

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rosemary Cottage, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Site Code: RLG 13/89

(SU 8388 7987)

**Rosemary Cottage, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Lynette Hawkins

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RLG 13/89

May 2013

Summary

Site name: Rosemary Cottage, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8388 7987

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd May 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: RLG 13/89

Area of site: c.40 sq m total area reductions

Summary of results: Observations during ground reduction for the construction of a new extension and separate garden room at the property uncovered no deposits of archaeological interest. Pits and a soakaway of 19th or 20th century date were observed

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

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Rosemary Cottage, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 13/89

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Rosemary Cottage, Coronation Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3RA (SU 8388 7987) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lynette Hawkins, the homeowner.

Planning consent (app. no. 13/00520/FUL) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the existing cottage to be extended at the rear and other minor exterior alterations. The consent is subject to a condition (4) requiring the implementation of a watching brief during groundworks for the new extension and for a garden room at the southern end of the garden, accessed via Millers Lane.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The work was carried out to a written scheme of investigation approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters pertaining to archaeology in the planning process. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 22nd May 2013 and the site code is RLG 13/89.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an appropriate local depository in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the southern part of the village, with the village green on the other side of Coronation Road, immediately to the north of the property (Figs 1 and 2). All works were to the south of the property, and a previous rear extension had already been demolished. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1981) which was observed in the portion of the observed stripped footing trench (Fig. 3). The site lies at c.58m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has several origins. The site lies within the hamlet of Littlewick Green just off the A4 Bath Road to the west of Maidenhead. Several late medieval and early post-medieval buildings

exist in the village, of which two, Foxleigh and Walnut Tree Cottage are immediately east of the property. Both of these are listed (Grade II) and have 20th century alterations as does (unlisted) Rosemary Cottage itself (Pl. 1). The earliest surviving elements suggest origins of 15th century for both buildings, therefore some of the earliest still standing in the village.

Of other interest locally is a series of Berkshire HER sites and findspots that identify Roman finds in the vicinity of a possible villa site located on a 'series of rooms' identified from 20th century excavations. To the north east an earlier site is also known locally called Robin Hood's Arbour, an Iron Age enclosure, and there are also earlier prehistoric occupation sites represented by flint scatters at Maidenhead Thicket (Boismier 1995; Bowden *et al.* 1983; Cotton 1961). However, recent fieldwork carried out at two nearby locations in the village failed to uncover any deposits of archaeological interest, discovering only modern cut features (Dawson and McNicoll-Norbury 2009; Bray and Platt 2011).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This would involve examination of all intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction and digging of foundation trenches. Service runs and a soakaway were adjoined to existing drainage down the centre of the garden. All works were carried out with a 360° mechanical excavator, fitted with a grading bucket for the ground reduction and then a toothed bucket for the strip footings.

Results

Two areas were investigated on this site. The first primarily dealt with the groundworks for the new extension (Fig. 3; Pl.2). This involved observing excavation over an area of 5.5m by 4m which reduced the area to the rear of the existing house by 0.52m. Topsoil directly overlay the top of natural geology which was a mix of yellow brown clay and a hard chalk deposit. Subsequent further excavation for strip footings was observed only sufficiently to confirm that this was in fact entirely through the natural geology. No archaeological deposits were uncovered, though four cut features were recorded in plan, all of which were late 19th century (Victorian) date, due to the presence of white 'china' and tile and metal debris within the deposits. One of the features is a soakaway from which three bottles were recovered (Fig. 3). The overburden above contained no finds of interest.

The second area observed in the rear garden was a replacement building for the previous garage, with access to Mill Lane (Fig. 3). An area of 6m by 3.5m was reduced by 0.47m. The section was recorded on the

eastern face of excavation here (Fig. 4) showing 0.4m of topsoil overburden existed over a thinning layer of subsoil 0.12m thick, to the natural horizon at 0.47m deep. Tree roots had disturbed the layers beyond this depth to the east. Although, unlike in the extensions area, subsoil was identified here, again, no archaeological deposits were observed at this location.

Finds

Glassware by Andrew Muddin

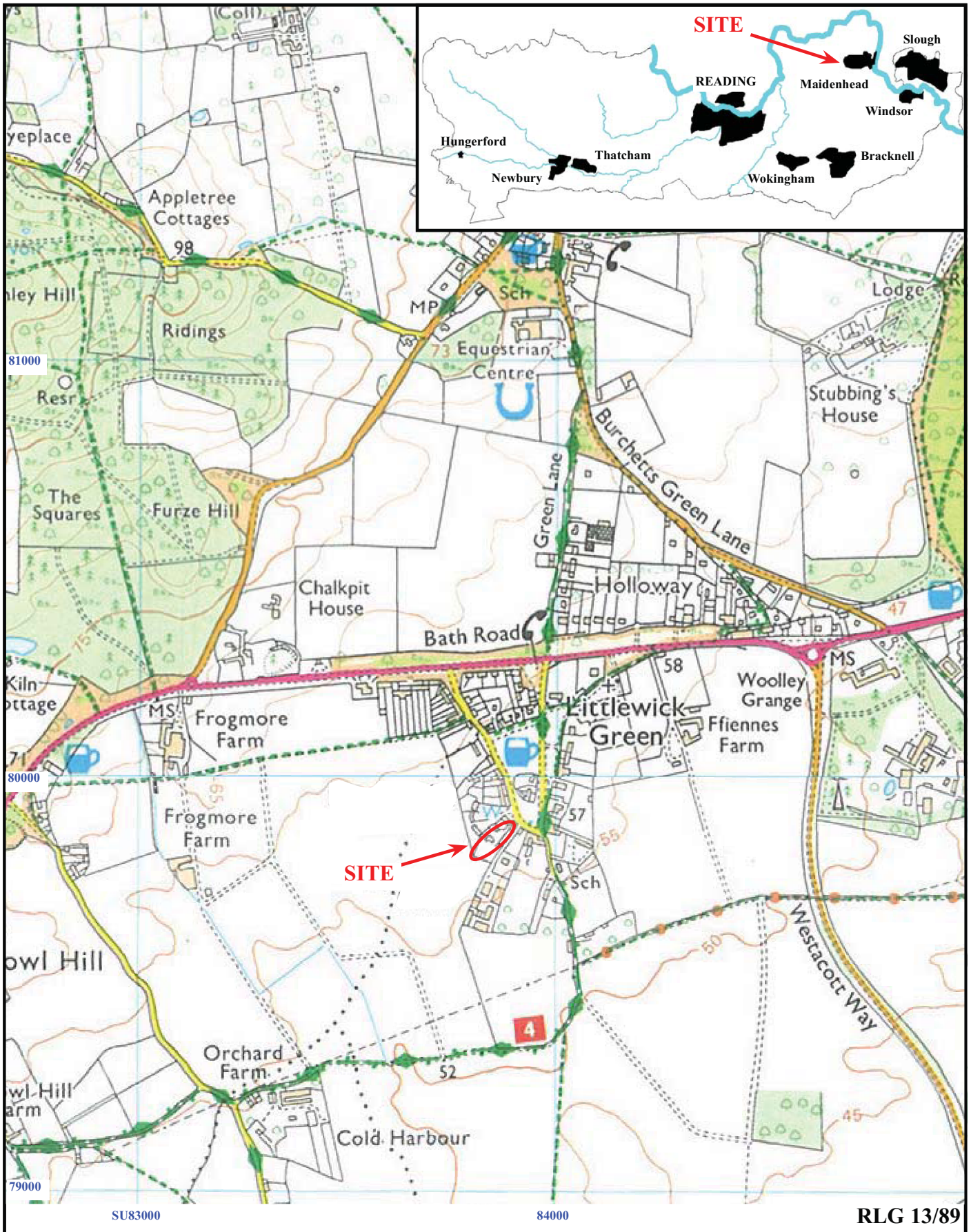
Three complete glass bottles were temporarily retained as a sample of finds taken from one of the Victorian cut features in the extension area. One brown beer bottle, 260mm in length, is embossed the legend 'FULLER STORY and Co Ltd' which has bottled at the Bell Brewery in Maidenhead from 1854. Several bottles of this type were noted in this deposit. The other two are squat-shaped water bottles, both embossed; one with 'IVE BROTHERS' of Henley, that traded there from 1810. The second is an R. Whites table water bottle, embossed with 'R.W & S Ltd, Windsor', a mass produced water bottle from the later 19th century.

Conclusion

Although the site lies in a area of considerable potential for Roman, medieval or early post-medieval deposits, late 19th century features were the only deposits encountered during the groundworks. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were discovered.

References

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- Cotton, M, 1961, 'Robin Hood's Arbour; and rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **55**, 48–68
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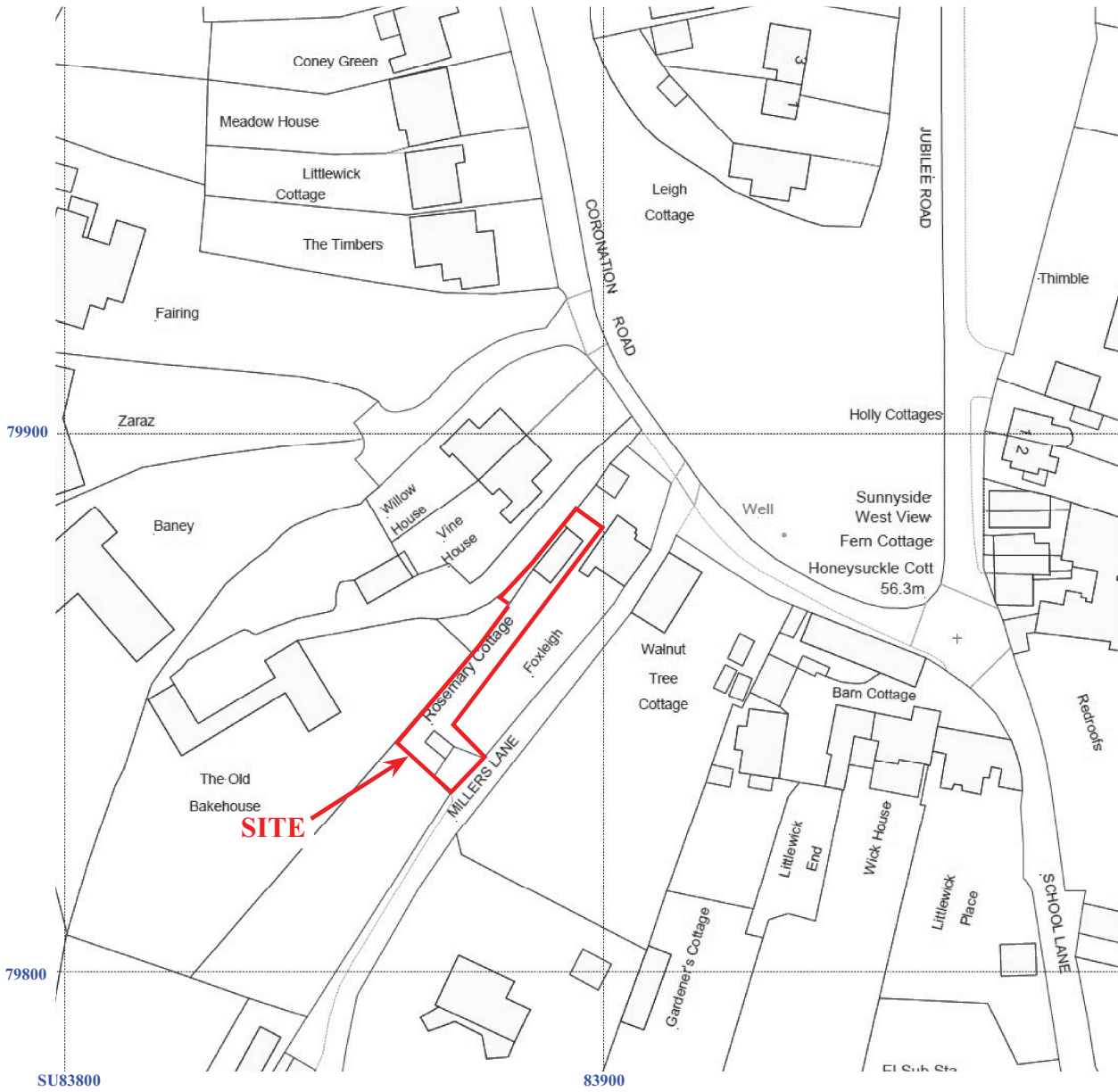


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Figure 1. Location of site within Littlewick Green and Berkshire.

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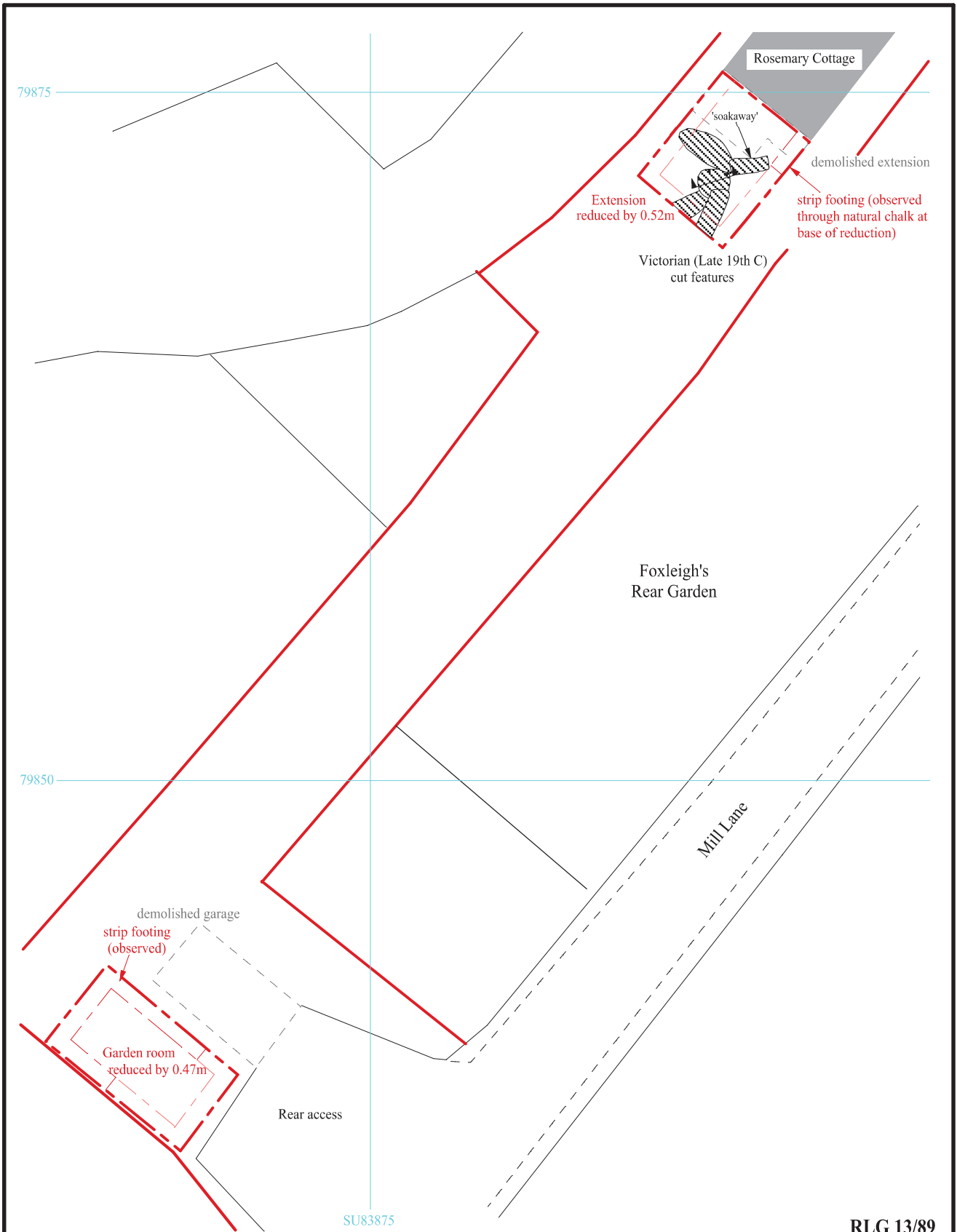


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Coronation Road.

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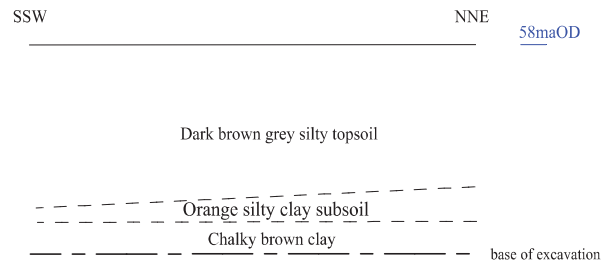
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Gable end elevation (front) of the Listed Building, looking south.



Plate 2. Reduced strip at rear of cottage, looking north east, Scale; 1m.

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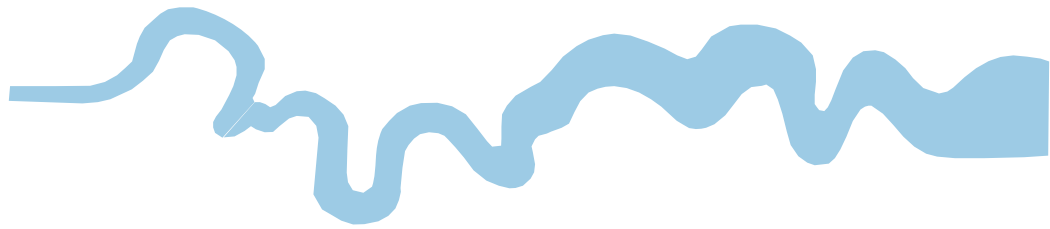
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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
↓	↓



**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**