

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**42 Market Place,  
Wokingham, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Aidan Colyer**

**Site Code: MPW13/33**

**(SU 81213 68623)**

# **42 Market Place. Wokingham, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
For Wilson Bowden Developments Limited**

by Aidan Colyer

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MPW13-33  
OASIS No  
Thameseval 165507

**October 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** 42 Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire.

**Grid reference:** SU 81213 68623

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 13<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Aidan Colyer

**Site code:** MPW 13/33

**Summary of results:** The digging of a large lift pit was monitored to the rear of the building but no archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 26.11.13
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## **42 Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Aidan Colyer

**Report 13/33**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the rear of 42 Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 81213 68623) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ross Ot, of Faithful and Gould, Chilbrook, Oasis Business Park, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4AH on behalf of Wilson Bowden Developments Limited.

Planning permission (F/2012/1678) has been granted by Wokingham Council for the refurbishment and part rebuild of the existing building. The consent is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012, Para 141) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ben Jervis formerly of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aidan Colyer, Daniel Bray and David Platt between February and October 2013 and the site code is MPW13/33. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at local approved Museum willing to accept the archive in due course.

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located in the centre of Wokingham and is bordered to the south by Market Place and to the north west by Rose Street (Fig. 2). The site comprises a small parcel of land located north east of the existing building and adjacent to Rose Street. The underlying geology is Plateau Gravel (BGS 1946) but the geology observed in the trench was a reddish brown clay.

### **Archaeological background**

The site lies within the historic medieval core of the town and fronts onto one of the main medieval streets (Market Place). A number of archaeological investigations have taken place within the town comprising larger excavations (eg Morris and Jones 1990; WA 1988; Lewis 2011) and smaller watching briefs (eg WA 1996; Saunders 2001). Although the fieldwork on Cross Street (Morris and Jones 1990) and Rose St (WA 1988)

located a sequence of medieval deposits including buildings at the former, in general the majority of investigations have not recorded dense and complex deposits representing a sequence of development from medieval into post-medieval and modern times. A search of the Historic Environment Record limited to a relatively confined radius, produced 22 entries, most of which relate to medieval or early post-medieval features. Of particular note is the high number of standing buildings (listed) on Market Place.

## **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, in particular the stripped area for the base of a lift shaft.

## **Results**

### *Test pit*

A test pit was initially dug and observed. It was 2.9m long and 0.6m wide located adjacent to the exterior wall (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). It was 1.8m deep. It revealed a number of modern service runs but no deposits of archaeological interest, The test pit location was eventually subsumed into the area of the lift shaft.

### *Lift shaft*

The lift shaft measured 4.0m x 3.50m and was 1.40m deep (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of brick pavement and concrete overlying 0.06m of sharp sand, this overlay 0.64m of dark brown grey sandy silt made ground with frequent post medieval brick. This overlay 0.40m of mid reddish brown sandy clay which in turn overlay the dark reddish brown clay geology. No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were observed.

## **Finds**

No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered during the watching brief.

## **Conclusion**

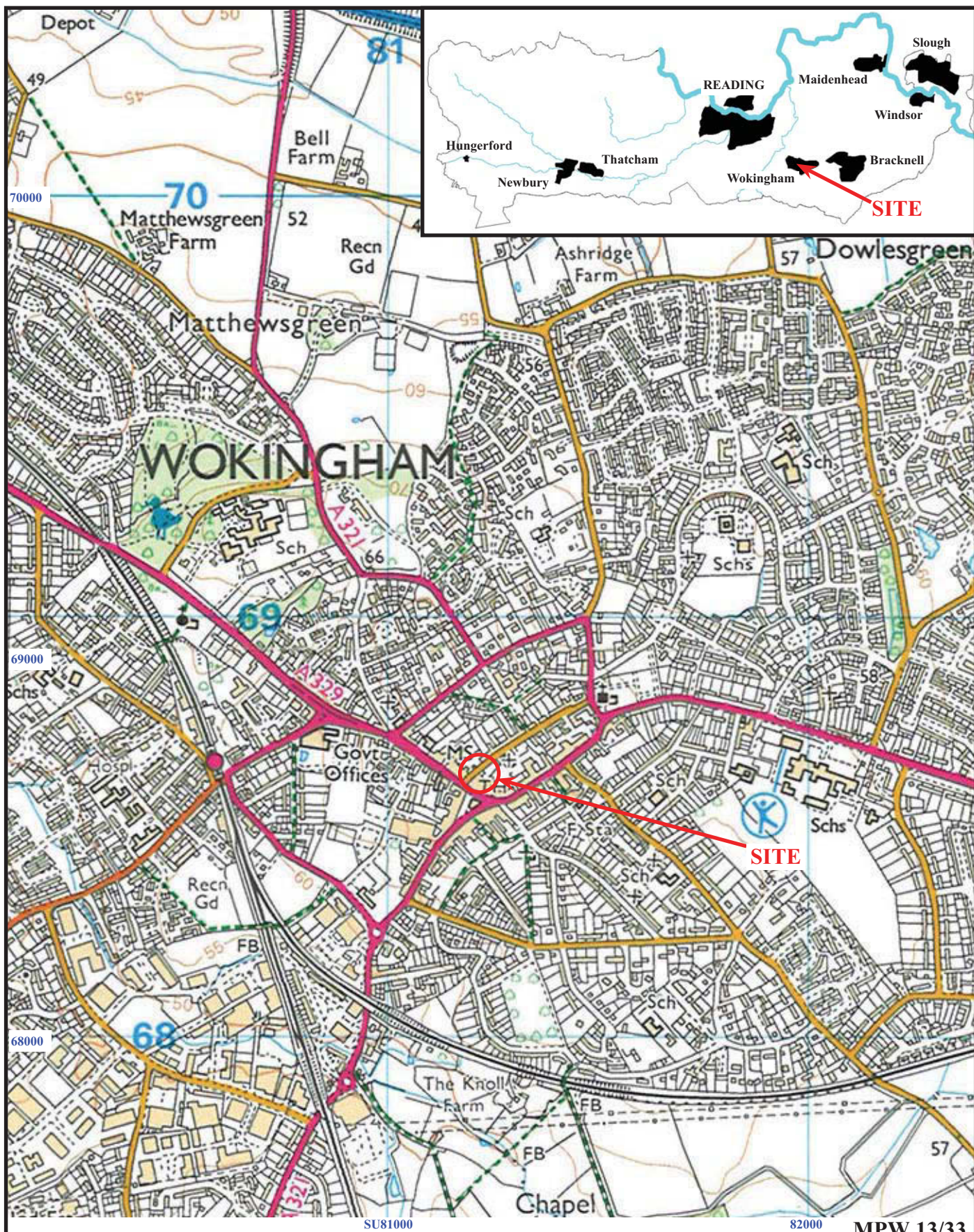
Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on the site no features nor finds were observed

during the watching brief.

## References

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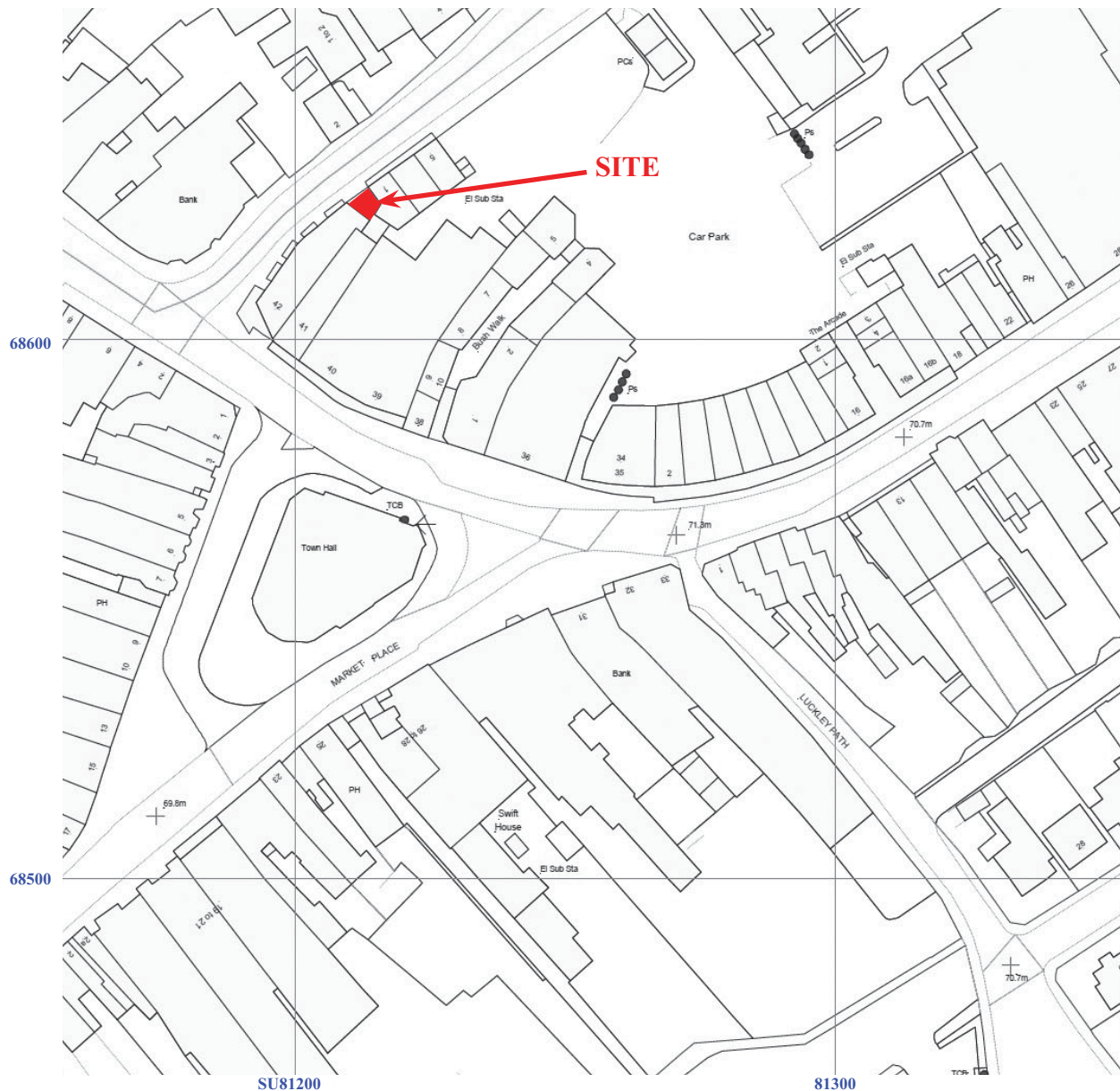
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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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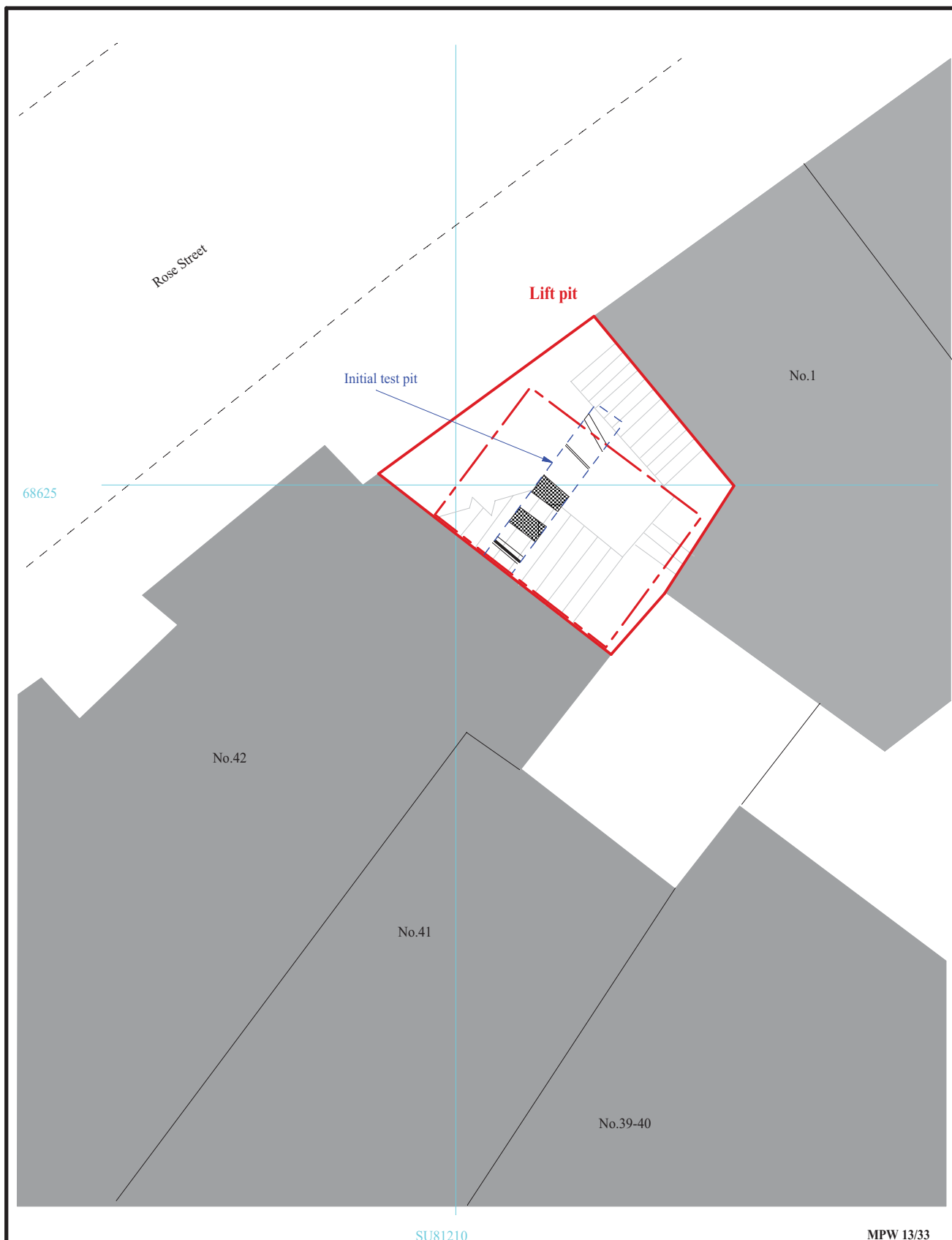
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Market Place, Wokingham.

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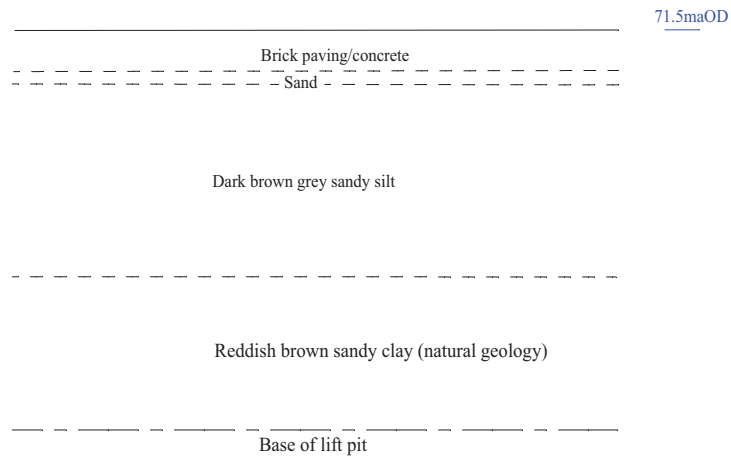


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Figure 4. Representative section of lift pit



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Plate 1. Test pit looking south, Scales: 2m.



Plate 2. Reduced area, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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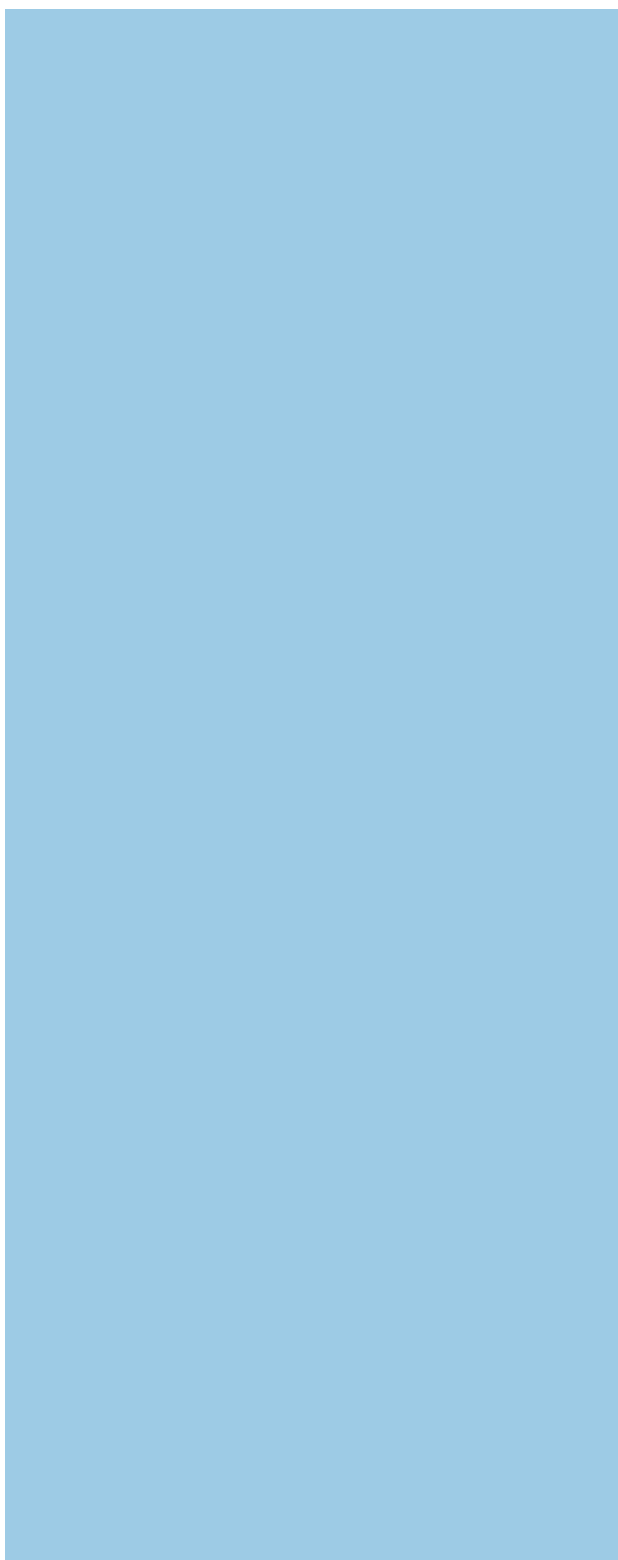
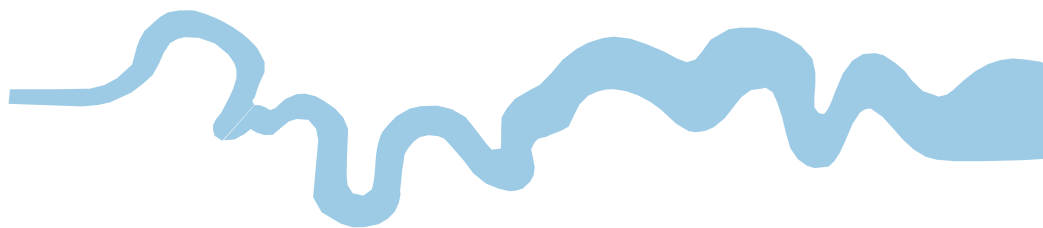
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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