

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**3 East Court, Salisbury Road, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: ECN14/40

(SU 1476 4818)

**3 East Court, Salisbury Road, Netheravon,
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For SC Architecture Ltd

by Daniel Bray and Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ECN14/40

December 2014

Summary

Site name: 3 East Court, Salisbury Road, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Grid reference: SU 1476 4818

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 7th – 10th of October 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: ECN14/40

Summary of results: Ground reduction was observed for the creation of a ramp and trenches dug for an area of decking and retaining wall. Only the foundation trenches were deep enough to expose the archaeologically relevant levels but no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological significance were observed.

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

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Report 14/40

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 3 East Court, Salisbury Road, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 1476 4818) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Ranjeet Shahi on behalf of SC Architecture Ltd, Anchor House, School Lane, Chandlers Ford, SO53 4DY.

A planning consent (13/06449/FUL) has been granted by Wiltshire Council to install decking, a ramp and shed to the rear of 3 East Court, Salisbury Road, Netheravon, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 1475 4818). The consent is subject to conditions relating to archaeology which require 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 the Assistant County Archaeologist, Ms Clare King. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray and Natasha Bennett, between 7th and 10th October 2014 and the site code is ECN14/40.

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

Netheravon is situated on Salisbury Plain, but well to the north of Salisbury (Fig. 1). The site is located within the Eastcourt estate, on the western side of Salisbury Road (Fig. 2). There are gardens bordering the southern, northern and eastern sides with buildings bordering the west. The underlying geology is Upper Chalk (BGS 1959), and the site is positioned on a hillside on the western side of the River Avon, at 100m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the planning brief produced by Ms Clare King of Wiltshire Council. In summary, Eastcourt lies immediately west of the suggested site of a Roman villa depicted on Ordnance Survey maps. The current proposal overlies the exact location depicted. Evidence recorded in the

county Historic Environment Record includes that of a tessellated pavement reported in 1907 located to the south of Netheravon House with additional pavement found in 1935 to the east of the officers quarters. Test pits dug by Time Team at the former coal yard and sergeants mess revealed Roman pottery and tile but no structures (Taylor 1996). However, a watching brief carried out in 2007 during extensions to East Court (Mundin 2007) revealed no finds or deposits of archaeological interest.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which were threatened by the groundworks. All invasive groundworks were archaeologically monitored. Excavating plant used for digging in archaeologically relevant levels was fitted with a toothless bucket. Any archaeological features were to be cleaned and excavated using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

Access ramp

The main component of the project comprised ground reduction for a ramp running approximately E – W along the southern side of the site. This was observed and took place using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The ramp was 1.5m wide, 28m long and initially no more than 0.50m deep (Figs 3 and 4). This was dug through made ground and did not expose the natural geology (Pls 1 and 2).

Retaining wall, decking and planter trenches

To the north of the ramp in the area of the terraced garden, a series of curvilinear foundation trenches were dug (Fig. 3; Pl. 3). These were 0.6m wide and typically 1m deep with various made ground layers up to 0.85m deep overlying a red brown sandy silt with chalk flecks 0.15m thick which was considered to be a buried subsoil. This was overlying chalk natural geology. However, no deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Footings

Two footing trenches were also dug, the first (A) deepening the access ramp down to as much as 1.2m deep and onto natural geology (Fig. 4) and the second (B) more or less at right angles to this at its eastern end (Pl. 4).

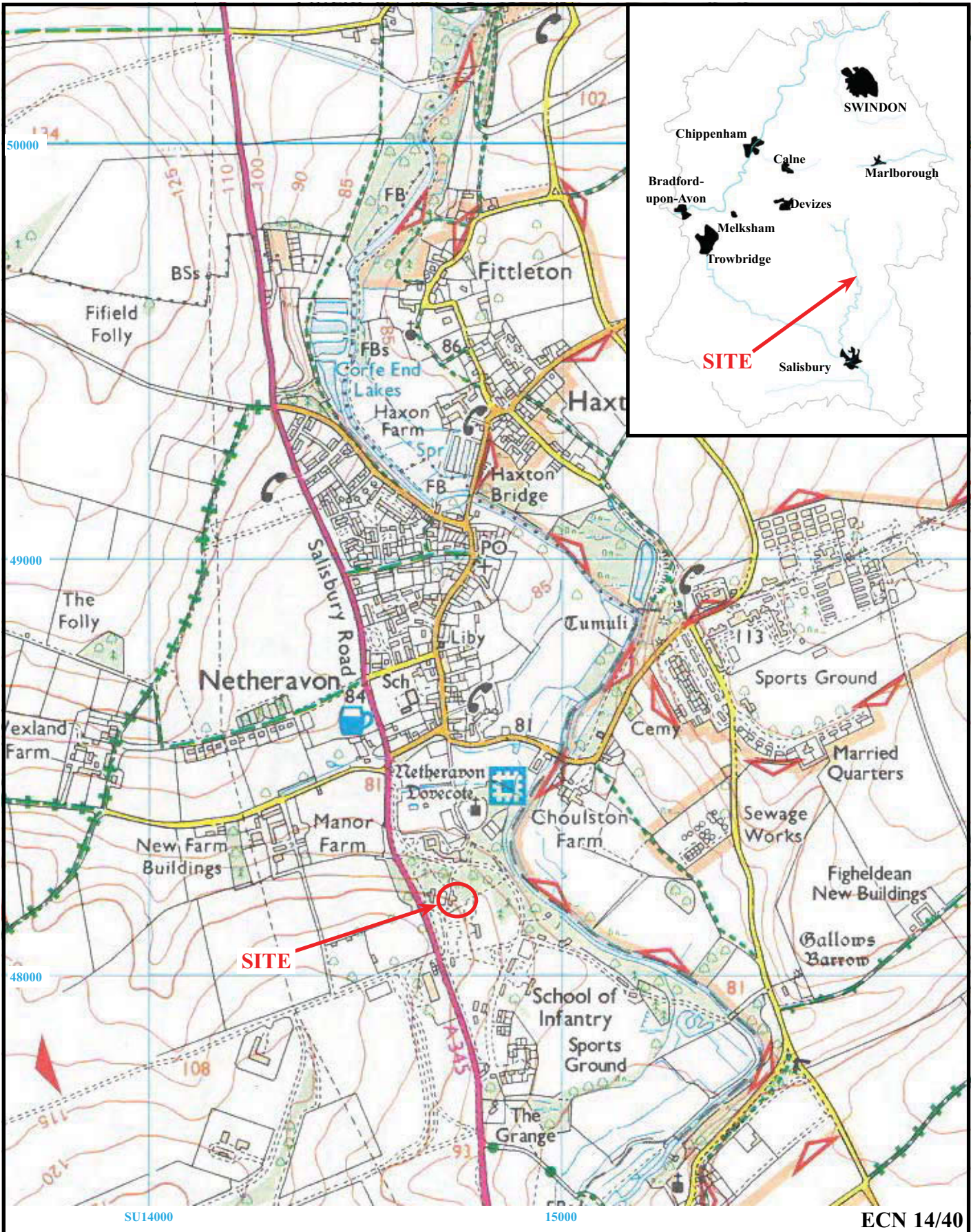
Stratigraphy here was similar, with several layers of dumped made ground, including localized areas of dense chalk blocks (53), red builders sand (55) and with the basal layer (54) containing modern finds above the chalk natural geology. Footing B was not so deep (0.8m) also revealed a sewer pipe along almost its entire length.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief at the site. Much of the site had been built up with modern made ground and only the narrow foundation trenches were deep enough to expose the natural geology.

References

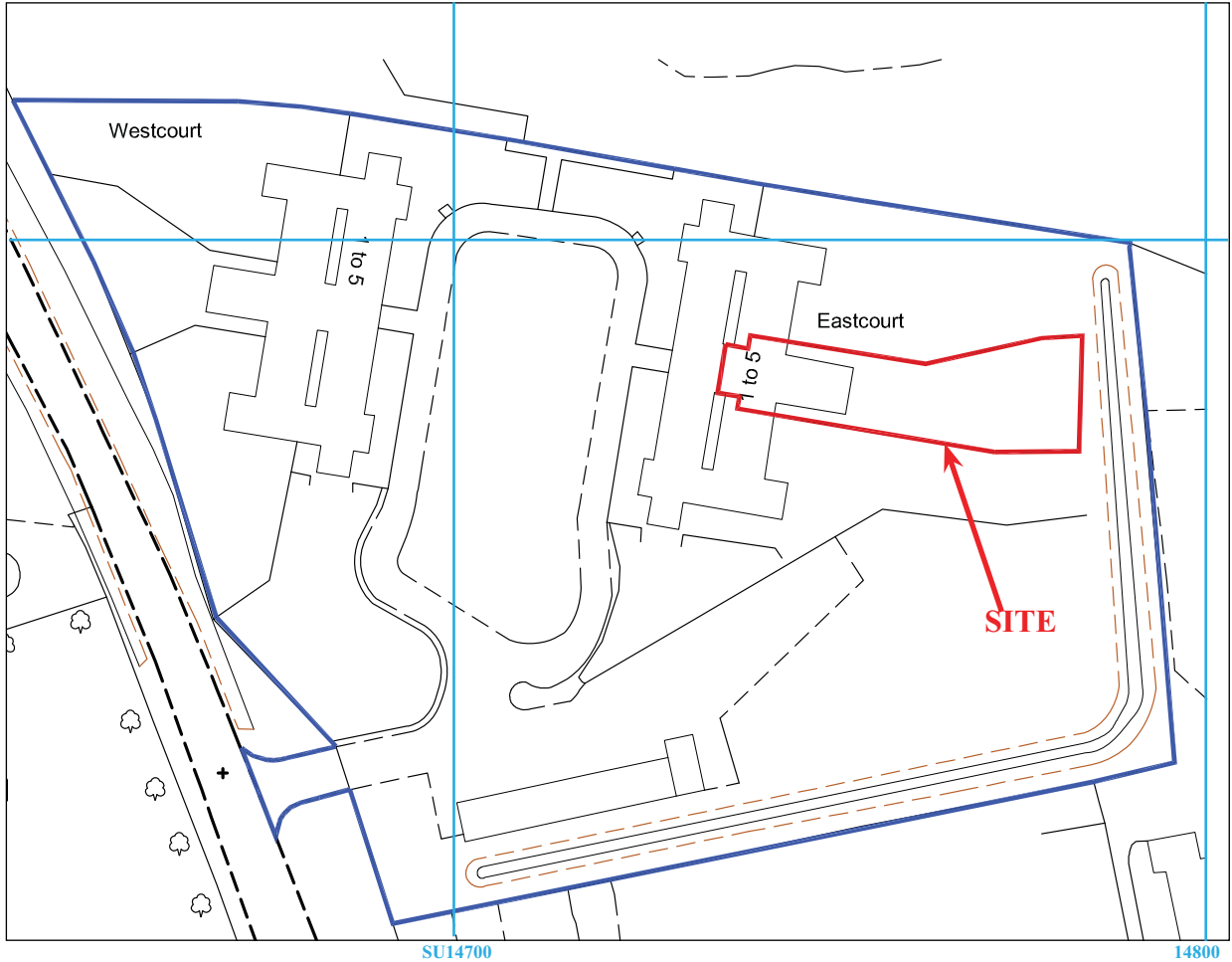
- BGS, 1959, *British Geological Survey*, 1:150000, Sheet 282, Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Mundin, A 2007, 'East Court Officers Quarters, Netheravon, Wiltshire, An archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 07/67, Reading
Taylor, T, 1996, *Time Team 97: The site reports*, Broadcasting Support Services and Channel 4 Television, London, 35-40



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Figure 1. Location of site within Netheravon and Wiltshire.

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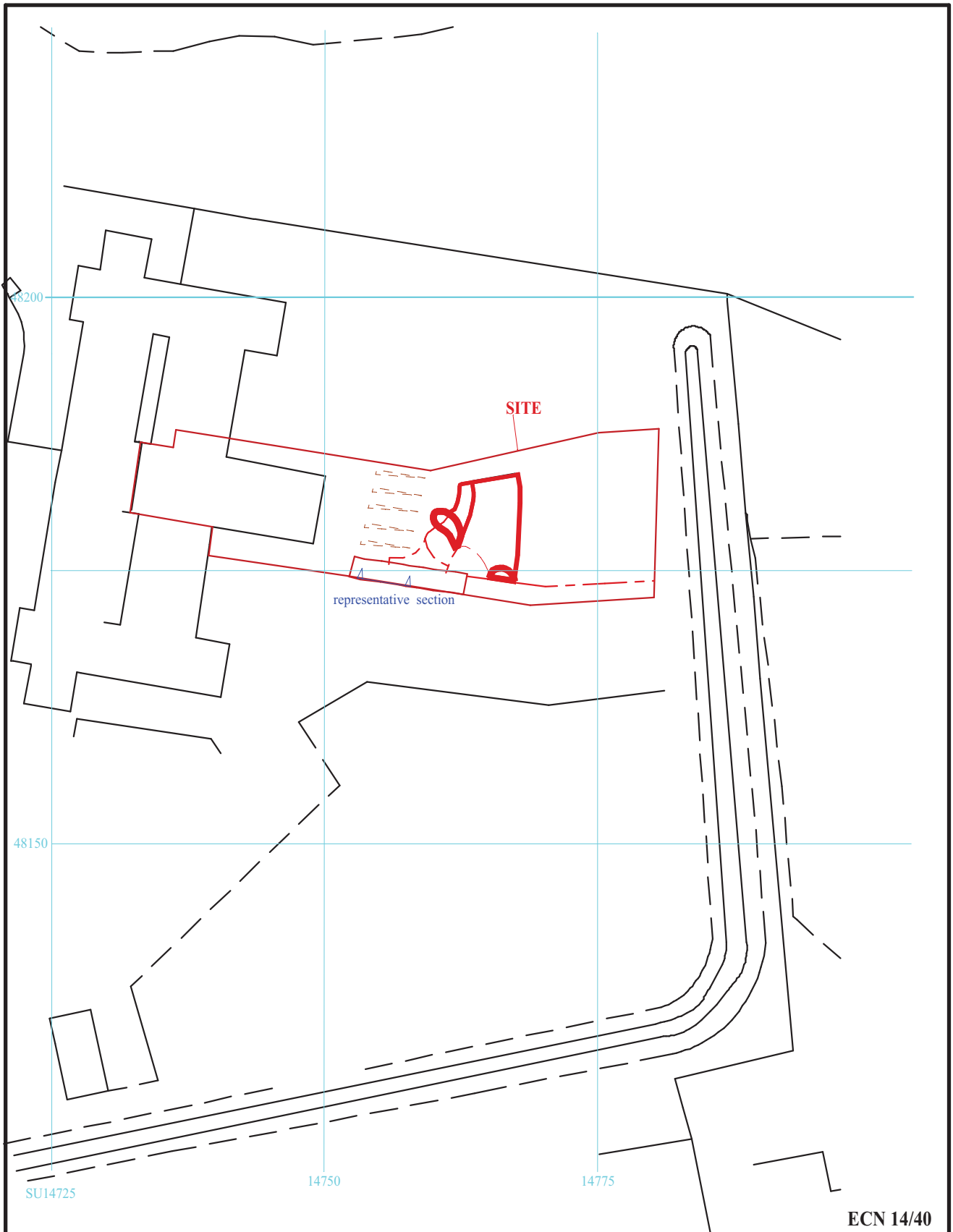


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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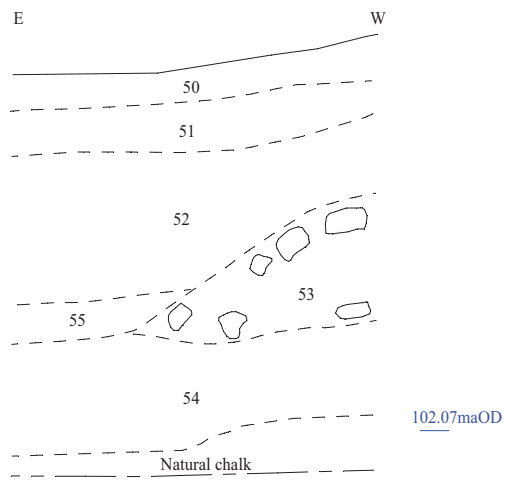


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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Trench, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench section, looking south, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Planter footing, looking west.



Plate 4. Footing B, looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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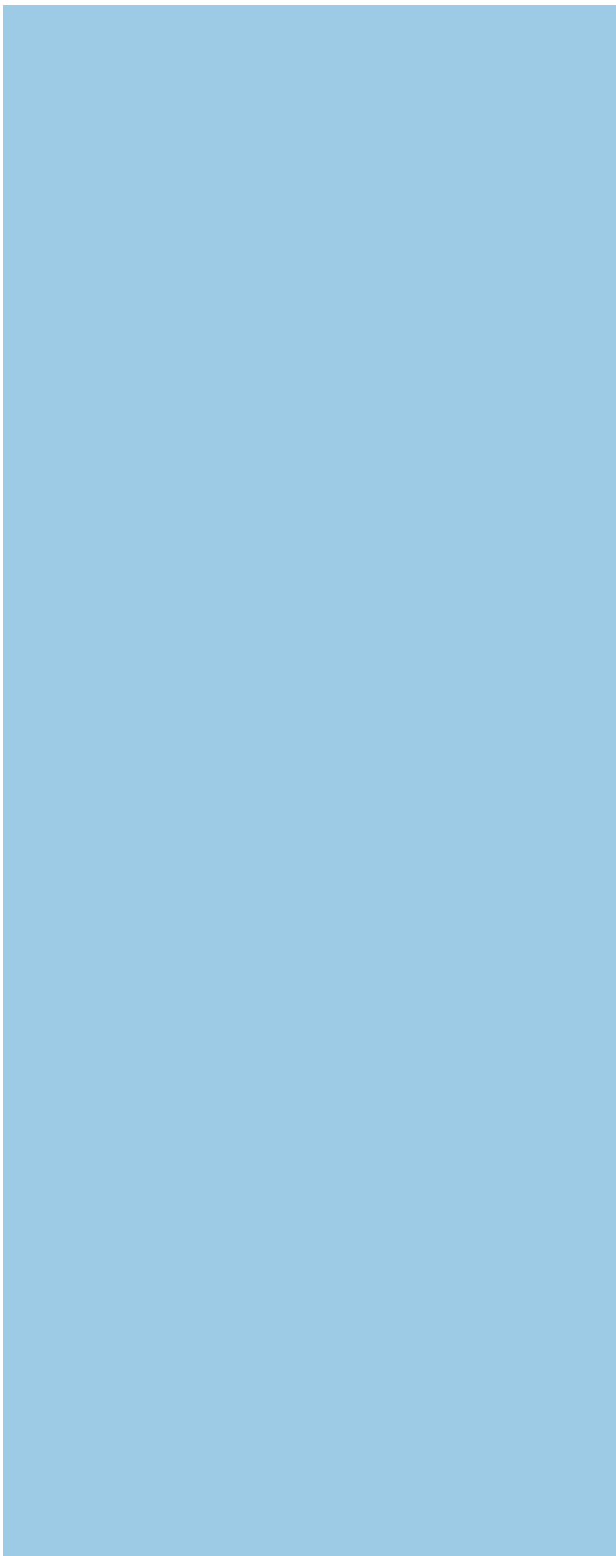
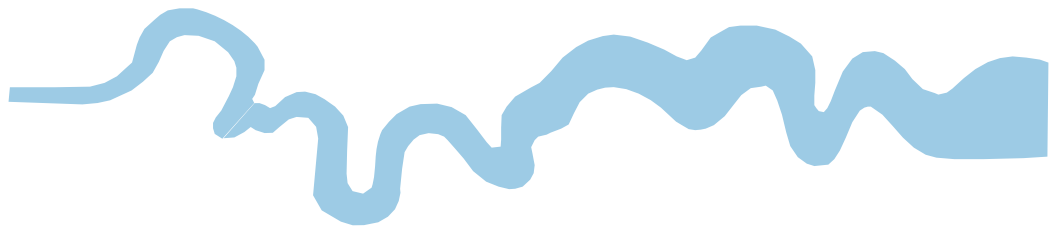
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Plates 3 - 4.

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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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