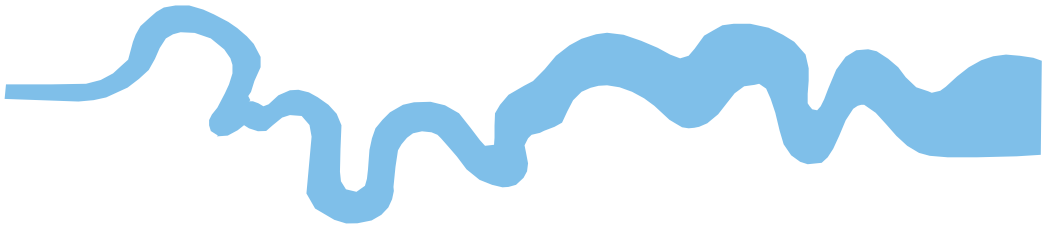
T V A S



SOUTH

Land North of Billingshurst, West Sussex

Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Site Code: BWS19/98

(TQ 0925 2675)

Land North of Billingshurst, West Sussex

An Archaeological Evaluation

for ACD Environmental Ltd

by Odile Rouard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BWS 19/98

July 2019

Summary

Site name: Land North of Billingshurst, West Sussex

Grid reference: TQ 0925 2675

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 2nd - 4th July 2019

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Odile Rouard

Site code: BWS 19/98

Area of site: *c*. 8 ha

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation on land north of Billingshurst successfully investigated those areas which will be affected by the development of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded and most trenches were very shallow, with no subsoil recorded in some of them.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton and will be deposited with Horsham Museum in due course.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 11.07.2019
Steve Preston✓ 11.07.2019

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Land North of Billingshurst, West Sussex
An Archaeological Evaluation

by Odile Rouard

Report 19/98

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the north of Billingshurst, West Sussex (TQ 0925 2675) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ben Stephenson of ACD Environmental Ltd, Rodbourne Rail Business Centre, Grange Lane, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 0ES, on behalf of Bankfoot Group.

Planning permission (DC/2018/2122) has been granted by Horsham District Council to develop the site for residential housing. The archaeological potential of the site had previously been considered in a desk-based assessment (ACD 2018). In order to meet the requirements of a planning condition, a trial trench field evaluation was required in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site, and to help formulate a mitigation strategy as necessary.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Essex County Council Archaeological Officer who advises Horsham District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Virginia Fuentes-Mateos and Odile Rouard between 2nd and 4th July 2019, and the site code is BWS 19/98. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Brighton, and will be deposited with Horsham Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Billingshurst is located in the Sussex Weald, south-west of Horsham (Fig. 1) The site is located to the north of the historic core of Billingshurst, and is centred on NGR TQ 0925 2675 (Fig. 2). It consists of an irregular shaped pasture field that lies on a slope, with a height rising from 44m above Ordnance Datum in the west to around 58m aOD in the east. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay – Mudstone (BGS 1972). The geology observed during the evaluation generally consisted of yellow grey to reddish clay with mudstone inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been considered in a desk-based assessment (ACD 2018). In summary, some potential stems from its location adjacent to Stane Street which was the Roman road from London to Chichester. The eastern portion of the site also lies within an 'Archaeological Notification Area' defined in the local plan. The site lies well to the north of the historic (Medieval) core of Billingshurst but with a few post-medieval buildings and sites of buildings in areas nearby. Fieldwork immediately to the south of the site recovered a small collection of prehistoric flintwork. A recent geophysical survey of the site itself revealed a small number of anomalies which are likely to be geological or agricultural in nature.

Objectives and 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 the proposed development.

Specific aims of the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Twenty-one trenches were to be dug, each measuring 50m in length and 1.80-2m in width (depending on the size of the machine). The trenches were positioned to provide a sample across the site but also to target anomalie identified by the earlier geophysical surve and the Roman road to the west. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds. Where archaeological feature were certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using hand tools and sufficient of the feature(s) exposed were to be excavated or sampled to satisfy the aims outlined above.

Results

The twenty-one trenches were dug close to their original planned positions (Fig. 3), although some had to be shifted slightly for logistical reasons. This approach was agreed by the Essex County Council Archaeological Officer who visited the site. All the trenches were 1.80m wide, and measured between 49.90m and 52m in length, and 0.25m and 0.50m in depth. A complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 50m long and up to 0.29m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.29m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil visible in this trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately SE-NW, and was 51.50m long and up to 0.30m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of compact soil (52). There was no subsoil visible in this trench. No archaeological finds or features were recorded either.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 50.20m long and up to 0.30m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil recorded in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features present.

Trench 4 (Figs 3 and 4)

This trench was orientated approximately NW-SE, and was 49.90m long and up to 0.40m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.17m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated SE-NW, and was 52m long and up to 0.35m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.22m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated S-N, and was 52m long and up to 0.37m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50). No subsoil was visible and this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were recorded.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately SE-NW, and was 51m long and up to 0.41m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.15m of topsoil (50) and 0.17m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately WSW-ENE, and was 50m long and up to 0.50m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.12m of topsoil (50) and 0.28m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Trench 9 was orientated S-N, and was 50.30m long and up to 0.37m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50). No subsoil was observed in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were recorded either.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated W-E, and was 51m long and up to 0.44m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.19m of topsoil (50) and 0.16m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated SE-NW, and was 51.50m long and up to 0.36m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50) and 0.10m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were recorded in the trench.

Trench 12 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately S-N, and was 50.50m long and up to 0.44m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.19m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were observed in the trench.

Trench 13 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 51m long and up to 0.36m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.28m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil visible in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

This trench was orientated SW-NE, and was 51.50m long and up to 0.30m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.24m of topsoil (50). No subsoil was recorded in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 50.50m long and up to 0.34m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil recorded in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately SE-NW, and was 51m long and up to 0.46m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.22m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were observed in the trench.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3; Pl. 5)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 52m long and up to 0.45m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.23m of topsoil (50) and 0.12m of subsoil (51). No archaeological finds or features were observed in the trench.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 52m long and up to 0.26m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.20m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil visible in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 19 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 6)

This trench was orientated approximately W-E, and was 51m long and up to 0.31m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.26m of topsoil (50). No subsoil was recorded in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 20 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated SE-NW, and was 50.50m long and up to 0.36m deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.25m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil visible in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Trench 21 (Fig. 3)

This trench was orientated approximately S-N, and was 51.20m long and up to 0.32 deep. The natural geology was observed beneath 0.27m of topsoil (50). There was no subsoil visible in this trench, and no archaeological finds or features were observed.

Conclusion

The archaeological evaluation on land north of Billingshurst successfully evaluated those areas which will be affected by the development of the site. No archaeological finds or features were recorded and most trenches were quite shallow, with no subsoil recorded in some of them.

References

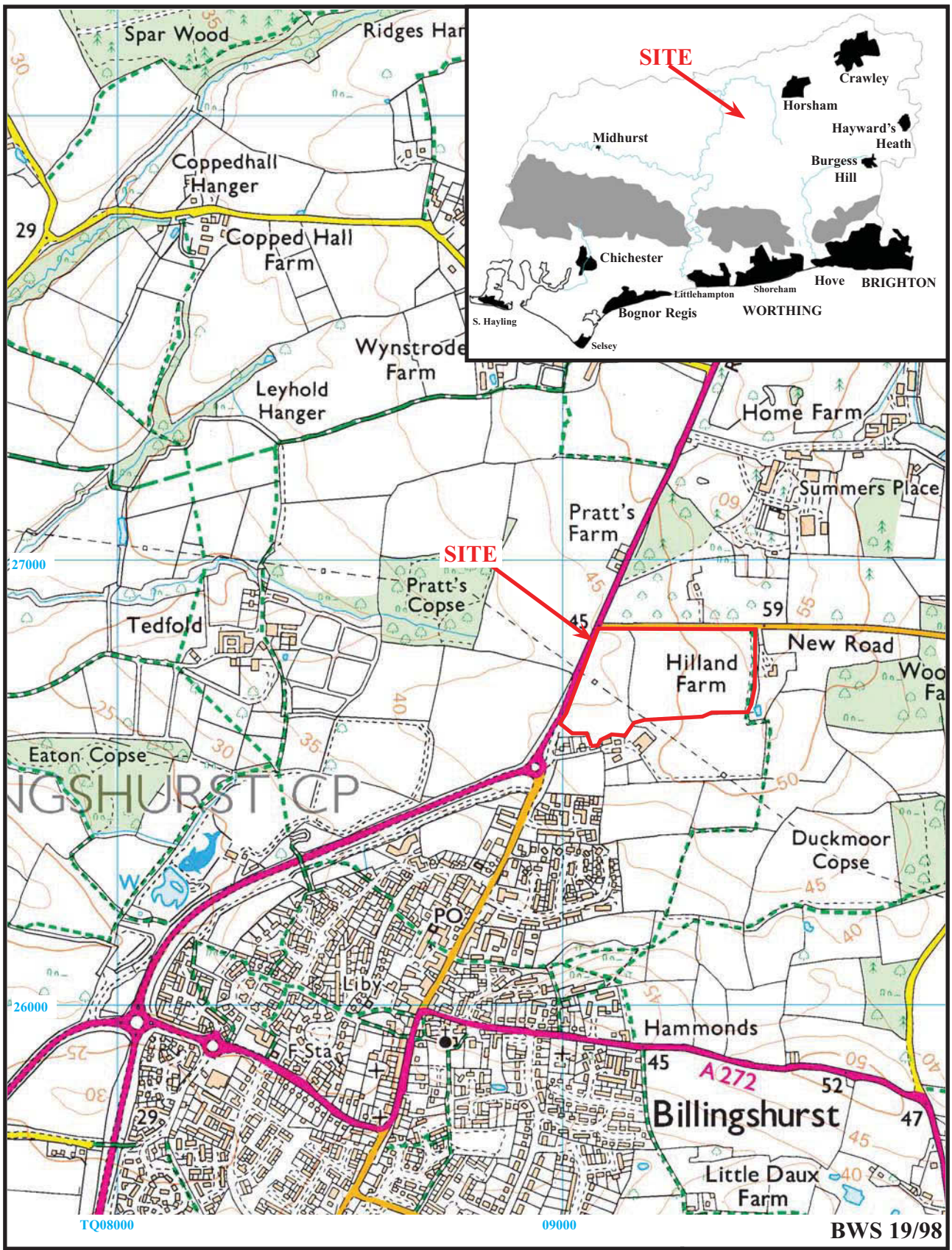
ACD, 2018, 'Land North of Billingshurst, West Sussex, Archaeology and Heritage Assessment', ACD Environmental, Malmesbury

BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 302, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	*Length (m)*	*Breadth (m)*	*Depth (m)*	*Comment*
1	50	1.80	0.29	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
2	51.50	1.80	0.30	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
3	50.20	1.80	0.30	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
4	49.90	1.80	0.40	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
5	52	1.80	0.35	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 1**
6	52	1.80	0.37	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
7	51	1.80	0.41	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
8	50	1.80	0.50	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
9	50.30	1.80	0.37	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 2**
10	51	1.80	0.44	0-0.19m topsoil (50); 0.19-0.35m subsoil (51); 0.35m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
11	51.50	1.80	0.36	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
12	50.50	1.80	0.44	0-0.19m topsoil (50); 0.19-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 3**
13	51	1.80	0.36	0-0.28m topsoil (50); 0.28m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
14	51.50	1.80	0.30	0-0.24m topsoil (50); 0.24m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 4**
15	50.50	1.80	0.34	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
16	51	1.80	0.46	0-0.22m topsoil (50); 0.22-0.40m subsoil (51); 0.40m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
17	52	1.80	0.45	0-0.19m topsoil (50); 0.19-0.37m subsoil (51); 0.37m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 5**
18	52	1.80	0.26	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
19	51	1.80	0.31	0-0.26m topsoil (50); 0.26m+ natural geology (Weald Clay). **Pl. 6**
20	50.50	1.80	0.36	0-0.25m topsoil (50); 0.25m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).
21	51.20	1.80	0.32	0-0.27m topsoil (50); 0.27m+ natural geology (Weald Clay).



Land North of Billingshurst,
West Sussex, 2019
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Figure 1. Location of site within Billingshurst and West Sussex.

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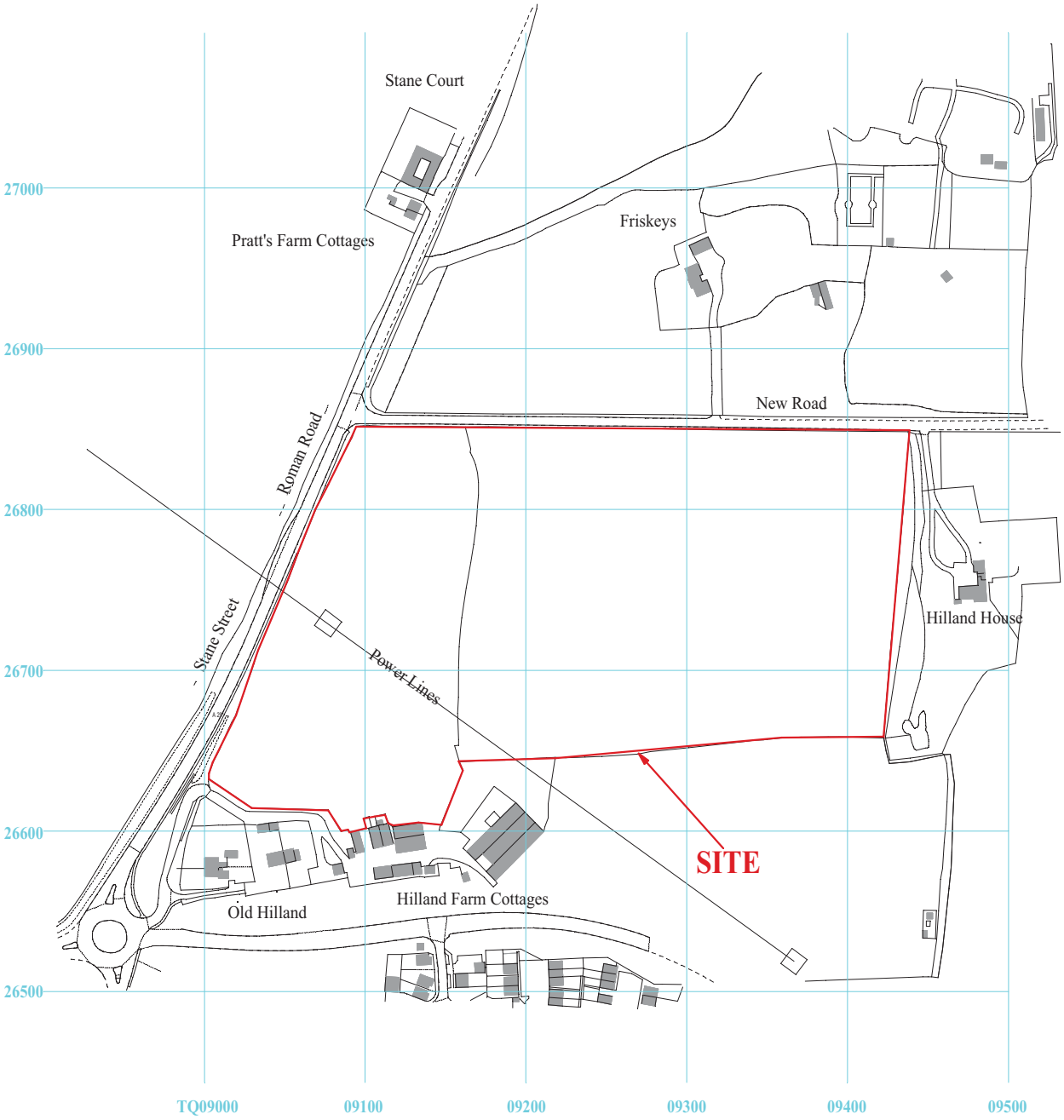

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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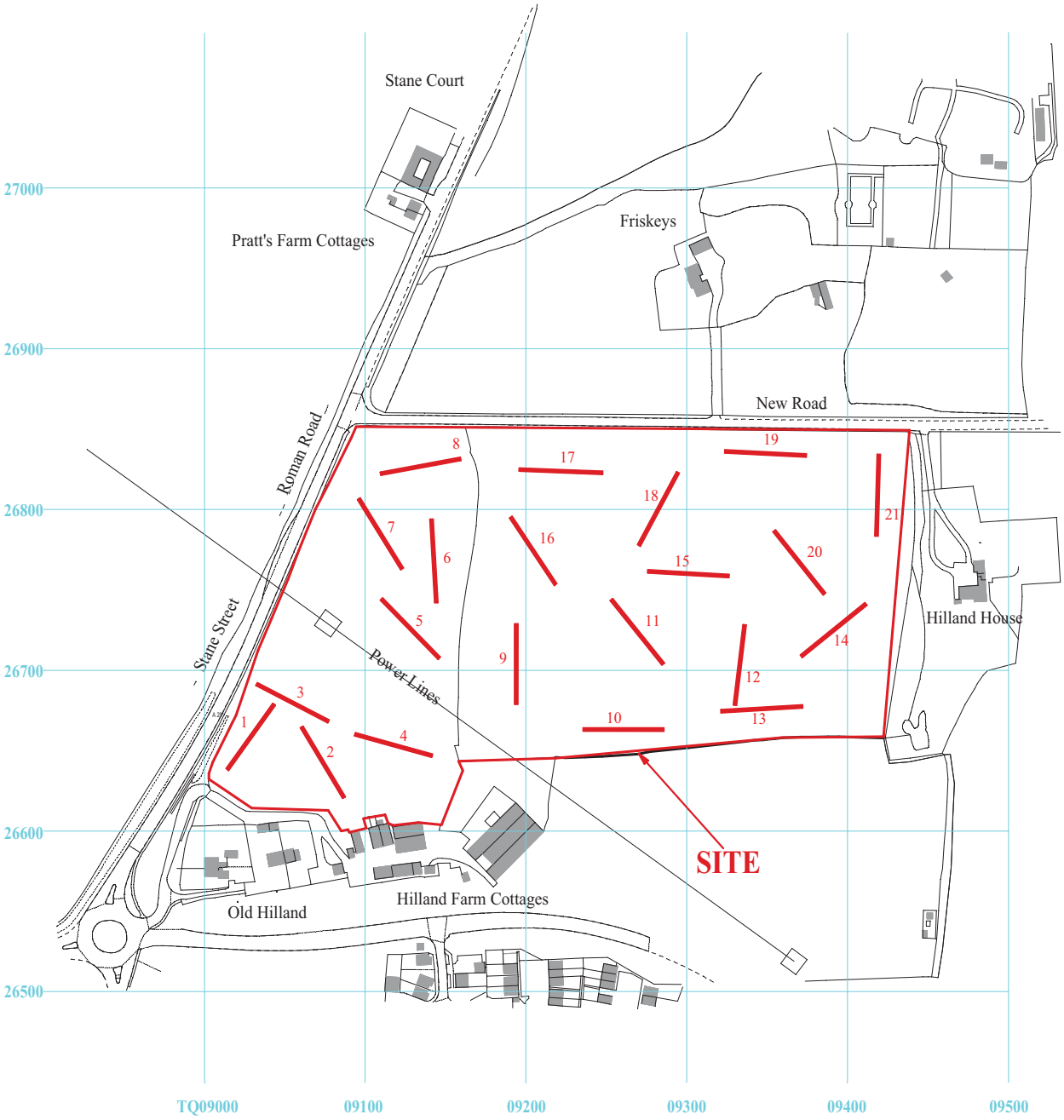

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Figure 3. Location of trenches excavated within site.

0 200m

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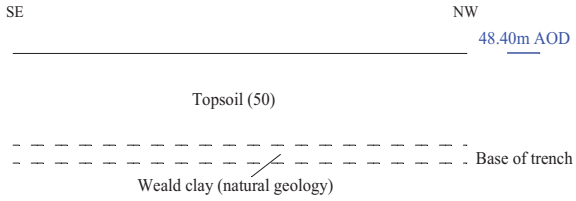
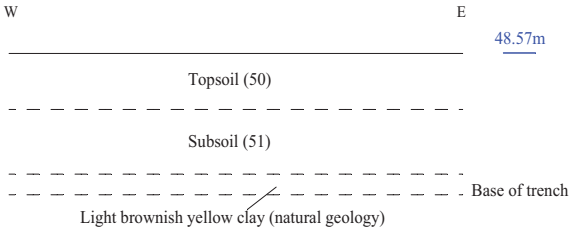
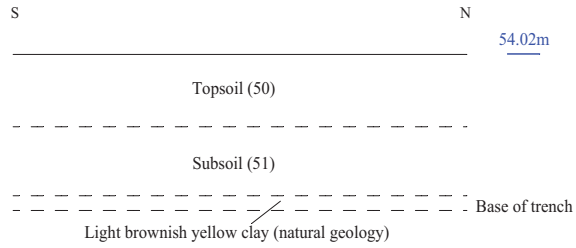
Trench 1



Trench 4



Trench 12



Trench 19

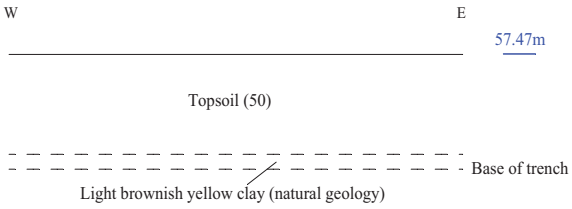


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Figure 4. Representative sections.

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Plate 1. Trench 5, looking South-east.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 2. Trench 9, looking North.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 3. Trench 12, looking South.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 4. Trench 14, looking South-west.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 5. Trench 17, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

Plate 6. Trench 19, looking West.
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.50m.

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Land North of Billingshurst,
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Plates 1 to 6.

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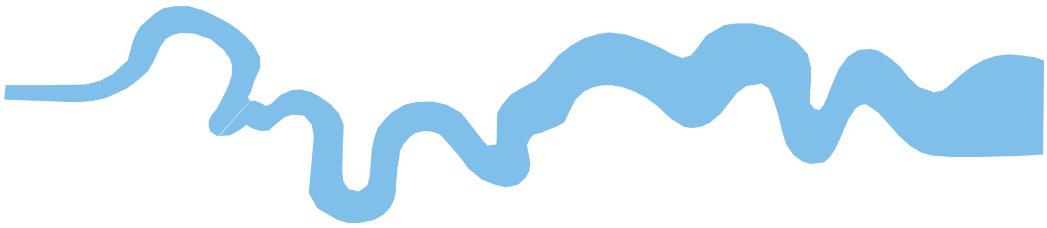
TIME CHART

	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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