

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**30 Broad Street, Wokingham,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: BSW14/160

(SU 8102 6869)

**30 Broad Street, Wokingham,
Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Ms Cheryl Coppel

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BSW 14/160

February 2015

Summary

Site name: 30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8102 6869

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th November 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: BSW 14/160

Summary of results: The stylistic date of the brick floor and the finds from the dirt make-up layer beneath the floor suggest that it is not the original floor surface and has been re-laid sometime in the late 19th or 20th centuries.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 03.02.15 Steve Preston ✓ 03.02.15

30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Report 14/160

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8102 6869) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Cheryl Coppell of 30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Listed building consent (appl no. LB/2014/1290) has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council to lift the existing brick floor, dig down and back fill with limecrete before replacing the original bricks. This is subject to a condition (4) which requires an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the works

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 Wokingham Borough Council as advised by Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott on 4th November 2014 and the site code is BSW 14/160.

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

Location, topography and geology

The house is located in Wokingham, 11km to the south-east of Reading, within the Loddon Valley (Fig. 1), fronting onto Broad Street, close to its junction with Shute End, Milton Road and Rectory Road (Fig. 2), which is approximately 300m to the north-west of Wokingham's market place and town centre, at approximately 72m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Plateau Gravel (BGS 1946).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of the town. The place name of Wokingham has Saxon origins but no finds or deposits of Saxon have yet been found. Wokingham is not mentioned in Domesday Book but this is probably a quirk of the administrative set up with its entry subsumed within that for Sonning as a detached portion of Wiltshire (Astill 1978). In medieval times the

settlement was chosen by the Bishop of Salisbury (as lord of the manor of Sonning) as the site for a planned town. The most notable fieldwork within the town took place on Cross Street which revealed a succession of medieval and post-medieval buildings (Morris and Jones 1990). Several post-medieval listed buildings are located in the vicinity of the site allowing for the possibility of earlier, medieval deposits to be present.

Number 30 Broad Street is Grade II listed as part of 30–36 Broad Street, which consists of a terrace of cottages built in the late 18th century with 19th and 20th century alterations.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. Excavation of the deposits below the brick floor was observed, consisting of a single large trench approximately 3.5m square within the front room of the house.

Results (Fig. 3; Pl. 1)

The stratigraphy consisted of a layer of bricks (the existing floor surface) measuring 225mm x 107mm x 54mm ($9\frac{7}{8}$ " x $4\frac{1}{4}$ " x $2\frac{1}{8}$ "), laid end to end. These were set into lime mortar laid onto a rubble make-up layer containing lime mortar, occasional flint pebbles and a moderate quantity of ceramic building material consisting of bricks, floor tiles and roof tiles. No more than 0.15m of this rubble layer was excavated and the base was not reached. Within the rubble were two clay pipe stems; one with a bore of $\frac{4}{64}$ " typically dating from the late 18th century and the other with a bore of $\frac{5}{64}$ " typically dating from the mid 18th century.

Finds

Pottery by Genni Elliott

Within the rubble layer beneath the brick floor seven sherds of pottery were found. Four consisted of post-medieval red earthenwares. Three were of china; two from a white cup (joining) with a narrow blue band and one from a plate or large dish with a transfer printed blue geometric pattern of octagons, crosses and lozenges, likely to date from the 1750s onwards, and more likely to fall within the range 1850–1910.

Ceramic Building Material by Danielle Milbank

Two brick samples and one tile were recovered during the watching brief. The bricks were recovered from the floor surface, and the tile from the underlying deposit. The brick samples are dated and/or categorised wherever

possible based on dimensions, fabric and finish, according to Harley 1974. These comprise two bricks (incomplete) of different fabric types. The first example is a very fine, hard, evenly-fired sandy fabric with no visible inclusions, and an orange red colour. The dimensions are 51mm by 110mm, and the form is very even, with sharp arrises.

The second is of a hard, evenly fired material with occasional voids, and occasional fine manganese inclusions, and a red colour. The dimensions are 49mm x 110mm and the form is very neat, with sharp arrises and flat sides. Both bricks are unfrogged and they represent machine-made bricks (Harley type 5), of late 19th or 20th century date.

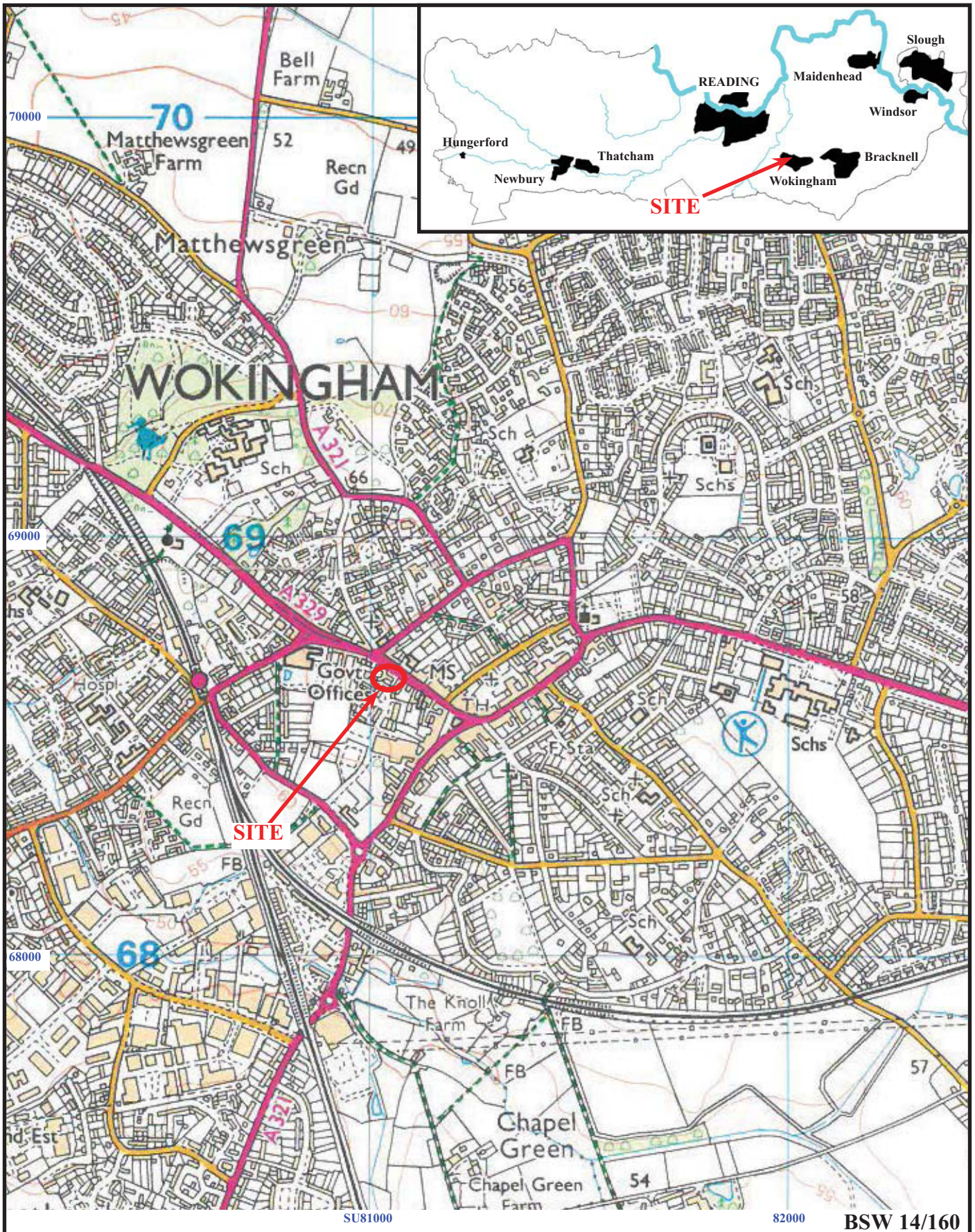
The tile comprises a single piece of a sandy clay fabric with sparse fine groggy inclusions, and an uneven form (16–22mm thick). These tiles were produced from the medieval period onwards, however this example is likely to be of 19th century date based on the form and fabric.

Conclusion

The stylistic date of the brick floor and the finds from the dirt make-up layer beneath the floor suggest that it is not the original floor surface and has been re-laid sometime in the late 19th or 20th centuries.

References

- Astill, G G, 1978, *Historic towns in Berkshire; an archaeological appraisal*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ 2 Reading
- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63,360, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Harley, L S, 1974, *A typology of brick*, BAA, London
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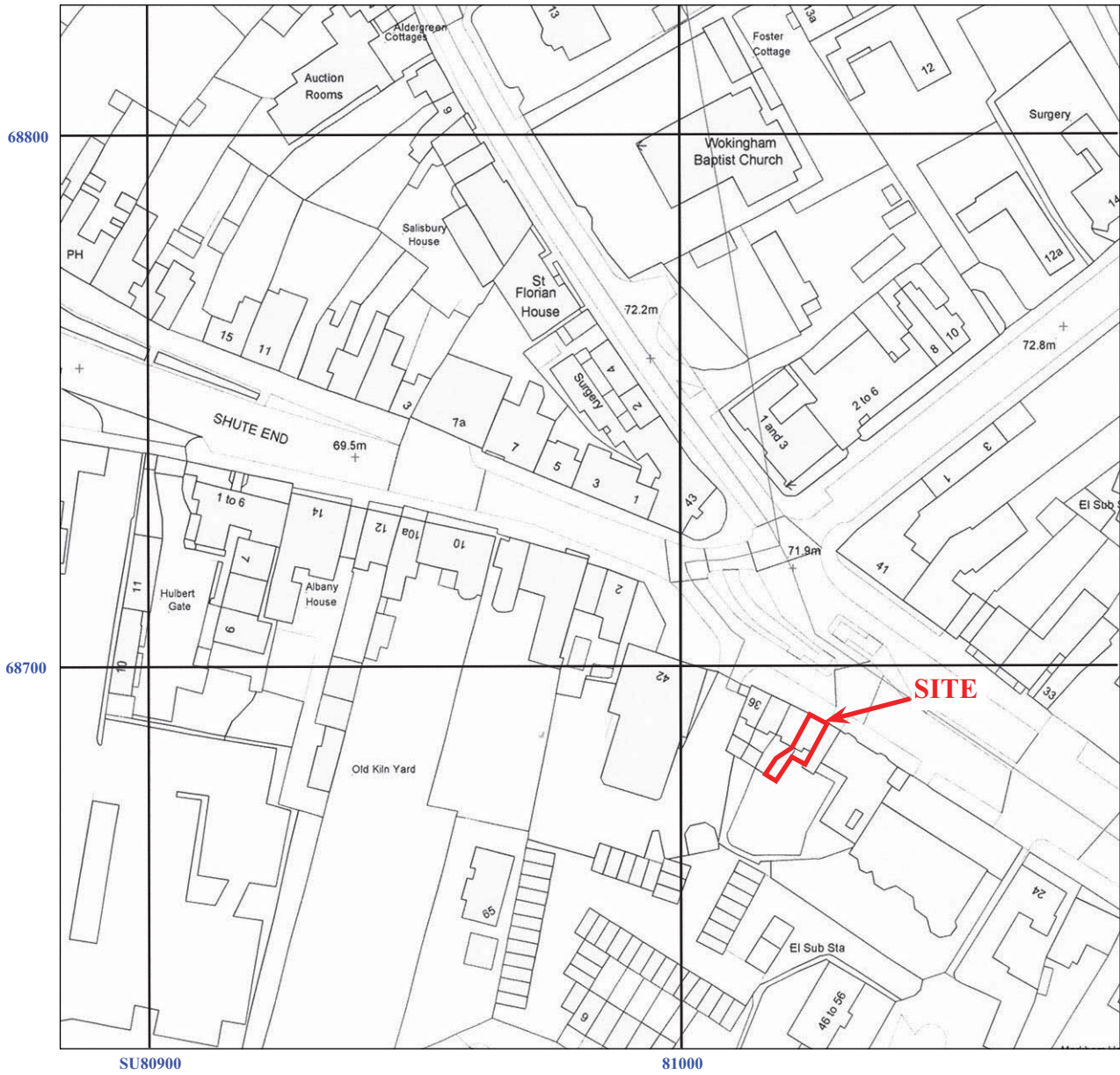


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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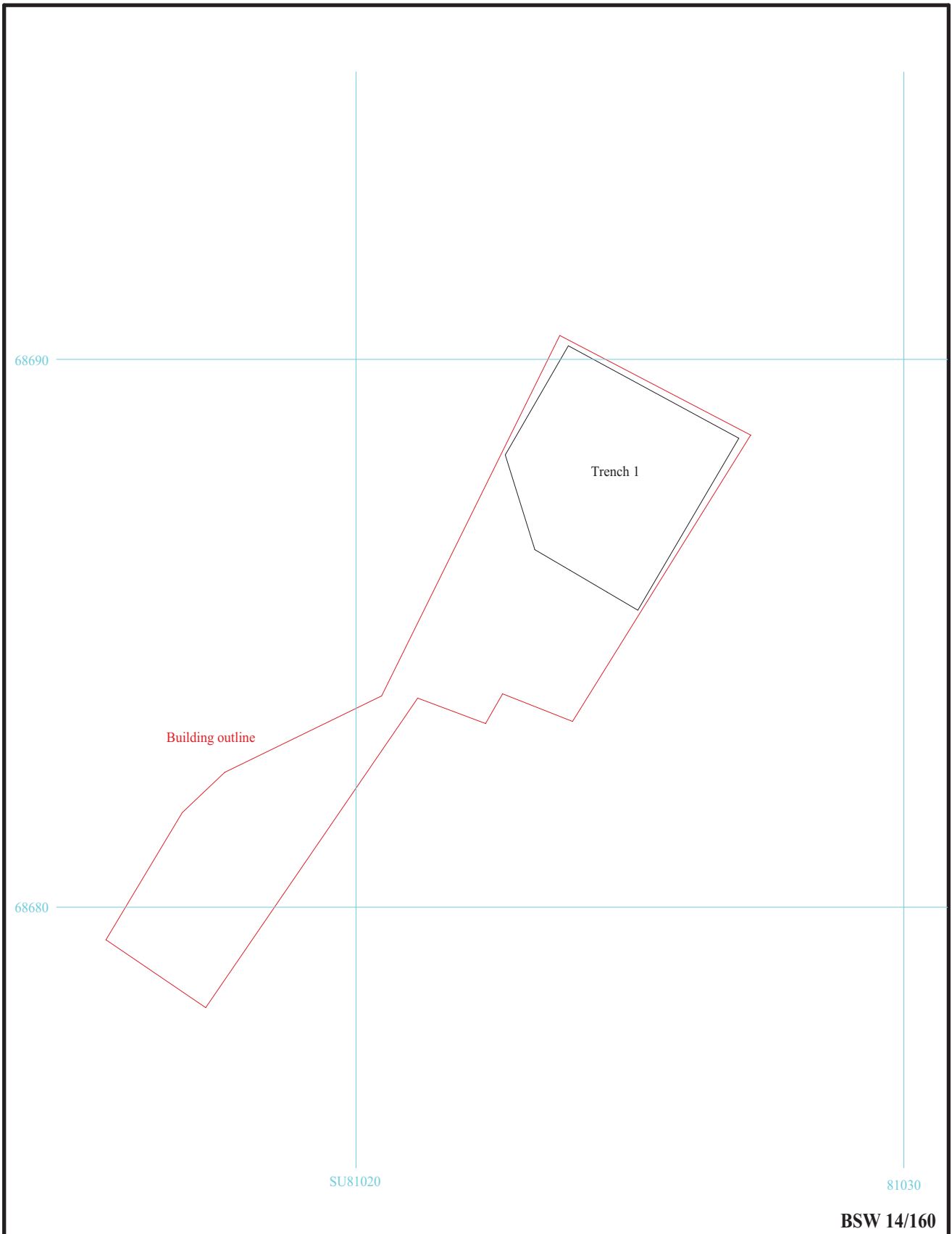
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Trench Location Plan



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Plate 1. Floor excavation, looking northeast, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

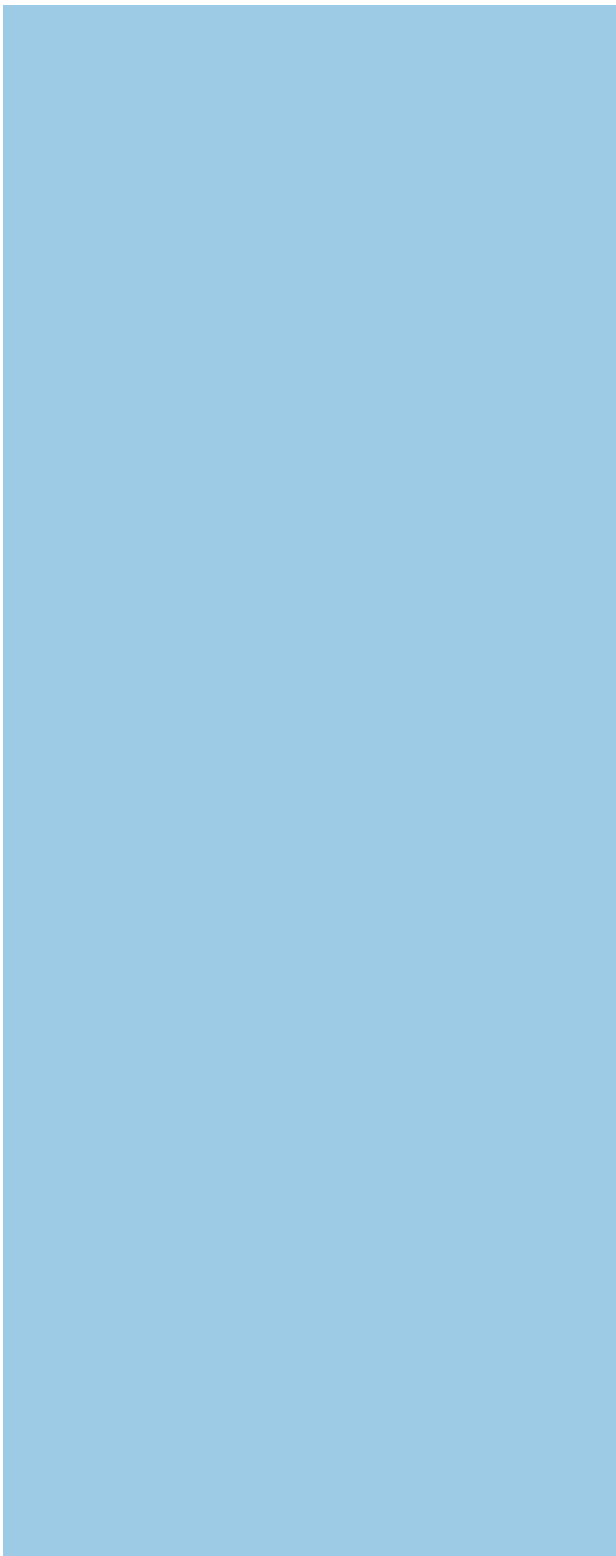
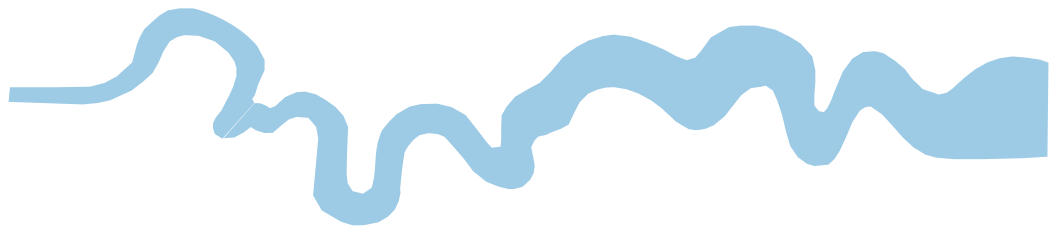
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Plate 1.

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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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