

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Rear of 7-9 Gun Street,  
Reading, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Recording Action**

**by Joanna Pine**

**Site Code: GSR10/06**

**(SU 7140 7327)**

**Rear of 7-9 Gun Street,  
Reading, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Recording Action  
for PDR Limited**

by Jo Pine  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GSR10/06

**January 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Rear of 7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 7140 7327

**Site activity:** Archaeological recording action

**Date and duration of project:** 2nd September 2011 - 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Project manager:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisor:** Jo Pine

**Site code:** GSR10/06

**Summary of results:** Excavations to the rear of properties fronting Gun Street; prior and during groundworks for a new basement revealed this area had been extensively disturbed in both the late post-medieval period and the recent past. There was a hint that earlier post-medieval and possible medieval deposits did survive on site.

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

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# Rear of 7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Recording Action

By Jo Pine

with contributions by Paul Blinkhorn, Steven Crabb and Danielle Milbank

**Report 10/06**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at the rear of 7-9 Gun Street Reading, Berkshire (SU 7140 7327)(Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Woolley of Yy wyn, Mynydd Du Road, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 4BL on behalf of PDR Limited, 9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire. The site is located within the centre of Reading on the south side of Gun Street opposite the parish church of St Mary's (Figs 1 and 2). The new development was to take place in the rear of the properties which are currently occupied by a car park and beer store. The site is located on the side of the Kennet Valley at a height of approximately 39m above Ordnance Datum. The ground now slopes gently to the south and the Holy Brook bisects the site, though this is mostly in a culvert. The underlying geology is terrace gravel or alluvium according to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1946) and this distinction appears to reflect the position of the site exactly on the junction of the terrace and floodplain. It was considered that the position of the site on the edge of the valley may reveal an outcrop of chalk rather than gravel, as present further to the west, and this appears to have been demonstrated in the ground works.

Planning consent (10/00615/FUL) and listed building consent has been gained from Reading Borough Council for redevelopment of the site, to comprise a new basement to the rear of the extant buildings and bin store at the far south of the site. A condition of this permission required that no development should take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work. The archaeological potential of the site was demonstrated by field evaluation (Ford 2003) which revealed the presence of medieval deposits sealed by post-medieval dumping and reclamation. As a result of likely damage to or destruction of these archaeological deposits during groundworks for the redevelopment, a formal programme of archaeological excavation and watching brief was required. This was in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5, 2010) and the Borough's policies on archaeology

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of Reading, on what is thought to be one of the original medieval streets (Astill 1978). The town has late Saxon origins with the original Saxon town located somewhere close to St Mary's Church, which stands just to the north of the site. However, few deposits of Saxon date have yet been revealed with the town centre. The site lies within the boundary of the medieval and later town, with the southern portion of the site possibly extending into the former floodplain of the Holy Brook where water management and/or land reclamation deposits could be encountered. Evaluation of the adjacent site to the east revealed medieval deposits and cut features sealed beneath 19th and 20th century deposits (Pine 2010) with a medieval hearth located on the corner of Bridge Street and Gun Street to the west (Moore 2004).

Archaeological investigations in the modern town have, naturally, been on a small scale. Large scale excavations did however take place in advance of the Oracle shopping centre, which is located to the south and east of the site (Ford *et al.* 2013). These revealed a complex medieval and post-medieval sequence with building remains including two medieval water mills, mentioned in Domesday Book, which survived into the 19th century. In addition a large medieval stone building was recorded with walls being 1m thick. The remains of a 16th-century tannery consisting of rows of clay-lined pits were also discovered. Further to the west on Castle Street, medieval pits, a possible building and an early course of the Holy Brook were recorded (Pine 2005).

### *The evaluation*

A two-trench evaluation was undertaken (Ford 2003). Medieval dump layers and cut features were found in Trench 1; which was located to the north of (higher than) the Holy Brook, below about 1.3m of made ground. In Trench 2, two, possibly three, medieval hearths and further small areas of dumping were present below about 1.5m of made ground.

## **Methodology**

A number of small areas were excavated (A to G) in parts of the site that were to be disturbed by ground works for the construction of a new basement and associated services (Fig. 3) Overburden was removed in Areas A, B, C and F by hand either by archaeologists or by the groundworkers under constant archaeological supervision. Service trench E, inspection chamber D and Area G were excavated using a Kubota mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All archaeological features were planned and sectioned as a minimum objective.

Appendix 1 provides a summary of all excavated features with phasing.

## Results

A new basement was to be constructed. However, due to the constraints of building against and under an existing building the area was not to be opened as a continuous area but excavated in stages. Thus the archaeological investigations were also to be done in a piecemeal fashion dictated by the timetable of the building works. The basement area was thus investigated in five areas: A, B, C, F and G.

### *Area A (Figs 4 and 6; Pls 1–3)*

This was excavated adjoining a recently built cellar below Turtle Towers. The area was c.12 sq m and was excavated to a depth of 1.37m below ground level. Modern landscaping was removed to reveal concrete and scalpins; which had been truncated in the far western part of the area by the eastern edge of Trench 1 of the previous archaeological evaluation (Ford 2003). The concrete and scalpins were removed by hand to reveal a large cut (202) filled with clay, scalpins and brick rubble (251, 256, and 257). Also below the modern made ground was a cut (203) filled with modern bricks and lined with blue plastic (253). Both these cuts (202 and 203) truncated a ceramic drain (254) set in a construction cut (201) which was back filled with layers (261 and 262) the latter which contained frequent pea gravel and associated brickwork 255..

Modern cut 202 also truncated 204 which is likely associated with drain 254 and is possibly the edge of a soakaway. It contained sandy mortar and brick fragments (258) and a lead pipe which had been capped at an exposed end. Both the drain cut (201) and soakaway 204 truncated a feature (205) which had been so badly truncated by later activity that it was only seen in the western section of the trench. This feature was at least 0.17m deep and 0.60m north-south and exposed for 0.10m east-west. It contained two fills (264 and 265) and a small assemblage of tile was recovered from both contexts.

This pit? (205) then truncated layer 252, which was a light grey brown sandy silt which contained a medieval pottery sherd together with one of 17th-century date, a fragment of tile and four clay tobacco pipe stems. Due to the later activity only a thin slither of this deposit was revealed along the western edge of the trench. It was shown to be 0.40m north-south, 0.40m east-west and 0.08m deep. This overlay layer (259) a mid grey brown sandy silt of similar dimensions except that it was 0.22m deep. Two sherds of pottery of 15th-16th century date, a copper alloy pin and ten fragments of tile were recovered from it. This in turn overlay layer (260), again of similar dimensions east to west and north to south but being 0.15m deep. This was a mid grey brown sandy silt and contained sixteen fragments of brick and tile and shell. This in turn sealed deposit (263)

which was a light greyish brown clayey silt and contained three sherds of mid 13th-15th century pottery together with fifteen fragments of tile. It again was only seen in a small strip down the west side of the excavation area and was 0.10m deep and overlay natural chalk at 38.30m aOD.

### *Area B (Figs 5 and 6; Pl. 4)*

This was excavated adjoining the wall of the Purple Turtle beneath a fire escape and between two vertical drain pipes. The area was *c.* 4 sq m and was excavated to a depth of *c.* 1.66m but only where access was possible.

Below Tarmac and scalpins (350) was a cut (302) which contain a modern drainage pipe, still in use. and cut 300 a foundation cut for a set of stairs going to the basement of the Purple turtle. Both cuts truncated a brick surface consisting of unfroged bricks (355) and a foundation cut (301) for the foundations of the wall of the Purple Turtle. Below the brick surface and 301 was a mid grey clayey silt (359/361) which was 0.50m deep and contained 19th- and 20th-century pottery, a shard of green glass and four fragments of tile. This sealed a deposit of dark grey/black clayey silt (358) which contained a residual sherd of Surrey Whiteware and a tile fragment (not retained). This overlay another thin deposit a clayey silt (362) which was 0.40m deep and contained a sherd of pottery of 19th-or 20th-century date. This in turn sealed a thin layer (364) which contained two sherds of late 11th-12th century pottery, likely residual, and a small assemblage of tile. This deposit sealed a further layer (365) which was a dump of redeposited chalk. Below this material was a small posthole (304) which was 0.12m in diameter and 0.30m deep. This truncated the infill (366) of a possible large cut (305). This feature was not fully excavated due to the restrictive nature of the trench. This pit was at least 0.45m deep and contained fills 366 and 370 and truncated layer 371, a grey brown silt.

### *Area C (Figs 3 and 7)*

This area was excavated beneath an existing fire escape between the walls of the existing Purple Turtle and Turtle Towers but extended further to the south beyond the southern extent of Turtle Towers. It was *c.* 7.5m long and between 0.80m and 1.1m wide. Groundworkers removed Tarmac and overburden to reveal an existing sewer pipe that sat in cut 303 and was backfilled with deposit (360), along the whole length of the area. The foundation cut for the Purple Turtle was also observed which contained the concrete foundations together with brick and concrete rubble. At the far southern part of the trench beyond the footings for Turtle Towers and to the west another service pipe (308) was revealed. Below both services a mid grey brown silty clay (380) was revealed. This overlay a grey brown silt (381) with frequent brick and tile (not retained). Below this was a grey

brown silty clay (382) which was excavated to a depth of up to 1.65m below the present land surface. This contained part of an iron chain.

#### *Area D: Inspection Chamber pit (Figs 3 and 7)*

A chamber pit for new pipework was excavated. It was *c.* 12 sq m and 1.60m deep. Within this inspection pit were a series of modern and late post-medieval landscape deposits (369, 373, 374, 377 and 378 which all contained large quantities of brick and tile which were noted but not retained. The latest of these deposits (373) was truncated by a service pipe trench (306); crossing the pit on an approximate north-south axis. Below the modern made ground was a layer of light yellow grey silt (368) with frequent ceramic building material inclusions, from which three sherds of 15th- to 16th-century pottery were recovered, together with brick, tile, clay tobacco pipe, an iron nail and lead lump. Below this deposit was layer 375; which was a light yellow grey silt, over 0.40m deep. This sealed what appeared to be the natural chalk and a steep cut edge was observed (307) which was in all likelihood a pit. For safety reasons it was not possible to enter the inspection pit but what was observed from the surface seemed to indicate that it was filled a gleyed blue grey clay (376) and the pit was over 0.60m deep.

#### *Area E: Service trench*

This was a service trench excavated by Kubota using a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3). This was between 0.60m and 0.80m wide and *c.* 12m long in a J-shape in plan, and was between 0.50-0.60m deep. In its southern portion it clipped the edge of the culverted Holy Brook. In the remainder of the trench, the stratigraphy was landscape gravel 0.02m deep overlying a sand bedding layer 0.02m deep. This in turn sealed a humic dark grey layer (387). Excavation ceased within this level.

#### *Area F*

An additional area was dug to remove existing steps and extend the basement. The area was *c.* 2.5m sq and again showed extensive disturbance by foundations for the Purple Turtle, pipes and recent construction work (Fig. 3).

#### *Area G*

In this area, *c.* 4m by 6m and 1.70m deep, existing concrete steps and associated walls and foundations were removed between the existing cellar and new inspection chamber. This was undertaken by a Kubota fitted with a



toothless bucket (Fig. 3). The area was extremely truncated and disturbed by modern works including the backfill of the earlier evaluation (Ford 2003), disturbance caused by the construction of an existing cellar and laying of service pipes. Below the service trenches was observed a modern rubble layer (385) which was *c.* 0.50m deep and which contained plastic. A small single skinned Victorian wall foundation (367) was observed butted by 385 and resting on layer 384. Deposit 384 was a dark silty clay sealed also by layer 385. It again contained brick rubble (not retained), a clay tobacco pipe stem, clear glass and a lead object. This overlay a grey green silty clay deposit (383) from which 19th- or 20th-century pottery was recovered together with a clay pipe stem fragment and tile. It appears that this area of the site had been completely disturbed in the recent past.

## Finds

### *Pottery* by Paul Blinkhorn

The pottery assemblage comprised 182 sherds with a total weight of 3136g. The following fabric types were noted:

- MSW: Medieval Sandy ware**, Late 11th-14th century? Dense sub-rounded white, grey and clear quartz up to 0.5mm. Early medieval pottery types similar to this are found along a considerable length of the middle Thames Valley and its hinterland, and the problems of differentiating between the numerous different wares has been noted in the past (Mellor 1994, 84). 4 sherds, 54g.
- ASH: Ashampstead ware**, 12th–14th century (Mephram and Heaton, 1995). Sandy wares produced at a manufactory *c.* 15km to the west of Reading, the main products being jars and highly decorated glazed jugs, the latter often having painted geometric slip designs. 3 sherds 15g.
- SWW: Surrey Whiteware**, mid 13th–mid 15th century (Pearce and Vince 1988). A range of whitewares from several sources in Surrey, including Kingston and Cheam. Range of vessel forms which changes over time, but the earlier assemblages are dominated by glazed jugs, some with slipped, incised and plastic decoration. 10 sherds, 173g.
- TG: Tudor Green Wares**. Green-glazed whitewares produced at several centres in the south of England in Surrey and Hampshire. Wide range of late medieval vessel forms (Pearce and Vince 1988), often delicate and thin-walled, including jugs, costrels (portable flasks) and lobed cups. Common throughout central southern England, *c.* AD1380–1550. 2 sherds, 2g.
- LMT: Late Medieval Transitional Earthenwares**, 15th–mid 16th century. Wide range of utilitarian wares. Slightly sandy, red fabric with a thin, patchy glaze on one or both surfaces. Occurs commonly in Reading and most other towns in the middle and lower Thames Valley (e.g. Blinkhorn 2007, 13). 2 sherds, 21g.
- MET: Metropolitan-type Slipware**, 17th–18th century. Similar fabric to Red Earthenware, with geometric designs in white slip under the glaze. Produced at a number of centres, but particularly Harlow in Essex (Davey and Walker 2009). 1 sherd, 20g.
- TGE: Anglo-Dutch Tin-glazed Earthenware**, 17th–early 18th century (Orton 1988). Fine white earthenware, occasionally pinkish or yellowish core. Thick white tin glaze, often with painted cobalt blue or polychrome decoration. Range of table and display wares such as mugs, plates, dishes, bowls and vases. 2 sherds, 10g.
- GRE: Red Earthenware**, 16th–19th century (Brears 1969). Fine sandy earthenware, usually with a brown or green glaze, occurring in a range of utilitarian forms. Such 'country pottery' was first made in the 16th century, and in some areas continued in use until the 19th century. 12 sherds, 589g.
- EST: English Stoneware**. 1680 onwards (Blacker 1922). Hard, grey fabric, often with a brown, iron-rich exterior wash. Range of utilitarian vessels, particularly mugs. 3 sherds, 15g.
- CP Chinese Porcelain**, mid 16th century onwards (Whitehouse 1972, 63). Hard, slightly translucent white fabric with a clear glaze, often with hand-painted polychrome decoration. Known in Europe from the 13th century, but did not become common until the 18th century. Wide range of table- and decorative wares. 2 sherds, 17g.
- SWSG: Staffordshire Salt-Glazed Stoneware**, AD1720-1780 (Mountford 1971). Hard, white fabric with a distinctive white 'orange peel' textured glaze. Range of fine tablewares such as mugs, tea bowls and plates. 1 sherd, 1g.
- MOD: Miscellaneous 19th and 20th century wares**. Mass-produced white earthenwares, stonewares etc. 140 sherds, 2219g.

The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Appendix 4. The range of pottery types is typical of sites in the town.

## Chronology, Pottery Occurrence and Discussion

Each context-specific pottery assemblage was given a Ceramic Phase (CP) date based on the range of wares present. These dates were then checked against the site stratigraphic matrix, and adjusted where necessary. The dating scheme and pottery occurrence is shown in Appendix 2. The data shows that most of the pottery from the site occurred in 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century contexts, and that pottery deposition was somewhat sparse before that time. However, the data in Appendix 3 suggest that there was a considerable disturbance of earlier deposits in the modern era, particularly of those dating to the early post-medieval period. Pottery of 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century date comprised over 21% of the material from CP9 (Modern) contexts, and medieval material made up a further 2.5%.

The range of vessel forms is entirely typical, and indicates that activity at the site was basically of a domestic nature throughout. The medieval material comprises in the main jars and jugs, along with two fragments of a ‘Tudor Green’ cup. The post-medieval pottery is largely utilitarian, along with a few fragments of display pottery, such as TGE and HSW.

### *Animal Bone* by Danielle Milbank

A small assemblage of fragmented disarticulated animal bone was hand collected from five contexts, apart from 263 these contexts are all post-medieval in date. No evidence of butchery was observed, and it is likely that some of these pieces are residual and in later contexts due to post-medieval disturbance of earlier deposits.

A total of 22 fragments were recovered, weighing 95g (Appendix 5). The preservation of the remains was moderate, with little surface erosion and moderate fragmentation, which limited the number of identifiable fragments. Where species could not be identified, the fragments were ascribed to medium or large-sized animal categories. Species represented comprised pig (represented by a single tooth), cattle, sheep (a right calcaneus bone) and a goat metacarpal. Due to the lack of duplicated skeletal elements, the minimum number of individuals present in the assemblage was found to be 4: 1 sheep, 1 goat, 1 pig and 1 cattle species.

### *Ceramic Building Materials* by Danielle Milbank

A modest quantity of brick and tile was recovered during the evaluation, with a total of 8458g (excluding a single complete brick sample) pieces of ceramic building material (162 fragments) recovered from 11 contexts. The pieces were examined under x10 magnification, and are summarized in Appendix 6. Ceramic building material of pre-20<sup>th</sup> century date was recorded in larger quantities most frequently in the post-medieval deposits infilling pits and postholes, with smaller numbers recovered from earlier features.

Deposit 358 comprised over half of the total weight of the assemblage, and included one brick fragment, which is of a fine, evenly-fired fabric with small groggy inclusions. The piece is 50mm thick, with a slightly uneven form. The brick is unfroged and fairly abraded, and likely to be of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

The majority of the material is tile, and the fabric varies from fine, hard and well-fired to slightly soft, and the thickness varies from 11mm to 14mm. Some examples have moderate sandy inclusions but the majority are of a fine clay fabric. The colour is typically orange red, with two examples of a reduced (black/grey core), and all the pieces have rough undersides indicating they were formed using a sanded mould. Six examples with peg holes were recovered, and the remaining pieces are all flat, suggesting that they also represent pieces of peg tile. This type of tile was produced from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is generally not closely datable, although the more uneven examples are more typical of the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

All of the fragments recovered were roof tile fragments, which were examined at x10 magnification. The fabric is uniformly sandy, with frequent small well-sorted quartz sand inclusions. The single piece from layer 168 is of a sandy fabric with fairly poorly-sorted sandy inclusions and occasional small burnt flint inclusions.

The fragments are generally fairly hard and well-fired. The colour varies from slightly orange red to darker red, with three examples of a grey (reduced) core. A fragment from deposit 64 is a very hard, fine, slightly soapy fabric with well-sorted rounded white quartz sand inclusions, and is a brownish red with a reduced core.

All fragments had a rough underside, indicating that they were made using a sanded mould, and the typical thickness is 12-14mm. No complete tiles were present, and although no fragments with peg holes were recovered they are likely to have been peg tiles. This type of tile was produced from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century, and is not closely datable.

Overall, the tile assemblage recovered in the course of the excavation is very modest. Although the tile fragments are not closely datable, in terms of form and fabric they are typical of tiles from the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, due to re-use and to their durable nature, tile fragments of early date are often found eventually discarded in later contexts.

## *Ceramic Object*

Two ceramic wig curlers were recovered from the foundation cut 301 (356) of the wall of the Purple Turtle in Area B.

## *Clay Pipe*

A modest collection of 13 clay tobacco pipe stems was recovered during the fieldwork. Some were likely residual and had been disturbed from their original contexts. None is closely datable except that they are all post-medieval.

## *Metalwork by Steven Crabb*

(250) Flat brass plate fitting:- a single piece of metalwork was recovered from this deposit, it is a cover plate from a small lock. It measures 42mm by 40mm with a tang 9mm long. In this tang is a small rectangular opening for the lock bolt. It has four drilled holes in the plate with iron oxide deposits on the internal surface indicating the presence of the lock mechanism.

- aluminium ring:- a single non ferrous ring was recovered from this deposit, it measures 31mm in diameter and 3mm in thickness. The material could not be easily determined until the ring was scratched revealing a shiny metallic finish which with the light weight suggests aluminium rather than lead or zinc.

(259) A single small copper pin was recovered from this deposit it measures 18mm long. It is heavily damaged with both ends missing and highly corroded, however it still resembles the copper pins commonly used to hold clothing together through the medieval and early post medieval period.

(263) A small ferrous mass was recovered during environmental sampling, this is too highly corroded and encrusted to allow any identification.

(358) A single small copper pin was recovered from this deposit it measures 29mm long and is intact. It is of a form commonly used to hold clothing together during the medieval and early post medieval period.

(360) Copper alloy button:- a circular button with a loop fitting rather than a stud on the rear. It measures 28mm in diameter. The disc of the button has been silvered which remains almost intact, however scratches to the front and wear on the edges reveal the copper alloy beneath. The wear and scratches are however slight indicating moderate wear before loss.

(360) Copper alloy pin:- two fragments of a rolled copper tube most likely a hair pin, the end has a domed head leading to a close waist before expanding to a cylinder. The pin is constructed of a sheet of rolled copper alloy.

- lead fitting:- a lead disc measuring 93mm in diameter and 20mm in thickness. It appears to have been used as the end of a tube whilst holding a central tube in place. It has been subsequently reused with hole forced through and marks indicating use as a soft anvil.

(361) A fragment of ferrous plate measuring 91mm long, 42mm wide and 3mm thick. It has an area of green paint still visible. The level of corrosion indicates this is modern.

(368) Ferrous nails:- two ferrous nails were recovered from this deposit, both are fragmentary and measure at least 42mm and 54mm long.

- lead plate:- a single strip of lead was recovered from this deposit, it measures 63mm long and 11mm wide, one end has been folded over to roughly halfway along its length suggesting an initial length of around 90mm long.

(369) Ferrous strapping:- seven fragments of ferrous strapping were recovered from this deposit ranging from 30mm to 104mm long all are around 23-34mm wide. Therefore allowing for the differential build up of rust these are likely to have been the same piece. The corrosion has been very severe with very little metal still surviving. The objects are all flat and with no visible holes for attachment suggesting they were not used as a fitting.

(369) Keyhole:- a single brass keyhole cover was recovered it measures 62mm long and 20mm wide, it is keyhole shaped with holes for attachment at either end and a keyhole in the centre.

- doorknob:- a fragment of a brass doorknob was also recovered from this deposit it consists of a concave circular plate which has been broken from the rest of the doorknob. It measures 36mm in diameter.

- ferrous nails:- four ferrous nails were recovered from this deposit they measure between 35mm and 48mm long.

(374) Three ferrous nails were recovered from this deposit they measure between 19mm and 51mm long.

(384) Lead rod:- a length of circular cross sectioned lead rod was recovered from this deposit it is likely to have been used as a solder for leading piping. It measures 79mm long and 12mm thick.

- lead piping:- a length of lead piping used for small scale internal plumbing. This pipe measures 133mm long and 28mm across. It has a small rupture in the centre and both ends have been bent to the extent that the metal has fractured. This appears to be a piece of pipe which has been damaged then removed and replaced.

(386) Ferrous chain and rod:- a length of ferrous chain with an attached loop at one end and a separate ferrous rod with a damaged loop of chain were recovered from this feature. They are consistent with the safety pin and associated chain from an acro style prop. These are commonly used to hold up a doorway or similar while a lintel is being installed or replaced.

### *Slag by Steven Crabb*

A single piece of slag was recovered from deposit 368, it is most likely from a smithing hearth from the blast furnace period (post AD1500). This blast furnace slag would have been used as an oxidizing agent in a blacksmiths hearth to make small quantities of cast iron workable.

### *Slate by Steven Crabb*

Two fragments of slate styli were recovered from deposit 369, they measure 44mm and 74mm long and are not fragments of the same piece as the longer piece has both ends rounded. These would not have been fine drawing or writing tools given their respective widths (6mm and 7mm respectively).

### *Glass by Steven Crabb*

Just under 3kg of glass was recovered from seven deposits across this site (Appendix 9). Most of this material is from containers including bottles; also recovered were vessels and a gaming piece.

(250) The core of a multi coloured marble was recovered from this deposit, the clear glass has almost completely been broken off of the outside. The core consists of a banded twisted multi coloured layer over a central clear core. It measures 20mm by 15mm. Also recovered from this context was a bottle from The Royal Berkshire Mineral Water Company Reading. This bottle has had its base damaged and is not present. It is circular and measures 66mm in diameter. The bottle was produced by -exander and Co of Leeds and -. The Royal Berkshire Mineral Water Company was at its peak immediately post- 2nd World War when it took over the Hampshire Mineral Water Company.

(356) A single piece of flat glass was recovered from this deposit. It has developed a pearlescent surface due to the disintegration of the surface. This is likely to have been a fragment of window glass.

(361) A fragment of a large bottle or vessel was recovered from this deposit it is very dark green in colour leading to a black appearance until viewed with transmitted light.

(368) A series of vessels were recovered from this deposit including a tumbler with ridged sides opening slightly to the top, the pedestal base and foot of a vase, and fragments of bottles. These include a large piece of dark green glass with the legend BO- visible, a small blue green glass bottle with the legend Mrs Wilmslows, – IC syrup, which dates to the 1890's and a fine clear glass bottle with straight sides. Also recovered was an intact bottle with Tom Smith & Co, London on one side. This deposit also contained fragments of liquid cast window glass confirming a Victorian date at the earliest.

(369) A fragment of liquid cast window glass, Victorian or later in date.

(384) A decorative vase made of crazed glass with external loops added after the initial moulding of the vessel. Also recovered from this context was a fragment of a large cylindrical vessel made of clear glass and a small thin fragment of a smaller vessel made of a light green glass.

(385) Five glass bottles, a cosmetic jar and the stopper for a decanter were recovered from this deposit. The decanter stopper is square in shape with a geometric design consisting of moulded squares surrounding a square plaque with a raised dimpled texture. The cosmetic jar is round with straight sides and a flat base inset from the edges it also has a screw thread for a lid. All of the bottles recovered from this context are intact and are made of clear glass. The sides of the largest bottle are fluted and the cap is still in place and made of tinned steel with the corrosion products from the steel obscuring the detail of the lid, it is possible to make out the legend -FOOD PRODUCT-, this is also the only circular bottle from this context. The remaining bottles are all rectangular in cross section. Of these two have screw tops, one tinned steel and the other plastic. The two remaining bottles would have had stoppers which are no longer present. The largest of these has markings on one side for measuring the liquid in dessert spoons and the smaller has LUNG TONIC printed on one side. Neither of the screw top bottles have any identifiable markings.

## Conclusions

The excavations, although piecemeal in nature, encompassed a relatively large area of c. 100 sq m to the rear of properties facing Gun Street in the historic core of Reading. These excavations have indicated that, unfortunately, the area close to the extant buildings has been extensively disturbed in both the late post-medieval period and the recent past by construction cuts for the buildings and service pipes and soakaways. In spite of this there is a hint that earlier post-medieval and possible medieval deposits do survive, such as deposits seen close to the bottom of the excavations in area A (259, 260 and 263) and in Area C (deposit 382). In Areas B and D there are two undated pits (305 and 307) for which stratigraphic evidence suggests a possible early post-medieval /medieval date for these features is not out of the question.

The information gathered from this recording action can be added to that of the evaluation. In Trench 1, which was located in the area closest to the present buildings and clipped by Area A, sealed beneath c. 1.3m of made ground were recorded medieval layers and possible cut features.

Yet the higher potential for archaeological deposits is to be found to the south of the Holy Brook close to the evaluation Trench 2 where two possibly three, medieval hearths and further small areas of dumping were present below about 1.5m of made ground (Ford 2003). Given the depth of made ground in this area, ground works associated with the redevelopment were not going to penetrate into the medieval horizons, so there was no opportunity to examine this location archaeologically.

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## Appendix 1: Catalogue of Features

<i>Area</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Phase</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
A		250	Layer	Modern	Concrete
A	202	251	Cut	Modern	Scalpings
A		252	Layer	Post-medieval	Pottery
A	203	253	Cut/pit	Modern	Plastic
A	201	254	Drain	Modern	Drain
A		255	Brick	Modern	Association
A	202	256	Cut	Modern	Scalpings and modern bricks
A	202	257	Cut	Modern	Scalpings and modern bricks
A	204	258	Soak away	modern	Concrete and lead pipe
A		259	Layer	Post-medieval	Pottery
A		260	Layer	Early Post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
A	201	261	Pipe back fill	Modern	Service Pipe
A	201	262	Pipe back fill	Modern	Service Pipe
A		263	Layer	Medieval	Pottery
A	205	264	Pit cut?	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
A	205	265	Pit cut?	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
B		350	Scalpings	Modern	Scalpings
B	301	351	Foundation cut	Modern	Stratigraphy
B	302	352	Pipe cut	Modern	Stratigraphy
B	300	353	Foundation cut	Modern	Stratigraphy
B		354	Pipe cut	Modern	Stratigraphy
B		355	Brick surface	modern	Stratigraphy
B	301	356	Foundation cut	modern	Stratigraphy
B	301	357	Foundation cut	modern	Stratigraphy
B		358	Layer	modern	Stratigraphy
B		359	Layer	modern	Pottery
C	303	360	pipe trench	modern	Stratigraphy
B		361	Layer	modern	Pottery
B		362	Layer	modern	Pottery
B	304	363	Posthole	Modern- late post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
B		364	Layer	Post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
B		365	Layer (chalk)	Post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
B	307	366	layer under 365	Post-medieval/medieval?	Stratigraphy
G		367	Wall	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
G		368	Layer	Post-medieval	Clay pipe
D		369	Layer	Modern	Pottery
B	305	370	Pit	Post-medieval/medieval?	Stratigraphy
B		371	layer under 305	Post-medieval/medieval?	Stratigraphy
D	306	372	Drain	Modern	Service pipe
D		373	Rubble	Modern- late post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
D		374	layer	Modern- late post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
D		375	Layer	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
D	307	376	Pit	Post-medieval/medieval?	Stratigraphy
D		377	Layer	Modern- late post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
D		378	Rubble	Modern- late post-medieval?	Stratigraphy
C	308	379	Pipe cut	Modern	Stratigraphy
C		380	Layer	Modern	Stratigraphy
C		381	Rubble	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
C		382	Layer	Post-medieval	Stratigraphy
G		383	Layer	modern	pottery
G		384	Layer	Modern	Stratigraphy
G		385	Backfill	Modern	plastic
G		386	Modern Backfill	Modern	Stratigraphy
E		387	Layer	Post-medieval?	Stratigraphy

## Appendix 2: Ceramic Phase Chronology

Phase	Date (Century AD)	Defining Fabrics	No Sherds	Wt sherds
CP1	Late 11th – Mid 12th	MSW	3	30
CP2	Mid 12th – Mid 13th	ASH	-	-
CP3	Mid 13th – 15th	SWW	7	29
CP4	15th – Mid 16th	TG, LMT	5	58
CP5	Mid 16th – early 17th	GRE	-	-
CP6	17th	TGE, HSW	2	92
CP7	Late 17th – 18th	EST	-	-
CP8	18th	SWSG	-	-
CP9	19th – 20th	MOD	165	2927

**Appendix 3:** Pottery occurrence in CP9 contexts, by weight of sherds per fabric type, expressed as a percentage of the phase assemblage

MCW	ASH	SWW	LMT	GRE	TGE	EST	CP	SWSG	MOD	Total (g)
0.8%	0.4%	1.0%	0.3%	20.1%	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	75.8%	2927



**Appendix 4:** Pottery occurrence by number and weight (in g) of sherds per context by fabric type

Context	MSW		ASH		SWW		TG		LMT		GRE		MET		TGE		EST		CP		SWSG		19thC	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
250																								
252					1	72							1	20										
259							1	1	1	12														
263			2	2	1	1																		
352					3	13																		
356																								
357	1	11																						
358					1	13																		
359																								
360									1	9	4	352												
361																								
362					1	20																		
364	2	19																						
368					2	44	1	1																
369																								
374					1	10																		
383	1	24	1	13																				
384																								
Total	4	54	3	15	10	173	2	2	2	21	12	589	1	20	2	10	3	15	2	17	1	1	140	2219

**Appendix 5: Inventory of animal bone**

Cut	Deposit	Area	No Frags	Wt (g)	Medium	Pig	Goat	Sheep	Cattle
	259	A	1	1		1			
	260	A	9	18					
	263	A	4	4					
205	265	A	5	58	3		1		1
	364	B	3	14	1			1	
	Total		22	95					
	MNI				1	1	1	1	1

## Appendix 6. Catalogue of Ceramic Building Material

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Sample</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
	252	A	Layer		1	52
	259	A	Layer		10	426
	260	A	Layer-early		16	802
	263	A	Layer	11	15	220
205	264	A	cut		5	64
205	265	A	cut		18	1446
301	357	B	Foundation cut		6	126
	364	B	Layer		10	586
	367	G	Wall		1	
	368	G	Layer	13	73	4190
	383	G	Deposit		7	546

**Appendix 7 : Catalogue of Clay Pipe**

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>No Stems</i>	<i>Wt(g)</i>
	250	Layer	A	3	6
	252	Layer	A	4	8
	360	pipe trench	C	1	1
	368	Layer	G	3	8
	369	Layer (victorian)	D	1	2
	384	Layer	G	1	4

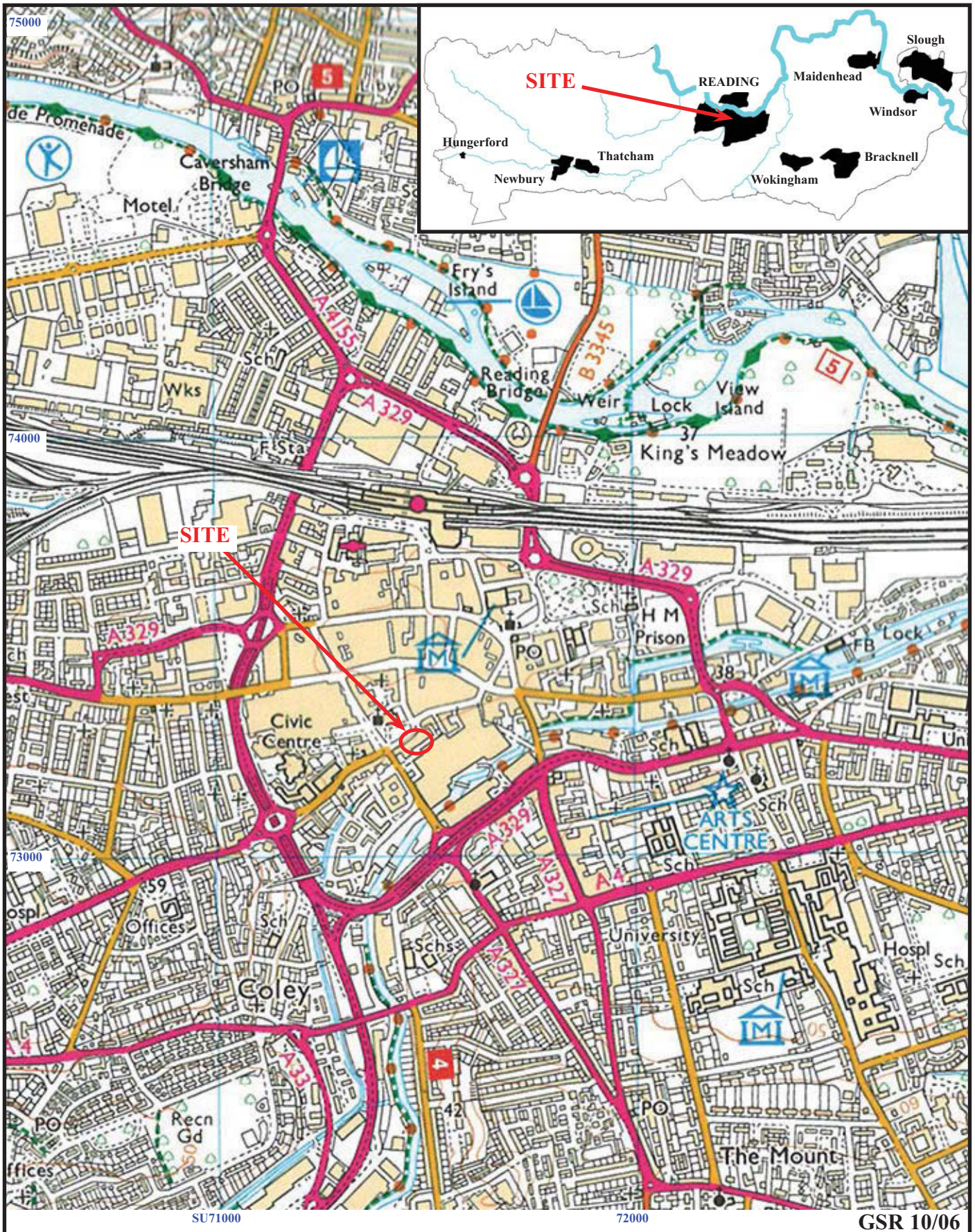
### Appendix 8: Catalogue of Metalwork

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Sample no</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>object</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>Wt (gr)</i>
	259	Layer	A		Cu	Pin	1	1
	263	Layer	A	11	Fe	object	1	6
	358	Layer	B		Cu	Pin	1	1
	361	Layer	B		Fe	Pipe	1	60
	382	Layer	C		Fe	Chain	2	242
	384	Layer	C		Pb	object	2	152
	250	Layer	A		Fe + Cu	Bracket + Ring + Coin	3	28
	368	Layer	D	13	Fe + Pb	Nail + Object	3	36
	374	layer	D		Fe	Nail	3	12
	360	pipe trench	C		Pb + Cu	Weight + Object	4	1340
	369	Layer (Victorian)	D		Fe	Keyhole + Object + Nail	13	174

## Appendix 9: Catalogue of Glass

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Deposit</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Wt (g)</i>
301	356	Foundation cut	B	Patinated	1	2
	361	Layer	B	Dark Green	1	22
	384	Layer	G	Clear	5	202
	250	Layer	A	Clear + Blue + Light Green + Multicoloured	6	552
	374	layer	G	Clear	6	40
	385	Modern Backfill	G	Clear	7	1298
	369	Layer (victorian)	D	Clear + Light Green + Dark Green	23	765
202	251	Rubble	A			



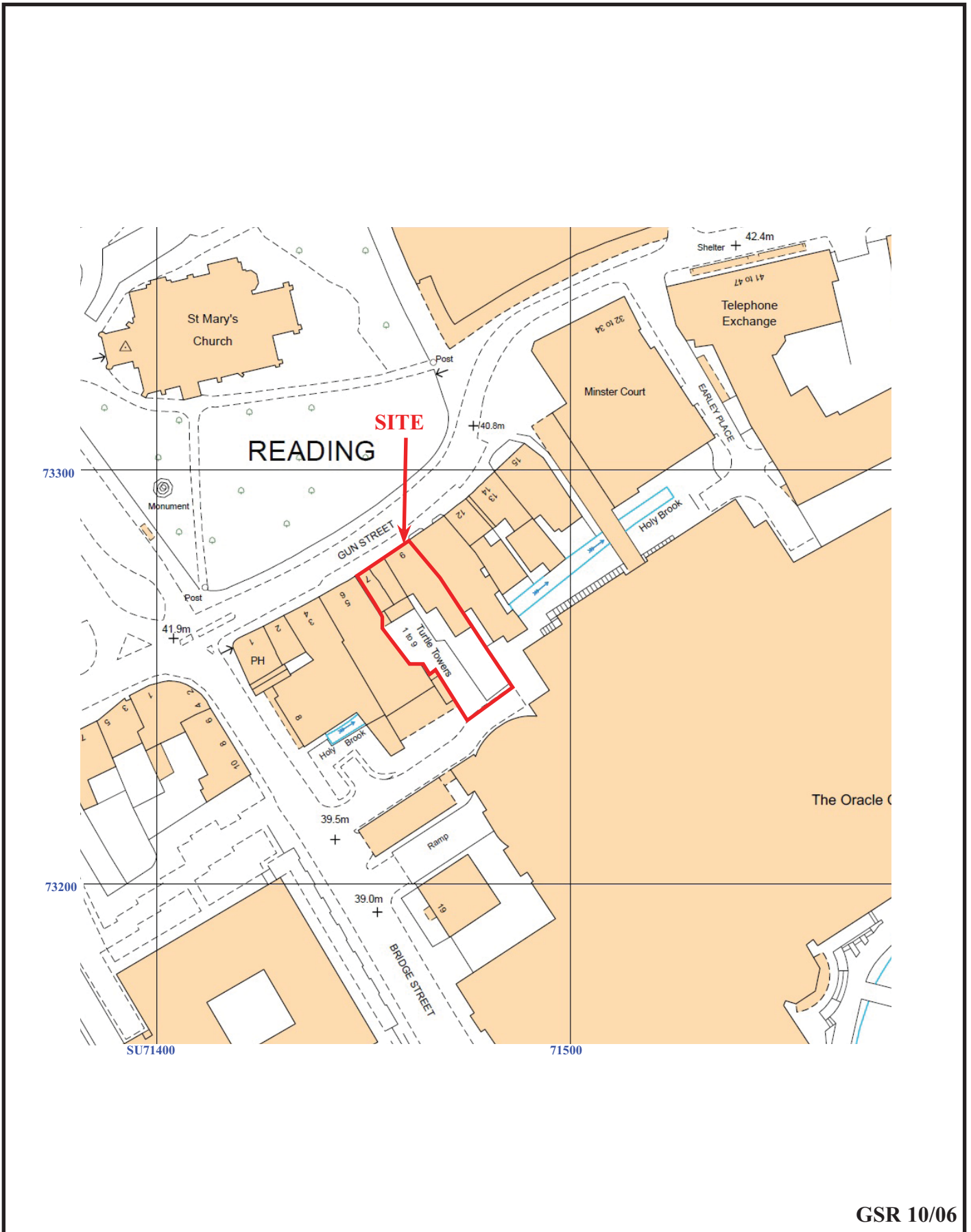


**Rear of 7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire, 2013  
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Figure 1. Location of site within Reading and Berkshire.

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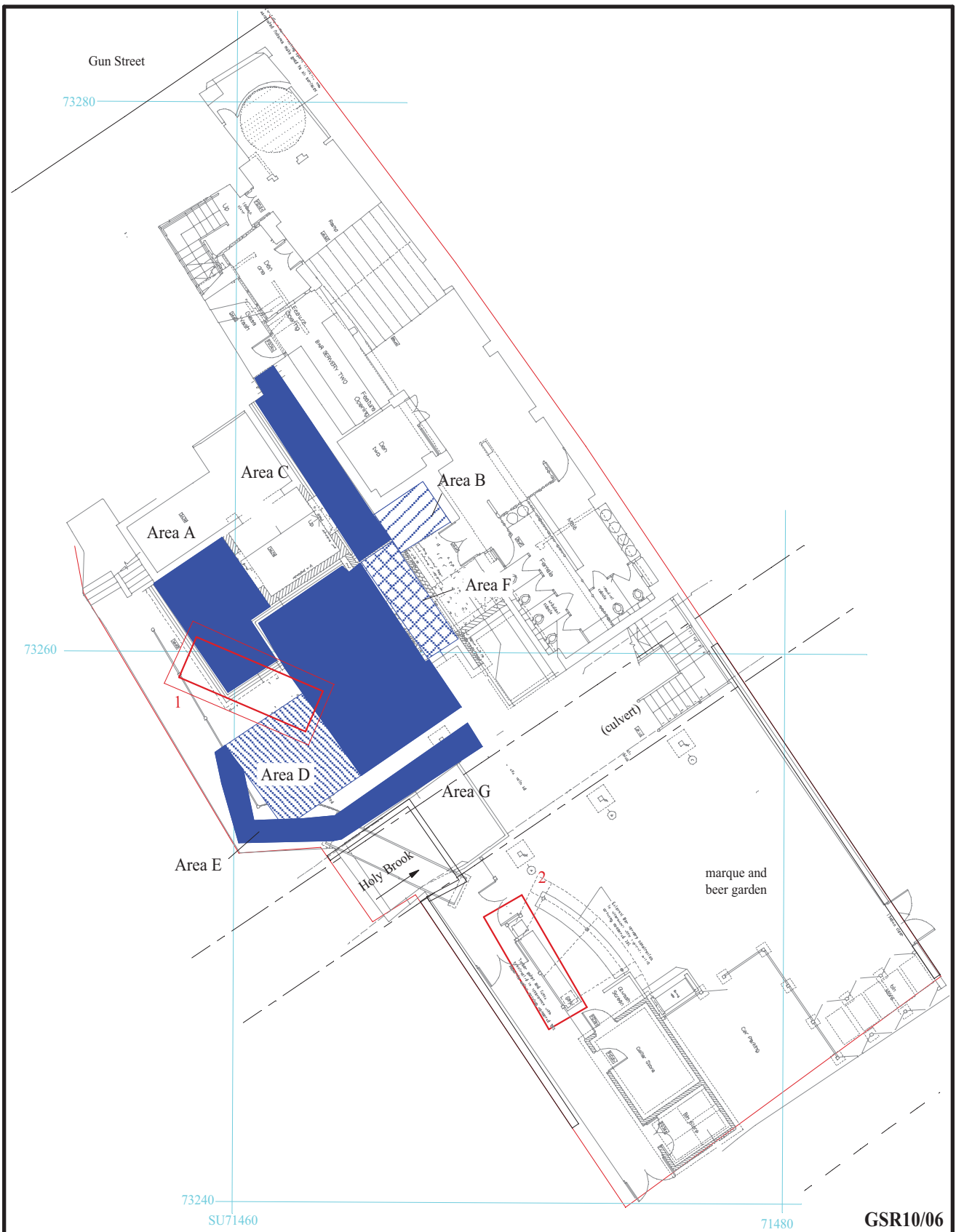
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Gun Street.

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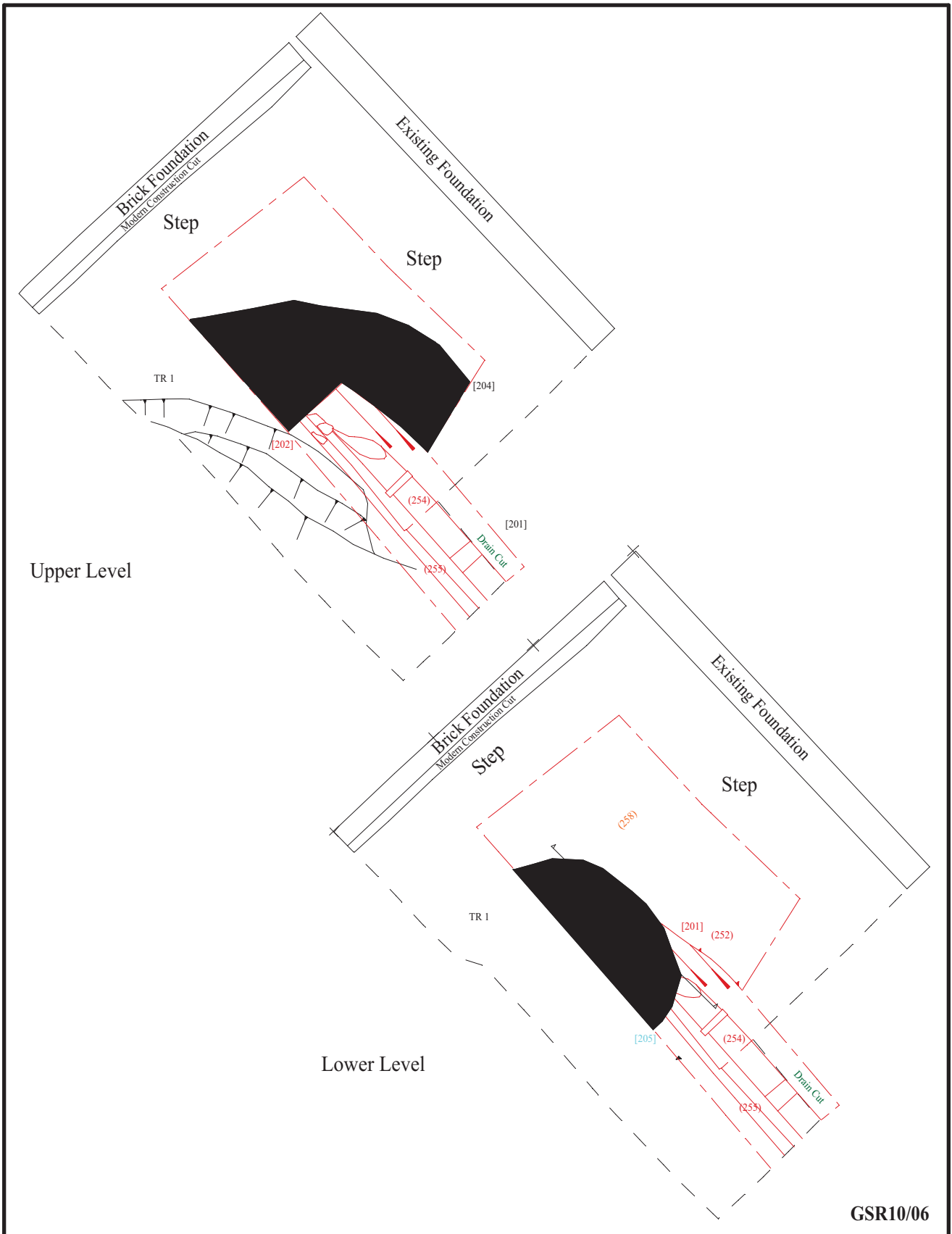




**7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire, 2013  
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Figure 3. Location of areas excavated and previous evaluation trenches

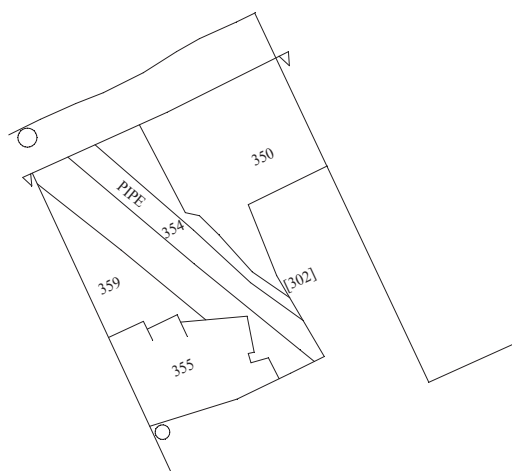




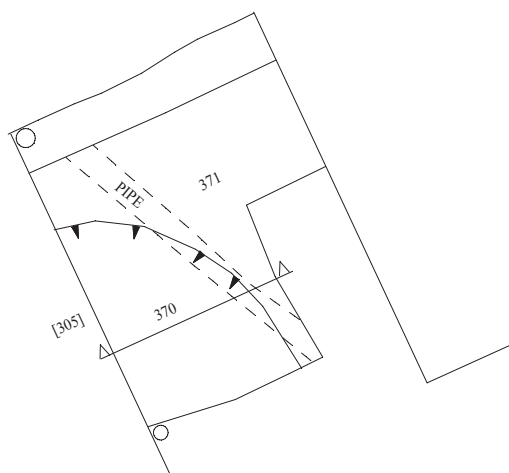
**7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire, 2013  
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Figure 4. Area A





**Area B:Upper Level**



**Area B:Lower Level**

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**7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire, 2013  
Archaeological Recording Action**

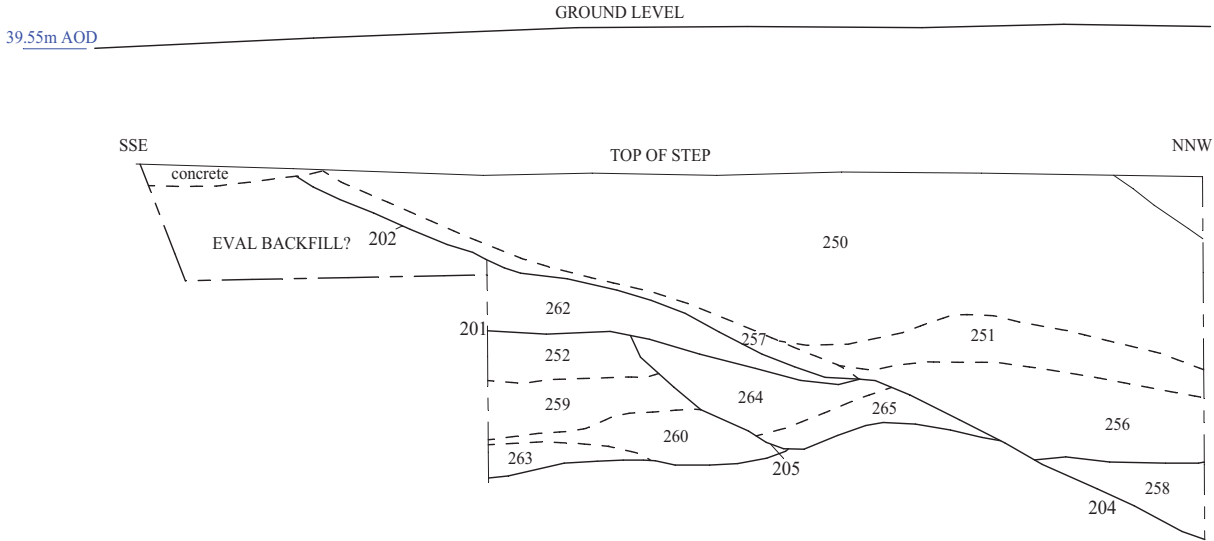
Figure 5. Area B



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Area A

S

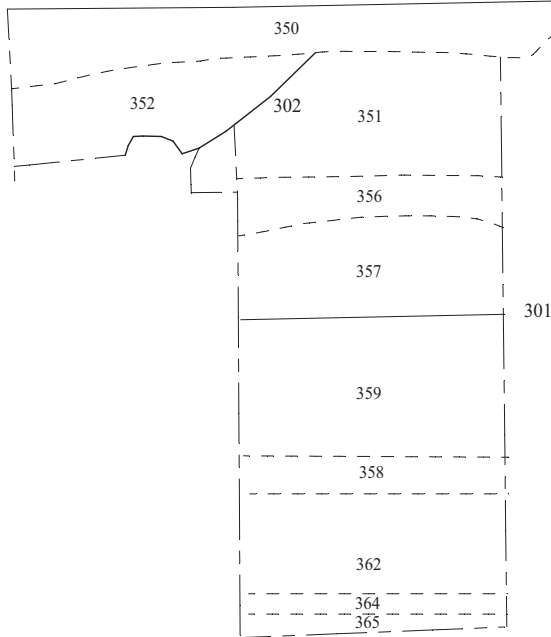


Area B

WSW

ENE

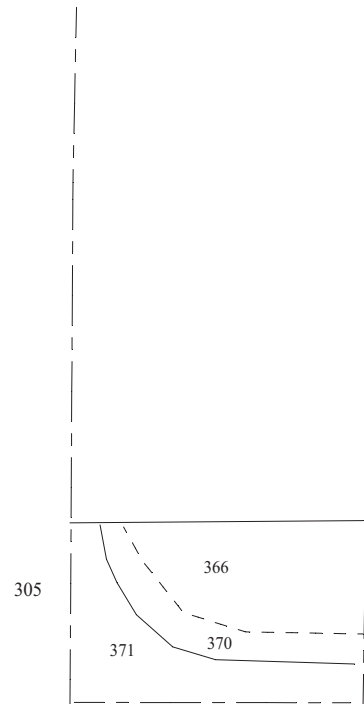
BRICK



Area B

NE

SW



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Figure 6. Sections



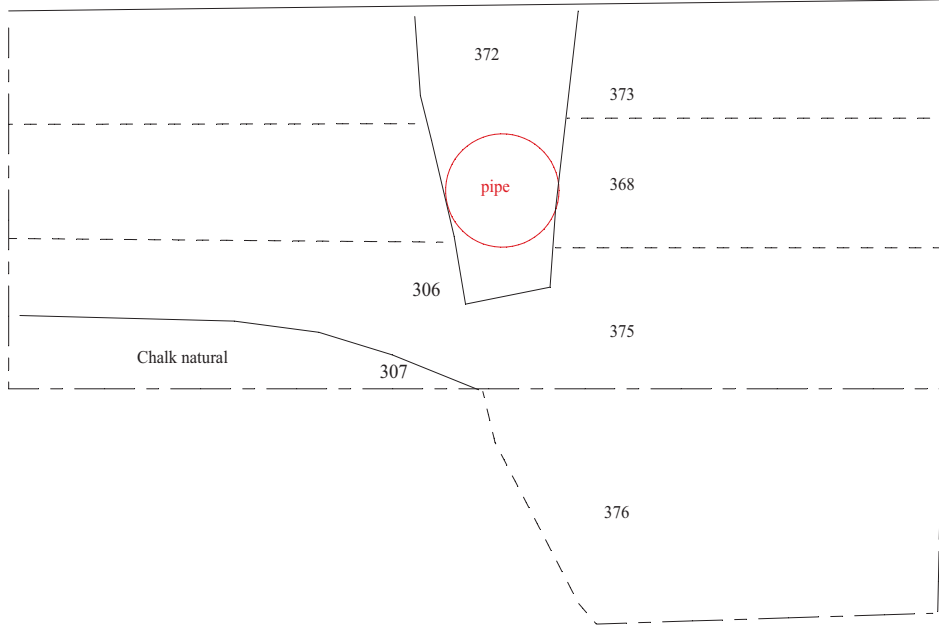
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ENE

Area D; Inspection Chamber

WSW

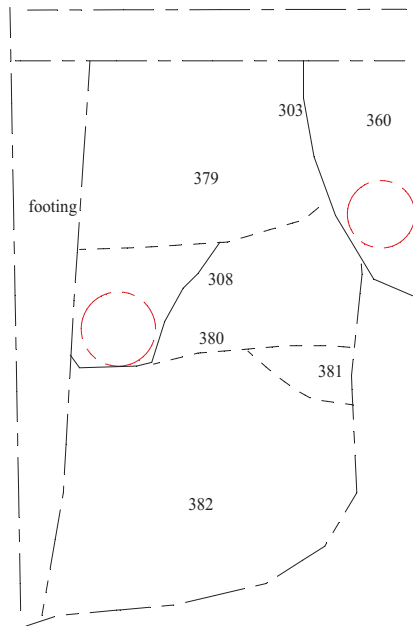
39.50m



ENE

Area C section

ENE



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**Rear of 7-9 Gun Street, Reading, Berkshire, 2013  
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Figure 7. Sections







Plate 1. Area A, looking north west, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m



Plate 2. Area A, looking south west showing base, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Area A, layer 263, looking south, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Area B, pit 305, looking south, Scales: 0.3m and 0.1m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

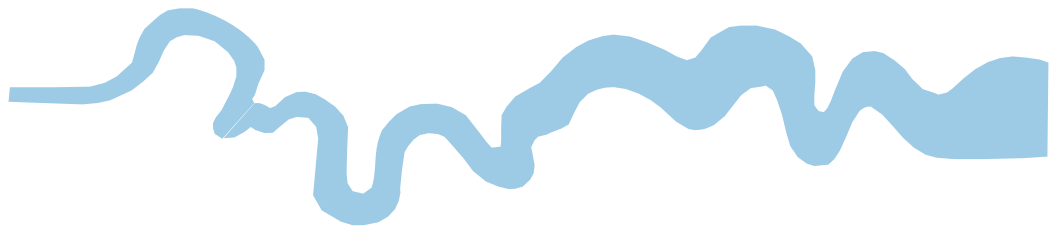
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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