

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Extension at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Maisie Foster and Camilla Carvalho

Site Code: ORC23/162

(SU 2465 3406)

Extension at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Mrs C. Sage**

by Maisie Foster and Camilla Carvalho
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ORC 23/162

August 2026

Summary

Site name: Extension at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 2465 3406

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 16th July 2025

Project coordinator: David Sanchez

Site supervisor: Camilla Carvalho

Site code: ORC23/162

Summary of results: Archaeological observations were made during ground reduction for the construction of a new extension. No archaeological features were recorded nor finds recovered from the area.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 10.08.26 Steve Preston✓ 10.08.26
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Extension at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

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Report 23/162

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 2465 3406) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scot Masker of Masker Architects, Suite 13-14, Talbot House, 34 Staple Gardens, Winchester, SO23 8SR, on behalf of Mrs C. Sage of 17 Chevening Road, London, NW6 6DB.

Planning permission (PL/2023/02063) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to construct a new extension at Roche Old Court. The consent is subject to a condition (3) which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and Wiltshire Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Camilla Cavalho on 16th July 2025; the site code is ORC23/162.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located east of Salisbury, within the hamlet of East Winterslow, c.1km north of Middle Winterslow which is located on the Clarendon Way and the projected course of a Roman road, leading east from Sarum to Winchester (Fig. 1). A nearby local road links with the A30, c.1km to the north. Roche Old Court comprises a complex of former farm buildings, with Roche Old Court farmhouse the principal building in this group (listed Grade II*; UID 1300012). It is 17th century in date, but the grouping also includes three detached buildings (Fig. 2). The timber and weatherboarded Tithe barn was formerly Grade II* Listed, but now in a state of disrepair as is the Cart Shed and Stables (Grade II; UID 1184710). The former farm manager's house, located to the south-east of the group had recently been demolished and replaced. The bedrock geology is a superficial deposit of silty sandy gravel over Culver Chalk Formation (BGS, 2002). The site lies on a plateau at c.148m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and the land beyond the site drops away sharply to the south-east and north-west.

Archaeological background

Roche Old Court is located in the environs of the North Wessex Downs, with Winterbourne Down and Easton Down to north of the A30. Extensive archaeological earthwork remains are known, such as an Iron Age camp earthwork at Ashley's Copse in the north east.

The former farmstead itself is of late 17th century date, said to be of unusually high status, with the farmhouse extended in the 18th and 19th centuries. Apart from the principal building, most of the other parts are now in a poor state of repair. The former farm manager's house was a building of 1942, now demolished was the location of an earlier watching brief on the site (Gibson 2022) which revealed nothing of any archaeological interest. In the 19th century, the site was known as Eyston Farm, and the farmhouse was the principal farm in the estate attached to Roche Court, of which this property is located to the east. It was thought this building was the site of the former manor, known as Easton Farm according to the estate map of Roche Court in 1820 though, according to the Listing, was said to have once been at Hill Farm.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. Any other deeply invasive groundworks would also be monitored as necessary.

Results

Ground reduction and Foundation Trenches (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

An area measuring 11.60m by 8.10m was initially reduced by between 0.30m and 0.41m in the southern corner. The south-western area was reduced down onto a made ground whilst the north-eastern side went straight onto a light-yellow brown silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions. At 1.40m from the north-eastern edge and 3.30m from the south-eastern edge a rubbish pit measuring 2.20m in length and 1.40m in width was revealed. It had been cut through the topsoil and was filled with post-medieval brick/tile and 'china' pottery.

Following the ground reduction four foundation trenches were excavated abutting the original house foundations. In plan they formed an E shape, with Foundation Trench A forming the top of the E.

Trench A was on a SW-NE alignment measuring 2.10m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.85m in depth.

Trench B was excavated 2.10m to the SE of Trench A, also on a SW-NE alignment, measuring 2.10m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.85m in depth.

Trench C was located a further 3.20m to the SE of Trench B. It was also, like Trenches A and B, on a SW-NE alignment measuring 2.10m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.85m in depth. The trenches revealed 0.25m of made ground overlying 0.60m of subsoil.

Trench D formed the back of the E, connecting the north ends of Trenches A-C. It was on a NW-SE alignment and measured 7.40m in length, 0.70m in width and 0.85m in depth.

Whilst excavating foundation trenches A and B, the remains of a possible cellar was uncovered. It extended for 2.25m on a SW-NE alignment along the trenches from the house, and 2.10m between the two trenches. The wall was 0.30m foundation and survived to a maximum of 6 courses depth, constructed of unfrogged bricks of relatively slim dimensions, not very well-mortared, suggestive of a broadly post-medieval date (Pl. 3), perhaps more likely the 18th or early 19th century than earlier.

Finds

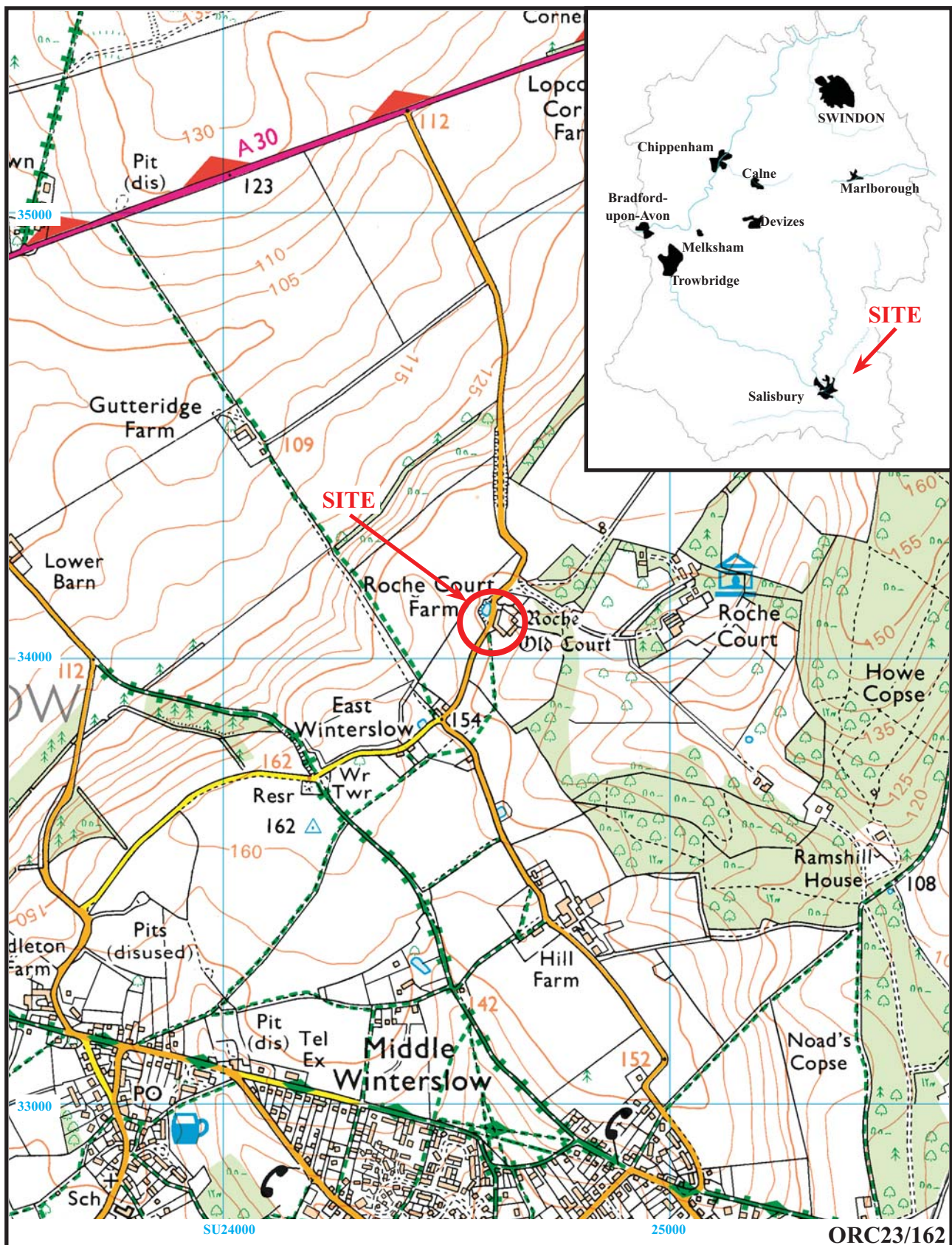
All finds encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest. They were retained on site.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 2002, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet **299**, Keyworth
- Gibson, E, 2023, 'Land at Roche Old Court, East Winterslow, Salisbury, Wiltshire: An archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **22/177**, Reading
- NPPF 2024, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government London



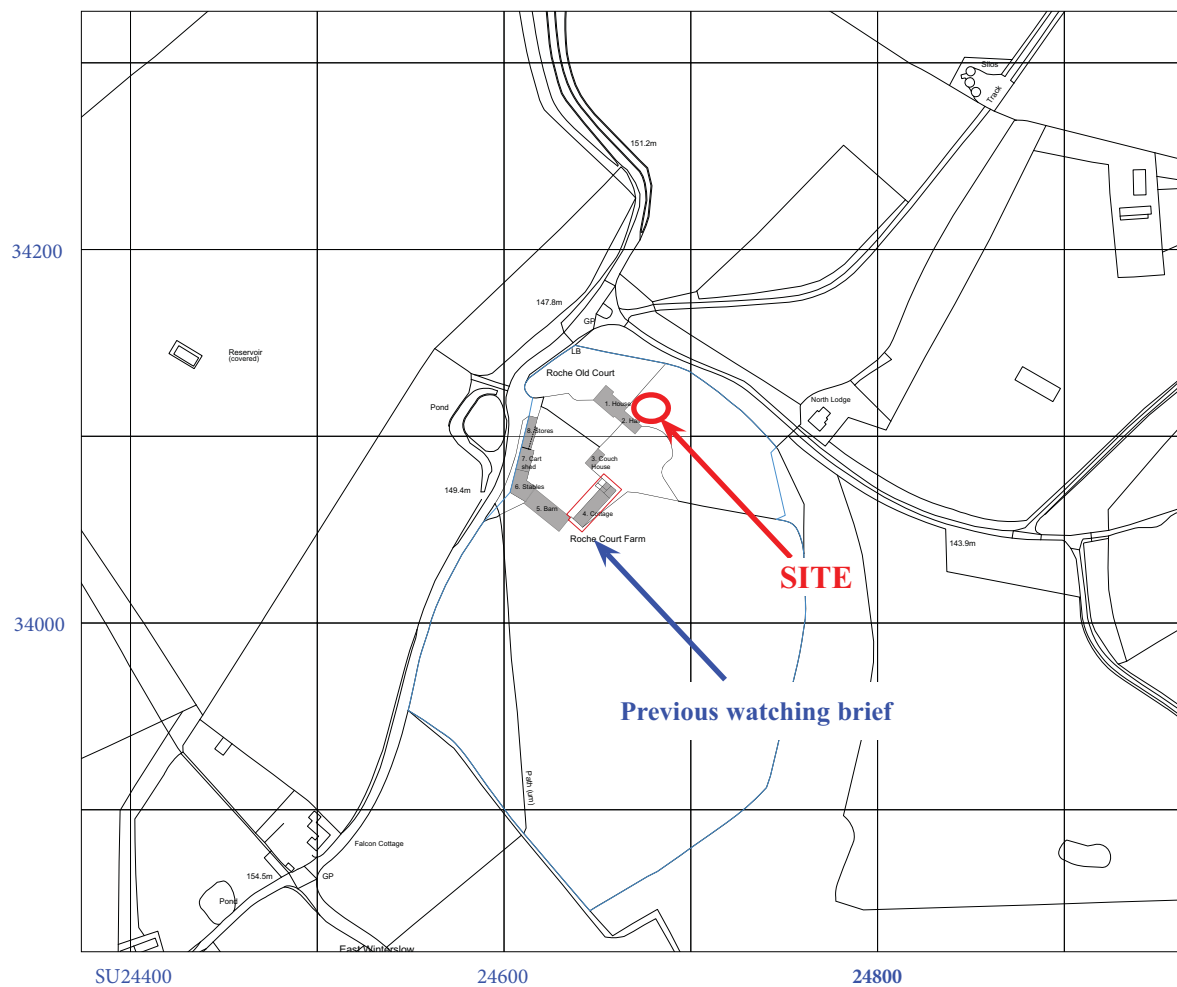
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Figure 1. Location of site within East Winterslow and
Wiltshire.

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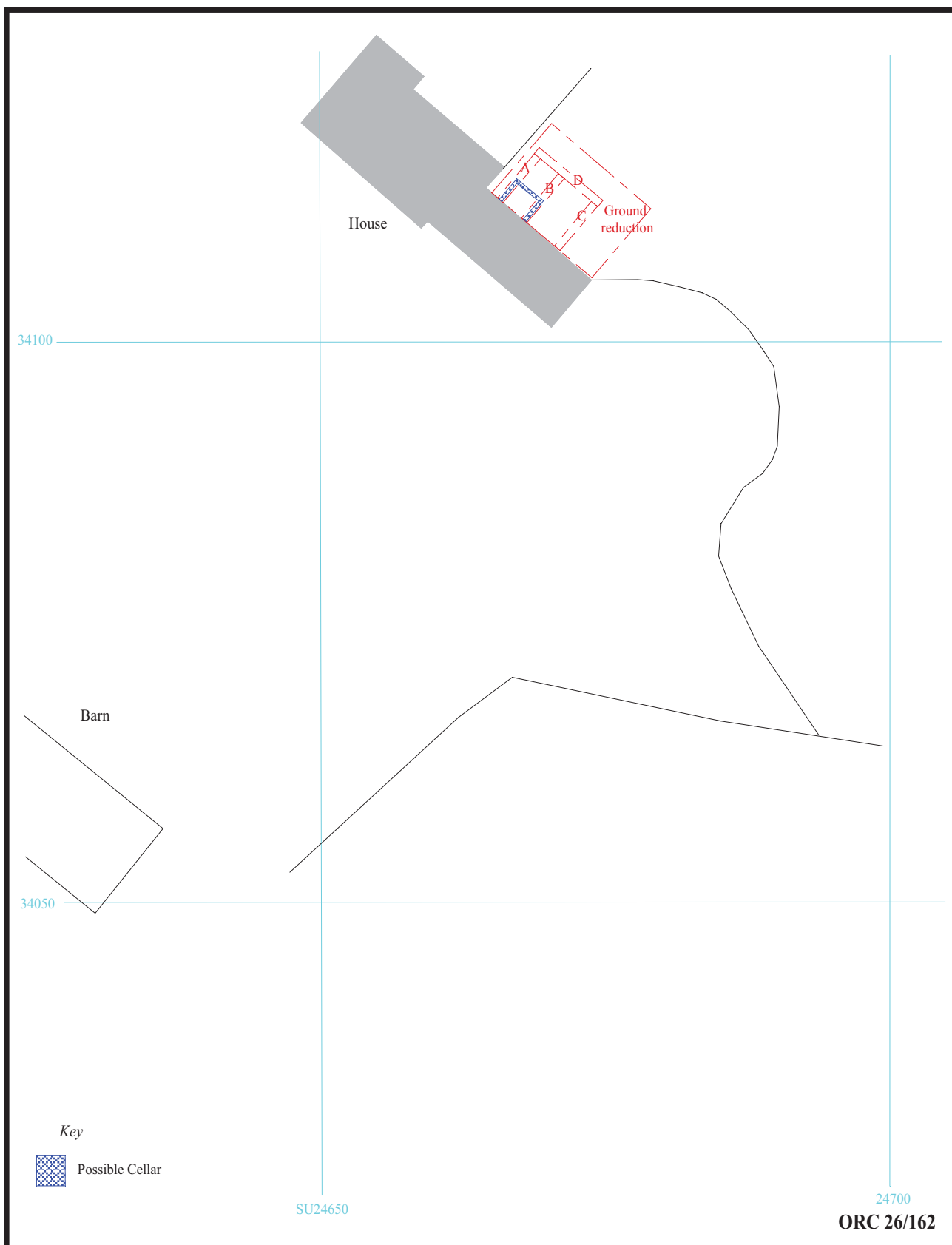
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Figure 2. Location of site at Roche Court Farm, showing
location of previous work (Gibson 2022).

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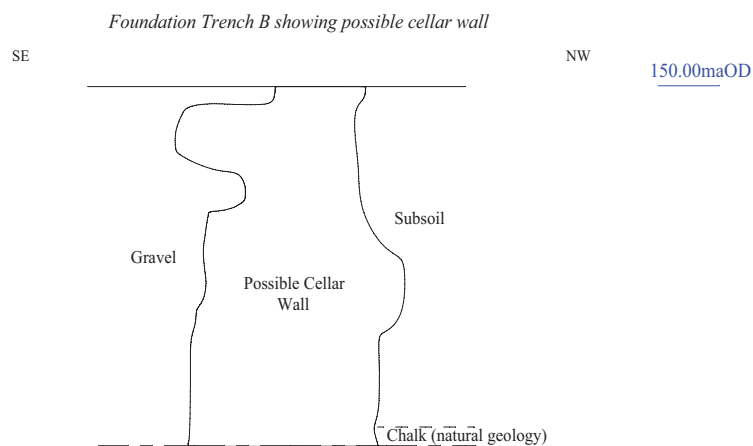
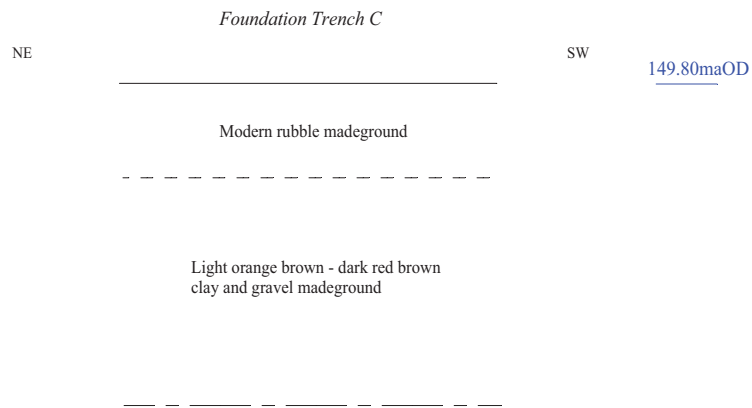


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Figure 3. Plan showing locations of Ground Reduction and Foundation Trenches

0 25m

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Figure 4. Representative Sections



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Plate 1. Ground reduction area looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Ground reduction area looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Section of Trench B showing old brick foundation, looking north-west,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Section of Trench C looking south-east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 3 and 4.

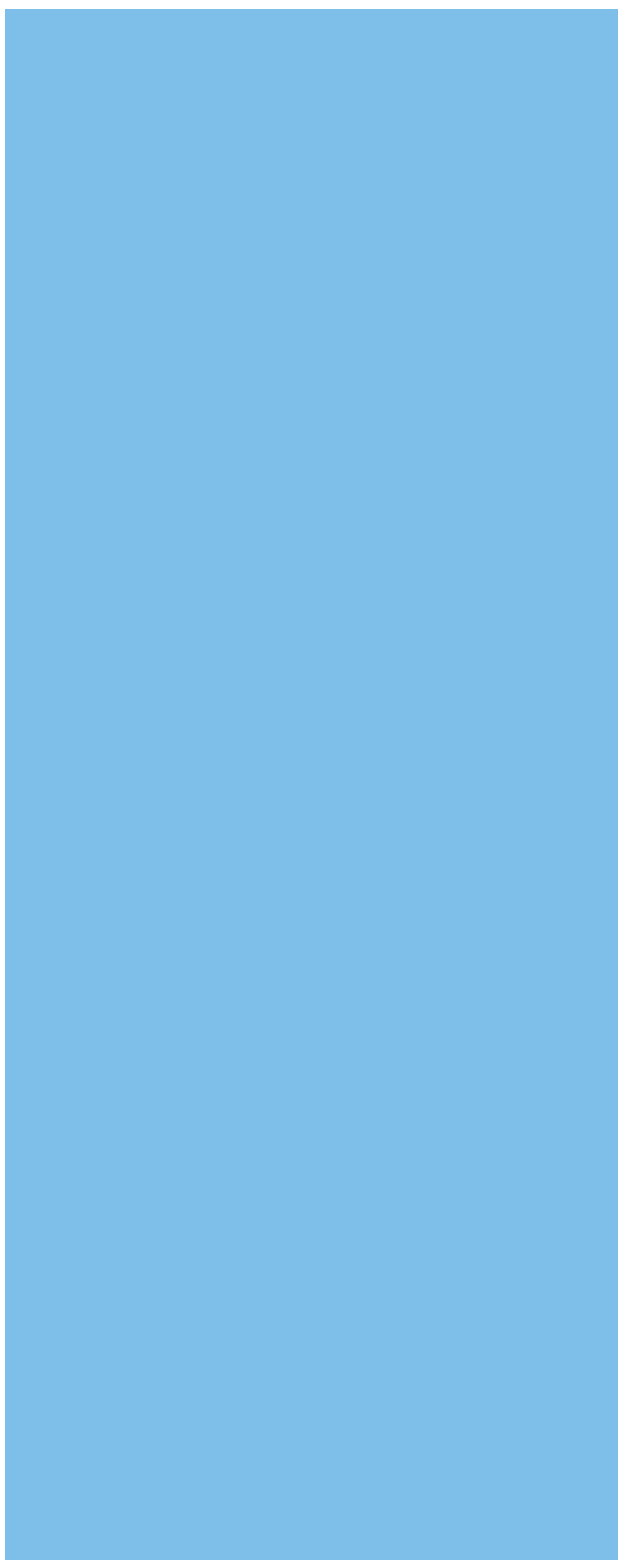
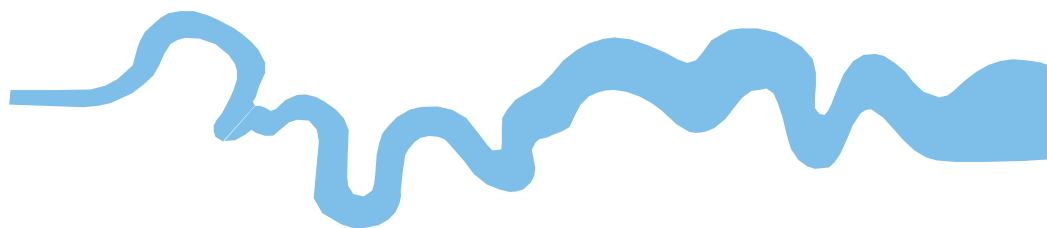
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TIME CHART

Calendar Years

Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
	AD 1/1 BC
Iron Age: Late	100 BC
Iron Age: Middle	400 BC
Iron Age: Early	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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