

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**18-19 Thames Street, Windsor,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luis Esteves

Site Code: TSW16/74

(SU 9668 7702)

**18-19 Thames Street, Windsor,
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Amsbury Developments Ltd**

by Luís Esteves

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TSW 16/74

February 2017

Summary

Site name: 18-19 Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9668 7702

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 11th and 12th October 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Aidan Colyer and Ellen McManus

Site code: TSW 16/74

Area of site: c.72sqm

Summary of results: A test pit and a foundation trench were dug and recorded. However, the stratigraphy revealed only modern made ground. No archaeologically relevant levels were exposed.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum willing to accept the material.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 23.03.17 Steve Preston✓ 23.03.17

18-19 Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luís Esteves

Report 16/74

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 18-19 Thames Street, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9668 7702) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jonathon Dixon, Hill View House, The Hill, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3AD, on behalf of Amsbury Developments Ltd with the same address.

Planning permission (ref. 16/02586) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the conversion of an existing structure to form new apartments with a single storey extension and reconfiguration of car park. The consent includes a condition (4) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeologist Officer with Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Aidan Colyer, Ellen McManus and Rebecca Constable on the 11th and 12th October 2016 and the site code is TSW16/74.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local museum willing to accept material.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in central Windsor town, north east of Windsor and Eton Rail Station and south of River Thames (Fig. 2). It lies within a residential area on the west side of Thames Street, with an existing house and car park. The underlying geology is mapped as Upper Chalk (BGS 1981) although the groundworks did not expose the natural geology. The site lies at an elevation of *c.*24m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary this potential stems from the site location within the historic core of (New) Windsor. The town has early medieval origins having grown up to support the nearby royal castle (Astill 1978) having moved from the late Saxon palace complex a few miles down river at Old Windsor. A modest volume of fieldwork has taken place within the town, with for example, an excavation at 55-57 High Street next to the churchyard, which revealed a number of burials and rubbish pits of medieval date (Taylor and Preston 2005) and work at 19-23 High St revealed Early Bronze Age and Roman activity as well as Medieval occupation (Cook 2016). Fieldwork at 29 Thames Street revealed an extensive and unbroken sequence of deposits from the 13th century with the probability of earlier deposits beneath (Pine 2005). A further sequence of 13th century medieval and later deposits was revealed at the rear of 52-4 Thames Street to the north (Weaver 2005) and a possible 12th century moated complex was partially investigated at Jennings Yard to the north west (Hawkes and Heaton 1993).

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 groundworks, in particular, the digging of underpinning trenches as necessary. No groundworks were to be undertaken without archaeological supervision and any archaeological deposits exposed by the work were to be recorded. Sufficient time within the groundworks schedule was to be allowed to complete the recording.

Results

A test pit and a small area (foundation for the single story extension) next to the existing building were dug and recorded (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 3 and 4). The test pit measured 1.5m x 1.5m and was 1.08m deep. The stratigraphy consisted in 0.1m of Tarmac overlying 0.23m of hoggin (preparation for the Tarmac), overlying 0.66m of mid grey clay madeground with redeposit chalky natural and modern rubble overlying 0.1m of mid grey clay with modern rubble. The groundworks level did not expose the natural natural geology.

The area of a foundation trench excavated next to the existing building measured 6m x 2m and was 0.6m deep. It exposed several modern services and concrete foundations (Pls 1 and 2) but no archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

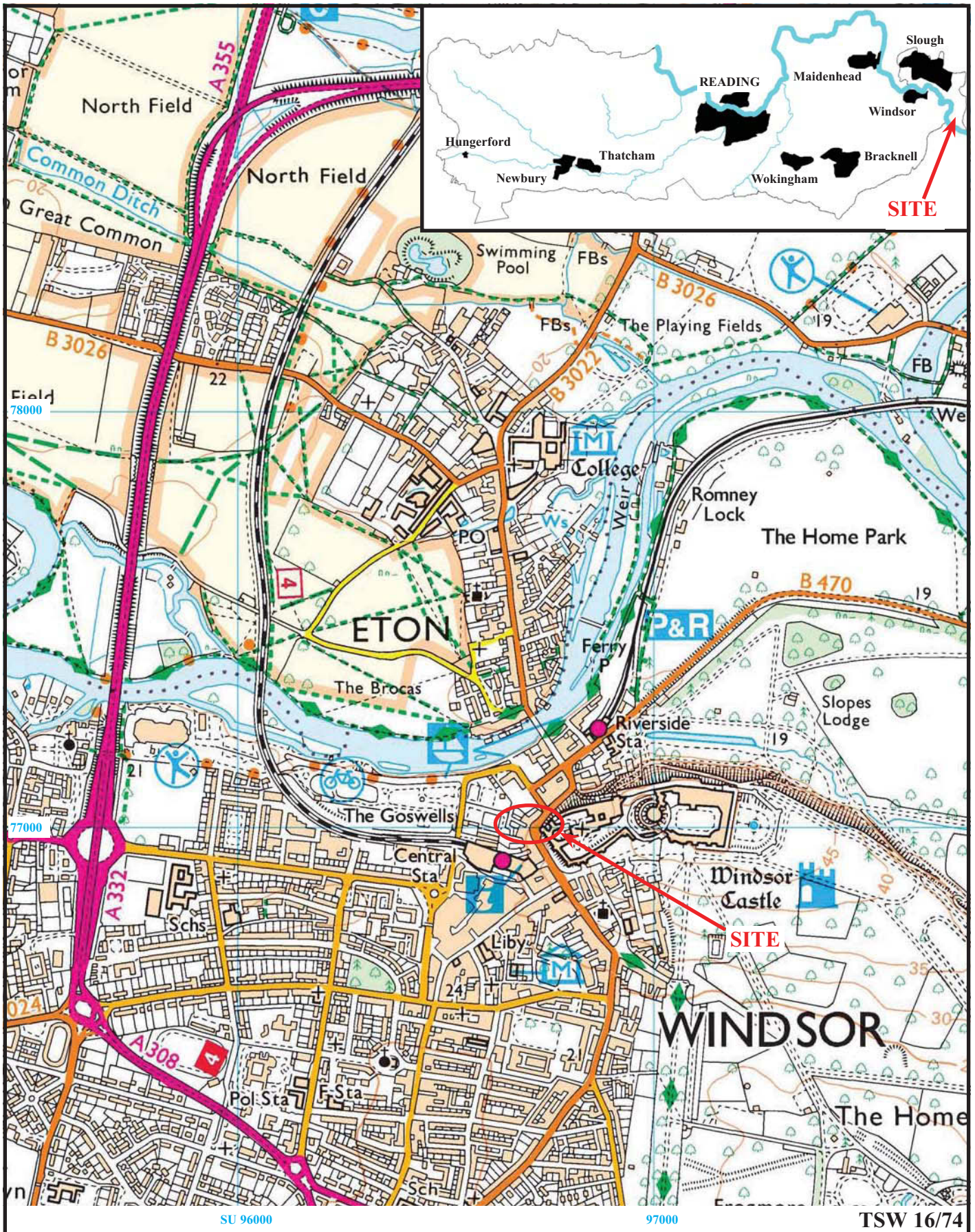
No archaeological finds were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the potential of this site in a central Windsor location, no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of this watching brief. A test pit and foundation trench dug revealed only levels of modern made ground.

References

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- Hawkes, J, W and Heaton, M, J, 1993, *A closed-shaft garderobe and associated medieval structures at Jennings Yard, Windsor, Berkshire*, Wessex Archaeol Rep **3**, Salisbury
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- Pine, J, 2005, 'Medieval and later occupation at the Adam and Eve Public House, 29 Thames Street, Windsor' in Preston, S (ed), *Reading and Windsor: Old and New. Excavations 1995–2002*, TVAS Monograph **7**, Reading, 103–34
- Taylor, K and Preston, S, 2005, 'Medieval burials and rubbish pits at the rear of 55–57 High Street, Windsor', in S Preston (ed), *Reading and Windsor: Old and New. Excavations 1995–2002*, TVAS Monograph **7**, Reading, 80–101
- Weaver, S, 2005, 'Excavation of medieval deposits at the rear of Sir Christopher Wrens House Hotel, Thames Street, Windsor', in S Preston (ed), *Reading and Windsor: Old and New. Excavations 1995–2002*, TVAS Monograph **7**, Reading, 135–49

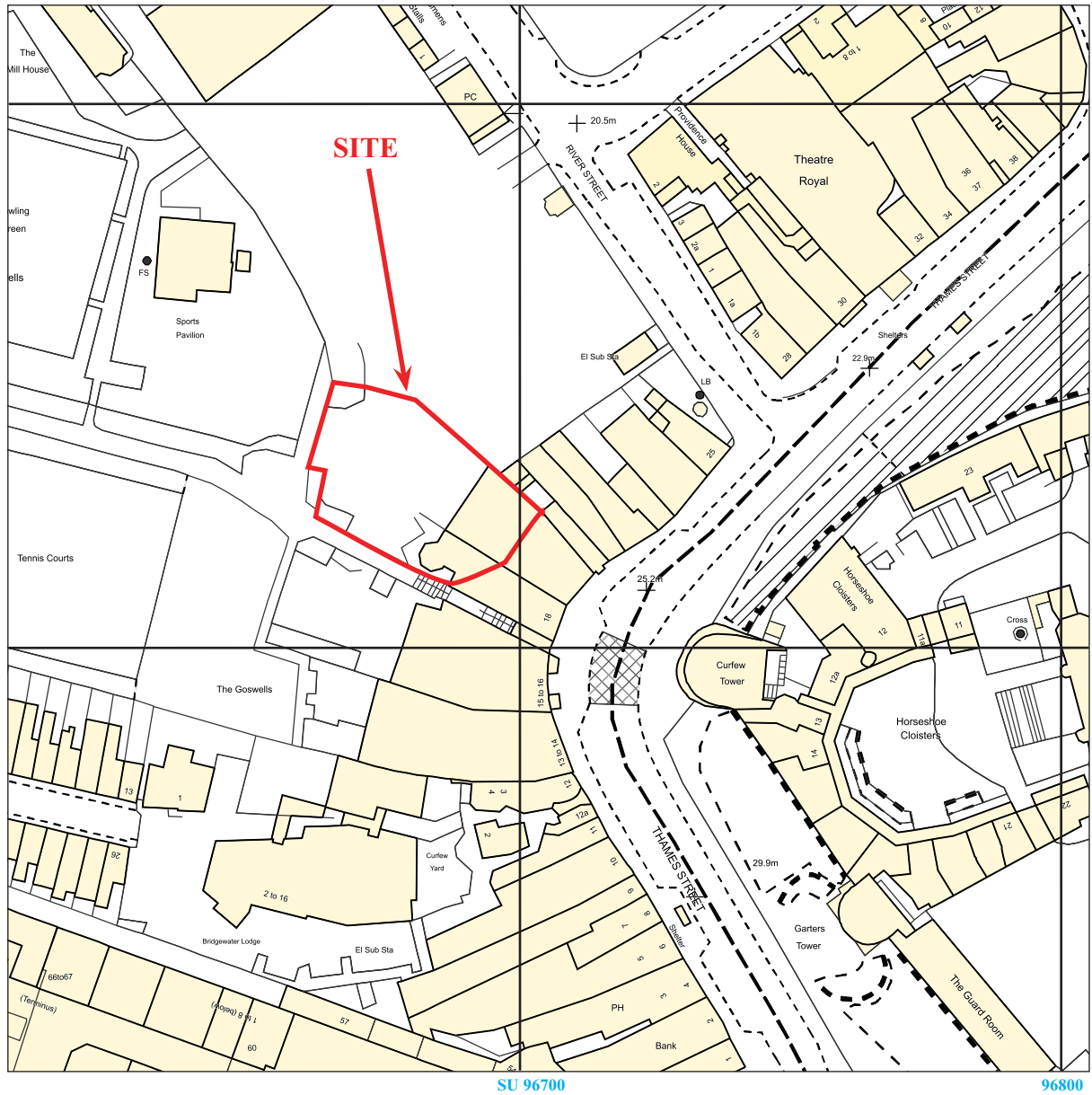


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Figure 1. Location of site within Windsor and Berkshire.

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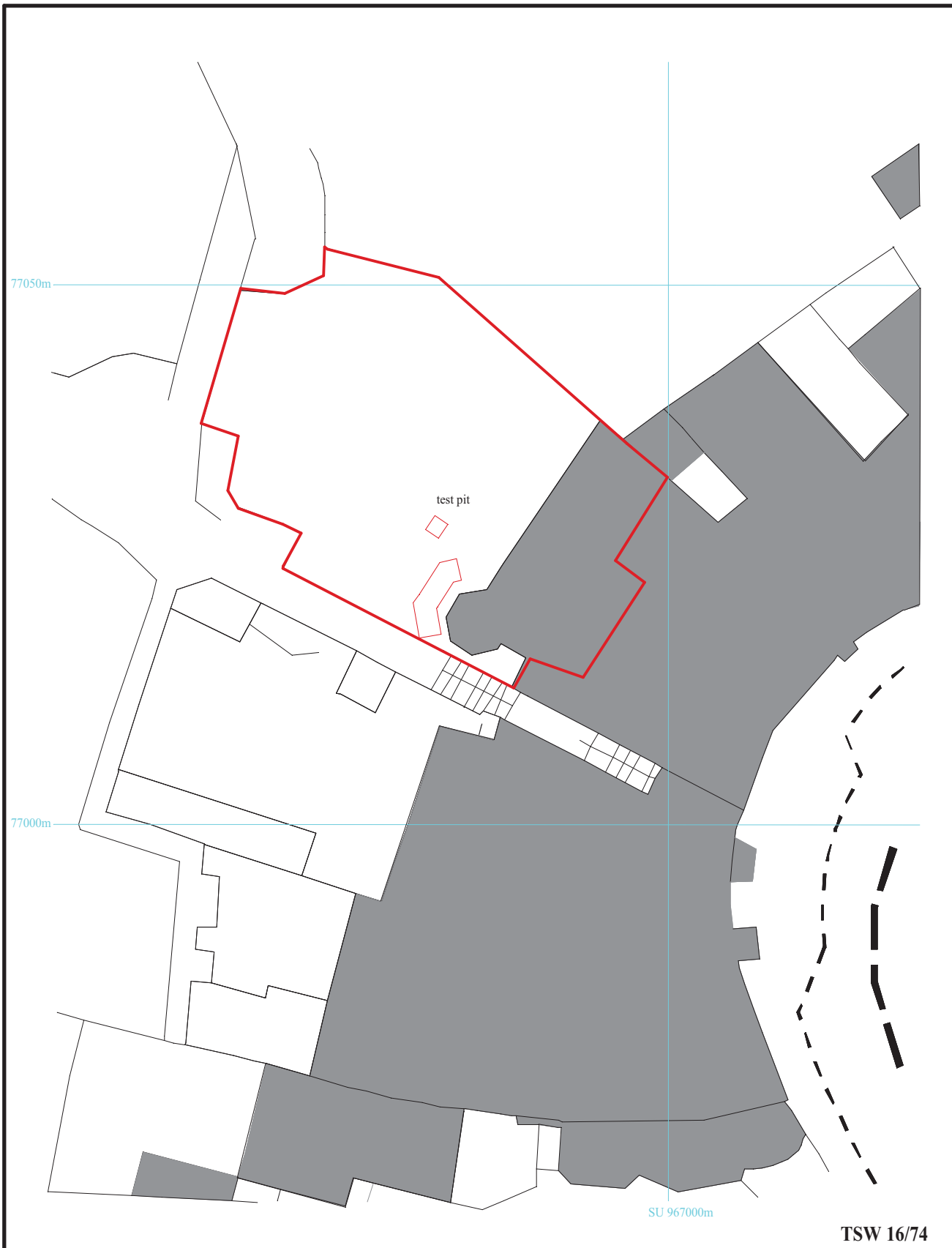


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Thames Street.

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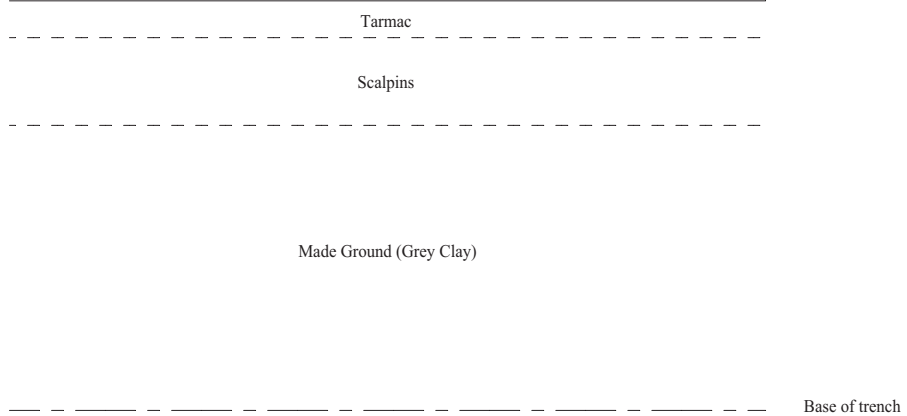
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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Test Pit



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Figure 4. Test Pit section.





Plate 1. Site, looking south-west, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Site, looking south, Scale: 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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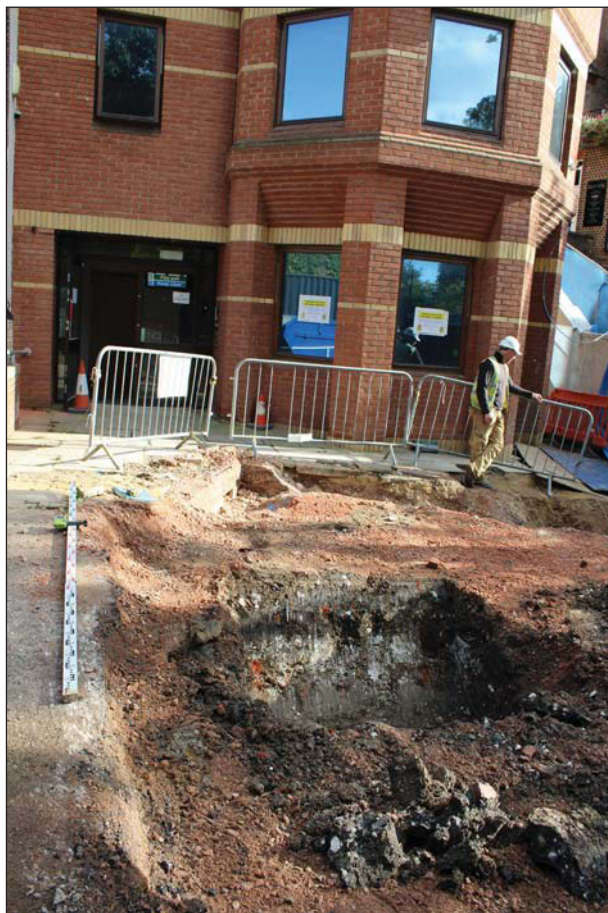


Plate 3. Subject, looking south-east, Scales: 3m.



Plate 4. Subject, looking north-east, Scales: 3m.

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Plates 3 - 4.**

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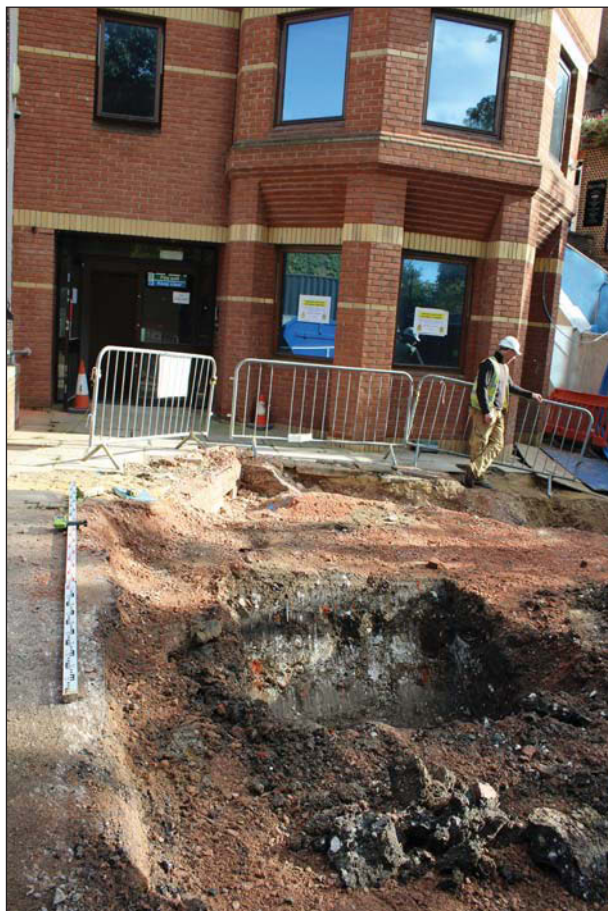


Plate 3. Test pit, looking south-east



Plate 4. Test pit, looking north-east

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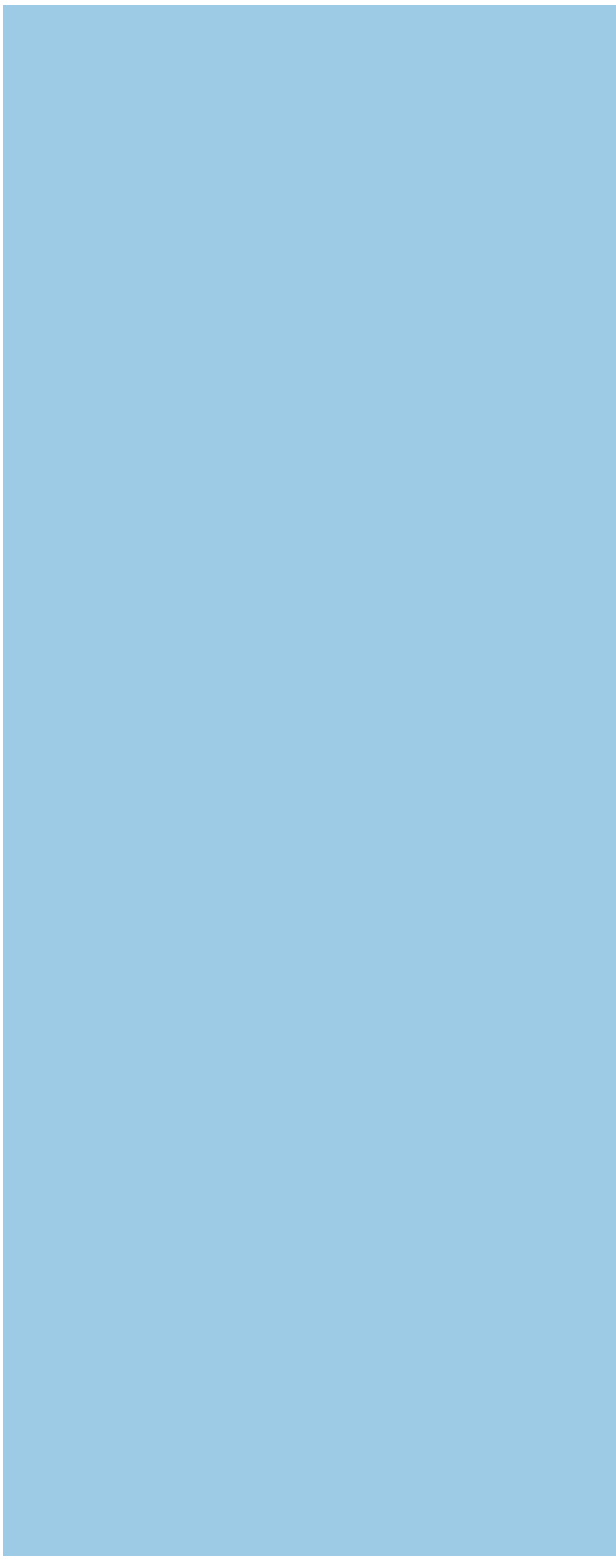
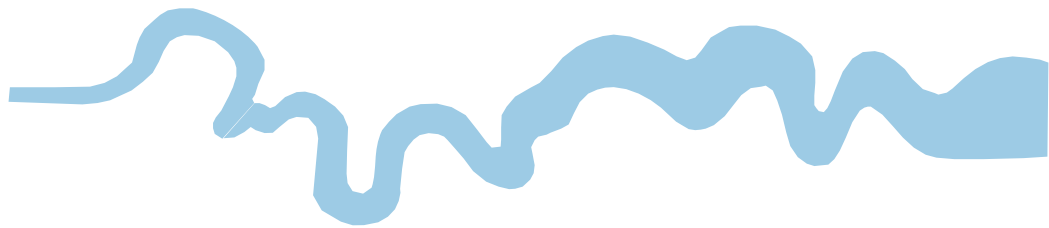
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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