THAMES VALLEY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

SERVICES

43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxfordshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Mundin

Site Code: SLK16/99

(SP 5269 0108)

43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Goldust Properties Ltd

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SLK 16/99

December 2017

Summary

Site name: 43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 5269 0108

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th October 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Mundin

Site code: SLK 16/99

Area of site: 1050 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified on the site and only modern finds noted.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 15.12.17 Steve Preston✓ 15.12.17

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading RG1 5NR
Tel. (0118) 926 0552; Fax (0118) 926 0553; email tvas@tvas.co.uk; *website: www.tvas.co.uk*

43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxfordshire
An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Mundin

Report 16/99

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Oxfordshire (SP 5269 0108) (Fig.1). The work was commissioned by Mr Selwyn Palmer of Selwyn Palmer Architects, on behalf of Goldust Properties, July Cottage, Frieth, Henley on Thames, RG9 6PR.

Planning permission (P16/V0415/FUL) has been gained from Vale of the White Horse District Council for the construction of two new properties following the demolition of the existing dwelling on the site. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, the consent was subject to a condition (7) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during the course of the groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, Team Leader at Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, advisers to the District Council on matters pertaining to archaeology within the planning process. This was based on a brief prepared by him (Coddington 2016). The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Mundin on 12th October 2016. The site code is SLK 16/99.

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

Location, topography and geology

Kennington is located on the west bank of the Thames just south of Oxford (Fig. 1). The site is located at the southern edge of the built-up part of Kennington, at the southern end of Sandford Lane as it leads east under the mainline railway (Fig. 2). The eastern side of the site is bounded by the railway line. Sandford Lane is to the south, residential properties to north and west, and the site has a slope from north to south with the highest point in the north at approximately 61m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is Stanford Formation Limestone, covered by various sands and silts of the Upper Corallian beds which exist close to the Thames which flows less that 500m to the east. A small stream flows towards the Thames just beyond the southern edge of the site, but its course has been artificially regularized to the east.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the brief prepared for the project by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2016). In summary, the site has a high potential for the Roman period in particular, as large quantities of Roman pottery had been recovered from the site during previous construction work in the 1970s, probably indicating the presence of Roman occupation. There is also the possibility the site was a kiln site, for which the area south-west and south-east of Oxford is noteworthy (Young 1977).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works, This involved monitoring all areas of intrusive groundworks and included observation of surface stripping, observation of sections for service trenches and other areas of ground disturbance for either the removal of buried objects or tree roots.

Results

The previous structures were demolished and overburden and demolition debris stripped from areas of the footprints of the new buildings (Fig. 3). The concrete access to the garage had been removed and tree roots at the southern end of the site were also removed. This presented an opportunity to observe the geology at this end of the site. At a depth of just 0.15m below overburden (modern made ground), was black alluvial clay (Pl. 2). This waterlogged area (possibly an original channel of the diverted stream, or at least liable to flooding from it) was to be built up with demolition crush rather than excavated.

Drainage trench

A new drainage run at the north and east end of the site was between 0.8–0.9m deep and 0.6m wide. This revealed that 0.2m–0.3m of overburden (light brown sandy silt) directly overlay the natural sandy gravel geology throughout its 40m length (Fig. 4). This overburden contained modern materials (not retained).

Boundary fence

Post holes for a new boundary fence along the north edge of the site showed topsoil no more than 0.20m deep directly above a yellow sandy gravel horizon (natural geology).

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered. Material noted from the overburden deposits was all of modern date and were retained on site.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits nor finds were identified in the groundworks. Modern overburden deposits directly overlay the natural sandy gravel or alluvial layers, and even the topsoil contained considerable amounts of building rubble, suggesting that even though the site still lay on a slope, the entire plot may have been reduced for the previous construction work in the 1970s.

References

BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet **236** (Witney), Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

Coddington, H, 2016, '43 Sandford Lane, Kennington, Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, Oxford

NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

Young, C J, 1977, The *Roman Pottery Industry of the Oxford Region*, BAR Brit Ser **43**, Oxford

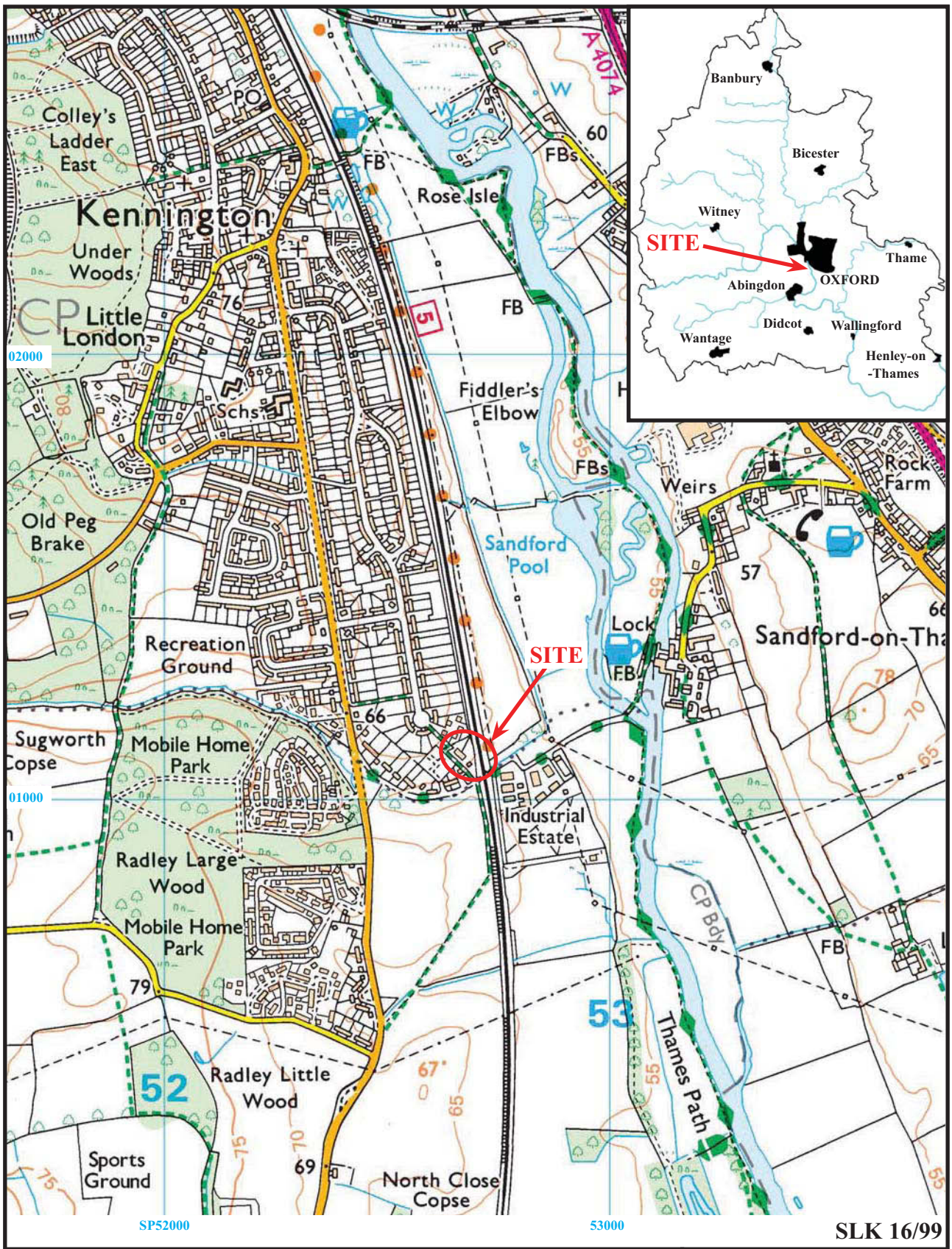

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Figure 1. Location of site within Kennington and Oxfordshire.

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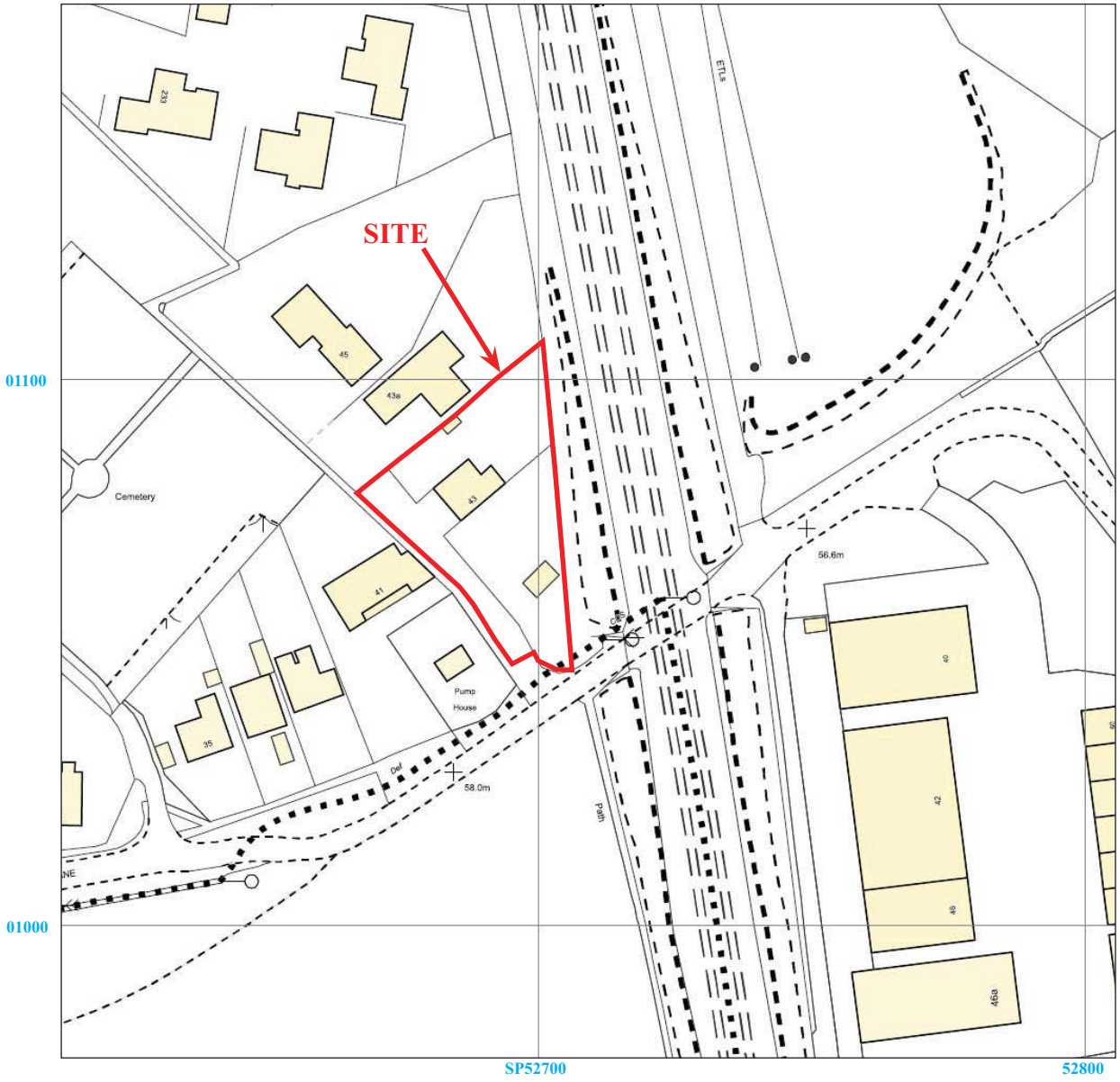

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Sandford Lane.

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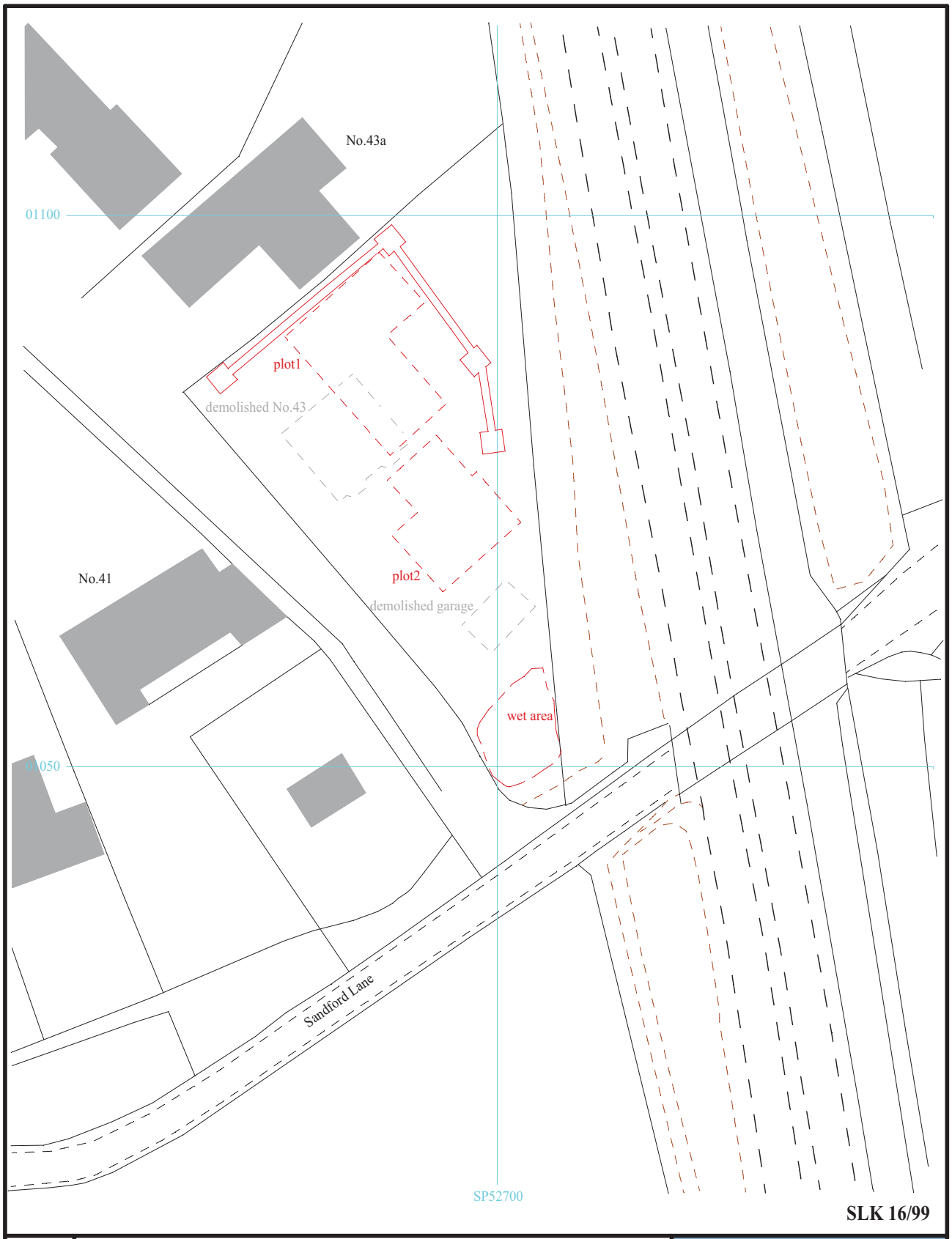

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Figure 3. Observed areas on site.

0 25m

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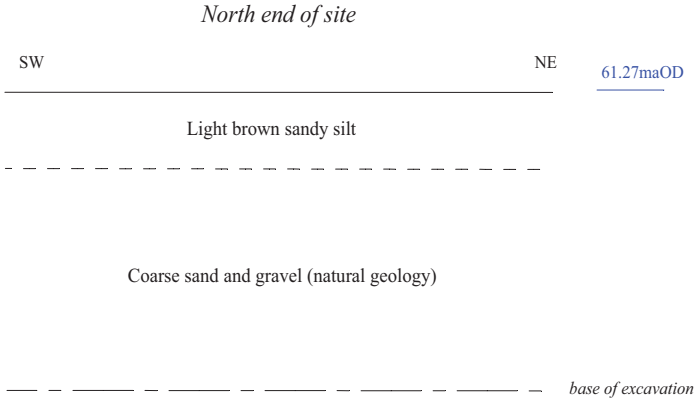

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Figure 4. Representative sections.

0 1m

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Plate 1. Drainage run around north of site, looking west.

Plate 2. Wet ground at south of site, looking south.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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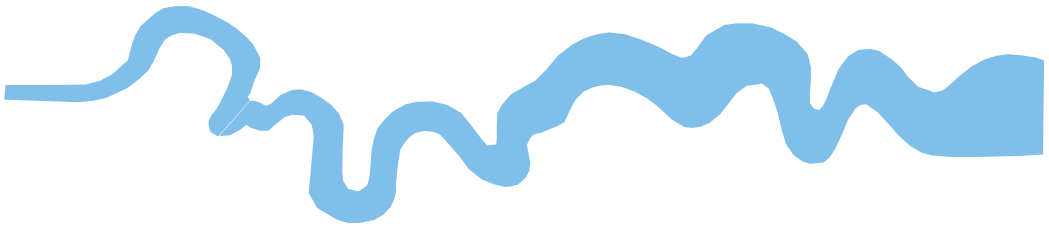
TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern	AD 1901
Victorian	AD 1837
Post Medieval	AD 1500
Medieval	AD 1066
Saxon	AD 410
Roman	AD 43
	AD 0 BC
Iron Age	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



Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,
Reading RG1 5NR

Tel: 0118 9260552
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk

Offices in:
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)