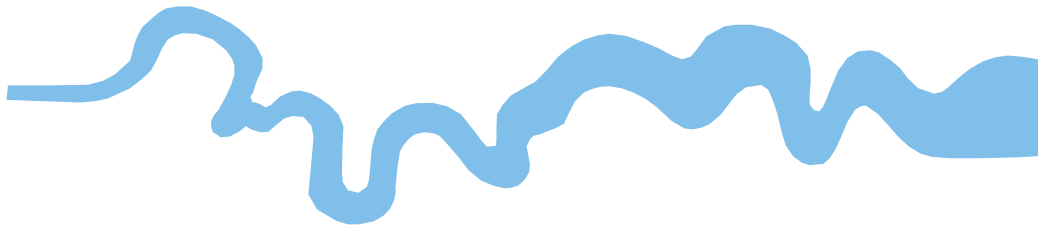


T V A S



SOUTH

**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: HLA21/05

(SU 9355 0455)

Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Imperial Homes Southern**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HLA 21/05

April 2021

Summary

Site name: Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 9355 0455

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 13th-14th April 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: HLA 21/05

Area of site: c.0.45 hectares

Summary of results: Seven linear features were identified, all in Trench 5 in the south-east corner of the site. One was dated to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, and the others are potentially of a similar date range.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at TVAS South (Brighton) and will be deposited with Chichester Museum (The Novium) in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 27.04.21 Steve Preston✓ 27.04.21
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Land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

Report 21/05

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Springfield, Hook Lane, Aldingbourne, West Sussex (SU 9355 0455) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Chris Southcott of Imperial Homes Southern, Paddock View, Calcot Mount Business Park, Calcot Lane, Curdridge, Southampton, SO32 2BN.

Planning permission (AL/64/20/PL) has been gained from Arun District Council to redevelop the site for residential housing, following demolition of the existing house. The consent is subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology and the historic environment requiring a programme of archaeological investigation on the site.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The fieldwork was to take the form, initially, of evaluation by means of trial trenching, the results of which would inform a mitigation strategy as appropriate. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr James Kenny, Archaeology Officer with Chichester District Council, advisers to Arun District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Aidan Colyer between the 13th and 14th April 2021 and the site code is HLA 21/05. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Chichester Museum (The Novium) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site lies on the south west of Aldingbourne and on the southern margins of Westergate (Fig. 1). It is located on the eastern side of Hook Lane and currently comprises scrubland from the former garden of the demolished property. It is bounded by further properties to the north and south, a field to the east and a garden nursery to the west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Brickearth (BGS 1996), which was observed in all the trenches and the site lies at a height of c.9.50m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is an area thought to be archaeologically rich for most periods, largely due to its fertile soils. Numerous archaeological features were recently recorded immediately to the north of the present site, prior to a new housing development being built. Many of the features provided evidence for settlement in the Middle to Late Iron Age, although some early Roman and medieval activity was also noted. Slightly further afield, a large scale excavation at Lidsey Landfill recorded evidence of occupation spanning the period from the Middle Bronze Age to Late Iron Age. These features had been superseded by a Roman field system (Wallis and Ford 2014). Further afield to the south large scale excavations at North Bersted, Bognor Regis (Taylor *et al.* 2014) identified Bronze Age deposits, Iron Age and Roman field systems and a unique Late Iron Age warrior burial. Although the site present lies about 1.2 km south-east of the historic core of Aldingbourne, it is actually closer to two of the settlements which subsequently developed within the parish (Woodgate and Westergate).

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 aims of the project were;

- To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.
- To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To determine if archaeological deposits dating from the Iron Age are present.
- To determine if any archaeological deposits associated with features found on the site immediately to the north are present.
- To inform a strategy for mitigation if required.

Six trenches were to be dug measuring 1.60m wide and 26m long. These were dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds. A sufficient amount of any identified archaeological deposits would be investigated.

Results

The six trenches were dug as close as possible to their intended locations (Fig. 3). These measured 1.80m wide and between 25.70m and 26.80m long and were generally 0.4–0.6m deep. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes the excavated features.

Trench 1 (Pl. 1)

This trench was aligned approximately N-S and measured 26m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying sandy clay (brickearth) natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 2 (Pl. 2)

This trench was aligned approximately E-W and measured 26.40m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. There were no finds or features of archaeological interest in this trench.

Trench 3 (Pl. 3)

This trench was aligned NW-SE and measured 26.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. There was nothing of archaeological interest in this trench.

Trench 4 (Pl. 4)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 26m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 5 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 5, 7-10)

This trench was aligned approximately NW-SE and measured 25.70m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. Several linear features were observed in this trench with two appearing intercut at the extreme SE end of the trench. This was deemed to be better dealt with under excavation conditions and as such ditches 5 and 6 were not excavated. At 6m from this end of the trench, a gully was noted which had a slot [4] dug into it showing it to measure 0.50m wide and 0.13m deep. Its light grey brown sandy clay fill (55) produced only some unworked burnt flint. Between 7m and 8.80m was a ditch [7], which was not excavated. Between 9.20m and 12m was a gully into which a slot [3] was dug measuring 0.55m wide, 0.20m deep and its pale grey brown, sandy silt fill (54) produced eight pieces of animal bone and a piece of fired clay. Between 11.70m and 13m was gully [2], which measured 0.29m wide, 0.14m deep and its light yellow brown grey sandy clay fill (53) produced a sherd of prehistoric pottery. Between 13.80m and 16m was gully [1] measuring 0.51m wide, 0.16m deep and its light yellow brown grey sandy clay fill (52) produced burnt flint.

Trench 6 (PL 6)

This trench was aligned E-W and measured 26.20m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology. No features of archaeological interest were observed nor finds recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered a single sherd of pottery from context 53. This is a small (3g) slightly worn oxidized bodysherd tempered with common fine to medium calcined flint with a little fine quartz. The sherd is not closely datable but is considered most probably to be of Later Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

A total of eight fragments of non-human bone were recovered from gully 3 (54) in Trench 7. Weighing a total of 128g, the fragments were of fair preservation, with the cortical bone surfaces displaying patches of erosion and etching from root activity, and a high degree of fragmentation. Only one fragment could be identified, the distal end of a cow left humerus. No further information could be retrieved.

Fired Clay by Luke Barber

The evaluation recovered two pieces of burnt clay from gullies 3 (15g) and 4 (2g). Both consist of irregular pieces of silt clay with rare flint and iron oxide inclusions to 2mm, possibly natural to the clay. Although they could be daub from either a house or oven structure neither have any characteristic features and they could equally be natural clay that has been accidentally burnt.

Burnt Flint by Andy Taylor

A total of 546g of burnt flint was recovered from two of the gullies in Trench 5. None of this showed evidence of working or diagnostic traits.

Palaeoenvironmental Remains by Elspeth St John-Brooks

Bulk soil samples of 10ltr and 5ltr were taken from sealed contexts from four gully slots (1–4). The samples were floated and sieved using standard flotation practises with a 0.25mm flot mesh and the resultant flots air

dried. These flots were then examined with a hand lens at x8 magnification and under a lower powered microscope at magnifications between x50 and x1000.

Charred plant macrofossils in the form of charcoal were present in just one of the samples, from gully 1. No seeds were present and the preservation of charcoal was poor and most fragments were micro-charcoal in size classification (<2mm), this means the fragments were too small to fracture and therefore it was impossible to complete species identification. The two charcoal fragments from feature 1, both were examples of bark measuring <0.5cm and were unidentifiable due to their poor preservation and bark's typical undefined characteristics.

Conclusion

The evaluation identified a modest amount of archaeological features, although it is unclear if it is associated with deposits identified to the north of the site. Of the seven linear features only one produced datable material, a sherd of pottery dating it to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age periods. The others are likely to be of a similar date and may represent small paddock divisions on the edge of a settlement.

References

- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 317/332, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework (revised)*, Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Taylor, A, Weale, A and Ford, S, *Bronze Age. Iron Age and Roman Landscapes of the Coastal Plain, and a Late Iron Age Warrior Burial at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex; Excavations 2007-2010*, TVAS Monogr **19**
- Wallis, S and Ford, S, 2014, *Bronze Age and Middle Iron Age Occupation and Roman Fields at Lidsey Landfill, Woodgate, West Sussex*, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Occ Pap **5**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	26.00	1.80	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ sandy clay (brickearth) natural geology. Pl. 1
2	26.40	1.80	0.50	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m+ brickearth natural geology. Pl. 2
3	26.80	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ brickearth natural geology. Pl. 3
4	26.00	1.80	0.40	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ brickearth natural geology. Pl. 4
5	25.70	1.80	0.60	0-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m+ brickearth natural geology. Gullies 1, 2, 3, 4; Ditches 5, 6, 7. Pls. 5, 7-10
6	26.20	1.80	0.40	0-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.40m subsoil; 0.40m+ brickearth natural geology. Pl. 6

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	Gully	-	-
5	2	53	Gully	Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age	Pottery
5	3	54	Gully	-	-
5	4	55	Gully	-	-
5	5	56	Ditch	-	-
5	6	57	Ditch	-	-
5	7	58	Ditch	-	-

APPENDIX 3: Catalogue of Pottery

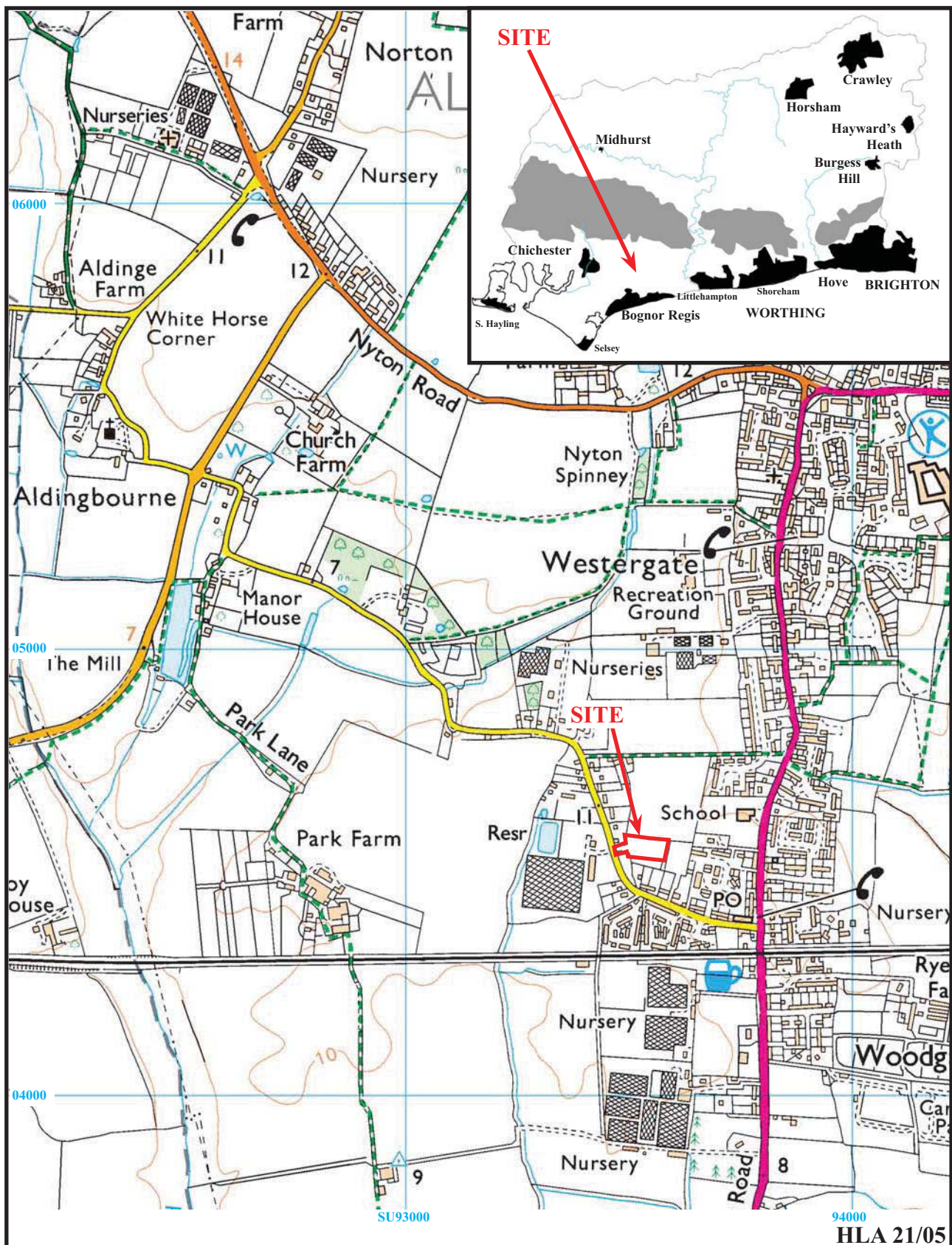
<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
5	2	53	1	3

APPENDIX 4: Catalogue of Animal Bone

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
5	3	54	8	128

APPENDIX 5: Catalogue of Fired Clay

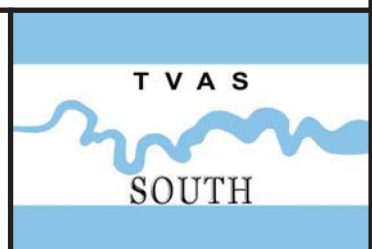
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
5	3	54	1	15
5	4	55	1	2

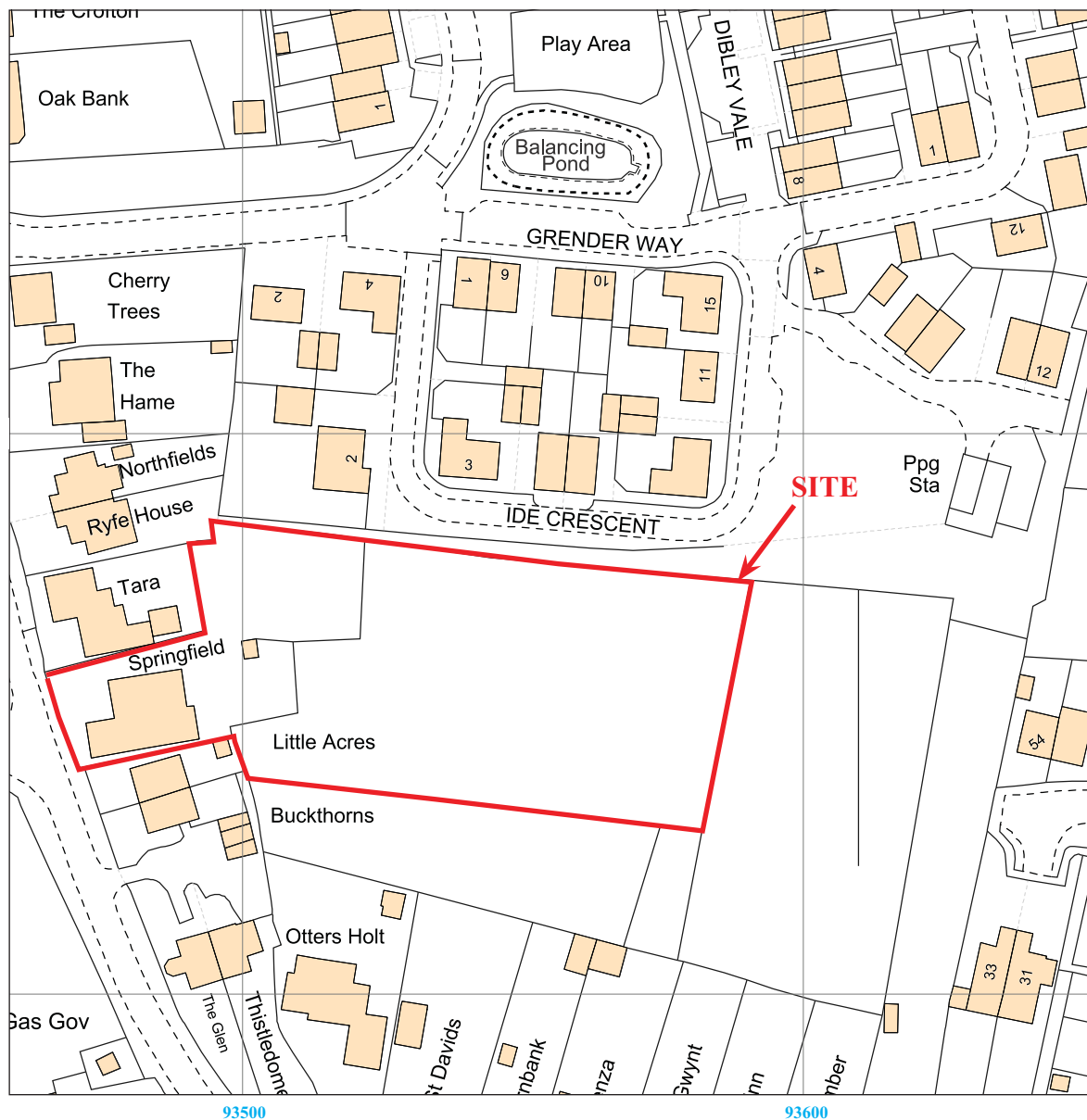


**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

**Figure 1. Location of site within Aldingbourne and
West Sussex.**

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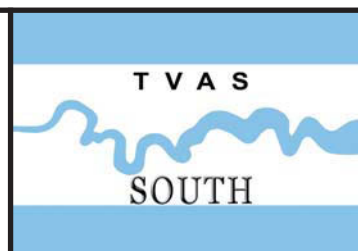


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**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hook Lane.

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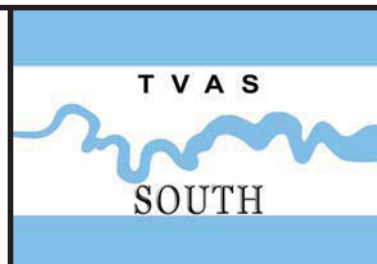


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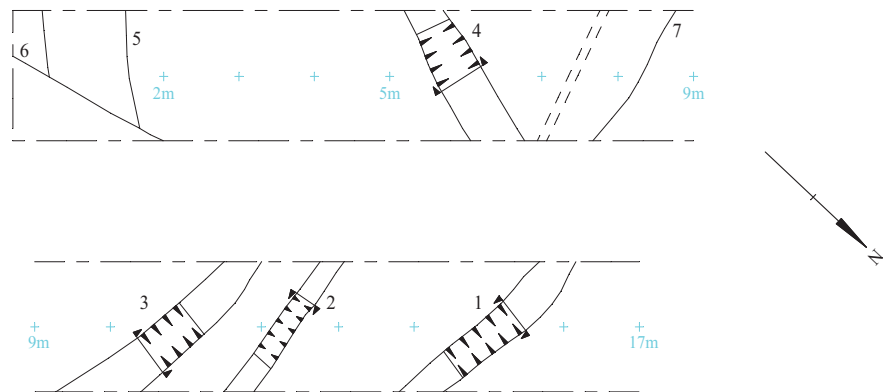
**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.

0 25m



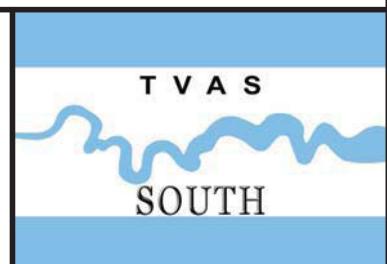
Trench 5



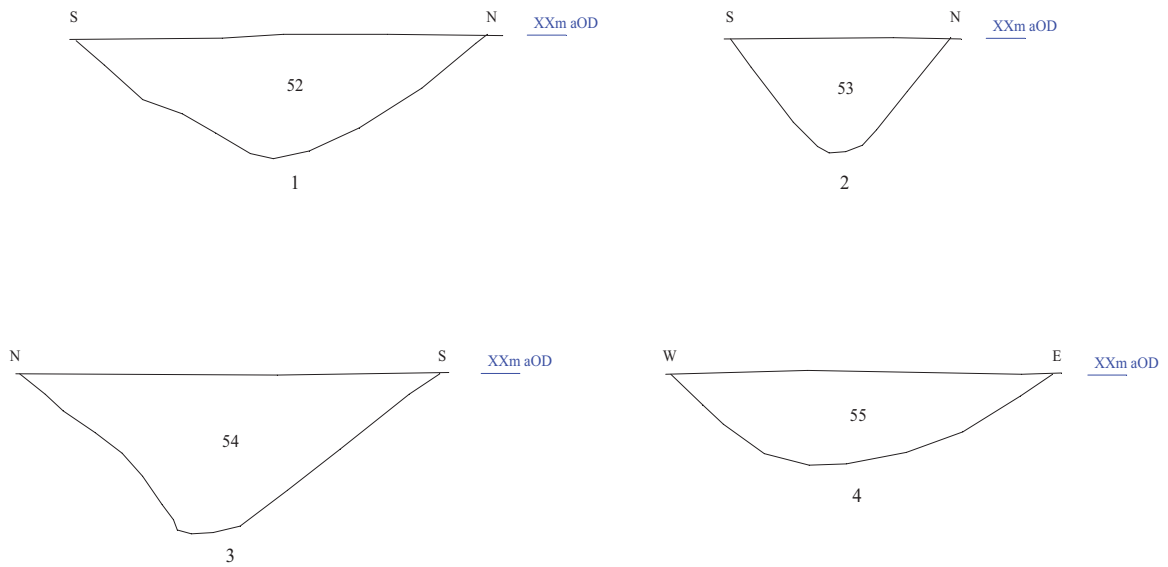
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Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Trench Plans



Trench 5



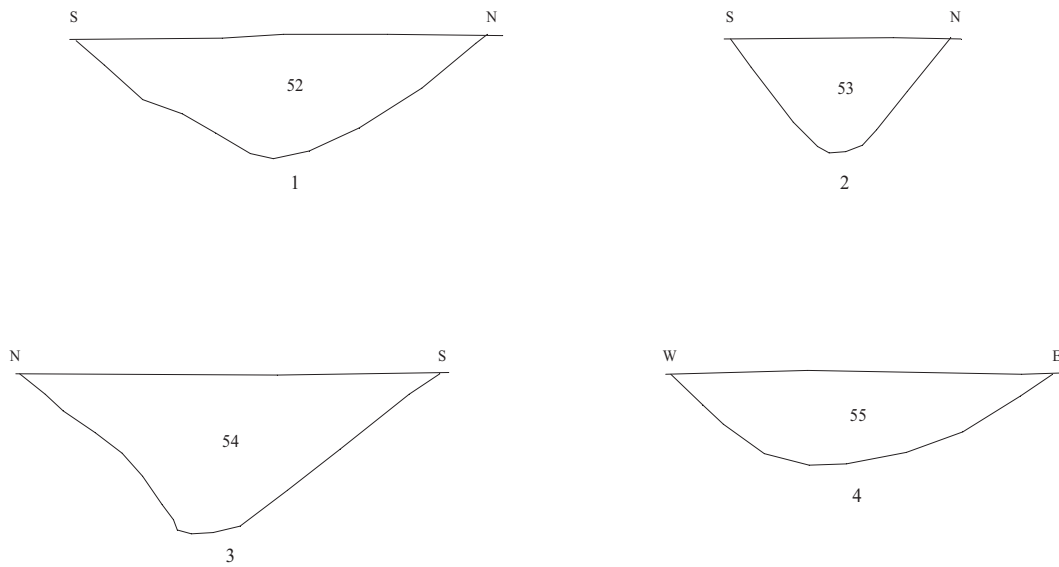
55 nch 5

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Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Sections.



Trench 5



55 nch 5

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Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 5. Sections.

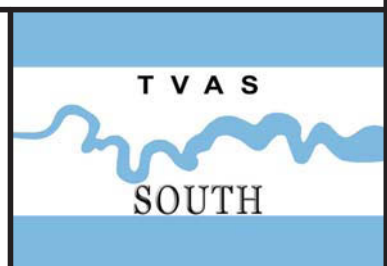




Plate 5. Trench 5, looking North,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 6. Trench 6, looking North East,
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 7. Gully 1, looking West,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 8. Gully 2, looking West,
Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 5 - 8.**

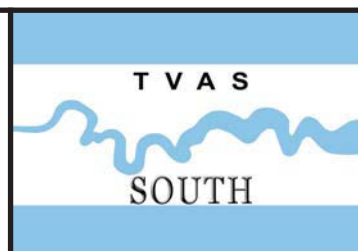




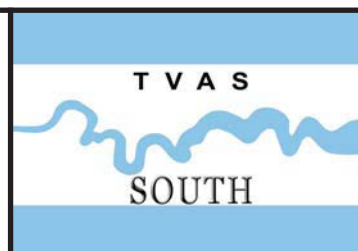
Plate 9. Gully 3, looking West,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.



Plate 10. Gully 4, looking North,
Scales: 0.5m and 0.1m.

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**Land at Springfield, Hook Lane,
Aldingbourne, West Sussex, 2021
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 9 and 10.**

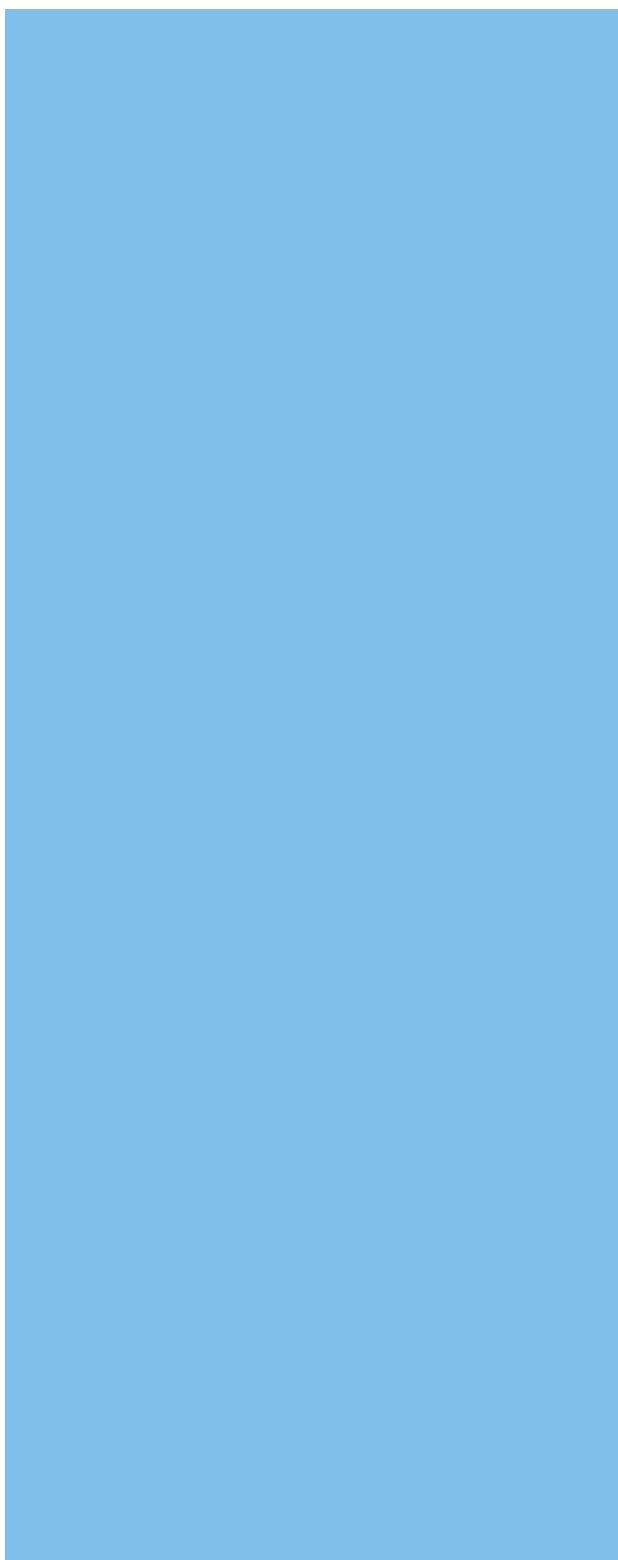
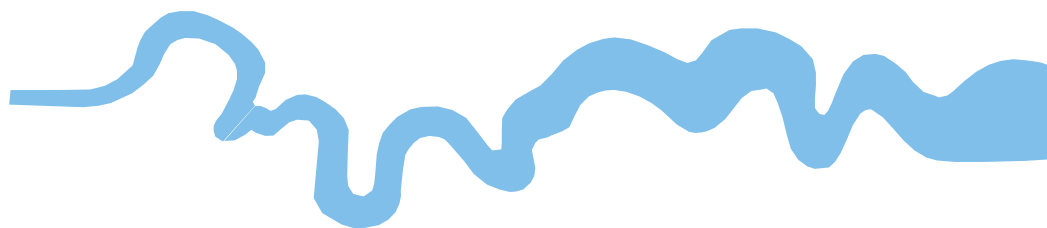


TIME CHART

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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