

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**22 Welley Road, Wraysbury,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Aiji Castle and James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: WRW13/191

(TQ 0006 7430)

**22 Welley Road, Wraysbury,
Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Wilma Curran

by Aiji Castle and James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRW 13/191

January 2014

Summary

Site name: 22 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire

Grid reference: TQ 0006 7430

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 22nd November 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: WRW 13/191

Summary of results: No archaeological features or finds were observed during the digging of foundation trenches for a new extension.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 17.01.14

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Report 13/191

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 22 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire (TQ 0006 7430) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Wilma Curran of 22 Welley Road, Wraysbury, Berkshire TW19 5DJ. Planning permission (app no 13/00685) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new extension to the house. The consent includes a condition (4) relating to archaeology which requires that a watching brief be carried out during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on the 22nd November 2013 and the site code is WRW 13/191. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a suitable Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Wraysbury is located 3km north of the town of Egham and a kilometre east of Old Windsor and east of the River Thames. To the east of the site and village are extensive sailing lakes. The site is currently in use as a residential property, fronting onto Welley Road, the main street running north-south through the centre of the village (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of flood-plain gravels and alluvium, and this was observed during the fieldwork. The site lies approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies close to the historic core of Wraysbury in the Lower Colne Valley which is rich in archaeological sites and finds (Ford 1987). The village which lies to the south has late Saxon origins and is documented in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002). Excavations have taken place in the village which have revealed Saxon and medieval remains (Astill and Lobb 1989). Just to the south of the site at the school, three burials were found, one of which was buried with a Saxon knife (scramasax) and are likely to be part of a larger

Saxon cemetery. To the east of the site, prior to development of the former Waylands Nursery archaeological excavation examined a triple-ditched Roman enclosure, along with a late Bronze Age and Saxon occupation sites. The Saxon site was notable for being very early in the post-Roman settlement of southern England (Pine 2003).

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 areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any topsoil stripping prior to ground reduction, and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. These were to be dug by a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

Results

Three trenches comprising the foundations for the extension were dug within a 40 sq m area (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). Two of these trenches were 3.20m long whilst the other was 9.60m long. All trenches were a maximum depth of 1.20m and had a width of 0.60m (Fig. 4). The stratigraphy remained consistent within each trench and comprised initially of 0.02m of Tarmac above 0.08m of concrete. Below this lay 0.11m of grey gravel and 0.22m of made ground with a grey brown silty-clay alluvial layer 0.28m thick directly under the made ground. Brown gravel geology was reached at depth of 0.71m. No archaeological features were observed during the digging of these trenches.

Finds

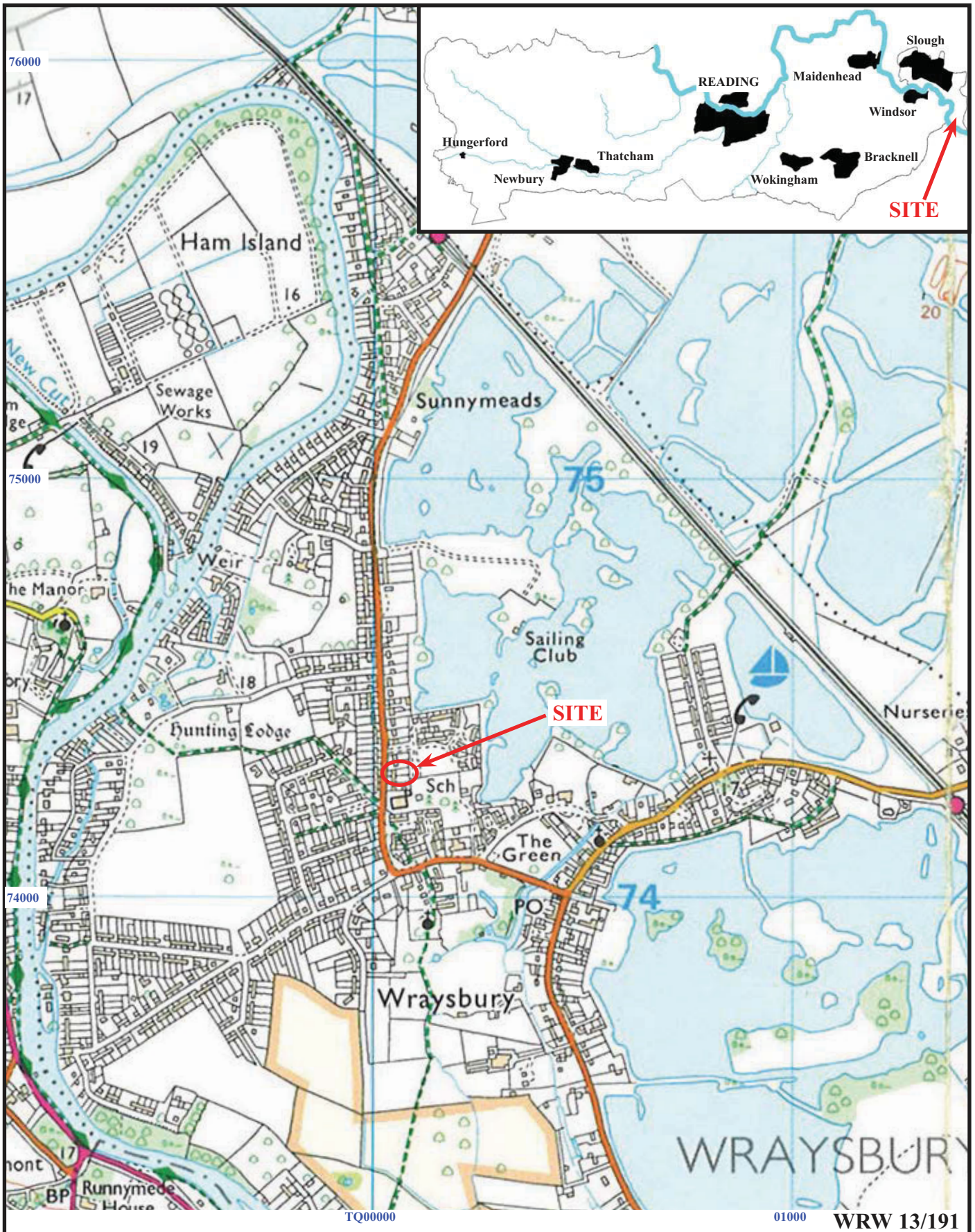
No artefacts of archaeological interest were uncovered during the foundation trenching.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for the survival of archaeology on the site, no deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were recorded.

References

- Astill, G G and Lobb, S, 1989, 'Excavations of Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon deposits at Wraysbury, Berkshire', *Archaeol J*, **146**, 68–134
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, 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
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Pine, J, 2003, 'Late Bronze Age occupation, Roman enclosure and early Saxon occupation at Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraysbury' in S Preston (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon Sites in Eastern Berkshire: Excavations 1989–97*, Thames Valley Archaeol Monogr **2**, Reading, 119–37
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

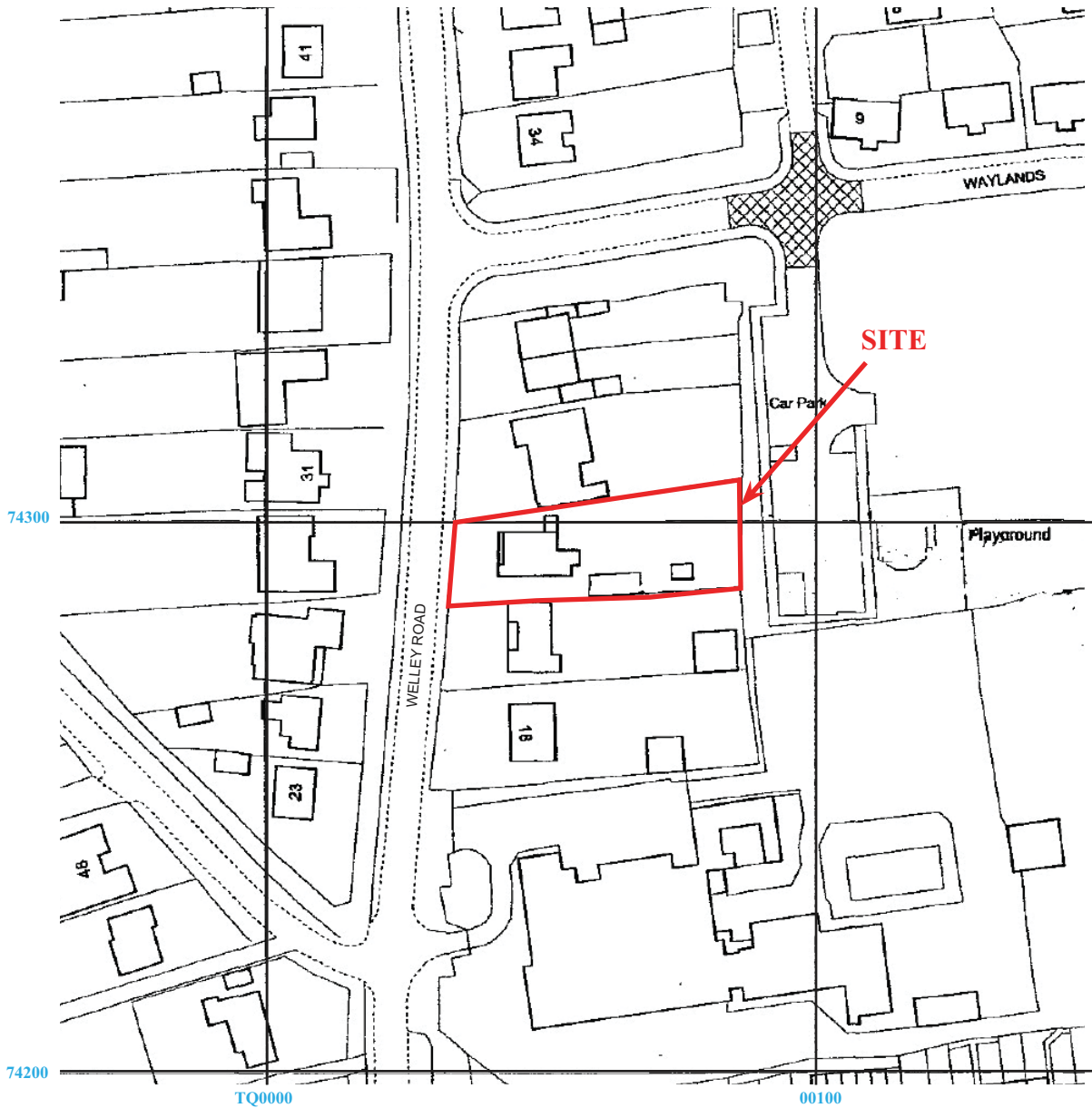


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wraysbury and Berkshire.

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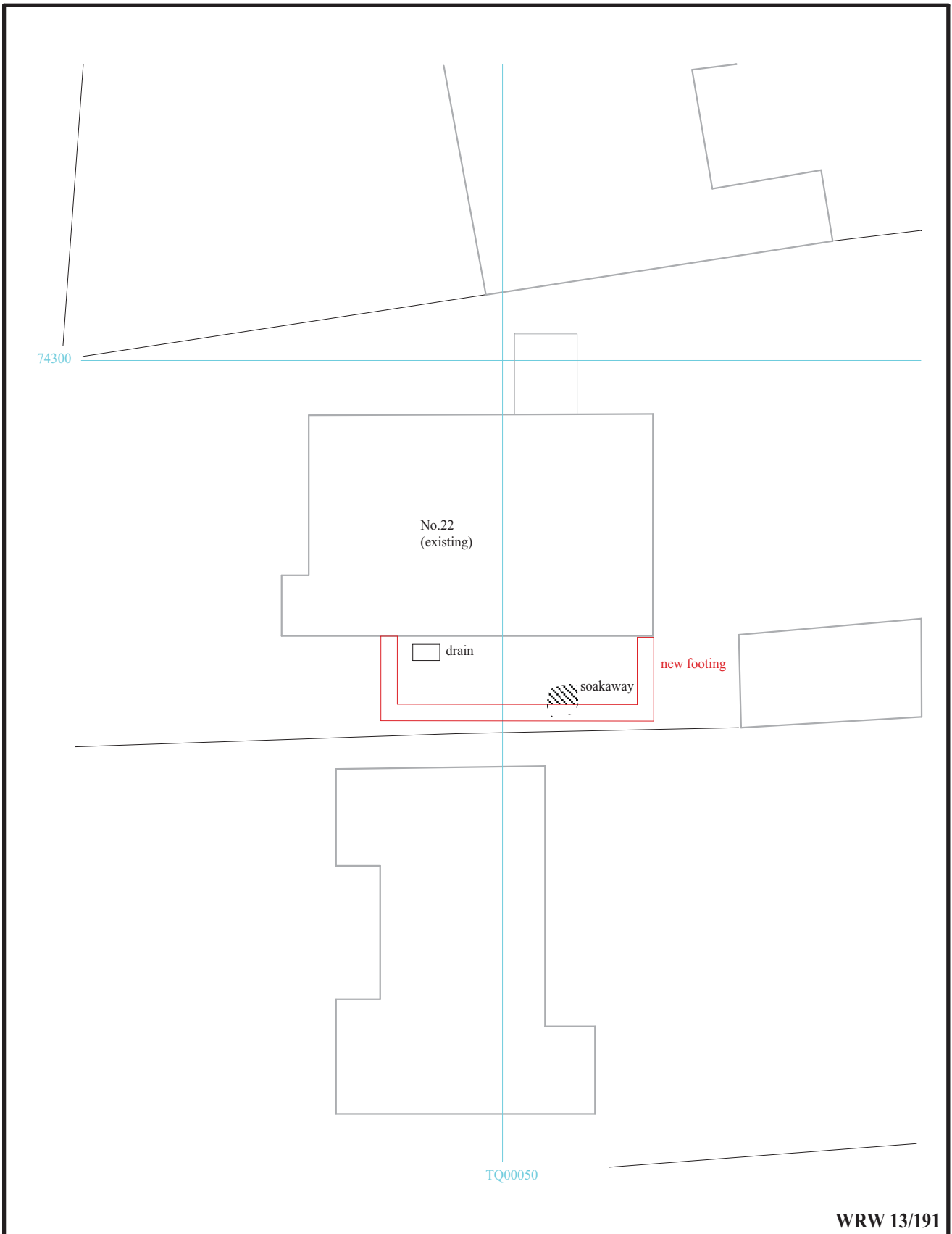


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Figure 2. Detailed location of the site off Welley Road.

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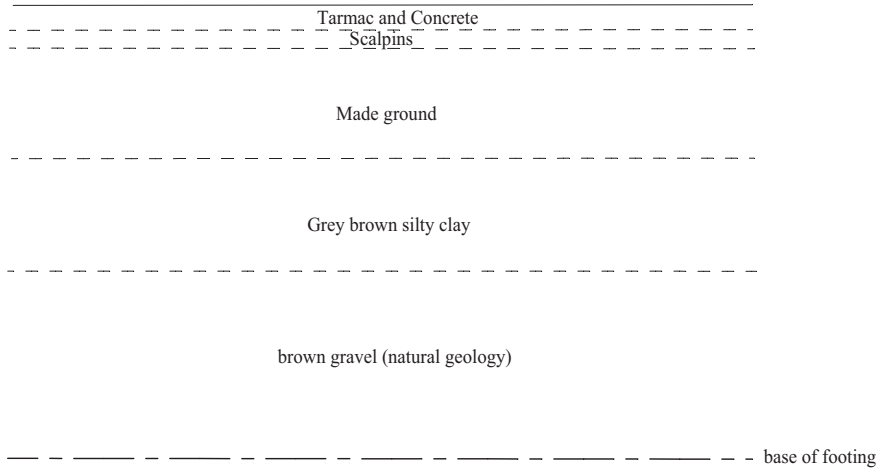
Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Footing trench, looking east, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Footing trench section, looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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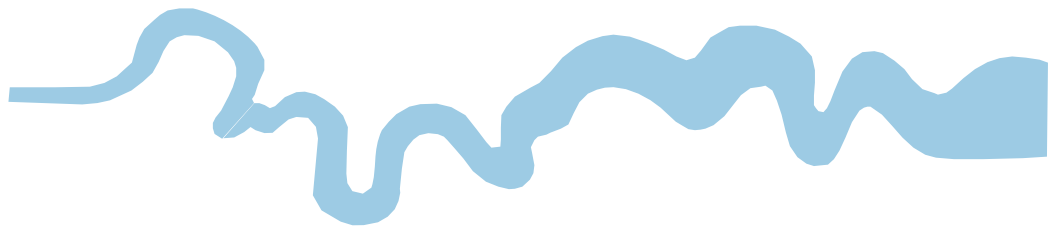
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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