

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Westhill Farm, Chick's Lane,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological watching brief**

**by Andrew Muddin**

**Site Code: WCD 11/13**

**(SU 2280 5383)**

**Westhill Farm, Chick's Lane,  
Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Stuart Crook**

by AndrewMundin  
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices  
Ltd

SiteCodeWCD11/13

**February 2011**

## Summary

**Site name:** Westhill Farm, Chick's Lane, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 2280 5383

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 3rd February 2011

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Munding

**Site code:** WCD 11/13

**Area of site:** c. 470 sq m

**Summary of results:** No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 21.02.11 Steve Preston✓ 17.02.11
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# Westhill Farm, Chick's Lane, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 11/13

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Westhill Farm, Chick's Lane, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire, part of what was known as Oldlands Piggery (SU 2280 5383) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Fowler, of Michael Fowler Architecture and Planning Ltd, 19 High Street, Pewsey, SN9 5AF, on behalf of their client, Mr Stuart Crook, Middlecot House, Quarley, Andover, Hants SP11 9PS.

Planning consent (E/09/0954/FUL) had been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct a new agricultural dwelling and associated garage, following the demolition of the existing pigs sheds and other auxiliary buildings. The consent is subject to condition (11) relating to archaeology which requires an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during ground works.

This is in accordance with the Department of Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The specification for the work was agreed by Mr David Vaughan also of Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. The site work was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 3rd February 2011. The site code is WCD 11/13.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Devizes Museum in due course.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the site of the former Oldlands Piggery which is c.1.5km west of Collingbourne Ducis (Fig. 1). The current site has had the pig sheds demolished and the concrete slab these stood on broken up. Any remaining foundations have been dug out and the site levelled. The remaining farm, situated on the northern side of Chick Lane, consists of other standing farm buildings such as sheds and silos which are to be retained (Figs 2 and 3).

The underlying geology is on Upper Chalk (BGS 1959), on the north-eastern edge of Salisbury Plain. The site lies in a dip or dry valley with a brown silty clay observed overlying the chalk. The site lies at an elevation of 135m above Ordnance Datum with the land to both north-east and south-west rising steeply to around 170m.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential for the site was highlighted by a briefing letter from the former Assistant County Archaeologist, Vanessa Clarke. This highlighted that the site was located in a landscape of multi-period archaeological sites, which include a ploughed out burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age date, to the east (Fig. 2) and undated field-systems, seen as cropmarks, to the north.

The village itself is archaeologically noteworthy, though located at some distance from the proposal site. Fieldwork at Cadley Road uncovered Early-Middle Saxon settlement evidence in the form of sunken-feature buildings (Pine 2001). A Saxon cemetery to the north of this was excavated in 1974 (Gingell 1978). Documentary records indicate that a settlement existed at Collingbourne Ducis from at least AD 903.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the ground works. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive ground works, in particular the digging of new foundation trenches. Ground reduction associated with the digging out of the old foundations had already been carried out before archaeological involvement in the development.

## **Results**

Prior to any archaeological observations at the site, the new foundation bases for the house had been dug and concreted (Fig. 3). Most of the top portions of the foundation trench sections were, however, available to view. These generally showed that natural chalk was visible at the tops of the sections on the western portions of the new trenches, showing that natural geology was already exposed at the base of the levelling before foundation trenches had been dug. Any archaeological deposits, if present here, would therefore already have been lost during the levelling for the previous concrete slab prior to the current development.

### *House foundations*

Most footing trenches for the new house were 0.7m wide, and were dug to a depth of at least 0.51m (Fig. 4, Pl. 2). The maximum depth of section could not be ascertained as the bases had been filled but these were well into the chalk. In the eastern end of the new house footing, in places, a brown silty clay, probably a natural deposit reached a depth of 0.3m before chalk was exposed. No archaeological finds or features were noted in the section.

A small L-shaped service trench was inspected to the immediate south of the new house foundation. This had exposed chalk at the base of trenching, and again no archaeological finds or features were noted in section. A chalky mixed soil with brown silty clay was present above the chalk here to a depth of 0.3m. This seems not to be an original horizon, but part of ground disturbance that has happened relatively recently, probably as part of the ground levelling during the construction of the previous barns.

### *Garage foundations*

In the garage area, the foundations had been dug but not concreted and were available for inspection. Here, no chalk had been exposed either in sections or in the base of the trenches. Again, a sterile brown silty clay was observed (above which a previous concrete slab had lain. These footing trenches were wider (1.5m) and deeper (0.74m) than the house footing trenches. A service trench was also viewed, which linked the south extent of the garage to the northern house footing. The pipe had been laid but most of the sections were available to be viewed. This trench also contained similar stratigraphy to the house and garage sections.

### *Other ground reduction (associated with the demolition of the barn)*

The concrete slab for the former barn had been removed and most of this area was available to be inspected (Pl. 1). This showed that the higher ground to the west had been cut into to form a level terrace, exposing chalk to the west. An area of brown silty clay was visible to the north-west, presumably less truncated, but no finds of archaeological interest were gathered during a walk-over survey of this ground.

## **Finds**

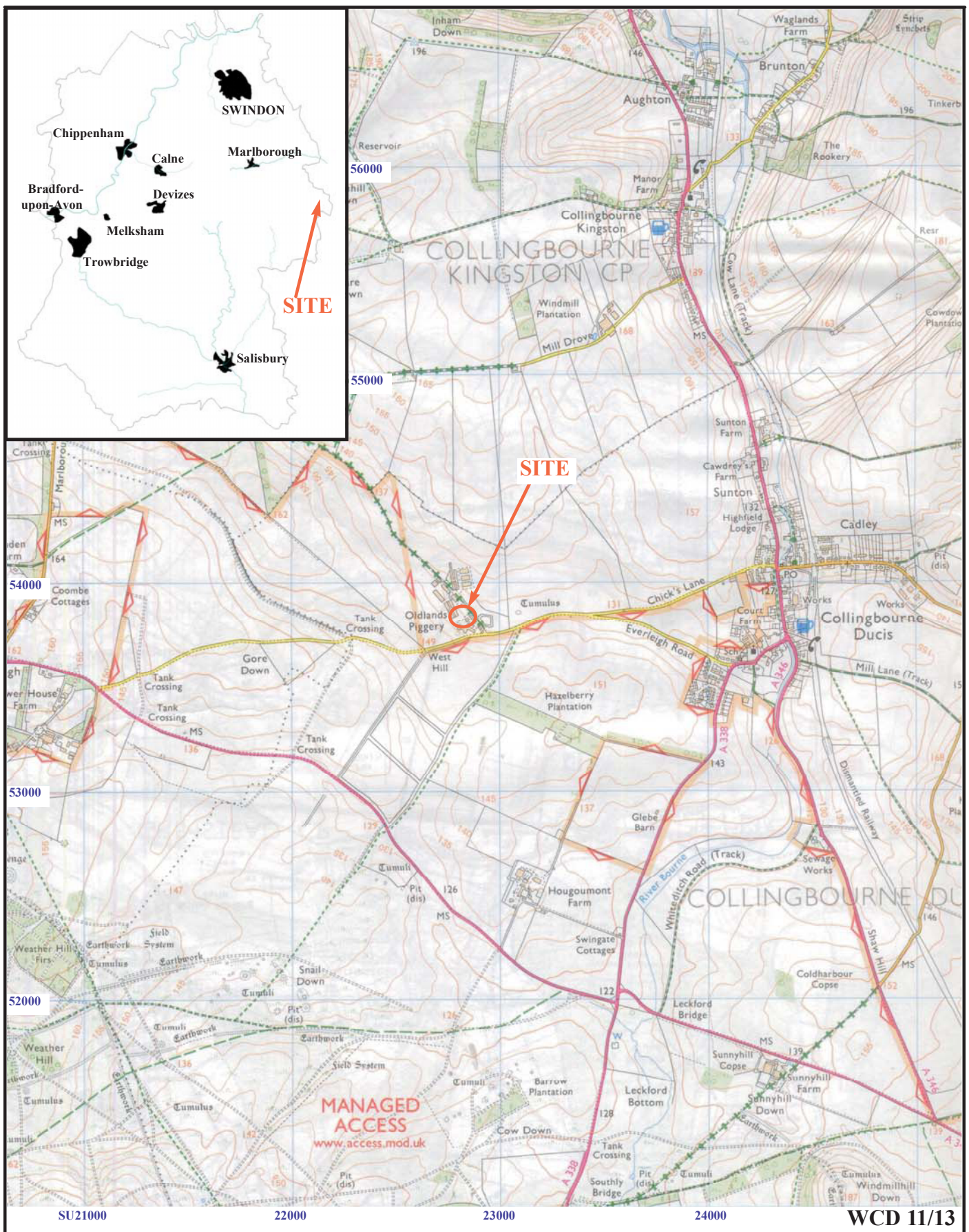
No finds of archaeological nature were recovered during the ground works.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits were encountered in the new ground works, although the viewing of sections was restricted due the progress of the foundation construction. There was evidence, however, to show that the site had already been affected by levelling for the previous structures on the site. This had truncated the slight slope to the west of the site, and had been filled to gain a levelled surface to the east. It, therefore, seems that the site had no archaeological potential, due to its disturbance from the previous construction of the barn.

## References

- BGS, 1959, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63 360, Sheet 282, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gingell, C J, 1978, 'The Excavation of an early Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Collingbourne Ducis', Wiltshire Archaeol Natur Hist Mag **70/71**, 61–98
- Pine, 2001, 'The excavation of a Saxon Settlement at Cadley Road, Collingbourne Ducis, Wiltshire', Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine, **94**, 88–117
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, DoE Planning Policy Guidance note 16, (HMSO).



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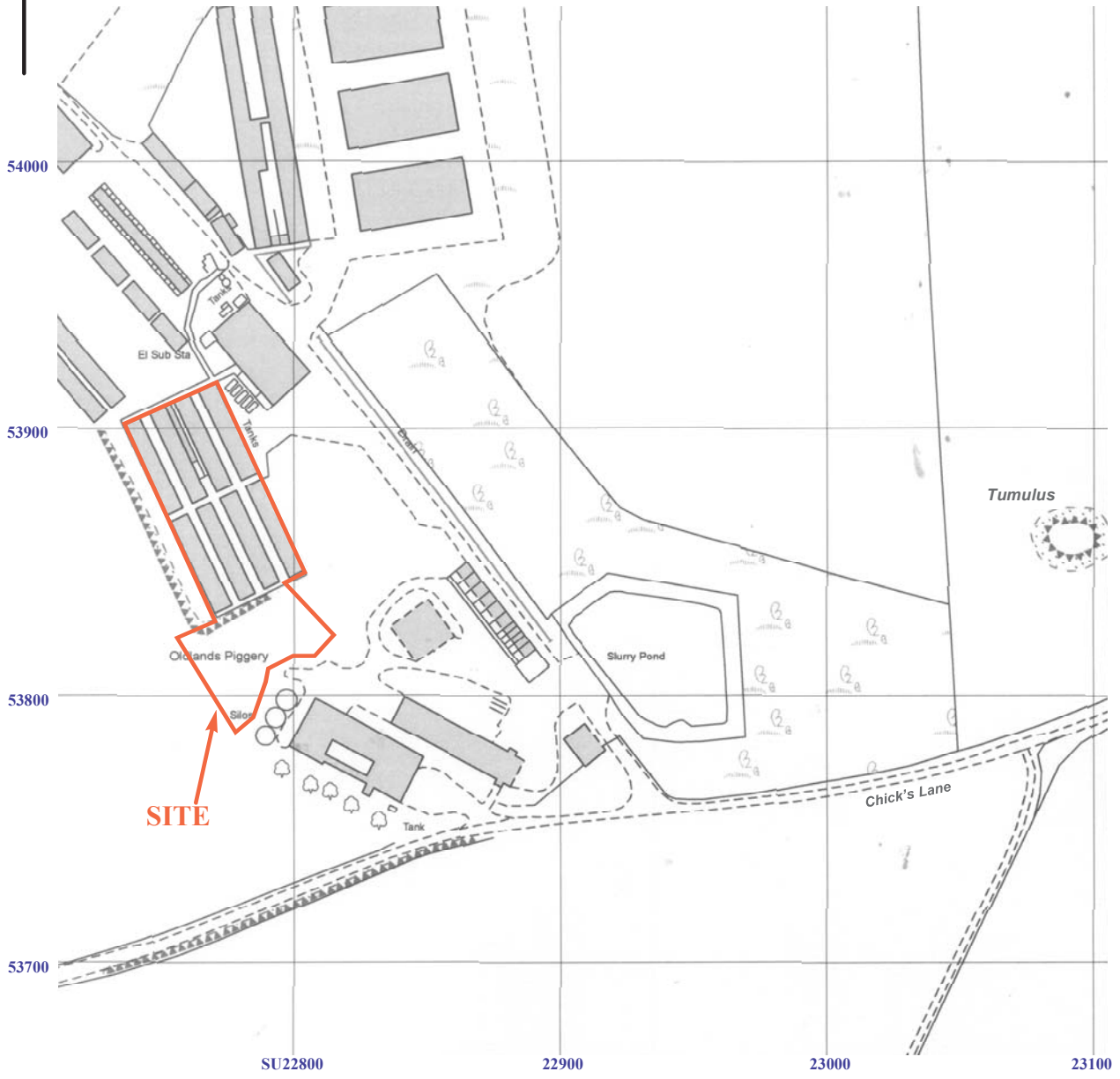
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Collingbourne Ducis  
and within Wiltshire.

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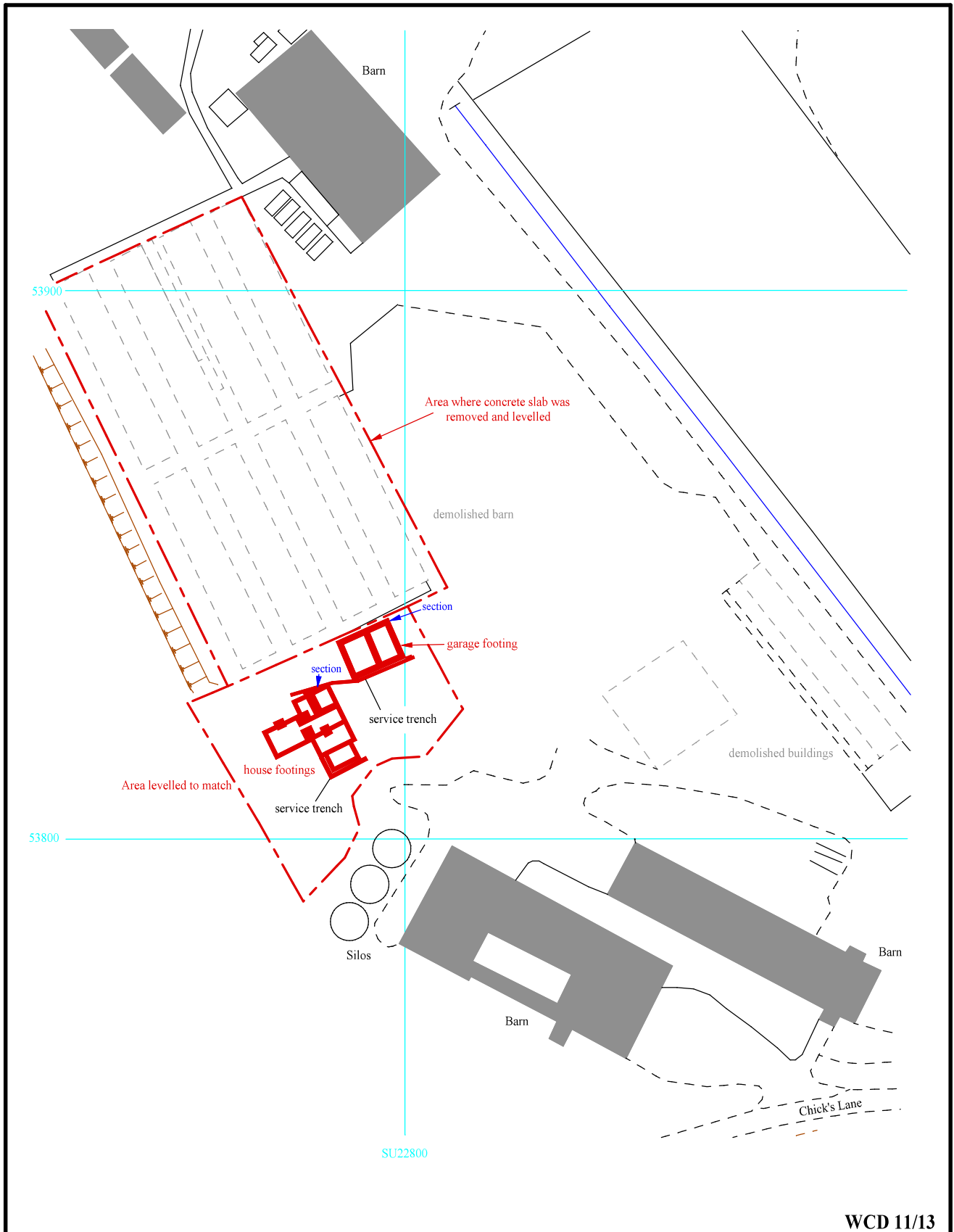
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Chick Lane.

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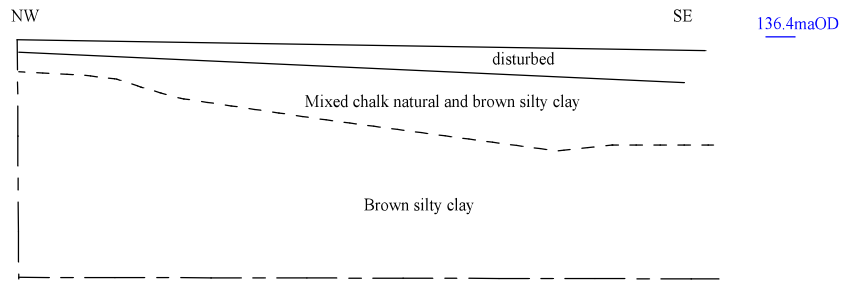
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Figure 3. Location of area observed during watching brief.

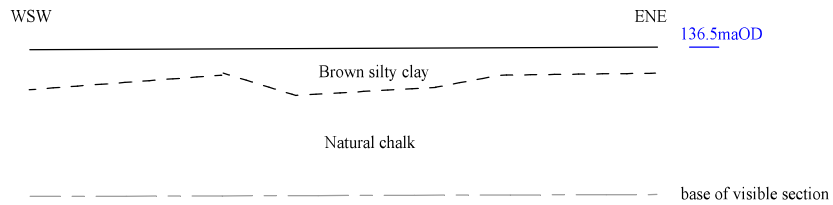


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### Garage section



### House section



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Levelled area of barn, looking north.



Plate 2. General view over top of house footings, looking north.

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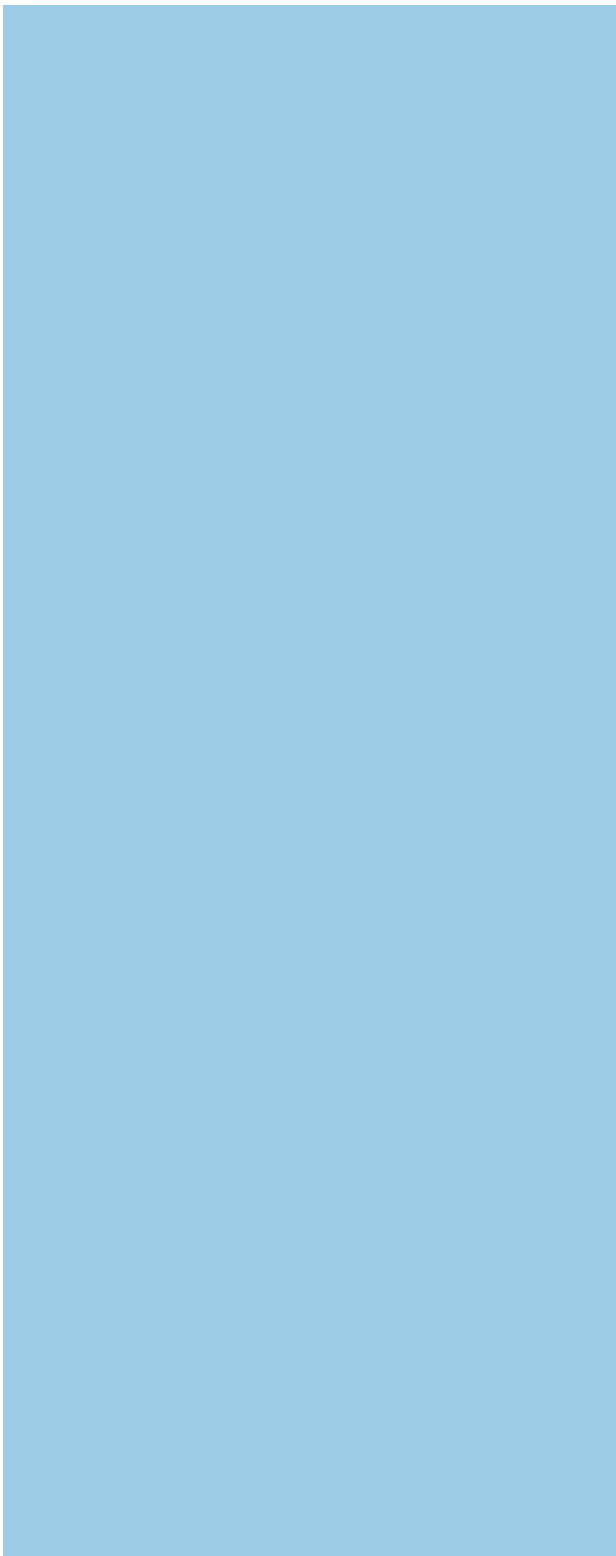
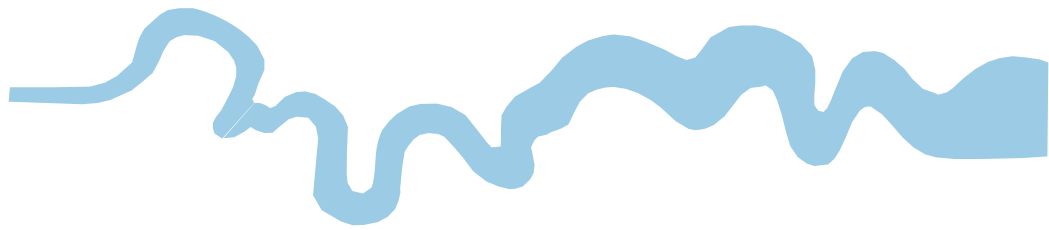
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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