

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Kinross, Golf Club Road, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: KBH14/165

(SP 9875 1330)

**Kinross, Golf Club Road, Little Gaddesden,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Bellwood Homes

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KBH 14/165

March 2015

Summary

Site name: Kinross, Golf Club Road, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: SP 9875 1333

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th September 2014 – 11th March 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: KBH 14/165

Area of site: c.150 sq m

Summary of results: Areas for the new development were stripped of overburden to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon. No deposits or finds 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 Dacorum Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 13.03.15
	Steve Preston ✓ 16.03.15

Kinross, Golf Club Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 14/165

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Kinross, Golf Club Road, Ashridge Park, Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (SP 9875 1333) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Joe Harman of Bellwood Homes, 2 Forge House, Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9DT.

Planning permission (4/01149/14/FUL) has been gained from Dacorum Borough Council for the construction of a new house on the site following demolition of the existing building. The consent is subject to two conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology, requiring an archaeological watching brief during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Kate Batt, Historic Environment Adviser with Hertfordshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor between 12th September 2014 and 11th March 2015 and the site code is KBH 14/165.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Golf Club Road, 500m to the west of Little Gaddesden and c.4km north of Berkhamsted (Figs 1 and 2). The site itself is bounded by woodland to the north and the golf course and parking on its remaining sides. The underlying geology is mapped as Clay with Flints (BGS 1946), which were observed across the site and it lies at a height of c.192m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in an area where prehistoric and Roman activity and several findspots are recorded. There are a number of barrows to the west on Moneybury Hill.

Approximately 5km to the south east is Grim's Ditch, an earthwork of likely Iron Age date, with further undated earthworks located closer to the site at the Ashridge estate. The area of the Bulbourne valley is rich in evidence of prehistoric iron working with smelting furnaces and associated cremation burials of Late Iron Age date c.3.5km to the south (Thompson and Bryant 2005). To the south of the site is the historic (late Saxon and medieval) town of Berkhamsted (recorded as a Borough in Domesday Book), and archaeological investigations in the town have revealed medieval activity. A Roman road (Akeman Street) passes through the town.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by groundworks. This was expected to comprise demolition (concrete slab removal), overburden removal and the digging of foundation and service trenches.

The reduction of three separate areas using was undertaken by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under constant archaeological supervision. The areas comprised the footprints of the former house plot and garage that would comprise the new structures, and a soakaway. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The proposed building footprints (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Two areas that comprised the footprints of the new buildings were monitored. The former garage area measured c. 8m x 6m. The stratigraphy there consisted of 0.15m of concrete overlying 0.20m of brick rubble hardcore. This overlay clay with flints natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed. After inspection of the surface, the clay with flints was further reduced by 0.35m.

The former house footprint measured 18.50m x 7.20m and was reduced by 0.40m consisting of demolition rubble directly overlying clay with flint natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed. No inspection of the foundation trenches took place as these would have been dug from this reduced level.

The soakaway (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

The soakaway was located to the south of the building footprint. The trench measured 1.10m wide x 8m in length and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of subsoil overlying clay with flints natural geology. The trench was further dug into the latter to a depth of c.2m.

Finds

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Areas for the new development were stripped of overburden to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon, with a trench dug for a soakaway. However, despite the potential for the presence of archaeology on the site no deposit or finds were observed during the watching brief.

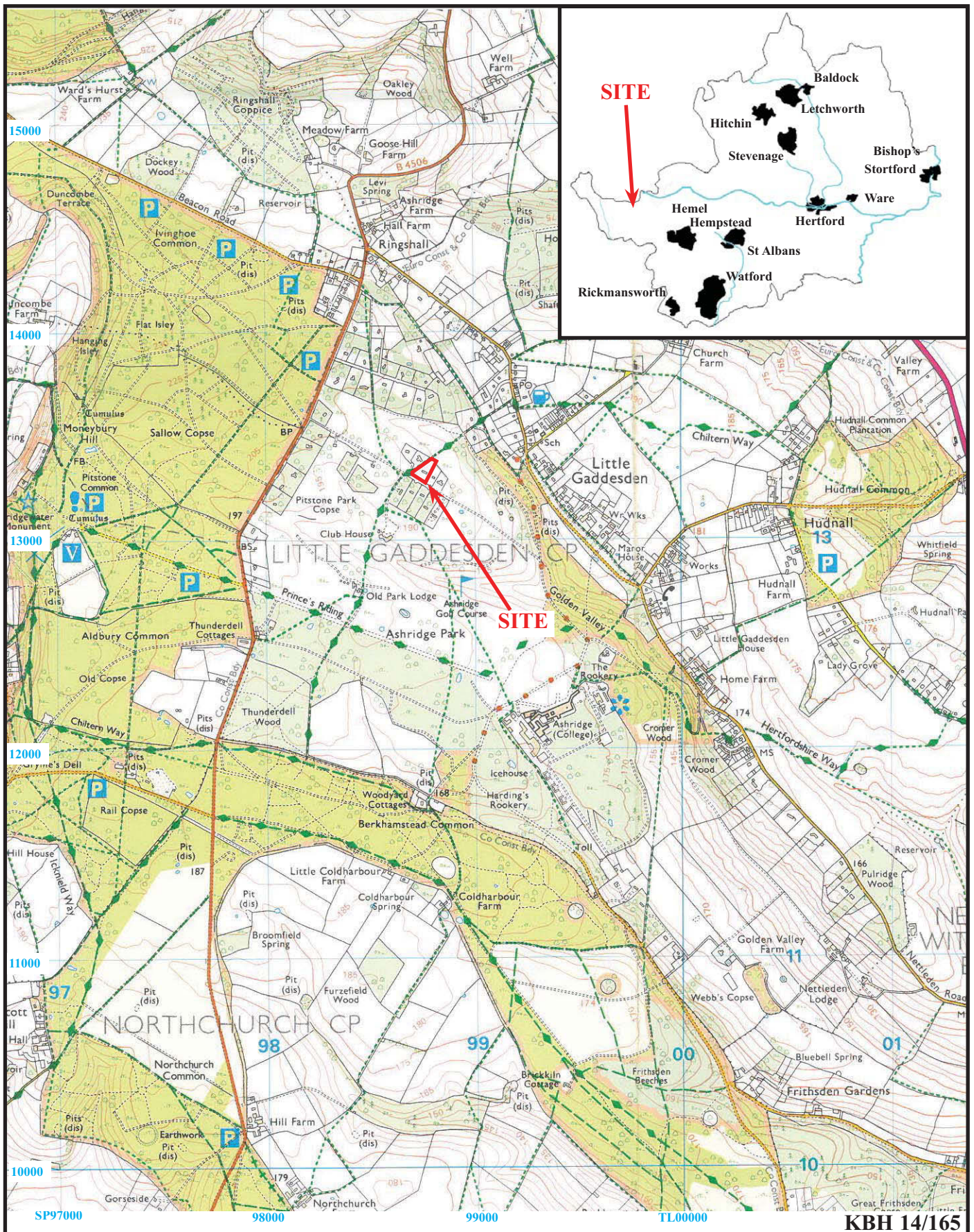
References

BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Thompson, I and Bryant, S, 2005, *Berkhamsted, Extensive Urban Survey Project*, Revised Assessment Report, Hertfordshire County Council, Hertford

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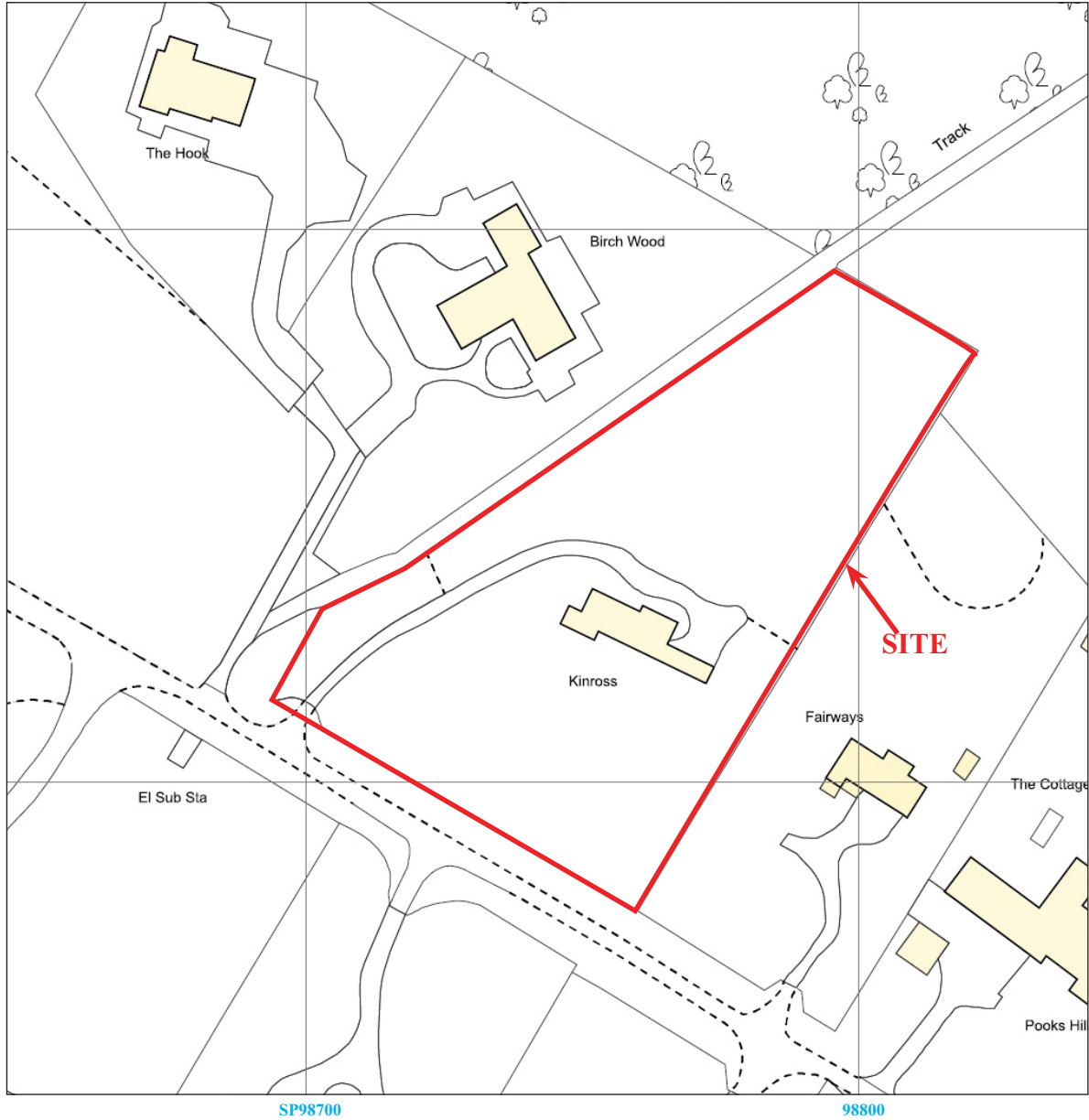
PPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: Kinross, Golf Club Road, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Berkhamstead	Parish: Little Gaddesden	
Planning application reference: 4/01149/14/FUL		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Bellwood Homes, 2 Forge House, Summerleys Road, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, HP27 9DT.		
Nature of application: Housing development		
Present land use: House		
Size of application area: c. 150 sq m	Size of area investigated: 150 sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9875 1333		
Site code (if applicable): KBH14/165		
Site director/Organization: Andy Taylor, Thames Valley Archaeological Services		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 12/9/14	Finish: 11/3/15
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: Dacorum		
Related HER Nos: None	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports N/A		
Summary of fieldwork results: Areas for the new development were stripped of overburden to expose the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon. However no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.		
Author of summary: Andy Taylor	Date of summary: 16/3/15	



**Kinross, Golf Club Road, Ashridge Park,
Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, 2015
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Figure 1. Location of site within Little Gaddesden and Hertfordshire.

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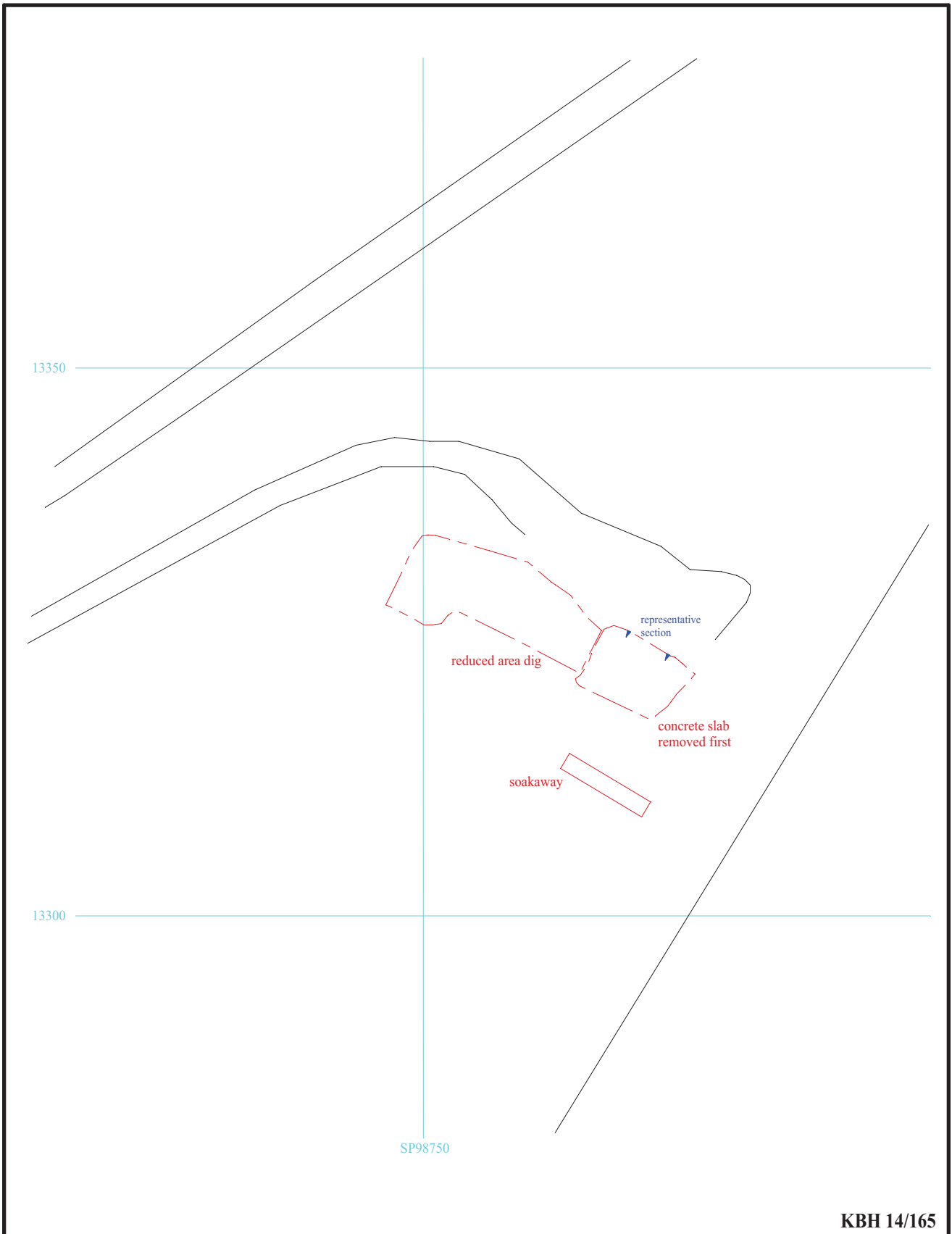
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Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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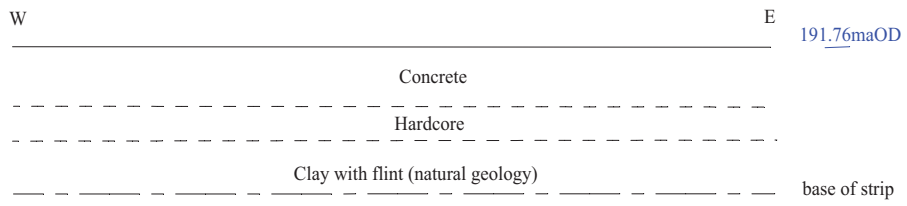


**Kinross, Golf Club Road, Ashridge Park,
Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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KBH 14/165

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Little Gaddesden, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section of area strip.



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Plate 1. Eastern area of reduction under slab, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Reduction on site of previous building, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Soakaway trench, looking north west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

KBH 14/165

**Kinross, Golf Club Road, Ashridge Park,
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

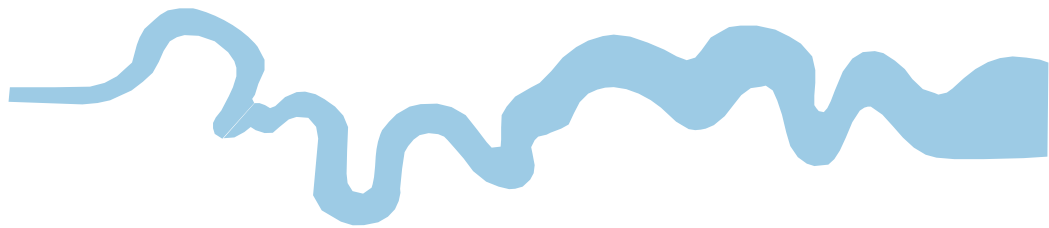
Plates 1 - 3.

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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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