

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andrew Muddin**

**Site Code: CRC17/244**

**(SU 2478 5413)**

**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Ms Kim Olliver**

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CRCD 17/244

**October 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2478 5413

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 17th August to 19th September 2018

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Munding

**Site code:** CRCDC 17/244

**Area of site:** 189 sq m; within a 577 sq m development area

**Summary of results:** A zone of ground reduction was observed for the area of the new building along with stripping for a new access road, drain runs and a test pit. A sherd of Medieval and several sherds of post-medieval pottery were found but no deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

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

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: [www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 8.11.18 Steve Preston ✓ 8.11.18
---

# Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Andrew Munding

Report 17/244

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, SP8 3EA (SU 2478 5413) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Kim Olliver of the same address.

Planning permission (17/05685/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council for a new dwelling to the east of the adjacent property (Steyr), which was formerly part of its garden (Pl.1). New separate access from Steyr was required from the road in the south. Condition 5 has been attached to the planning permission, requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the course of groundworks for the new dwelling.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's planning policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Claire King, formerly Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Munding between 17th August to 19th September 2018. The site code is CRCD 17/244.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum, Devizes in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

Cadley Road leads east from the main road (A338) that runs N-S through Collingbourne Ducis, with the village sitting in a narrow river valley created by the River Bourne (Fig.1). The housing on Cadley Road is mostly 20th century, with a long c.0.2ha gardens plots rising north up the gradual valley slope (Fig.2). The southeast end of Cadley Road joins the SW-NE former route of the Salisbury-Hungerford, at a hamlet once recognised as Collingbourne Sheer on 18th century maps. The Sheer Inn seems to be contemporary with this date, though with later modification. Additionally, there is a small group of older housing present on the road to the east of our current site, forming the early hamlet of Cadley, extended from four late 17th-18th century thatched houses and a cottage row, known as Halfway, marking the halfway point between Collingbourne in the west and the Sheer Inn at the Cadley Road's east end. The underlying geology is Lewes (Upper) Chalk Formation, which contains a high

proportion of flint nodules (BGS Geindex; BGS 1975). This property is c.300m from the main centre of Collingbourne Ducis. At the front of Steyr, there is a bank to the road, south of the site, with a drive that is steeply sloped. The road level is approximately at a height of 138m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

## **Archaeological background**

Collingbourne Ducis, a village, is on the north-eastern edge of Salisbury Plain. Its rich later prehistoric landscape, particularly on Snail Down, is equalled with other downland areas in the west of this region (Entwistle 1994, 50). Monuments on Snail Down have been excavated and retrieved Early Bronze Age Grooved and Beaker pottery vessels with radiocarbon-dating of 2280-1740BC cal gained, for example, from one of the excavated bell-barrows (Ashbee and Bayliss 2005, 256). Separately, there is a Scheduled bowl barrow on Wick Down to the southeast of the village (SAM 1012510), and substantial earthwork remains of a Neolithic long barrow on Fairmile Down to the north (SAM 1013051).

Exceptional archaeological remains have been found in the village from unrelated excavations that found regionally significant Saxon deposits of settlement and funerary activity north of the Cadley Road. Since the initial cemetery excavation, the new housing estate of 'Saxon Rise' has been constructed. At this location 33 burials were identified in 1974 (Gingell 1978). Additional housing, to the east in 2007, created what is now Riverbourne Road. The further extent of the cemetery was investigated, dating from the 5th to 7th century, and with this additional work, known to be formed of 100+ individuals displaying mixed-rite inhumations and cremation and some quality 7th century brooches (Dinwiddy and Stoodley 2016). Another excavation in 1998 excavations found Saxon settlement evidence, c.150m to the southwest of the cemetery (creating what is now Saunders Meadow). The settlement unearthed ten sunken-feature buildings (SFB) and a large array of find and elements of the faunal assemblage with traded goods from the coast or the continent (Pine 2001). Radiocarbon dates from three of four deposits gave a date of Middle Saxon (AD720-960cal) for the settlement and another Early-Middle Saxon (AD430-660cal). A Early Wessex Charter documents of AD903 (Bonney 1969), were previously thought to indicative the origins of *Colengaburn*.

Cadley is only a hamlet by comparison, but still in Collingbourne Ducis parish, with only a small collection of four Grade II Listed, late 17th-18th century, housing indicating its origins, c.0.5km east of Collingbourne. By 1882, Midland and South-Western Junction Railway ran in the Bourne Valley (VCH 1980). Due to the railway, the east side of Collingbourne developed centred on the railway station. During the 20th

century, housing extended eastwards along Cadley Road from the village. The line closed in 1961 and recent archaeological works have investigated the remains of the old station yard (Bray 2015).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aim of the project was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by groundworks. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular overburden removal, ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the new building, and service runs. Preferentially, this involved stripping of overburden within the footprint of the proposed building to archaeologically-relevant levels prior to the continued excavation of the foundation though lower, and natural geology.

All excavated deposits were undertaken with a mid-sized mini digger, fitted with a wide-bladed bucket. All finds deemed of archaeological worth were retained and kept for cleaning, cataloguing and specialist identification. There was a possibility that human remains could be identified on the site and, should it occur, discretion and care would be taken on their excavation and identification. The local planning archaeologist would be contacted and the appropriate licence would be applied for prior to lifting the remains.

## **Results**

### *Test pit*

Prior to the start of excavation, a test pit (Test Pit 1) was excavated orientated N-S (Pl. 2). This was 2.1m x 0.8m wide and found the natural chalk at a depth of 0.96m deep (Fig. 4).

### *Ground reduction*

The site of the new house was immediately east of the adjacent property, with the front of the new building in line (Fig.3;Pl.1). The footprint of the new building was subject to ground reduction as the site was on a slight slope. The excavation of the plot took place under archaeological supervision to expose the top of the archaeological relevant level, the top of the chalk natural geology. In the north this was reached at a depth of 0.96m. The stratigraphy comprised dark brown clay silt (50) topsoil, over a light grey-brown, silty clay subsoil (51). Under this was a layer of hill-wash (52; colluvium), that was light brown silty clay which overlaid the natural chalk (53). As the excavation progressed to the south the depth of the excavation became shallower and reduced to 0.8m with the chalk not exposed (Pl. 3).

In the SW corner (Fig. 3; Pl.4) a near complete piglet burial was observed (1). The burial fill contained an iron nail. No other cut features were recorded.

### *Footings*

The footings were dug from the base of formation, and were generally 0.8m wide and 0.6m deep. At the rear of the excavation, there were only dug through chalk and no further excavation of them were observed. Much of the observation of the remaining footing was concentrated in the south and south west corner which found that the remaining subsoil/colluvium was 0.22m thick. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

### *Drainage*

Observation of a drainage run joining to an existing system at the south east corner of Steyr were observed as was a drainage run to a soakaway. Typically, the trenches were 0.65m deep. Beneath topsoil, 0.3m deep, was subsoil, which in turn overlay colluvium. The natural chalk was not exposed. No finds nor archaeological deposits were encountered.

## **Finds**

A small selection of artefacts were recorded but retained on site with the exception of a sherd of pottery recovered from the base of the subsoil (51). A complete, ferrous horseshoe was recovered from the subsoil. It was, however, small and would only be considered to be for a pony. A short stem of post-medieval clay pipe was also noted.

### *Pottery by Jane Timby*

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of seven sherds of pottery weighing 693g from two contexts. The assemblage comprises one sherd of medieval date and six of post-medieval date. The latter sherds are in fresh condition. The assemblage is catalogued below.

#### Catalogue

1. One glazed white sandy ware probably from a jug. Mottled green glaze. Wt. 5 g. Deposit (52). Date: 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century.
2. Six base sherd from a plain cooking pot/jar. Wt. 688 g.. Deposit (58). Date: Post-medieval

## *The pig burial*

A juvenile, pig burial was located in a shallow pit (1) cutting the subsoil. The remains of the animal within were orientated, laid near complete on its side. Most the parts were present, though the skull had become damaged during machine excavation.

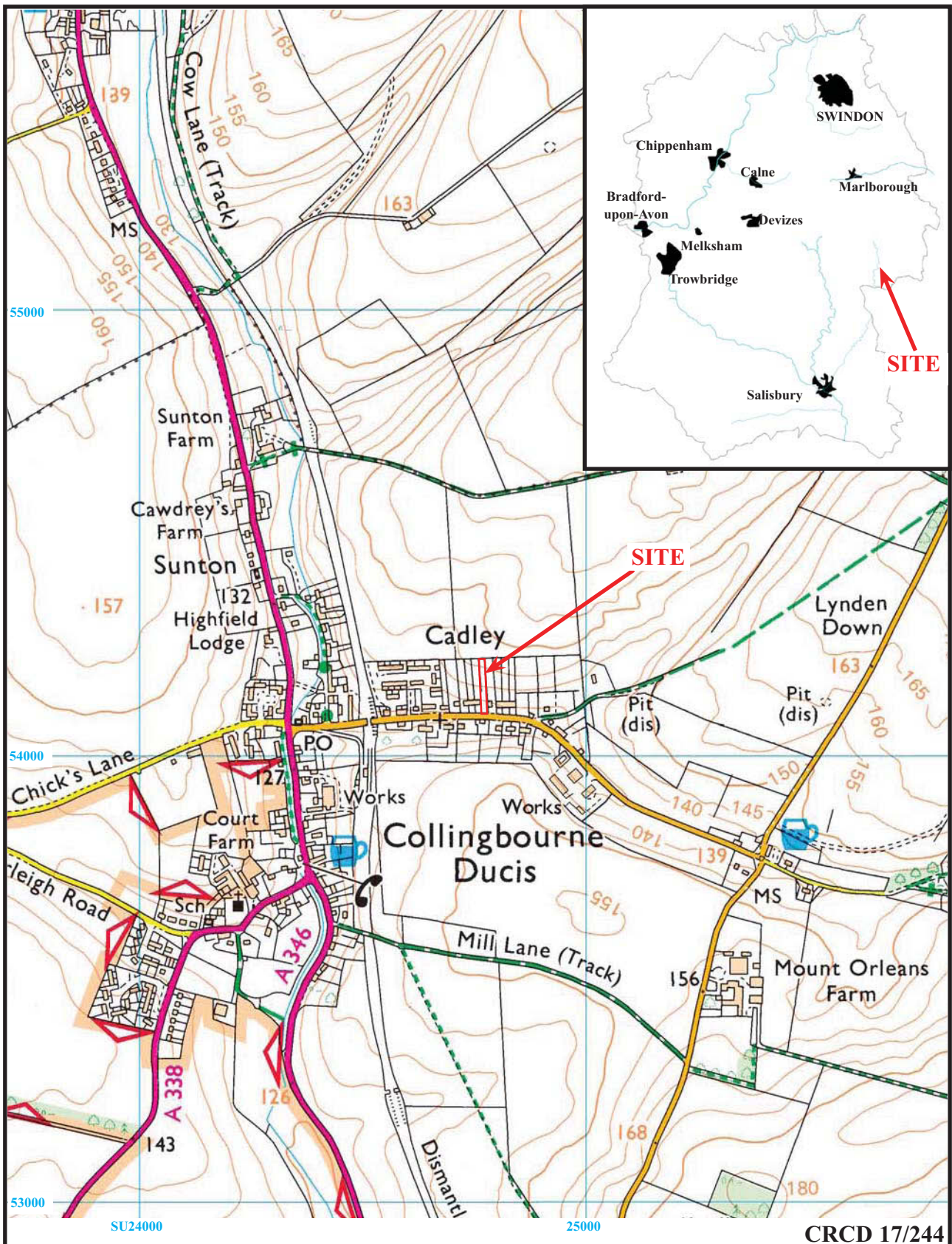
## **Conclusion**

The groundworks were successfully observed, but on this occasion have failed to locate any archaeological deposits. A single sherd of Medieval pottery, though residual, was the only find of interest encountered.

## **References**

- Ashbee, P and Bayliss, A, 2005, 'The Snail Down radio carbon dates'. In Thomas, N (ed), *Snail Down, Wiltshire: The Bronze Age Barrow Cemetery and related earthworks, in the parish of Collingbourne Ducis and Collingbourne Kingston Excavations, 1953, 1955 and 1957*, *Wiltshire Archaeol & Natur Hist Soc Mono No.3* (funded by English Heritage), Devizes
- Entwistle, R, 1994, 'The development and application of field methodology'. In Bradley, R, Entwistle, R and Raymond, F, '*Prehistoric land divisions on Salisbury Plain; the work of the Wessex Linear Ditches Project*', English Heritage Archaeo Rep **2**, Southampton
- Bray, D, 2015, '*Former Railway Yard, Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire; an archaeological evaluation*', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl client rep **14/169**, Reading
- Bonney, D.J, 1969, 'Two Tenth Century Wiltshire Charters concerning the lands of Avon and at Collingbourne' *Wilts Archaeological & Natur Hist Soc Mag*, **Vol. 64**, 56-64
- BGS, 1975, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 283 (Andover), Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dinwiddy, K.E, and Stoodley, N, 2016, '*An Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire*', Wessex Archaeology Ltd Monog **37**, Salisbury
- Fulford, M, G, Powell, A.B, Entwistle, R, and Raymond, F, 2006, '*Iron Age and Romano-British settlements and landscapes of Salisbury Plain*', Trust of Wessex Archaeology Ltd, Salisbury
- Gingell, C J, 1978, 'The excavation of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire', *Wilts Archaeol Natur Hist Soc Mag*, **Vol.70/71**, 61-98
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Pine, J, 2001, 'The Excavation of Saxon settlement at Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire', *Wilts Archaeological & Natur Hist Soc Mag*, **Vol. 94**, 88-117
- VCH, 1980, 'Parishes: Collingbourne Ducis', In Crowley, D.A (ed), *A History of the County of Wiltshire, Vol 11, Downton Hundred: Elstrub and Everleigh Hundred*, 108-115, London, *British History Online*, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vchwilts/vol1/pp108-115> [accessed 17th August 2018]





CRCD 17/244

**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Collingbourne Ducis and Wiltshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500  
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



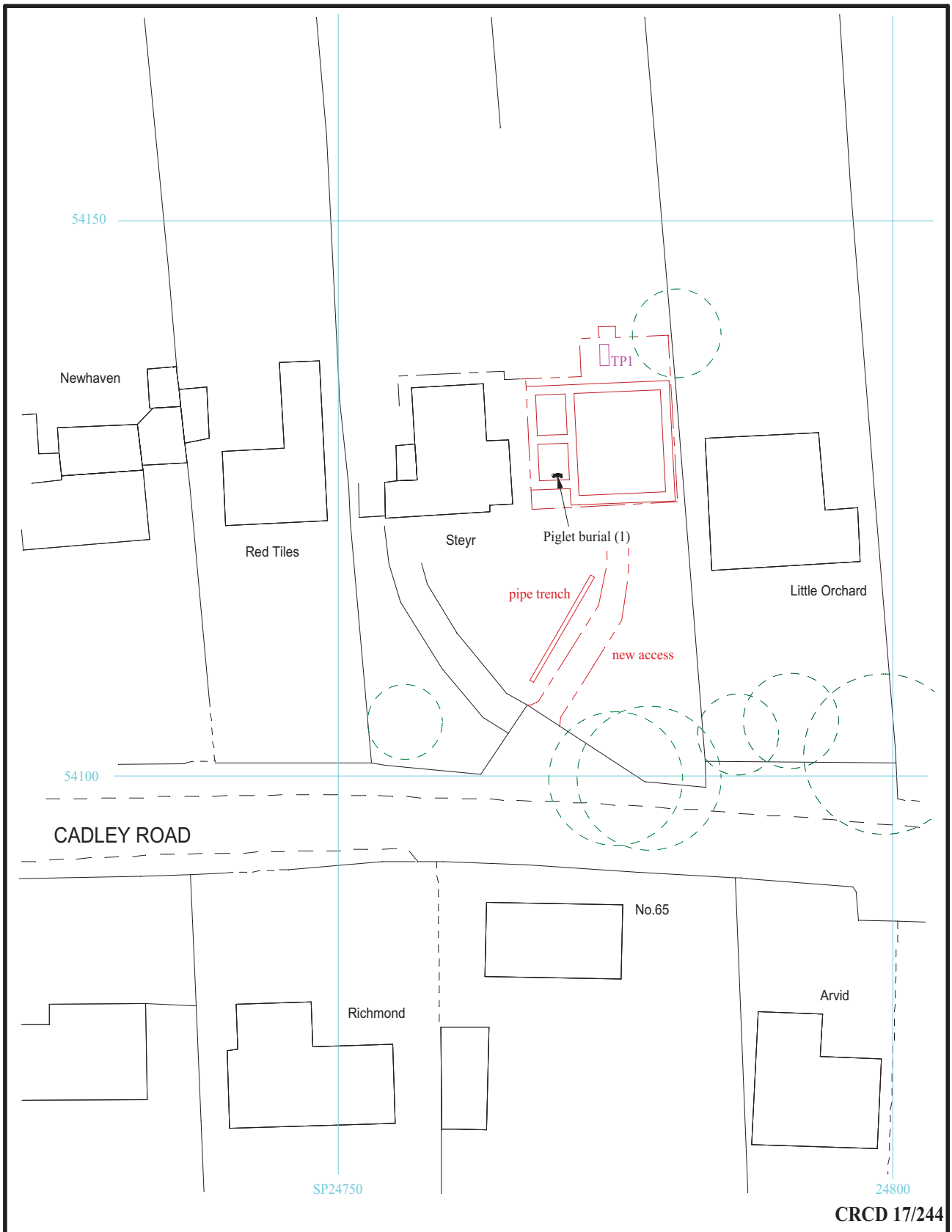
CRCD 17/244



**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Cadley Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
SERVICES

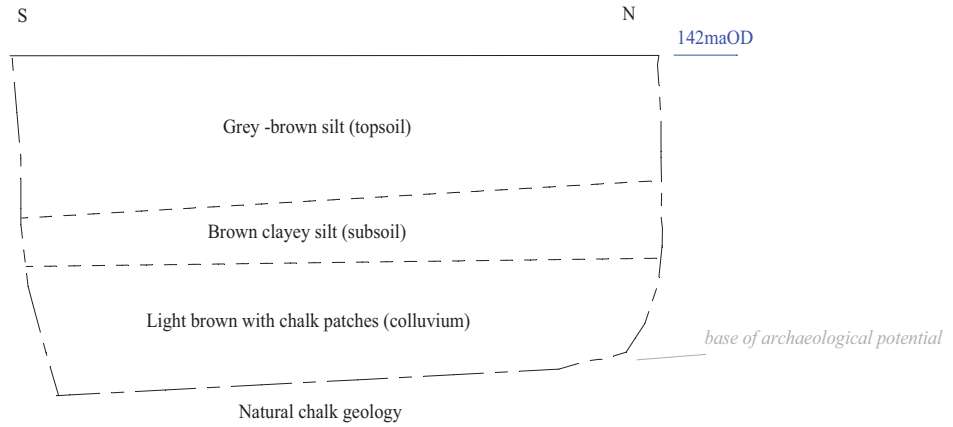


**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



*Test Pit 1*



CRCO 17/244

**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Full depth of overburden deposits observed in Test Pit 1.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





Plate 1. Location of excavation adjacent to Steyr, looking north west.



Plate 2. Test Pit 1, looking west, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

CRC017244

**Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 3. Full depth excavation, looking north north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 4. Pig remains (Burial 1), looking north, Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

CRCD 17/244

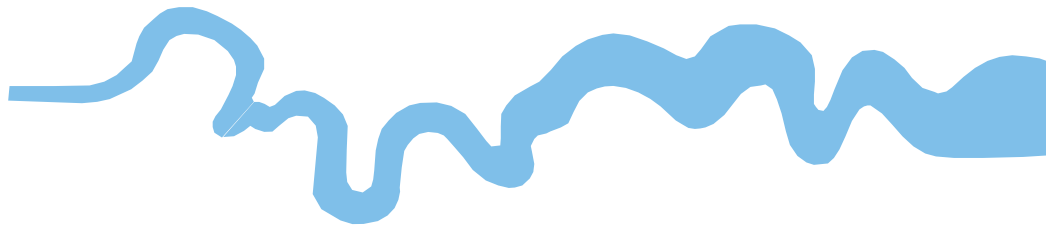
Land adjacent to Steyr, Cadley Road,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 3 and 4.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

## 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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,  
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**

***Offices in:  
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)***