

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S

**15 Charvil House Road, Charvil,
Twyford, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Colley

Site Code: CRW11/01

(SU 7730 7614)

**15 Charvil House Road, Charvil,
Twyford, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Quadrant Design**

by Susan Colley
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code CRW11/01

January 2011

Summary

Site name: 15 Charvil House Road, Charvil, Twyford, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7730 7614

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 31st January 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Colley

Site code: CRW 11/01

Area of site: c. 700 sq m

Summary of results: Three trenches were dug to the rear of the current existing house. No archaeological deposits nor finds were uncovered and the site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local Museum in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.02.11 Steve Preston ✓ 01.02.11 |
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15 Charvil House Road, Charvil, Twyford, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Colley

Report 11/01

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 15 Charvil House Road, Charvil, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 7730 7614) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Hindmarsh of Quadrant Design, 3 London Court, East Street, Reading, RG1 4Q.

Planning permission (Appl. No. F/2008/1728) has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the erection of a bungalow with driveway and demolition of an existing garage on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires an evaluation as part of a phased programme of works to mitigate the impact of development on any surviving archaeological remains.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeological Officer of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on archaeological matters, and was monitored by her. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Colley and Andrew Muddin on 31st January 2011 and the site code is CRW11/01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Charvil House Road, Charvil, to the rear of the existing number 15 house. The village of Charvil itself lies to the north-east of Sonning within the archaeologically significant area of the Thames Valley (Fig. 1). The site is currently used as a back garden to the existing house with a number of trees and a disused greenhouse present (Figs 2 and 3). The underlying geology is recorded to be valley gravel (BGS 1946) and this was observed on site as a sandy clay with gravel inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in the Thames Valley, where previous work has revealed a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological activity (Ford 1987). To the south-east of the site evaluation and excavation have revealed archaeological finds such as Palaeolithic flintwork, and Neolithic pottery, alongside deposits covering a range of dates represented by a Middle Bronze age ditch, Late Bronze Age occupation and a Roman gully (Lovell and Mephram 2003). Fieldwalking to the north of Charvil found indications of prehistoric occupation in the form of dense clusters of struck flint (Ford 1997), while to the north-west is a Neolithic ceremonial complex comprising levelled burial mounds of both round and oval plan, a mortuary enclosure and *cursus* monument, with other undated cropmarks visible from the air (Slade 1964; Gates 1975). A watching brief in the north of Charvil, on Milestone Avenue, however, uncovered no archaeological deposits (Taylor 2003). Trenching and follow-up work on a site to the south at Old Bath Road revealed three linear features of unknown date (Mundin and Weale 2008; 2009).

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 aims of the evaluation were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if any archaeological deposits from any period are present; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

The proposed methodology was to dig three trenches, each 10m long and 1.6m wide to target the new building footprint and proposed access road, thus covering the areas most likely to be affected by the development. Trench location was to be subject to adjustment if services were encountered in the area. Topsoil and overburden were stripped by a JCB-type machine with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, and spoil heaps were monitored for finds. Any possible archaeological deposits were to be cleaned and excavated using hand tools. Archaeologically significant deposits were to be excavated and sampled to satisfy the aims of the project, without compromising the integrity of any features that might warrant preservation *in situ* or might be better investigated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. All finds and artefacts were to be retained.

Results

All three trenches were dug in the locations intended but were slightly shortened due to restrictions on access (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 9.0m to 9.50m and in depth from 0.45m to 0.55m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 1 was aligned SW–NE and was 9.40m long and 0.55m deep. The stratigraphy comprised topsoil which was a very dark brown, sandy silt, 0.15m in depth which overlay 0.4m of subsoil which was a mid red-brown sandy clay above the natural geology which was red-orange sandy clay with small gravel inclusions. At 3.5m from the west end of the trench was a modern feature from which plastic was recovered, and at 7m was an area of root disturbance. Modern red mass-produced pottery found in the rooty deposit was retained on site. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned north-south and was 9.0m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy observed was the same as in Trench 1, with the minor variation that the topsoil was 0.20m deep. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 3 (Pl.2)

Trench 3 was aligned SW–NE, was 9.50m long and 0.45m deep. The stratigraphy observed was identical to Trench 2. At 7m from the west end of the trench was an area of root disturbance. A 1m deep test pit was dug at the west end of the trench to confirm that the sandy clay with gravel was the natural geology. No archaeological finds or features were present.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from this site, modern pottery was found in an area of root disturbance but this was retained on site.

Conclusion

The evaluation trenching of the site was carried out as intended. However, neither archaeological deposits nor finds were revealed and on the basis of these results the site has no archaeological potential.

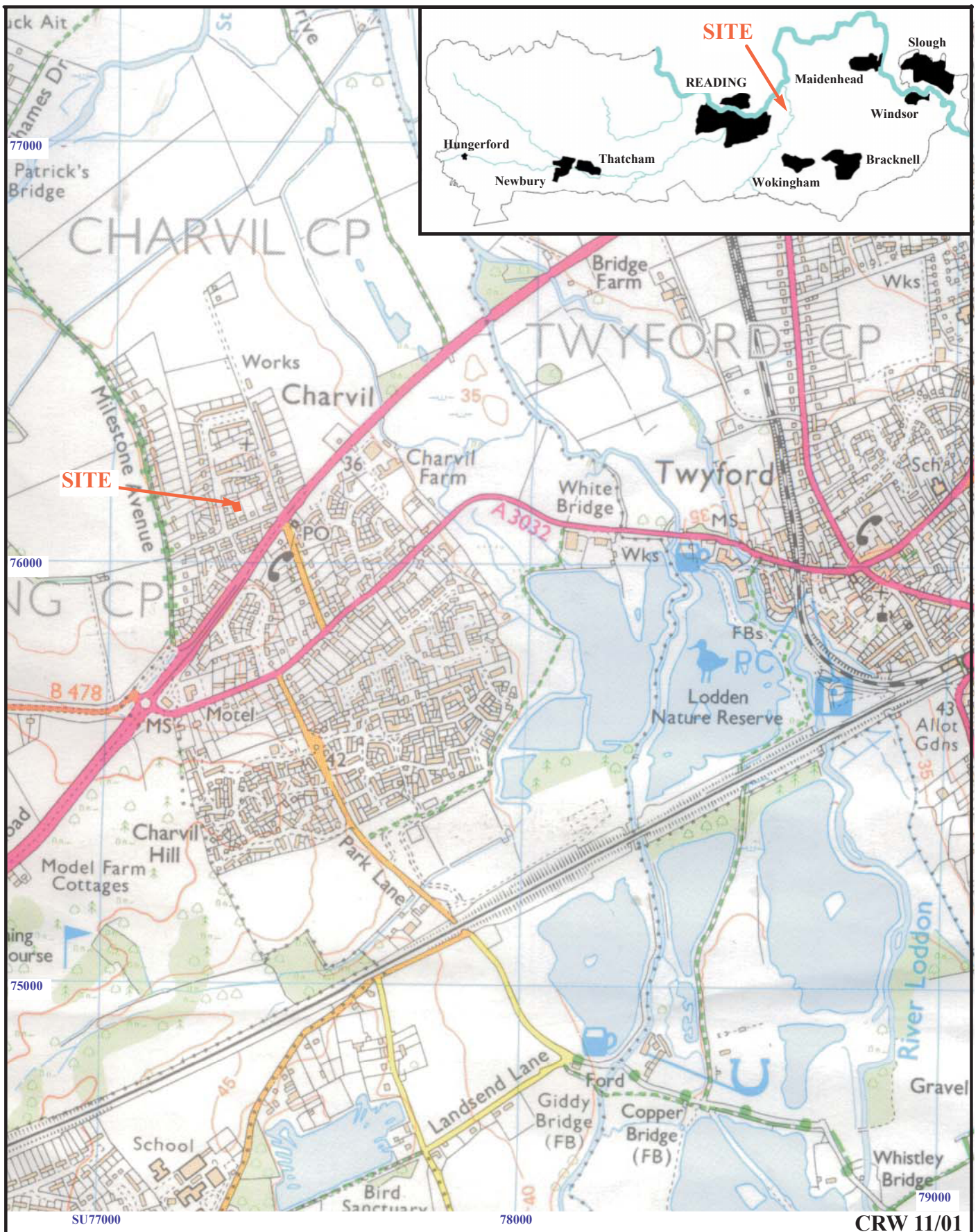
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at west or south end

| <i>Trench</i> | <i>Length (m)</i> | <i>Breadth (m)</i> | <i>Depth (m)</i> | <i>Comment</i> |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | 9.40 | 1.60 | 0.55 | 0–0.15m very dark brown, silty sand topsoil (50); 0.15–0.55m mid red-brown sandy-clay subsoil (51); 0.55m+ natural geology. [PI. 1] |
| 2 | 9.00 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0–0.20m very dark brown, silty sand topsoil (50); 0.20–0.50m mid red-brown sandy clay subsoil (51); 0.50m+ natural geology. |
| 3 | 9.50 | 1.60 | 0.45 | 0–0.20m very dark brown, silty sand topsoil (50); 0.20–0.45m mid red-brown sandy clay subsoil (51); 0.45m+ natural geology. [PI. 2] |



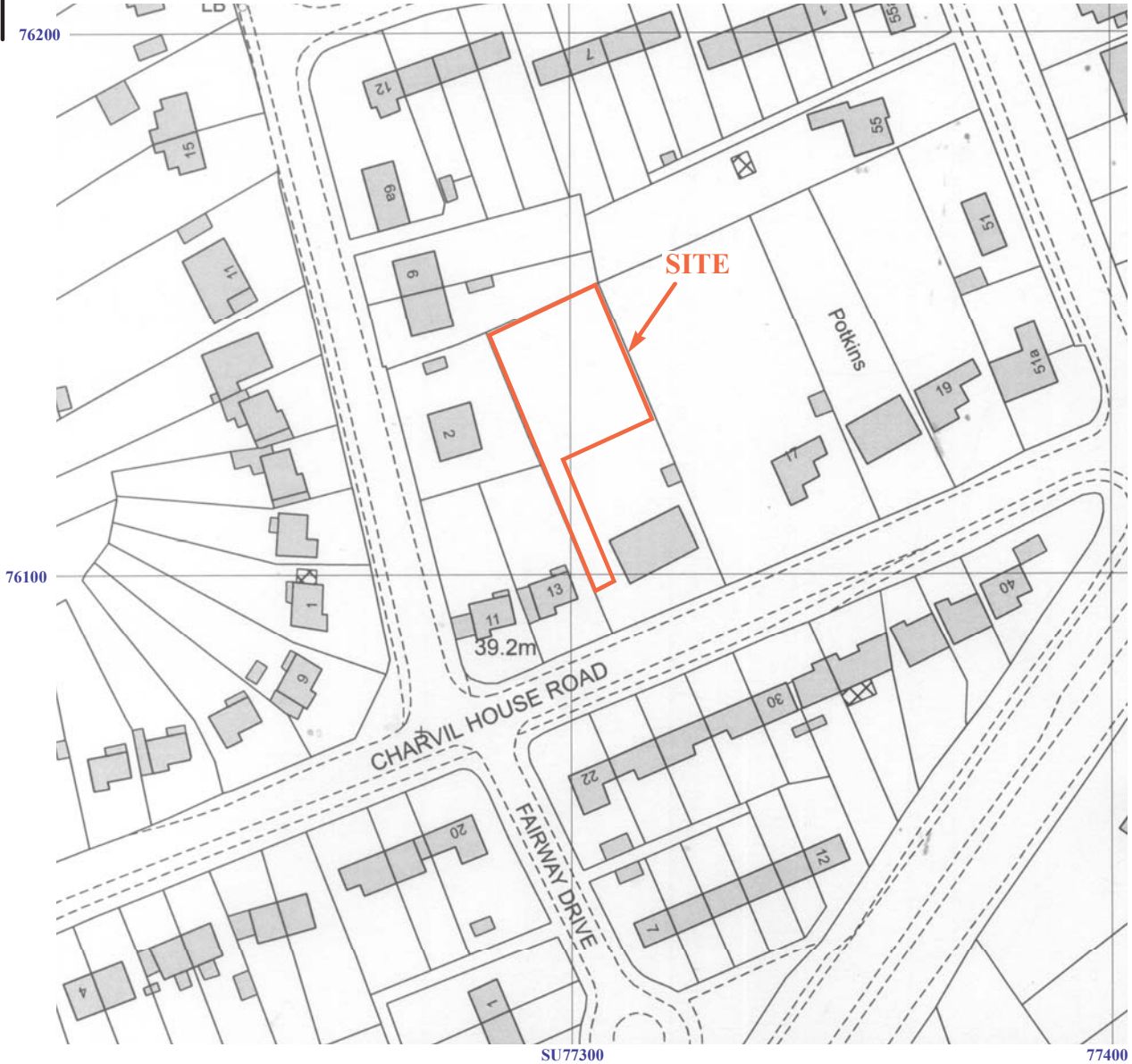
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Figure 1. Location of site within Charvil and Berkshire.

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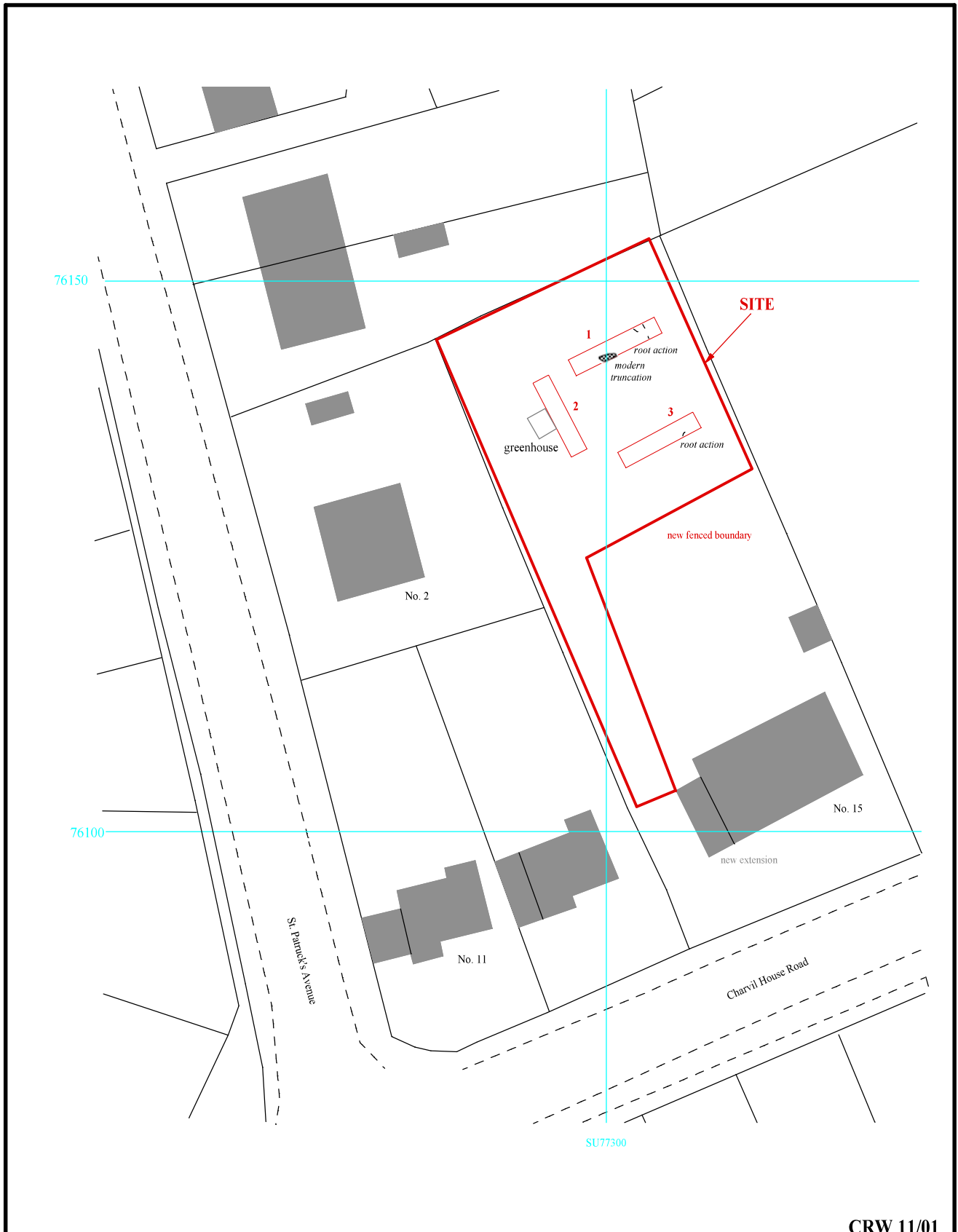
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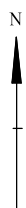
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Charvil House Road.

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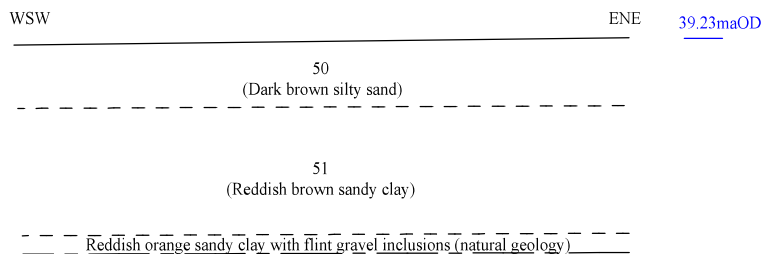
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking south west. scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 3, looking south west, scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.

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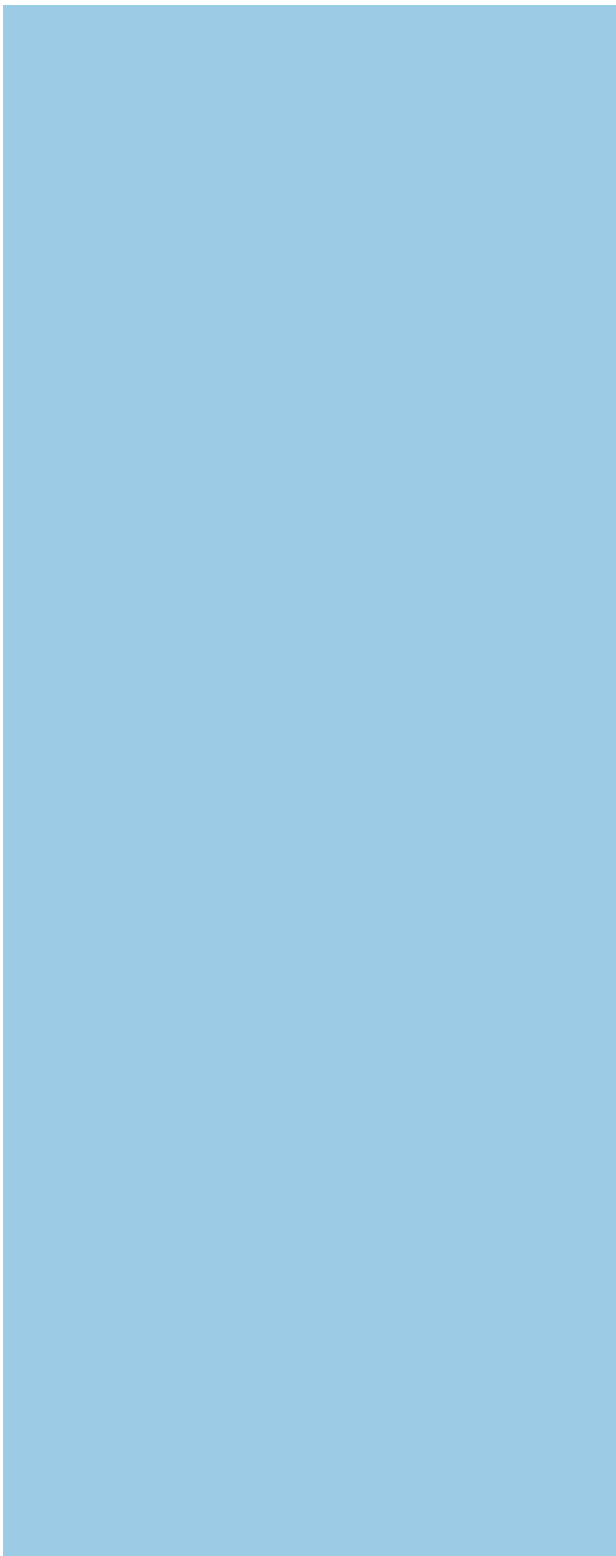
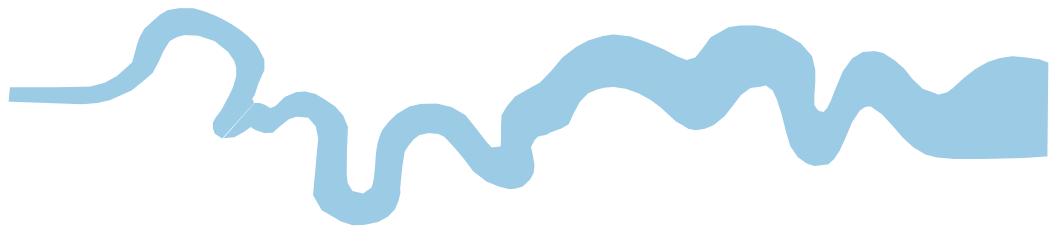
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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 |
| Iron Age _____ | BC/AD 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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