

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at 45 London Road, Wokingham,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: LRW16/18

(SU 8162 6877)

**Land at 45 London Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr M Douglas

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRW 16/18

June 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at 45 London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8162 6877

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 29th March-6th May 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock, Aidan Colyer and David Sanchez

Site code: LRW 16/18

Area of site: 54 sq m

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

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 30.06.16 Steve Preston ✓ 27.06.16

Land at 45 London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 16/18

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at 45 London Road, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8162 6877) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Butler of Martin Butler Partnership Ltd, Armstrong House, 28 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1AB on behalf of Mr Mark Douglas, 235 Nine Mile Ride, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3QA.

Planning permission (app. no. 152831) has been gained from Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a two-storey side extension and single-storey rear extension following demolition. The consent has been granted subject to a condition (5) requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

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 Ms Kathelen Leary, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock, Aidan Colyer and David Sanchez between the 29th March and 6th May 2016 and the site code is LRW 16/18.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the side and rear of 45 London Road, in central Wokingham, Berkshire and on the southern side of the road (Figs 1 and 2). It consisted of a demolished area and part of the gardens of the property and was bounded by further residential properties. The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot Beds (BGS 1981) (gravels) which were observed across the site and it lies at a height of c.62m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of the town. The place name of Wokingham has Saxon origins and it is considered that the zone nearest the parish church (in which the proposal site lies) is the most likely location for Saxon settlement remains, but as yet no finds or deposits of

Saxon date have been found here or elsewhere in the town. Wokingham is not mentioned in Domesday Book but this is probably a quirk of the administrative set-up with its entry subsumed within that for Sonning as a detached portion of Wiltshire (Astill 1978). In medieval times the settlement was chosen by the Bishop of Salisbury as the site for a planned town. The most notable fieldwork within the town took place on Cross Street just to the north-west of the proposal site which revealed a succession of medieval and post-medieval buildings (Morris and Jones 1990). Several post-medieval buildings are located in the vicinity of the site allowing for the possibility of earlier, medieval deposits to be present. However, two recent archaeological investigations on neighbouring Peach Street (Beaverstock 2015; Bray 2015) revealed nothing beyond late post-medieval and modern deposits.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks.

Foundation and service trenches were observed during the watching brief (Fig. 3). These were dug by a small 360° type machine and spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The fieldwork comprised the monitoring of foundation trenches and service runs.

Service Trenches

These measured 0.70m wide and were dug to a depth of c.1m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.03m of concrete overlying 0.27m of made ground comprising soil and gravels. This overlay 0.60m of subsoil, containing tile fragments, overlying gravelly clay natural geology.

Foundation Trenches

These measured 0.70m wide and were dug to a depth of c.1.50m (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy consisted of 0.05m of concrete overlying 0.35m of brick rubble made ground. This overlay 0.70m of subsoil overlying gravelly clay natural (Fig. 4; Pl. 2).

Finds

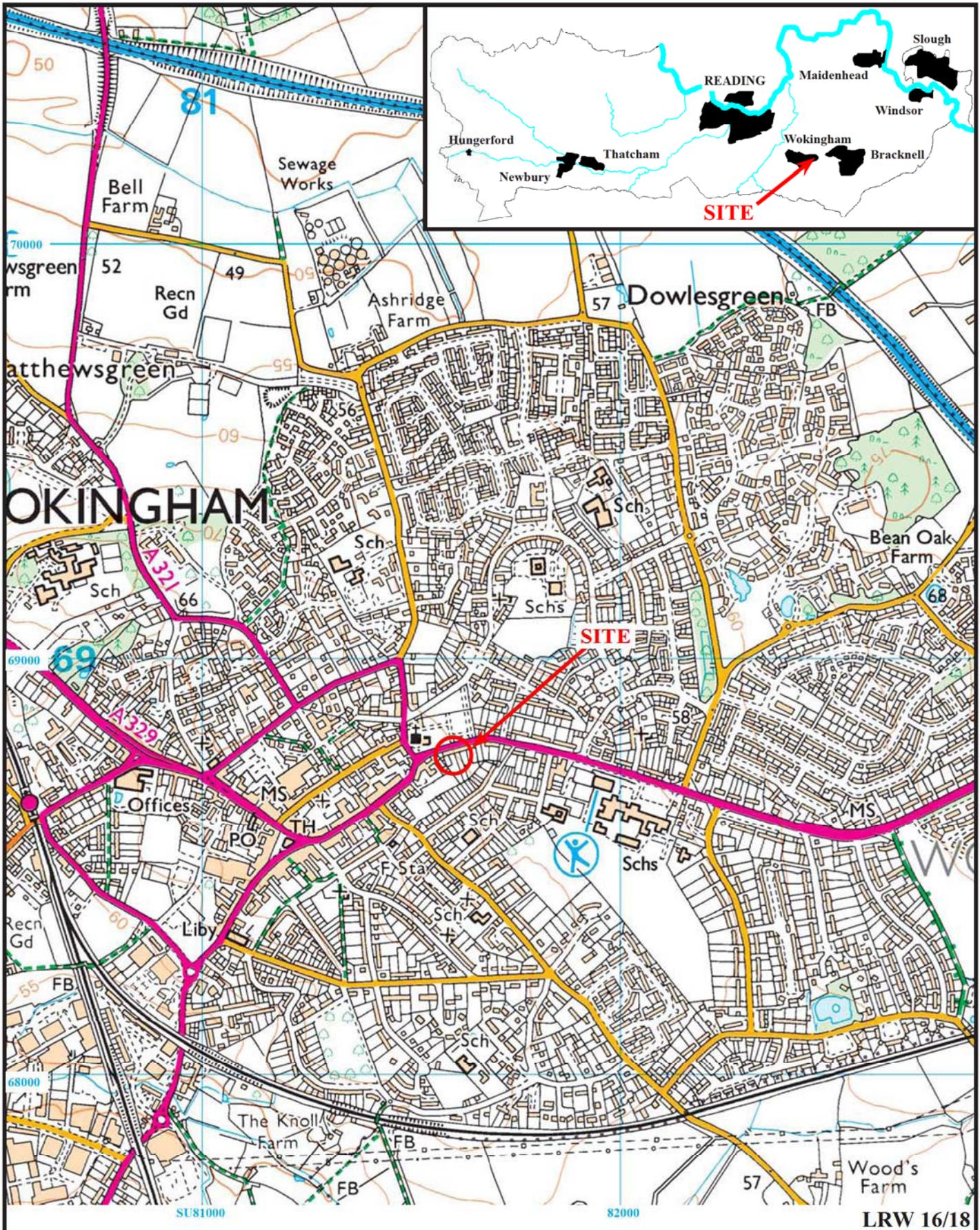
No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology to be present no finds or deposits of any archaeological significance were observed during the watching brief.

References

- Astill, G G, 1978, *Historic towns in Berkshire; an archaeological appraisal*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ 2, Reading
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- Bray, D, 2015, '65-67 Peach Street, Wokingham, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report **15/81**, Reading
- Morris, E and Jones, N, 1990, 'Excavations at Cross St, Wokingham, 1974-75', *Berkshire Archaeol J*, **73**, (for 1986-90), 105-15
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

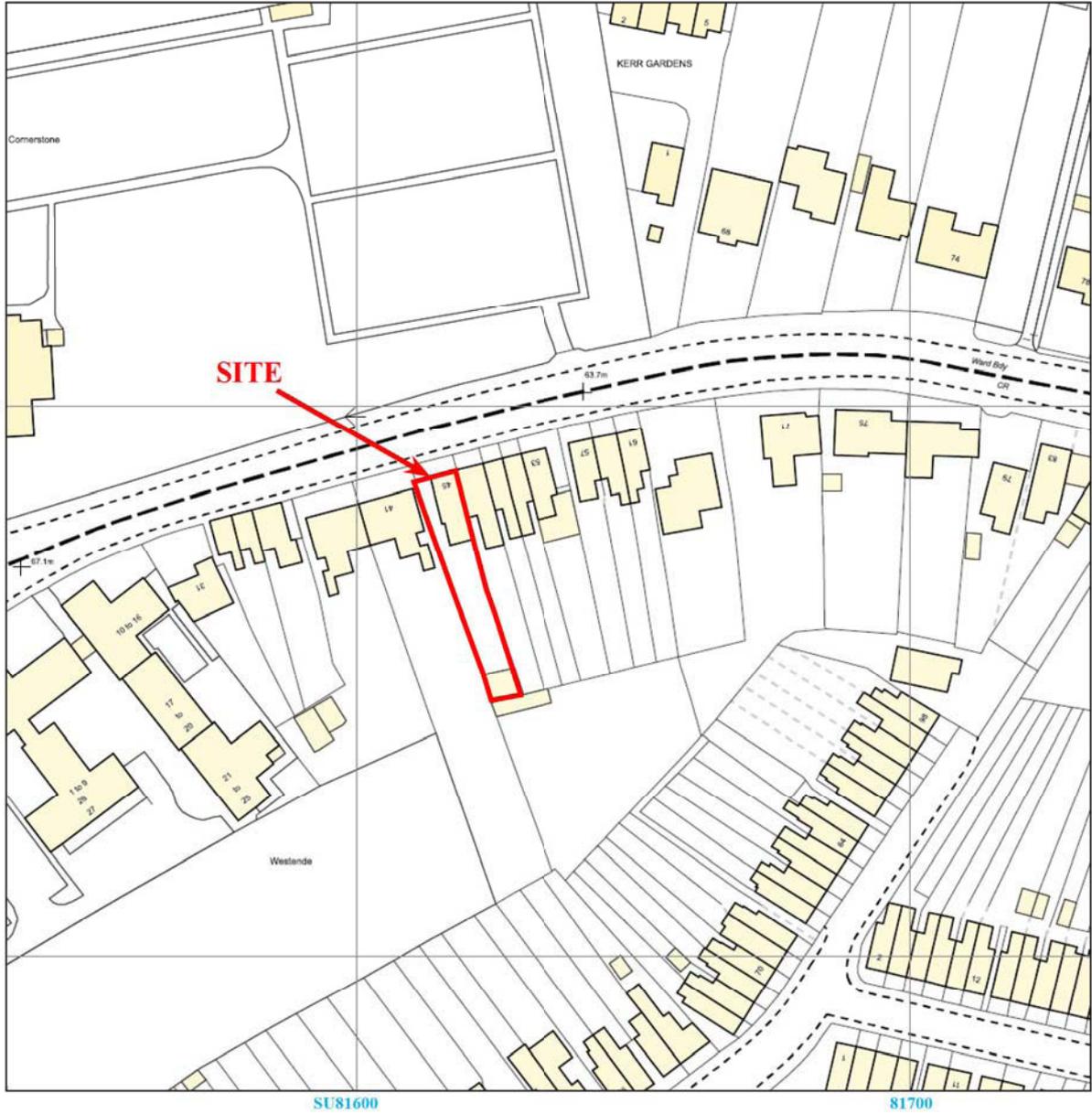


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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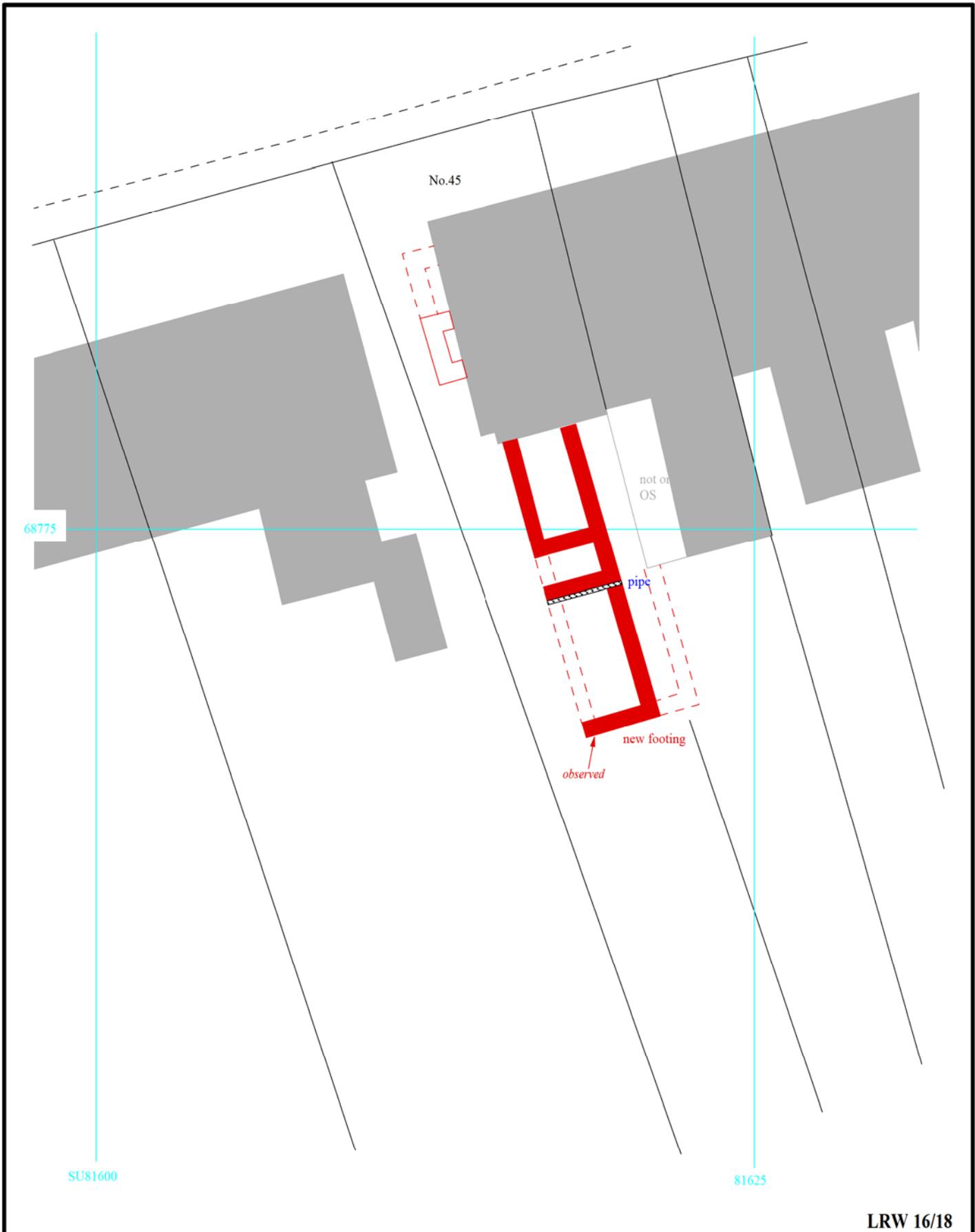
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.

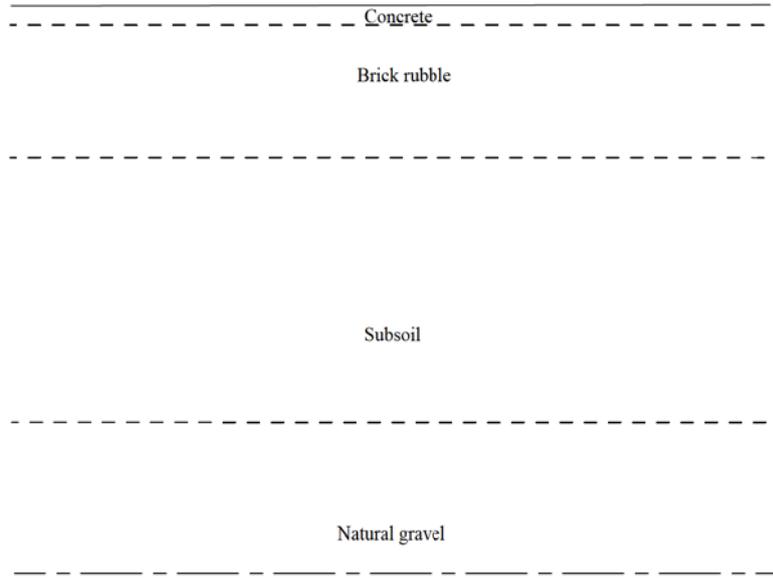


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Figure 4. Representative section of foundation trench.



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Plate 1. Footings, looking south east, Scale: 1m.



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

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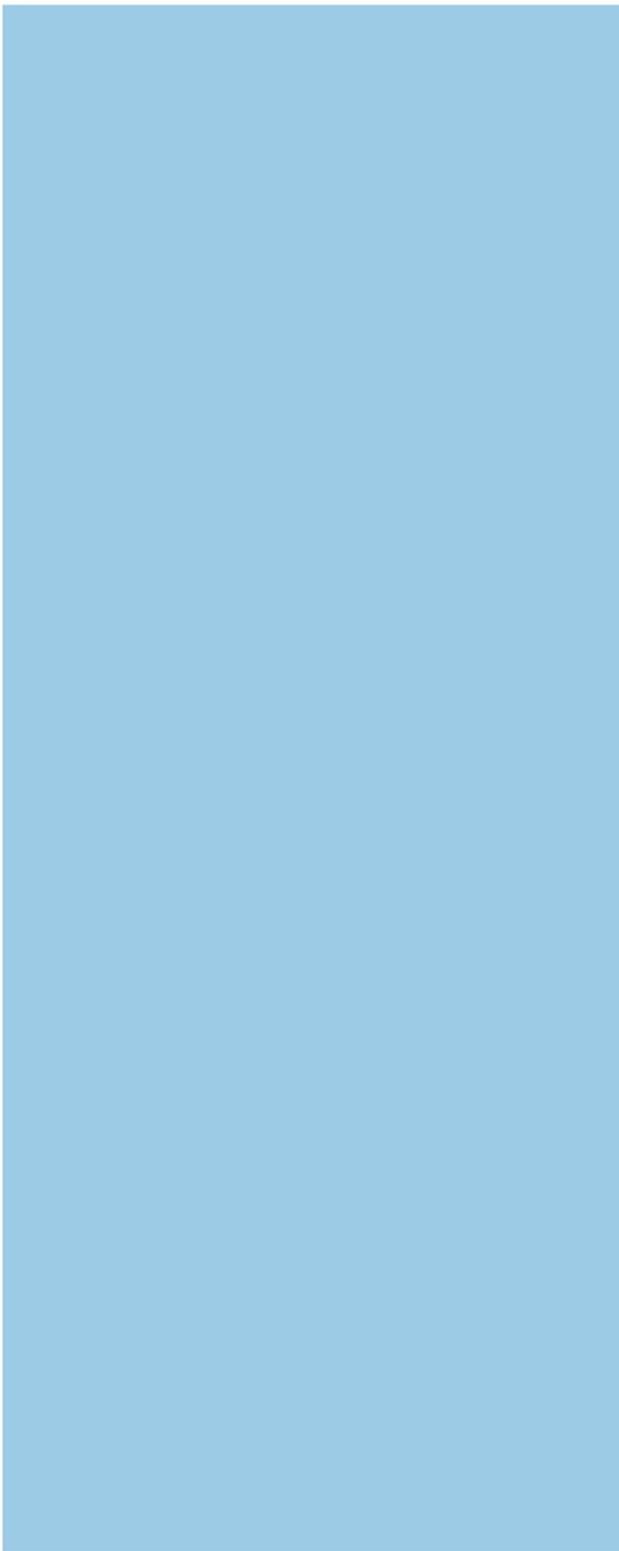
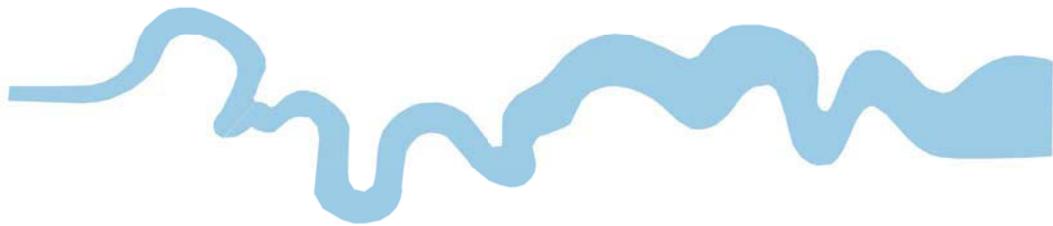
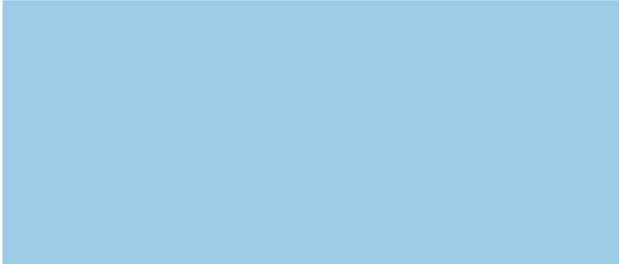
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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





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