

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at The Old Castle Club, Castle Street,
Ludgershall, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Munda

**Site Code: CSL17/99
(SU 2639 5098)**

Land at The Old Castle Club, Castle Street, Ludgershall, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Wilmont Building Services Ltd**

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CSL 17/99

February 2019

Summary

Site name: Land at The Old Castle Club, Castle Street, Ludgershall, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2639 5098

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd August 2018 to 20th January 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andrew Munda, Kyle Beaverstock, David Sanchez

Site code: CSL 17/99

Area of site: 523 sq m

Summary of results: Two new housing plots were excavated on the site south of The Club, and to the rear of Nos 7-11 Castle Street. A number of pits of various sizes along with two possible quarry pits were identified. Most of the features appeared to be of Post-Medieval date but unstratified Medieval pottery was also recovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 12.02.19 Steve Preston✓ 12.02.19
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Land at The Old Castle Club, Castle Street, Ludgershall, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Andrew Munding

Report 17/99

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land adjacent to The Old Castle Club, Castle Street, Ludgershall, Wiltshire, SP11 9QR (SU 2639 5098) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Claire Welburn, of Fowler Architects and Planning Ltd, 19 High Street, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN9 5AF, on behalf of Wilmont Building Services Ltd, Unit 4d, Fitzgerald Gilbert Court, Castledown Business Park, Tidworth Road, nr Ludgershall, Hampshire, SP11 9FA.

Planning permission (17/00605/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council for the construction of two new dwellings to the south of the Old Castle Club, which includes demolition of part of the club's rear extension. The development area also includes the rear of No 7 to 11 Castle Street, which was once shared land, used as parking by the Old Castle Club. Condition 5 attached to the permission requires an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the course of groundworks to mitigate against possible damage of archaeological deposits.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Claire King, Assistant County Archaeologist of Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Munding, Kyle Beaverstock and David Sanchez between 22nd August 2018 and 20th January 2019. The site code is CSL 17/99.

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

Location, topography and geology

Castle Street is a north-south orientated thoroughfare in the centre of the historic town of Ludgershall (Fig. 1). The site is on the west side of the road, to the west (rear) of Nos 7 to 13 Castle Street, which front the road, and south of the club building (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is Seaford Chalk (Upper Chalk) (BGS Geindex; BGS 1975). The site is at a height of approximately 127m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The Extensive Urban Survey of Ludgershall has examined and discussed the archaeological potential within the settlement in general (McMahon 2004). In summary, deposits and finds from the Prehistoric to the Post-Medieval periods have been found here. Castle Street, in particular has the potential for Medieval ‘back yard’ deposits, as the site is situated in a later Medieval area south of the Castle (cf, Fig. 1), which itself is Scheduled (SAM 1009912). Occupation has been proved, with excavation at the Castle between 1964-1972, dating deposits from early 12th century to 16th century, including earthworks that were part of the earliest phase in association with the later development of the market (Everson *et al.* 2000, 111). The Borough dates from 1194, but saw little expansion (Everson *et al.* 2000, 106). The development of the town was greatly affected, and indeed halted, by a serious fire in 1679 (McMahon 2004,8; VCH 1995).

The Old Castle Club is a modern building, whereas Nos 15, 17 and 19 Castle Street immediately neighbouring to the north have late 17th-century origins (and are listed, Grade II), as does much of the rest of the immediate area. Archaeological interventions during development have found post-medieval quarry pits north-west of the site, associated with the later development of the town (Dagless and Fairclough 2002)

The town is also on the south-east edge of Salisbury Plain which contains a wealth of prehistoric monuments on the chalk downland (Crutchley 2000). The north-eastern edge of Salisbury Plain has been extensively investigated archaeologically and its rich later prehistoric landscape setting is equal to other downland areas in the west of this region (Entwistle 1994, 50).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits and finds uncovered by groundworks. This was expected to involve the examination of areas exposed by intrusive excavation, in particular overburden removal, ground reduction, and the digging of foundation trenches and associated service runs. Preferentially, overburden would be removed within the new building footprint(s) prior to the excavation of footing trenches, allowing monitoring of excavation down to the archaeologically relevant level and then where it was disturbed. Excavation was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted mostly with a toothed bucket due to the need to excavate through the hard chalk geology.

The possible features encountered are summarized in Appendix 1.

Results

Diverting sewer trench

During clearance of the site, which included the demolition of the south extension of The Old Castle Club (Fig. 3), a buried manhole cover and chamber were found at the centre of the site. The route of the associated drain was traced across the site, which coincidentally would impact on the location of the proposed footings. The existing pipe was 0.75m deep. This pipe would be diverted to the eastern side of the site and eventually re-join its course as it exited the site on its south boundary with the Fire Station.

The demolition of the previous extension had levelled the ground, and created a slight descending slope towards the rear of the building, which was left after the shallow footing had been removed. The overall depth of this excavation had disturbed and removed 0.3m of made ground (late 19th-century overburden). The remnant of this deposit was recorded as layer 51, which contained late 19th-century finds.

Starting in the north, a test pit (TP1) was excavated over the top of the existing sewer, which located the pipe at a depth of 0.44m below existing ground surface. This depth was deeper than the top of the pipe which was at 0.37m. The test pit required widening to be fitted with an inspection chamber, eventually to 1.35m square. The stratigraphy at this point was 0.22m of dark, rooty dark grey silt sand over pale reddish-brown silty clay which extended to the base of excavation. The north side of the excavated pit, had chalk at its base in section, and this extended under the disturbance from the associated pipe trench to a depth of 0.49m in section.

From there, the pipe trench was excavated to the next manhole (MH1: Fig. 3; Pl.1). The pipe trench was 0.45m wide and dug to a depth of 1.1m. Two layers of soil were observed in section, the top layer under 0.25m of site overburden, was a reddish-brown silty clay (52) to a depth of 0.8m. The lower fill was a pale, yellow brown silty clay with occasional chalk inclusions (56). After the excavation of MH1, these layers ended against a steep slope to the base of the overburden with the section showing chalk natural directly under the overburden (Fig. 4). It is thought this represents the edge of a large cut feature (2), probably a quarry pit. No finds were recovered from its fills (fills 52, 56). Two sherds of residual Medieval pottery were recovered from the spoilheap near this location. These however, can only have been derived from the overburden and must be redeposited from elsewhere: no other areas produced this type of pottery from across the site. This feature was at least 3.3m wide and at least 8.5m long across its NW-SE axis and more if it extended beyond to the site to the north-east and east. It is more than 1m deep.

The excavation of the pipe trench then continued 11.2m to the next manhole point (MH2). Once the excavation was south of Cut 2, the remaining overburden of 0.25m was on to chalk natural. This continued past

the next manhole point (MH3), as it turned to the south-east. MH2 was 1.6m x 1.5m x 1.3m deep. In the NE facing section of the pipe trench, just past the manhole, a pit (1) cutting chalk was recorded, at least 3.4m in diameter at the top. This was filled with a single homogenous fill of rooty, dark brown sandy silt (54), which contained white “china” pottery and brick fragments. The base of the pit was visible in section at 1.15m deep, and was 2.5m roughly in diameter at the base.

From the excavation of the next chamber the trench was excavated southwards for 5.5m where another manhole location was reached (MH4). A small cylindrical vial bottle was recovered from the site overburden at 0.15m deep. The next manhole chamber was 1.7m x 1.6m x 1.4m deep. This pipe trench encountered a modern soakaway filled with brick and stone rubble, that was 2.47m in diameter and 0.85m deep. It contained no material of archaeological interest. It also cut the natural chalk. At the manhole the overburden thinned to 0.35m deep. The excavation of the pipe trench continued to the south-west from the last chamber (MH4) to the point the sewer pipe exited the site (TP2) and the final chamber was required. The pipe was reached with excavation at 0.85m, and the chamber pit was 1.3m x 2.5m x 1m deep. No further finds of interest were encountered.

Plot 1

This plot, in the north, was *c.* 8m x 6m in extent, with footing trenches 0.6m wide and generally between 0.9m and 1m deep (Pl. 3). During the excavation, the former sewer pipe was encountered and had disturbed the eastern sections of the footings. Similar fill to that previously seen in the east associated with Cut 2 was recorded in the north-east corner of the plot (fill 52; Pl. 2). No pottery was encountered during excavation here, and only the upper fill of this cut was exposed from the pit’s eastern section under the site overburden. It was 0.88m deep. The final depth of the footing was 0.95m, with generally no disturbance of the natural on the north-west side. All sections showed a remnant of homogenous soil dumped from recently disturbed parts of the site. This was 0.25m deep and in turn overlay the overburden (51). The total depth combined was 0.49m. Under the western section, chalk natural was exposed to the depth of excavation.

Another area of fill (55) *c.* 3.2m x 1.8m was recorded in Plot 1’s south-western sections, representing an elongated pit (3). The sides of this pit were vertical beneath the overburden and the base was flat at 0.8m deep. It contained blue transfer-printed white ‘china’ pottery, occasional ceramic building material (CBM) and a couple of pieces of glass and metalwork, all of 19th/20th century date and of no archaeological interest.

Two drainage runs, 0.45m wide, linked plot 1’s footings to MH2 (Fig. 3). A western continuation of the modern disturbance (pit 3) of the natural was observed to the base of excavation and both its sections to a depth of 0.6m, and the only other disturbance of the natural was the pre-existing pipe trench.

Plot 2

This plot was to the south, and was similar in dimensions to Plot 1 (Pl. 4). The depth of excavation was also similar to Plot 1, with the deepest part of the excavation in the south-west, and against the western section (1.15m deep). Due to this the whole area from the western section of the plot to the western side of the site was reduced by 0.35m (Fig. 3). No chalk natural nor finds of interest were encountered during this. Once the footing trench reached the north-east corner of Plot 2, the course of the pre-existing pipe trench was encountered and dug through. In the centre of the plot the old pipe trench cut through a shallow pit in its eastern side. It was however, not of archaeological interest as it contained bits of modern plastic, pottery and CBM.

On the north-eastern sections, a continuation of Pit 1 was seen representing its southern side with its homogenous fill (54) to a depth of 0.78m. No further finds of interest were encountered.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were located in Plot 2.

Service trenches

An electric and water service line was required from the road to link into the newly created plots (Fig. 3). This entailed the excavation of a 0.45m wide trench starting to the east of Plot 1's north-east corner, and gradually getting slightly deeper to 0.8m as it went south and east to reach the entrance access point, which still retained Tarmac covering.

Behind No. 9 Castle Street, in the east of the site, a pit (4) (Fig. 4; Pl.5) was recorded in the NE facing section. This was a 3m wide pit with the base of excavation recorded at 0.7m deep. It had a flattened base and the sides were near vertical. It contained an homogenous fill (57) of chalk and dark grey sandy silt with dark brown lumps of clayey silt with CBM. Post-Medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. The trench roughly passed through its centre.

The depth of the linking pipe trench to two points of Plot 2 was 0.78m deep. The deepest point of the excavation was 0.9m at the east end of the access road, with the excavation on its north side parallel to the south boundary of No.7. At its east extent, the 19th/20th century overburden was rich with find including two coins which dated the overburden layer (51) to post-1950.

A sequence of deposits was recorded under the later overburden. The feature they are likely to be contained within was difficult to record due to its size. It was at least 9.54m long and filled the frontage of the site in the gap to the south of No.7 Castle Street. This pit (5) contained two layers (58 and 59) (Fig. 4; Pl. 6). The top of its upper layer (59) was seen at 0.42m deep in section, to 0.75m deep. Cutting through the lowest fill was a heavily mortared brick structure, likely to be a late 18th-century well, though only the upper tip of its southern edge was

disturbed by the new trench. This cut from the base of the upper fill (59) (Pl. 6; Fig. 4). The lower layer (58) covered the base of excavation beyond the full depth excavated of 0.87m deep. The upper layer (59) was a yellowish grey brown clayey silt, and contained pottery. The lowest exposed layer was a chalk-flecked, grey brown silt with occasional CBM and charcoal inclusions (58). Due to the projected size of this feature (Fig. 3), it would have extended under the site boundary to the north and under the extant location of the rear of No. 7, and was also likely to extend further to the south. Pottery recovered from these fills was Post-Medieval in date.

Finds

A number of finds were encountered, mostly from the site overburden (51), which overlay Post-Medieval to Modern features. Two sherds of Medieval pottery were clearly residual in the overburden. Pits 1 and 3 contained obviously post-1850 finds, such as white china (porcelain; transfer-printed and plain), glassware, CBM and metal, with a limited sample of this material retained due to their negligible archaeological value. The recorded pipes and pipe trench also contained 'china' and (CBM), also of obvious 20th century date, not retained.

Pottery by Jane Timby

The archaeological work resulted in the recovery of eleven sherds of pottery weighing 95g from three contexts. The assemblage comprises material of Medieval and Post-Medieval date, which are in fairly worn condition. The two cut features appear to be of post-medieval /modern date whilst overburden (51) produced two sherds of medieval date alongside two of post-medieval date. The assemblage is catalogued below.

1. Two bodysherds post-medieval glazed earthenware. Wt. 44g. Deposit (51).
2. One base sherd from a plain cooking pot/jar. Wt. 14g. Fabric: sandy ware with flint as Newbury fabric A (Vince 1997) from the Kennet Valley. Date: 12th-13th century. Deposit (51).
3. One bodysherd from a plain jar. Wt. 6g. Fabric: sandy ware with flint and calcareous inclusions as Newbury fabric B (Vince 1997). Date: 12th-14th century. Deposit (51).
4. One rim of industrial white ware with a blue and white transfer decoration. Wt. 3 g. Date: modern. Cut 3 (58).
5. Six sherds of glazed earthenware. Wt. 28g. Date: post-medieval. Cut 4 (57).

The assemblage does not warrant retention.

Glass

Three pieces of stamped glassware were recovered from the site. A small glass bottle from the overburden (51) was 110mm long and 15mm in width. It had an embossed stamp on the side 'ATKINSON & BAKER' down its length. This is a brand of restorer, tailored 'for children and infants' in the 1850s. Two versions of a second type of bottle, a Codd bottle, were recovered from the upper excavation of the service trench. Both were found in the

east of the site, one east of the new excavation of Plot 2 and in the excavation of the service trench in the access. Both had embossed stamps 'WAUGH BROS, Crown Mineral Waterworks, LUDGERSHALL' on the side. One has an embossed stamp '3144' on the base. The bottling works was off the Tidworth Road, and was active from 1903-1959 (VCH 1995). The Crown mineral works was active at the site from 1907.

Clay pipe

Five pieces of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered. Four stem fragments from the site overburden (51) between MH1 and MH2 are considered to be of early 19th century date. A single stem from pit 4, 30mm long, with a bore diameter of 4mm, is probably of early 18th century date.

Metal finds

An array of metal finds were identified from the site overburden, though much of it was not of archaeological interest (nails and straps of 20th-century date) and was not retained. At the east extent of the service trench as it was excavated down the site access, it was noted that layer 51 was under the remaining Tarmac and its bedding was rich in finds of pottery, CBM, metal and glass. This was only generally of late 19th/20th century date judged from the pottery, but can be more closely dated as it also contained two coins; a halfpenny of George VI dated 1951, and a worn penny of Victoria (c. 1860s).

Conclusion

Although Medieval pottery has been found, it was from later overburden and no deposits on the site can be confidently dated earlier than late post-medieval. A large quarry pit (2), with two fills was located in the north east, and another, a pit (5) was located towards the Street frontage, starting to the rear of the line of the adjacent properties and extending underneath houses that could have been here before the Fire Station was built. Neither of these is securely dated other than that they lie below post-medieval layers. The soil under hardstanding in the access for the site has been nicely dated by a halfpenny of 1951 which provides the *terminus post quem* for the overburden layers in the access. Although not all of the overburden across the entire site is necessarily this late, it is all late 19th century or later.

A separate pit just within the site and immediately to the west of the properties fronting Castle Street is likely to be of early Post-Medieval date. There is a general lack of deposits over the site until 19th century soil is introduced over the east parts of the site, similar to the west boundary line of No.11 Castle Street. These could

have been shortened in the 20th century, including the levelling of the current site access, combined with the construction of the neighbouring Fire Station to the south, in 1968 (VCH 1995).

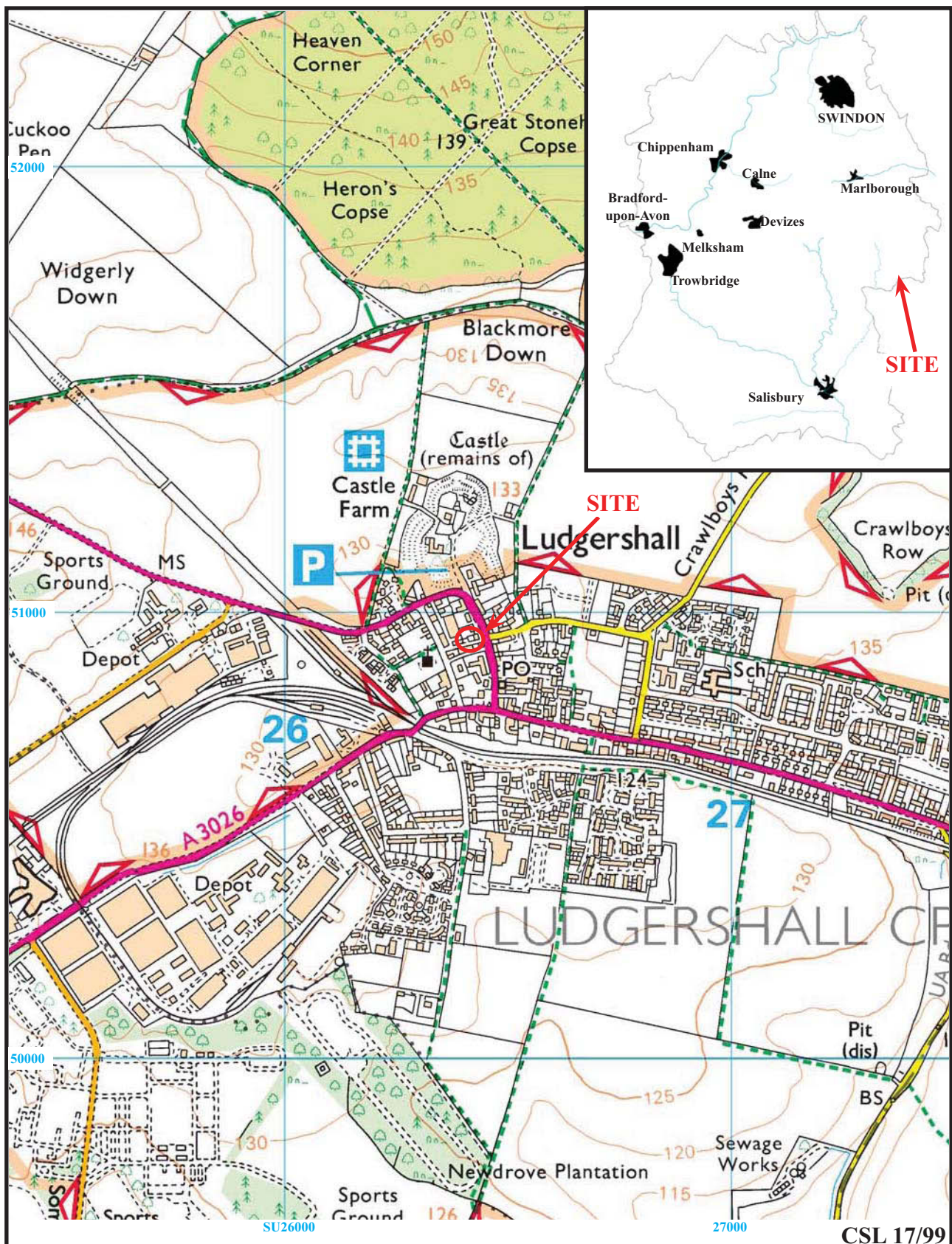
The development of the town of Ludgershall has been studied in depth (Everson *et al* 2000). The later development of the Castle Street area goes hand-in-hand with the Early Medieval development of the enclosed market south of the Castle, covering Castle Street and its backlands. Everson surmised that the extension of an enclosure earthwork, post-1348, is still evident on its east side, as a ditch and bank behind the Castle Street properties' eastern boundaries, though the course of other parts is now lost. The space within the enclosure would include that to the east side of Crown Lane and include the north side of Chapel Lane, which includes the current site. If this was the enclosure of the market, the space within would have lacked regular 'burgage' plots, but it is also argued the existing property boundaries do not seem to have developed from this arrangement. The features identified in these works seem to support this theory as, though the earliest pits found could be medieval, and be the source of the residual pottery, the material contained within the only datable fills is all at least post 16th century, which seems too late to be associated with the Castle. Historically, this would have occurred after 1558, which sees the Manor owners sell off parts of the land to the south and rearrange the market area so that the road of Castle Street was widened to create through access (Everson *et al* 2000, 112).

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APPENDIX 1: Feature and layer details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
	50	Overburden (reduced)	Modern	pottery
	51	Overburden (remnant)	Modern	Pottery, coins, metalwork, etc (and residual 12th-14th pot)
2	52, 56	Quarry pit	Undated?	
1	54	Pit	Modern	Pottery, post-1850
3	55	Pit	Modern	Pottery, Victorian
4	57	Pit	Post-Medieval	pottery
5	58, 59	Quarry pit	Post-Medieval	pottery

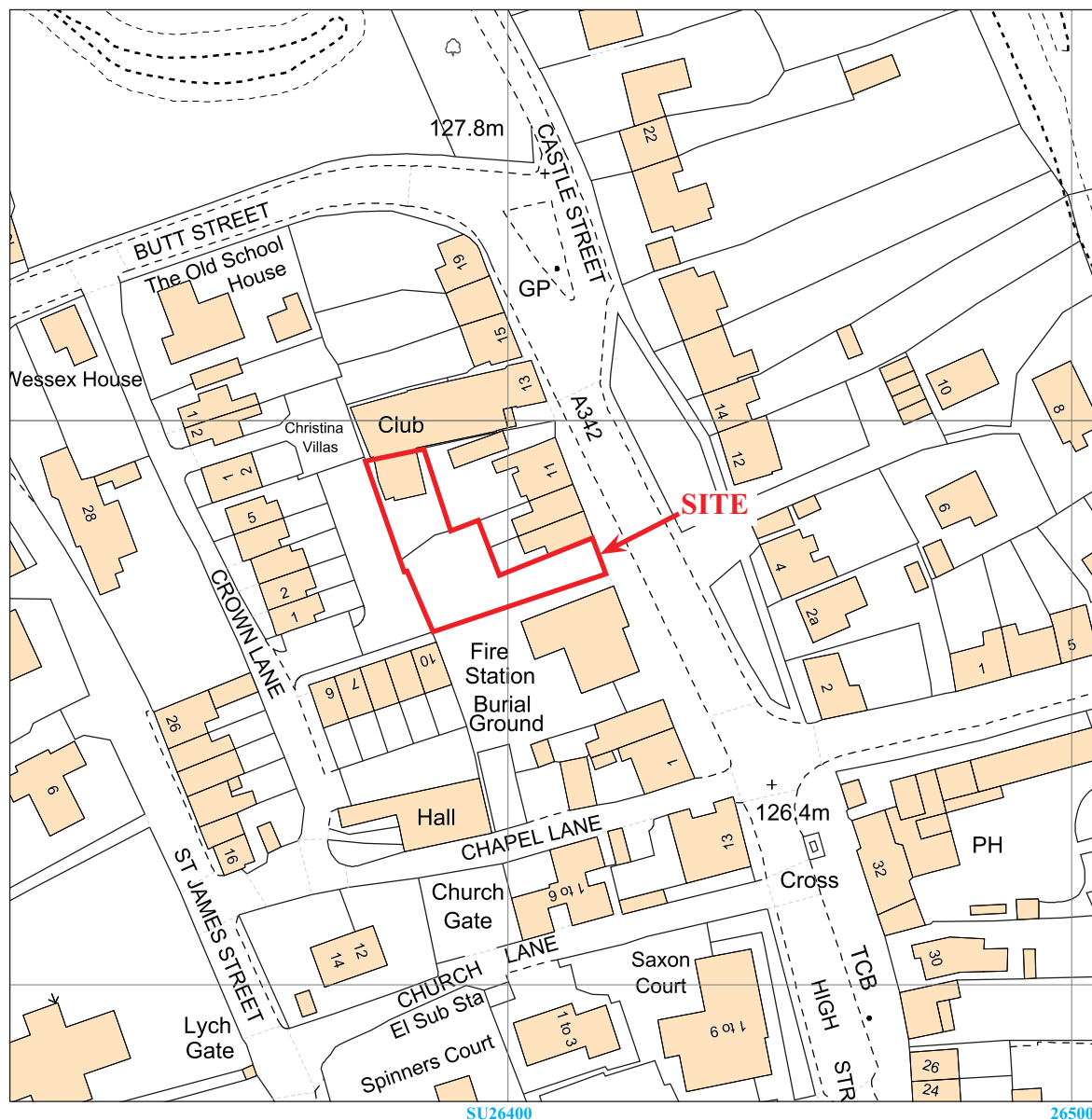


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Figure 1. Location of site within Ludgershall and Wiltshire.

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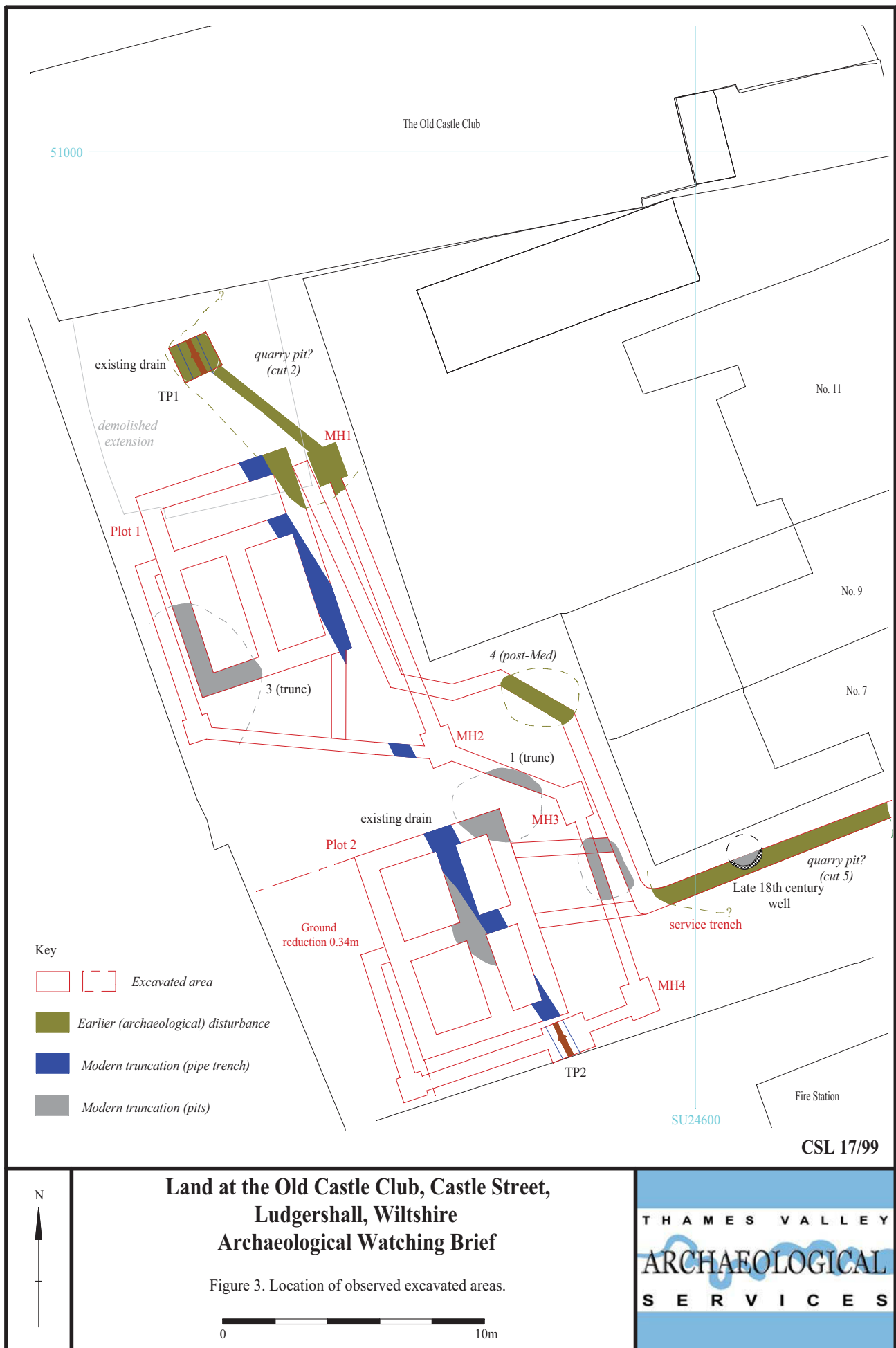
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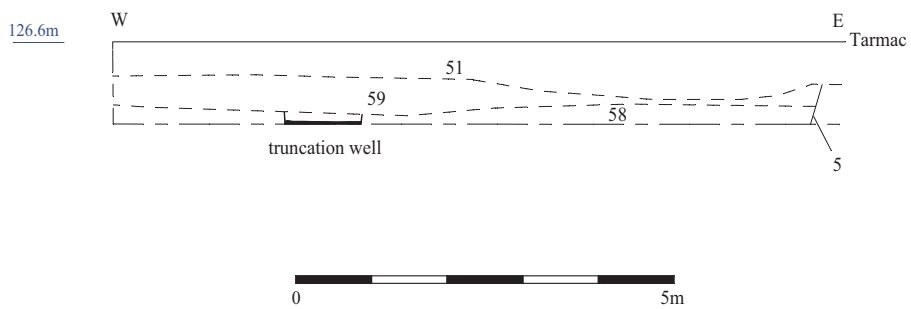
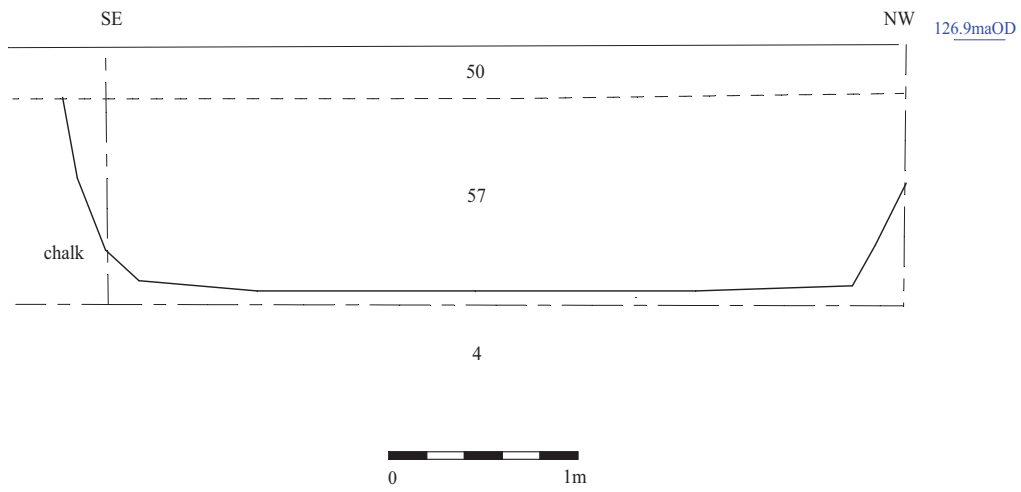


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Castle Street.

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Figure 4. Example of observed sections.

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Plate 1. Existing sewer pipe and new diversion to next manhole chamber, with fill in section of large feature (cut 2) cutting chalk, looking south east, Scales: 2x1m.



Plate 2. Plot 1 east section, lower fill of feature (cut 2) under overburden, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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**Land at the Old Castle Club, Castle Street,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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



Plate 4. Plot 2, looking south south west.

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**Land at the Old Castle Club, Castle Street,
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Plates 3 and 4.**

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Plate 5. Service trench, pit 4, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Service trench overburden cutting deposits of pit 5 and exposed layer 58, looking north north west: Scales, 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 5 and 6.**

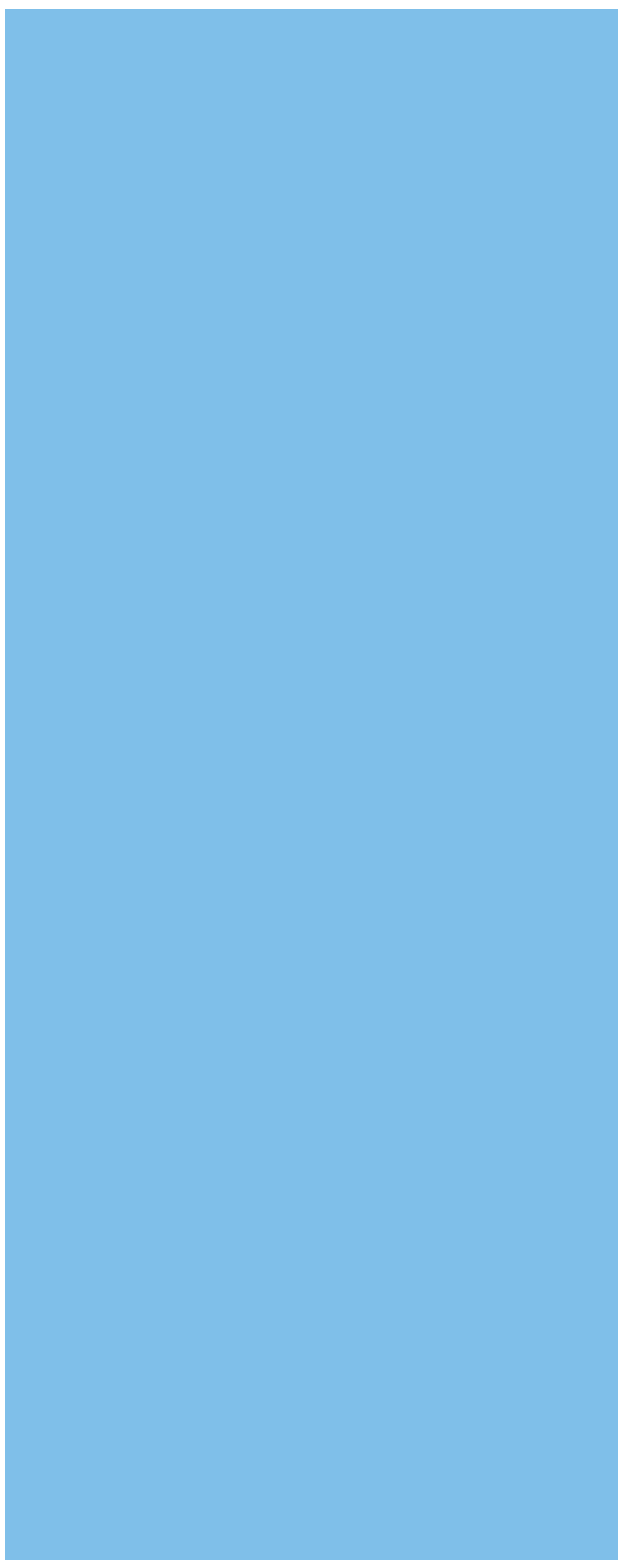
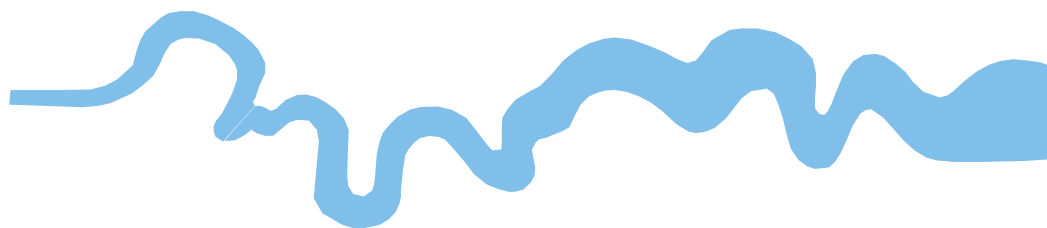
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TIME CHART

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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