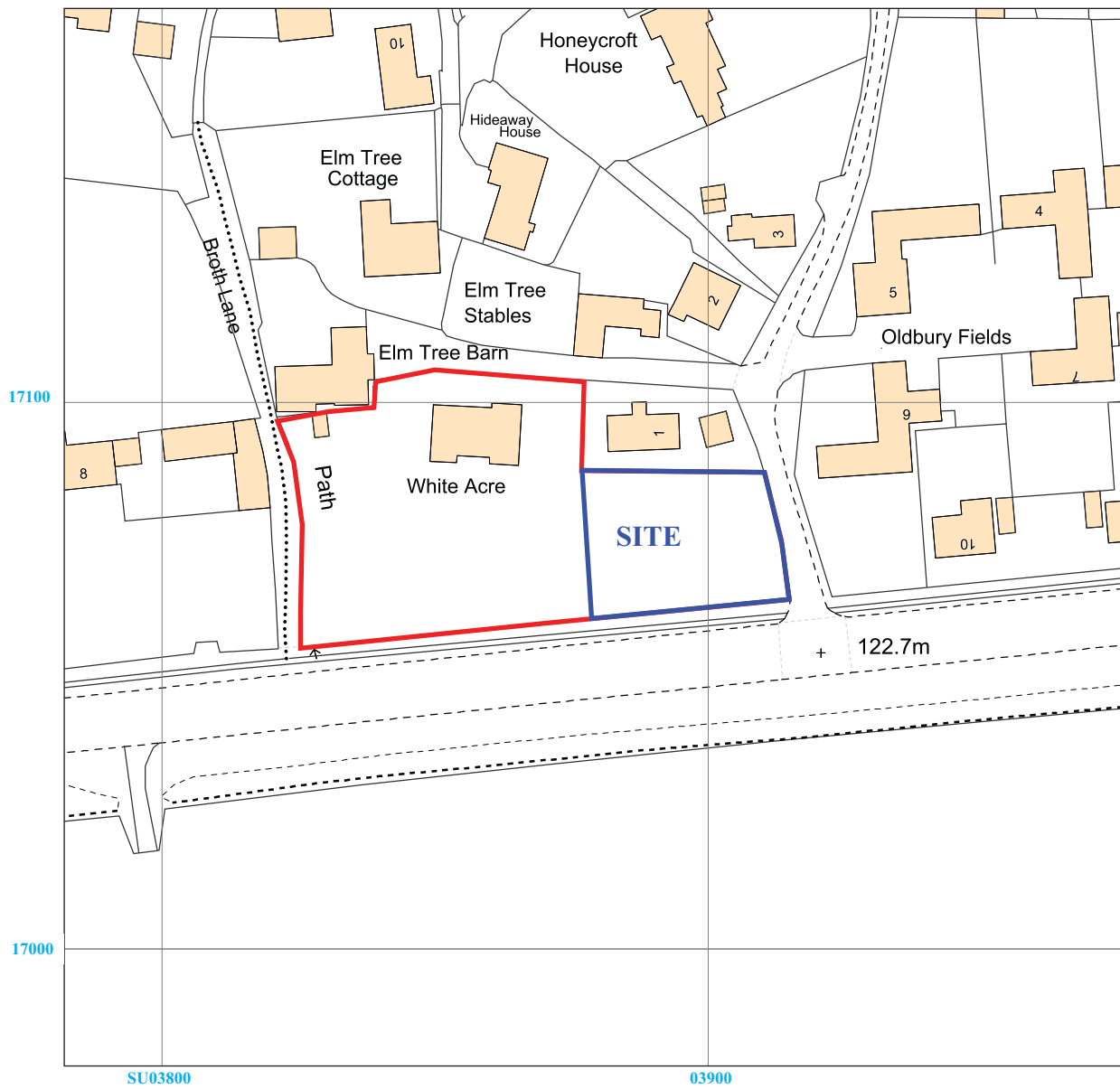
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Figure 1. Location of site within Cherhill and Wiltshire.

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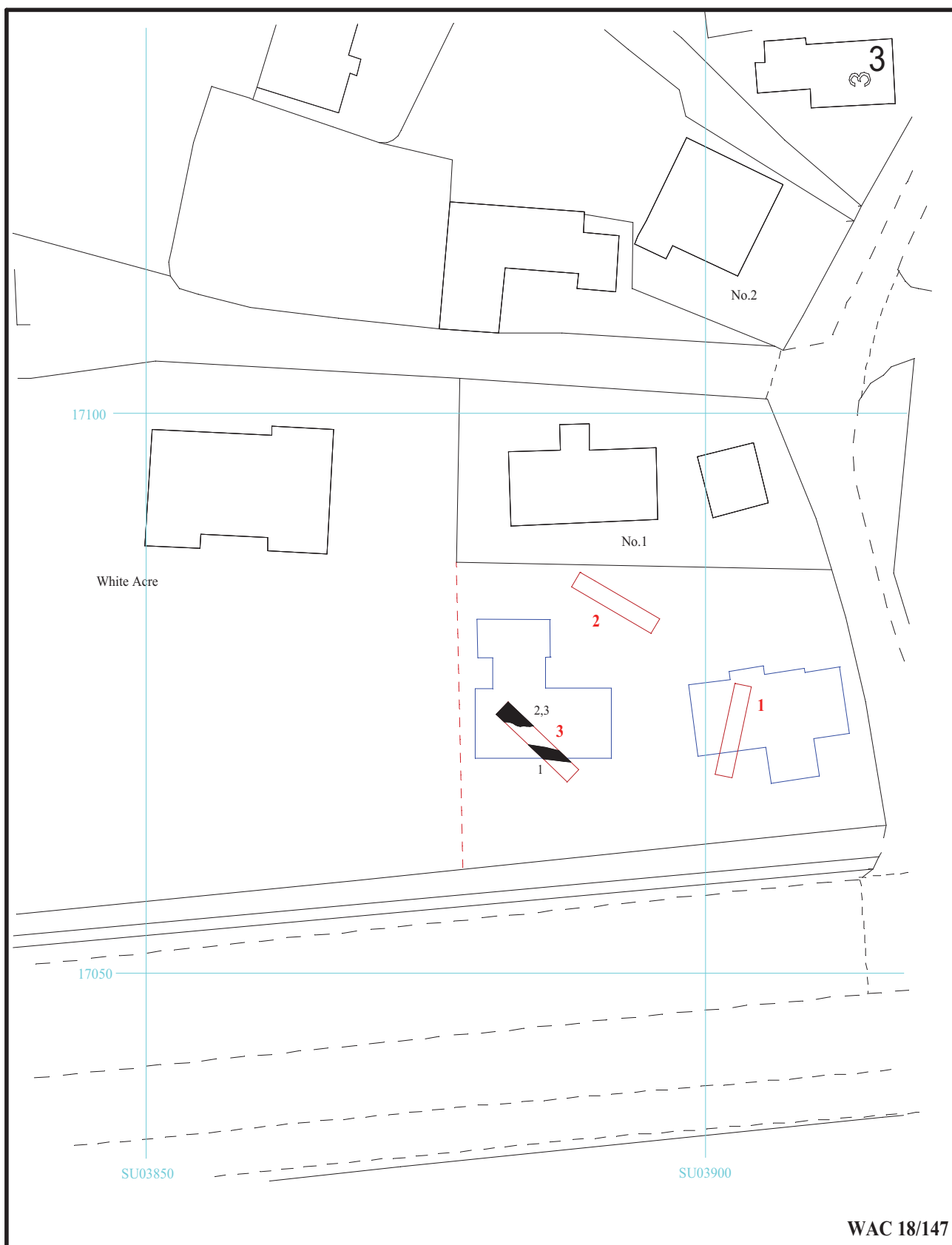
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Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 2. Detailed location of the site.

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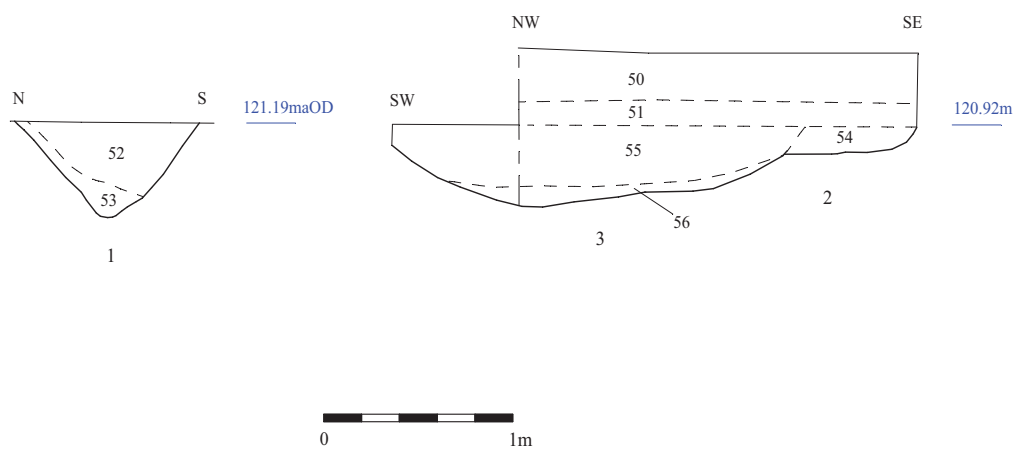
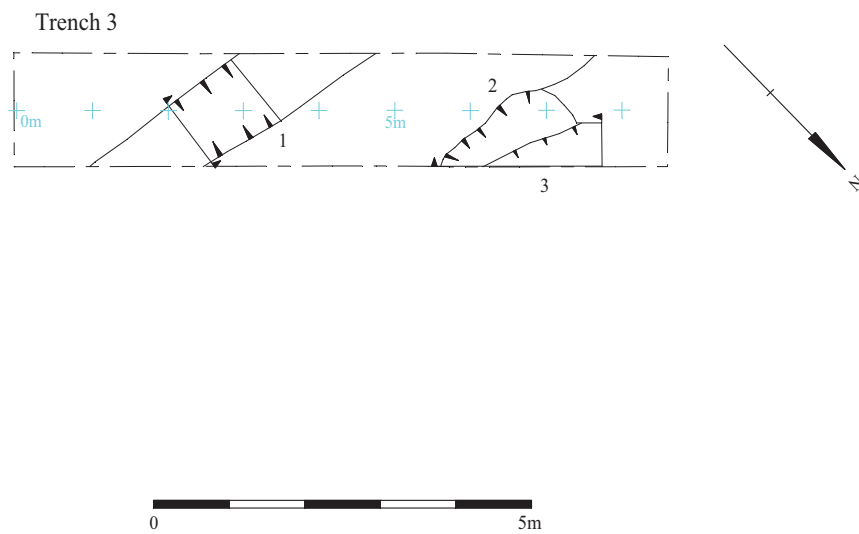
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m



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Figure 4. Detail and sections of Trench 3.

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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, ditch 1, looking north east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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**Land at White Acres, Cherhill,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

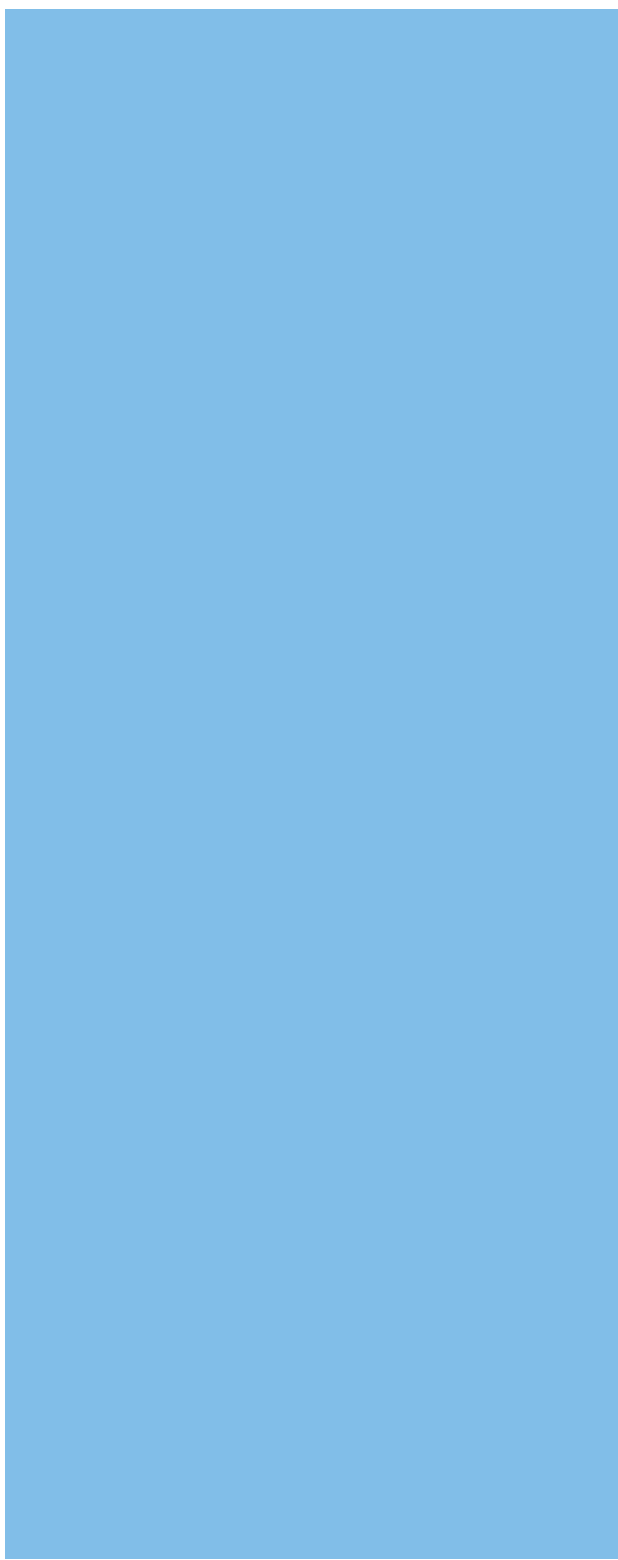
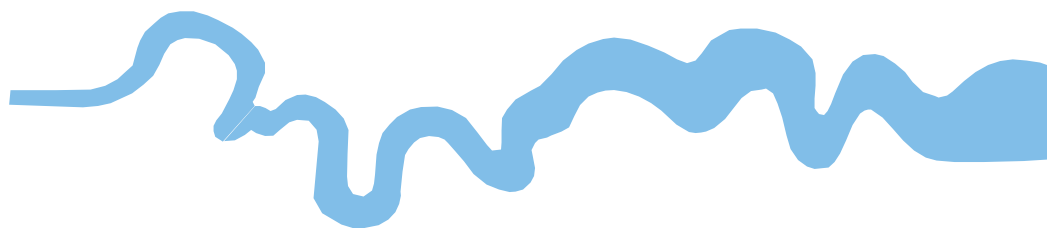
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TIME CHART

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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