

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**14 Sheerlands Road,
Arborfield, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: SRA10/89

(SU 7655 6540)

**14 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield,
Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr D. Chamberlain

by James McNicoll-Norbury
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code SRA10/89

March 2011

Summary

Site name: 14 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7655 6542

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th October 2010 to 11th March 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: SRA 10/89

Area of site: 0.1ha

Summary of results: A single undated gully was found during groundworks but no artefacts were recovered.

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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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 22.03.11 Steve Preston✓ 22.03.11

14 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 10/89

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 14 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Berkshire (SU 7655 6542) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Dean Chamberlain of 14 Sheerlands Road, Arborfield, Berkshire.

Planning permission (app no F/2010/1163) has been granted by Wokingham Council to construct a new detached garage and extension. The consent is subject to a condition (7) relating to archaeology which required a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

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's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the council on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Steve Ford between 5th October 2010 and 11th March 2011 and the site code is SRA10/89.

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 southern side of Sheerlands Road in Arborfield Garrison (Fig. 2), south of Reading and west of Wokingham. The site is currently occupied by a detached house, garage and gardens and the underlying geology is described as London Clay which was observed in the exposed foundation trenches (BGS 1946). The site lies at 55m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location close to an area where archaeological deposits have been discovered prior to development on the adjacent sites both to the north and west. Both sites were involved in the production of iron. To the north on the former Arborfield Garrison site (Baird Road), a small

Middle Iron Age production site has been excavated (Hammond 2006 and forthcoming). To the west on the former Whitehall Brick and Tile site a larger site, spanning both late Iron Age and Roman times has also been excavated (Pine 2003). Further possible iron production sites are also recorded in the environs from the presence of dumps of iron slag.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved the monitoring of foundation trench digging for the new structure with minimal ground reduction being required. Other intrusive groundworks such as the extension of service trenches were also to be examined as necessary if they were sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant levels.

Results

The footings were dug using a toothless bucket to a depth of 0.90m with a width of between 0.45–0.65m (Figs 3 and 4). The stratigraphy comprised 0.05m concrete slab, 0.03m gravel (hoggin), overlying 0.48m of subsoil which in turn overlay natural geology.

Along the southern footing, a gully (1) was observed which was 0.80m wide and 0.46m deep filled with dark grey silty clay, however no finds were recovered from the feature. What is probably the same gully was also partially observed in another footing.

A soakaway 1.3m by 1.08m was dug to a depth of over 0.70m deep and associated service trenches 0.30m wide and 0.50m deep were dug at the front of the house. The stratigraphy of the soakaway comprised 0.20m scalpins/pea gravel and Tarmac overlying natural geology with a similar stratigraphy observed in the service gullies. No archaeological deposits were identified.

Finds

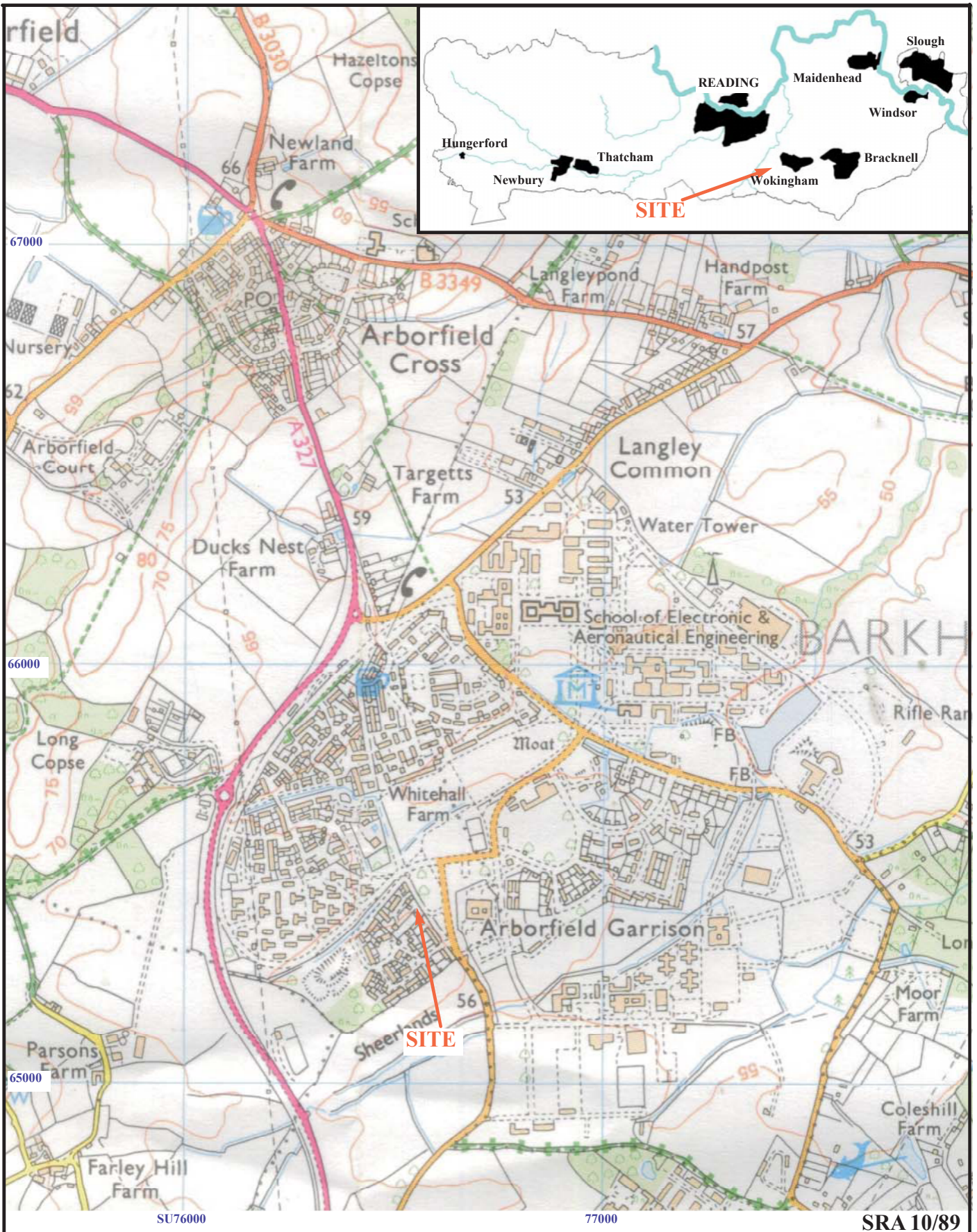
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

A single feature of possible archaeological interest, in the form of an undated gully, was found on the eastern side of the site, the natural geology observed was otherwise undisturbed in the areas of groundworks.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hammond, S, 2006, 'The excavation of a Middle Iron Age occupation and iron smelting site at Baird Road, Arborfield', Thames Valley Archaeological Services draft publication report 00/71, Reading
- Hammond, S, forthcoming, 'An Iron Age iron-smelting site at Baird Road, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire, 2002', to be chapter 4 in S Preston (ed) *Archaeological fieldwork in the Silchester Hinterland*, TVAS Monogr 9, Reading
- Pine, J, 2003, 'The excavation of a late Iron Age/Roman settlement and Iron production site at Whitehall Brick and Tile Works, Arborfield Garrison, Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* 76 (for 1998-2003), 37-67
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Figure 1. Location of site within Arborfield and Berkshire.

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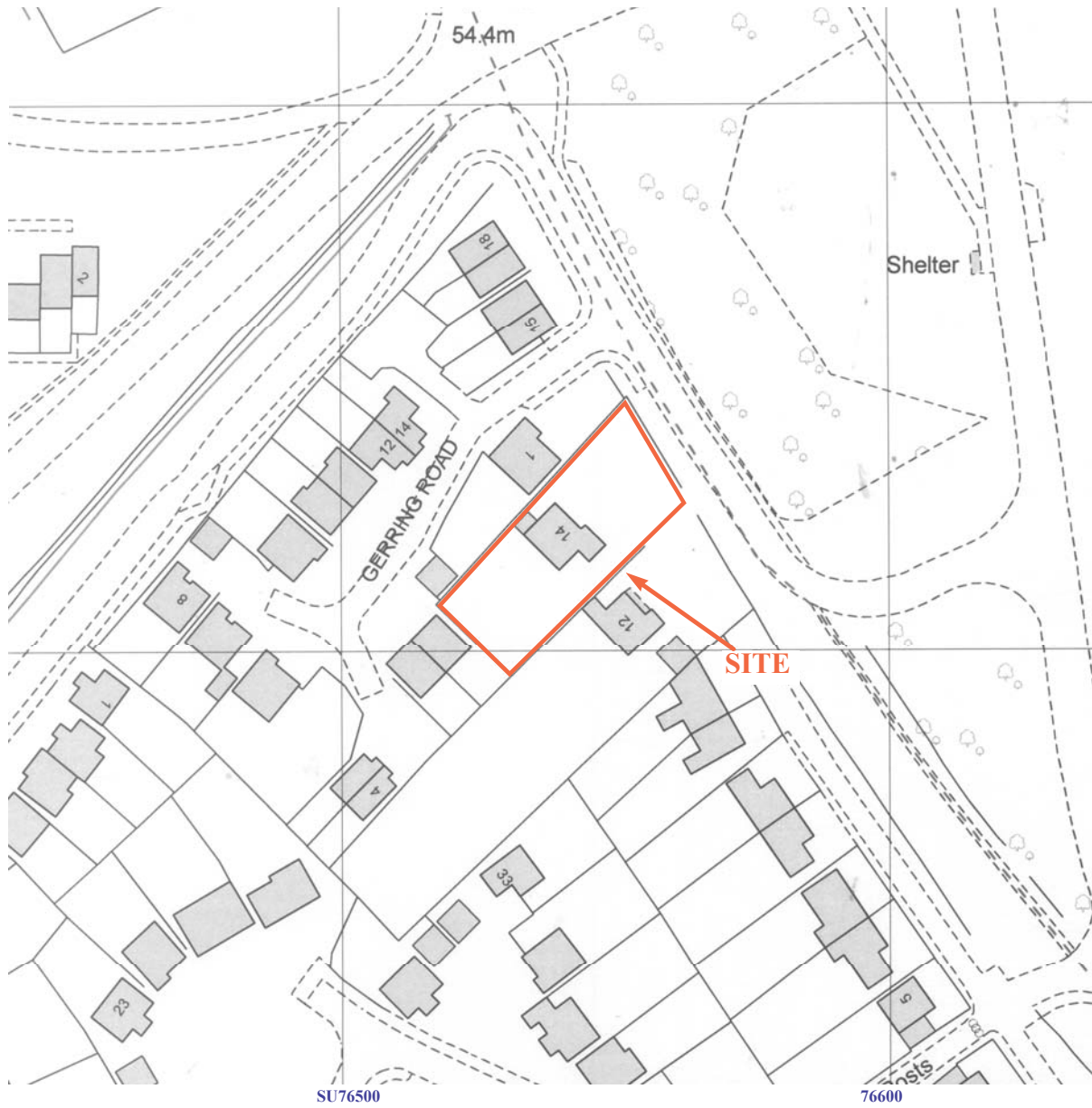
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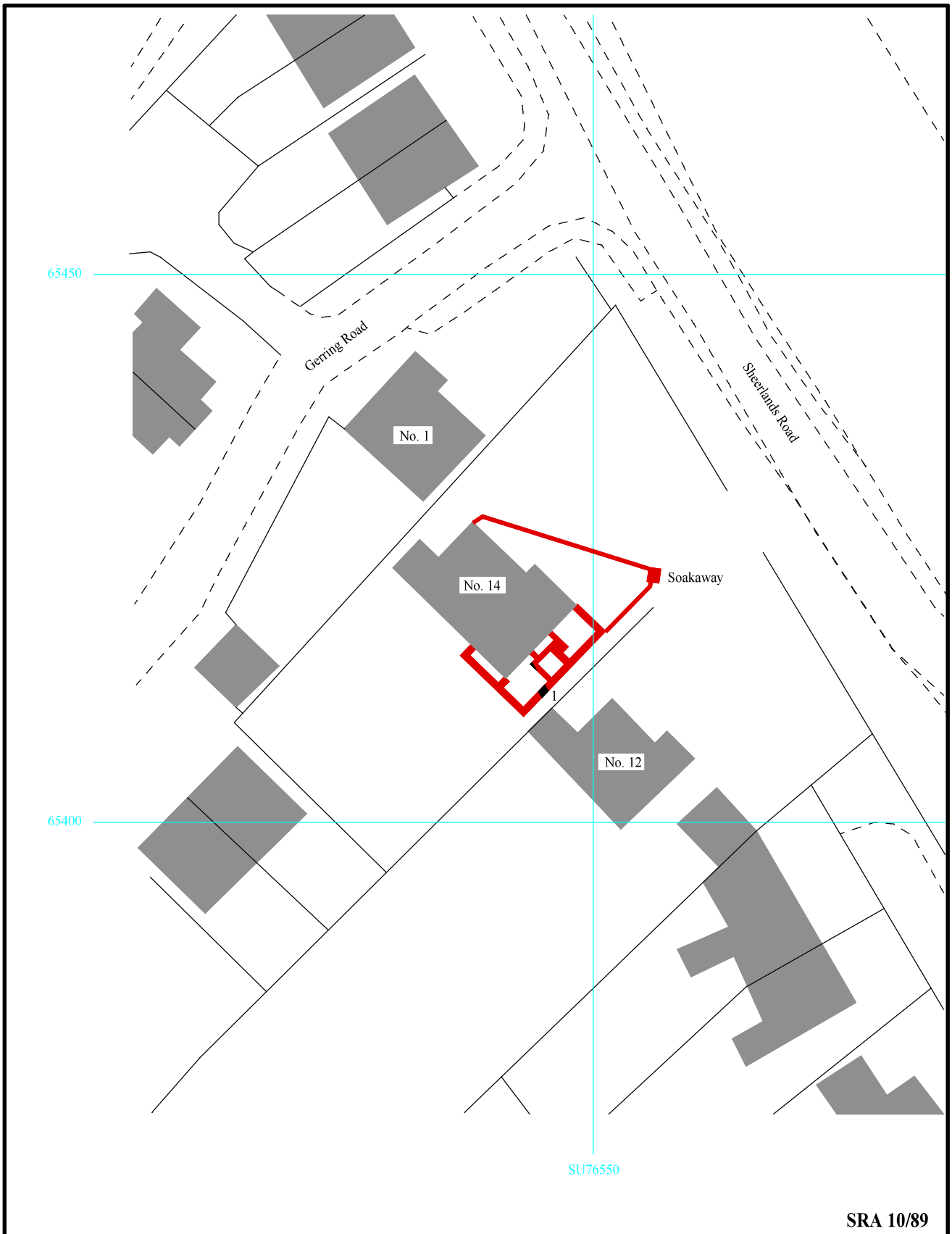
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Sheerlands Road.

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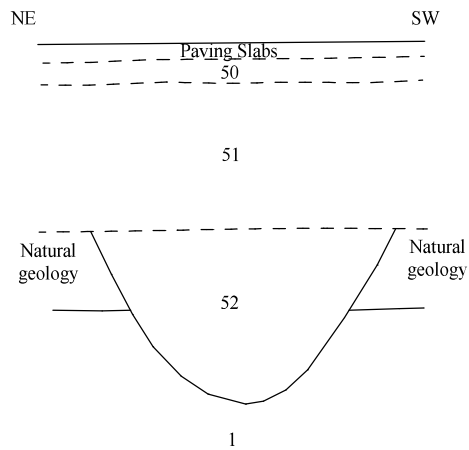
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Figure 3. Detail plan of observed groundworks.





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Figure 4. Section



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Plate 1. General view over footings, looking north east.



Plate 2. Ditch 1 section, looking south east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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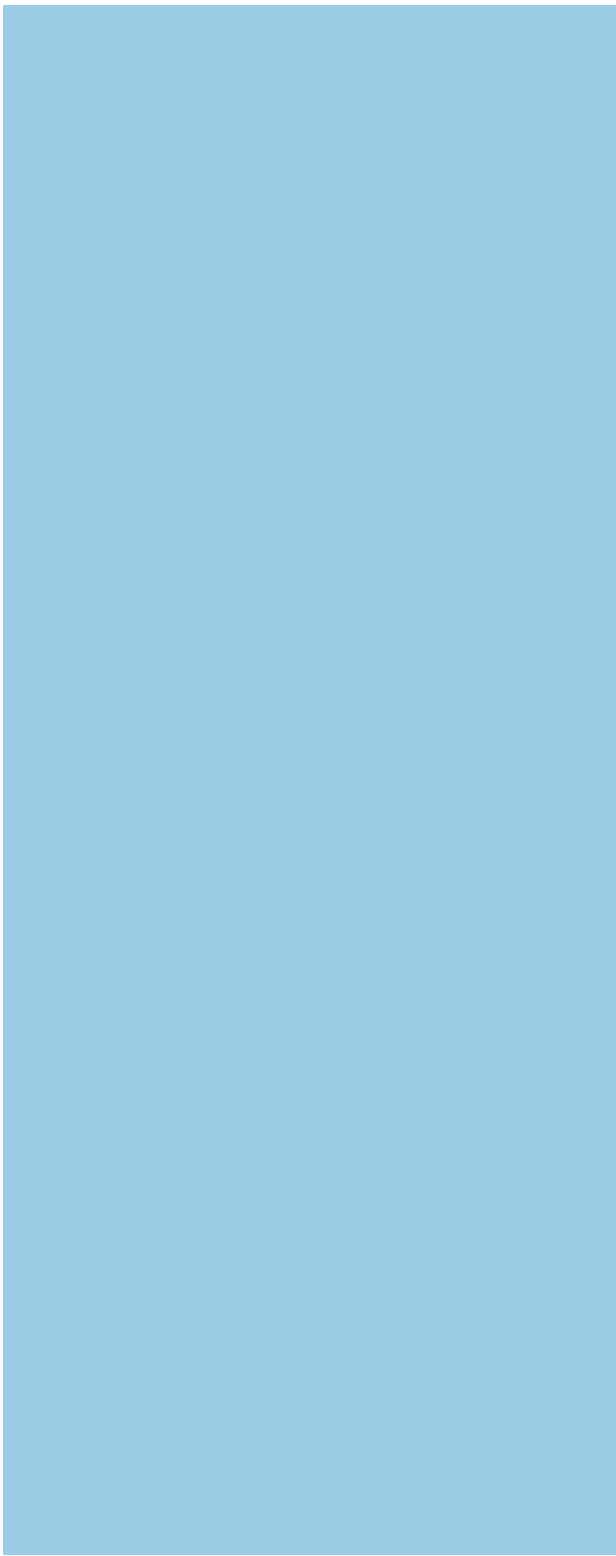
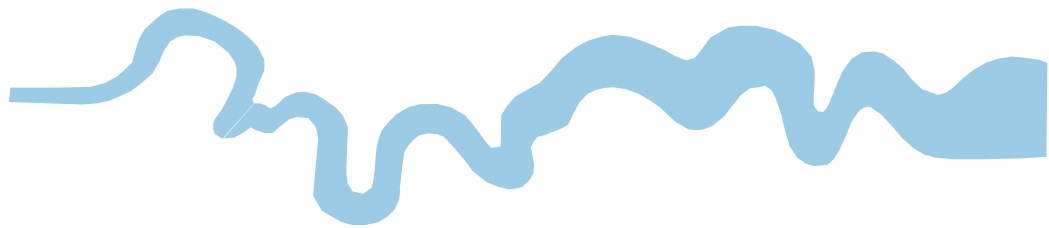
Plates 1 and 2

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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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