

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Trinity School Library, Love Lane,  
Shaw, Newbury, West Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Susan Porter and Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: TSN15/125**

**(SU 4750 6837)**

**Trinity School Library, Love Lane, Shaw,  
Newbury, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Trinity School**

by Susan Porter and Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TSN 15/125

**October 2015**

## Summary

**Site name:** Trinity School Library, Love Lane, Shaw, Newbury, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4750 6837

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 4th-11th August 2015

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Susan Porter and James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** TSN 15/125

**Summary of results:** No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.11.15 Steve Preston ✓ 16.11.15
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# Trinity School Library, Love Lane, Shaw, Newbury An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Susan Porter and Andy Taylor

Report 15/125

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Trinity School Library, Love Lane, Shaw, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4750 6837) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jack Rowe, of Ridge and Partners LLP, The Cowyards, Blenheim Park, Oxford Road, Woodstock, Oxfordshire, OX20 1QR on behalf of Trinity School, Newbury.

Planning consent (app 14/02788) has been gained from West Berkshire Council for the construction of a new extension to the library at Trinity School. The consent is subject to a condition (11) relating to archaeology, 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 Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Alex Godden, Archaeological Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and James McNicoll-Norbury between the 4th and 11th August 2015 and the site code is TSN 15/125.

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

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern side of Love Lane, Shaw, which is on the northern side of Newbury, Berkshire (Fig. 2). It consisted of a grassed area immediately adjacent to the existing school library. The underlying geology is mapped as being on the boundary of the Reading Beds and Upper Chalk (BGS 1947), although clay and chalk with flints was observed on site. The site lies at c.80m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr Alex Godden. In summary this potential stems from the location of the site close to the historic centre of Shaw, typically indicated by the nearby presence of the parish church. The site is thought to lie on or close to the

medieval manor house, which was superseded by Shaw House. Shaw has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits or finds affected by the new construction work. In general the watching brief was to involve examination of any areas of ground reduction and the digging of trenches for services as necessary.

## **Results (Fig. 3)**

### Ground reduction

Ground reduction took place to a depth of 0.23m at the western end of the site and 0.75m in the east Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying a dark brown grey silty clay containing brick (Fig. 4). The depth of this material at the eastern end may indicate a levelling up of the site. Natural geology was not encountered.

### Pipe Trenches

Two pipe trenches were observed that measured 0.40m wide and were dug into the reduced area (Fig. 3). These were a further 0.35m deep and the stratigraphy consisted of a mix of mid yellow silty clay, chalk and flint. The natural geology was not encountered.

### Foundation Trenches

The foundation trenches measured 0.70m wide and were dug to a depth of c.0.70m into the reduced area. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.65m of made ground directly overlying yellow/brown clay natural geology with some flint nodules (Fig. 3; Pl. 2).

## **Finds**

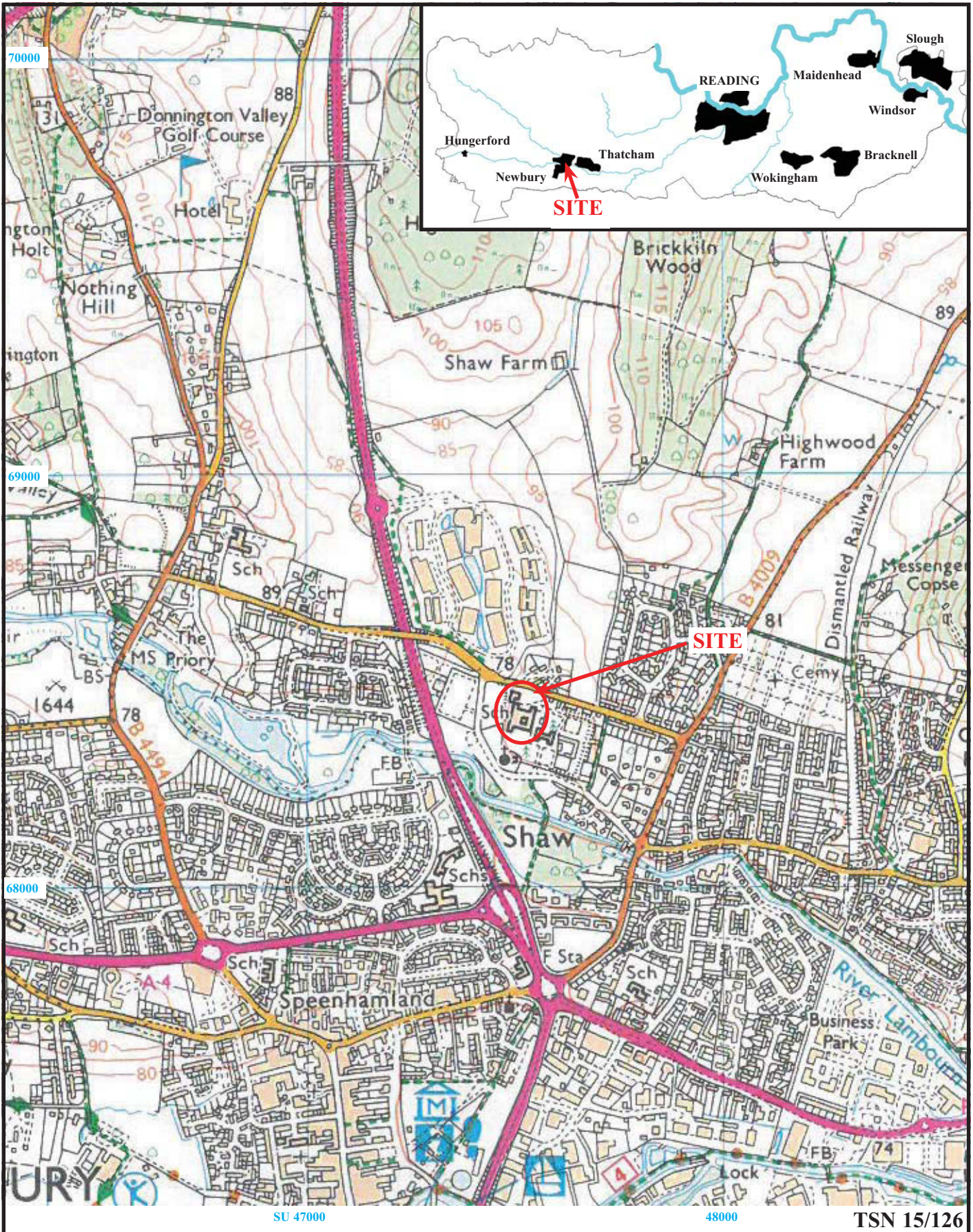
No finds were recovered during the watching brief.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present on the site no deposits nor finds of an archaeological nature were observed during the watching brief.

## **References**

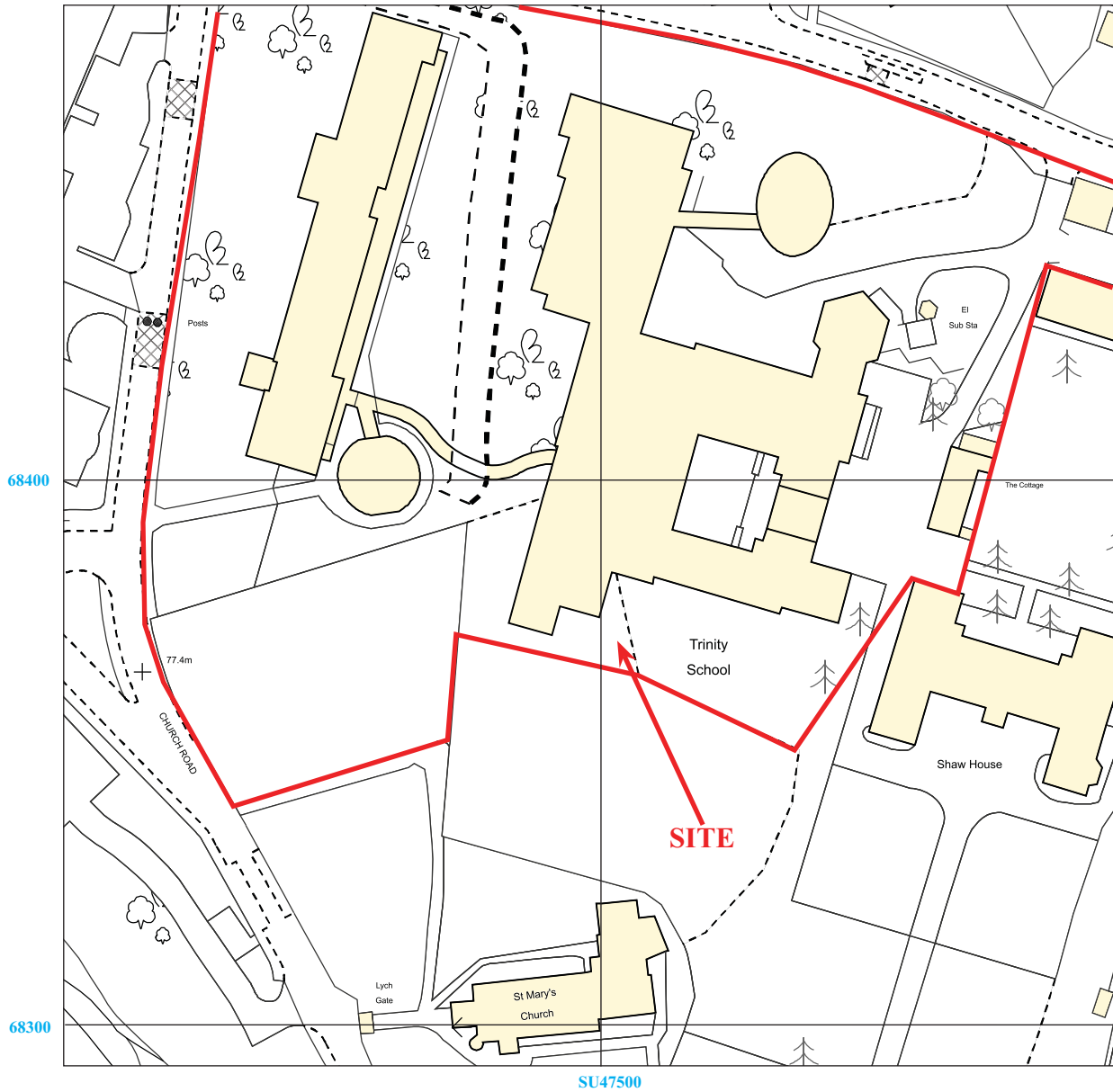
BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London  
Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



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Figure 1. Location of site within Newbury and Berkshire

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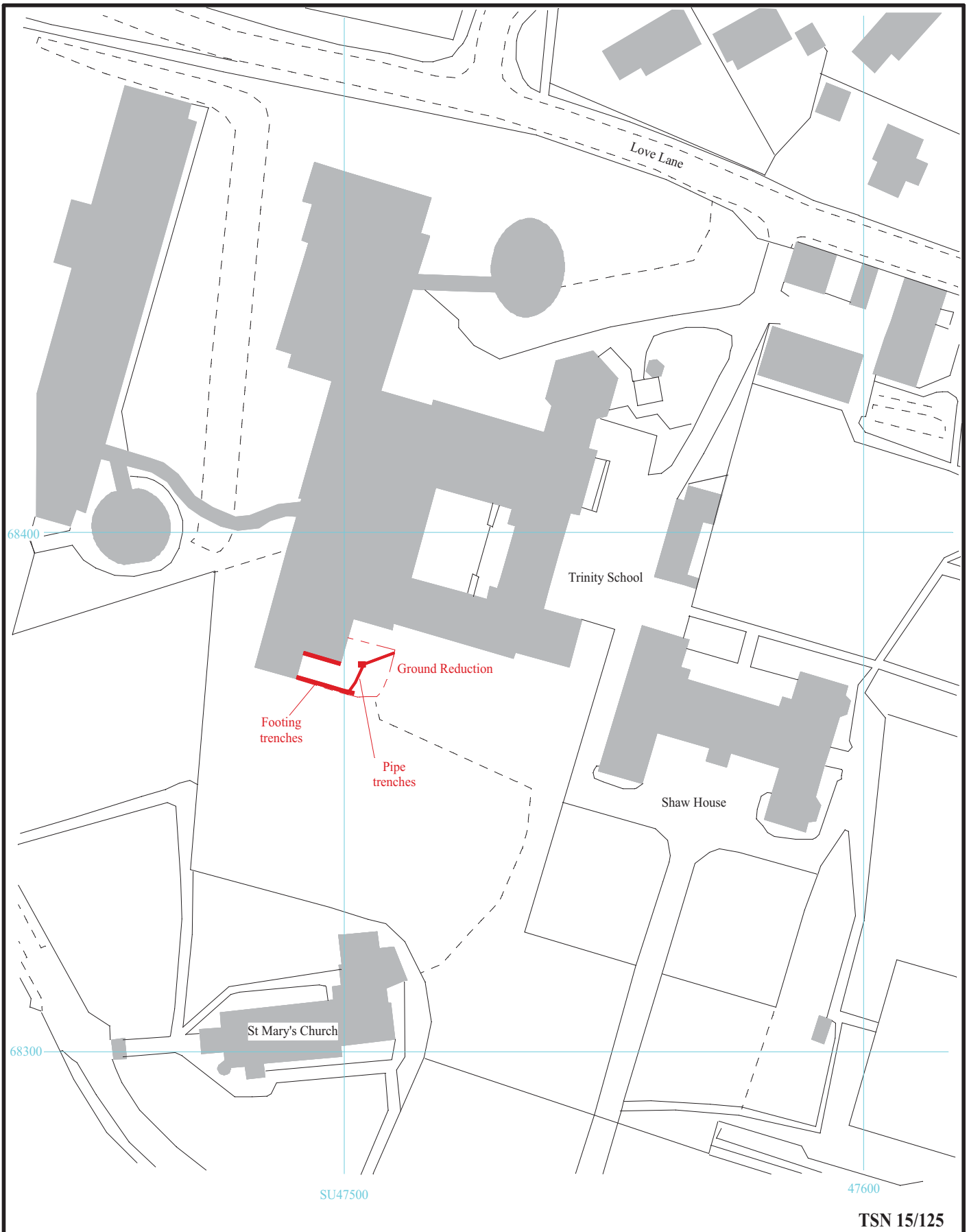


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Love Lane.

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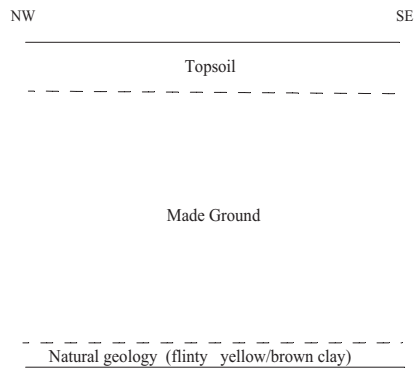




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Figure 3. Works Monitored





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Initial ground reduction and location of site looking north, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Southern footing trench looking west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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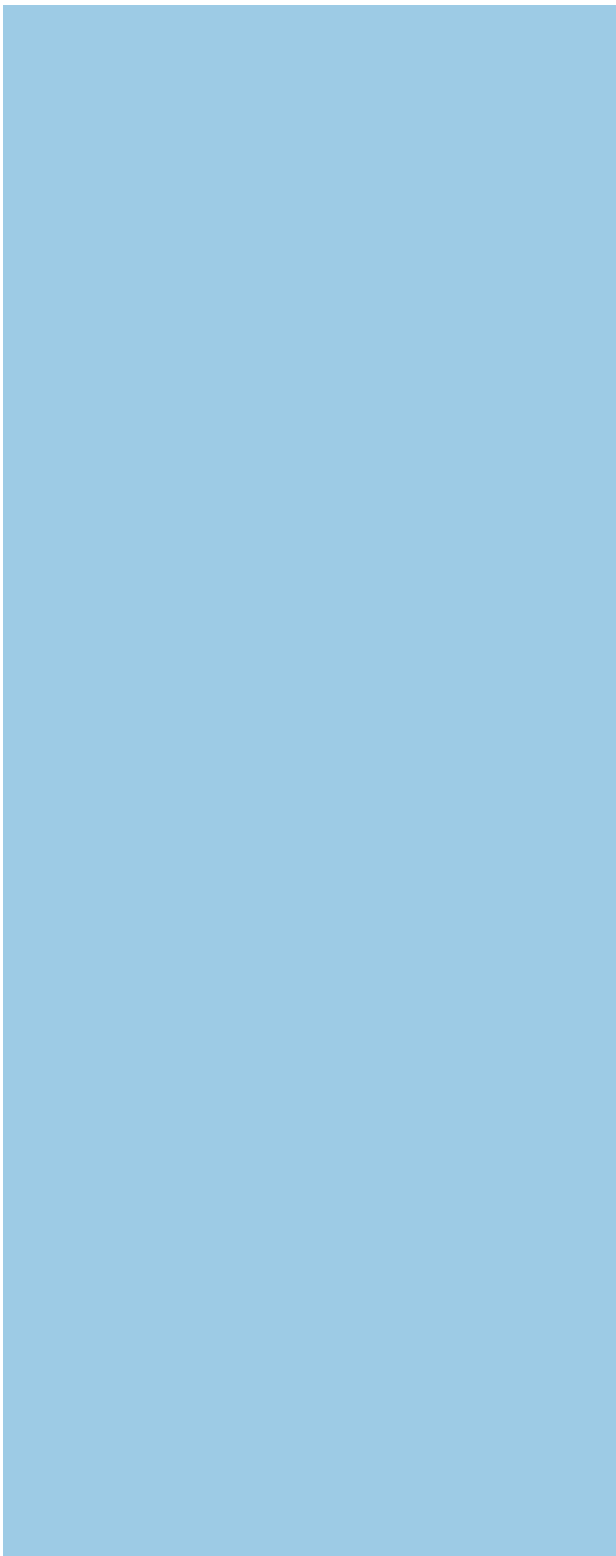
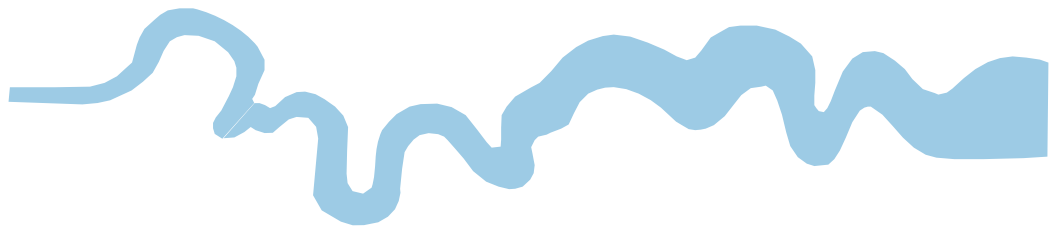
P.lates 1 and 2

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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
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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