

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Lavandou, Buckle Lane,
Warfield, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Aidan Colyer

Site Code: LBW16/197

(SU 8652 7279)

Lavandou, Buckle Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Benville and Marsh Ltd

by Aidan Colyer

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LRB 16/197

January 2017

Summary

Site name: Lavandou, Buckle Lane, Warfield, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8652 7279

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th October to 1st November 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: LBW 16/197

Summary of results: Modern made ground deposits directly overlay the natural geology across the whole of the area observed. The uppermost parts of the archaeologically relevant horizon had not survived construction of the previous building on the site. No finds or features of archaeological significance were encountered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 09.01.17 Steve Preston✓ 09.01.17

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An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 16/197

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Lavandou, Buckle Lane, Warfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 5SD (SU 8652 7279) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned Mr Derrick Turner of Benville and Marsh Ltd., The Old Bakery Courtyard, Wokingham Road, Bracknell, RG42 1PP.

Planning permission (13/00657/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the erection of a new house after demolition of the existing dwelling. The consent includes a condition (5) relating to archaeology which requires that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during groundworks in the interests of the borough's archaeological and historic heritage.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Bracknell Forest Borough Council policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, who act as archaeological advisers to the borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson and Ellen MacManus-Fry, between 24th October and 1st November 2016. The site code is LRB 16/197.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of Buckle Lane, Warfield to the north of Bracknell within East Berkshire. The small, flat, plot of land contained one house and an outbuilding as well as a garden before works were carried out. The plot lies at c.49–50m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as London clay (BGS 1981) and this was confirmed during trenching.

Archaeological background

The site is situated within an area of East Berkshire not particularly noted for its archaeological heritage (Ford 1987) and locally the majority of archaeologically and historically relevant sites and monuments are recorded

further to the south, though an Iron Age coin hoard was discovered at Jealott's Hill to the north. Sites in the environs of Bracknell include the Iron Age hillfort of Caesar's Camp, and a number of upstanding Bronze Age round barrows. More recently, fieldwork carried out in advance of development has recorded various sites such as Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation, at the former Staff College in Brackell (Lowe 2013) Iron Age settlement at Fairclough Farm (Torrance and Durden 2003) and Iron Age into Roman settlement at Binfield (Robert 1995). More recently a Medieval enclosure has been recorded at West End, Warfield (Taylor 2015). An Iron Age pit was also recorded relatively close to the site at Buckle Lane Farm.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping carried out prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary. Where archaeological deposits that may be destroyed were encountered they were to be excavated and recorded in a timely manner so as not to delay the groundworks.

The foundation trenches for the proposed new construction was observed (Fig. 3). The footings were dug with a toothless bucket.

Results

The foundations were observed in sections as they were dug, mainly to a depth of 0.45–0.70m, but up to 1.90m deep in the easternmost trench, and 1.4m at the northernmost extent (Pls 1 and 2). All were 0.60m wide. The initial trench revealed the following stratigraphy (Fig 4 and Pl. 2): a depth of up to 0.92m of modern made ground and demolition rubble from grubbing out of the existing building overlay natural red-yellow/grey London clay with occasional patches of gravel (natural geology).

This stratigraphy was observed with only variations in the depth of the made ground across the rest of the footings as they were recorded. No topsoil or subsoil was recorded above or between the demolition rubble and the natural deposits.

No deposits of archaeological relevance were noted at any stage of the trenching.

Finds

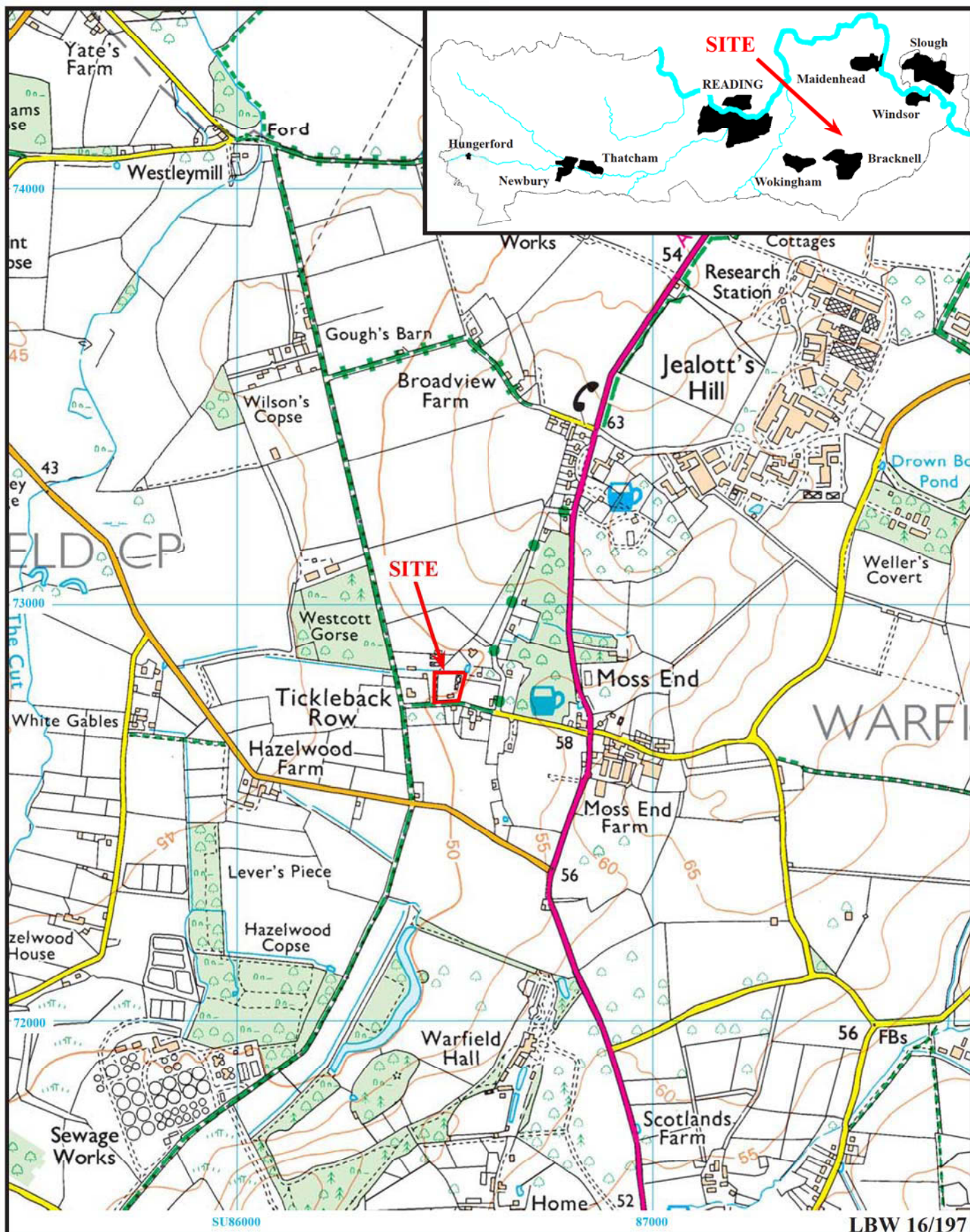
No finds of archaeological significance were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

No archaeologically relevant deposits or artefacts were encountered in this watching brief. The area that was excavated was entirely within previously disturbed ground (the foundations of the previous dwelling), with made ground directly on top of the natural geology. Any archaeological remains that might ever have been present would have been badly damaged destroyed during the construction of the previous building.

References

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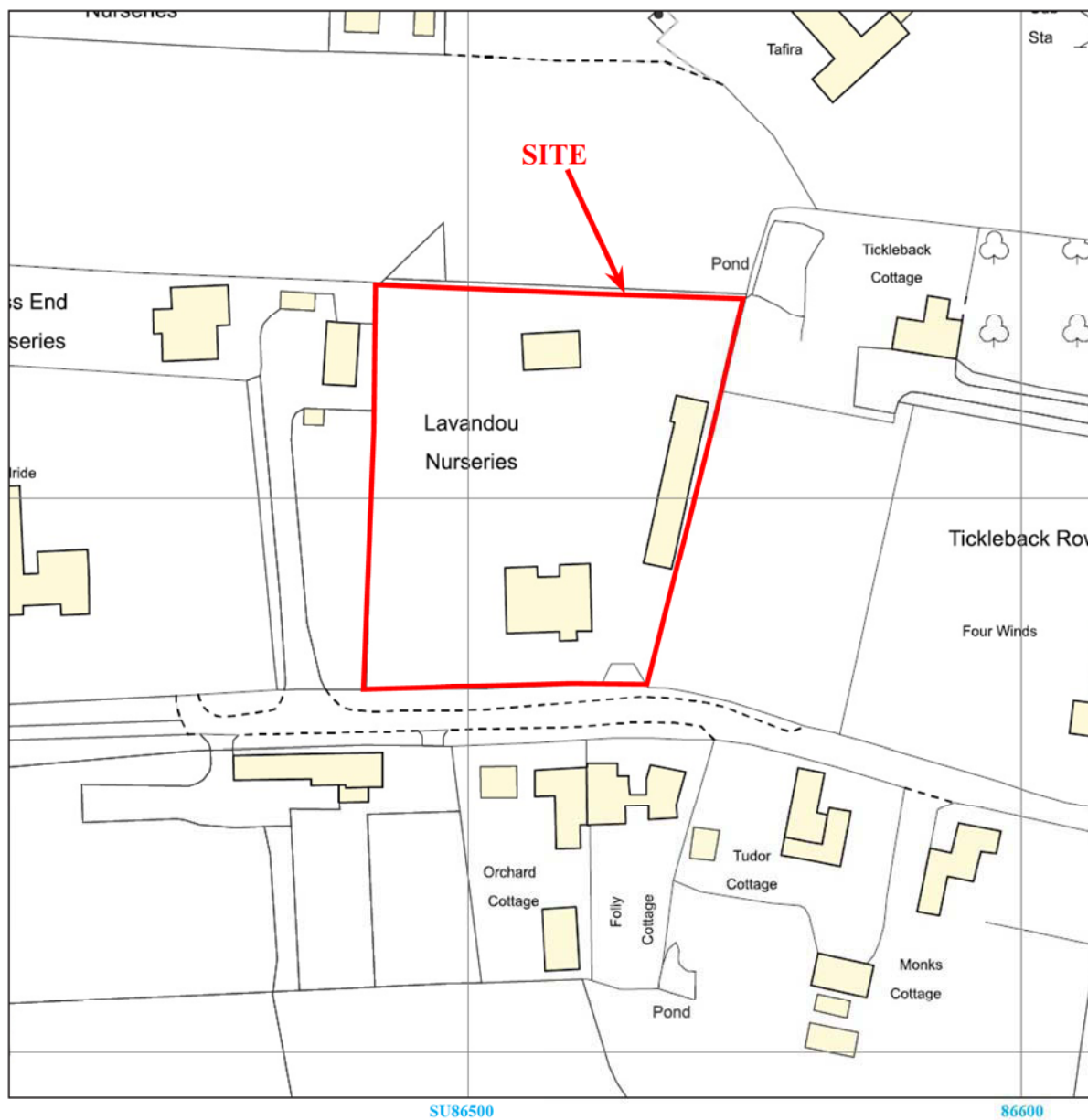


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Figure 1. Location of site within Warfield and Berkshire.

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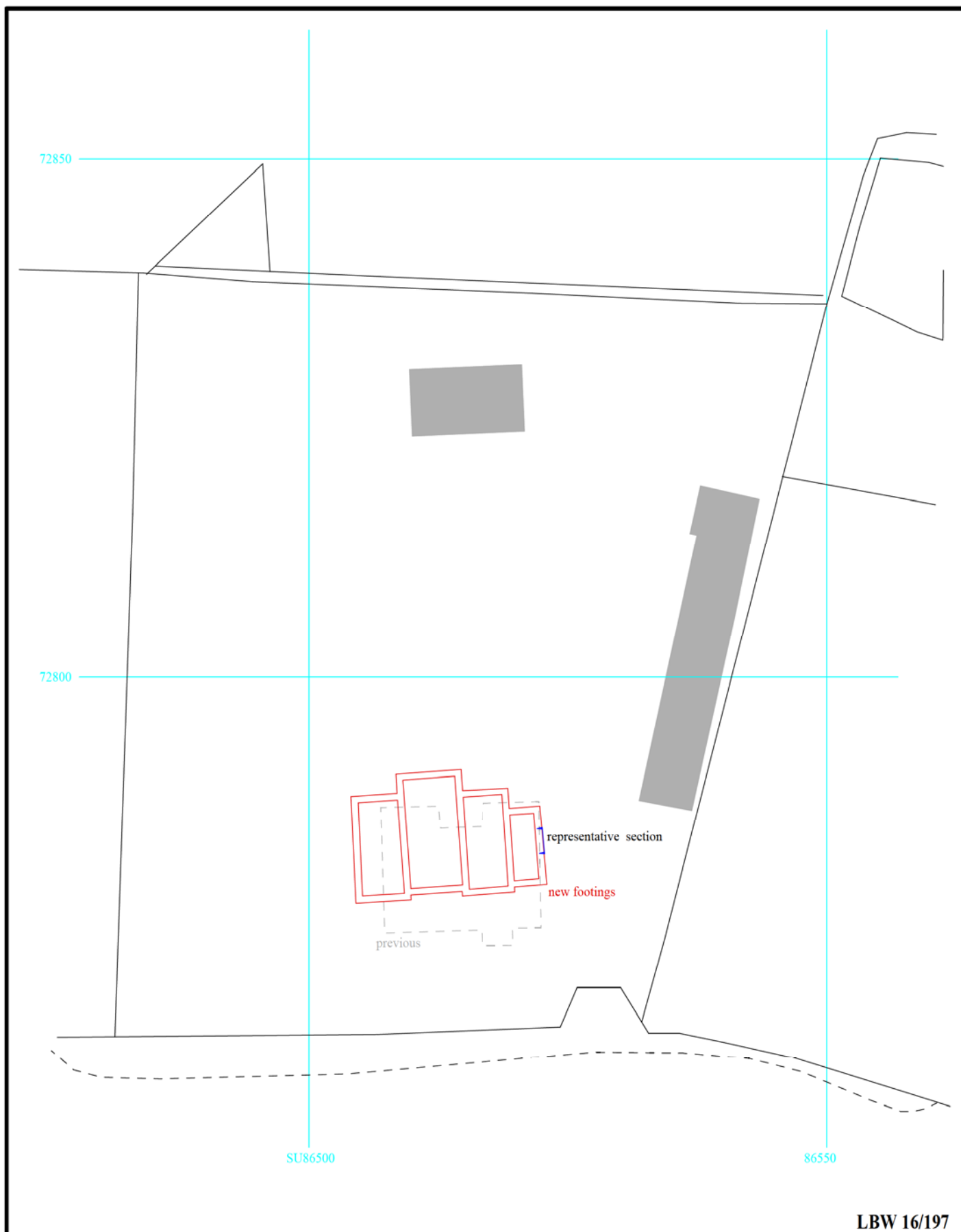


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Buckle Lane.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Modern made ground

Reddish yellow-grey clay with gravel patches
(natural geology)

----- Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative section.

0 1m

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Plate 1. New footings, looking east, Scales: 1m.



Plate 2. Representative footing (west side of site), looking west, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

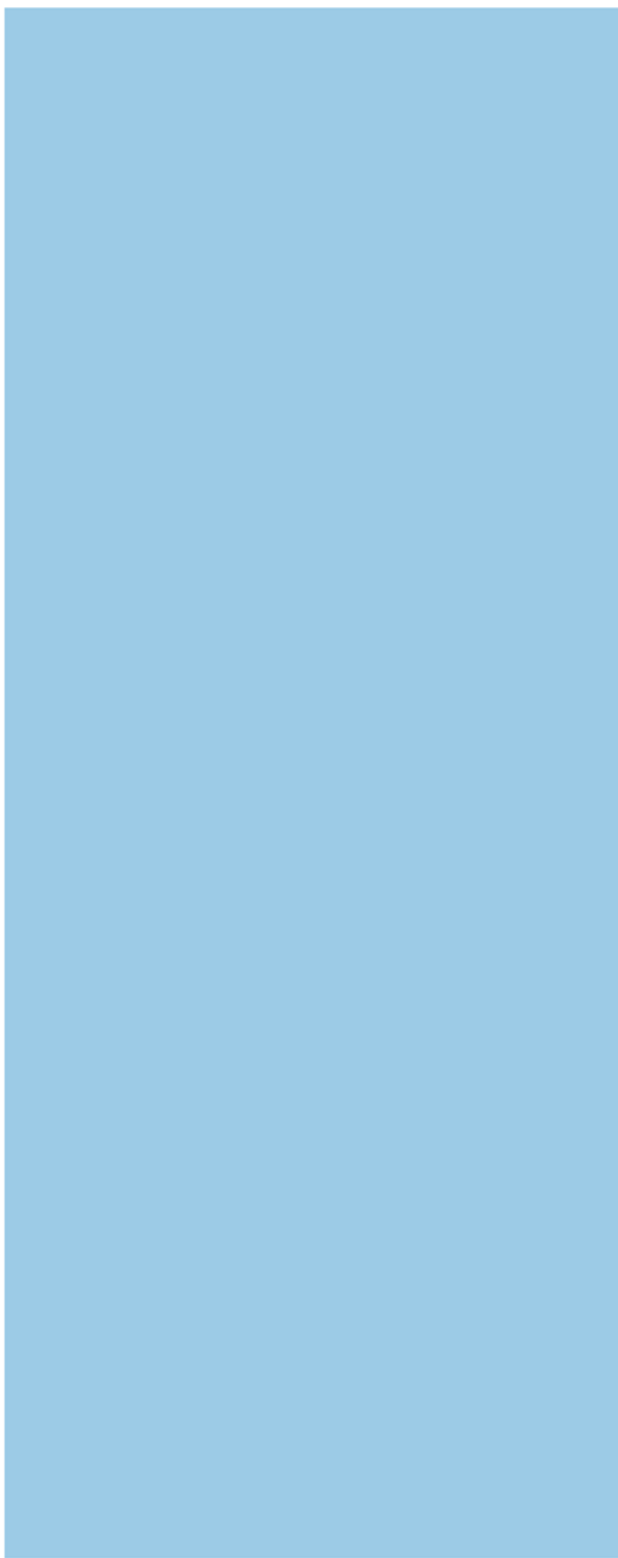
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TIME CHART

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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