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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson and David Platt

Site Code: KOW10/92

(SU 9920 7460)

**Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road,
Old Windsor**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs O'Hara

by TimDawsonandDavidPlatt
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices
Ltd

SiteCodeKOW10/92

May 2011

Summary

Site name: Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor

Grid reference: SU 99205 74600

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th–17th May 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: KOW 10/92

Summary of results: Groundworks consisting of hand dug footings and a soakaway were observed. No deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed. The natural geology was not exposed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 31.05.11 Steve Preston✓ 31.05.11

Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 10/92

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire (SU 99205 74600) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Rhodes of H J Stribling and Partners on behalf of Mr and Mrs O'Hara, Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor, SL4 2JW.

A planning application was made to Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct a new extension to Kingsbury Cottage, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire. Scheduled Monument Consent (ref SMC00006206) for the development was obtained from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport with a requirement for a watching brief to take place during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Chris Welch of English Heritage. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson between the 12th–17th May 2011, and the site code is KOW10/92. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading pending availability of a suitable repository.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located close to the west bank of the river Thames and is on the eastern side of the village of Old Windsor (Fig. 1). Kingsbury Cottage is located to the south-west of the parish church (Fig. 2) and the fieldwork took place in what is currently the garden of the cottage. The site is approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum and the natural geology is mapped as flood plain gravel (BGS 1978). This natural geology was not seen during any of the groundworks.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the environs of Edward the Confessor's Palace site at Old Windsor and within the Scheduled Monument complex Berkshire 79 (Hindmarch and Ford 2005). The palace is thought to originate from the 9th century (Astill 1978) and is thought to lie to the south-east of Kingsbury Cottage, whereas a contemporary and subsequent medieval settlement is thought to lie in the

environs of the parish church, which lies just to the north east. The last court held at the royal palace was in AD1107 before moving to (New) Windsor. Unpublished excavations undertaken near the site of the palace may have found evidence for a grange complex dating to the 13th to 14th century which was mentioned in contemporary sources, along with a water mill (Wilson and Hurst 1958).

Fieldwork in the churchyard to the north-east revealed finds of Early/Middle Saxon pottery suggesting the presence of occupation deposits nearby, albeit destroyed by the graveyard (Ford 1993). However, other burial is recorded beyond the current graveyard boundary to the north (Hindmarch and Ford 2005) and also to the west in the rear garden of Priory Cottage (Drewett 1972). Excavations to the north-east at 'The Manor' have revealed evidence for late Saxon and early medieval activity in addition to later deposits (Hindmarch and Ford 2005).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks with particular attention being paid to ground reduction and the digging of any foundation trenches and related service runs.

Results

Two phases of groundworks were observed, both being dug by hand:

Kitchen Extension Footings

The kitchen extension was located on the east side of the building, at its southern end (Fig. 3). These footings were dug in 0.2m spits and measured 0.60m wide. The depth varied between 0.50m and 0.75m at the easternmost side. In section, the first 0.50m of the trench consisted of made ground containing fragments of mortar and brick. This may have derived from a stable block that was situated on the site until its demolition in the 1990s. Under this made ground a dark brown sandy silt (56) was observed which could possibly be a buried topsoil. Excavation ceased at this level. No archaeological features were observed and all artefacts recovered were of 19th- 20th century in date, including plastic, modern china, and brick/tile which were retained on site.

Soakaway

The soakaway was located to the south of the building (Figs 3 and 4), and was 1.30m square and 1.04m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.16m of topsoil overlying 0.07m of subsoil. Under this subsoil lay 0.03m of yellow clay which, in turn, overlay a 0.09m of dark brownish yellow sandy gravel (53). Under this was 0.50m of dark brownish sandy silt (54) which could possibly be a buried topsoil. This in turn overlay a dark reddish brown

sandy silt that could have been a buried subsoil (55) which formed the base of soakaway. Natural geology (gravel) was not encountered. Within the dark brownish sandy silt (54), post-medieval/modern tile was observed as well as animal bone and oyster shell. These were retained on-site.

Drains connecting this soakaway to the new building were all founded at shallow depth within the modern made ground present on the site.

Finds

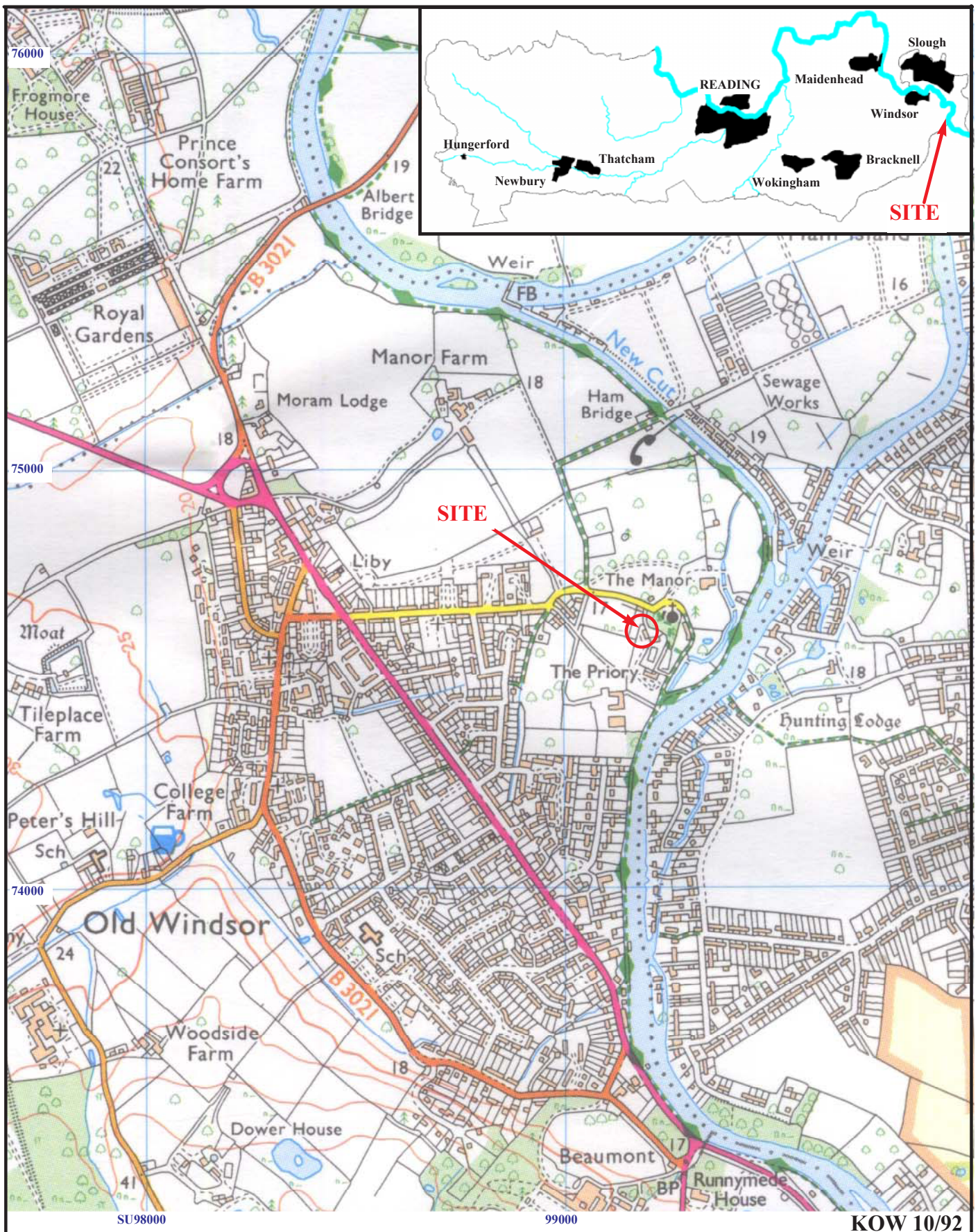
No artefacts pre-dating late post-medieval times were observed and modern material was retained on-site.

Conclusion

Due to the presence of a thickness of made ground and the relatively shallow depth of the footing trenches, the natural geology was not observed in the extension area, and neither archaeological features nor artefacts were observed in the trenching. Despite the greater depth of the soakaway, this too was founded wholly within made ground or buried topsoil with no natural geology exposed. Again only late post-medieval or modern finds were observed. If any archaeological deposits are present on the site, they are likely to be found at a greater depth than that seen in these trenches and have been unaffected by the development.

References

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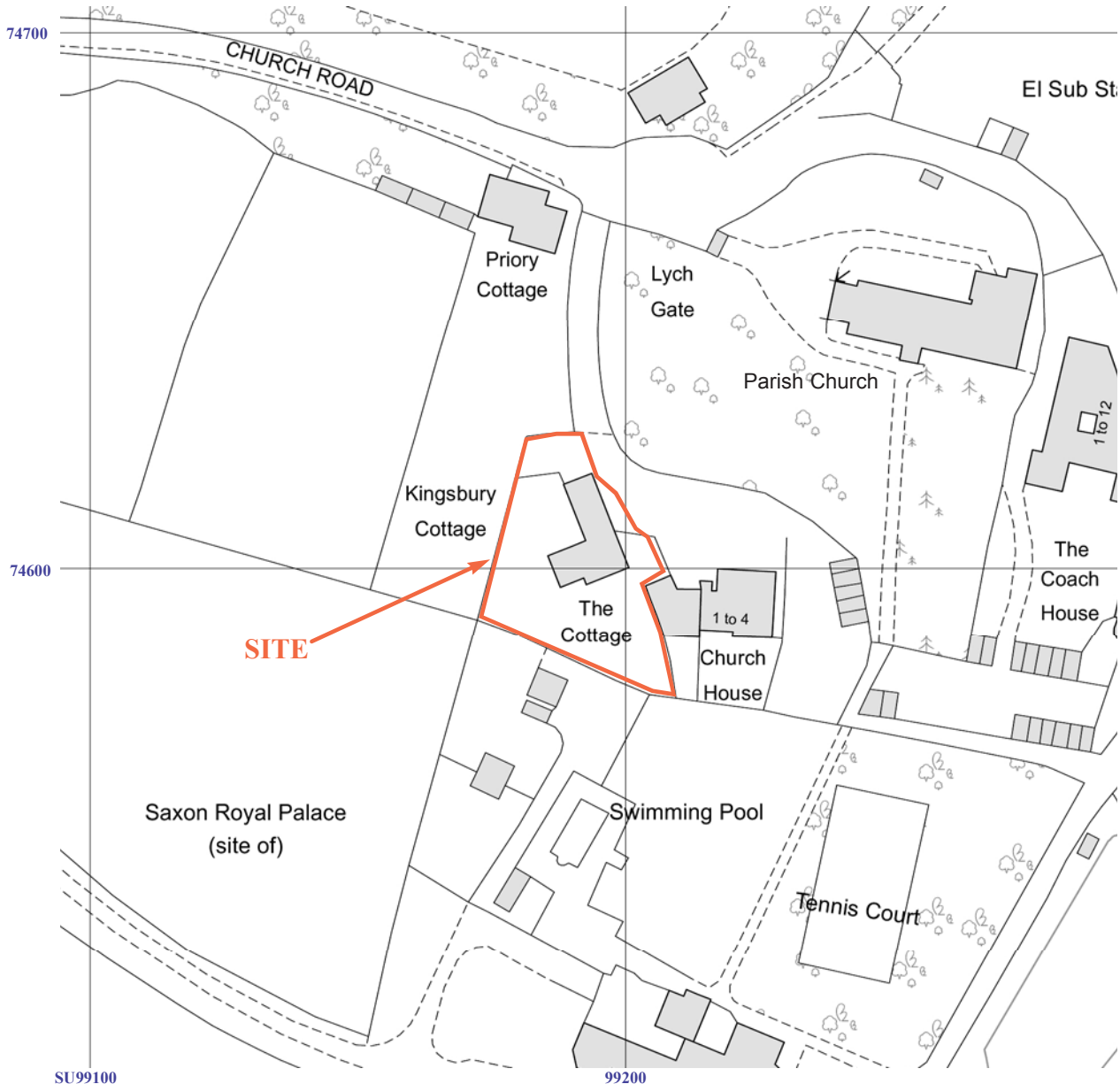
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Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor and Berkshire.

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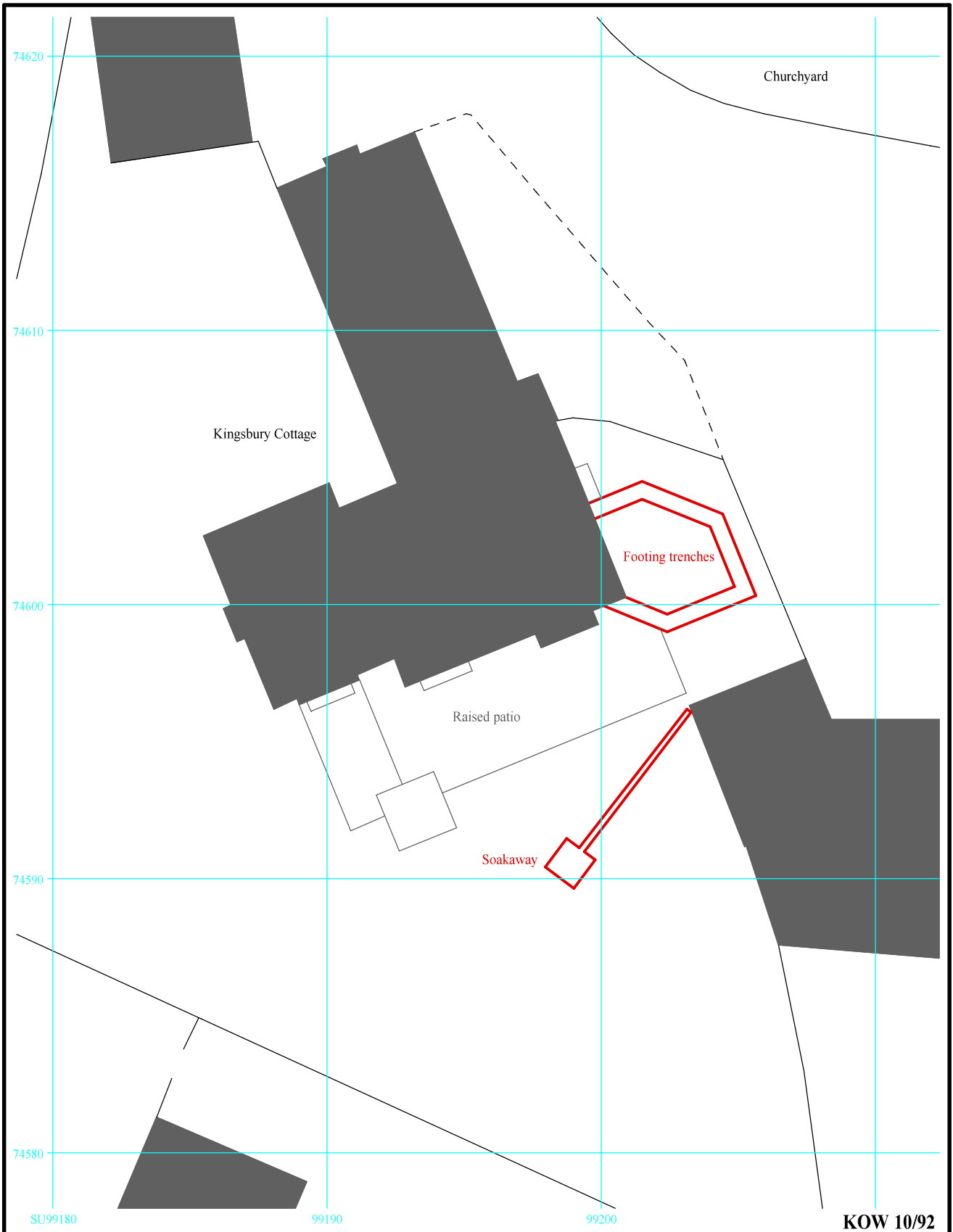
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Church Road.

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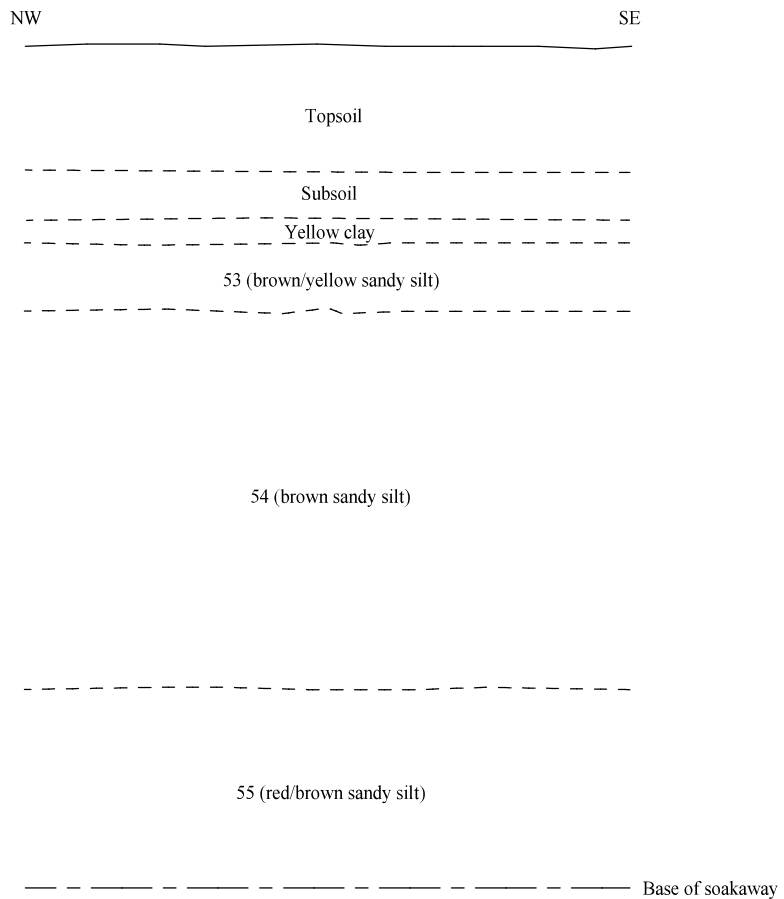


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Figure 3. Plan of the groundworks.





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Figure 4. Soakaway section.



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Plate 1. East footing, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Soakway section, looking north, Scales 2m and 1m

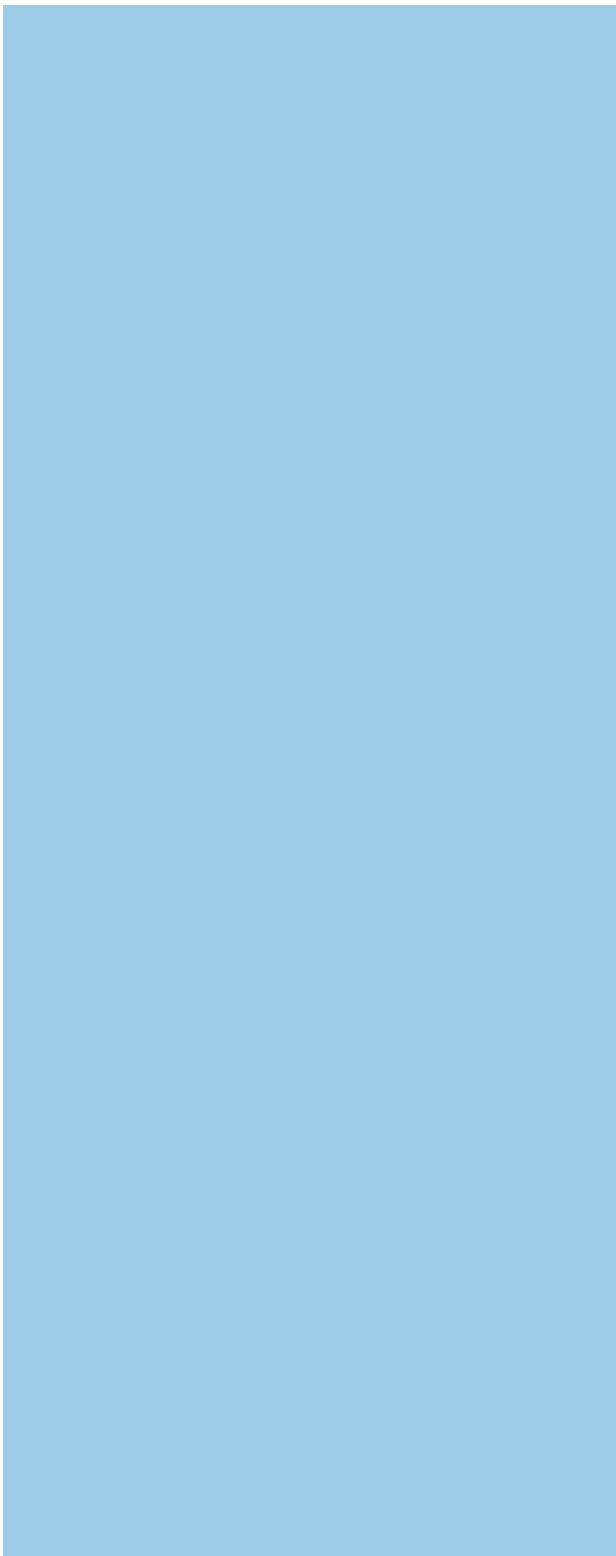
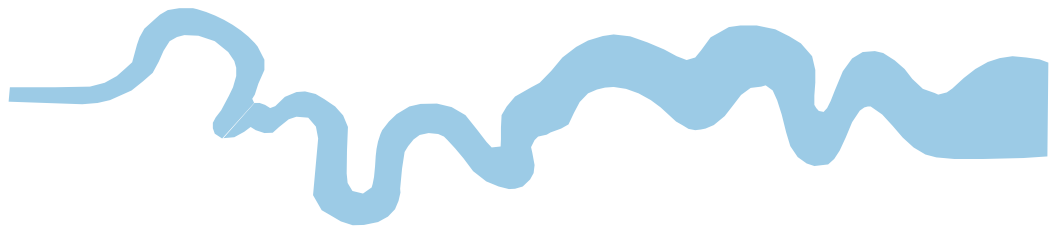
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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