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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**68 Aldebury Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Cosmo Bacon and Maisie Foster

Site Code: ARM19/71

(SU 8877 8276)

**68 Aldebury Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Russell Wilson

By Cosmo Bacon and Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ARM 19/71

February 2020

Summary

Site name: 68 Aldebury Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8877 8276

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 16th - 18th November 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Cosmo Bacon

Site code: ARM 19/71

Summary of results: Trenching for foundations and a drainage splay ahead of the construction of a new extension was archaeologically monitored. No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or ADS.

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

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68 Aldebury Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 19/71

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 68 Aldebury Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7HJ (SU 8877 8276) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Russell Wilson of the above address.

Planning permission (ref. 19/00136/FULL) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of an extension to the existing house. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological remains by these works, the consent is subject to condition (3) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matt Saywood Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisor to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Cosmo Bacon between 16th and 18th October and the site code is ARM 19/71.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or Archaeology Data Service.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 1.5km north of the centre of Maidenhead, on the eastern side of Aldebury Road. The site is to the rear of the property lying at a height of *c.*25m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is mapped as Taplow Gravel member (BGS 2005). This was observed in trenches where natural geology was reached.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr Matt Saywood of Berkshire Archaeology (Saywood 2019). In summary, the archaeological potential for the site has been centred on the extant earthworks just east of the properties on Aldebury Road. These comprised a central

platform that was surrounded by three moats. Excavations in the 1960s recorded two wells, a masonry building and other ancillary buildings. Pottery from the site suggests occupation from the 11th to 16th centuries. One opinion suggests that this site is the remains of a manor house forming part of *Elintone*, recorded in the Domesday Book 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002), but *Elintone* is also suggested as the forerunner of the town of Maidenhead which lies some distance to the south (Astill 1978).

The earthworks of the moated complex are thought to extend into the application site and the new extension has the potential to encounter buried remains associated with the moat. However, a watching brief on another Aldebury Road site to the north found no deposits of an archaeological interest (Lewins 2015).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. In particular monitoring for any surviving deposits related to the manor house of Spencers Farm. This would involve the monitoring of areas of intrusive groundworks and the excavation of foundation and service trenches. Any other deeply invasive groundworks would be monitored as necessary. All trenching and ground level reduction was undertaken with a small 360° type excavator fitted with a 0.45m or 0.9m wide bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoilheaps were monitored frequently for archaeological materials.

Results

Footings Trench

An U-shaped footing trench was excavated along the rear of the property (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 1 and 2). Extending from the south eastern corner of the property and turning to finish at the rear of the garage. This trench measured between 0.75m wide and between 9.15m (eastern trench) and 9.50m (western trench) in length along its external edge. The trench was dug to an average depth of c. 1.53m. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.10m of topsoil, overlying 1m of brick rubble made ground with several service trenches, overlying a c. 0.3m deposit of a sterile brown loam (natural geology). Below this was a light yellow gravel. The brown loam was not present along all of the foundation trench and seemed to have been truncated in places.

Soakaway

A soakaway located 9.8m from the outside wall of the property measured 1.5 x 1.5m and was dug to a maximum depth of 1.54m (Pl. 3). The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.2m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of brick rubble made ground, overlying 0.80m of mid yellowish orange loam (natural geology). This overlies a mid yellow orange clayey silt below c. 1.3m.

Finds

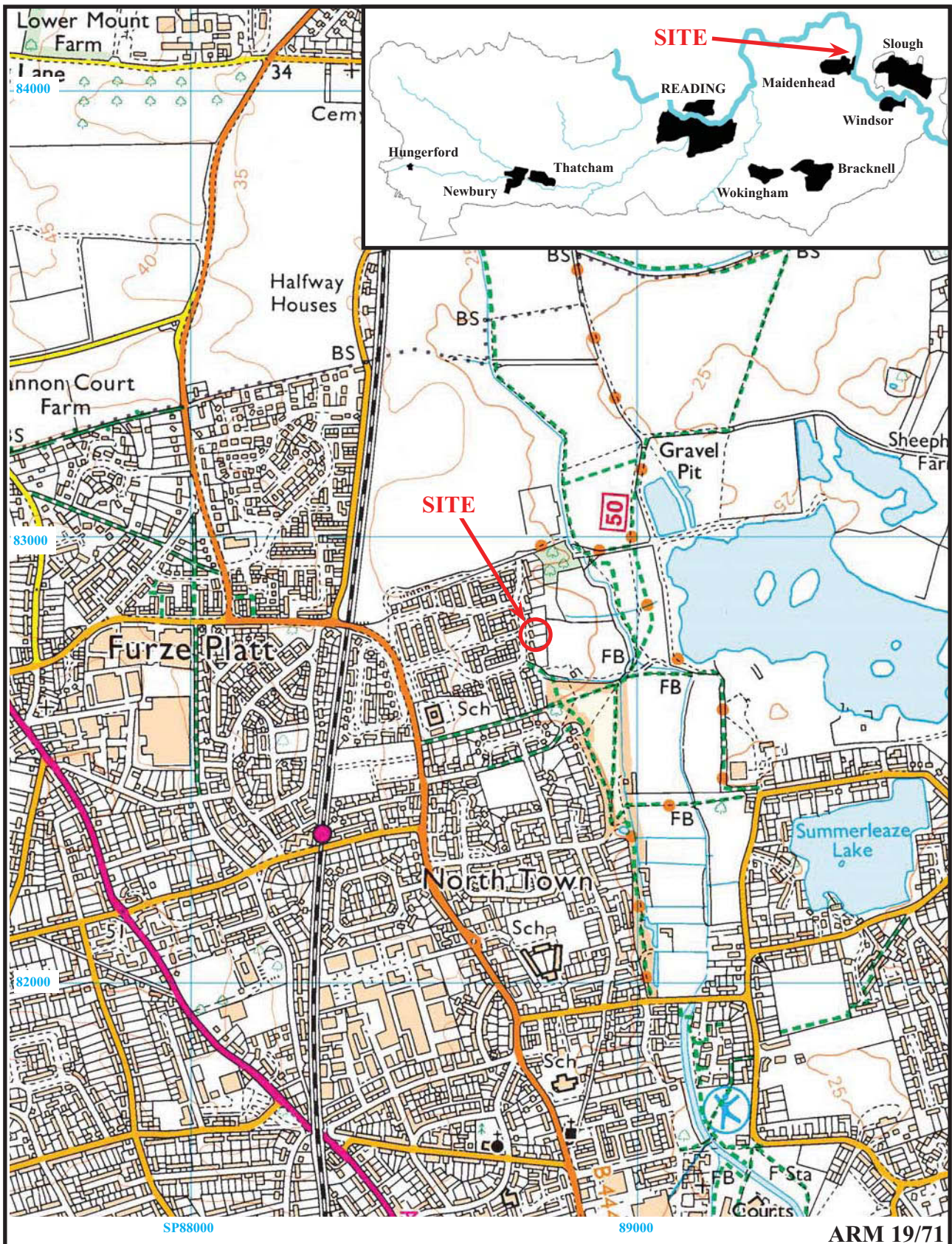
All artefacts observed were modern and of no-archaeological interest. They were not retained.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological remains to be present on this site, no deposits nor finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

References

- Astill, G G, 1978, *Historic towns in Berkshire; an archaeological appraisal*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ 2 Reading
- BGS, 2005, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 255, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Lewins, L, 2015, 72 Aldebury Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief. Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 15/167, Reading
- NPPF 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Doomsday Book, a complete translation*, London



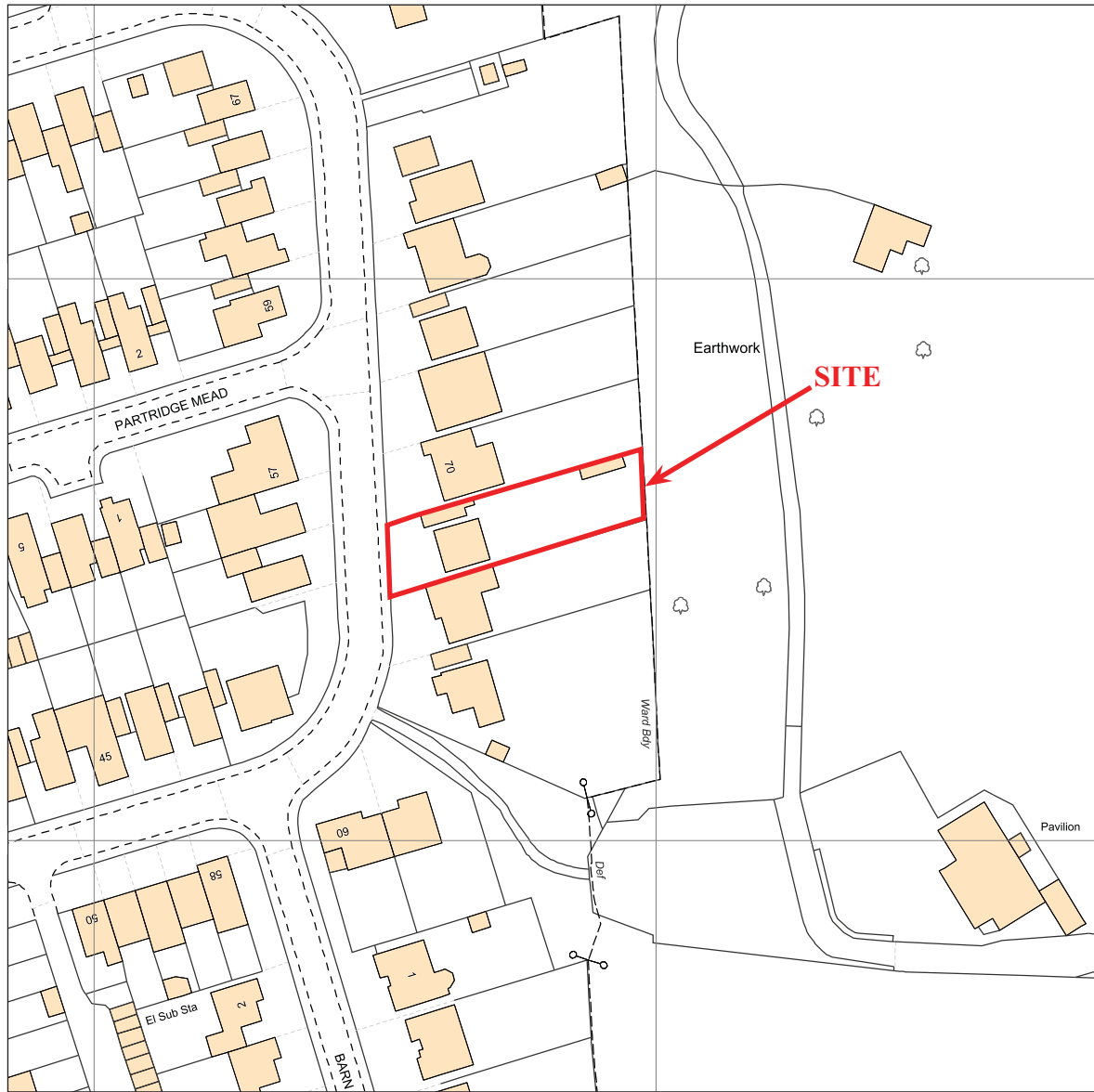
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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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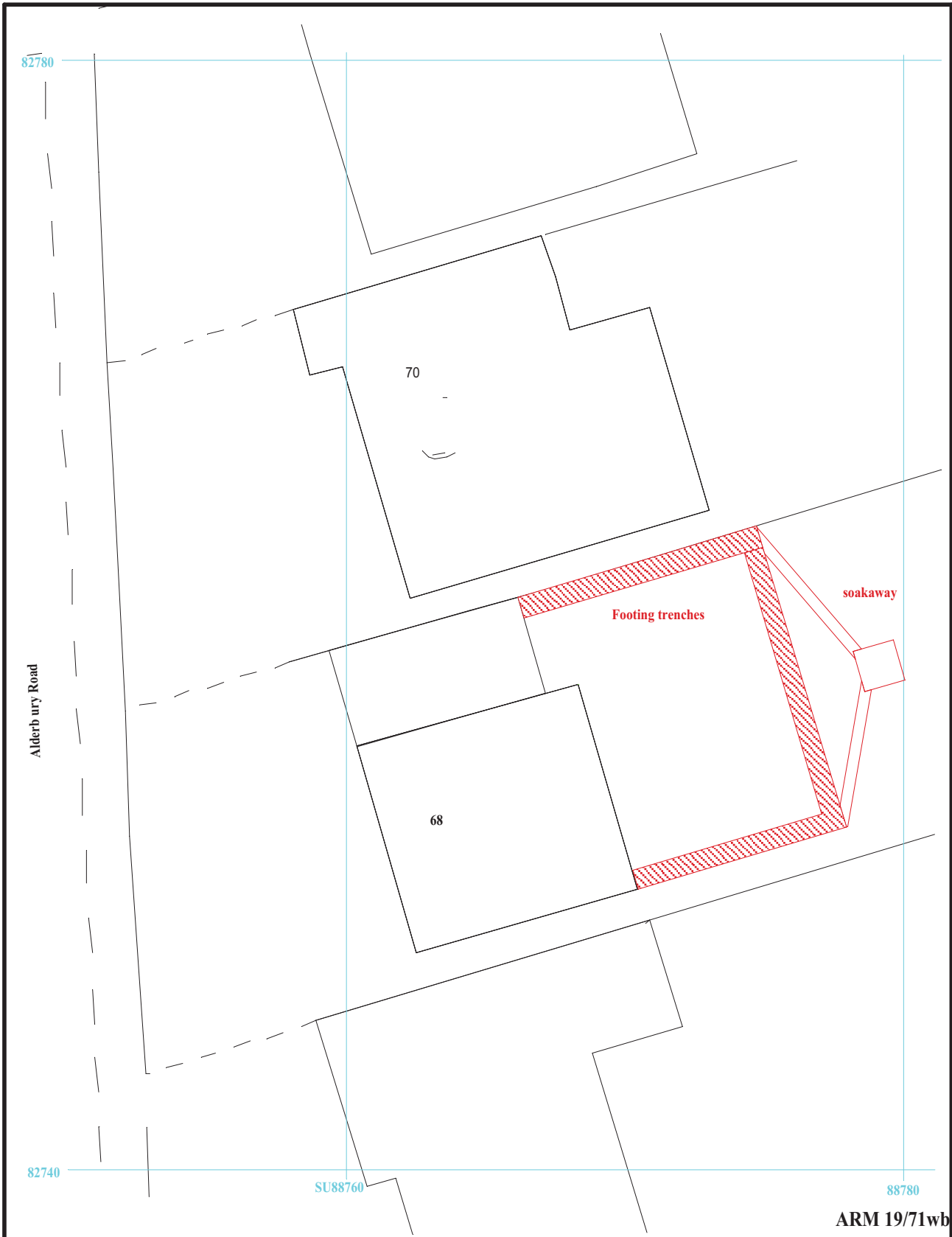
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Maidenhead and
Berkshire.

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Figure 3. Location of areas observed



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Foundation trench

Turf/topsoil

Made ground (brick rubble/soil, etc)

mid yellow/orange loam (natural geology)

yellow/brown gravel (natural geology)

Base of trench

Soakaway

Turf/topsoil

Made ground (brick rubble/soil, etc)

mid yellow/orange loam (natural geology)

yellow/orange clayey silt (natural geology)

Base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative sections



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Plate 1. Footing, looking North



Plate 2. Footing, Section facing South

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**68 Alderbury Road
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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Plate 3. Soakaway, looking West



Plate 4. General view of site, looking North West

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Plates 3 and 4.

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