

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**10 Henfield View, Warborough,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: HVW15/135

(SU 5969 9371)

10 Henfield View, Warborough, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr A. Reay

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HVW 15/135

November 2015

Summary

Site name: 10 Henfield View, Warborough, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5969 9371

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 9th July 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: HVW 15/135

Area of site: 50 sq m

Summary of results: A single undated linear feature identified in the base of a footing trench was preserved *in situ* as no further work was due to take place at that depth.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 16.11.15
	Steve Preston ✓ 16.11.15

10 Henfield View, Warborough, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 15/135

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 10 Henfield View, Warborough, Oxfordshire (SU 5969 9371) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr A. Reay, of 10 Henfield View, Warborough, Oxfordshire.

Planning permission (P14/S4065/HH) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a single-storey rear extension and front porch extension at 10 Henfield View. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, an archaeological watching brief is to be maintained during the period of groundworks as specified by Conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology which have been attached to the planning consent.

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 of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service and based on a brief supplied by him (Oram 2015). The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on and the site code is HVW 15/135.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on Henfield View which itself lies on the western side of Thame Road (A329) in Warborough to the north of Wallingford (Figs 1 and 2). The site comprises a flat grass covered garden to the rear of the house and the underlying geology is described as 1st (Flood Plain) terrace Deposits (BGS 1980) which were observed in the footing trenches and the site lies at 49m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2015). In summary, the site lies in an area of considerable archaeological

potential with extensive archaeological remains recorded in the vicinity mainly by aerial photography (Benson and Miles 1975). The remains to the north-west and west include *cursus* monuments (Neolithic processional ways), ring ditches (levelled Bronze Age round barrows) and miscellaneous linear features and pits representing occupation and landscape organization of various periods. The alignment of some of these features suggests that they may extend into the current site.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, the excavating of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

Archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks were to be recorded but were not to be further excavated unless threatened by the groundworks.

Results

The footings were dug by machine using a toothless bucket with a width of 0.60m and up to a depth of 0.90m through 0.37m of topsoil and 0.50m of subsoil overlaying natural gravels and sands (Fig. 4).

The top of a possible linear feature (1) was recorded in the base of the footing, aligned NNE–SSW (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2), which measured 0.50m in width and was filled with a grey brown silty clay (52). The feature was not under further threat from groundworks and so it was left unexcavated to be preserved *in situ*. The north-west end of the footings were found to contain two earlier services.

The ground within the footings was reduced by 0.20m however this depth was not enough to disturb any potential archaeological deposits.

Further footings dug to the front of the house also did not reach the relevant archaeological level.

Finds

No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief has revealed the presence of a possible linear feature of undetermined date, the feature identified was completely sealed by overlying deposits suggesting it predates the subsoil, as such it may be

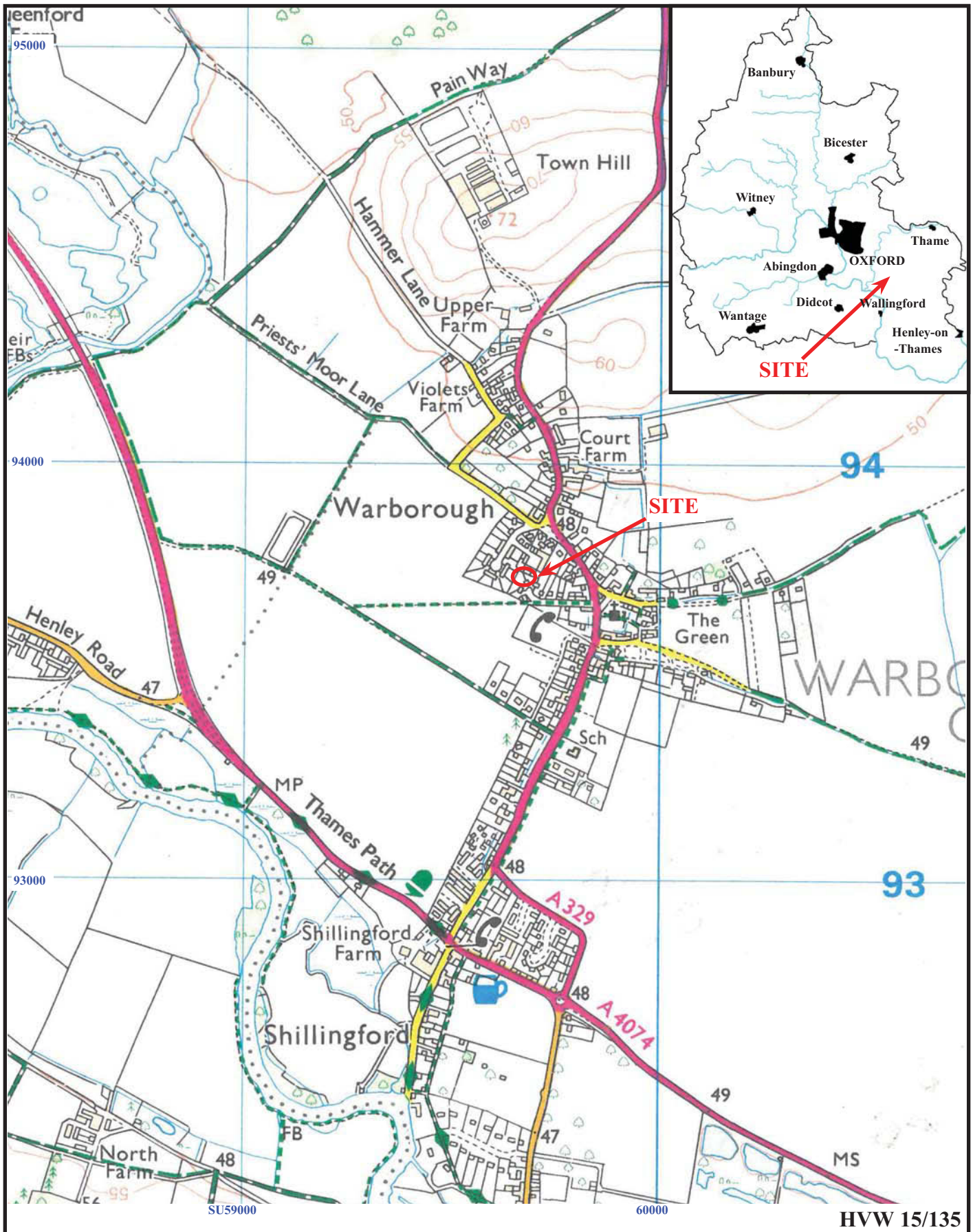
related to known nearby archaeological deposits. No further archaeological remains were identified and to the north west the monitoring revealed areas of heavy truncation by modern services.

References

- Benson, D and Miles, D, 1974, *The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels*, Oxfordshire Archaeol Unit Survey 2, Oxford
- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Oram, R, 2015, '10 Henfield View, Warborough, Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief', Oxford

APPENDIX 1: Feature Details

<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	52	Gully	Undated	None

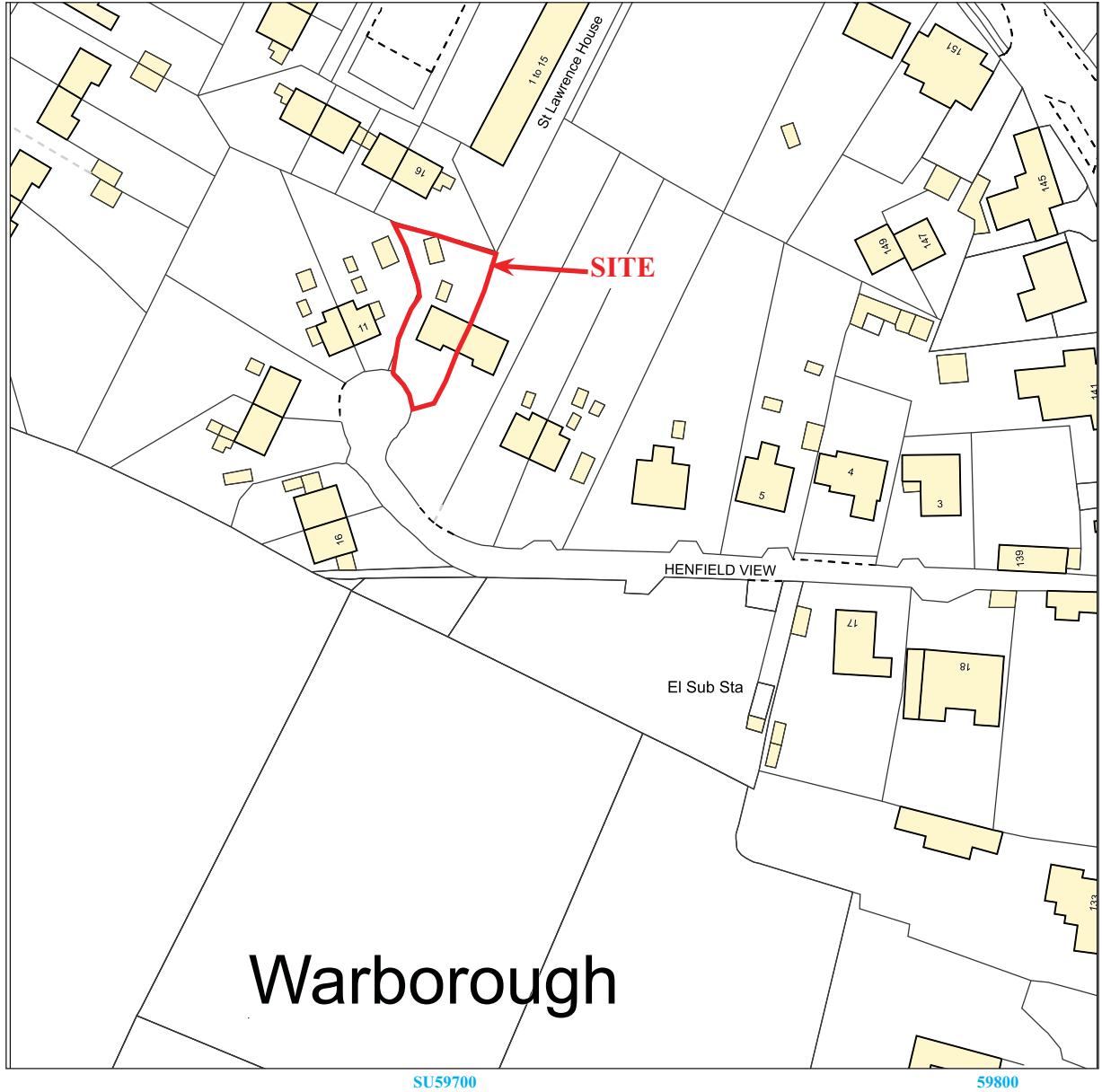


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Figure 1. Location of site within Warborough and Oxfordshire

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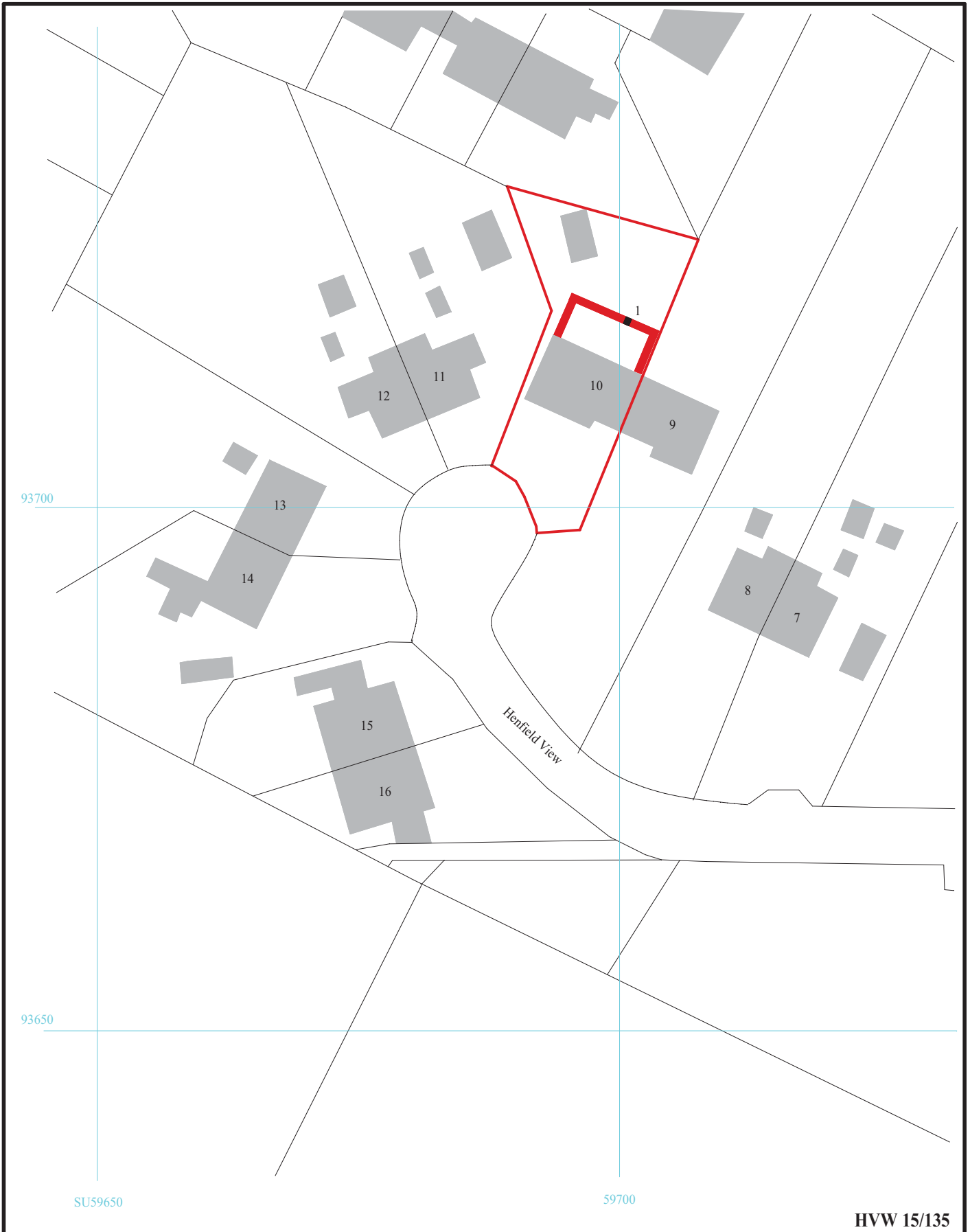


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Henfield View.

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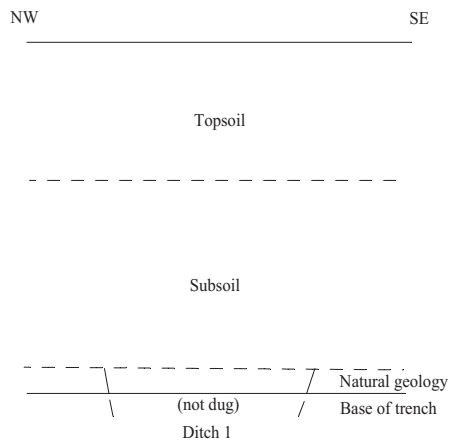
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Figure 3. Location of watching brief.





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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Gully 1, looking NE, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Gully 1 and footing trench, looking NW, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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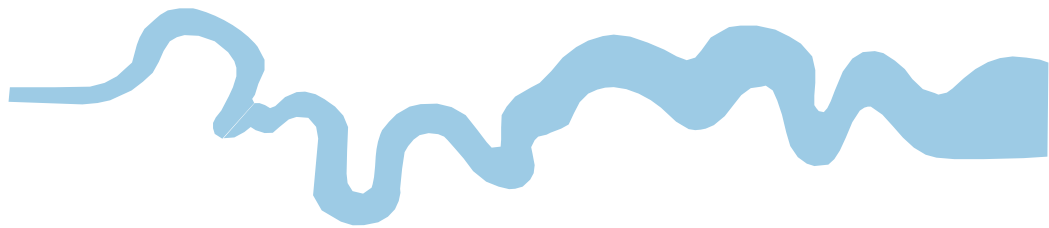
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**