

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**20 The Ridings, Hilsea,
Portsmouth, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: RHP11/84

(SU 65765 03625)

20 The Ridings, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For PMC Construction and Development Services Ltd

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code RHP 11/84

February 2012

Summary

Site name: 20 The Ridings, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 65765 03625

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 2nd–9th February 2012

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: RHP 11/84

Summary of results: Footing trenches were excavated for three new houses. A chalk rubble wall foundation of unknown date was identified.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Portsmouth Museum in due course, with accession code 2012/24

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 13.02.12
	Steve Preston ✓ 13.02.12

20 The Ridings, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Report 11/84

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 20 The Ridings, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire (SU 65765 03625) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Cripps of PMC Construction and Development Services Ltd, 106 Queens Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO2 7NE.

Planning permission (09/01338/FUL) has been gained from Portsmouth City Council to construct three new residential properties on the site, following the demolition of the existing building. This permission is subject to a condition (9) relating to archaeology, which requires that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during all stages of the development involving ground disturbance.

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 City's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Archaeology Advisor to Portsmouth City Council, Dr Andrew Russel. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray between the 2nd and 9th February 2012 and the site code is RHP11/84.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Portsmouth Museum in due course, with accession code 2012/24

Location, topography and geology

The site lies on a small flat parcel of land immediately south-west of the junction of The Ridings and St Barnabas Way, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is described as Aeolian deposit (brickearth) which is mainly fine sand silt locally contaminated with gravel (BGS 1998). This was observed, on site, overlying a chalky marl deposit. The site lies at 3.0m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site partly stems from its location in a low-lying, coastal setting where there is cartographic evidence for salt production in post-medieval times, and this activity in the area may have much earlier origins. Coastal zones similar to the environs of the site are often rich in prehistoric and later activity, as

evidenced by survey work in the nearby Langstone Harbour (Allen and Gardiner 2000). The site also lies within a 'Local Area of Archaeological Importance' (14) which defines the possible extent of medieval Hilsea and that of post-medieval Hilsea as indicated on the Edwards map of 1716. Recent archaeological work to the north of the site (McNicholl-Norbury 2011, Wallis forthcoming) has revealed deposits and features dating from the late Bronze Age, Roman and medieval periods, and it is therefore possible that similar deposits may survive on the current site.

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 footing trenches for the new houses.

Results

Topsoil and demolition rubble was removed and the area reduced by between 0.3 and 0.5m. Foundation trenches for three new buildings were excavated and ranged in width from 0.45m to 1m and a depth of 1m below the reduced level in the southern part of the site and 1.30m in the northern part. All excavated material was removed from site.

The digging of the footings revealed a chalk rubble foundation [1] aligned NE - SW (Figs. 3 and 4; Plate 2). Another chalk foundation [2] was partially observed and was aligned NW – SE. These chalk foundations were 0.63m wide and cut to a depth of 0.50m from the reduced level. They consisted of irregular chalk lumps up to 0.15m across but without any mortar or other bonding agent. They produced no archaeological dating evidence.

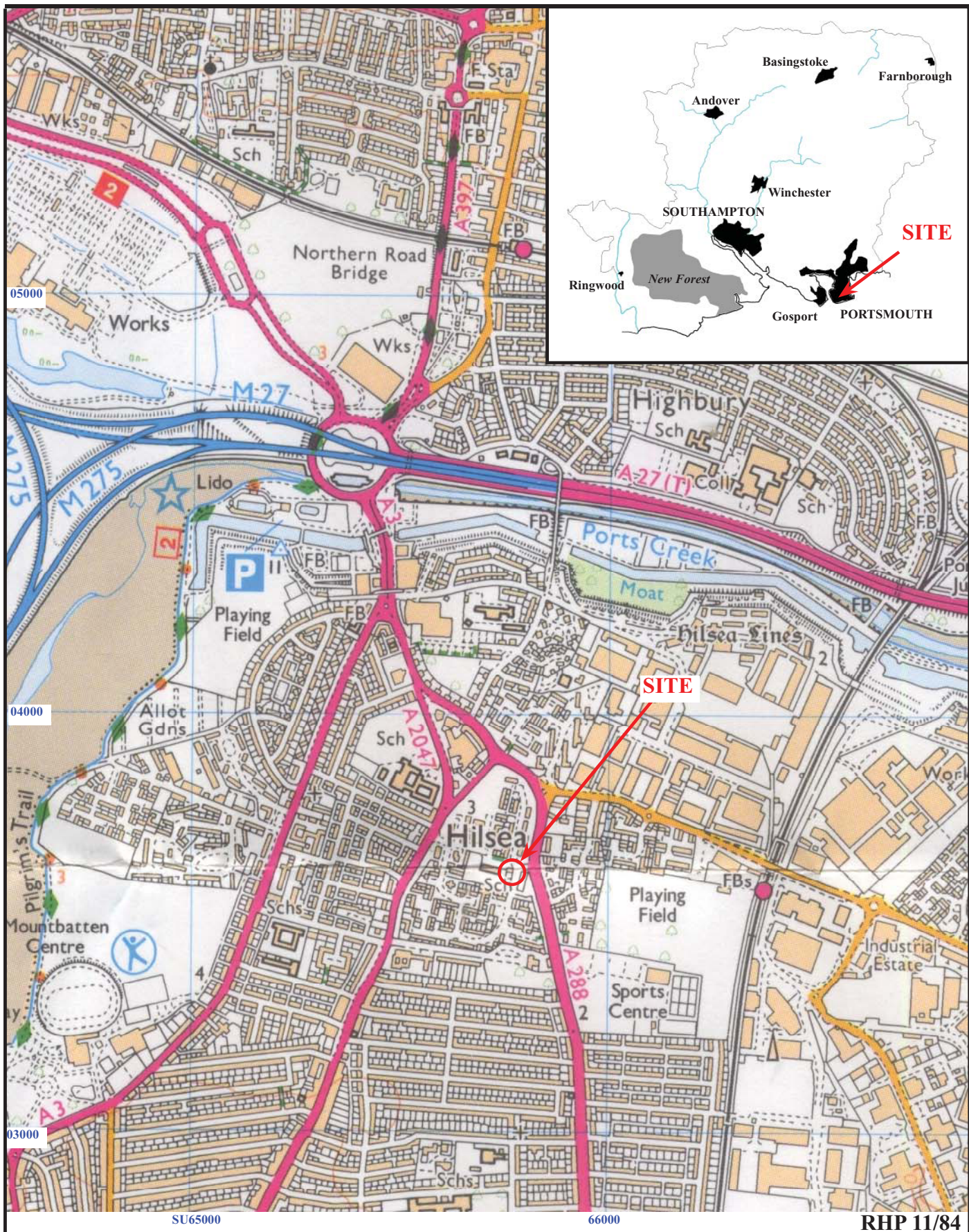
A modern manhole for a drain or soakaway was the only other cut feature identified.

Conclusion

There was no dating evidence recovered from the chalk rubble foundations nor with any datable finds from adjacent areas. The height at which the foundations were identified suggest that they are not of great antiquity. However, a foundation construction made from chalk, when the 19th century buildings in Hilsea are brick built, suggests that it might pre-date the early 19th century.

References

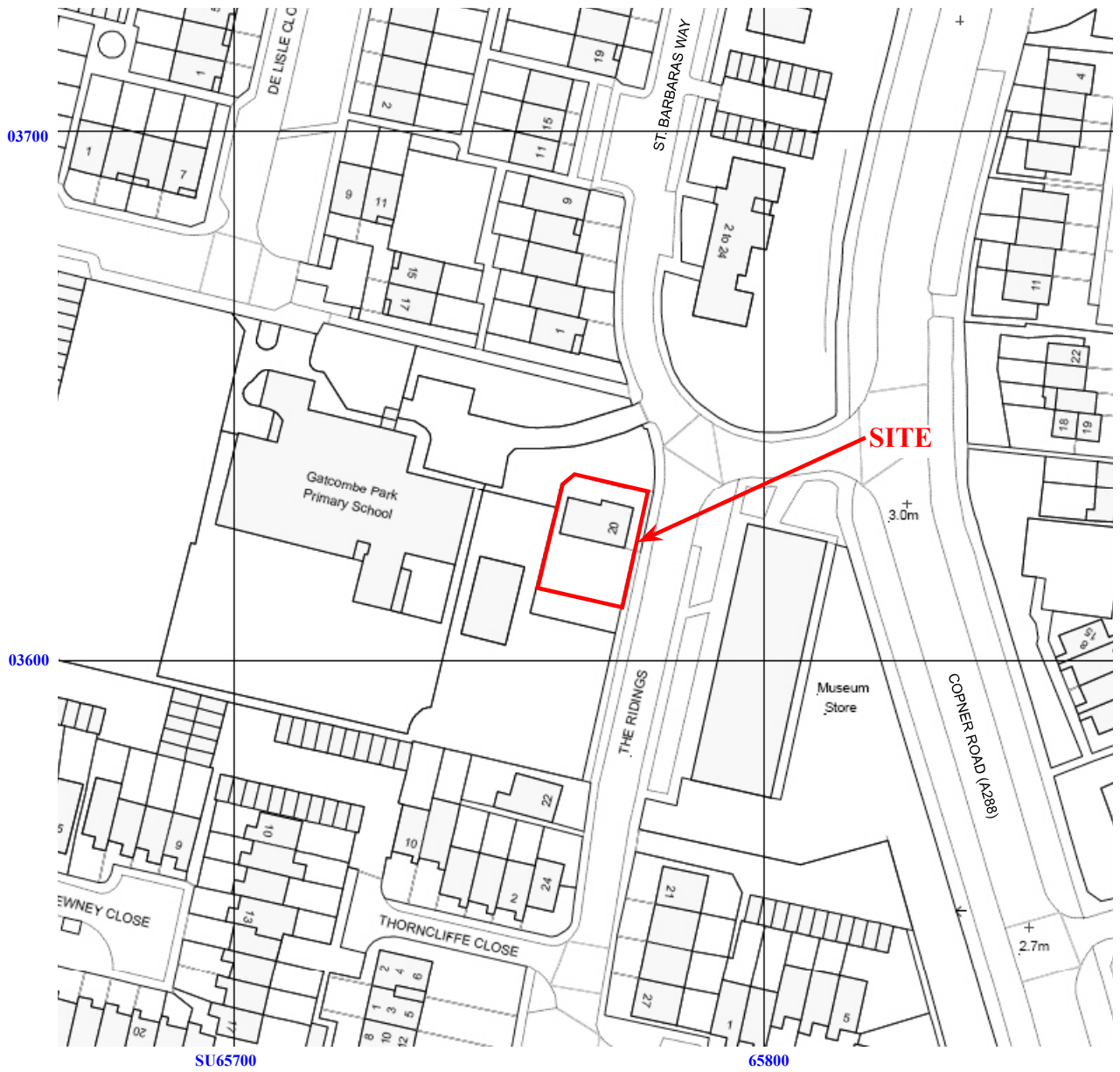
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- Wallis, S, forthcoming, 'Late Bronze Age, Roman and medieval occupation at Peronne Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth', Thames Valley Archaeological Services Report, Reading



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Figure 1. Location of site within Hilsea and Portsmouth.

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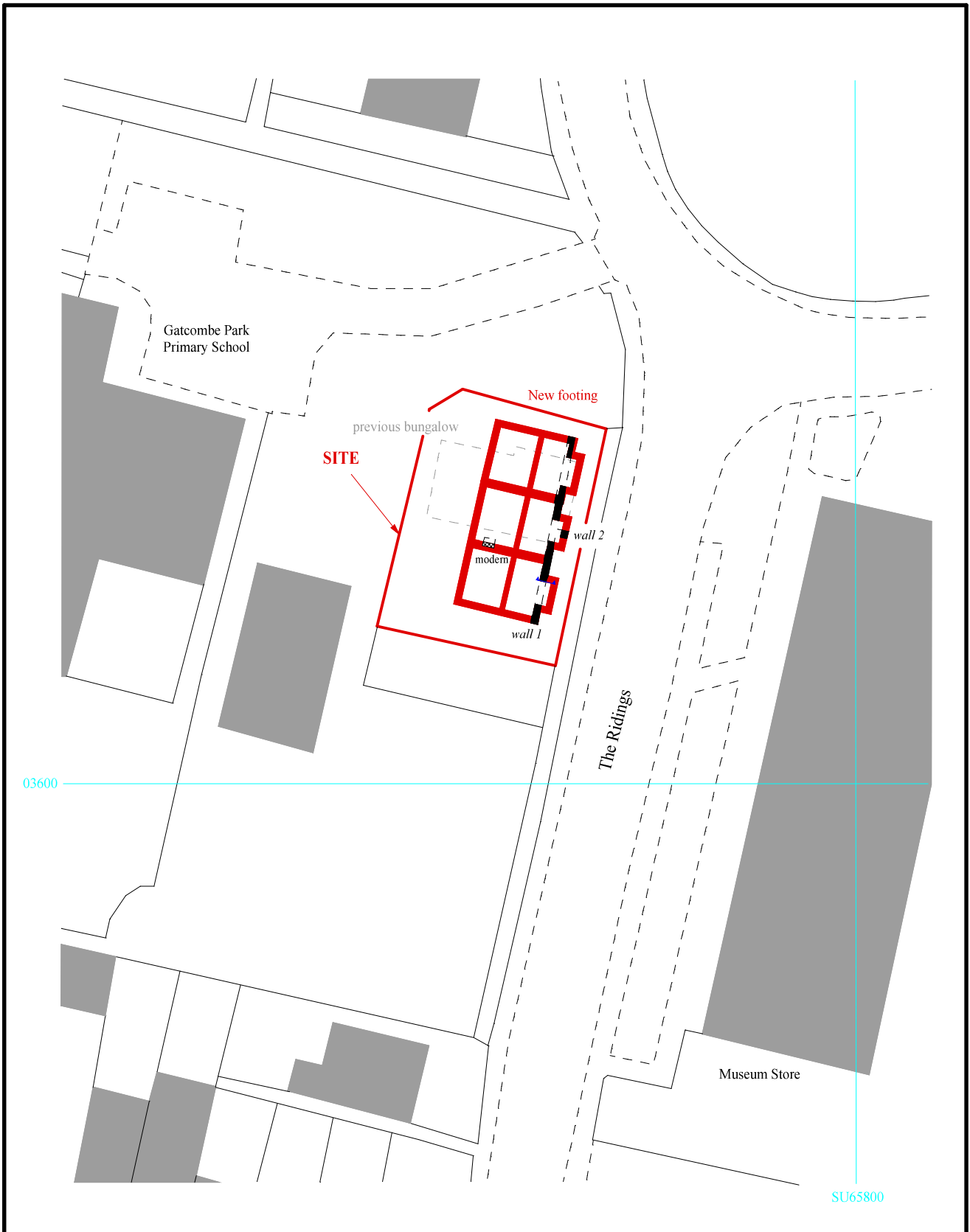


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off The Ridings.

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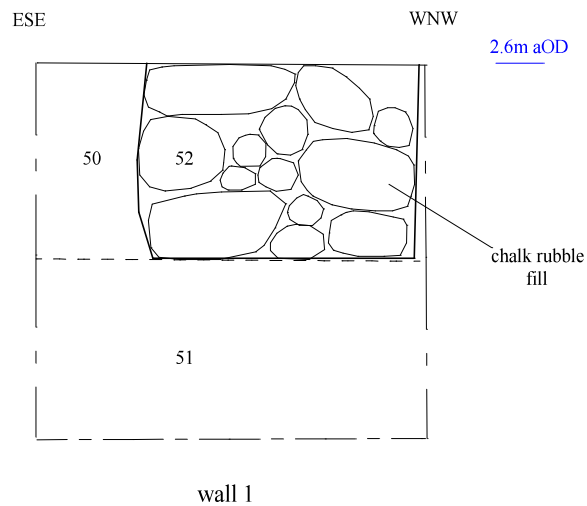
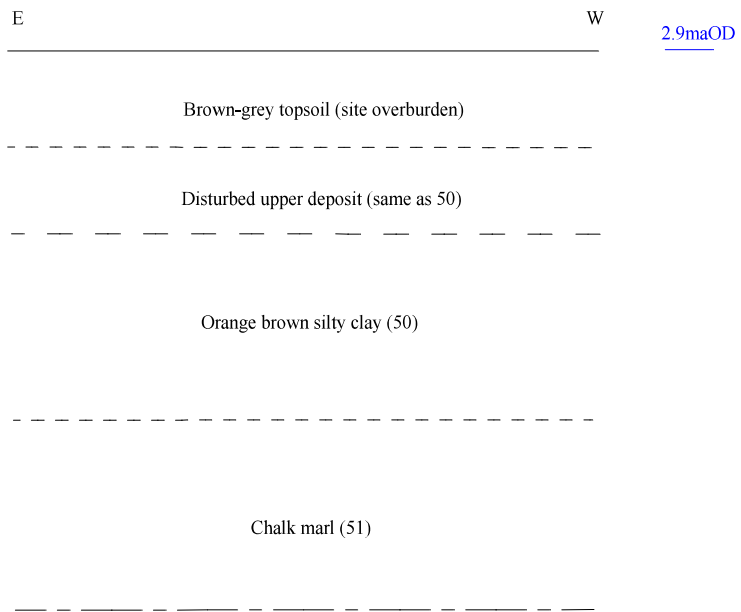


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



Full section including overburden



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Figure 4. Sections.





Plate 1. Footing excavation to south with wall 1 on left side of shot, looking south west.



Plate 2. Wall 1 section in new southern footing, looking south west, Scales 1m and 2m.

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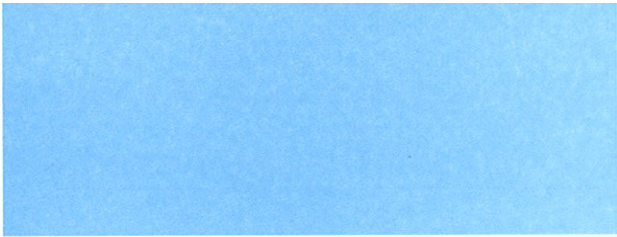
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
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SOUTH

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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