

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**The Garden House, Redbourn Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: GHR16/07

(TL 1301 0826)

**The Garden House, Redbourn Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Brunning and Price Limited

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GHR 16/07

July 2019

Summary

Site name: The Garden House, Redbourn Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire

Grid reference: TL 1301 0826

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 8th March 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: GHR 16/07

Area of site: 480 sq m

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

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

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 12.07.19
	Steve Preston ✓ 12.07.19

The Garden House, Redbourn Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Report 16/07

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Garden House, Redbourn Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire (TL 1301 0826) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Frost of Frost Planning Ltd., Prestbury, Cheshire, SK10 4PT on behalf of Brunning and Price Limited, Yew Tree Farm Buildings, Saighton, Cheshire, CH3 6EG.

Planning permission (5/2015/1204) has been granted by St Albans City Council for a single-storey front extension and new roof, a first floor managers flat and an enlarged terrace with new steps. The consent is subject to a condition (4) requiring a watching brief to be carried out on the works. A separate condition also required a building recoding which has been reported separately (Elliott 2019).

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the City's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Simon West, the St Albans City Archaeological Officer. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves, on 8th March 2016 and the site code is GHR 16/07.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-west side of Redbourn Road (A5183), to the northeast of St Albans (Fig. 1). It is located off Garden House Lane. It is predominantly set within open fields and woodland. Two buildings are located to the northwest, including Pre Mill House. To the southwest is the river Ver. A spot height on the Redbourn Road puts the height at 93.6m above Ordnance Datum, though the land slopes to the south-west and the river. The area of the new extension was to the building's west side (Figs 2 and 3). The underlying geology is recorded as upper chalk with alluvium immediately to the southwest along the river valley (BGS 1978). The natural observed on site consisted of a light orange silty clay with some chalk inclusions, similar to clay with flints or pebbly sand that is recorded to the north-east of the site on the geology maps.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note prepared by the District Archaeologist drawing on information contained within the St Albans Urban Archaeological Database. In summary, this potential stems from its location within the hinterland of the Roman town of *Verulamium* and alongside a road known as Back Lane. Roman *Verulamium* lay somewhat west of modern St Albans (Fig. 1). The line of Redbourn Road further north, where it crosses to the far side of the river, follows that of the Roman road Watling Street. It is possible that sites relating to the Roman town's hinterland could be present on the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. The area of ground reduction for the new terrace was observed. Any features observed were to be excavated by hand and recorded. The spoilheap was monitored for finds.

Results (Figs 3 and 4)

An area measuring 15m by 32m was reduced in level for the new terrace and steps to the rear (south-west) of the building. The ground reduction created three terraces with the upper level reduced by 0.10m, the second level reduced by 0.20m and the third level reduced by 0.60m, giving a total reduction in height of 0.90m, allowing for the change in slope of the ground (Pls 1 and 2).

The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of topsoil above 0.35m of subsoil consisting of a light orange, silty clay, above the natural light orange silty clay with some chalk inclusions.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

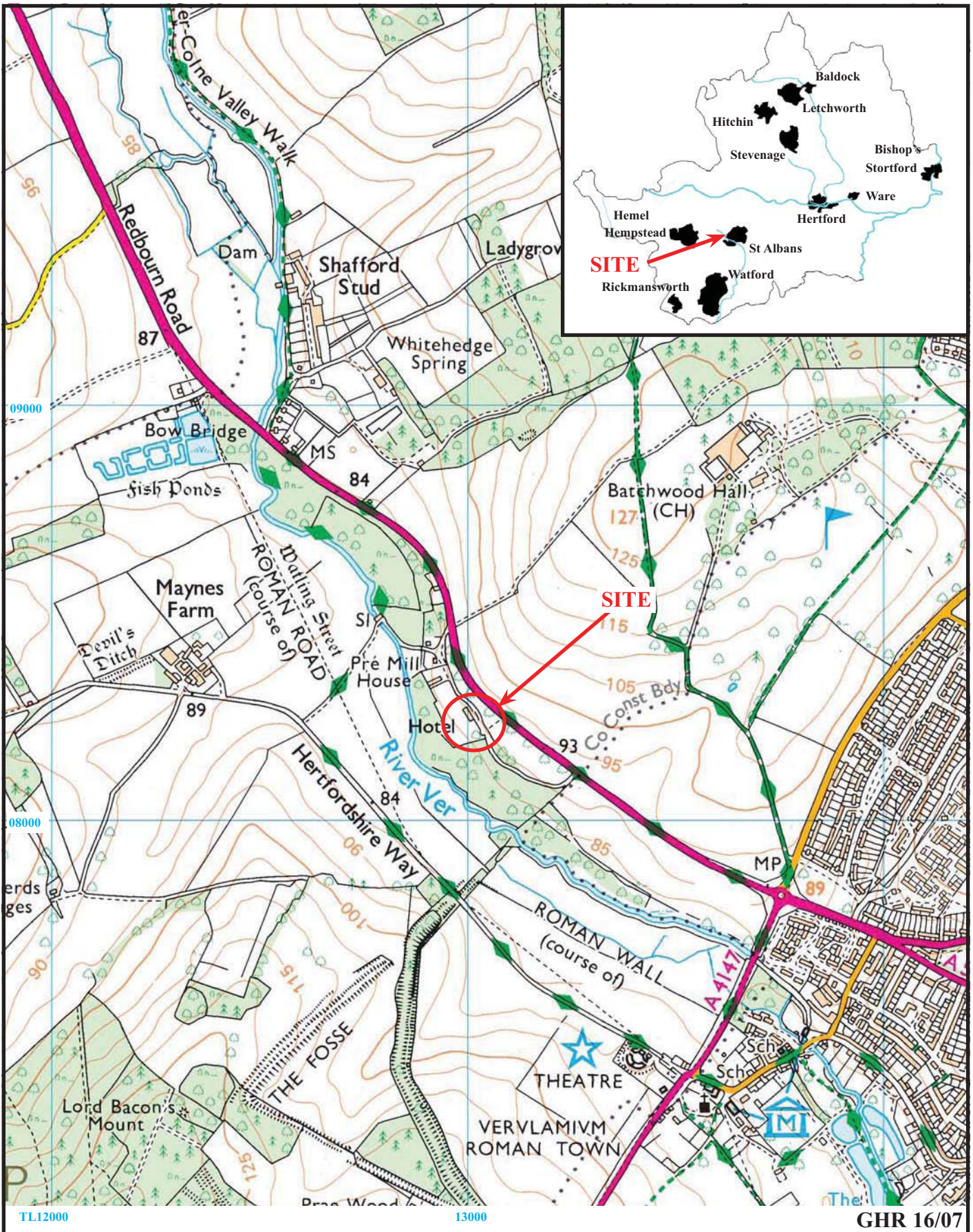
No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed within the new terraced area.

References

- BGS, 1978, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 239, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Elliott, G, 2019, 'The Garden House, Redbourn Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire: Building recording', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **16/07b**, Reading
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

**APPENDIX1 HERTFORDSHIRE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD
SUMMARY SHEET**

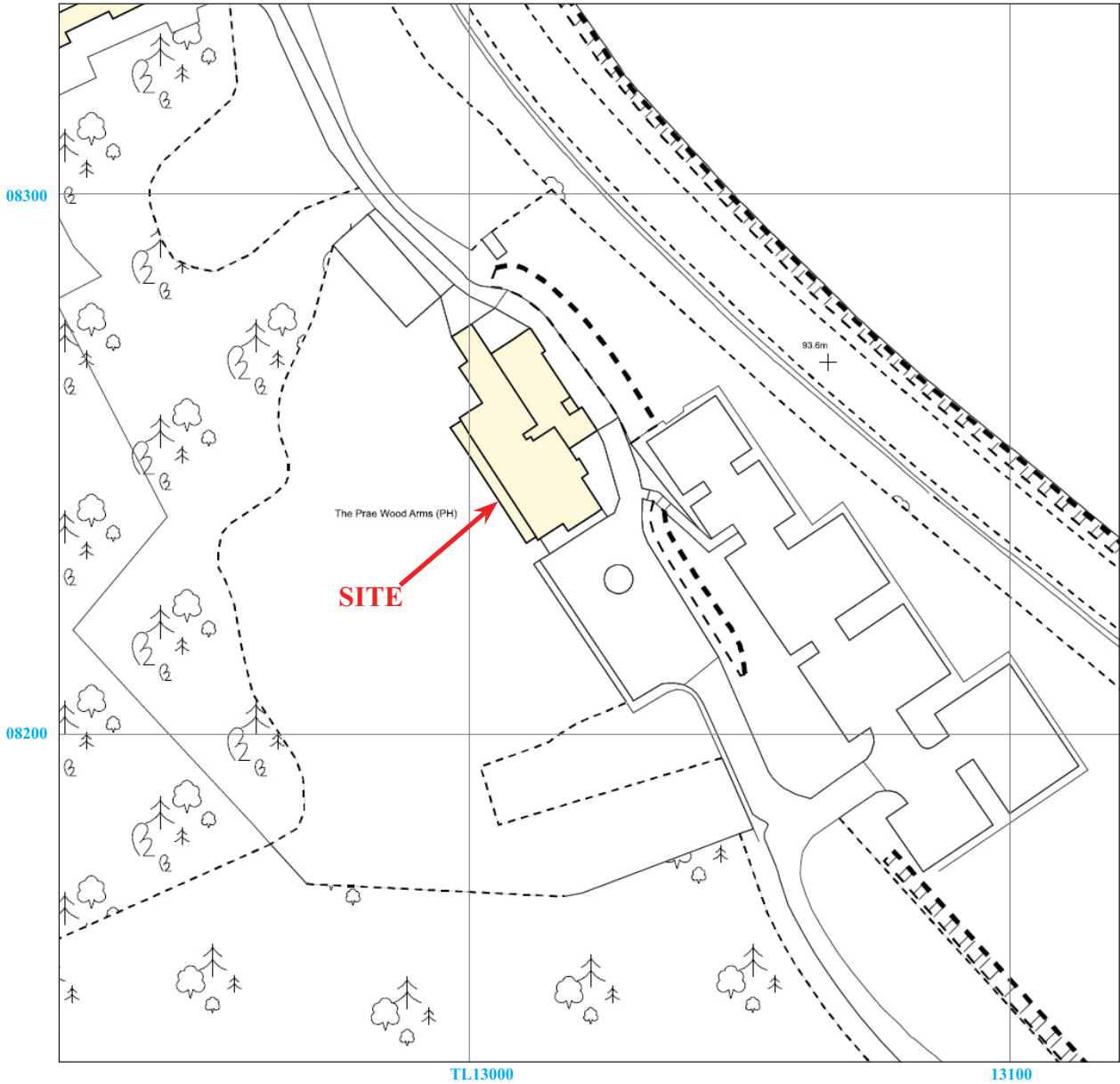
Site name and address: The Garden House, Redbourn Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire		
County: Hertfordshire		District: St Albans
Village/Town: St Albans		Parish: St Albans
Planning application reference: 5/2015/1204		
HER Enquiry reference:		
Funding source: Brunning and Price Limited		
Nature of application: Extension		
Present land use: Building		
Size of application area: 1000 sq m		Size of area investigated: 480 sq m
NGR (to 8 figures minimum): TL 1301 0826		
Site code (if applicable): GHR16/07		
Site director/Organization: Luis Esteves, Thames Valley Archaeological Services		
Type of work: Watching brief		
Date of work:	Start: 08/03/2016	Finish:08/03/2016
Location of finds & site archive/Curating museum: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at St Albans Museum in due course		
Related HER Nos:		Periods represented: none
Relevant previous summaries/reports		
Summary of fieldwork results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed		
Author of summary: Genni Elliott		Date of summary: 12/07/2019



**Garden House, Redbourn Road,
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Figure 1. Location of site within St Albans and Hertfordshire.

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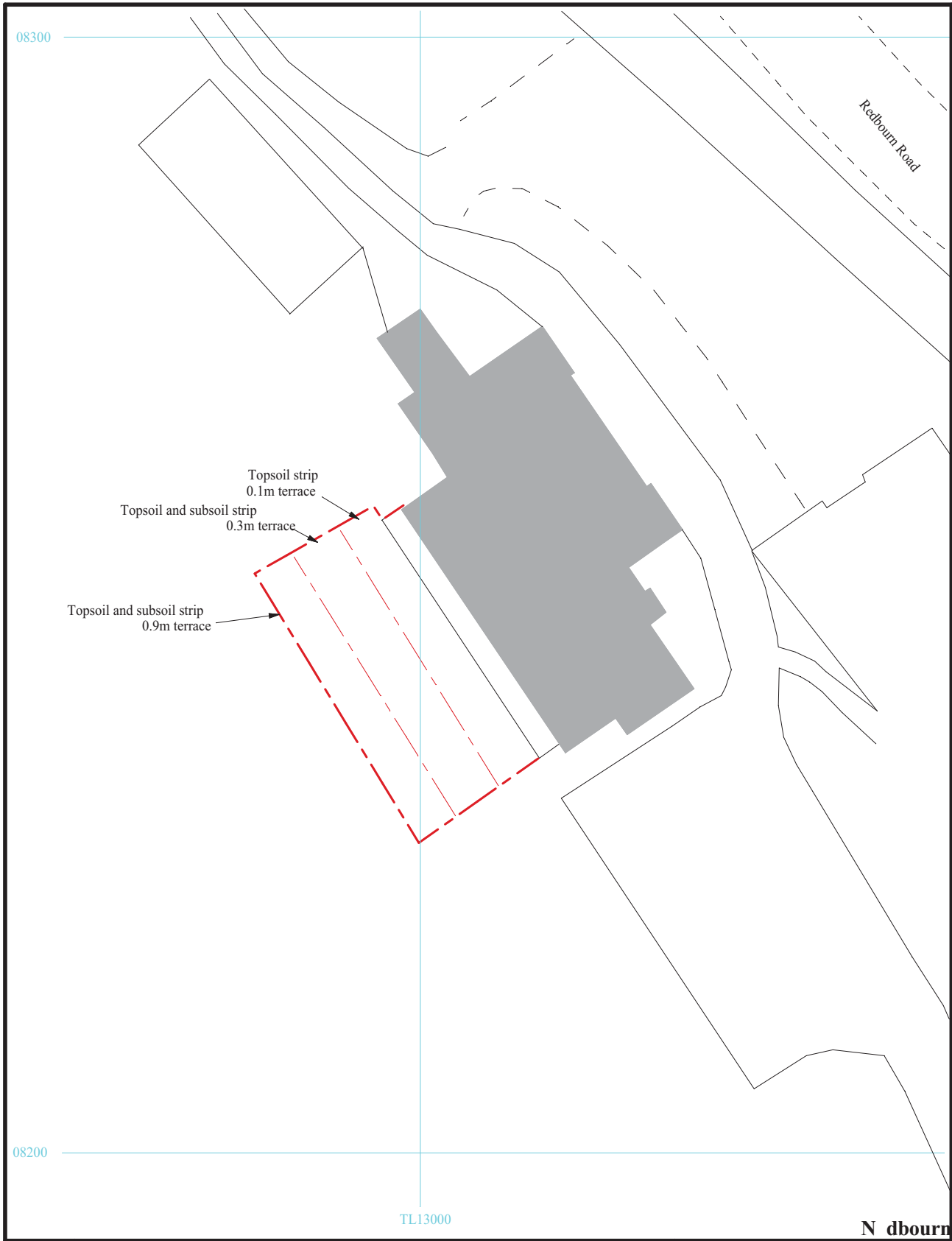
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**The Garden House, Redbourn Road,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Redbourn Road.

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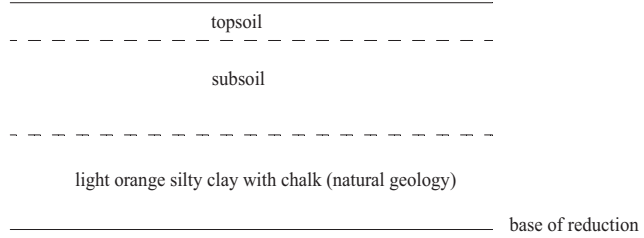
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Terraced step



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Strip of terrace at 0.1m deep (upper), looking north west.



Plate 2. Strip at terrace 0.9m deep (lowest), looking south east.

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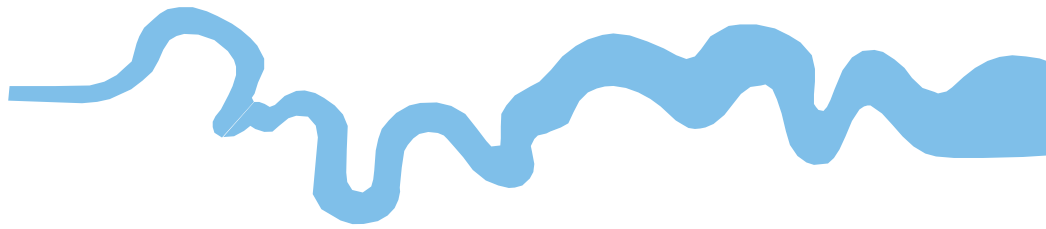
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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 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)*