

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

**Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: EBS13/197

(SZ 9370 9955)

**Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For West Sussex County Council

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EBS 13/197

January 2014

Summary

Site name: Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Grid reference: SZ 9370 9955

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 2nd-6th December 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: EBS 13/197

Area of site: c.1100 sq m

Summary of results: Overburden was removed across the entirety of the site of the new school building to expose the natural geology but no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 29.01.14
	Steve Preston ✓ 27.01.14

Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 13/197

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the Edward Bryant Primary School, London Road, Bognor Regis (SZ 9370 9955) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Rex Milton of Re-Format LLP, 19 High St, Alton, GU34 1AW on behalf of West Sussex County Council.

Planning permission (WSCC/040/13/BR) has been gained from West Sussex County Council to build a new extension to the school. This permission is subject to a condition (7) which requires that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Mark Taylor of West Sussex County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor between 2nd–6th December 2013 and the site code is EBS 13/197.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Chichester Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern side Bognor Regis and on the eastern side of London Road (Fig. 2). The site currently consists of part of the playground of the Edward Bryant School and is surrounded by a car park and school playing fields. The underlying geology consists of Aeolian deposits (Brickearth) (BGS 1996), which was observed across the site. The site lies at a height of c.6.50m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location on the archaeologically rich Sussex Coastal Plain. This is demonstrated by large-scale fieldwork on the northern margins of Bognor Regis at North Bersted which has revealed extensive areas of Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman settlement (Bedwin and Pitts 1978; Taylor *et al.* 2013). A range of sites and finds of various periods are recorded within the county Historic Environment Record (HER) for the environs of Bognor Regis. The site lies some way north of the historic (medieval) core of

Bognor and lies in an area formerly part of Hotham Park. Hotham Park was founded in the late 18th century. The nearest feature of interest recorded in the HER lies just to the west and is an ice-house associated with the house and park of Hotham. Other listed buildings of post-medieval and more recent date are situated nearby.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks for the new extension. This would involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden removal/ground reduction, in this instance for the formation of a piling mat, for the digging of foundation trenches (ground beams trenches/pile caps) and any related service runs.

Results

Piling Mat Area

The piling mat strip measured c.28m x 40m and was dug to a depth of between 0.20m and 0.60m (Fig 3; Pls 1 and 2). The stratigraphy at the north-western end of the strip consisted of 0.15m of Tarmac overlying 0.05m of scalpins with sporadic patches of natural brickearth visible but which had been reduced to a grey colour. The remainder of the site, with one small exception, consisted of 0.15m of Tarmac overlying 0.11m of scalpins overlying brickearth natural geology. The exception to this pattern was in the north-eastern corner where there was 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.08m of subsoil overlying brickearth natural geology.

To the south west of the stripped area, a large area of modern disturbance of the natural geology was recorded (Fig. 3).

No deposits of archaeological interest were observed in the stripped area and as the whole extent of the archaeologically relevant horizon (surface of the natural geology) had been observed, no monitoring of groundbeam trenches or other deep intrusions took place..

Finds

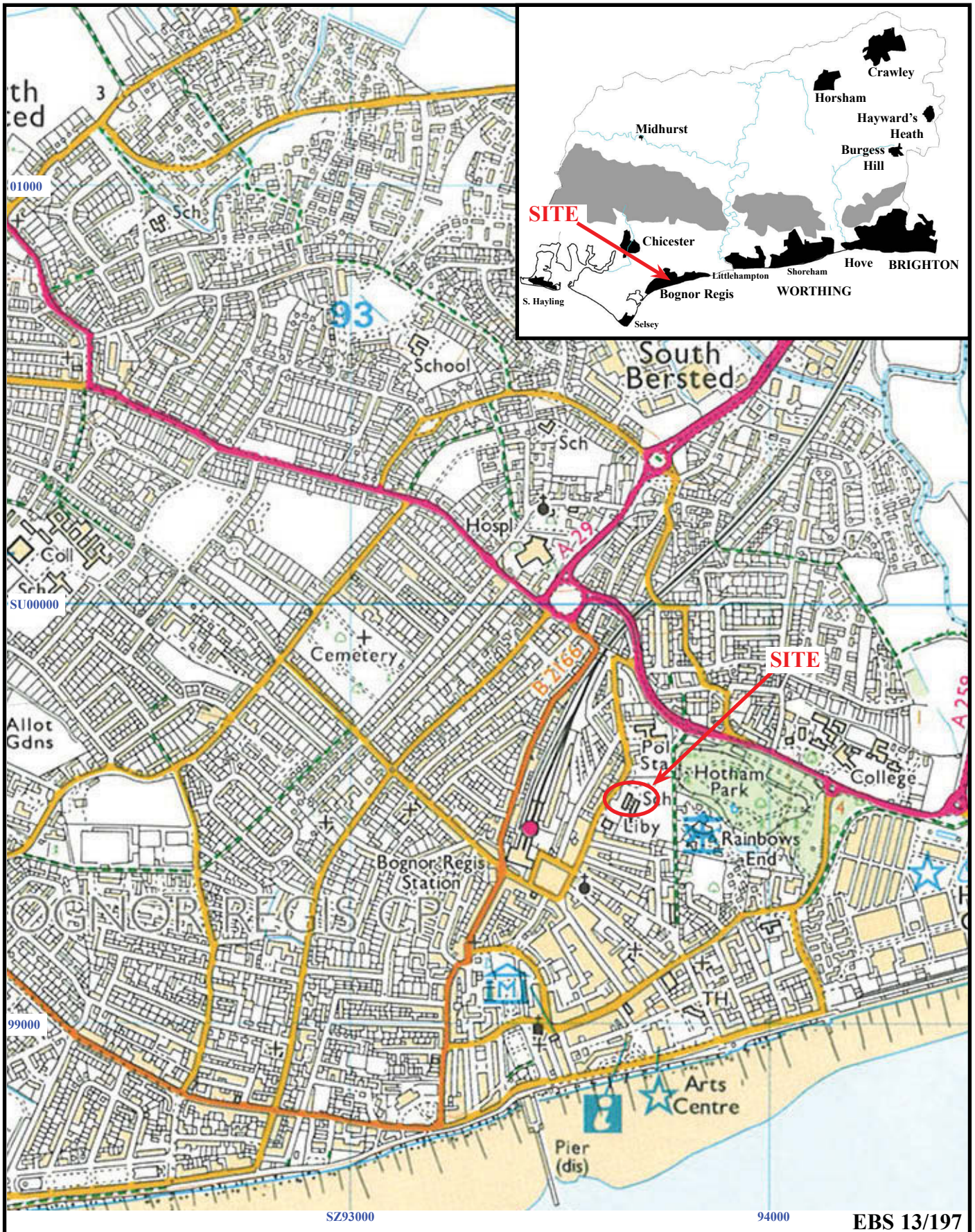
No archaeological finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The full extent of the site was stripped of overburden to expose the natural geology. However, despite the archaeological potential for this site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

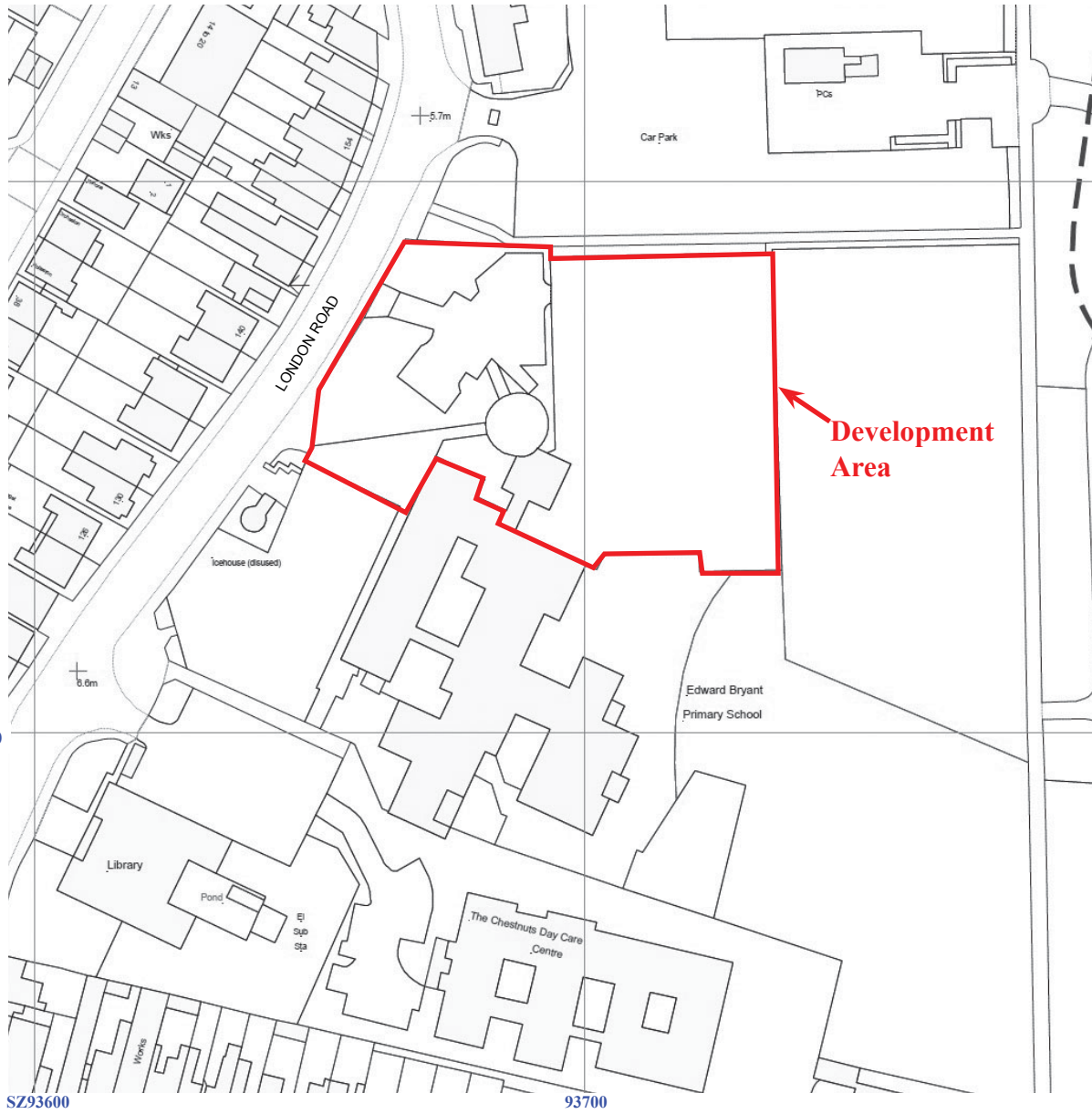
References

- Bedwin, O and Pitts, M W, 1978, 'The Excavation of an Iron Age settlement at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex 1975-76', *Sussex Archaeol Collect* **116**, 293-346
- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 317/332, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Taylor, A, Weale, A and Ford, S, 2013, 'Archaeological excavations at North Bersted, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, draft publication report', Thames Valley Archaeological Services project 07/135, Reading



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 Figure 1. Location of site within Bognor Regis and
 West Sussex.

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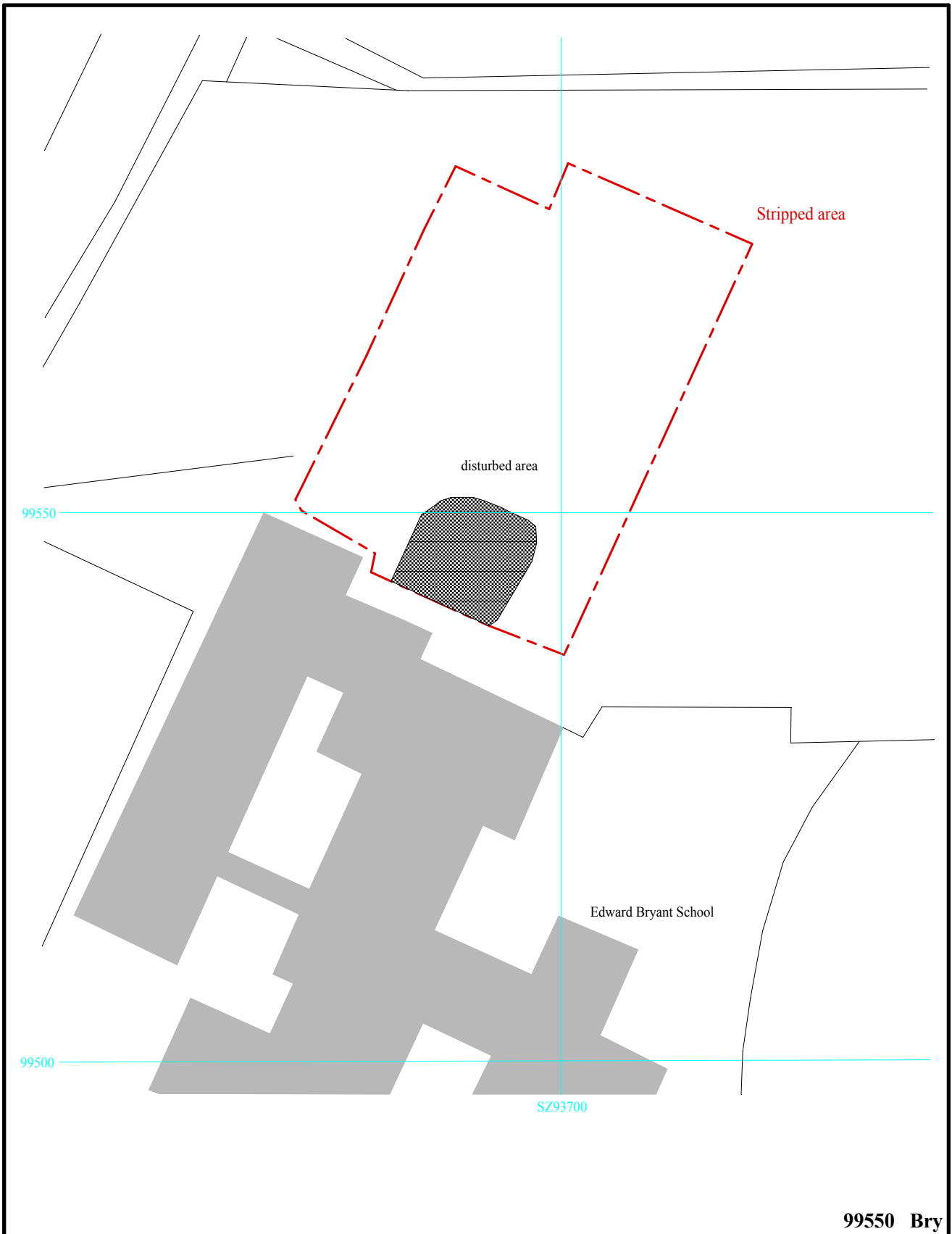


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Figure 2. Site layout prior to new development.

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Figure 3. Location of excavated area.





Plate 1. Overburden stripping in progress with some brickearth exposed (grey), looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Exposed brickearth in process of being overlain by geotextile, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

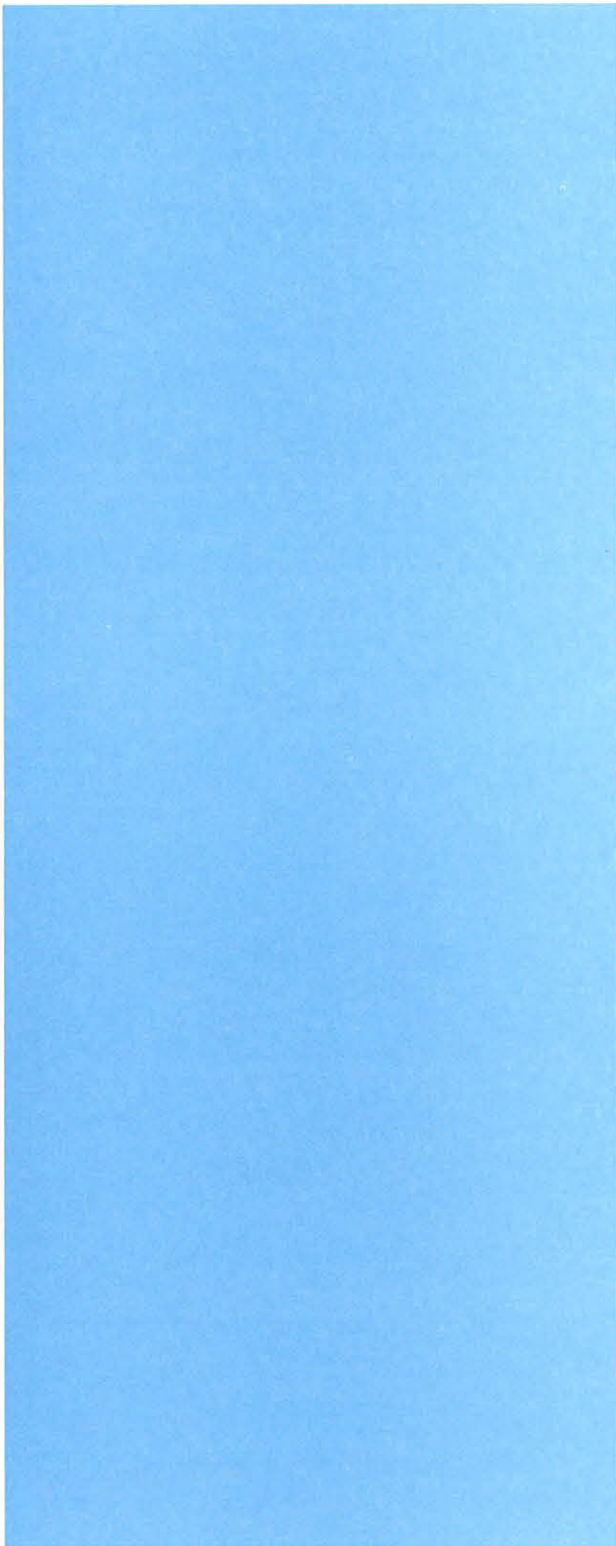
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Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
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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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