

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**90 Blind Lane, Ansty,
Tisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: BLA14/13

(ST 9546 2666)

**90 Blind Lane, Ansty,
Tisbury, Wiltshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Greenhalgh

by Daniel Bray

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BLA 14/13

March 2014

Summary

Site name: 90 Blind Lane, Ansty, Tisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: ST 9546 2666

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th – 26th March 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: BLA 14/13

Summary of results: Observation of ground reduction and footings revealed no archaeological features or finds

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

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| Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 28.03.14 Steve Preston✓ 28.03.14 |
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90 Blind Lane, Ansty, Tisbury, Wiltshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Report 14/13

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 90 Blind Lane, Ansty, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5QE (ST 9546 2666) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Greenhalgh of 90 Blind Lane, Ansty, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 5QE.

Planning consent (13/03521/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to restore the existing building and add a single-storey extension to the side. The consent is subject to a condition 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) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Clare King, Assistant Archaeological Officer at Wiltshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray between 24th and 26th March 2014 with the site code BLA 14/13.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the village of Ansty, 2.5km south of Tisbury in southern Wiltshire. The A30 between Shaftesbury and Salisbury is to the south (Fig. 1). Blind Lane borders the site directly to the south, with open fields to the north and west, and a small stream runs directly to the east and north (Fig. 2). The site slopes steeply down from north-west to south-east towards the stream which is at a height of 108m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Gault Clay (BGS 1976) and this was observed during the groundworks.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief produced by Ms Clare King, Assistant Archaeological Officer of Wiltshire Council. In summary, the existing house is of 16th – 17th century date and documentary evidence supplied as part of the planning application (Wiltshire Buildings Record Report for 90 Blind Lane) suggests that there may have been earlier settlement on the site. Therefore there is the possibility that medieval or early post-medieval remains may be revealed by the extension.

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 overburden removal, ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the new building, and any service runs.

Results

All intrusive ground works were excavated by a 360° type excavator under constant archaeological supervision. The works were split into two parts; ground reduction and footing trenches.

Ground Reduction

Ground reduction of the footprint of the new extension, and a thin strip approximately 1.20m wide next to the existing building, was excavated to create a level area (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Due to the steep slope of the site the reduction varied between 0.25m deep in the north-eastern corner and 0.90m deep in the south-western corner. At the deepest the stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of topsoil above 0.45m of light grey sandy clay subsoil above the natural Gault clay geology. Only an area corresponding with the proposed southern footing was reduced to the natural geology; the remainder of the area was reduced only to the top of the subsoil. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds recovered from the topsoil or subsoil.

Footings

One footing was monitored as the area of the other footing was already excavated to the natural Gault clay geology during the ground reduction. The footing was 0.60m wide and between 0.70m and 0.85m deep (Fig. 3; Pl. 2). The stratigraphy consisted of between 0.25m and 0.40m of topsoil above subsoil which overlay the natural clay geology. No archaeological features were revealed and no finds recovered from the topsoil or subsoil.

Finds

No finds were recovered from the site.

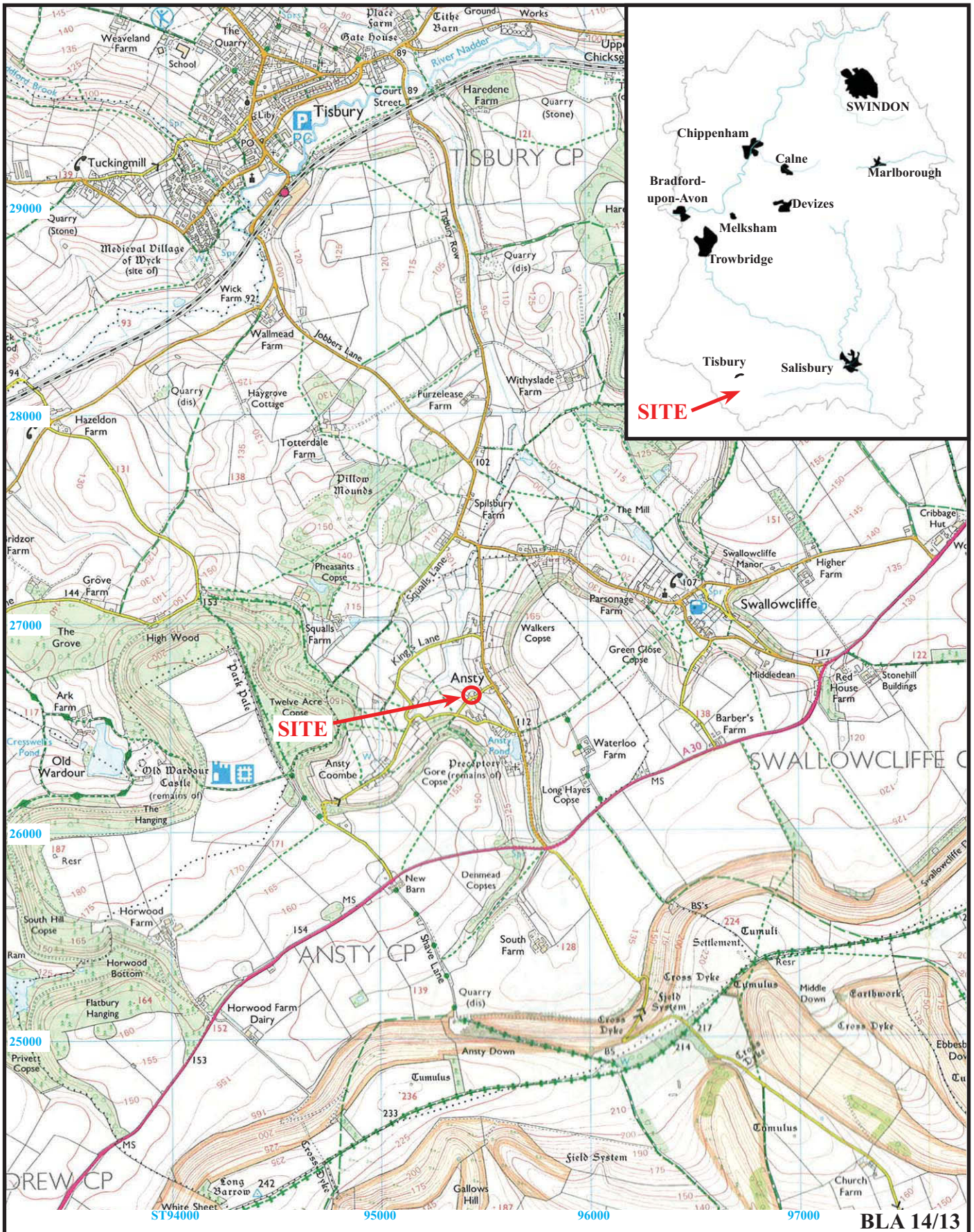
Conclusion

Despite the archaeological potential of the site no finds or features associated with an earlier medieval building were found.

References

BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 298, Drift Edition, Keyworth

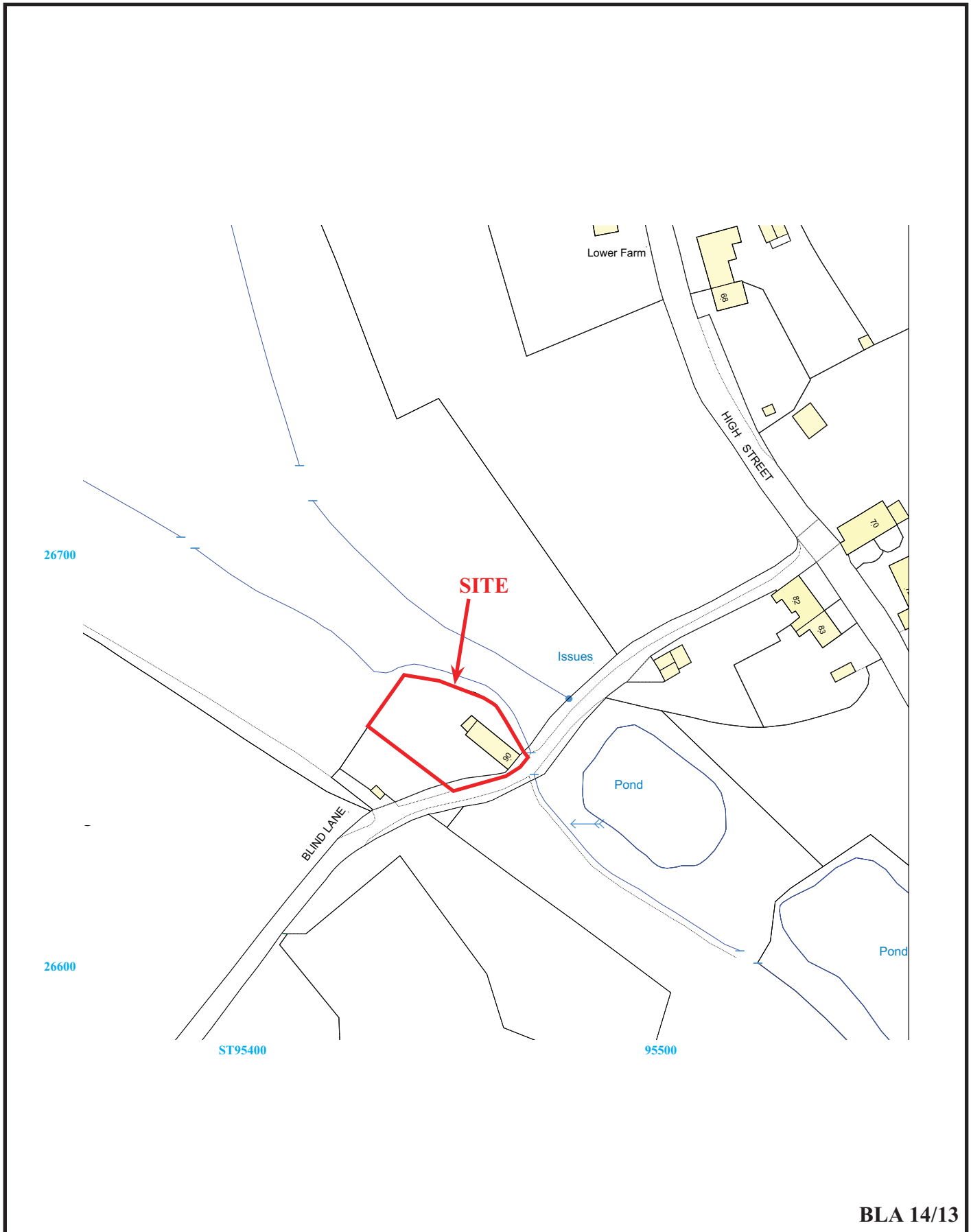
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



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Figure 1. Location of site within Tisbury and Wiltshire.

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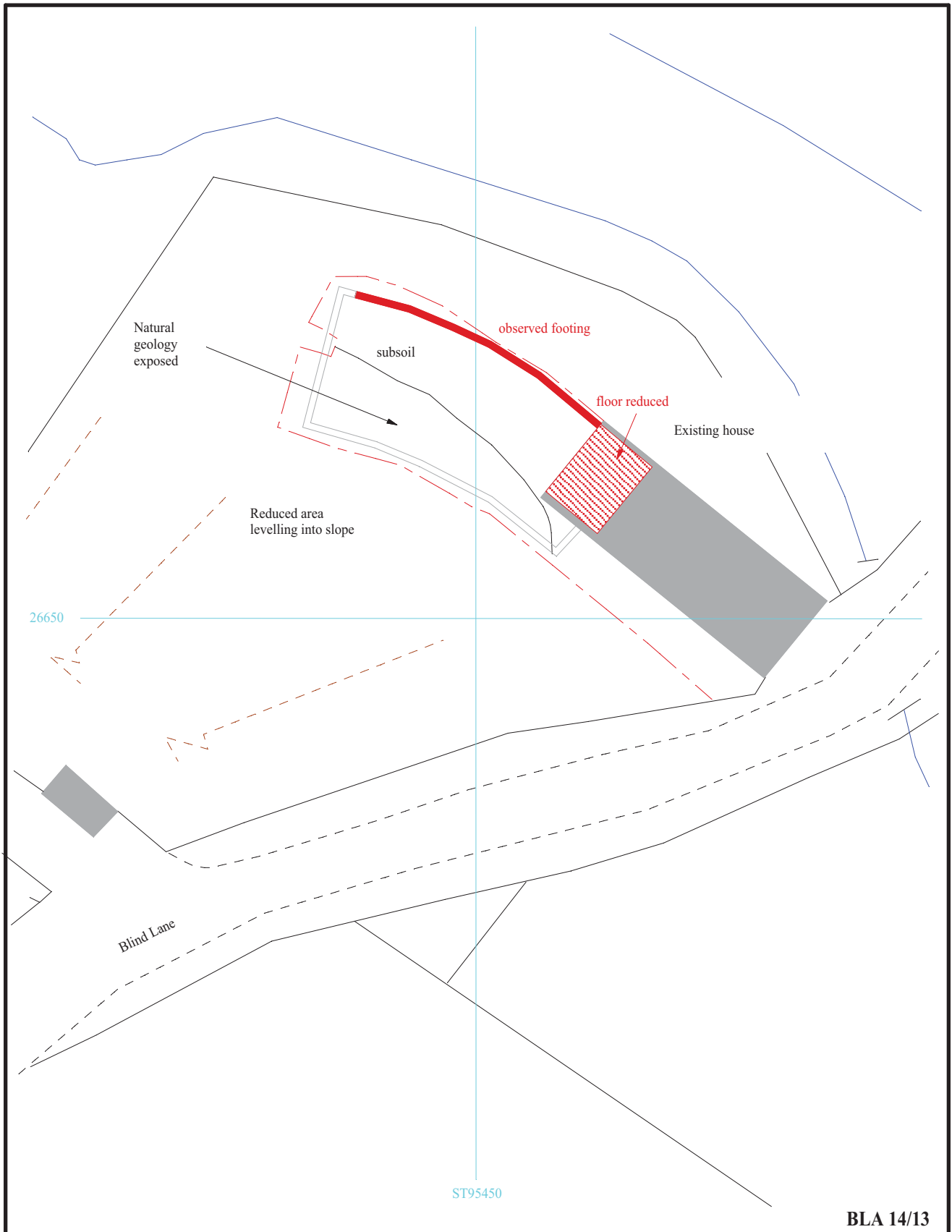


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Blind Lane.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Reduced area, looking west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. New footing trench, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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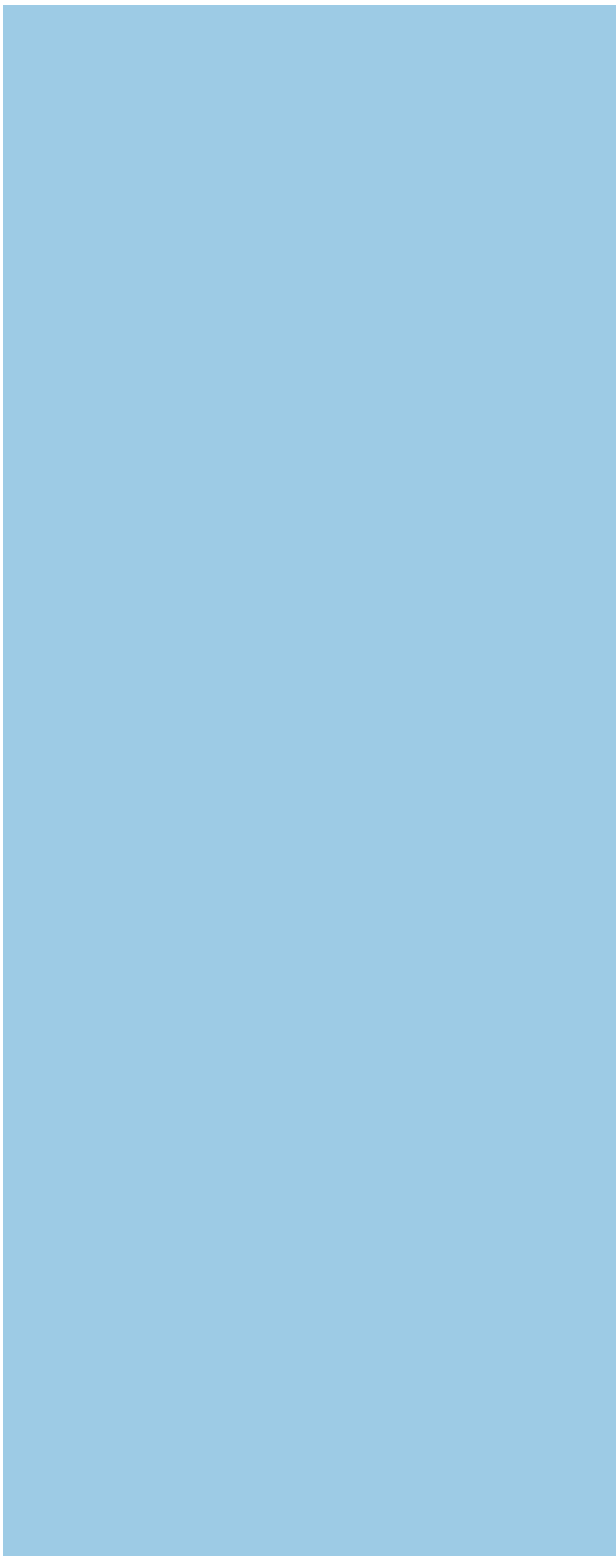
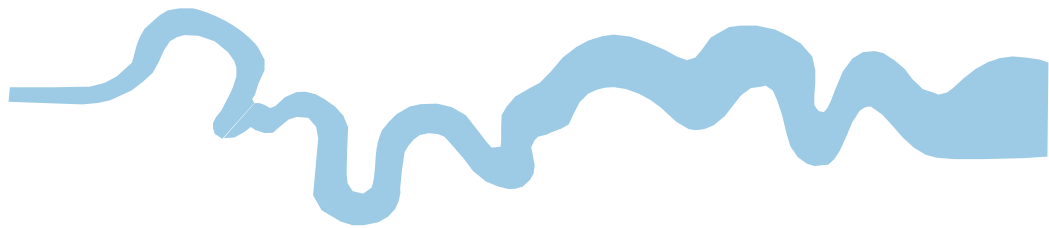
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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