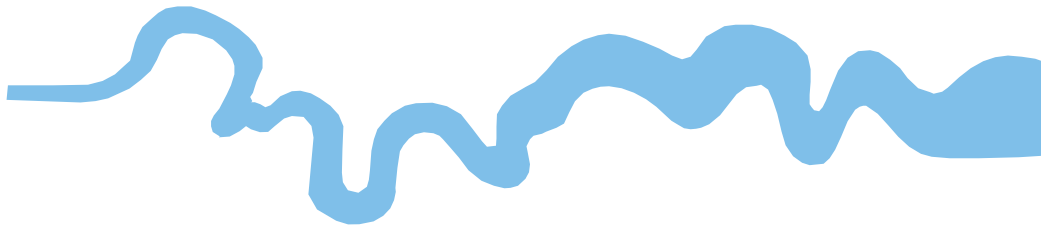


**T V A S**



**SOUTH**

**Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane,  
Angmering, West Sussex**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Sean Wallis**

**Site Code: DLA21/168**

**(TQ 0713 0520)**

**Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane,  
Angmering, West Sussex**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Persimmon Homes Thames Valley**

by Sean Wallis

TVAS South

Site Code  
DLA 20/168

**July 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex

**Grid reference:** TQ 0713 0520

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Planning reference:** A/76/20/PL

**Date and duration of project:** 12th - 15th July 2021

**Project manager:** Sean Wallis

**Site supervisor:** Sean Wallis

**Site code:** DLA 20/168

**Area of site:** c. 3.6 ha

**Summary of results:** The archaeological evaluation successfully investigated those parts of the site which will be most affected by the proposed residential development. Given the size of the site and the amount of prehistoric and Roman activity recorded elsewhere in Angmering, it is perhaps surprising that very few archaeological features were recorded during the project and the majority of the site has no archaeological potential. However, two middle or later Bronze Age pits in adjacent trenches in the south-west corner of the site were recorded suggesting a limited amount of activity present during that period. This restricted area of the site is considered to have archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.07.2021 Steve Preston ✓ 30.07.2021
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# Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex An Archaeological Evaluation

by Sean Wallis

Report 20/168

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out to the west of Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex (TQ 0713 0520) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Ms Laura Jackson of Persimmon Homes Thames Valley, Persimmon House, Knoll Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3TQ.

Planning permission (A/76/20/PL) has been granted by Arun District Council to re-develop the site for residential housing. The consent is subject to a planning condition (10) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work prior to the commencement of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* as revised in 2019 (NPPF 2019), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Local Planning Authority following consultation with the Chichester District Council Archaeological Officer (Mr James Kenny) who advises Arun District Council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Duncan Graham-Cameron and Sean Wallis between the 12th and 15th July 2021, and the site code is DLA 20/168. The archive is presently held at TVAS South, Brighton, and will be deposited with a suitable depository in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the east of Dapper's Lane Road, about 800m north of the historic core of Angmering, West Sussex (TQ 0713 0520) (Fig. 1). The site consists of one large field which was formerly accessed via Herons Farm. However, a new entrance was recently created through the hedge which runs along the eastern boundary with Dapper's Lane. The site is bounded to the south by residential housing, to the west by a footpath and playing field, and to the north by woodland and Herons Farm. At the time of the evaluation the grass in the field had recently been cut. The various modern fences depicted on the modern Ordnance Survey (Fig. 2) had clearly been taken down some time ago, although traces of them could be made out in the grass. The site generally slopes down towards the south and, as a result, the height above Ordnance Datum varies from about 26m in the north-west corner to about 20m in the south-west corner. According to the British Geological Survey, the

underlying geology for much of the site consists of London Clay, with possible Head Deposits being present in the south-west corner (BGS 1996). A light yellow brown sandy clay was encountered in most of the trenches, with varying amounts of flint gravel inclusions being recorded.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site largely stems from its location on the Sussex Coastal Plain, which is known to be archaeologically rich from the Neolithic period onwards (Rudling 2003). Recent large scale archaeological excavations have revealed numerous features which support the theory that the coastal plain was the focus of intensive settlement during the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods, and complex multi-period sites have been excavated to the west of the current site at Courtwick Lane (Bray *et al.* 2019) and Toddington Lane (Wallis 2019), and to the east at West Durrington (Wallis and Ford 2019). Evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity has also been recorded within Angmering itself, including a Roman villa (unfortunately published only as brief notes in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* in the 1930s and 40s; Gilkes 1999), and an excavation to the south of the present site uncovered a few features dating from the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods (Wallis 2017). Further evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity has been recorded even more recently at the far end of the High Street (Rouard forthcoming).

## **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 the proposed 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 from the prehistoric period are present.

To determine if archaeological deposits from the Roman period are present.

Thirty-one trenches were to be dug, each measuring 25m in length. The trenches were positioned to target those parts of the site which would be most affected by the new development. The trenches were to be dug using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

## Results

The trenches were dug close to their original planned positions, although several had to be moved slightly away from the site boundaries and / or shortened to allow contractors to erect a new fence around the perimeter. Some of the westernmost trenches were moved slightly to avoid the overhead power line which crosses the site. Two additional trenches (32 and 33) were excavated in the south-west corner of the site, due to the fact that a Bronze Age pit was found in trench 14. The excavated trenches were all 1.85m wide, and measured between 11.20m and 27.00m in length, and between 0.29m and 0.42m in depth. The natural geology was observed in all of the trenches, usually as a light yellow brown sandy clay with varying amounts of flint gravel inclusions. Land drains were recorded in most of the trenches, and a plastic water pipe was uncovered in trench 1. Only those trenches where features of archaeological interest were uncovered are described below, and a complete list of the trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

### Trench 14 (Figs. 4 and 5; Pl. 1)

This trench was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 23.80m long and up to 0.36m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.11m of topsoil (50) and 0.18m of subsoil (51). A sub-circular pit (1) was investigated in the central part of the trench. The feature measured about 0.42m in diameter and was up to 0.15m deep. It had a single fill of dark brownish grey silty clay which was packed with fragments of burnt flint and a fair amount of charcoal (52). Thirty-two sherds of middle Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this deposit. The feature was fully excavated following recording, and yielded over 100 fragments of fire cracked flint, weighing nearly 2 kg.

### Trench 33 (Figs. 4 and 5; Pl. 2)

This trench was one of two (the other being 32) that were excavated either side of trench 14 to see if there were any other archaeological features in the vicinity. It was orientated approximately SW-NE, and was 12.20m long and up to 0.33m deep. The natural sandy clay geology was encountered beneath 0.18m of topsoil (50) and 0.11m of subsoil (51). Pit 2 was observed in the central part of the trench and was excavated by hand. The pit was oval in plan, measuring 0.80m by 0.72m, and was up to 0.10m deep. It had a single fill of dark brownish grey silty clay which contained occasional flecks of charcoal (53). Four very small sherds of middle-to-late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from this deposit, along with 9 fragments of burnt flint, weighing 153g. The feature was fully excavated following recording.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery* by Barbara McNee

A total of 38 prehistoric pottery sherds weighing 204g, and with a mean sherd weight of 5.3g was recovered from two pits. The pottery was recorded using the methodology set out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997).

Sherds deriving from pit 1 (context 52) probably belong to the same pot. Six of the examples are thick walled, coarse flint tempered base sherds, and the remainder are plain body sherds. No rim sherds survive, however the vessel probably represents a middle or middle-late Bronze Age bucket type jar form. The flint tempered pottery fabric is typically used during the middle and late Bronze Age. Parallels can be seen on other Sussex sites, for example Varley Halls (Hamilton 1997) and from Angmering itself (Roundstone Lane), (Seager Thomas 2002; Tabor 2017).

Four plain coarse flint tempered body sherds were recovered from a second pit 2 (context 53, TR. 33). In terms of fabric they would appear to be quite contemporary with the pottery from pit 1. The vessel walls are slightly thinner, which may be suggestive of a transitional middle-late Bronze Age or very early late Bronze Age date. It is possible that two vessels are represented.

This small pottery assemblage is important as an indicator of settlement or use within the Angmering area during the middle-late Bronze Age (1500-1100 BC). The pottery sherds show high levels of abrasion on all surfaces, and this could suggest possible derivation from a rubbish collection. In the event of further excavations being carried out on the site, the assemblage should be re-analysed with any additional prehistoric pottery that might be recovered.

### *Struck Flint* by Steve Ford

Just two struck flints were recovered from topsoil or subsoil contexts on the site. A broken narrow flake probably of mesolithic date came from Trench 8 and a second flake of uncertain prehistoric date came from Trench 10.

### *Burnt Flint* by Sean Wallis

Pit 1 in trench 14 was packed full of burnt flint. Over 100 fragments were recovered, weighing nearly 2kg. A smaller amount of burnt flint was recovered from pit 2 in trench 33, which contained 9 fragments, weighing 153g. None of the fragments appeared to have been worked.

## **Conclusion**

The archaeological evaluation was carried out successfully. Few deposits of archaeological interest were revealed. The field had clearly been farmed up until recently, and the numerous land drains recorded across the site probably reflect the nature of the underlying London Clay geology. Apart from the field drains and a small amount of plough scarring, there was no evidence of truncation, and the topsoil and subsoil horizons were fairly consistent across the site. Even some of the modern features shown on the Ordnance Survey appear to have left very little trace below ground. The majority of the site is considered to have no archaeological potential. However, the presence of two middle or middle-to-late Bronze Age pits in the south-west corner of the site suggests a limited amount of activity during that period. It is unclear if these deposits were part of a more substantial settlement or existed in relative isolation, which is not an uncommon event for the period in this region, and indeed a seemingly isolated group of small pits has been excavated not far to the south in Angmering itself (Wallis 2017). The restricted zone where these Bronze Age deposits lie is considered to have archaeological potential.



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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	26.60	1.85	0.40	0-0.17m topsoil (50); 0.17-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34-0.40m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 3</b>
2	24.70	1.85	0.34	0-0.16m topsoil (50); 0.16-0.28m subsoil (51); 0.28-0.34m+ natural geology (London Clay).
3	25.20	1.85	0.37	0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.34m subsoil (51); 0.34-0.37m+ natural geology (London Clay).
4	24.40	1.85	0.42	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.33m subsoil (51); 0.33-0.42m+ natural geology (London Clay).
5	25.30	1.85	0.40	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31-0.40m+ natural geology (London Clay).
6	24.60	1.85	0.38	0-0.16m topsoil (50); 0.16-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30-0.38m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 4</b>
7	24.50	1.85	0.48	0-0.16m topsoil (50); 0.16-0.41m subsoil (51); 0.41-0.48m+ natural geology (London Clay).
8	25.90	1.85	0.36	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.32m subsoil (51); 0.32-0.36m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 5</b>
9	26.70	1.85	0.32	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.27m subsoil (51); 0.27-0.32m+ natural geology (London Clay).
10	26.40	1.85	0.29	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.24m subsoil (51); 0.24-0.29m+ natural geology (London Clay).
11	25.90	1.85	0.36	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.26m subsoil (51); 0.26-0.36m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 6</b>
12	23.30	1.85	0.38	0-0.14m topsoil (50); 0.14-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31-0.38m+ natural geology (London Clay).
13	25.60	1.85	0.37	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.29m subsoil (51); 0.29-0.37m+ natural geology (London Clay).
14	23.80	1.85	0.36	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.29m subsoil (51); 0.29-0.36m+ natural geology (London Clay). Pit 1. <b>PI. 1</b>
15	25.00	1.85	0.35	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.26m subsoil (51); 0.26-0.35m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 7</b>
16	24.50	1.85	0.33	0-0.09m topsoil (50); 0.09-0.27m subsoil (51); 0.27-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay).
17	25.90	1.85	0.33	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.28m subsoil (51); 0.28-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay).
18	24.10	1.85	0.33	0-0.09m topsoil (50); 0.09-0.28m subsoil (51); 0.28-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 8</b>
19	26.00	1.85	0.33	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.24m subsoil (51); 0.24-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay).
20	25.80	1.85	0.31	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.22m subsoil (51); 0.22-0.31m+ natural geology (London Clay).
21	24.90	1.85	0.29	0-0.09m topsoil (50); 0.09-0.23m subsoil (51); 0.23-0.29m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 9</b>
22	24.90	1.85	0.31	0-0.09m topsoil (50); 0.09-0.23m subsoil (51); 0.23-0.31m+ natural geology (London Clay).
23	27.00	1.85	0.40	0-0.12m topsoil (50); 0.12-0.30m subsoil (51); 0.30-0.40m+ natural geology (London Clay).
24	23.60	1.85	0.38	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13-0.31m subsoil (51); 0.31-0.38m+ natural geology (London Clay).
25	24.30	1.85	0.33	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.26m subsoil (51); 0.26-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 10</b>
26	21.50	1.85	0.31	0-0.13m topsoil (50); 0.13-0.23m subsoil (51); 0.23-0.31m+ natural geology (London Clay).
27	25.20	1.85	0.31	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.25m subsoil (51); 0.25-0.31m+ natural geology (London Clay).
28	21.30	1.85	0.29	0-0.11m topsoil (50); 0.11-0.22m subsoil (51); 0.22-0.29m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 11</b>
29	20.40	1.85	0.33	0-0.15m topsoil (50); 0.15-0.27m subsoil (51); 0.27-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay).
30	24.40	1.85	0.32	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.26m subsoil (51); 0.26-0.32m+ natural geology (London Clay). <b>PI. 12</b>
31	22.10	1.85	0.29	0-0.10m topsoil (50); 0.10-0.24m subsoil (51); 0.24-0.29m+ natural geology (London Clay).
32	11.20	1.85	0.34	0-0.19m topsoil (50); 0.19-0.27m subsoil (51); 0.27-0.34m+ natural geology (London Clay).
33	12.20	1.85	0.33	0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.29m subsoil (51); 0.29-0.33m+ natural geology (London Clay). Pit 2. <b>PI. 2</b>

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence / comments
14	1	52	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery
33	2	53	Pit	Middle Bronze Age	Pottery



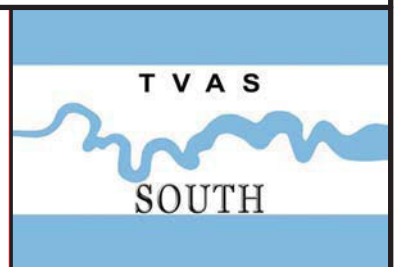


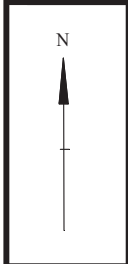
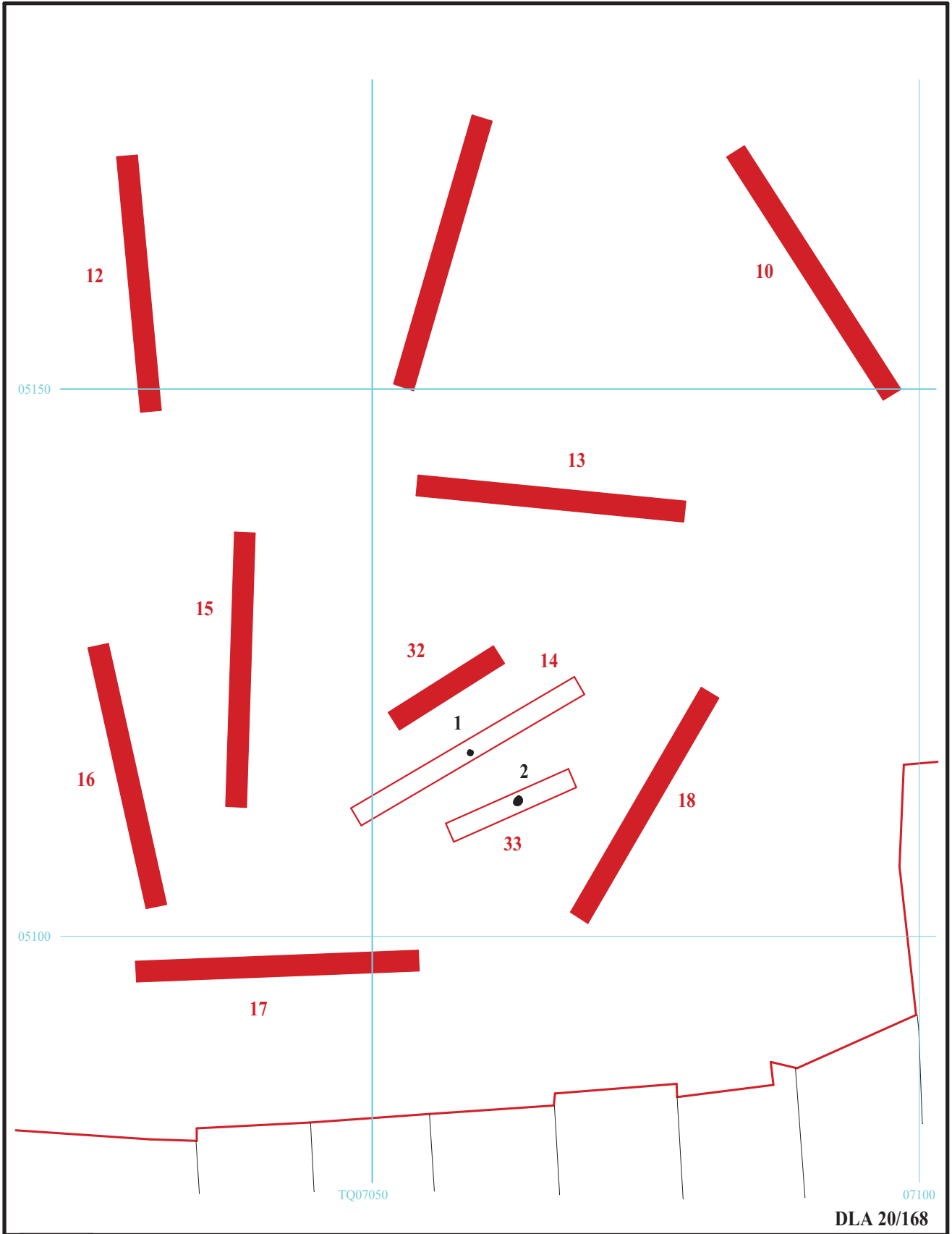


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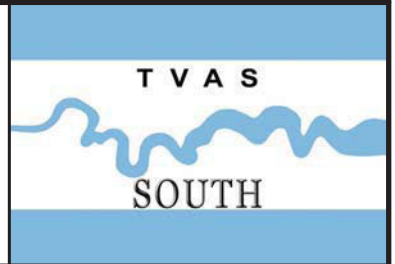
Figure 2. Detailed location of site showing evaluation trenches.



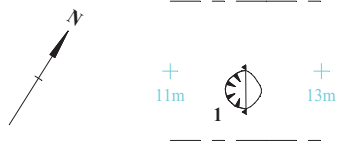


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Archaeological Evaluation**

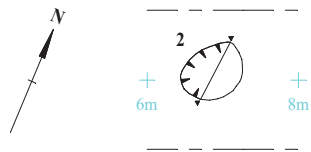
Figure 3. South-west corner of site, showing evaluation trenches and archaeological features.



Trench 14



Trench 33

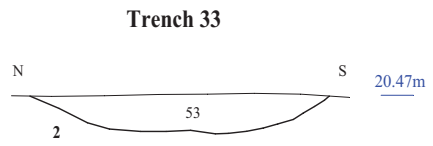
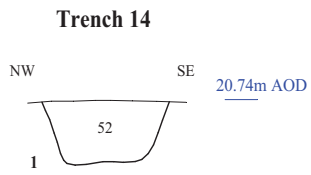


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Figure 4. Plan of trenches 14 and 33.

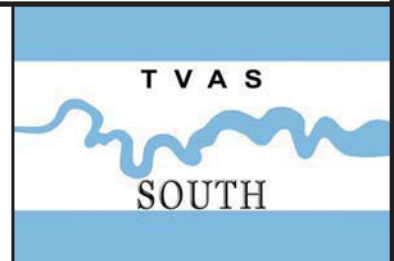




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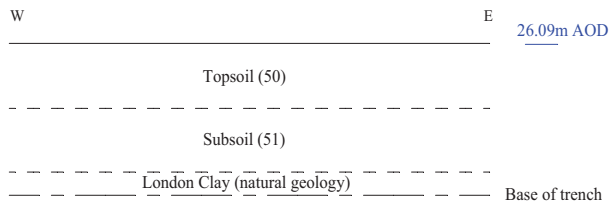
**Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane, Angmering,  
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Figure 5. Sections.

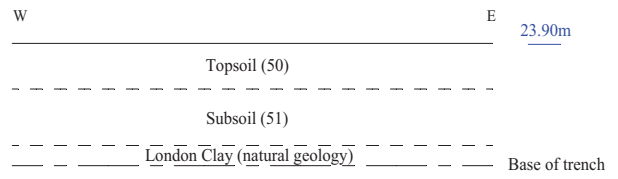




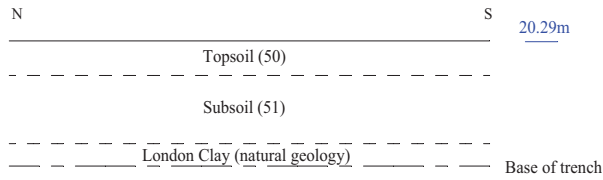
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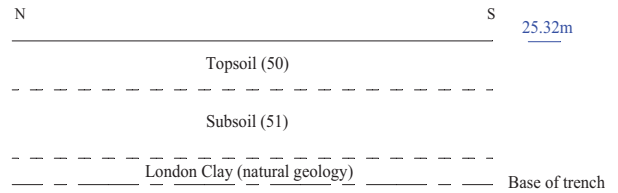
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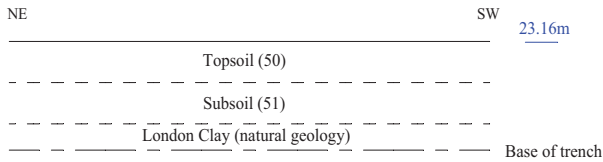
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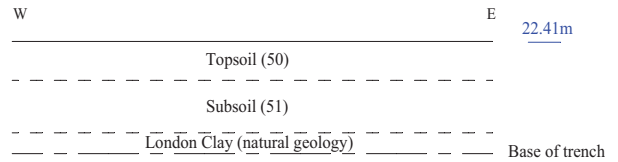
**Trench 24**



**Trench 28**



**Trench 31**



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Figure 6. Representative sections.

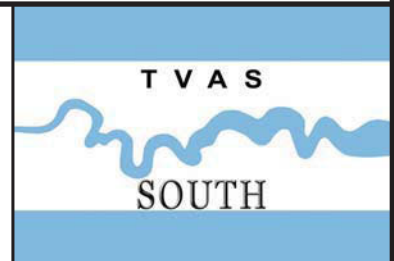




Plate 1. Trench 14, pit 1, looking North-east.  
Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 2. Trench 33, pit 2, looking East.  
Scale: 0.30m.



Plate 3. Trench 1, looking East.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 4. Trench 6, looking South-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 5. Trench 8, looking South-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 6. Trench 11, looking South.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.

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Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane, Angmering,  
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Plates 1 to 6.

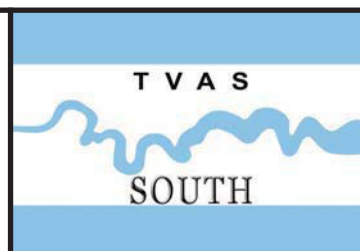






Plate 7. Trench 15, looking North-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 8. Trench 18, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 9. Trench 21, looking South-east.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 10. Trench 25, looking South-West.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



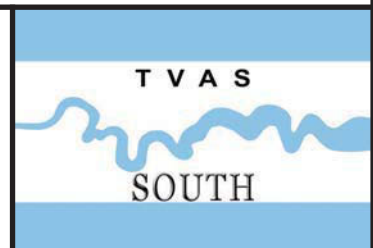
Plate 11. Trench 28, looking South-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.



Plate 12. Trench 30, looking North-west.  
Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.30m.

DLA 20/168

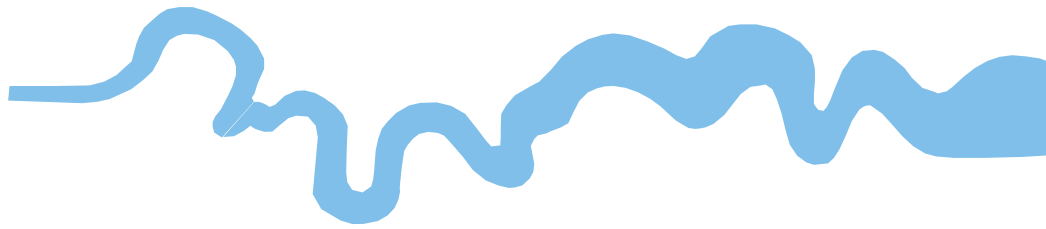
**Land adjacent to Dapper's Lane, Angmering,  
West Sussex, 2021  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 7 to 12.**



## 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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***Offices in:  
Reading, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wellingborough  
and Ennis (Ireland)***