

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Lupton Road,
Wallingford, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: LRW12/192

(SU 5990 8889)

Land at Lupton Road, Wallingford Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For G Stow plc

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRW 12/192

December 2015

Summary

Site name: Land at Lupton Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5990 8889

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 3rd-21st July 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott, James McNicoll-Norbury, Andrew MUNDIN and Susan Porter

Site code: LRW 12/192

Area of site: c. 0.17 ha within site of c. 0.5 ha

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course with accession code OXCMS: 2013.4.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 20.12.15 Steve Preston✓ 16.12.15

Land at Lupton Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 12/192b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at Lupton Road, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (SU 5990 8889) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Hicks of Coleman Hicks Partnership, Marlborough House, High Street, Kidlington, Oxfordshire, OX5 2DN on behalf of G. Stow plc, Lupton Road, Hithercroft Industrial Estate, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 9BS.

Planning consent (P12/52580/FUL) has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for construction of a new industrial unit and associated car parking and yard. The consent is subject to two conditions relating to archaeology which require 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's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott, James McNicoll-Norbury, Andrew Mundin and Susan Porter between 3rd and 21st July 2015 and the site code is LRW 12/192.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course with accession code OXCMS: 2013.4.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on an irregular parcel of land in the Hithercroft industrial estate on the south-western side of Wallingford (Fig. 2). The Anglo Saxon *burh* and its defences are located 500m to the north-west. The site is bounded by Lupton Road to the north and Bradford's Brook to the south. The Cholsey and Wallingford Heritage Railway line runs to the east. The underlying geology is mapped as River Gravels (1st Flood Plain) Terrace Deposits (BGS 1980) although a light yellow brown clayey silt with gravel was observed. The site lies at a height of 46m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2013). In summary, the site lies within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of archaeology recorded for almost all periods (Benson and Miles 1974; Cromarty *et al.* 2006). Previously recorded sites and monuments abound around Wallingford, and the town itself is of exceptional historical and archaeological importance (Preston 2012; Christie *et al.* 2013). Evaluation just to the south-east of the current site revealed extensive prehistoric (Iron Age) occupation along with three human burials (two of Early Bronze Age date and one undated), with cropmarks of circular monuments visible from the air, further to the south east (Lewis 2009). Traces of Iron Age and Roman occupation have also been revealed on the northern edge of the industrial estate at Radnor Road (Wallis 2009). Evaluation on the site itself revealed a medieval ditch and stray finds of Roman pottery and prehistoric struck flint (Bray 2012).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, geo-technical investigations, the excavation of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive works.

Results

An initial strip of 0.20m of the site took place (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). This did not penetrate below a modern made ground layer. The excavation of 30 foundation pads from this level was observed (Fig. 3). These varied between 2.4–2.6m by 1.9–2.1m, and were generally 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.45m of brick rubble made ground overlying 0.02m of Terram sheeting. This overlay 0.32m of subsoil (light grey brown silty sand) overlying a light yellow brown silty clay and gravel natural (Fig. 4; Pl. 2), generally at 0.75m deep. No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were present in the pads.

Finds

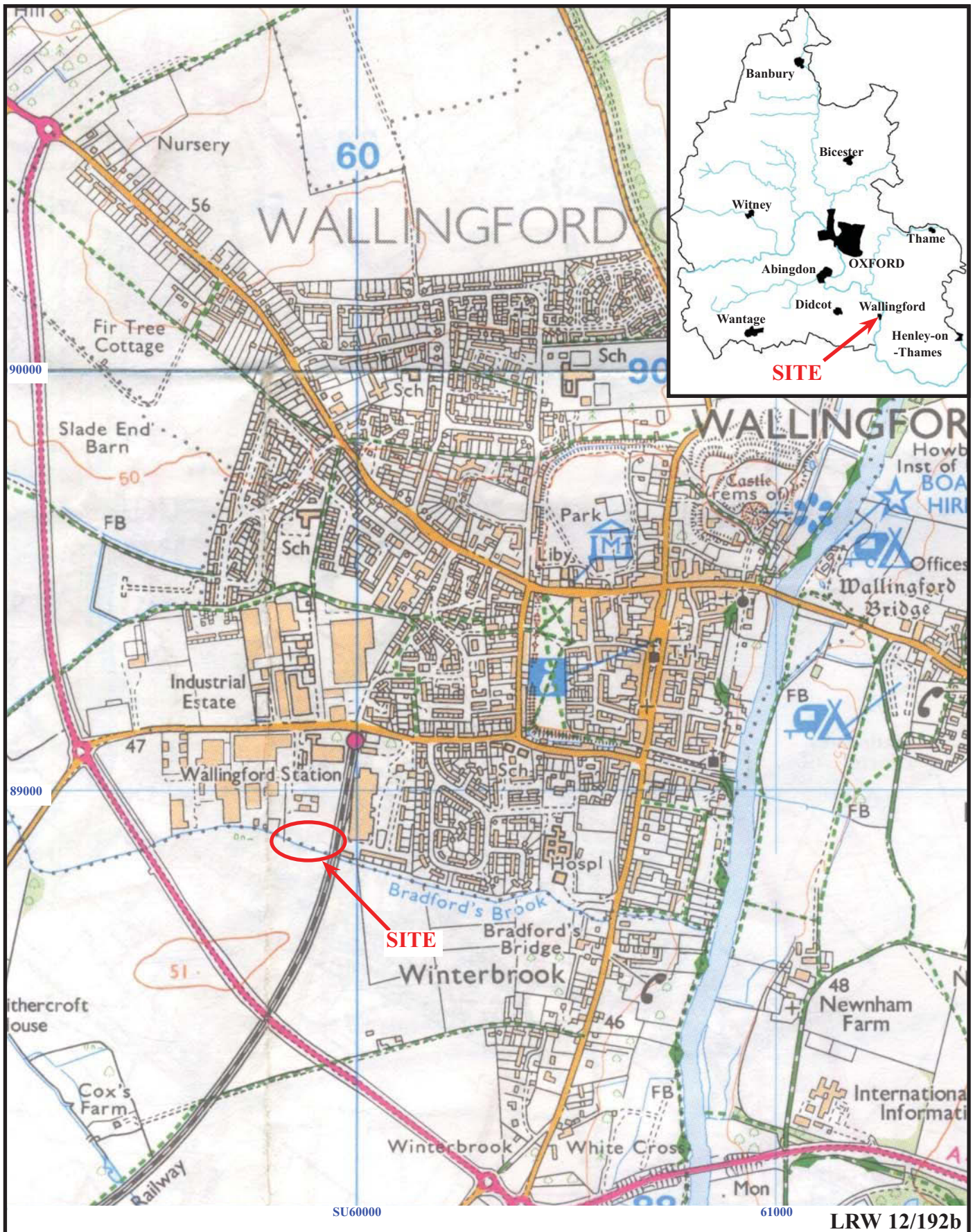
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the possibility of there being further archaeological features present on the site no deposits or finds were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

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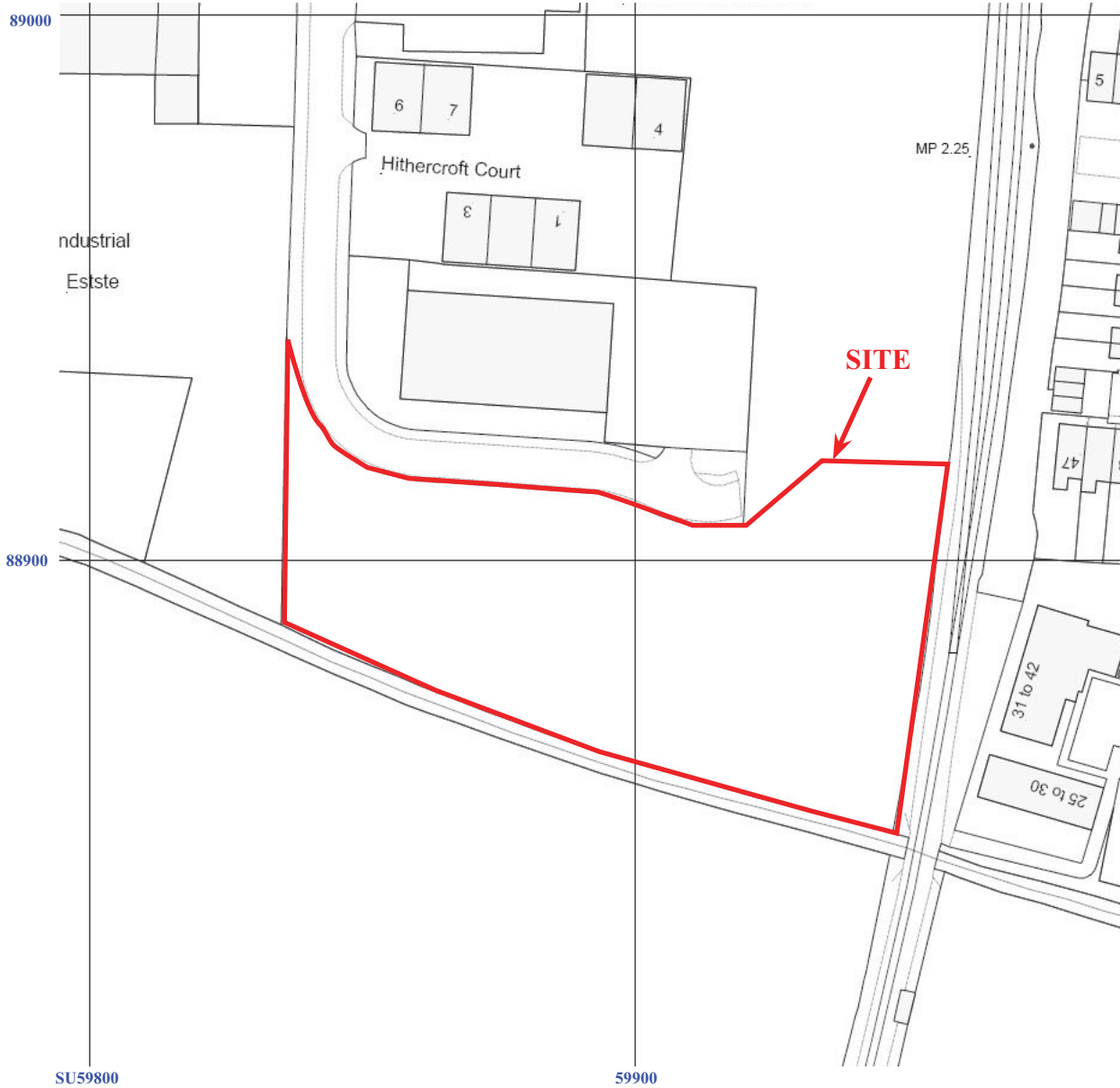


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wallingford and Oxfordshire.

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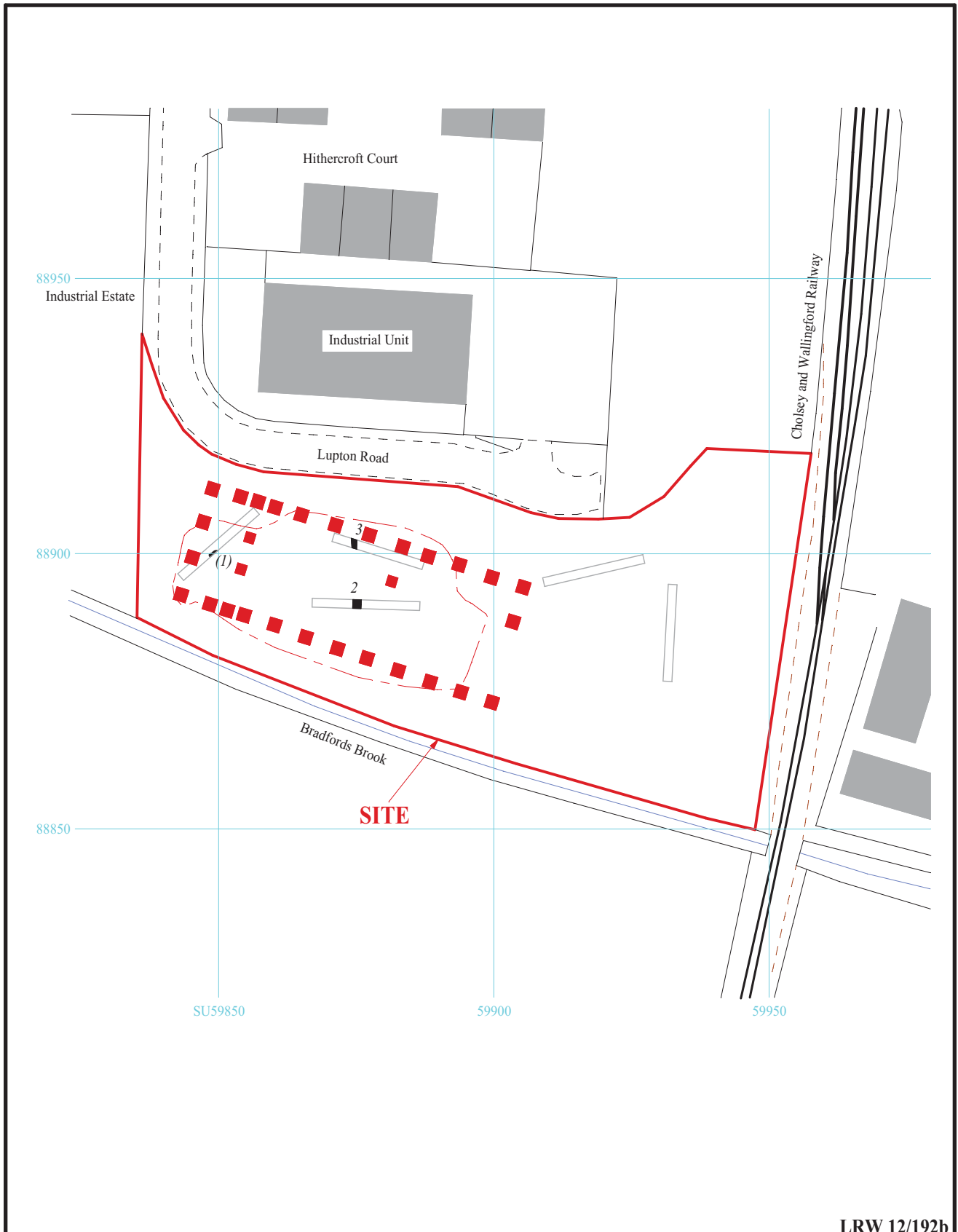


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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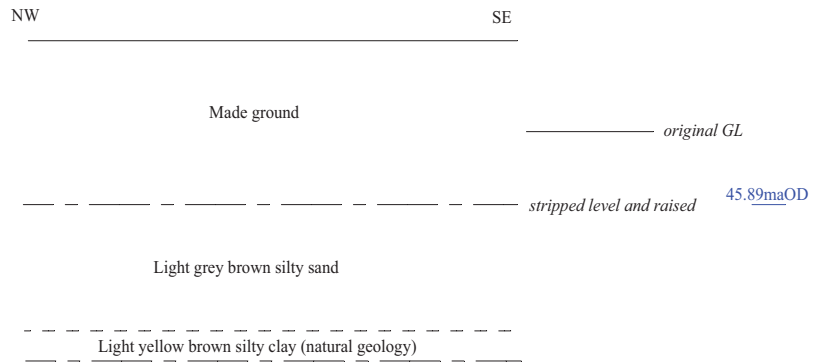
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas and previous evaluation trenches.



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Figure 4. Representaitve section.



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Plate 1. Site after ground reduction, looking south east.



Plate 2. Representative section in pad trench, looking west, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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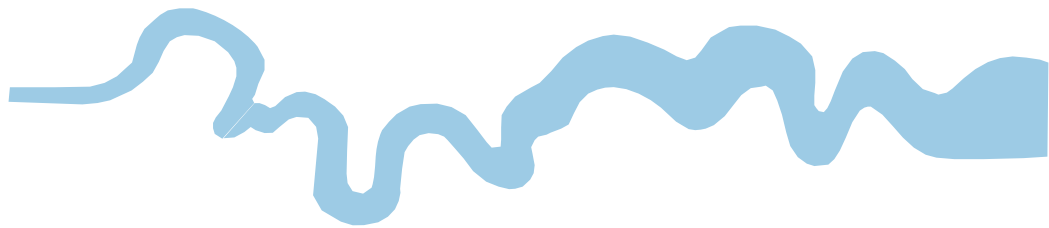
Plates 1 - 2.

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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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