

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Redingensians RFC, Old Bath Road,
Sonning, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Site Code: RRC14/88

(SU 7650 7508)

Redingensians RFC, Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief For Redingensians RFC

by Daniel Bray
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code RRC 14/88

October 2014

Summary

Site name: Redingensians RFC, Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7650 7508

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 16th May, 5th September and 24th September 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Natasha Bennett, Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Site code: RRC 14/88

Summary of results: The observation of compensatory trenches and a pipe trench revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest.

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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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.10.14 Steve Preston ✓ 23.10.14

Redingensians RFC, Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray

Report 14/88

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Redingensians Rugby Football Club, Old Bath Road, Sonning, Berkshire, RG4 6TQ (SU 7650 7508) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Graham Leftwich of Orange Key Ltd, Unit 4, The Cuttings, 120 High Street, Hungerford, RG17 0LU on behalf of Redingensians RFC.

Planning permission (F/2012/2425) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a two storey extension to the clubhouse, with renovation to the existing building. The consent includes a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during all groundworks. However, groundworks commenced without archaeological supervision. To compensate, extra trenches were excavated adjacent to the foundation trenches and of equivalent width.

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 Mr Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology advisors to the council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Natasha Bennett, Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor on the 16th May, 5th September and 24th September 2014 with the site code RRC 14/88.

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

The site is located on the south side of the Old Bath Road, in Sonning parish, to the north east of Reading, Berkshire (SU 7650 7508). Sonning village is 1km northeast and Woodley town centre is 2km to the south. The site is flat and at a height of 53.40m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is described as Plateau Gravel (BGS 1946) and Lynch Hill Gravel (Wymer 1968).

Archaeological background

The site lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with important prehistoric and Roman remains visible from the air situated to the north of the site (Ford 1987; Gates 1975; Slade 1964). These include a Neolithic ceremonial complex with a cursus monument (processional way? a mortuary enclosure and ring ditches (levelled round barrows). A Roman enclosure is also recorded with a variety of undated but probably Roman field boundaries known. However, a small fieldwork project to the north east of the site did not reveal any deposits of interest (Taylor 2004).

Sonning village, which lies some way to the north was an important administrative and ecclesiastical centre in Saxon and medieval times and includes the site of the Bishop's Palace, which dates from as early as the 13th century. These remains were partly excavated during the First World War and revealed a complex of medieval buildings (Brakspear 1916).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This would involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. Trenches were excavated adjacent to the foundation trenches where these could not be examined, and were of equivalent width.

Results

Compensatory trenches

A total of three trenches were excavated to the south of the new extension (Fig. 3). One was aligned north east-south west and was 15.20m long. The other two trenches were both aligned north west-south east and 9.00m long. All trenches were 0.70m wide and 1.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil above 0.40m of sandy silt subsoil above the natural gravel geology. No archaeological features were observed.

Pipe trench (Pls 1 and 2)

A pipe trench was excavated connecting the new clubhouse to the mains at the site entrance (Fig. 3). The trench was 0.35m wide and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil above 0.80m of gravelly sand natural geology (Fig. 4). No archaeological features were observed.

Finds

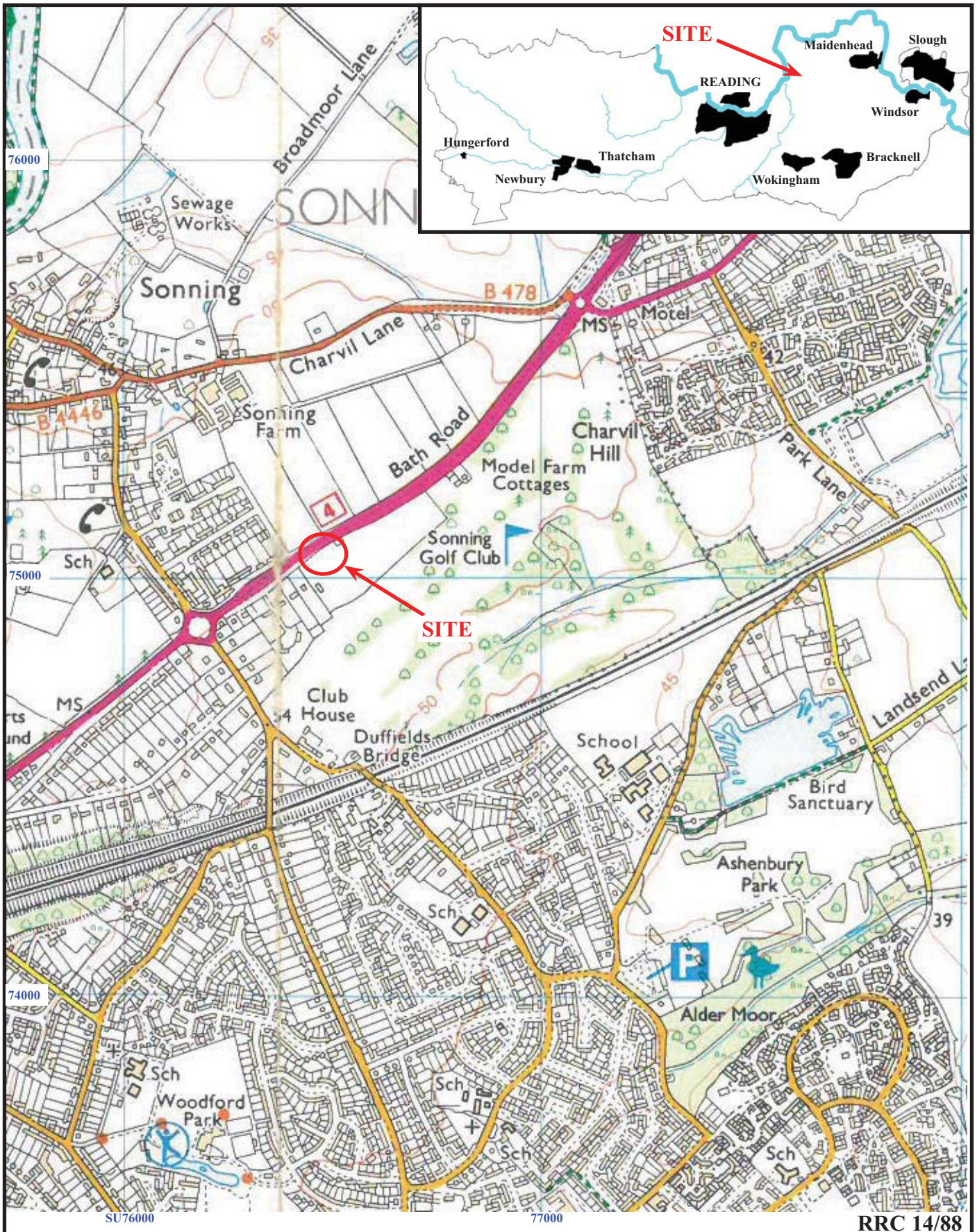
No archaeological finds were recovered from the site.

Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological interest were revealed in the trenches excavated next to the new clubhouse extension nor the pipe trench.

References

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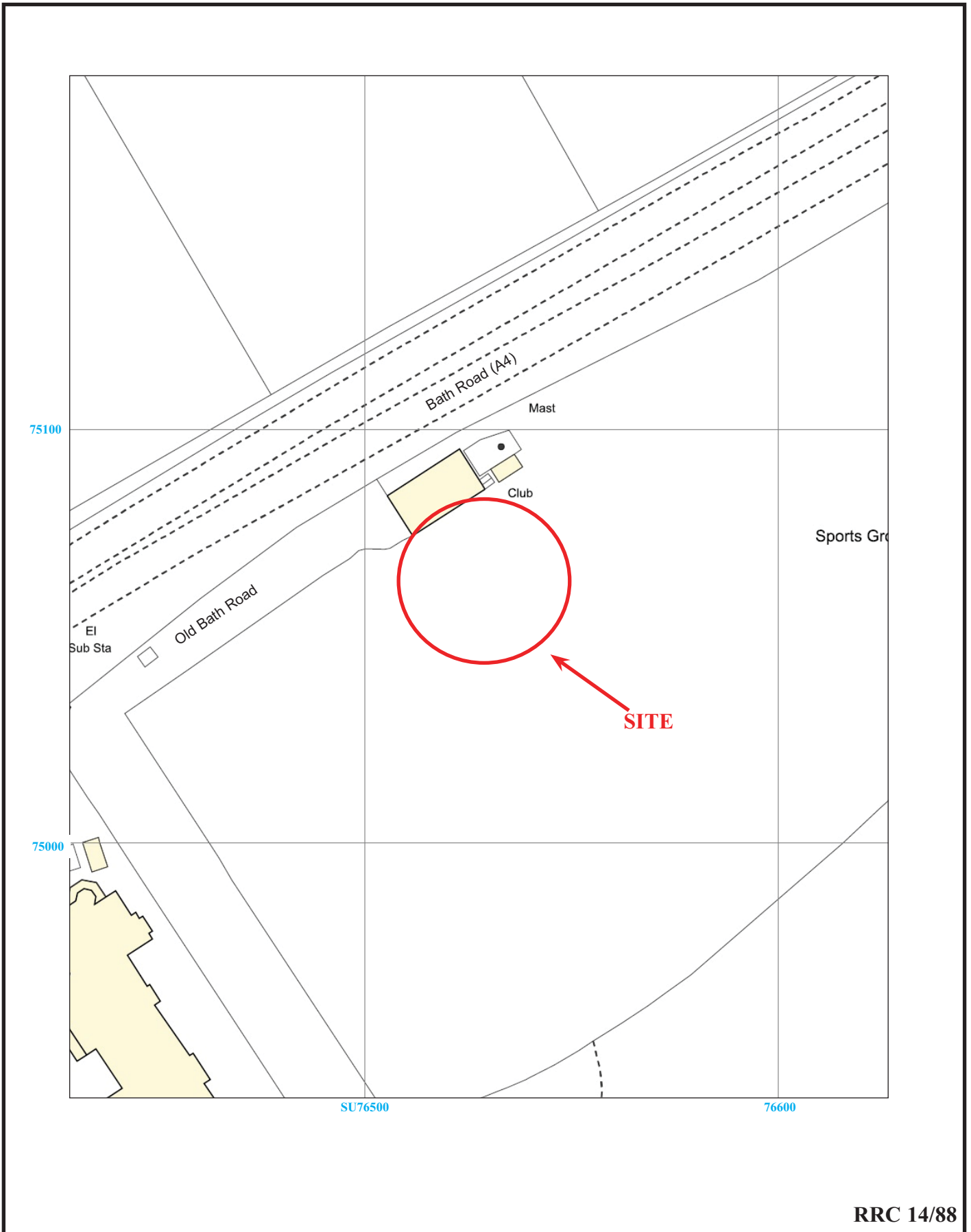


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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Sonning and Berkshire.

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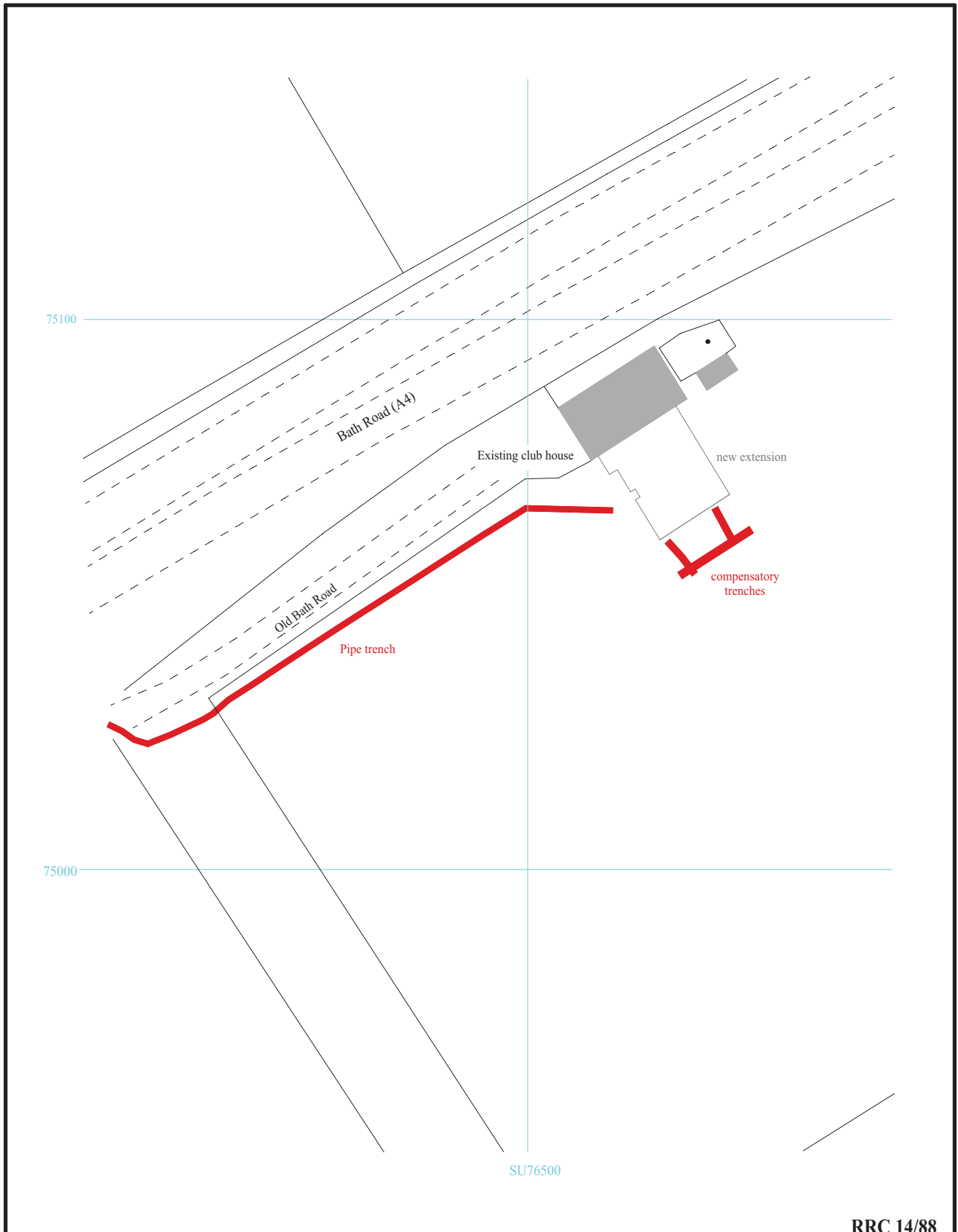


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Bath Road.

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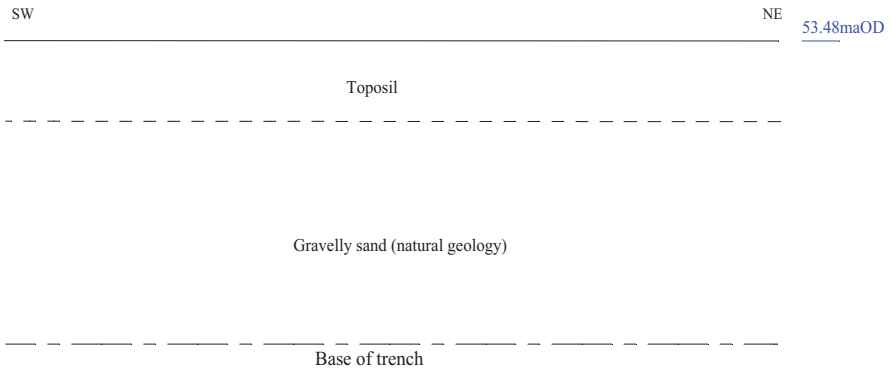
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Pipe trench



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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Pipe trench under excavation, looking north east.

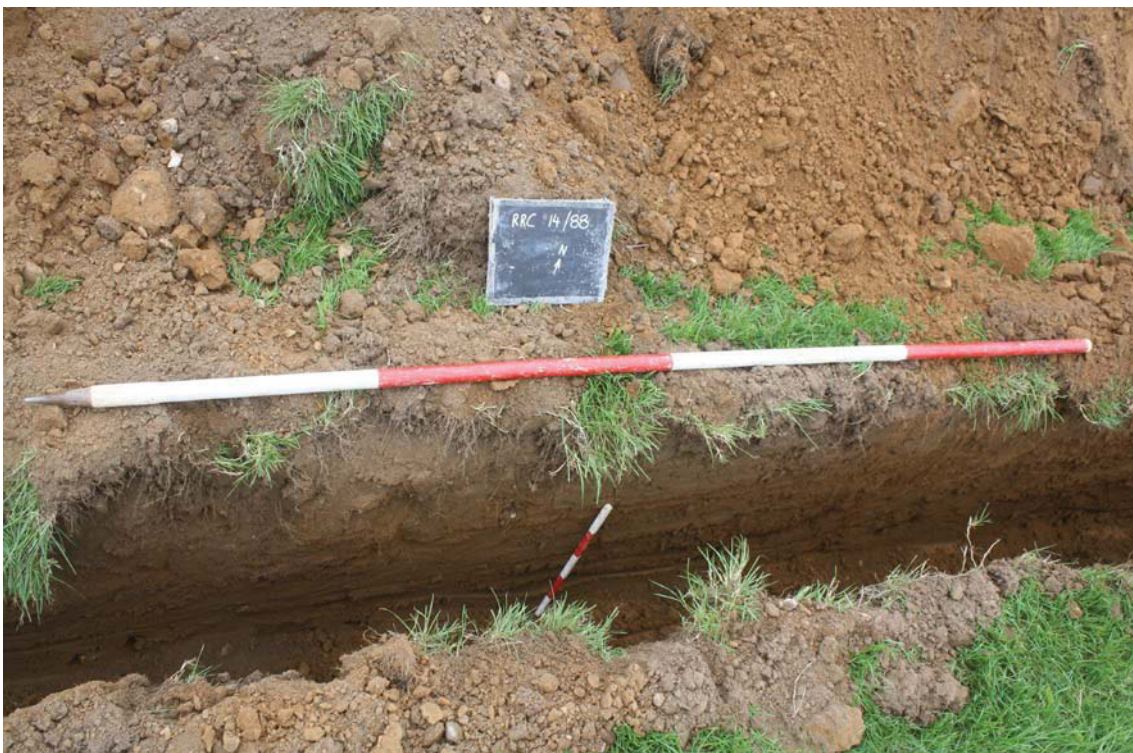


Plate 2. Representative section, looking north, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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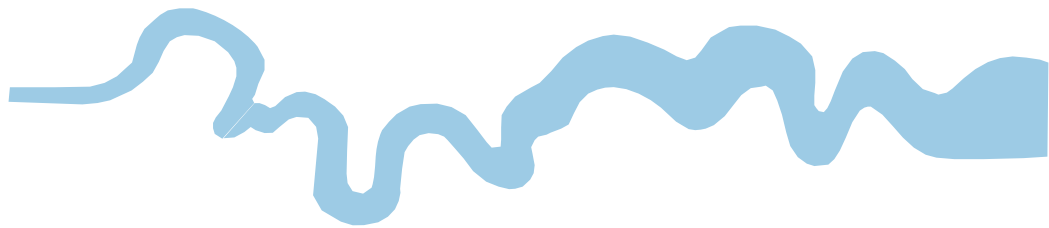
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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