

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Sand Pit Road, Calne,
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: SRC15/251

(SU 0044 7192)

Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hills Homes**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SRC 15/251

September 2019

Summary

Site name: Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0044 7192

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th - 17th September 2019

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: SRC15/251

Area of site: 0.79ha

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were discovered by the evaluation and the site therefore is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 18.09.19 Steve Preston ✓ 18.09.19

Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 15/251c

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire (SU 0044 7192) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Andrea Andrews on behalf of Hills Homes, Wiltshire House, County Park Business Centre, Shrivenham Road, Swindon, SN1 2NR.

Planning permission has been granted by Wiltshire Council (16/05344/FUL) to construct new housing with associated parking and open spaces on a 0.79ha parcel of land south of Sand Pit Road. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by groundworks, a programme of archaeological fieldwork has been requested in order to determine the archaeological potential of the site and if necessary, inform a mitigation strategy. A geophysical survey has already been completed and this report details the trenching programme.

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 Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger, County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock and Jamie Williams between 16th and 17th of September 2019 and the site code is SRC15/251. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Devizes Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north-east of Calne at the junction between Oxford Road on the western side and Sand Pit Road on the eastern side with residential property to the south and farmland to the east (Figs 1 and 2). The site is sloped at 86.4m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the east down to 82.6m aOD in the west. The land is currently not being utilised and the underlying geology as seen in the trenches is stated as Kimmeridge Clay (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site had been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Tabor 2015). In summary this potential stems from its location on the periphery of the Saxon/Medieval core of Calne. The settlement is first recorded in the 10th century and in Domesday Book (AD 1086) Calne is listed as a royal holding (as it had been before the Norman Conquest) and was unusually not assessed in hides (Williams and Martin 2002). Nearby Beversbrook was also recorded in Domesday Book, and was a far smaller estate, with land held by William Delamere and Nigel the Physician (Williams and Martin 2002). Evaluation to the north found nothing of archaeological interest (Platt 2011) and the geophysical survey within the site itself (Beaverstock 2018) also did not reveal any archaeological anomalies.

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 development. Specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present;
- to determine if any deposits of Saxon and medieval date are present; and
- to determine if any geophysical anomalies are of archaeological origin.

Eight trenches were intended to be dug across the site using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. Any features of potential archaeological interest were to be cleaned and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

All trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 2). They ranged in length from 24m to 26m and in depth from 0.3m to 0.5m and 1.8m wide. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 25m long and 0.44m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.18m of topsoil, 0.11m subsoil and 0.15m of interface overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 24.8m long and 0.39m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil, 0.12m subsoil and 0.11m of interface overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2)

Trench 3 was aligned SW - NE and was 25m long and 0.48m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil, 0.2m subsoil and 0.08m of interface overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Trench 4 was aligned W - E and was 25.5m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.14m of topsoil, 0.2m subsoil and 0.1m of interface overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 24.7m long and 0.3m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.18m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig. 2; Pl. 3)

Trench 6 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.34m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.12m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig.2)

Trench 7 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 26m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.12m subsoil overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 2; Pl. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned SW - NE and was 26m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil, 0.15m subsoil and 0.11m of interface overlying natural geology. No features or finds were recovered.

Conclusion

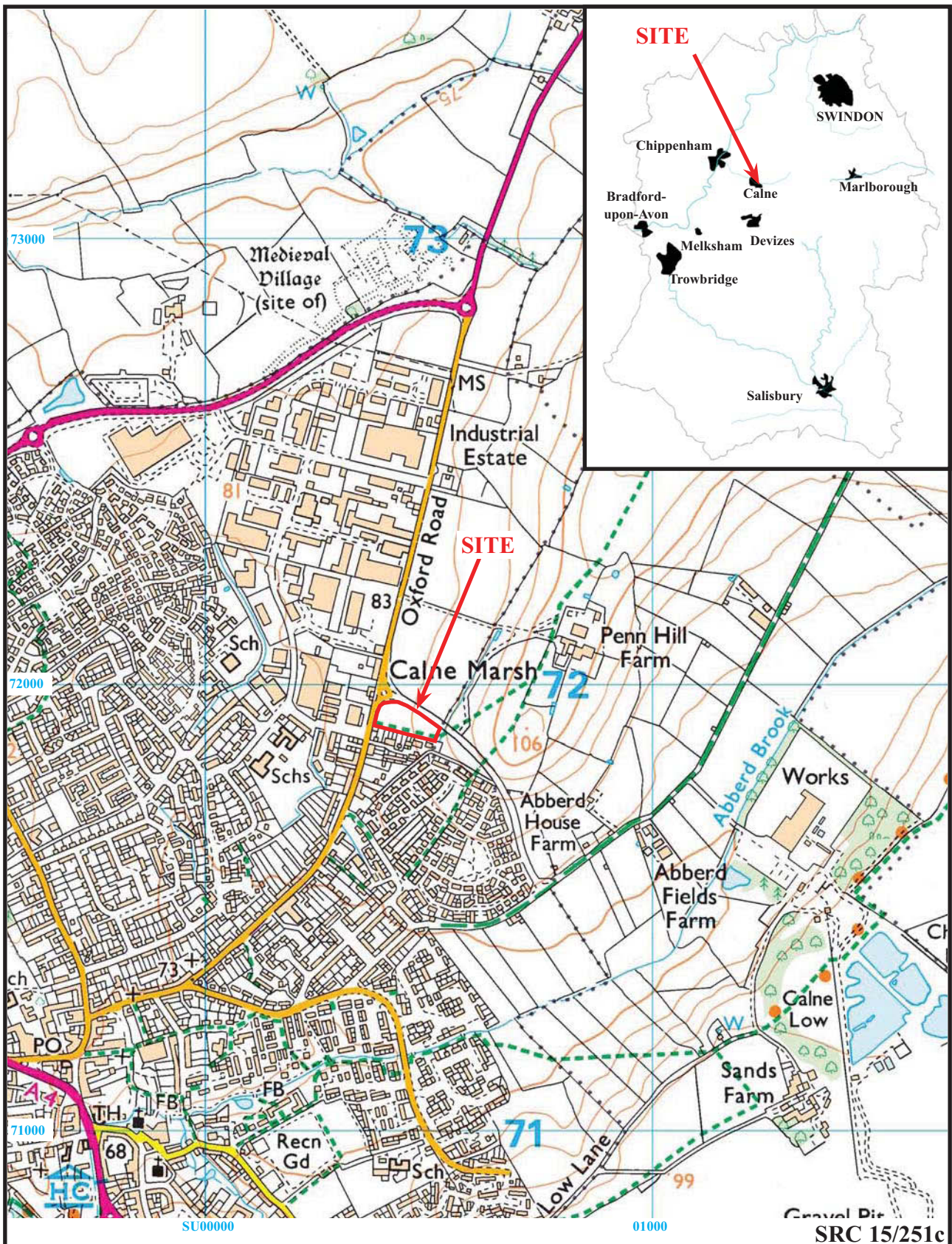
The trenches were excavated more or less as intended and revealed the underlying mudstone natural geology across the whole of the sit. However, apart from post-medieval field drains the site contained no features or finds of archaeological interest and is therefore considered to have no archaeological potential.

References

- Beaverstock, K, 2018, 'Land at Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire, a geophysical survey', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep **15/251b**, Reading
- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 266, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Platt, D, 2011, 'Land at Oxford Road, Calne, Wiltshire, an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep **10/117**, Reading
- Tabor, R, 2015, 'Land at Sand Pit Road, Calne, Wiltshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep **15/251**, Reading
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	25	1.8	0.44	0-0.18m of topsoil; 0.18-0.29m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.29-0.44m of a pale yellowish grey interface; 0.44m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches. [PI. 1]
2	24.8	1.8	0.39	0-0.16m of topsoil; 0.16-0.28m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.28-0.39m of a pale yellowish grey interface; 0.39m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches.
3	25	1.8	0.48	0-0.12m of topsoil; 0.12-0.32m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.32-0.4m of a pale yellowish grey interface; 0.4m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches.
4	25.5	1.8	0.5	0-0.14m of topsoil; 0.14-0.34m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.34-0.44m of a pale yellowish grey interface; 0.44m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches.
5	24.7	1.8	0.3	0-0.1m of topsoil; 0.1-0.28m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.28m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches. [PI. 2]
6	24	1.8	0.34	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.32m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.32m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches. [PI. 3]
7	26	1.8	0.32	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.32m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.32m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches.
8	26	1.8	0.45	0-0.21m of topsoil; 0.21-0.36m of a mid brownish grey silty clay subsoil; 0.36-0.45m of a pale yellowish grey interface; 0.45m+ of a pale yellowish grey mudstone natural with yellow clay patches. [PI. 4]

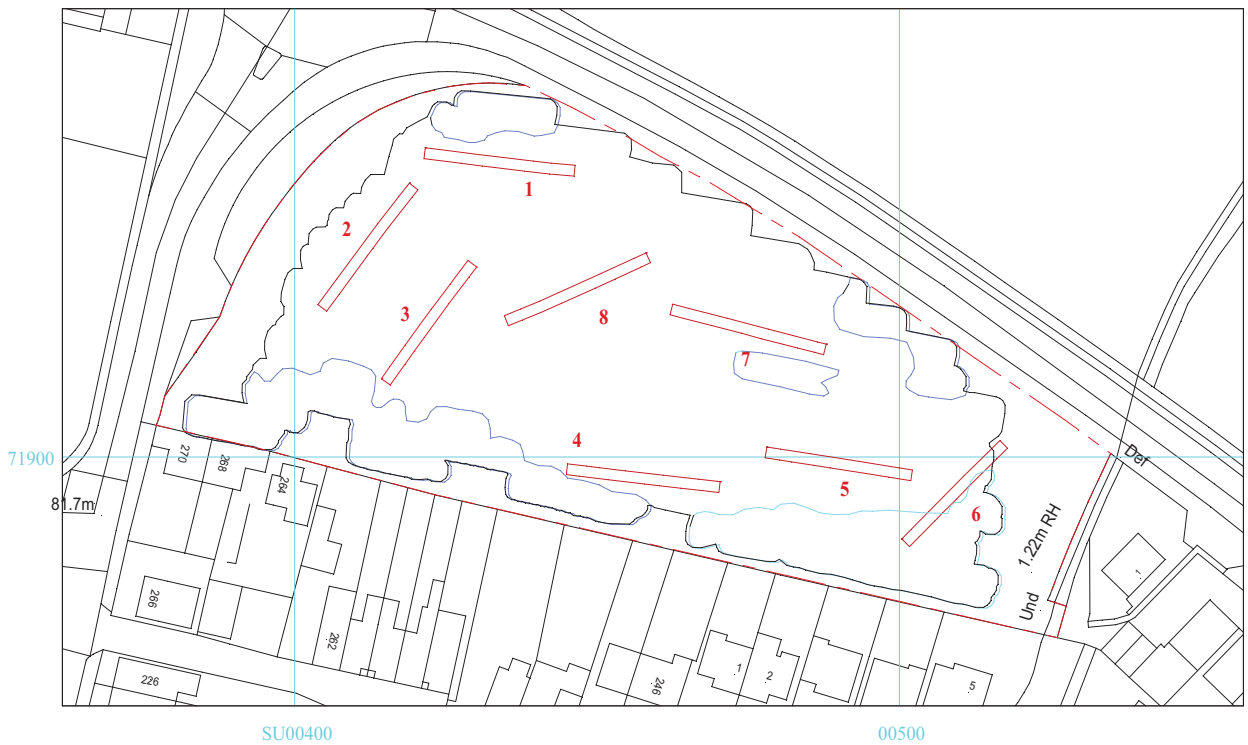


**Land south of Sand Pit Road,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Calne and Wiltshire.

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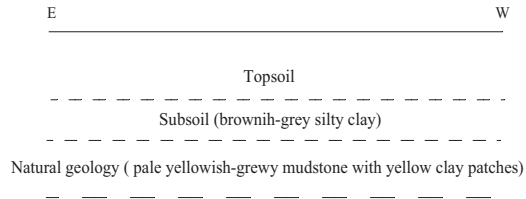
Figure 2. Location of trenches, compared to areas of magnetic disturbance (from geophysical survey).



0 125m

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Trench 1



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Figure 3. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking south,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 3. Trench 6, looking east,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, looking north west,
Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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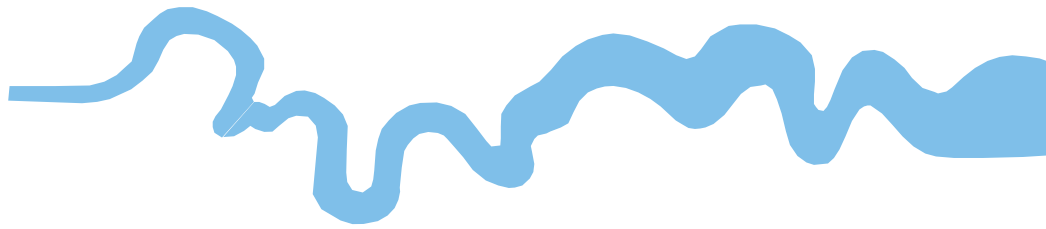
**Land south of Sand Pit Road,
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Plates 1 - 4.**

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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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