

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

NORTH MIDLANDS

**Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley,
Staffordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

Site Code: ABS16/209

(SK 0814 2449)

**Falcott and Inglenook, High Street,
Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Jeremy Nash

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ABS 16/209

November 2016

Summary

Site name: Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire

Grid reference: SK 0814 2449

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 31st October 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: ABS 16/209

Summary of results: Despite the proximity of the site to the historic core of Abbots Bromley no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston✓ 22.11.16

Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Steve Ford

Report 16/209

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire (SK 0814 2449) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jeremy Nash of 28 Windmill Drive, Marchington, Staffordshire, ST14 8JP.

Planning permission (P/2014/01634) has been gained from East Staffordshire Borough Council for the construction of two storey extensions and a double garage. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology which requires that an archaeological watching brief be carried out during the groundworks due to the possibility of damage or destruction to archaeological deposits that may be present on site.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steve Dean, archaeological officer for Stafford County Council. The fieldwork was undertaken Steve Ford on the 31st October 2016 and the site code is ABS16/209.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located centrally within Abbots Bromley on the south side of the High Street (B5014) (Fig. 2), and comprises a sloping parcel of land occupied by the houses and garden. The underlying geology is mapped as glacial sand and gravel (BGS 1982) and was observed on site as a silty clay with pebble inclusions. The southern extent of the site lies at a height of c.118m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) sloping down towards the house to a height of 115m aOD.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the historic core of the settlement which has recently been documented in detail (SEUS 2012). In summary Abbots Bromley has late Saxon origins and is mentioned in a charter of 996 AD and a will in 1004 AD as well as in Domesday Book of 1086. The settlement

was developed by the Abbots of Burton Abbey as a planned town in Medieval times. The exact origins of this are obscure but the town was granted a market charter in 1227. The town declined during the 18th century. The site lies away from the centre of the town (assumed to be close to the parish church) but is within an area of the planned burgage plots.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved the monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundwork and included the observation of surface stripping, the excavating of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary. Archaeological deposits that were threatened by the groundworks were to be excavated and recorded with sufficient time allowed within the groundworkers' schedules to facilitate this. Where excavation was to take place using plant a toothless bucket was to be used. Groundworks were observed immediately to the rear of the house (extension) and further south within the plot (garage).

Results

Extension (Figs. 3 and 4; Pls 3 and 4)

Foundation trenches were excavated immediately to the rear of the existing house using a mini digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, part of which was excavated in the area of a demolished conservatory. The trenches were 0.70m wide and 1.10m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of concrete overlying 0.48m of made ground containing rubble, brick and tile and cobbles overlying 0.52m of further made ground of 0.52m of comprising mid grey brown silty clay with cobbles and some tile. This overlay the natural geology which was a brown silty clay with fine gravel. Several modern services were observed but No archaeological features or finds or finds of interest were encountered.

Garage (Fig. 3; Pl. 2)

Groundworks for the garage plot to the south of the site were not carried out at the time of the extension works and there was a possibility that the garage would not be constructed. It was proposed instead therefore that the garage plot area was evaluated by a single trench. The trench was located in a level area terraced into the slope and defined by a small retaining wall to the rear (south) of an outbuilding. The trench was 5.70m long, 1.1m wide and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of rubble overlying a fine pebble gravel in a brown

silty clay matrix (natural geology). Two Victorian or modern truncations of the natural geology were observed but no archaeological features or finds were encountered.

Finds

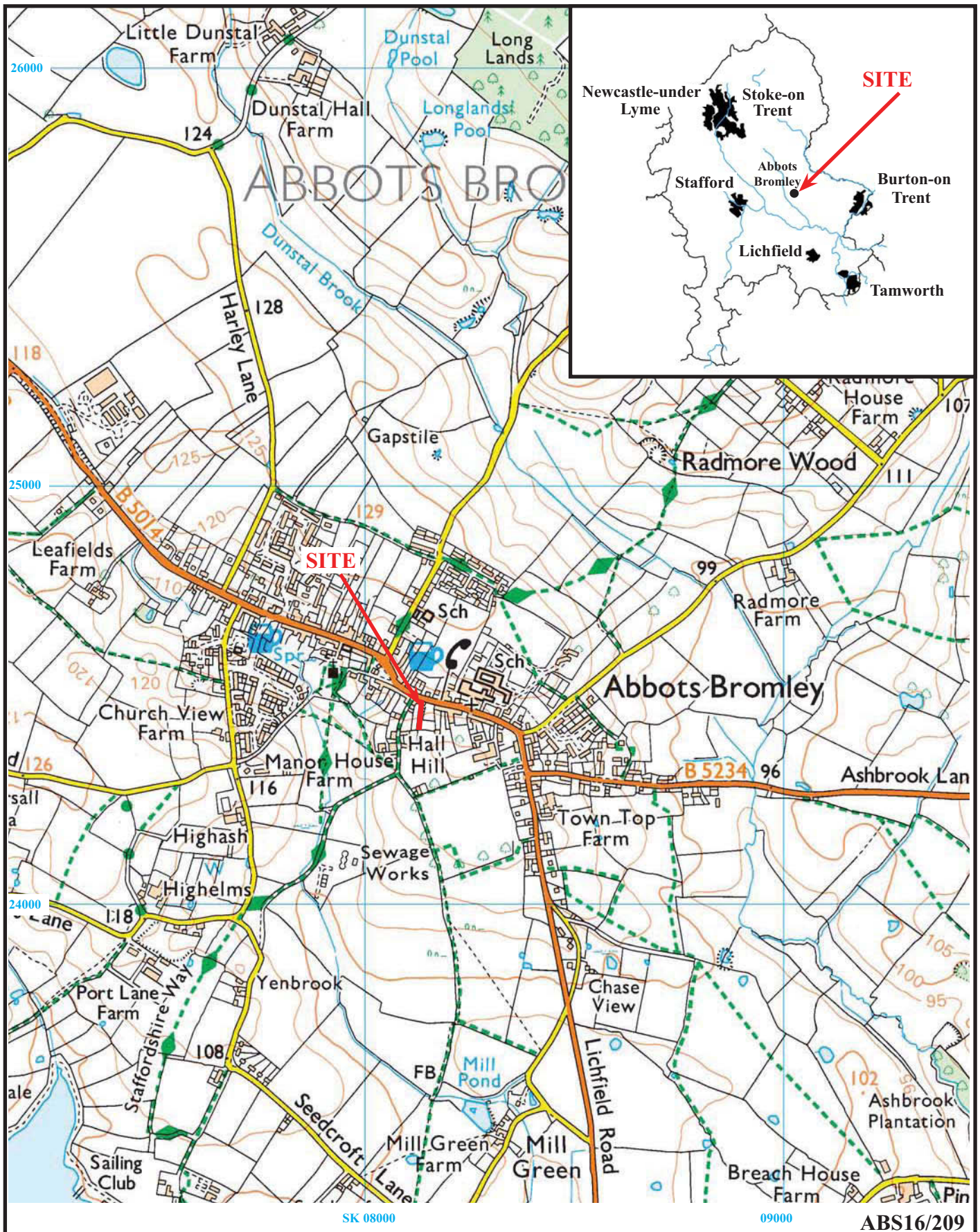
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the proximity of the site to the historic core of Abbots Bromley no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

References

BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 140, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
SEUS 2012, Abbots Bromley, *Staffordshire Extensive Urban Survey*, Staffordshire County Council/English Heritage, Stafford

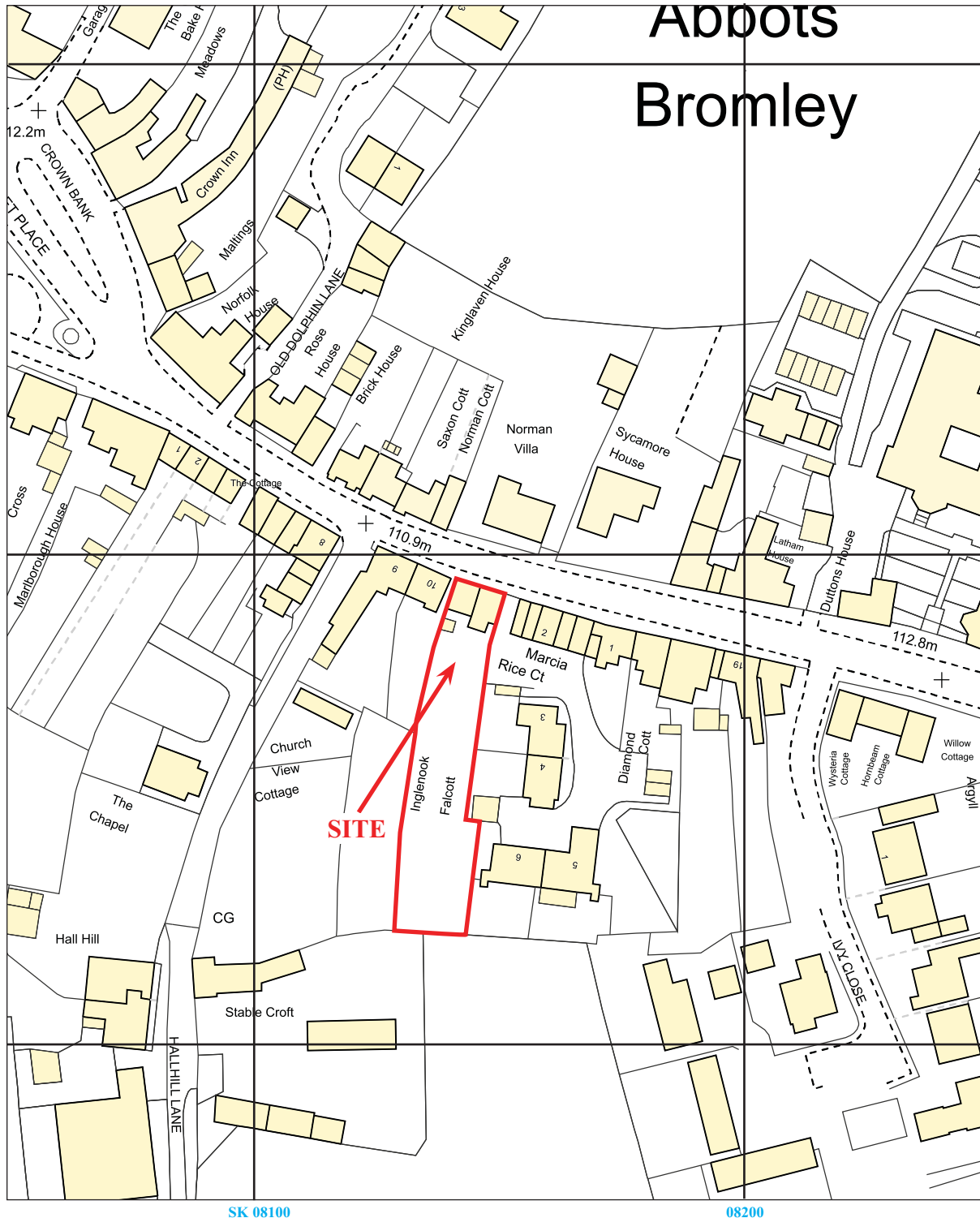


**Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Abbots Bromley and Staffordshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey 1:25k HD 2016 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100034184





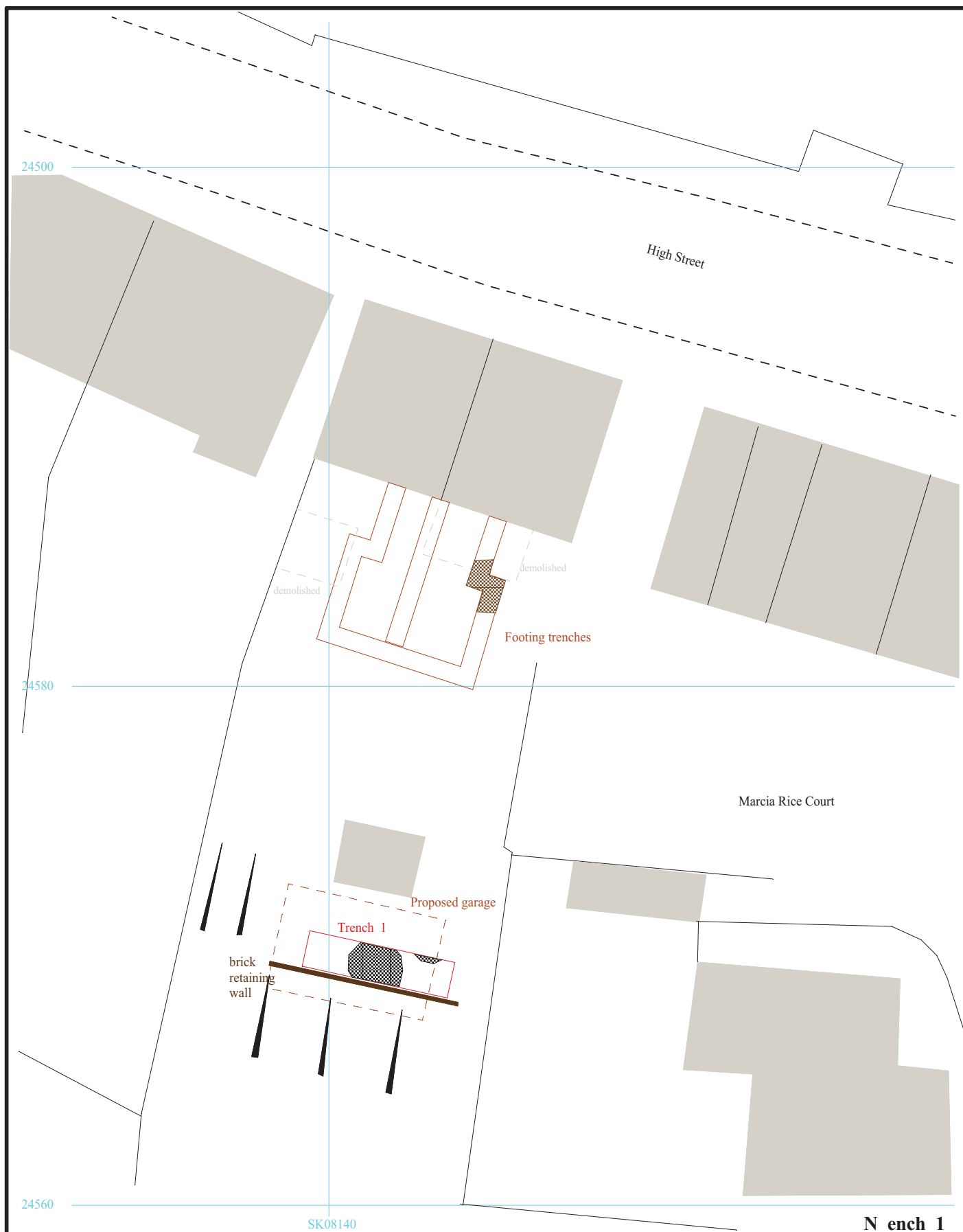
ABS16/209

**Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Abbots Bromley.
Scale 1:1250

Ordnance Survey Licence 100034184





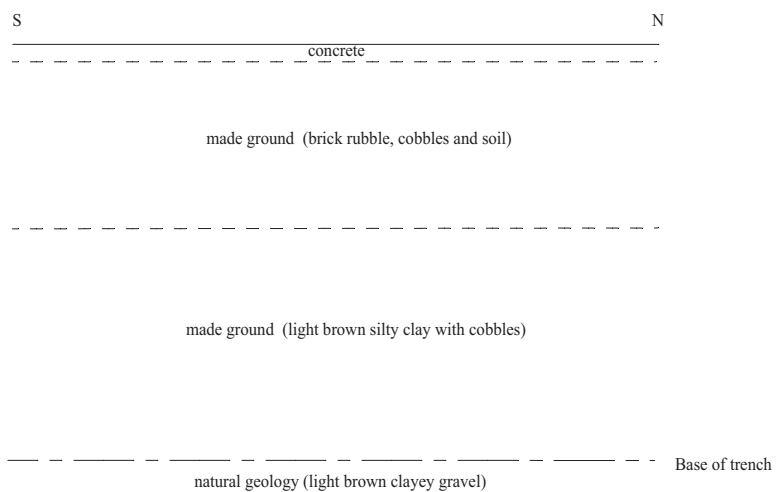
Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 4. Plan of watching brief areas



TVAS
 NORTH MIDLANDS

Central foundation trench



made grou

Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 4. Representative section



TVAS
NORTH MIDLANDS



Plate 1: General view of site looking north west



Plate 2: Evaluation trench 1 looking east, Scales: 1m ,0.5m and 2m

ABS16/209

Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

Plates 1 and 2





Plate 3: Eastern extension foundation trench looking west, Scale: 1m

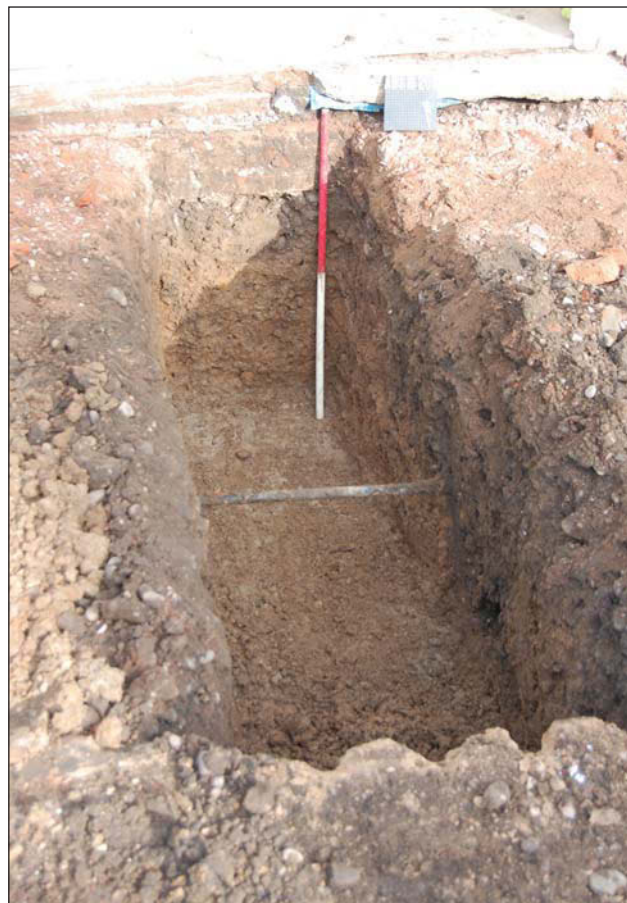


Plate 4: Central extension foundation trench looking north, Scale: 1m

ABS16/209

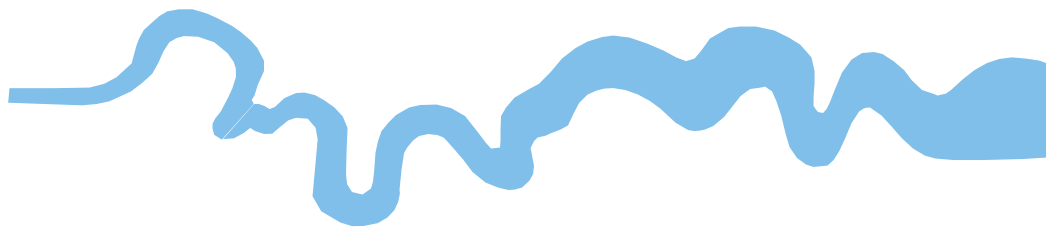
Falcott and Inglenook, High Street, Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire
Archaeological Watching Brief

Plates 3 and 4



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
↓	↓



**TVAS (North Midlands),
2B Stanton Road, Meir
Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 6DD**

**Tel: 01782 595648
Email: northmidlands@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk/northmidlands**