

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Whitby Road, Slough Trading Estate,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor and Maisie Foster

Site Code: STE14/41

(SU 9648 8076)

Whitby Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For RPS

by Andy Taylor and Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code STE 14/41

December 2019

Summary

Site name: Whitby Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9648 8076

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th June-18th September 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: David Sanchez, Andy Taylor, Pierre Manisse

Site code: STE 14/41

Area of site: c.0.18 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief. Medieval deposits revealed by previous evaluation were not exposed during the course of these groundworks.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 10.12.19 Steve Preston✓ 09.12.19

Whitby Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 14/41b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Whitby Road, Slough Trading Estate, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9648 8076) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr James Archer, of RPS, 140 London Wall, London EC2Y 5DN on behalf of First Choice Building Supplies.

Planning consent has been granted by Slough Borough Council to construct an industrial unit on the site. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology. Evaluation of the site had revealed a small number of archaeological deposits of Medieval date (Taylor 2014) and thus in order to mitigate the effects of the development, fieldwork in the form of a watching brief was requested.

This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Cosmo Bacon, David Sanchez, Andy Taylor, Pierre Manisse and Maisie Foster between 5th June and 18th September 2019 and the site code is STE 14/41.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on part of the Slough Trading Estate, which lies on the north-western side of central Slough (Fig. 1). It is a flat parcel of land consisting of levelled rubble and scrub and is bounded by Whitby Road to the north, Frank Sutton Way to the east and industrial units to the south and west (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Langley Silt, sandy clay and silt brickearth (BGS 2005), which along with gravels was observed on the opened areas. The site lies at a height of *c.*28m above Ordnance Datum. The areas observed were in the southern portion of the overall site (Fig. 3).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record for the general area during archaeological fieldwork, aerial photography, mineral extraction and dredging of the river Thames (Ford 1987; Ford *et al.* 2003; Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975; Platt 2016; Taylor 2012; Taylor 2019).

Evaluation of the site itself had revealed a small number of archaeological deposits of Medieval date presumably indicating the presence of an occupation site within the vicinity (Taylor 2014).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to:

- excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within the areas threatened by the proposed development;

- produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site;

- establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic etc; and to

- produce information on the economy and local environment and compare and contrast this with the results of other excavations in the region.

An area for an attenuation tank, and 2 pipe trenches were to be monitored while stripping as these areas were excavated down to the level of natural geology. Overburden was to be removed under continuous archaeological supervision by a machine fitted with a ditching bucket to expose the archaeologically relevant horizon or formation level of the new building, whichever is the higher. Provision was made for initial levels of concrete/made ground to be removed initially by a toothed bucket if required. Where appropriate and necessary, hand cleaning of the stripped surface will take place and any features revealed were to be hand excavated or sampled.

Results

Ground reduction- Attenuation tank

The attenuation tank trench occupied an area measuring 20m x 17m (Fig. 3) and was to be dug to a depth of c.3m although this was only monitored to a depth of c.0.80m where the natural geology was reached. The

stratigraphy consisted of 0.70m of brick and concrete rubble made ground overlying redeposited brickearth with rubble, overlying brickearth natural. Some 6m of the eastern end of the area had been truncated away.

Pipe trenches

Pipe trenches observed measured 30.3m x 1m for the western trench and 10m x 1m for the eastern trench (Fig 3; Pls 3 and 4). The trenches were dug to a depth of c. 1.6m although only monitored to a depth of 0.57m where the natural geology was reached. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.2m of brick and concrete rubble made ground overlying a concrete rubble, brown yellow sand levelling layer, hoggin ballast, dark grey silty clay made ground, grey brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecks made ground, overlying brickearth natural (Fig. 4). The northern ends of both trenches were truncated by modern manholes.

No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered in any of the observed areas.

Finds

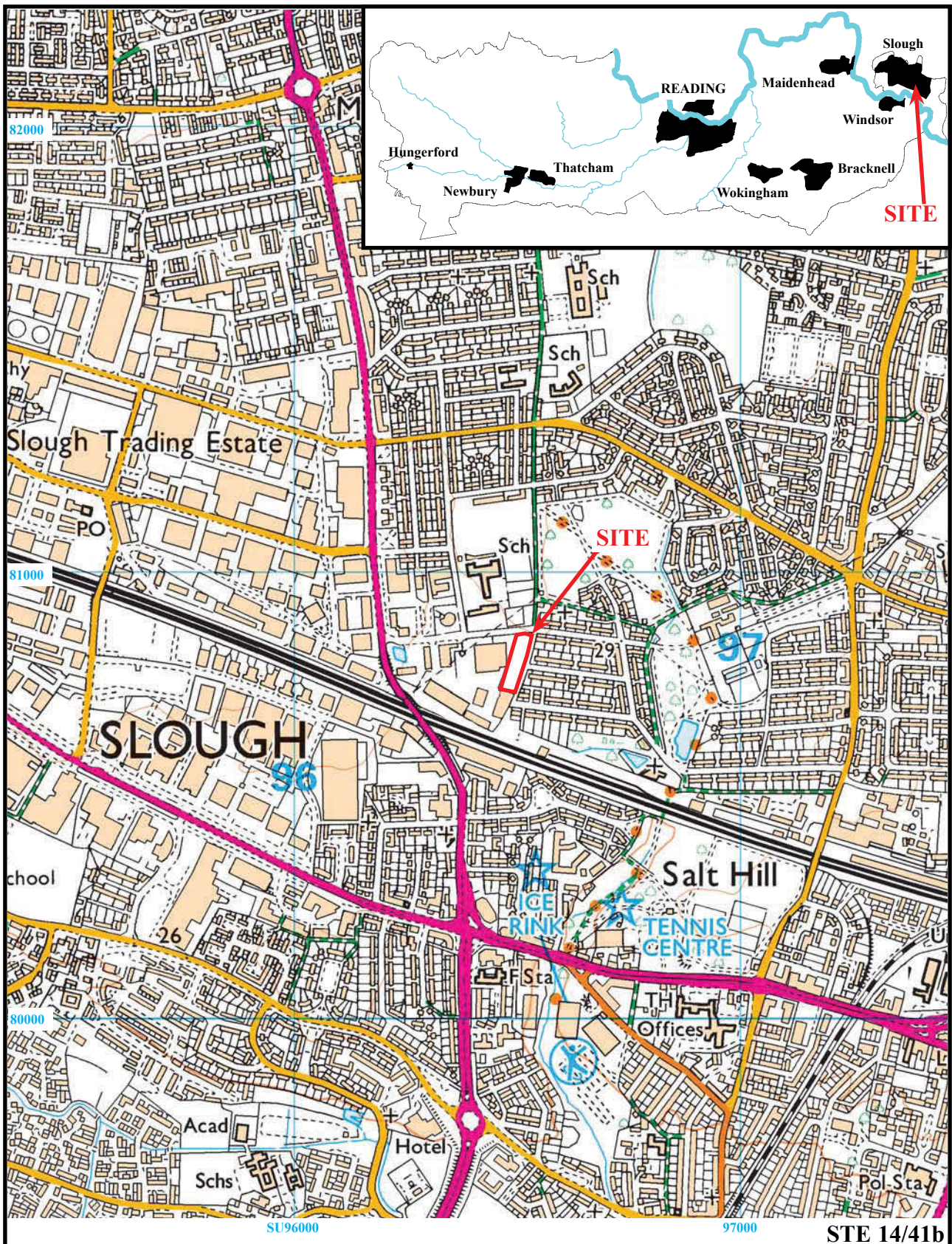
All finds encountered were modern and of no archaeological interest.

Conclusion

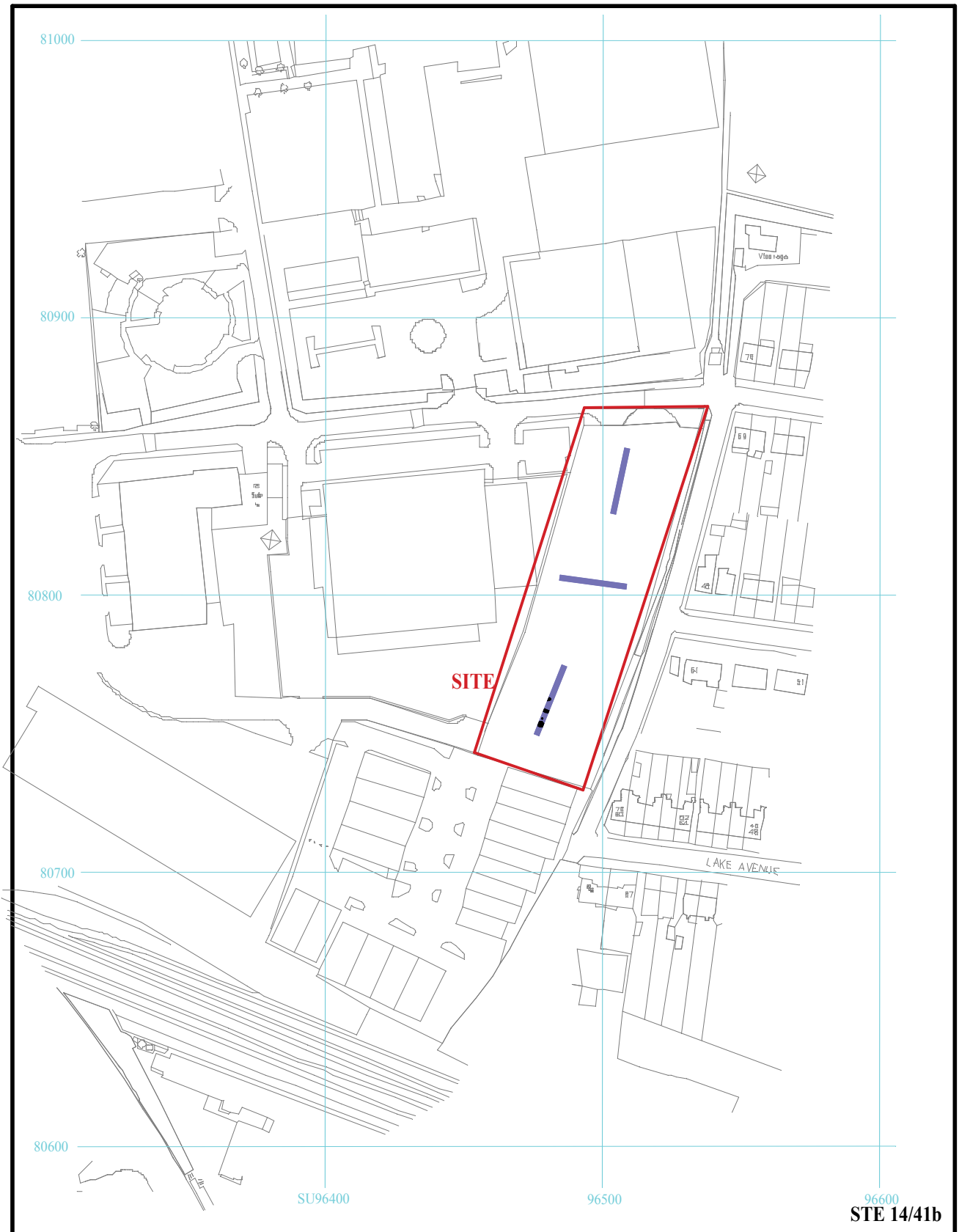
Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief. The central southern part of the site containing medieval features discovered by the evaluation trenching was not stripped of overburden to expose the archaeologically relevant horizon and those deposits will be preserved in-situ.

References

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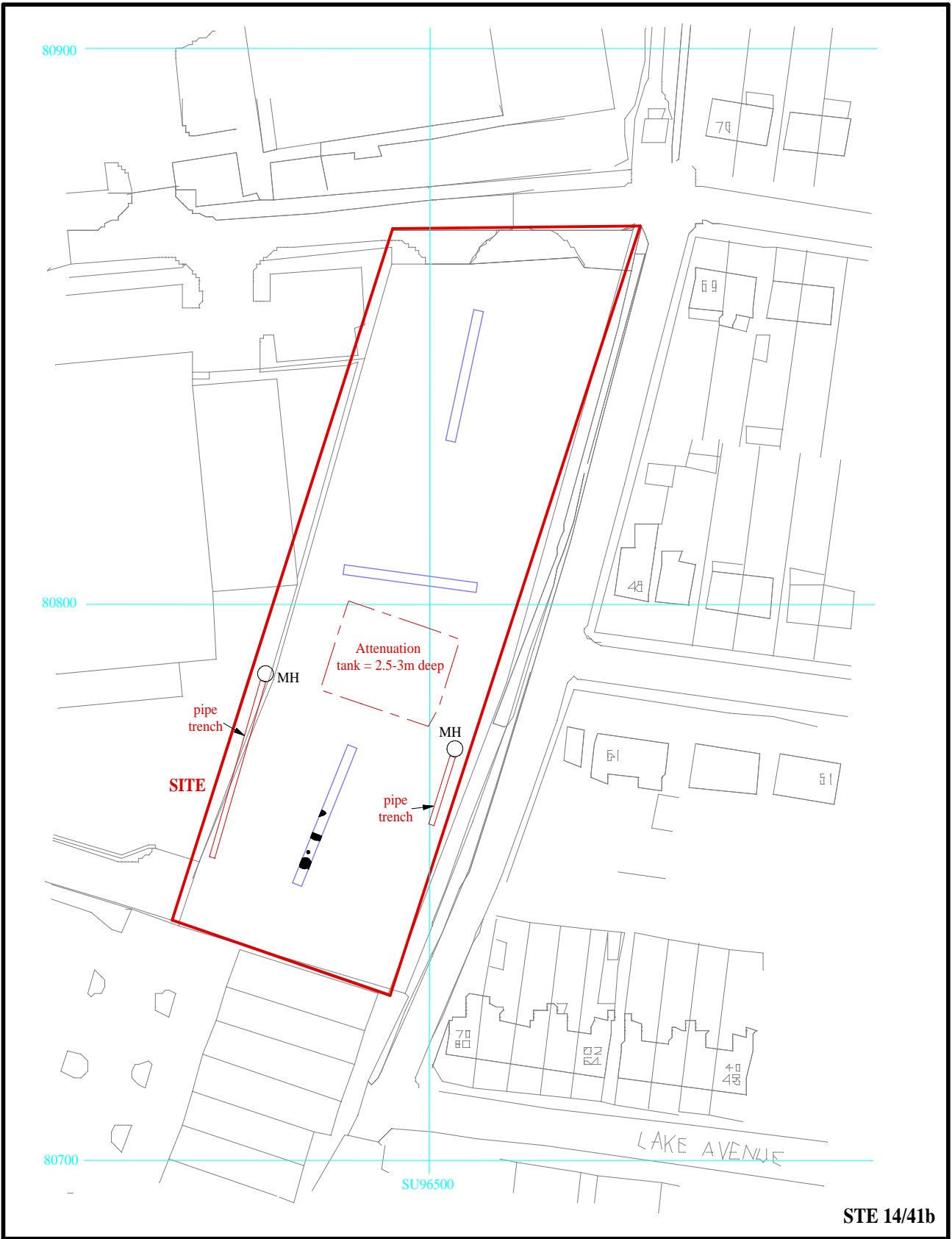
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Figure 2. Location of site and previous evaluation.

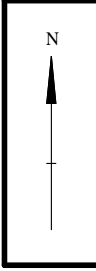


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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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SW

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Overburden (Brick rubble and concrete)

Concrete rubble

Brown yellow sand (levelling layer)

Pinkish grey silt and stones (hoggin ballast)

Dark grey silty clay (made ground)

Grey brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal fleck (made ground)

Red-brown silt brick earth

Red-brown gravel and sand natural

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Figure 4. Representative Pipe Trench Section



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Plate 1. Reduction for the attenuation tank, central area, looking S, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Reduction for the attenuation trench central area, looking SE, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 3. Pipe trench, western boundary, looking SW.



Plate 4. Pipe trench, western boundary, representative section, Scales: 1m x2.

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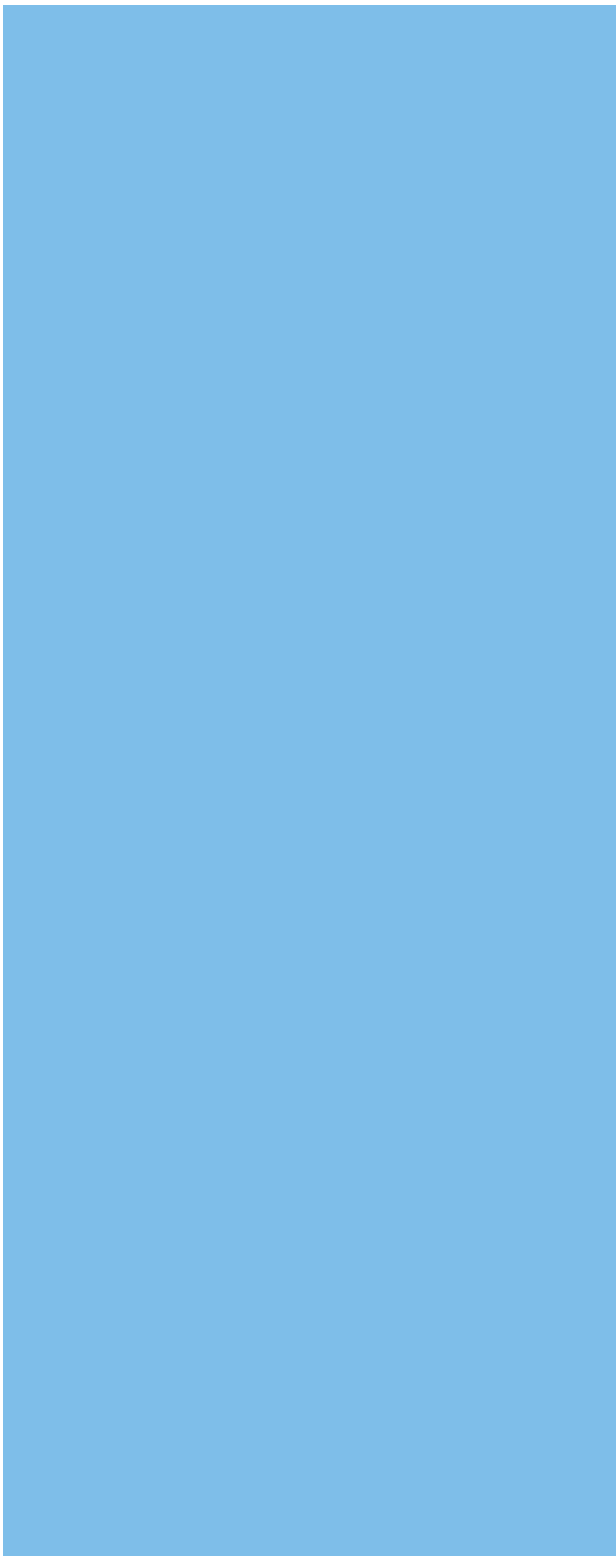
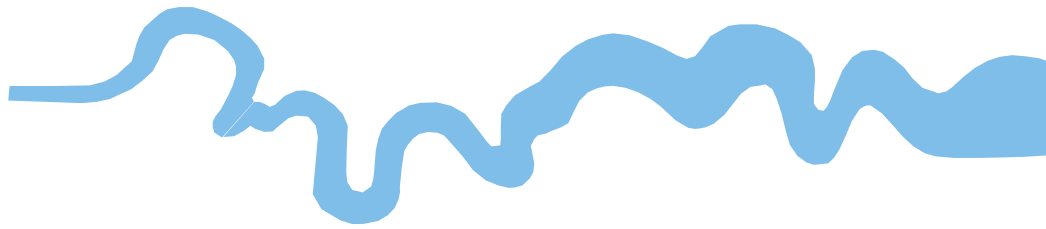
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Plates 1 - 4.**

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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 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)***