

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road,
Alfold, Surrey**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: CFA14/43

(TQ 0390 3413)

**Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road,
Alfold, Surrey**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr Richard Cooke

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CFA 14/43

February 2020

Summary

Site name: Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road, Alfold, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0390 3413

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 4th - 7th February 2020

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: CFA14/43

Area of site: c. 0.96ha

Summary of results: Two ditches were revealed by the evaluation with one likely to be the remains of an earlier version of the western site boundary and the other containing a single sherd of Medieval pottery. The archaeological potential of the site appears to be low.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Haselmere Museum 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: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.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 22.02.20 Steve Preston ✓ 22.02.20

Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road, Alfold, Surrey An Archaeological Evaluation

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 14/43b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Loxwood Road, Alfold, Surrey, (TQ 0390 3413) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Richard Cooke of Marepond Farm, Loxhill, Godalming, GU8 4BD. Planning permission (WA/2018/0977) has been gained from Waverley Borough Council for a residential development on a c. 0.96 ha parcel of land at Chapel Fields, Alfold, Surrey (TQ 0391 3413). The consent is subject to a condition (28) relating to archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Nick Truckle, Archaeological Officer for Surrey County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Emily Gibson and Daniel Neal between the 4th and 7th of February 2020 and the site code is CFA 14/43. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Haslemere Museum in due course

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the north of the village of Alfold, on the western side of the bend in Loxwood Road approximately 14km northwest of Horsham and 12km southeast of Godalming. This sub-rectangular parcel of land is utilised grassland that sits at a height of 52m above Ordinance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is stated as Sandstone in Weald Clay (BGS 1981) however a yellowish red sandy clay was seen in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (McNicoll-Norbury 2014). In summary, there are no known archaeological deposits on the proposal site itself but it lays immediately adjacent to the medieval settlement of Alfold with several listed buildings close by. There have been few archaeological investigations carried out in the area of the site with one investigation located 300m to the north on Loxwood Road, revealed a Late Iron Age into early Roman settlement along with Mediaeval features (Rouard, 2017). More recently an early Medieval castle has been discovered within the village but details are not yet available (Nick Truckle pers comm).

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. This work will be carried out in a manner which will not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation. The 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.

The potential and significance of any such deposits located will be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *English Heritage Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities as necessary (e.g. Bird 2006; Cotton *et al* 2005).

It was proposed to dig thirteen trenches 25m long and 1.6m wide. These were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored and any potential features would be cleaned and excavated using the appropriate hand tools and fully recorded.

Results

Most of the trenches were dug as intended, however trenches 12 and 13 were moved due to the presence of an overhead cable. The trenches ranged between 24m and 26m and between 0.46m and 0.8m deep.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1, the excavated features are summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3)

Trench 1 was aligned SW - NE and was 24m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.3m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 2 (Figs 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 25m long and 0.64m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.33m of topsoil and 0.31m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 3 (Figs 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.2m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 4 (Figs 3)

Trench 4 was aligned SE - NW and was 26m long and 0.7m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.1m of topsoil and 0.6m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 3, 4 and 5 ; Pl. 1 and 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.2m long and 0.5m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of topsoil and 0.26m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (1), running north to south, was recorded, it measured 2.24m wide and 1.15m deep. The ditch was filled with a mid greyish brown silty sand (52) which contained a single fragment of tile dated to the late medieval or post-medieval period. A 20l sample <1> was taken but no finds were recovered.

Trench 6 (Figs 3)

Trench 6 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 25m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.12m of topsoil and 0.28m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 7 (Figs 3)

Trench 7 was aligned E - W and was 24.8m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.11m of topsoil and 0.35m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 8 (Figs 3)

Trench 8 was aligned N - S and was 25.5m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.43m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 9 (Figs 3)

Trench 9 was aligned SE - NW and was 25.5m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.45m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 10 (Figs 3)

Trench 10 was aligned W - E and was 25.8m long and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and 0.6m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 11 (Figs 3)

Trench 11 was aligned N - S and was 25m long and 0.65m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.4m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 12 (Figs 3)

Trench 12 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 25m long and 0.6m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of topsoil and 0.43m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of an archaeological interest were recovered.

Trench 13 (Figs 3, 4 and 5 ; Pl. 2 and 4)

Trench 13 was aligned ENE - WSW and was 25.2m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil and 0.3m subsoil overlying natural geology. A ditch (2), running north to south, was recorded, it measured 2.5m wide and 0.41m deep. The ditch was filled with a light greyish brown silty sand (53) which contained a single fragment of pottery dated to the medieval period was recovered from sample <2>. In the north western end of the trench was unexcavated ditch (3) which was filled with a mid greyish brown silty sand (54), this ditch is most likely a continuation of ditch (1) in trench 5.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The archaeological evaluation recovered a single scrap of medieval pottery from the environmental residue from context [53]. This consists of a worn 2g sherd from a reduced vessel of uncertain form, though a cooking pot is most likely. It is tempered with medium quartz with a few larger grains and fits well within the 'grey-brown' sandy ware tradition that was most common between c. 1150 and 1250 (Jones 1998). However, more diagnostic sherds would be needed to be absolutely sure of dating.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

A single fragment was recovered in the course of the evaluation, comprising a piece of roof tile weighing 101g, from the fill of ditch slot 1 (52) in trench 5. The fabric is a fairly fine evenly fired clay with a slightly rough laminated texture and no visible inclusions, a fairly even finish and a thickness of 14mm. It is of late medieval or, more likely, early post-medieval date.

Conclusion

The evaluation revealed the presence of a small amount of archaeological features near the far western edge of the site. The ditch seen in trench 5 and continuing in trench 13 is most likely the remains of the field boundary seen on historic maps from 1871 to 1915, although its origins may go back further, after which the boundary appears to have been straightened and then replaced with fencing. The second ditch in trench 13, however, appears to be medieval, it was relatively shallow and was not revealed in other trenches along its trajectory so is most likely a short section of a peripheral feature. The archaeological potential of the site appears to be limited.

References

- Bird, D, 2006, *Surrey Archaeological Research Framework*, Surrey County Council/Surrey Archaeological Society, Woking
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cotton, J, Crocker, G and Graham A 2005, *Aspects of Archaeology & History in Surrey: Towards a Research Framework for the County*, Surrey Archaeol Soc, Guildford
- HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
-
- Jones, P. 1998. 'Towards a type series of Medieval pottery in Surrey' *Surrey Arch. Coll.* 85, 211-238
- McNicoll-Norbury, J, 2014, Land at Chapel Fields, Alfold, Surrey, Archaeological Desk-based assessment, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 14/43, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Rouard, O, 2017, Late Late Iron Age, Early Roman and Medieval settlement at Sweeter's Copse, Loxwood Road, Alfold, Surrey, an Archaeological Excavation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services draft publication report 17/44, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	24	1.6	0.6	0-0.3m of topsoil; 0.3-0.6m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.6m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
2	25	1.6	0.64	0-0.33m of topsoil; 0.33-0.64m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.64m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
3	25.2	1.6	0.6	0-0.34m of topsoil; 0.34-0.6m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.6m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
4	26	1.6	0.7	0-0.1m of topsoil; 0.1-0.7m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.7m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
5	25.2	1.6	0.5	0-0.24m of topsoil; 0.24-0.5m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.5m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology. Ditch [1]
6	25	1.6	0.52	0-0.12m of topsoil; 0.12-0.4m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.4m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
7	24.8	1.6	0.46	0-0.11m of topsoil; 0.11-0.46m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.46m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
8	25.5	1.6	0.6	0-0.17m of topsoil; 0.17-0.6m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.6m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
9	25.5	1.6	0.6	0-0.15m of topsoil; 0.15-0.6m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.6m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
10	25.8	1.6	0.8	0-0.2m of topsoil; 0.2-0.8m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.8m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
11	25	1.6	0.65	0-0.25m of topsoil; 0.25-0.65m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.65m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
12	25	1.6	0.6	0-0.17m of topsoil; 0.17-0.6m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.6m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology
13	25.2	1.6	0.46	0-0.16m of topsoil; 0.16-0.46m of a mid reddish brown silty clay subsoil; 0.46m+ of a reddish yellow sandy clay natural geology. Ditch [2], Ditch [3]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	1	52	Ditch	Late Medieval – Post Medieval	Tile
13	2	53	Ditch	Medieval	Pottery
13	3	54	Ditch		

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

Printable version

OASIS ID: thamesva1-386155

Project details

Project name	Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road, Alford, Surrey
Short description of the project	Archaeological evaluation at Chapel Fields, Alford, Surrey. 13 trenches were excavated revealing 2 ditches; 1 likely to be remains of a former western site boundary and the 2nd contained a sherd of Medieval pottery.
Project dates	Start: 04-02-2020 End: 07-02-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	CFA 14/43 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 3 - Disturbed
Monument type	BOUNDARY DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SURREY WAVERLEY ALFOLD Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road, Alford, Surrey
Postcode	GU6 8HW
Study area	0.96 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 0390 3413 51.096516288092 -0.516043632735 51 05 47 N 000 30 57 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 55.25m Max: 56.5m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project brief originator	Contractor (design and execute)
Project design originator	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Project director/manager	Danielle Milbank
Project supervisor	Kyle Beaverstock
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Richard Cooke

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Haslemere Museum
Physical Archive ID	CFA 14/43
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Haslemere Museum
Digital Archive ID	CFA 14/43
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Haslemere Museum
Paper Archive ID	CFA 14/43
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section"

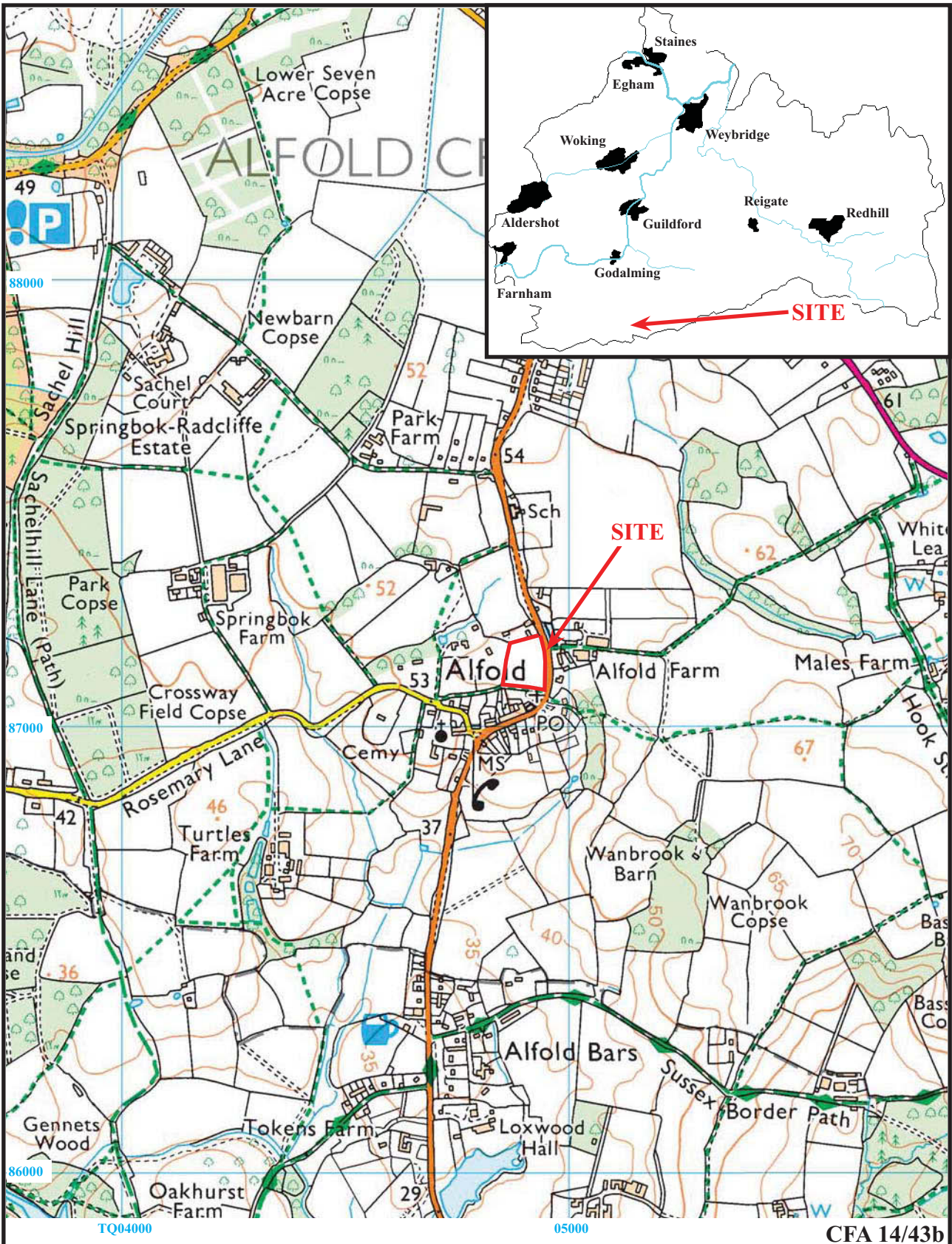
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Chapel Fields, Loxwood Road, Alfold, Surrey
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Kyle Beaverstock
Other bibliographic details	14/43b
Date	2020
Issuer or publisher	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Place of issue or publication	Reading
Description	A4 blue comb bound report
URL	www.tvas.co.uk
Entered by	Genni Elliott (tvas@tvas.co.uk)
Entered on	24 February 2020

OASIS:

Please e-mail Historic England for OASIS help and advice
 © ADS 1996-2012 Created by [Jo Gilham](#) and [Jen Mitcham](#), email Last modified Wednesday 9 May 2012
 Cite only: <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/form/print.cfm> for this page

[Cookies](#) [Privacy Policy](#)

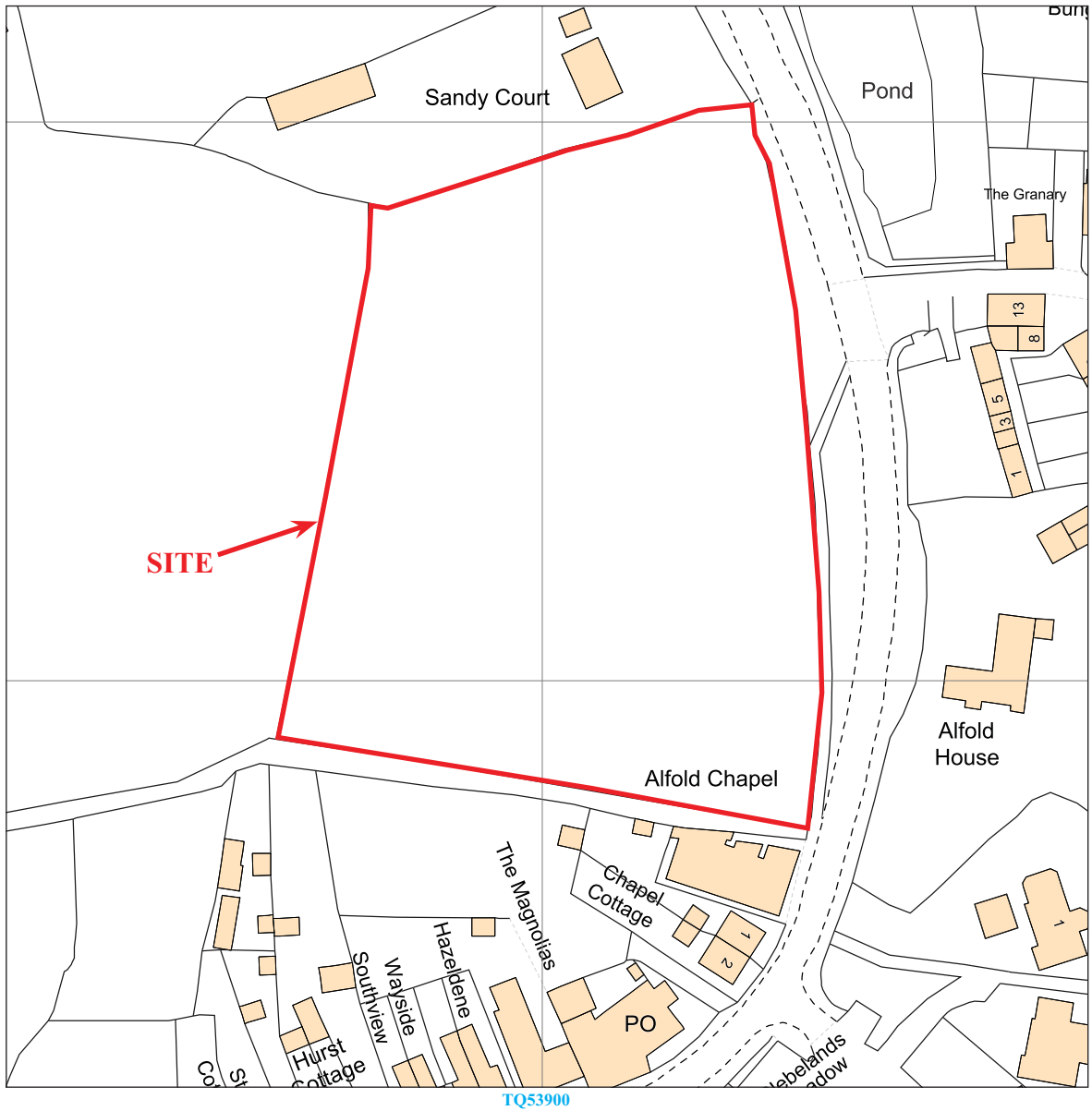


**Land at Chapel Fields, Alford,
Surrey, 2020**
Archaeological Evaluation
Figure 1. Location of site within Alford and Surrey.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

CFA 14/43b



CFA 14/43b



**Land at Chapel Fields, Alford,
Surrey, 2020**

Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Loxwood Road.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



CFA14/43b

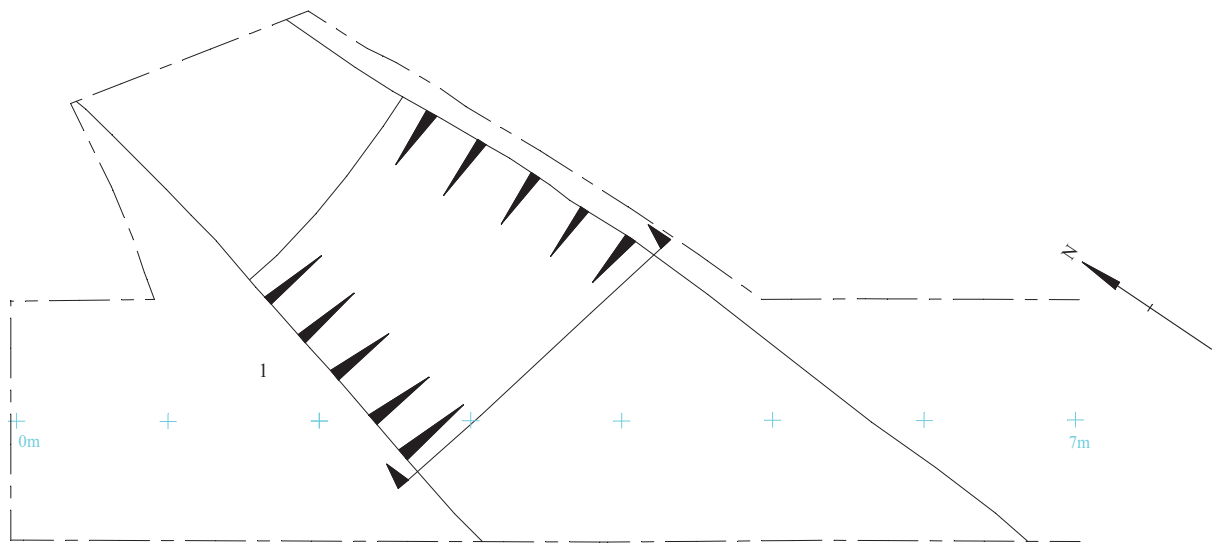
**Land at Chapel Fields, Alford,
Surrey, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

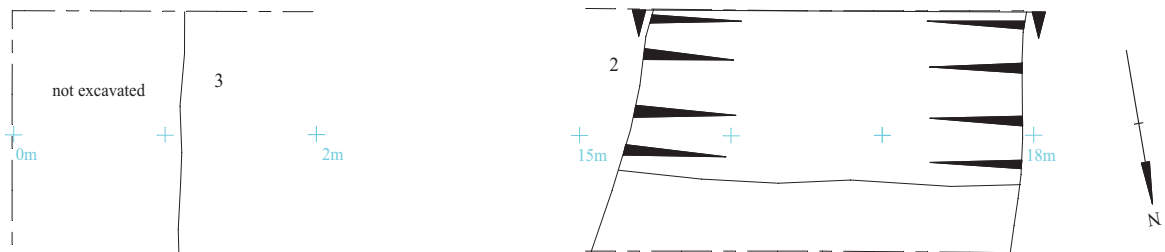


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

Trench 5



Trench 13



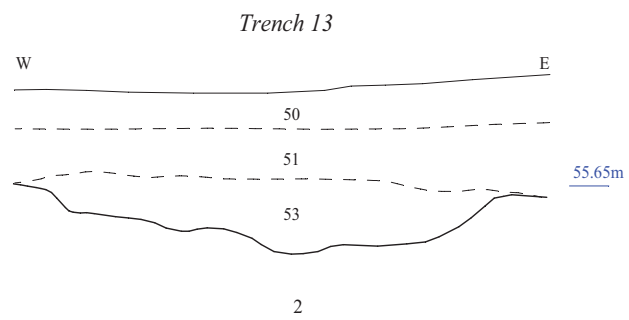
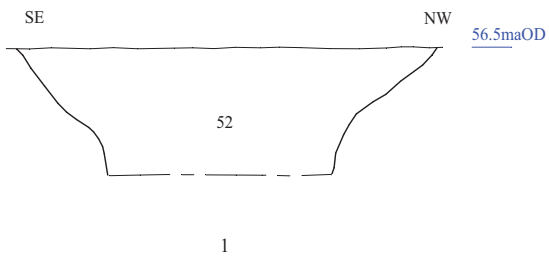
CFA14/43b

**Land at Chapel Fields, Alford,
Surrey, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Detail of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



CFA14/43b

Land at Chapel Fields, Alford,
Surrey, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 5. Sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. Trench 5, ditch 1 (pre-exc), looking NNW, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 13, looking SE, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

CFA 14/43b

Land at Chapel Fields, Alford
Surrey, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 3. Trench 5, ditch 1, looking North, Scale: 2m.



Plate 4. Trench 13, ditch 2, looking North,
Scales: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.

CFA 14/43b

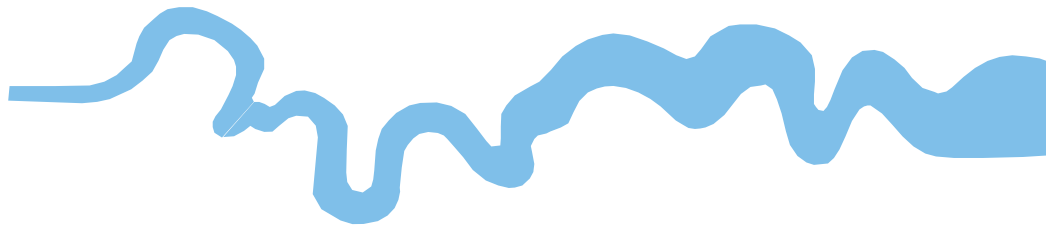
**Land at Chapel Fields, Alford
Surrey, 2020
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 3 and 4.**

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
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**

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