

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**61 Oakley Road, Chinnor,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Muddin

Site Code: ORC15/133

(SP 7500 0042)

**61 Oakley Road, Chinnor,
Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr John Cunningham

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ORC 15/133

June 2015

Summary

Site name: 61 Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 7500 0042

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 23rd June 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: ORC 15/133

Area of site: 28 sq m

Summary of results: The excavation of footings for a new house were observed in an area where the finding of medieval pottery had been previously reported. However no deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.06.15 Steve Preston ✓ 30.06.15

61 Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 15/133

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 61 Oakley Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4HY (SP7500 0042) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Cunningham of 56 Kirklands, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 7RP.

Planning permission (P15/0017/FUL) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a new house along side the existing house of 61 Oakley Road. Due to the potential of below ground archaeological features being uncovered, a condition (5) has been attached to the decision, 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 District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on the 23rd June 2015 and the site code is ORC 15/133.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located just on the south east side of Oakley Road on the western side of Chinnor at some 600m or more from the parish church (Fig. 1). A former detached garage had been removed removed prior to groundworks (Fig.2). The underlying geology was Lower Chalk (NGS 1994) and the site lies at a height of approximately 116m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from records in the Oxfordshire Historic Environment Record referring to the findspot of a collection of Medieval pottery found in an inspection pit some 20m west of the current site. This suggests the possible presence of medieval occupation in the vicinity. To the south west lies

Lower Farm, a listed building which dates from c.1717 but may have earlier origins. An undated inhumation burial was found further to the west.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by groundworks, in this instance footing trenches for concrete ground beams.

Results

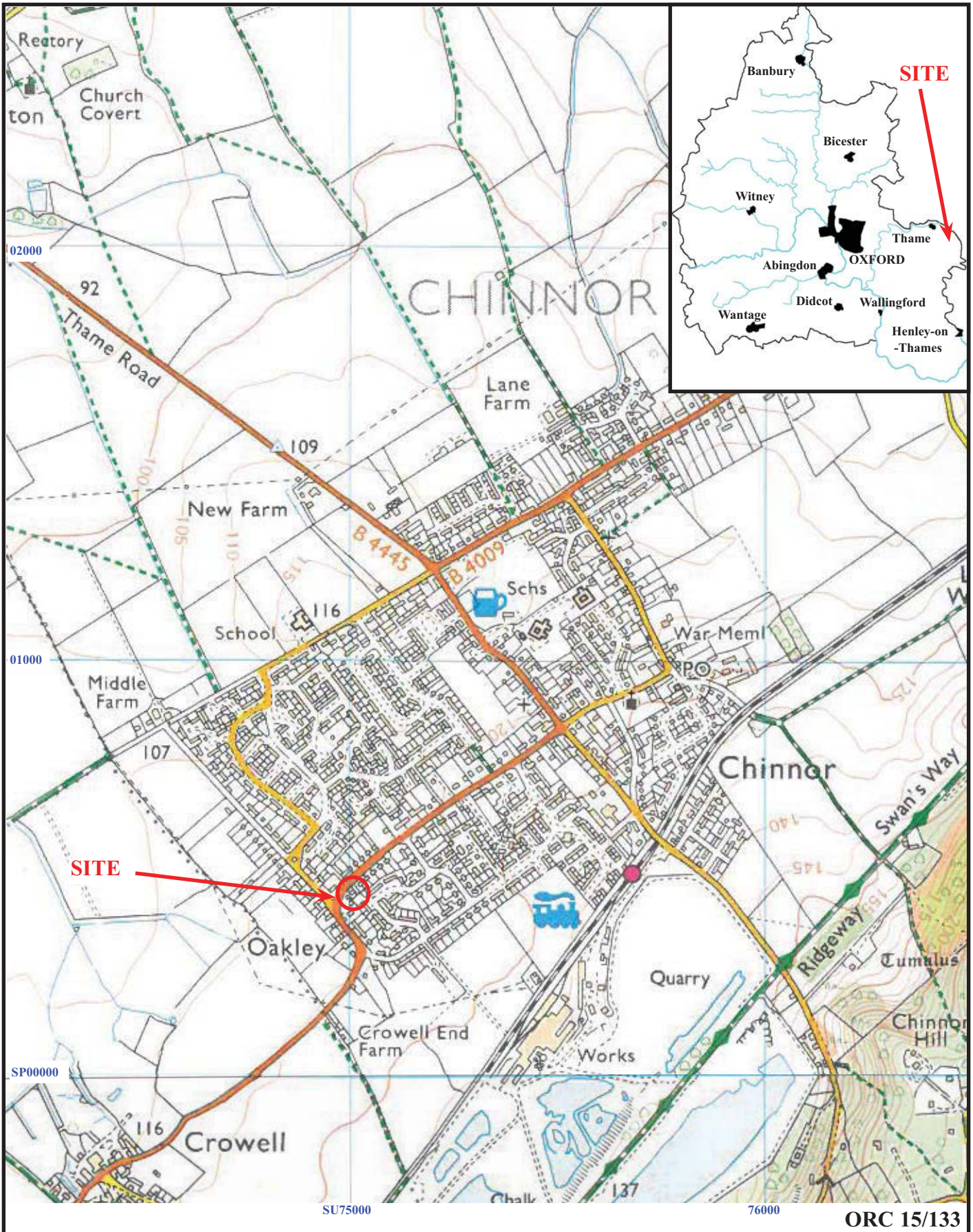
All of the footings were dug by a mechanical excavator fitted with a bladed bucket, 0.8m wide (Fig. 3). All spoil was available to be inspected, and all sections were accessible. The footings were 0.95m deep, with a largely undisturbed stratigraphy observed (Fig. 4, Pl.2). To the south turf/topsoil 0.3m deep, which was a grey brown clayey silt overlay a 0.22m deep layer of subsoil, which was a reddish brown clayey silt. This overlay chalk natural geology. . To the north at the location of the former garage, a concrete base had been removed, to expose subsoil, made ground to a depth of c. 0.3m. Below this again was subsoil above natural chalk geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed and no artefacts recovered.

Conclusion

Though there was a potential of uncovering deposits on the site, no deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

References

BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London



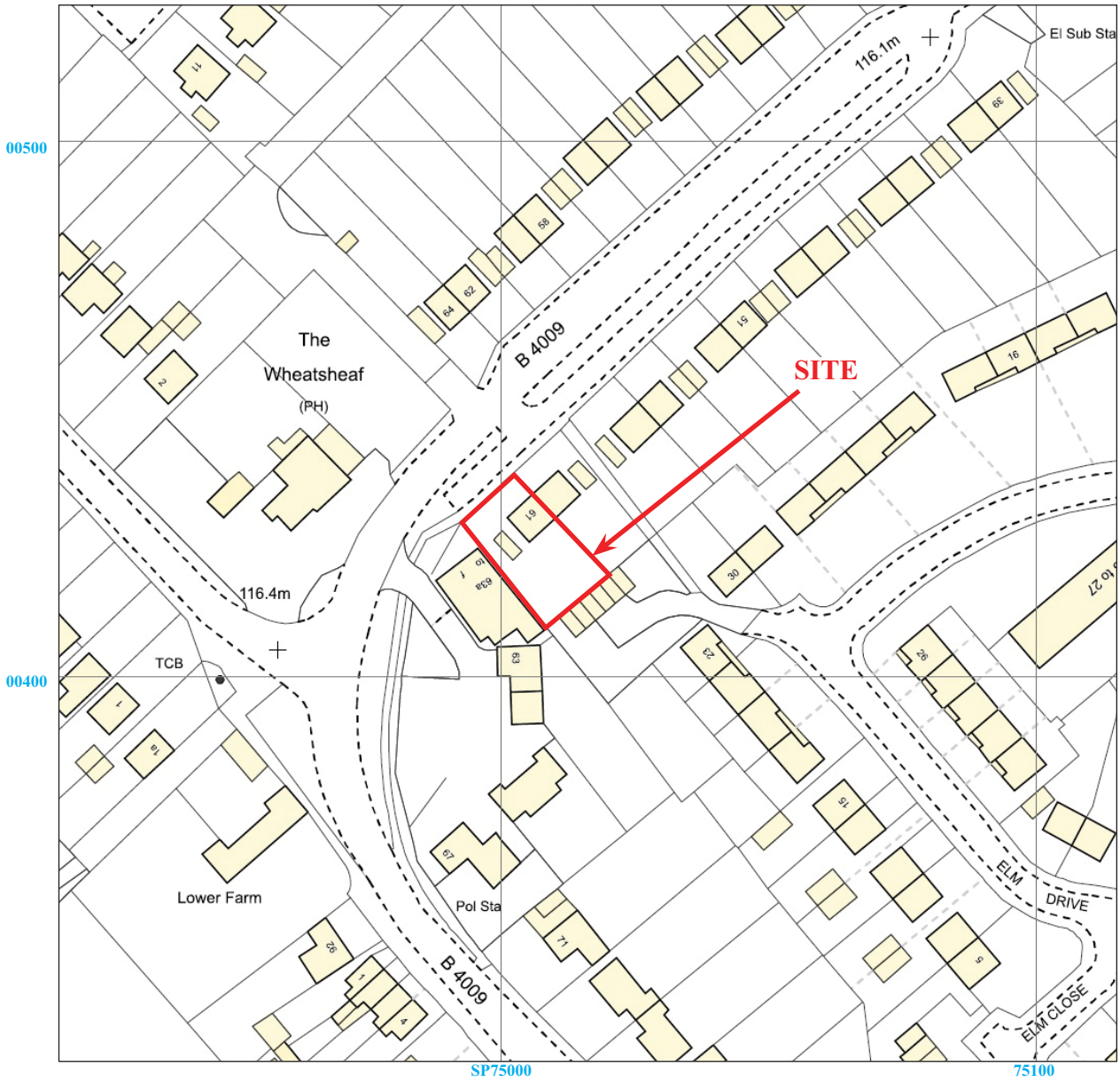
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Figure 1. Location of site within Chinnor and Oxfordshire.

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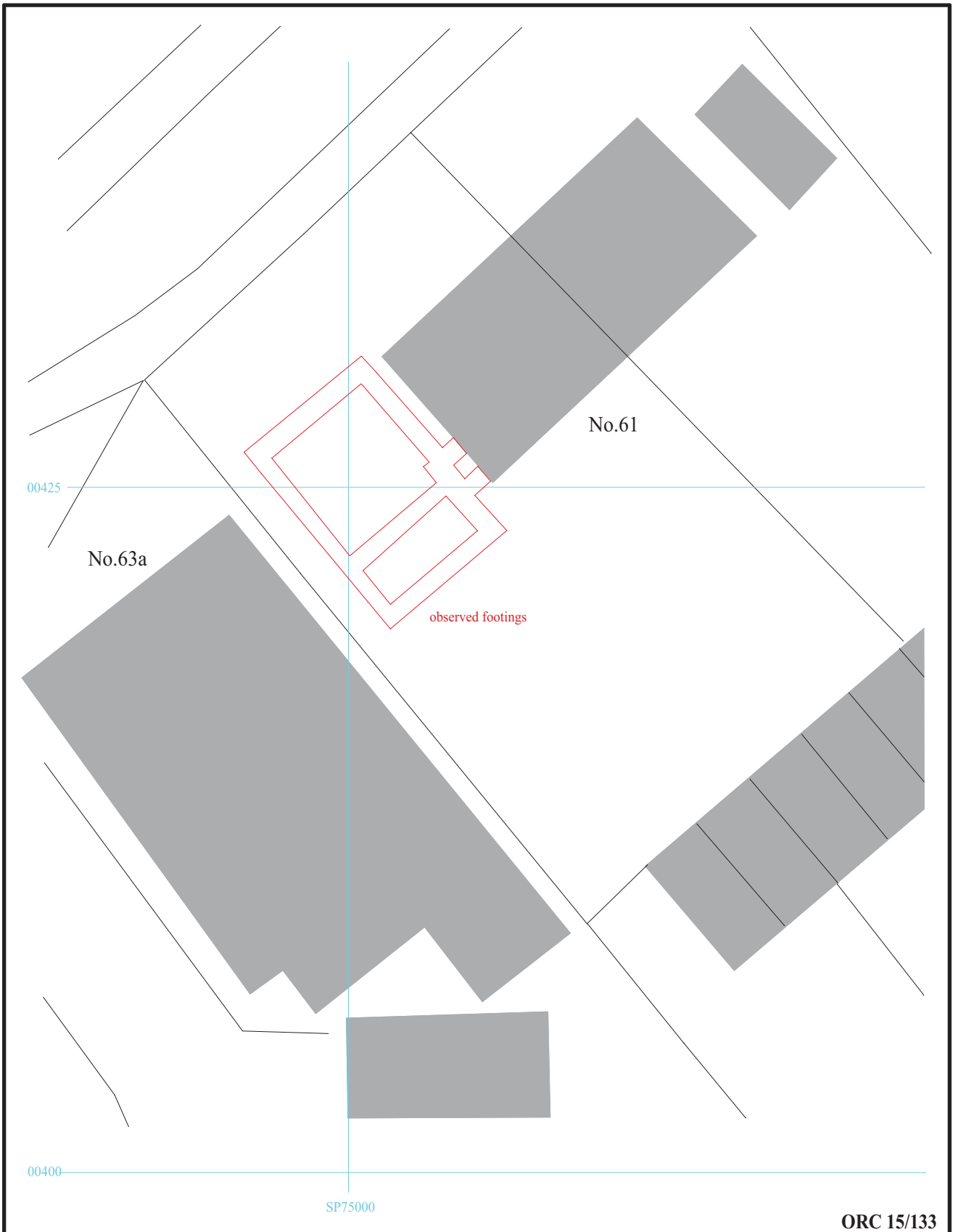
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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SW 116maOD

Turf/topsoil

Susboil (red/brown clayey silt)

Natural geology (chalk)

Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. View of new footings, looking north, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking south east, Scale: 1m.

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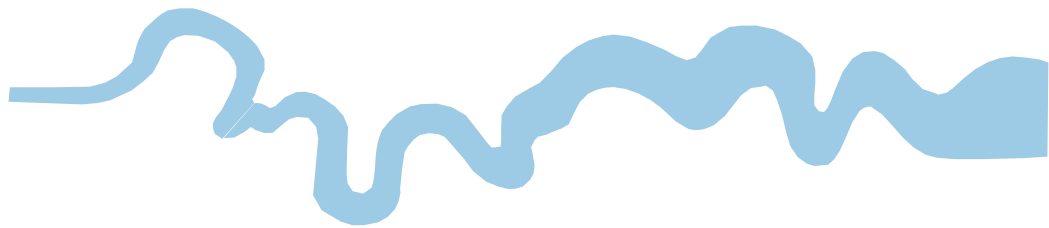
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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