

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard

Site Code: TES20/06

(SU 3133 6298)

**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Marlborough**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

for

Armour Heritage Ltd

by Will Attard

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TES20-06

January 2020

Summary

Site name: The Elms, Kingston Road, Shalbourne, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 3133 6298

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 20th to 23rd January 2020

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: TES 02/06

Area of site: c.0.26ha

Summary of results: Observation of foundation trenching for a new detaching dwelling, including chimney stack and garage, revealed no artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Wiltshire Museum Service 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.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 ✓ 06.02.20
	Steve Preston ✓ 06.02.20

The Elms, Kingston Road, Shalbourne, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard

Report 20/06

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at The Elms, Kingston Road, Shalbourne, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 3QD (SU 3133 6298) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Frome, BA11 5DG.

Planning consent (18/00127/FUL) has been gained on appeal (APP/Y3940/W/18/3202568) for the construction of a detached dwelling and associated garage. The permission is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology, requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundwork.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The specification was created based on a brief prepared by Armour Heritage Ltd and approved by the Assistant Archaeologist for Wiltshire County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard on 20th to 23rd January 2020 and the site code is TES20/06.

Location, topography and geology

The site comprises an irregular parcel of land of c.0.26ha (Fig.2), just north-northwest of Shalbourne village centre, and approximately 4.4km south-west of Hungerford, 135. The site lies close to the top of the eastern ridge of a small valley, aligned north-east/south-west, at the base of which runs Shalbourne Stream. Just north of the site, in the valley, is an area used as watercress beds in the early 1900's. The underlying geology is recorded as Gault Formation and Upper Greensand Formation (BGS 2006). No superficial deposits are recorded; this tallies with observations made during this watching brief.

The footprint of the new dwelling and garage occupy an area formerly used as a tennis court. The area had been artificially raised along the western edge and cut into the slope along the northern and eastern edges to create a level terrace, presumably in advance of the construction of the tennis court.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems primarily from its proximity to a former medieval manor and settlement, referred to as '*Scaldeburn*' in the 1086 Domesday book. The settlement is noted in the *Carticularium Saxonicum*, which identifies it as '*Scealdeburnan*'. Subsequently, the villages of East and West Shalbourne developed, arranged either side of the Wiltshire and Berkshire county boundary. Nearby Shalbourne Manor and Eastcourt farms are believed to have medieval origins, and the site lies within Shalbourne's medieval boundary.

The Historic Environment Record (HER) lists sporadic prehistoric finds from the general vicinity of the site, dated primarily to the Neolithic, along with occasional recovery of Roman material. Of note is the recovery of Roman pottery, brick/tile and building stone approximately 130m south-west of the current site, considered to indicate the possible presence of a former building.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. This involved the monitoring of all intrusive groundworks within the area of development. Specifically, foundation trenching for the new dwelling and associated garage were monitored, along with a footing for the construction of a chimney stack in the former. All archaeological features were to be excavated and recorded as a minimum objective.

Results

Ground reduction

The site is located on a natural slope and prior to construction of the former tennis court, the south-west portion of site had been artificially raised. The northern edge of the site had been truncated, with all topsoil removed and the underlying geology truncated by approx. 0.3m (Pl. 2). The underlying geology was observed to be greensand, ranging from a mid yellow-green clay-sand to a more typical mid blue-green clay-sand. This is in line with mapped deposits from the British Geological Survey. Within the greensand were rare, small pieces of flint (<30mm; sub-rounded & sub-angular). These were uniformly patinated an opaque, pale grey.

Foundation trenches

All trenching was undertaken in the intended locations and to the intended depths (Figs 3 and 4). The excavations were undertaken with a 0.60m wide ditching bucket fitted to a 1 tonne 360-type mini-excavator. Foundation trenches 0.60m-0.70m in width were excavated, ranging in depth from 1.10m in the south-west to 2.10m in the north-east.

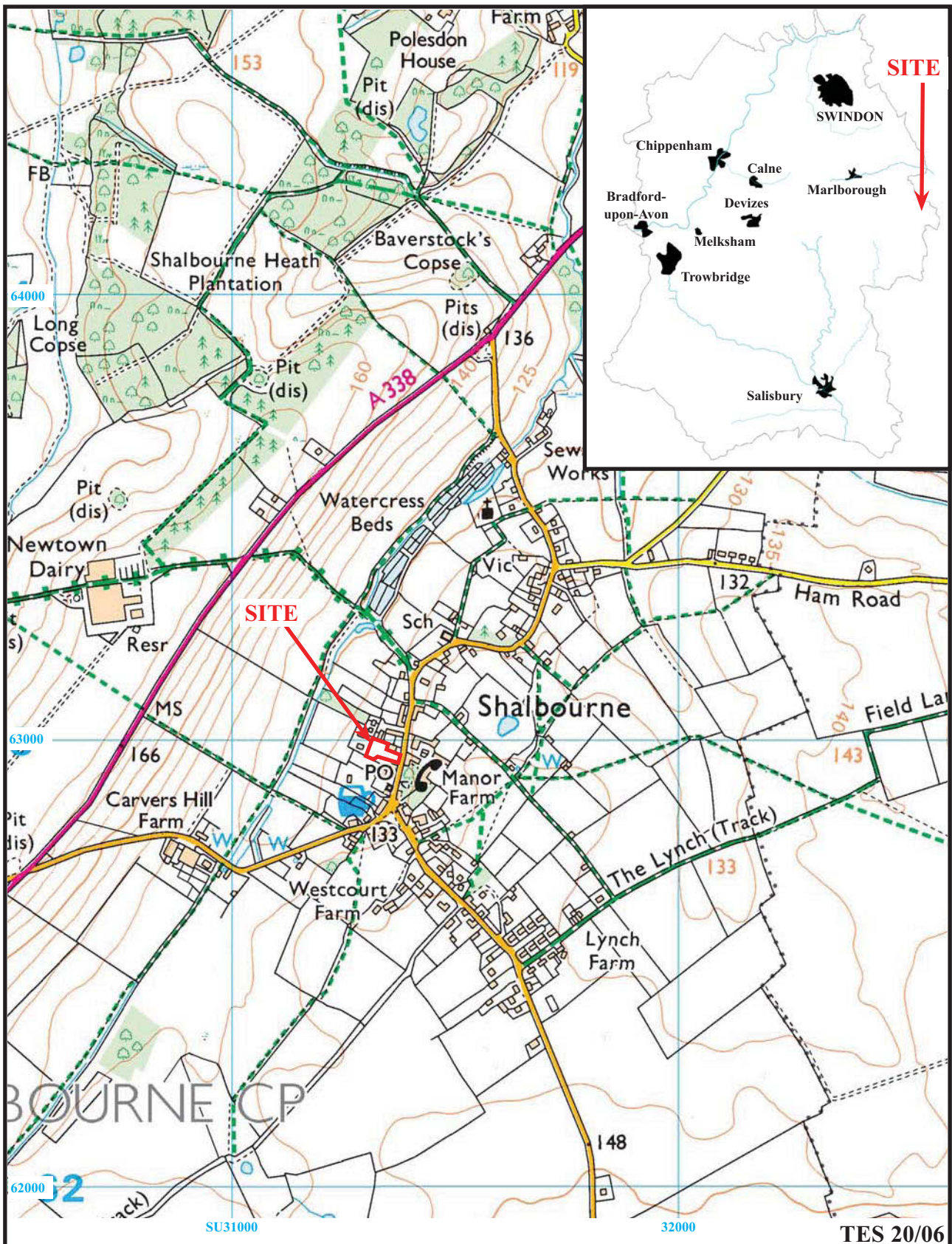
All trenches showed evidence of heavy rooting from the line of trees just north of the excavation, Two tree throws were observed along the northern edge of the house foundation, along with extant roots present in the trench. A third tree throw was observed in the north-western corner of the garage foundation. It is likely these trees were removed during construction of the tennis court. All tree throws were monitored in case of residual archaeological material, but none was present. The spoil heap was monitored in case of topsoil finds, but the topsoil appeared relatively sterile, bar occasional modern bricks and fragments of white china. Trenches varied in depth from 1.10m in the south to 2.20m in the north-east to accommodate the natural slope. Soil conditions during the excavation were challenging - the mud at the surface was difficult to cross on foot, and the trenches too unstable to safely access. Spoil heaps relating to the removal of the tennis court and prior surface work at the property were monitored for stray earlier material, but none was observed.

Conclusion

All trenches were dug in the intended locations under continuous archaeological supervision. No artefacts nor deposits of archaeological interest were observed. The northern and eastern portions of the site had been significantly truncated during levelling work, and it is likely that any shallow archaeological deposits in that area would have been removed by those groundworks.

References

- BGS, 2020, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed online at <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>
- De Gray Birch, W. 1885. *Cartularium Saxonicum: a collection of charters relating to Anglo-Saxon History*. Whiting and company.
- Farr, S, 2017, 'Land at the Elms, Kingston Road, Shalbourne, Wiltshire, Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment', AH Heritage Planning client document (AH495/1), Frome, Somerset
- NPPF, 2018, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London



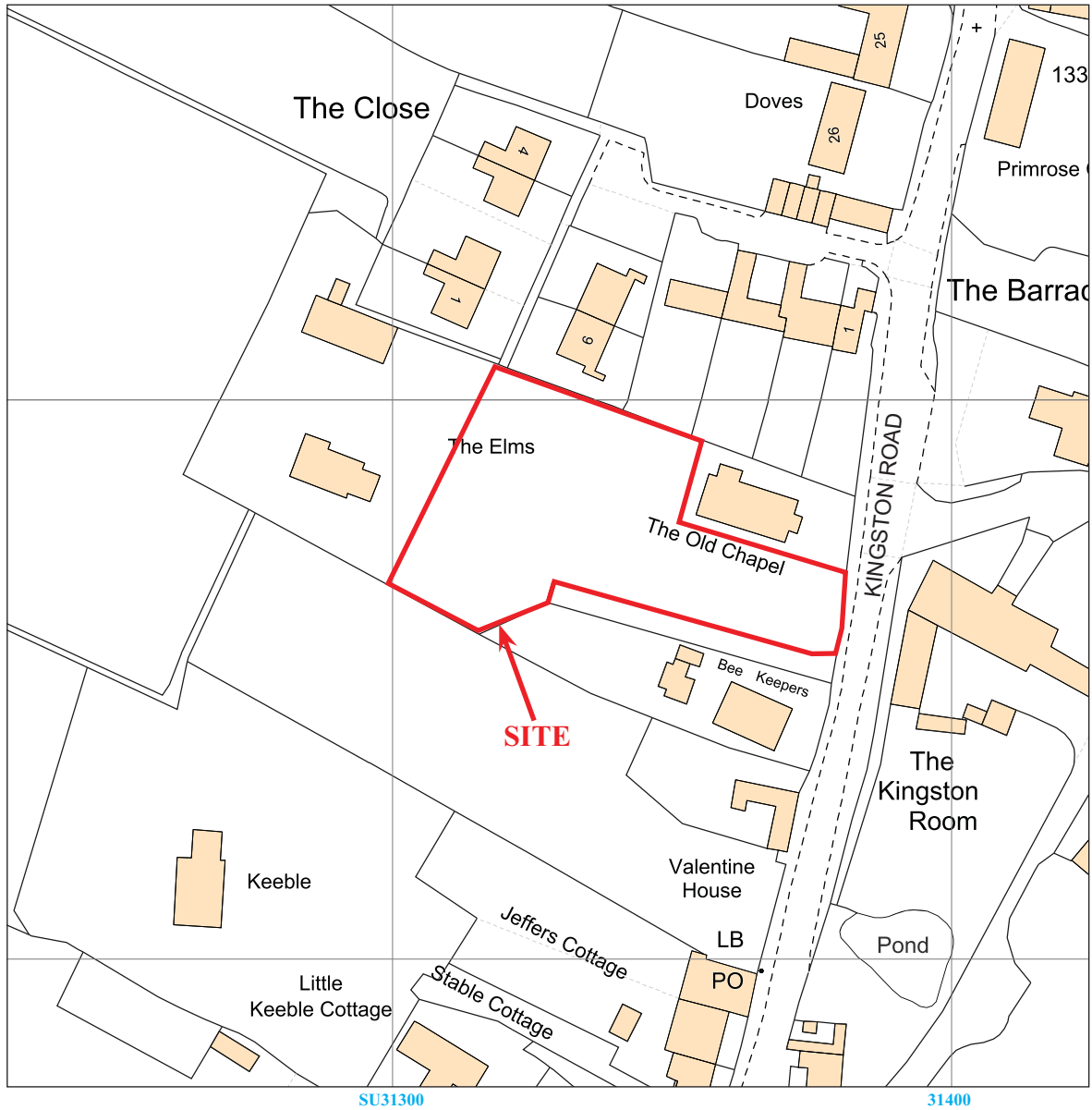
**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Wiltshire, 2020
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Shalbourne and Wiltshire.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TES 20/06



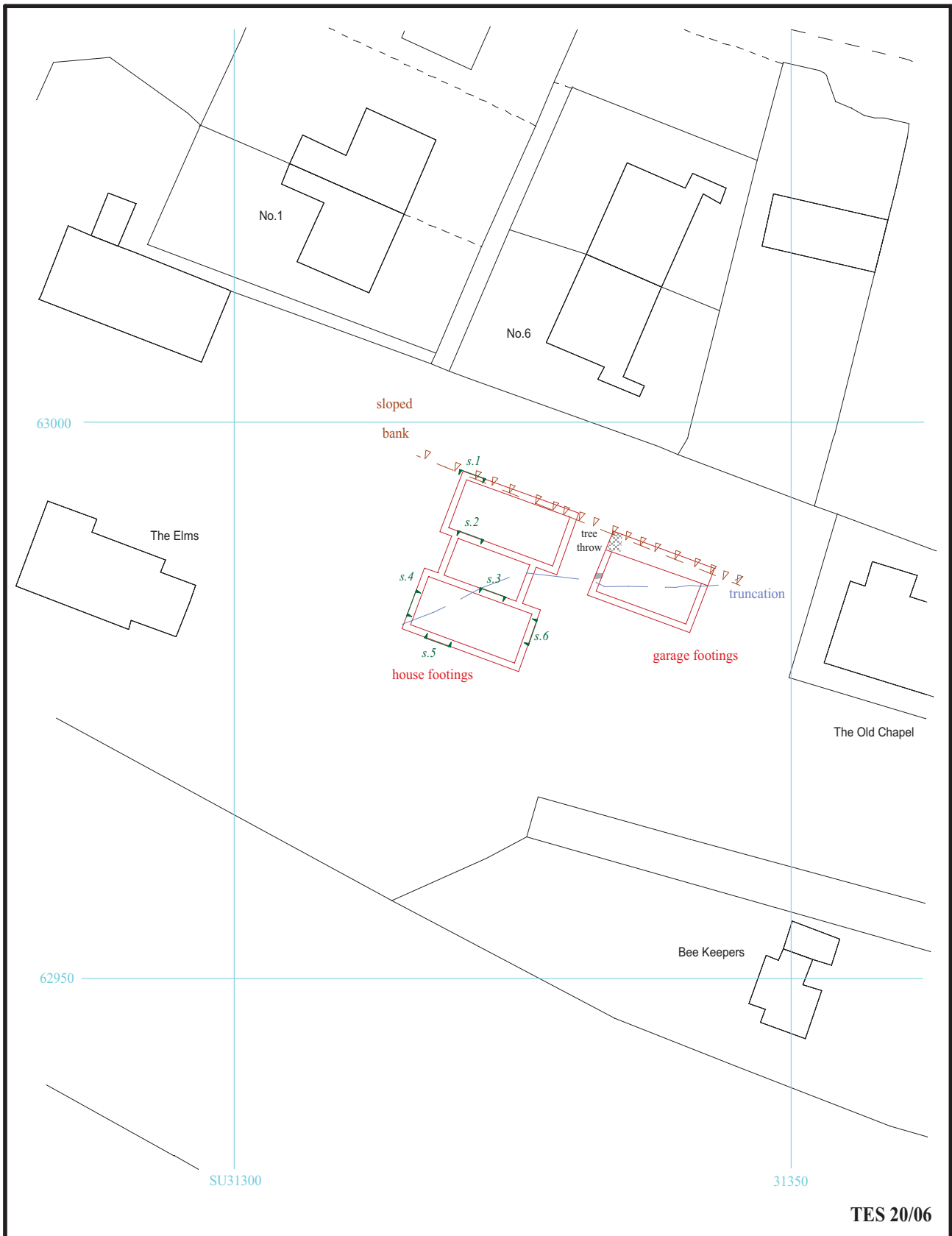
TES 20/06



**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Wiltshire, 2020
Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Kingston Road.

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

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Wiltshire, 2020
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed area.





TES 20/06

**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
 Shalbourne, Wiltshire, 2020
 Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. North area of new house footings, looking SE.



Plate 2. Stripped area at base of slope, looking SW, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

TES 20/06

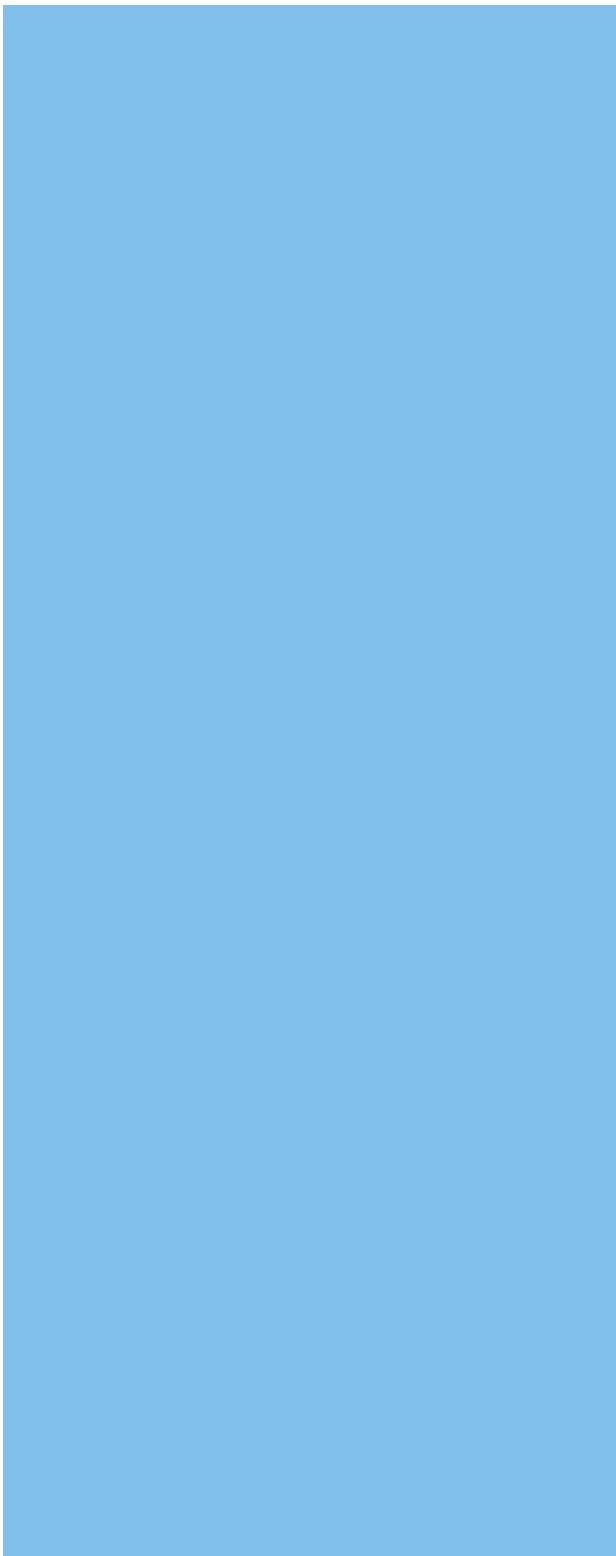
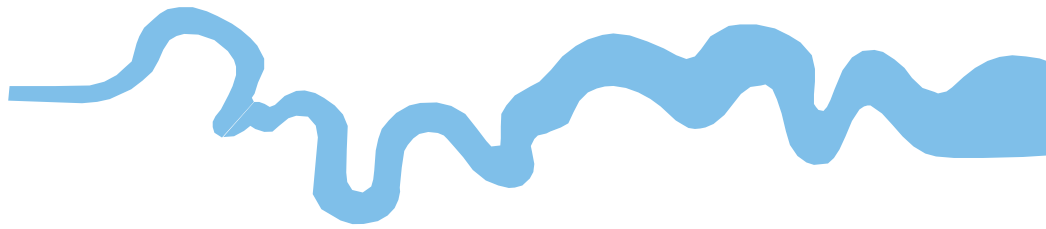
**Land at The Elms, Kingston Road,
Shalbourne, Wiltshire, 2020
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.**

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)*