

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Site Code: DCB15/74

(SP 9843 0887)

12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr J Stimpson

by Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code DCB 15/74

August 2015

Summary

Site name: 12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: SP 9843 0887

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 20th-29th July 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Daniel Bray

Site code: DCB 15/74

Area of site: c.100 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any 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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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 03.09.15 Steve Preston✓ 01.09.15

12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Daniel Bray and Andy Taylor

Report 15/74

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DS (SP 9843 0887) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr J Stimpson of the above address.

Planning permission (4/01143/14/FHA) has been gained from Dacorum Borough Council for an extension to the existing house. The consent is subject to conditions (3 and 4) relating to archaeology which require a watching brief to be maintained during all groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

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 Ms Kate Batt, Historic Environment Advisor with Hertfordshire County Council, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Daniel Bray between 20th and 29th July 2015 and the site code DCB 15/74.

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 to the rear of the property, on the eastern side of Dellfield Close (Fig. 2), which itself lies on the eastern side of Potten End, Berkhamsted and is bounded by further residential properties. Although the site itself is flat, the topography as a whole slopes down from the north. The underlying geology is mapped as Middle Chalk (BGS 1972), which was observed on the site (with a clay capping in places) and it lies at a height of c. 144m 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 in the county Historic Environment Record. To the south on Billet Lane four

shaft furnaces for iron production were found dating from the 1st century AD. Also on that site were four Iron Age cremations, ditches and pits. Further to the south-west were two roughly square enclosures, seen as cropmarks. A nearby watching brief (Taylor 2013), on Castle Hill Avenue, did not identify any archaeological deposits or finds.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. These were expected to comprise demolition (concrete slab removal), overburden removal to form a level terrace, and the digging of trenches for foundations and services. Although most of the site had already been partly levelled for the previous garage on the site, a further part of the site was reduced followed by the digging of foundation trenches (Fig. 3)

Results

Overburden removal

As part of the site on the eastern side, approximately 2-3m wide and 10m long was still on a slope, it was reduced by up to 1m. This took place using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket under archaeological supervision. The stratigraphy exposed on the the east side consisted of 0.50m of topsoil overlying 0.20m of natural clay overlying 0.30m of chalk (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1). No archaeological deposits or features were observed.

Foundation trenches

The foundation trenches measured 0.60m wide and 1m deep but were only dug further into natural chalk (Pl. 2). No archaeological deposits or features were observed but a few areas containing service pipes were noted.

Finds

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

Conclusion

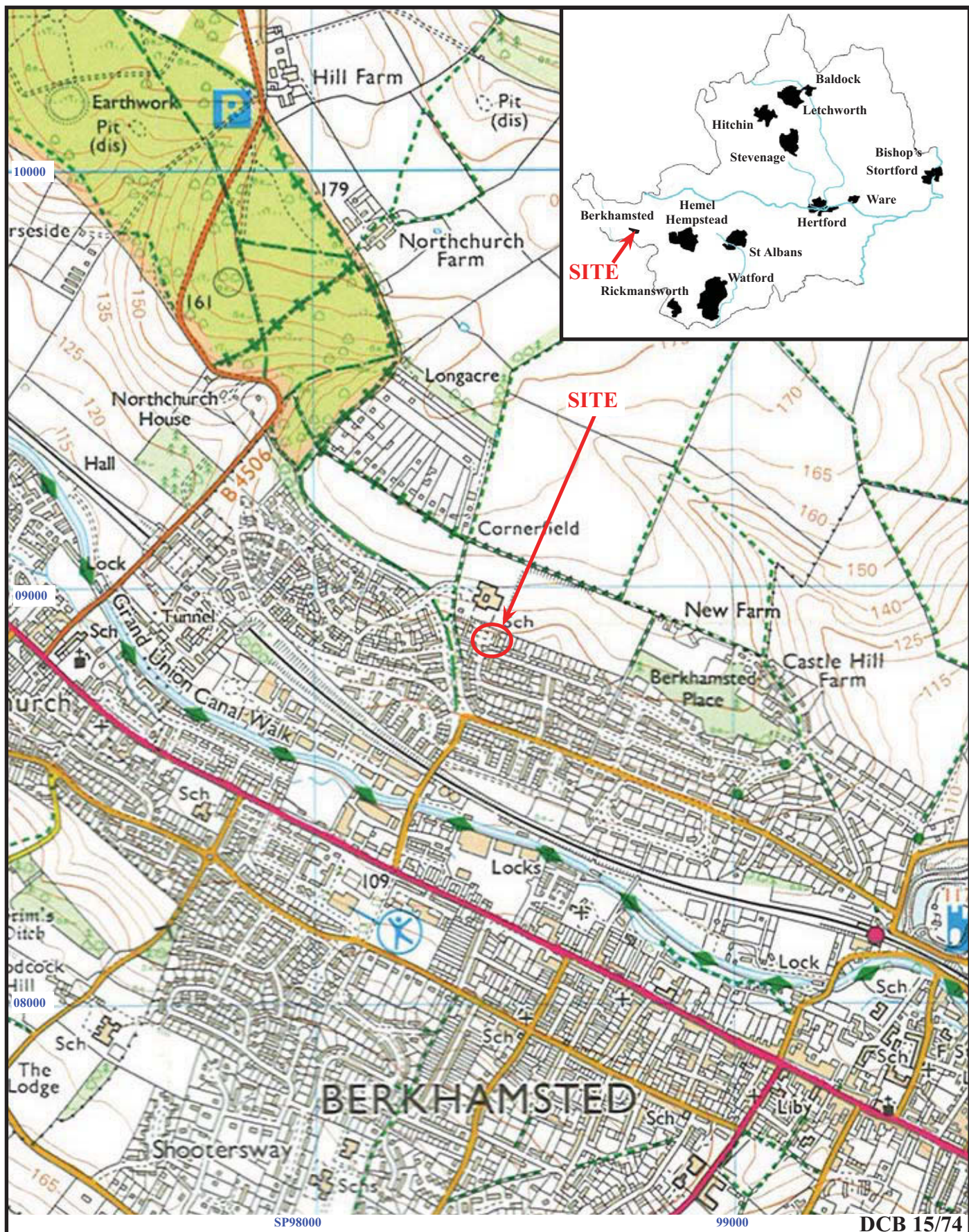
Despite the potential for archaeology being present on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

References

BGS, 1972, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Taylor, A, 2013, '8 Castle Hill Avenue, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **13/229**, Reading

APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

Site name and address: 12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DS		
County: Hertfordshire	District: Dacorum	
Village/Town: Berkhamsted	Parish:	
Planning application reference: 4/01143/14/FHA		
Client name, address, and tel. no.: Mr J Stimpson, 12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, HP4 1DS		
Nature of application: House extension		
Present land use: House		
Size of application area:-	Size of area investigated: c. 100 sq m	
NGR (to 8 figures): SP 9843 0887		
Site code (if applicable): DCB 15/74		
Site director/Organization: Daniel Bray, TVAS Ltd		
Type of work: Watching Brief		
Date of work:	Start: 20/7/15	Finish: 29/7/15
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Dacorum Museum in due course.		
Related HER Nos: -	Periods represented: None	
Relevant previous summaries/reports -		
Summary of fieldwork results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed		
Author of summary: D Bray		Date of summary: 3/9/15

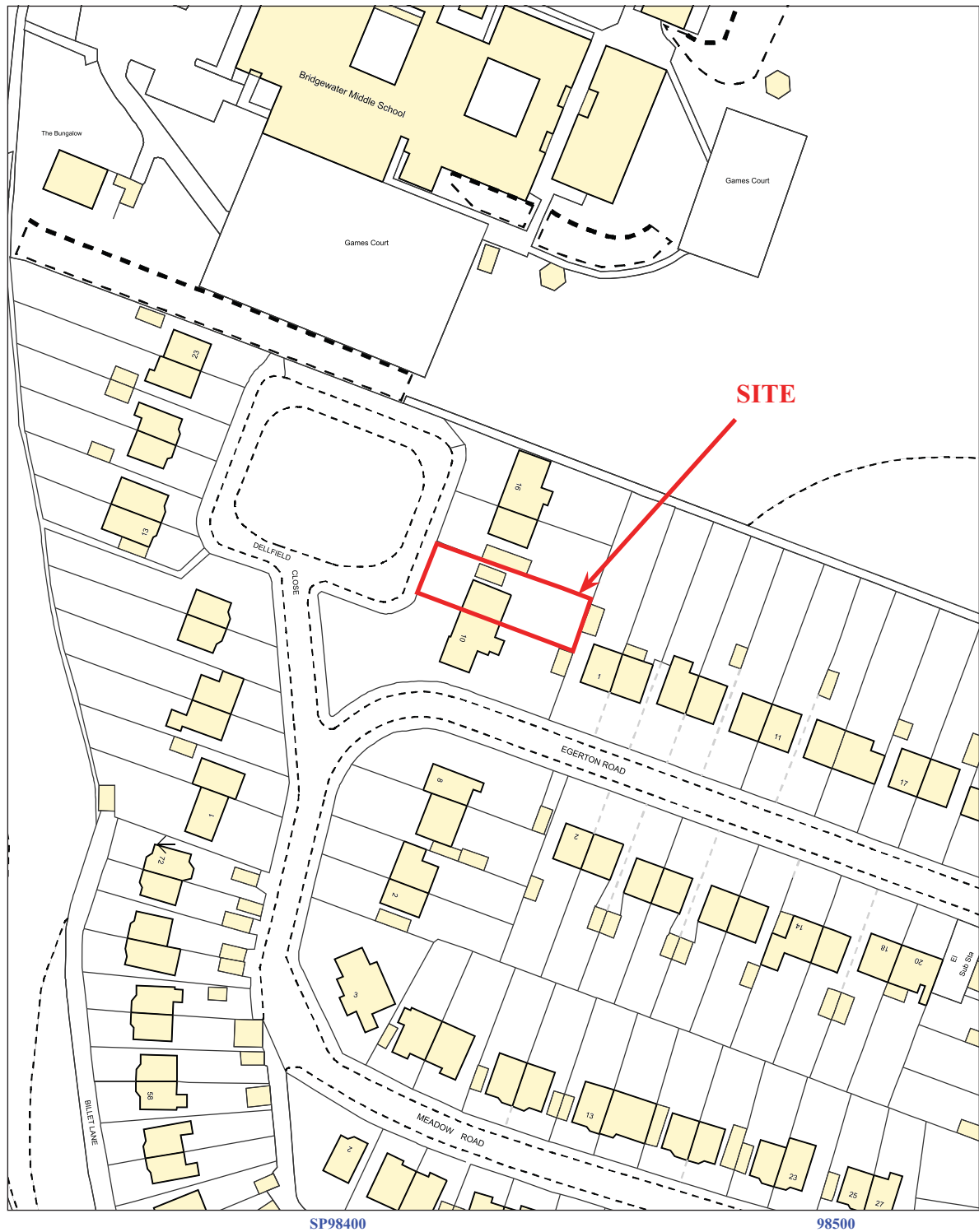


**12 Dellfield Close, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire, 2015**
Archaeological watching brief
Figure 1. Location of site within Berkhamsted and
Hertfordshire.

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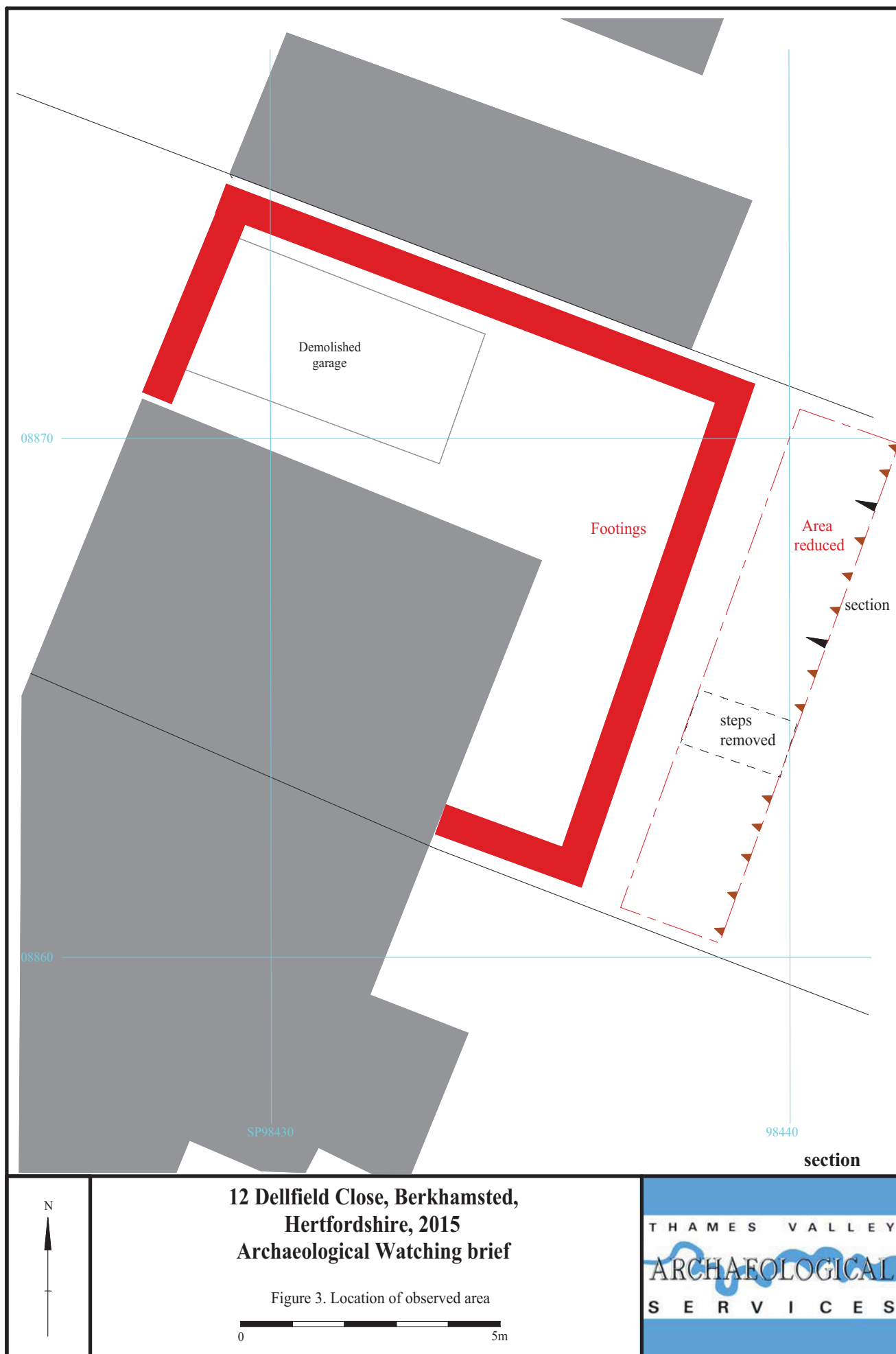
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site

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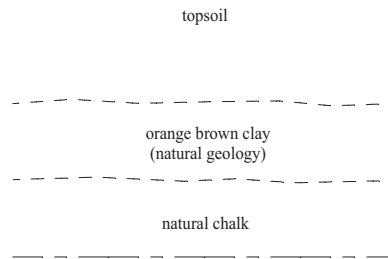


Reduced area section

NE

SW

145.6m aOD



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Reduced area, looking southeast, Scales: 1m and 2m.



Plate 2. Footings, Scales: 2m and 1m.

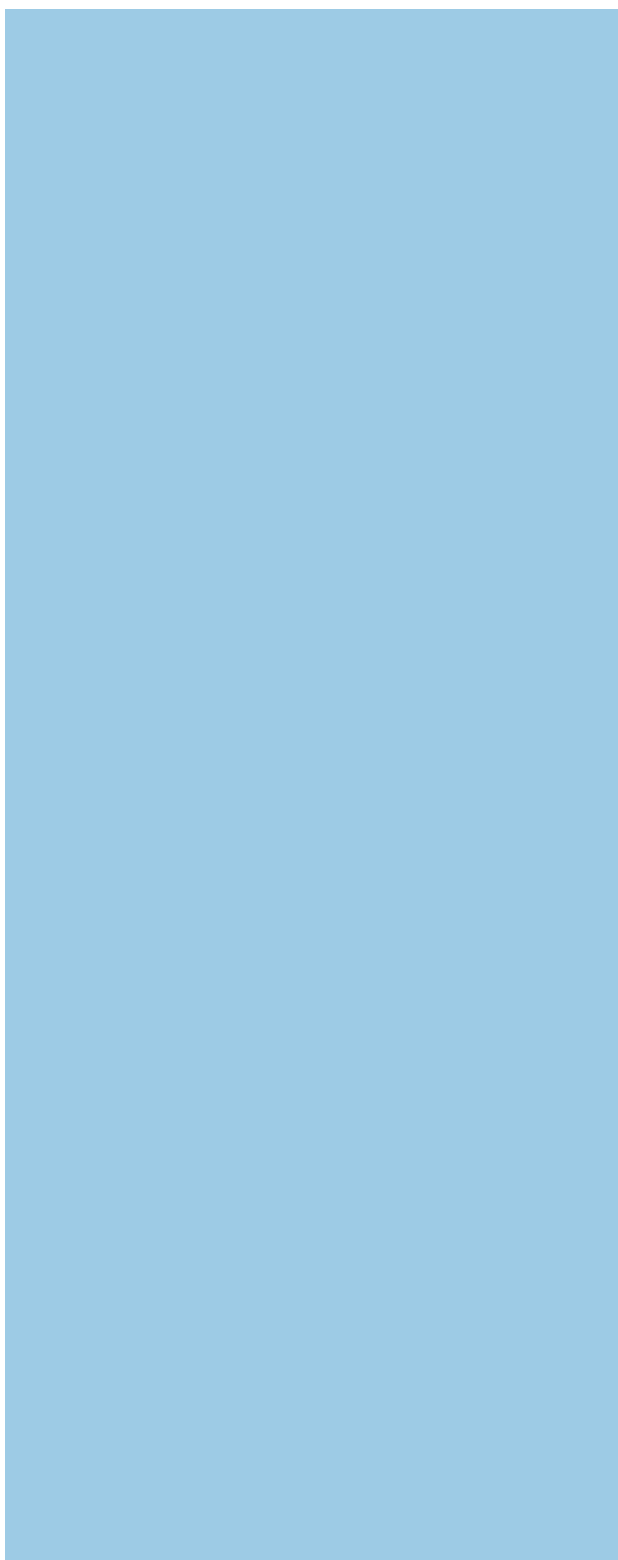
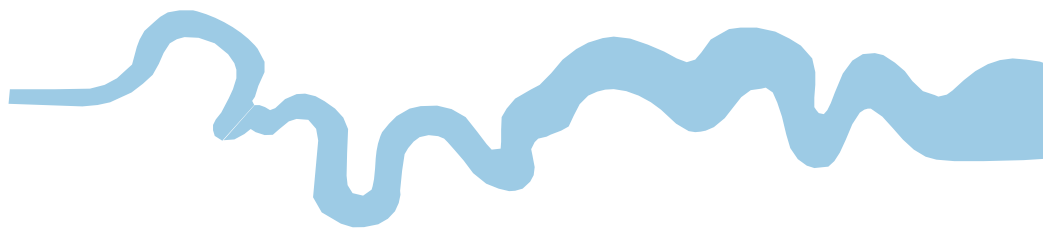
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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