

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**95 Straight Road, Old Windsor,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: SROW19/17

(SU 9904 7396)

**95 Straight Road, Old Windsor,
Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Aquinna Homes

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SROW 19/17

September 2019

Summary

Site name: 95 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9904 7396

Site activity: Watching Brief

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

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Will Attard, Anne-Michelle Huvig, Danielle Milbank and Andy Taylor

Site code: SROW 19/17

Area of site: 0.5 hectares

Summary of results: The watching brief monitored areas of ground reduction for access and garden areas and also inspected photographs provided by the client of open foundation trenches. No deposits nor finds of any 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 a local museum willing to accept archive material in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.09.19 Steve Preston ✓ 27.09.19

95 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 19/17

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 95 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9904 7396) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Strange, for Aquinna Homes, 17 London End, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2HN.

Planning permission (app no. 15/03843) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of 11 new houses on the site following demolition of the existing buildings. The consent is subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. An evaluation on the site was only partially completed but had revealed mainly modern disturbance. However, it also revealed some undated features. As such a watching brief was required in order to clarify if the latter were of archaeological significance or further deposits were present.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matthew Saywood, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard, Anne-Michelle Huvig, Danielle Milbank and Andy Taylor between 5th June and 18th July 2019 and the site code is SROW 19/17. 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

Old Windsor is located on the east bank of the River Thames, downstream from Windsor. The site is located to the south-east of the centre of Old Windsor (Fig. 1) and covers an area of *c.* 0.5hectares. It lies on flat ground is currently used as a car valeting garage and before that was the location of a public house, which was to be demolished as part of the development. The site lies at a height of *c.*20m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as flood-plain gravel (BGS 1981), which was observed across the site.

Archaeological background

The general 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 for the area (Ford 1987, Gates 1975). Of more specific interest to this site is the presence of the late Saxon palace complex of Edward the Confessor to the north of the site which is a Scheduled Monument, although significant excavations there in the 1950s sadly remain unpublished (Preston 2005). A few Roman finds are recorded just to the north of the site.

Evaluation trenching of the site itself (Hargreaves 2019) revealed limited disturbance from modern services and construction and a moderate number of undated features.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This would involve the monitoring of foundation trench digging and other intrusive activity such as service trenches and removal of overburden. Areas of ground reduction (for roads and gardens) were to be monitored and dug by a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

Results

Garden Areas

The areas of ground reduction monitored for gardens of plots 1-3 (Pl. 1) were graded down c.0.30m with the stratigraphy observed consisting of 0.10m of brick rubble made ground overlying subsoil containing fragments of modern brick and tile. Gardens for plots 4 and 5 were reduced to the same depth but did not penetrate below modern made ground.

Drainage

A drainage trench was monitored that ran from the site entrance (Pl. 2), across plots 4 and 5 and into existing pipes. This trench was dug to a depth of c. 1m and consisted of 0.25m of concrete rubble made ground overlying 0.25m of subsoil containing brick and tile fragments overlying gravel and clay natural geology.

Foundation trenches

Foundation trenches for the new houses had been dug prior to the start of the watching brief and were not monitored. However, photographs of the open trenches were available for inspection but did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Pls 3 and 4).

Finds

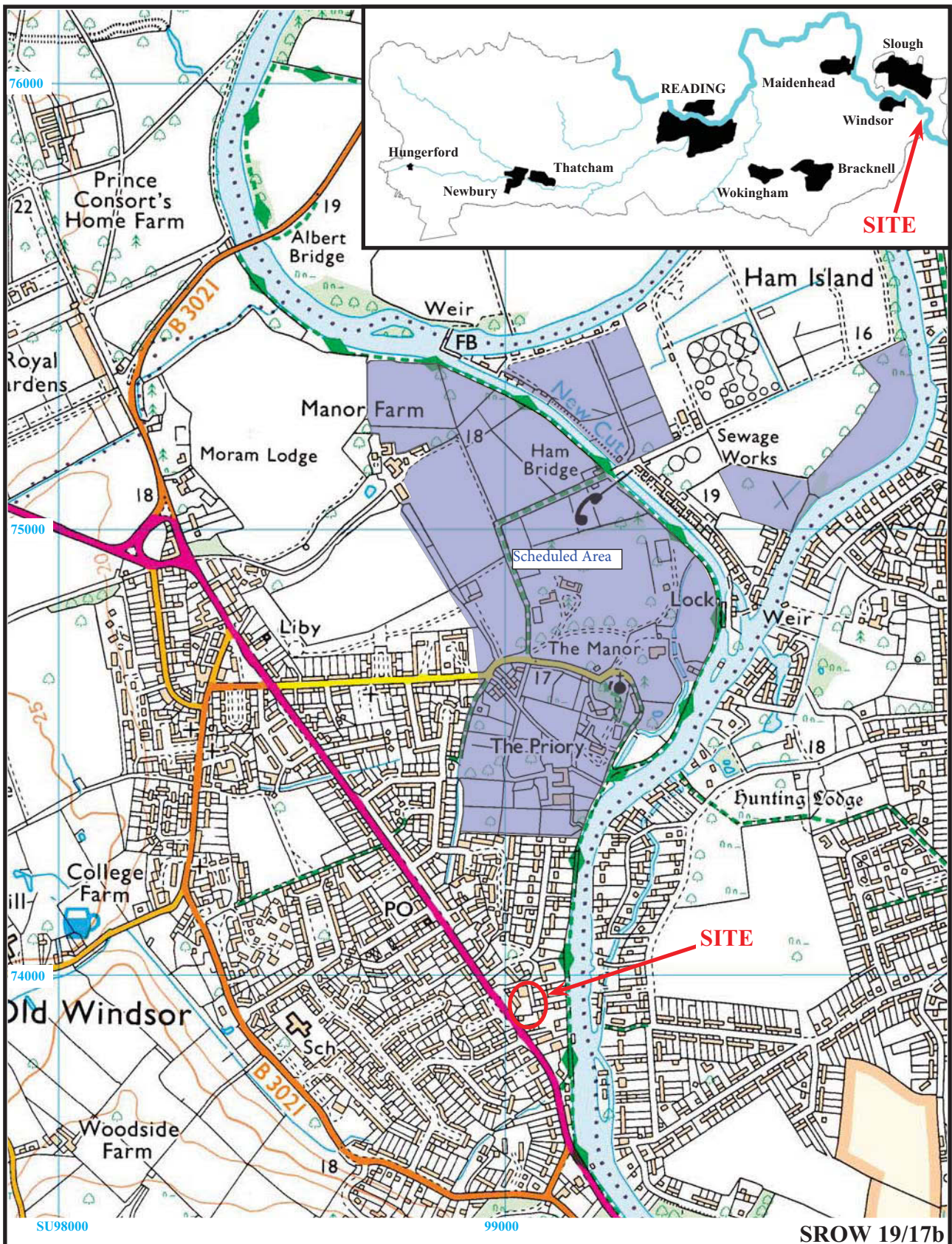
No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for archaeological features to be encountered, no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet **269**, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley. An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeology Comm Pubn **1**, Reading
- Hargreaves, J, 2019, '95 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, an Archaeological Evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **19/17**, Reading
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
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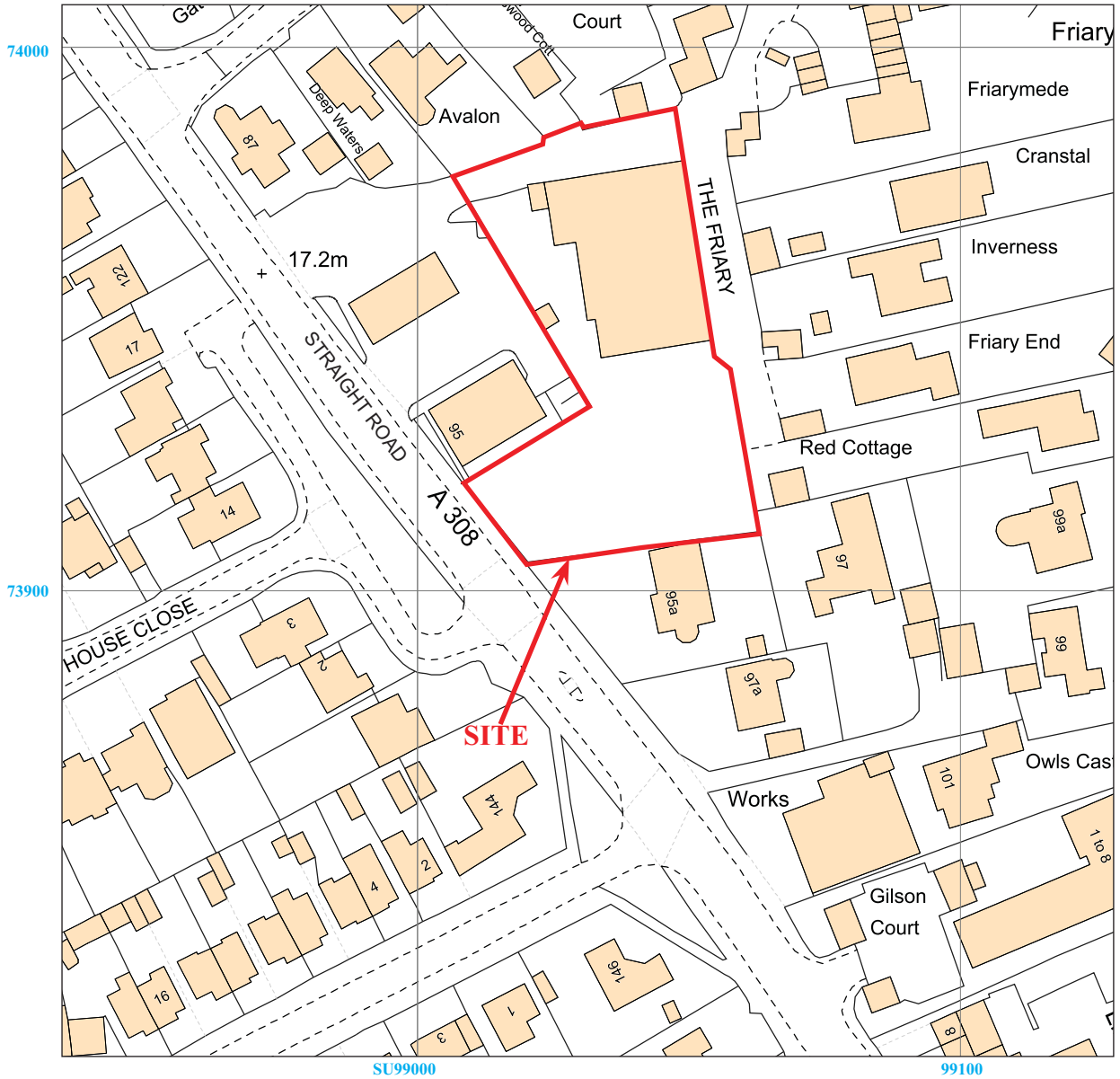
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Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor and Berkshire.

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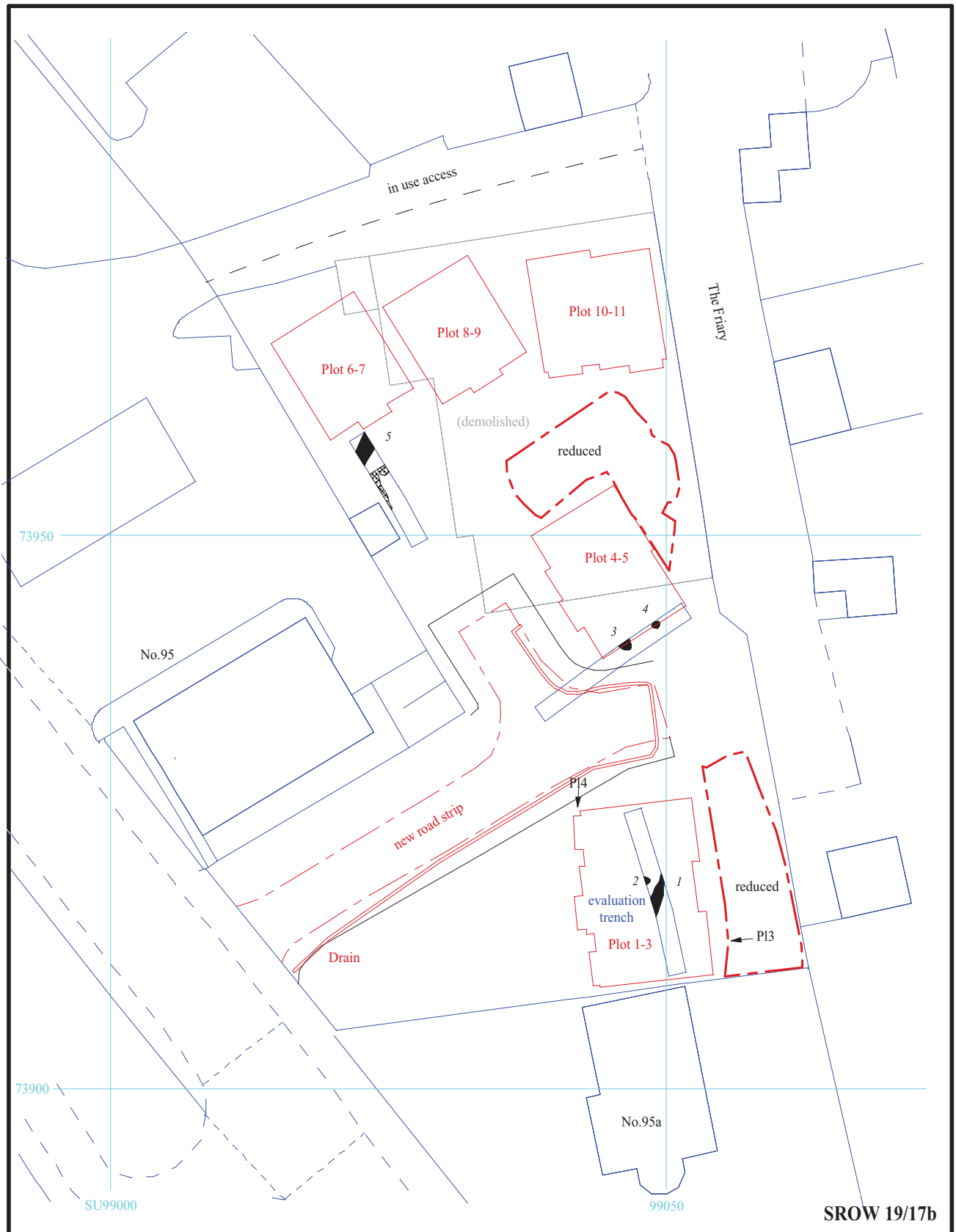
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Berkshire, 2019**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Straight Road (A308).

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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas and previous evaluation trenches.





Plate 1. Ground reduction for Plots 1-3 gardens, looking N, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Drainage Trench, looking NW, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

SROW 19/17

**95 Straight Road. Old Windsor,
Berkshire, 2019**
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Plot 3 foundation trench looking west (from client).



Plate 4. Plot 3 foundation trench looking south (from client).

SROW 19/17

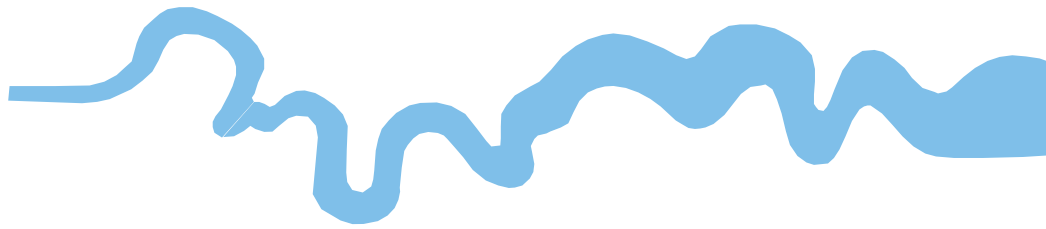
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 3 and 4.**

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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





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