

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Library, Wellington College, Crowthorne,
Bracknell, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Aiji Castle and Andrew Muddin

Site Code: WCC11/67

(SU 8330 6340)

The Library, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Wellington College Enterprises Ltd**

by Aiji Castle and Andy Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

SiteCodeWCC11/67

September 2011

Summary

Site name: The Library, Wellington College, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8330 6340

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 10th August 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Mundin

Site code: WCC 11/67

Summary of results: No features or finds of archaeological interest were observed

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 06.09.11
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Report 11/67

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Wellington College, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire (SU 8330 6340) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr. Gerald Burbidge of Wellington College Enterprises Ltd, Crowthorne, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG45 7PU.

Planning consent (app no 11/00278/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Council to erect a new colonnade, brick and stone gateway and a glazed canopy with landscaping and other alterations to the existing Wellington College library building. This is subject to a condition (8) which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks. Listed Building Consent (app no 11/0379/LB) has also been granted with a duplicate archaeological condition (11).

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 Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to Bracknell Forest Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Mundin on 10th August 2011 and the site code is WCC 11/67.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a suitable local museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located with the main complex of buildings at Wellington College (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Barton and Bracklesham beds and these were observed during ground works (BGS 1981). The site lies at a height of *c.* 85m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from a modest range of sites and finds from prehistoric through to Roman times recorded in Berkshire Historic Environment Record for the environs of the site. The most notable feature is the Roman road from Silchester to London which passes a few hundred metres to the north of the

College through Crowthorne. Finds of a Mesolithic tranche axe and Neolithic arrowheads point to some early prehistoric activity elsewhere in the area (Ford 1987).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved monitoring of foundation trench digging for the new structure. Other intrusive groundworks such as the excavation of service trenches or ground reduction for landscaping were also to be examined as necessary if they were of sufficient depth to impinge on archaeologically relevant levels. The potential and significance of such deposits were to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in *English Heritage Research Agenda* (English Heritage 2005). Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in the draft 'Berkshire Archaeology general standards for archaeological fieldwork projects (November 2008)' were followed.

Results

The groundworks comprised the digging of a single trench for the front of the new library. The trench was 18m long and excavated to a width of 0.7m and depth of 1.05m along its length. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.3m of Tarmac and concrete, under which was 0.32m of made ground and scalplings. Beneath this lay a brown-yellow clayey sand (the natural geology) which continued to the base of the trench. No cut features were observed other than an adjacent modern metal service pipe 0.75m in width at the western extent of the trench.

Finds

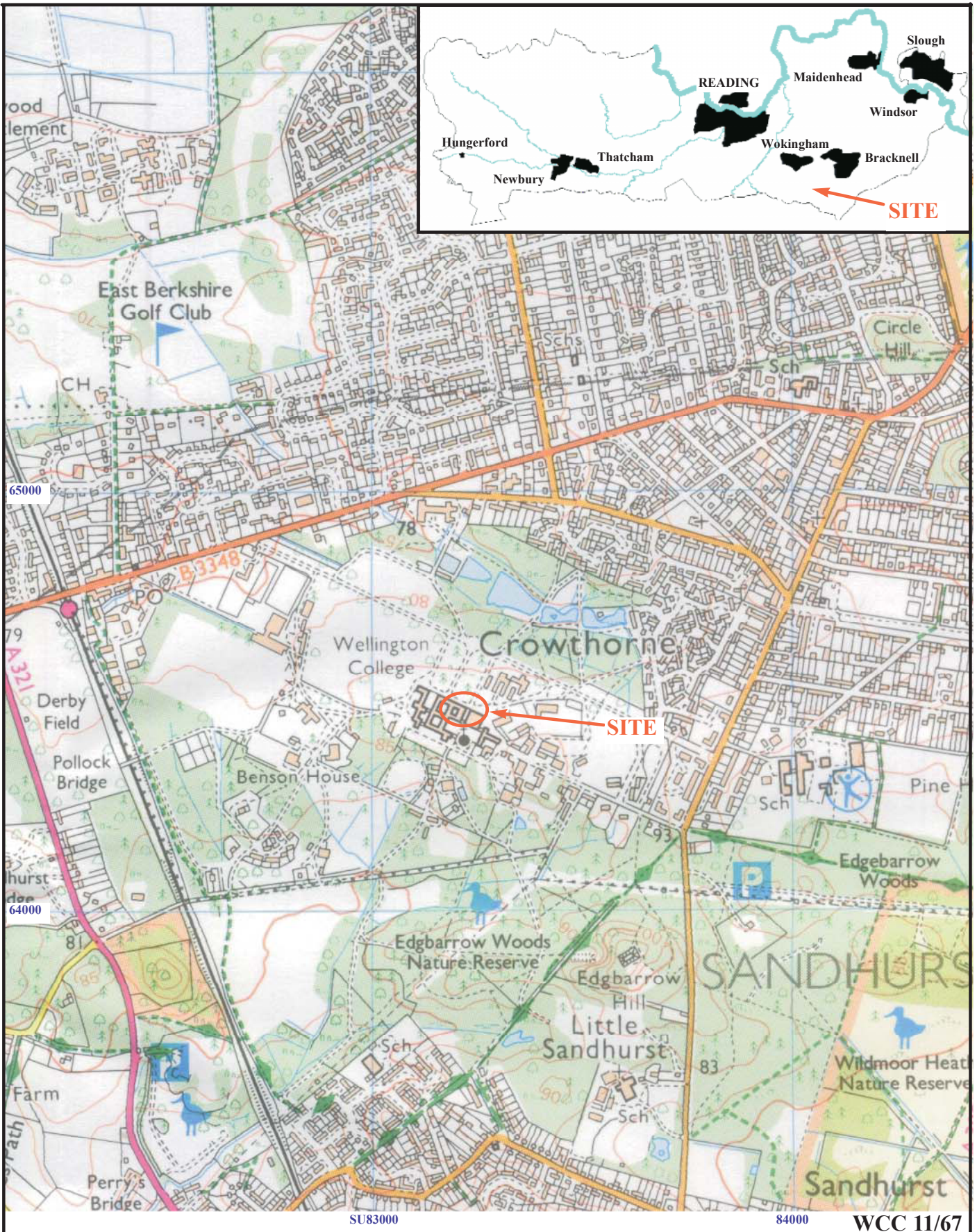
There were no finds of archaeological interest observed.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or finds were observed during the watching brief. As both topsoil and subsoil were absent, it is unclear if the archaeological relevant horizon (top of the natural geology) had been truncated when construction of the college originally took place.

References

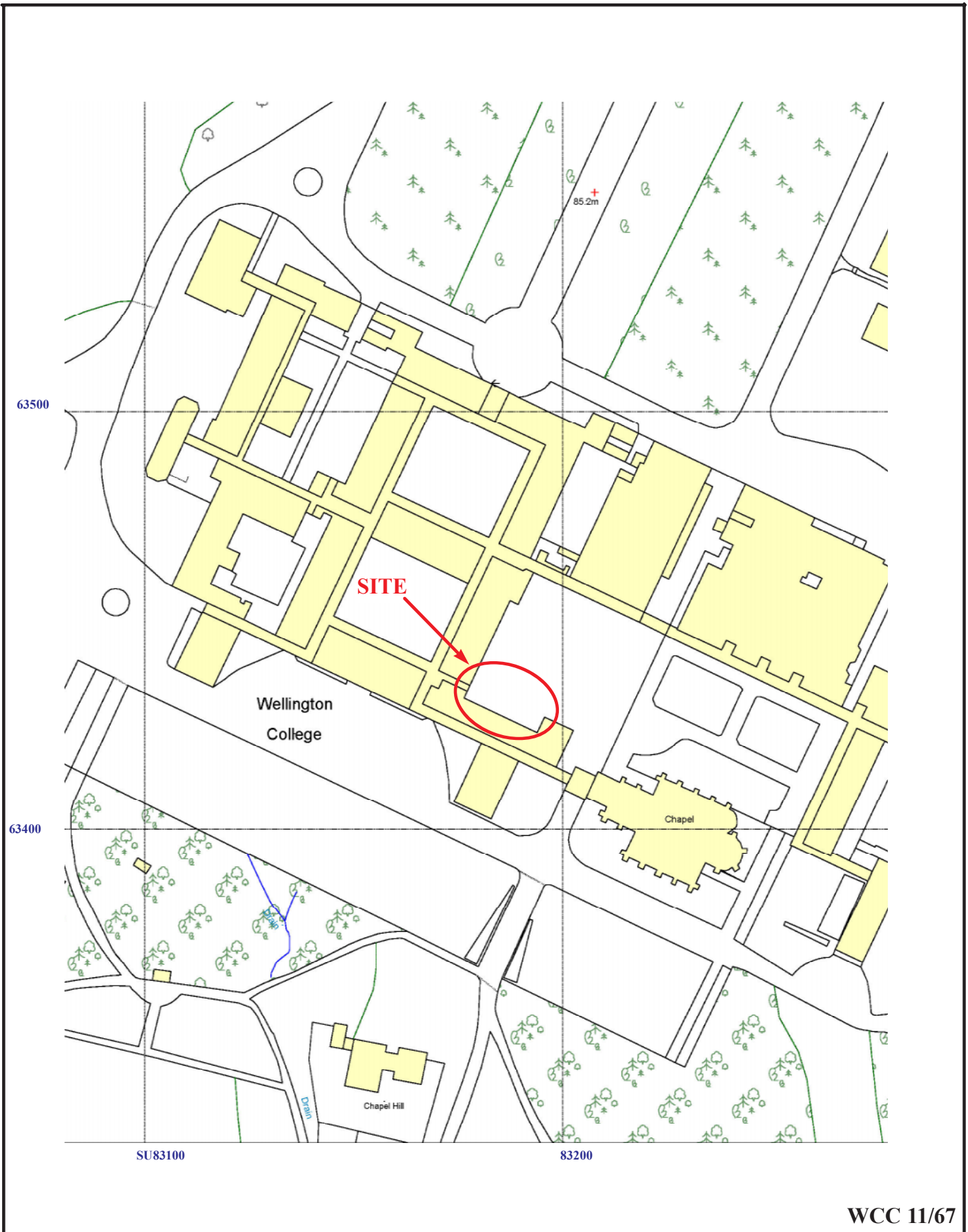
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich



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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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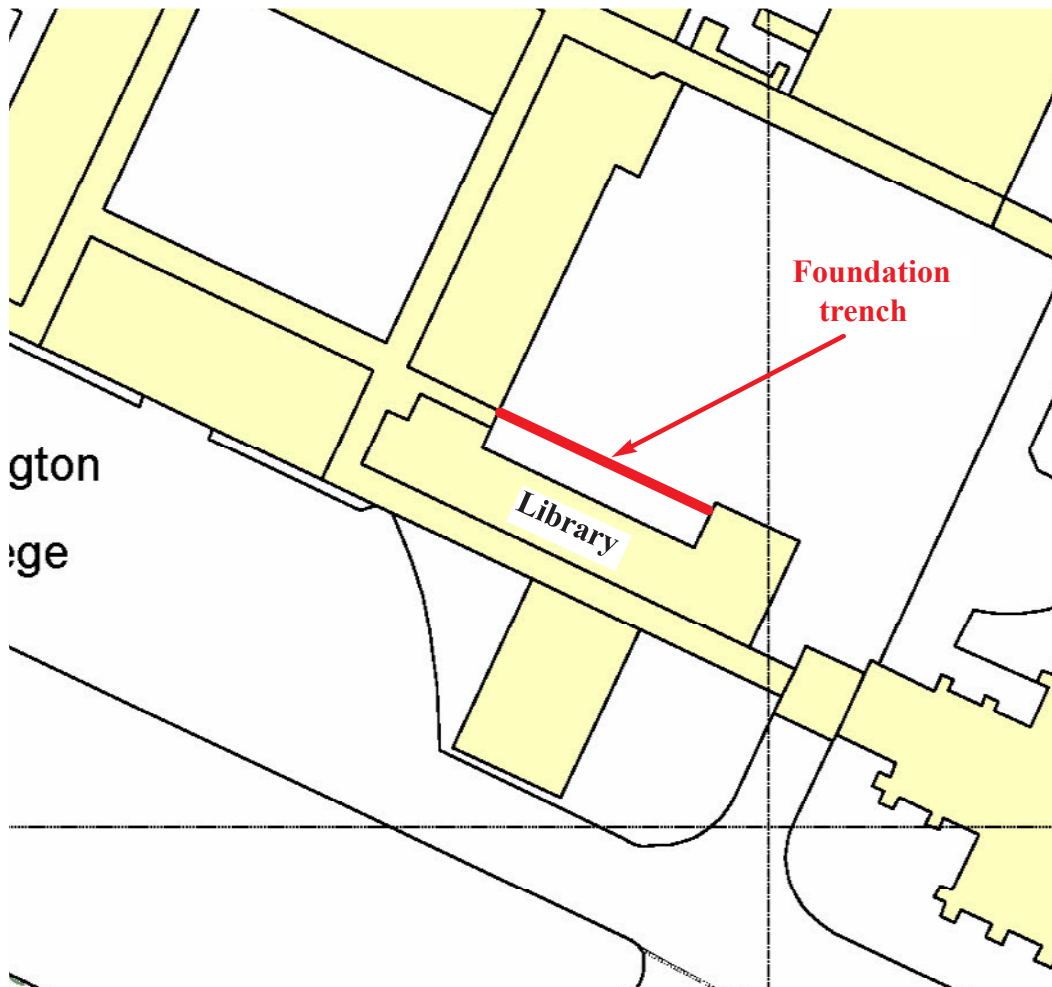
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Figure 2. Location of site within the College.

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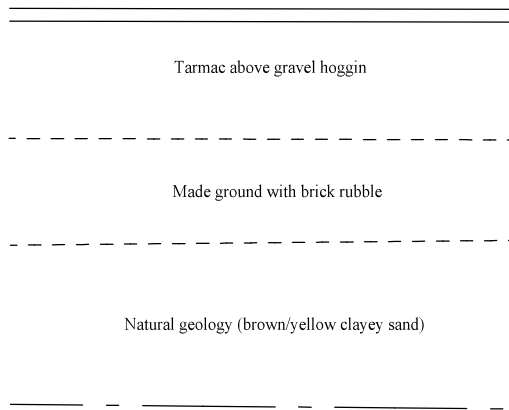
Figure 3. Detailed location of trench observed.

Scale: 1: 625

Foundation Trench

SW

NE



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Figure 4. Representative section of foundation trench.



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Plate 1. General location of watching brief, looking south east



Plate 2. Footing trench, looking north east.

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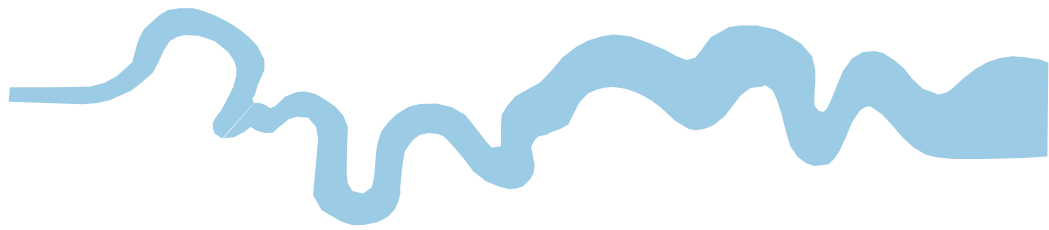
Plates 1 and 2.

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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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