

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**1 Hatfields, Marden,
Pewsey, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Site Code: MHW20/213

(SU 0893 5814)

1 Hatfields, Marden, Pewsey, Wiltshire

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Mr & Mrs J Sewell

by Jamie Williams

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MHM 20/213

February 2021

Summary

Site name: 1 Hatfields, Marden, Pewsey, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 0893 5814

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 24th February 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Jamie Williams

Site code: MHM 20/213

Summary of results: The archaeological evaluation successfully investigated the area of the site which will be affected by development. One hand dug trench observed natural geology, with a modern pit being uncovered. Five flint blades of probable Mesolithic date were found in the subsoil just above the greensand natural geology.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Wiltshire Museum in due course, with accession code DZSWS:12-2021.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 01.03.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 01.03.21

1 Hatfields, Marden, Pewsey, Wiltshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Jamie Williams

Report 20/213

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 1 Hatfields, Marden, Pewsey, Wiltshire (SU 0893 5814) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Ltd, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset, BA11 5DP on behalf of Mr & Mrs J Sewell of 1 Hatfields, Marden, Pewsey, Wiltshire, SN10 3RL.

A planning application (20/02133/FUL) has been submitted to Wiltshire Council for the construction of a two storey end/rear extension and altered front porch. The site lies within the Hatfield Earthwork, a Neolithic henge monument, which is a Scheduled Area (NHLE ref. 1014617). As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site being damaged or destroyed by works, a small evaluation has been requested by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England in accordance with the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* (1979), the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and also in line with Wiltshire County Council's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Williams and Emily Gibson on 24th February 2021, and the site code is MHW 20/213. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Wiltshire Museum in due course, with accession code DZSWS:12-2021.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies northeast of the village of Marden, within a Scheduled Monument, identified in the NHLE as *The Hatfield Earthwork: a henge enclosure, henge and remains of a monument mound* at Marden (SAM 1014617). A further Scheduled Monument is recorded within 1km of the site, comprising a *Medieval village site* to the southwest (SAM 1004744) (Fig. 1). The underlying geology is recorded as Upper Greensand Formation with no superficial geological deposits being recorded (BGS 2008).

The proposed development area is square in shape and consists of a grass area and an L-shaped path leading to the existing utilities room (Fig. 2). The trench was put into the grass, as the path (along with the house) have already truncated the natural geology, where greensand natural was observed throughout the trench. The site lies at 111m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential for the site has been presented in a Desk Based Assessment by Armour Heritage, summarized here. The potential stems from its location within a Scheduled Monument (The Hatfield Earthwork) - a Neolithic henge monument with an internal smaller henge and the remains of a monument mound. Recent excavations into the smaller internal henge revealed a midden of Neolithic date (Leary 2015) and a series of pits and postholes, believed to be structurally related (Leary 2017). Located 150m north-east of the site, and within the larger henge enclosure, a substantial Neolithic round mound (also known as *Hatfield Barrow/Giant of Marden*) is situated (Carpenter and Winton 2011).

Two areas of Roman settlement have been recorded in close proximity to the boundary of the Hatfield Earthworks, one to the south-west (Colt-Hoare 1821) and one to the south (Linford *et al.* 2013).

To the south-east of the site lies another Scheduled Monument, the deserted medieval village of Puckshipton (SAM 1004744). The village of Marden itself has roots dating back to AD963, where it was recorded as *Merhdæne*.

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. The specific research aims of this project were:

- to confirm if there is any evidence the henge ditch or bank continue through this part of the site or whether the monument incorporates the natural topography;
- to establish within the constraints of the trench whether there is a remnant of a bank;
- to identify any evidence for activities, features or deposits which may relate to those excavated in 2010 by Historic England and in 2015/6 by HE/University of Reading, particularly with reference to the chalk platform or midden deposits; and

to establish the presence, character and preservation of any finds/deposits within the trench, including faunal and plant remains

One trench measuring 2m by 1.2m was proposed to be hand-dug in the area of grass directly affected by the proposed development. The base of the trench and the upper surface of any archaeological remains surviving within them were to be cleaned by hand, and any archaeological features were to be sufficiently sampled to characterize and date them.

Results

The trench was excavated as intended, positioned towards the north-east corner of the proposed development so as to avoid a small coppiced tree. The trench is summarized in Appendix 1 and the excavated feature, with dating evidence, summarized in Appendix 2.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned NW - SE and was 2.02m long, 1.18m wide and 0.25m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.07m subsoil overlying greensand natural geology. No remnants of a bank were seen. At 0.2m from the north-west end of the trench, a modern pit (1) was recorded which was >0.52m long, 0.55m wide and 0.12m deep and filled with a brown-grey silty sand (52). Multiple finds of plastic and modern metal were recorded from its fill, but were not retained.

A test pit measuring 0.4m long, 0.3m wide and 1m deep was dug by hand in the north-east corner of the trench to verify that the trench was excavated to the correct depth and confirm the interpretation of the greensand as natural geology.

Finds

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A small collection comprising 5 struck flints was recovered from the subsoil of the evaluation trench. They were all of 'blade like' character i.e. narrow flakes. They were all broken and three were lightly patinated a light grey/blue. One piece showed utilisation damage along both edges. The pieces are all certainly or probably of Mesolithic date.

A 2g fragment of burnt flint was also recovered.

Conclusion

The evaluation was successfully carried out, with the trench observing a large proportion of the proposed development area. Despite the high archaeological potential for the site, derived from its location within a Scheduled Monument, no features of archaeological interest were encountered. A single pit was excavated, but produced only modern finds of plastic and metal.

Five struck flints of probable Mesolithic date were recovered from the subsoil during the cleaning of the trench.

References

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- Carpenter, E and Winton, H, 2011, *Marden Henge and Environs: Vale of Pewsey, Wiltshire*
- Colt-Hoare, Sir R, 1821, *The Ancient History of Wiltshire. Lackington, Hughes, Harding, Mavor and Lepard. Volume II*
- Leary, J, 2015, *The Vale of Pewsey Project, Season 1, 2015. Marden Henge and Wilsford Henge*, Reading University
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- Linford, N, Linford, P and Payne, A, 2013, *Marden Barrow Cemetery and Wilsford Henge, Wiltshire*, English Heritage
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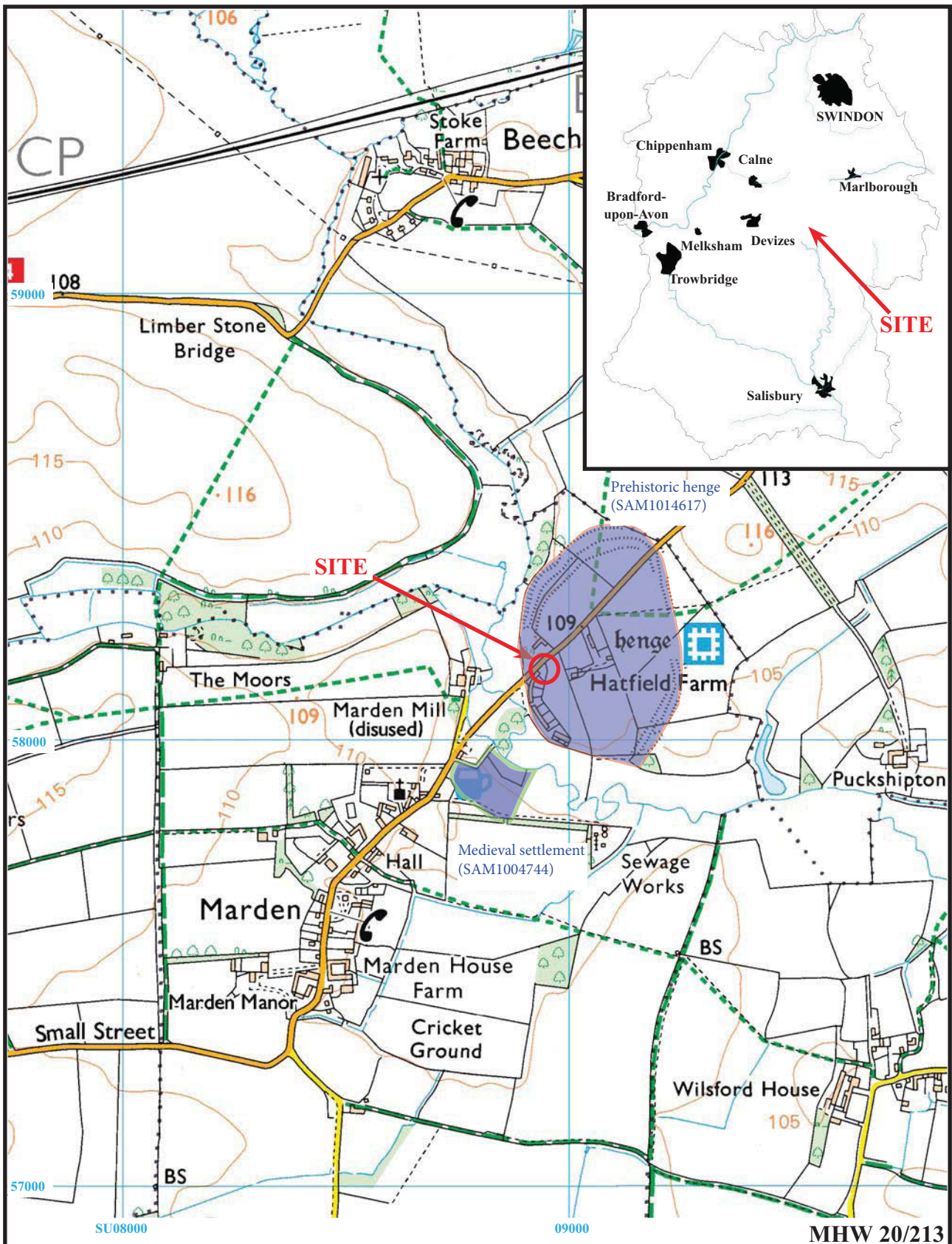
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at NW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	2.02	1.18	0.25	0-0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.23m brown-grey sand subsoil. 0.23m+ grey-green greensand natural geology. Modern pit 1

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Pit	Modern	Plastic, Modern Metal



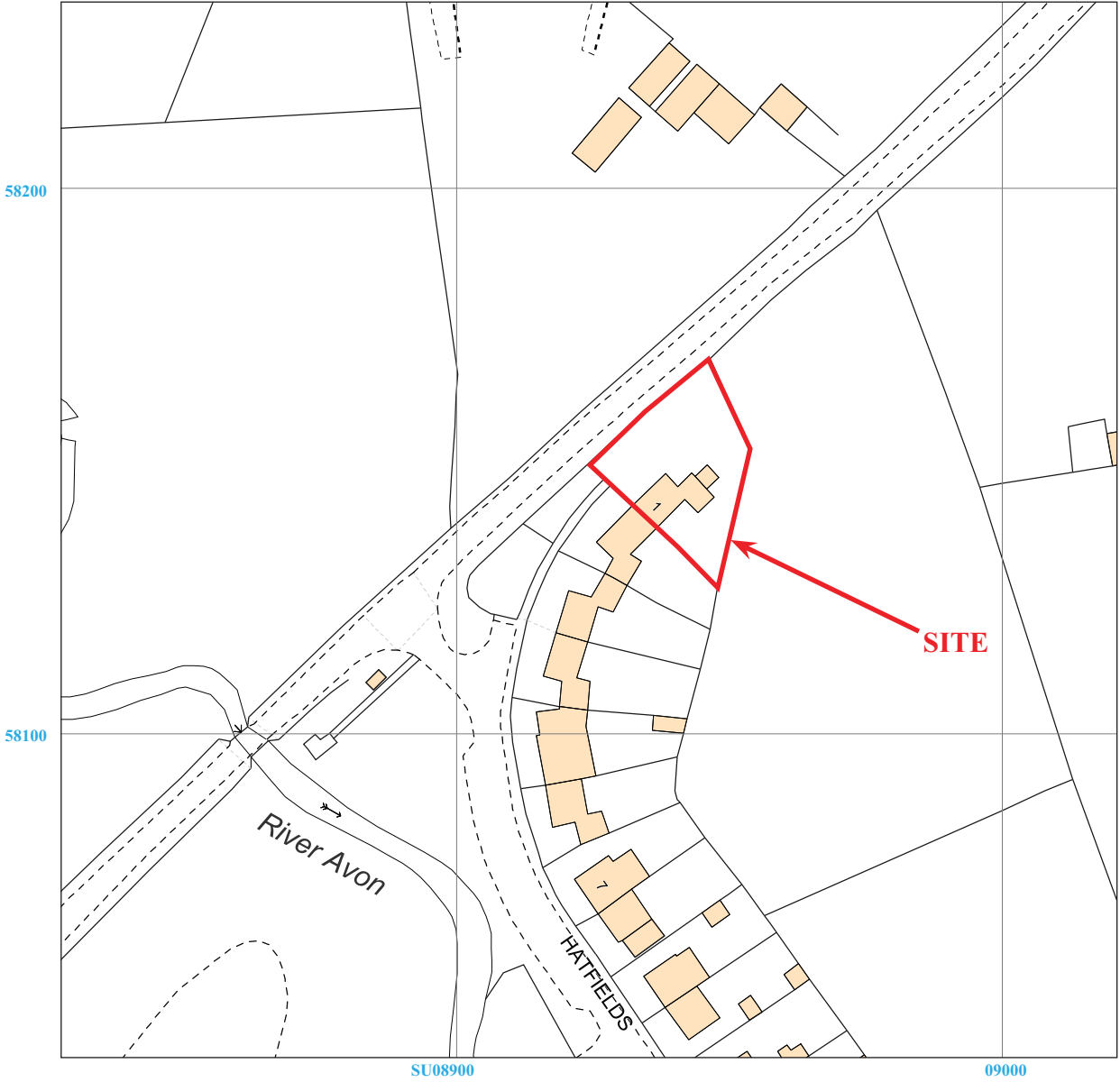
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Figure 1. Location of site within Marden and Wiltshire.

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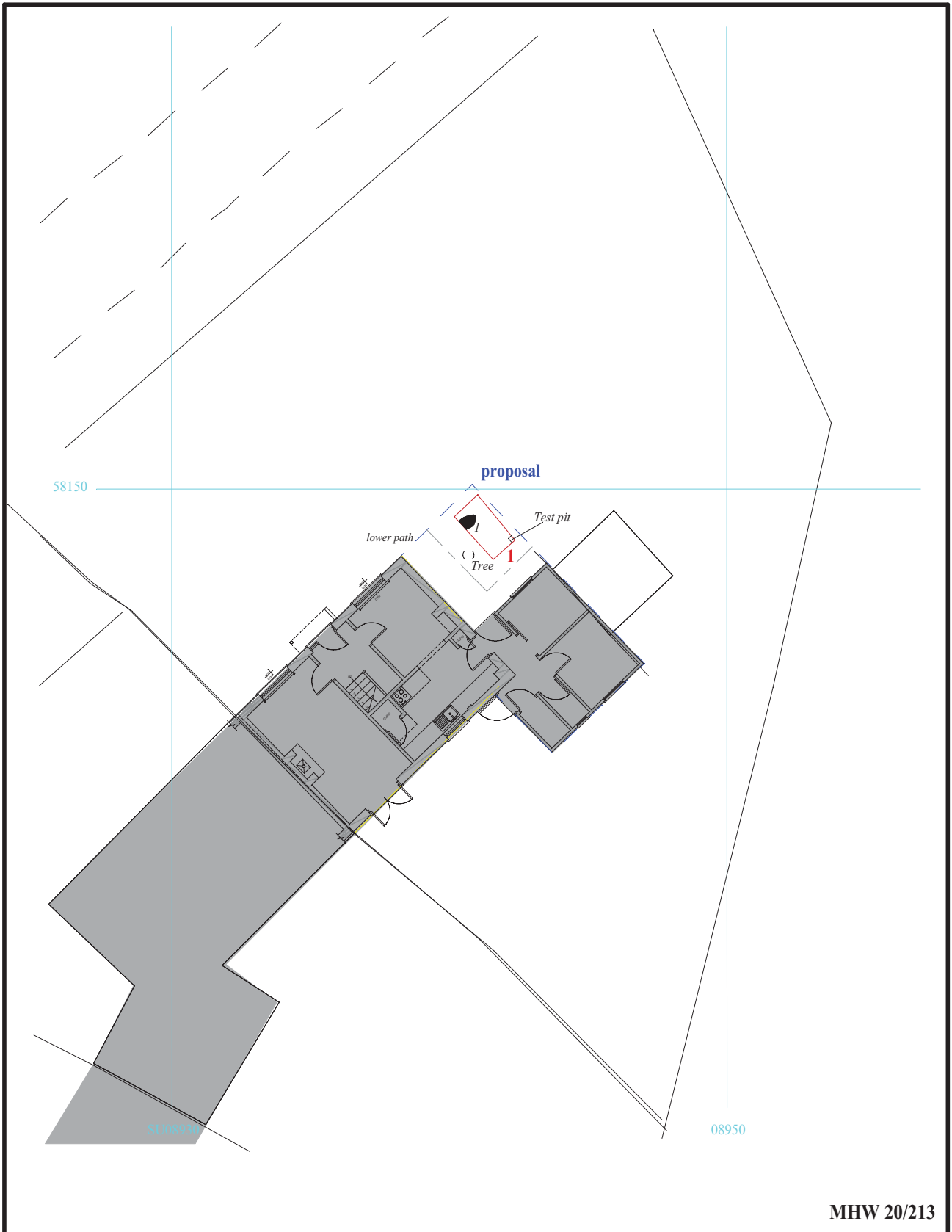
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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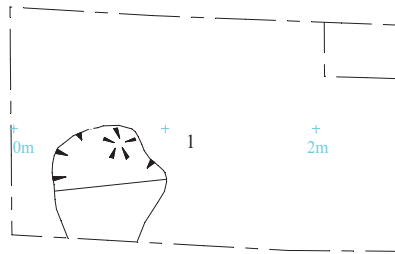
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Figure 3. Location of trench.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Detail of Trench 1.

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Plate 1. Location of Trench 1, looking SSW, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 1 and pit 1, looking SSE, Scale: 2m.

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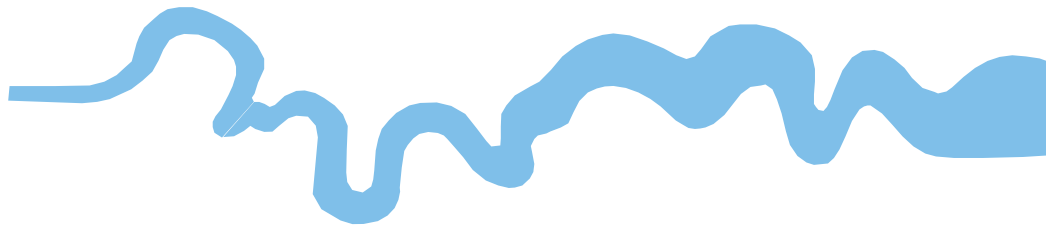
**1 Hatfields, Marden,
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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





**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)***