

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Wokingham, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Site Code: MMC21/07
(SU 7710 7630)**

**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue, Charvil,
Wokingham, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Mr and Mrs Chapman**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MMC 21/07

February 2021

Summary

Site name: Malabarn, Milestone Avenue, Charvil, Wokingham

Grid reference: SU 77098 76297

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th–11th February 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Anne-Michelle Huvig & Jamie Williams

Site code: MMC 21/07

Area of site: 200 sq m

Summary of results: The excavations of the footings of a house extension and the footprint of a new garage were monitored. No archaeological features nor finds were discovered.

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 repository decided by the local planning authority.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 01.03.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 01.03.21

Malabarn, Milestone Avenue, Charvil, Wokingham, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

Report 21/07

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Malabarn, Milestone Avenue, Charvil, Wokingham, Berkshire RG10 9TN (centred on SU 77098 76297) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Neil Chapman, of the above address.

Planning application (202063) was approved by Wokingham Borough Council for the erection of a two storey front and rear extension and a double garage. This is subject to a condition (No. 7) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, as advised by Mr Roland Smith, archaeological officer at Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser for the borough.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig and Jamie Williams between 5th and 11th February 2021 and the site code is MMC 21/07.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the east side of Milestone Avenue in Charvil, which lies between Reading and Maidenhead in north-eastern Berkshire (Fig. 1). This is a residential area (Fig. 2). The area in which the groundworks took place was mostly used as a garden with an existing garage, to be demolished and replaced. This is a flat area, at 40m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The geology as recorded on maps (BGS 2000) is Taplow Gravel, a river terrace deposit.

Archaeological background

Opposite the site, there is a Scheduled Monument (SM 1006964), consisting of a field with an extensive cropmark complex, amidst which a rectangular enclosure and an inner circle are visible (Slade 1964). Other cropmarks are noted to the south-west, some also protected as Scheduled Monument (SM 1006963), but which have been little investigated. About 500m to the south-west other enclosures, a ring ditch and a ‘*cursus*’ monument are known and have been recorded in a geophysical survey in Straightthanger Field (Dawson 2012). According to the Historic Environment Record, isolated finds of Neolithic/Bronze Age flints are also recorded in the vicinity.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to record and excavate any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks associated with the demolition and removal of existing structures, as well as those for the new development. This was expected to involve monitoring of grubbing out of existing foundations, foundation trench digging and other intrusive groundworks such as the excavation of service trenches and overburden removal. The work was to follow the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and the recommendations of Berkshire Archaeology’s standard guidance.

Results (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1-2)

The planned groundworks were successfully monitored as intended. Excavation of the footings was by a 360° tracked excavator, equipped with a 0.60m wide toothless bucket and was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision.

The deepest deposit encountered was a patchy orange brown and yellow sand matching the geological records (Taplow gravel). It was directly overlain by a soft dark brownish grey silty loam under turf. In places, due to the previous garage and terrace, some overburden was visible. Overall the topsoil was about 0.20-0.30m thick.

The trenches dug were 0.60m wide and up to 1m deep. A limited ground reduction was done over the footprint of the rear extension. Some old services were encountered in the foundation trenches. No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

The footprint of the new building within the outline of the footing trenches was reduced by 0.35m-0.40m. This did not reach natural geology and nothing of archaeological interest was observed.

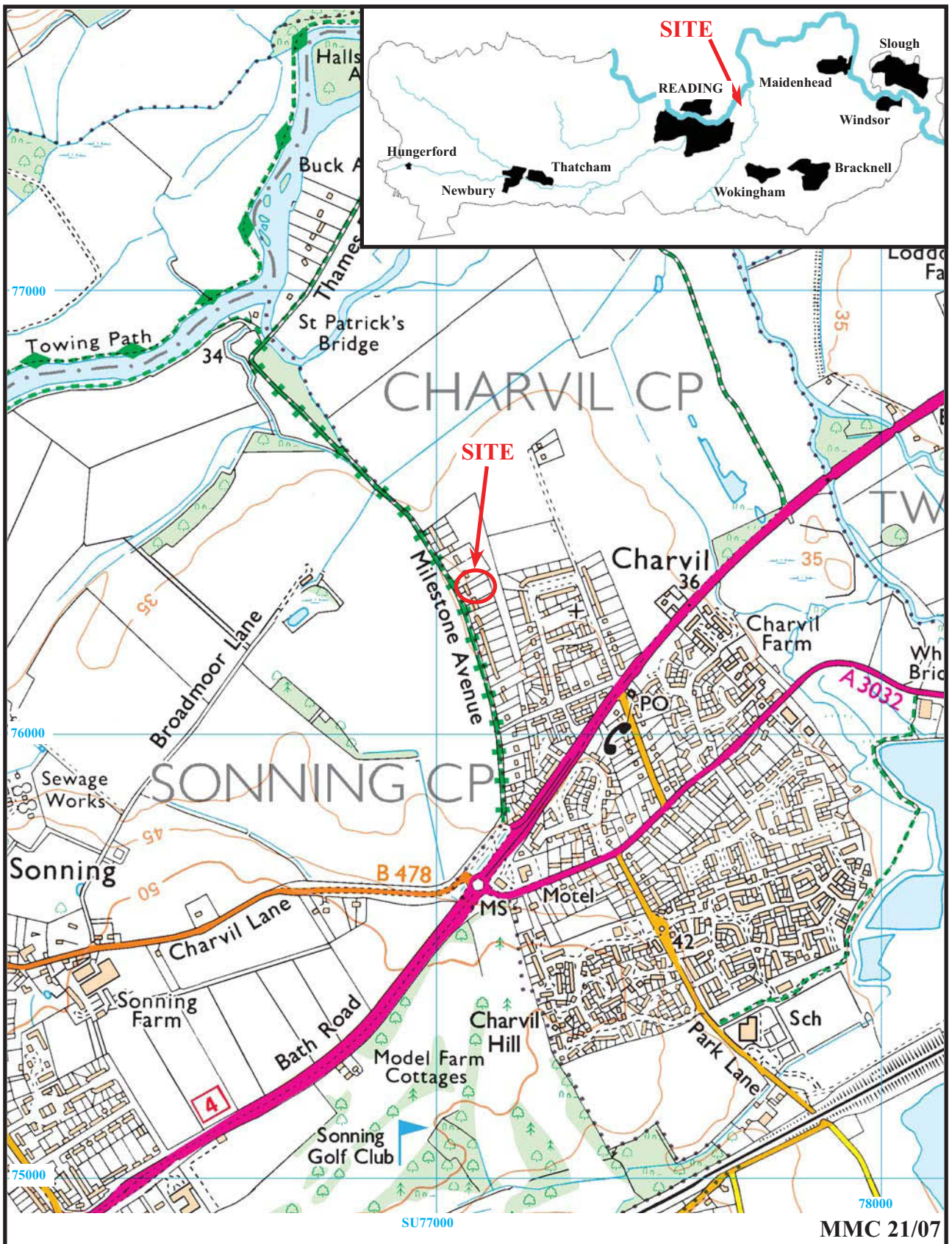
Footing trenches 0.70m in width and 1m in depth for the new garage were dug. Observed stratigraphy in the south of the trench consisted of 0.18m of topsoil, above 0.57m of red-brown silty sand subsoil overlying red-brown sandy gravel natural geology. In the north the stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil, 0.20m of mid red brown silt sand subsoil overlying natural gravel. No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

Conclusion

No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were discovered during the watching brief at Malabarn.

References

- BGS, 2000, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIFA 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- Dawson, T, 2012, 'Straighthanger Field, Sonning, Berkshire: A geophysical survey (magnetic)', Thames Valley Archaeological Services, unpublished report 12/6, Reading
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework* (revised), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London
- Slade, C F, 1964, 'A late Neolithic site at Sonning, Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **61**, 4–19

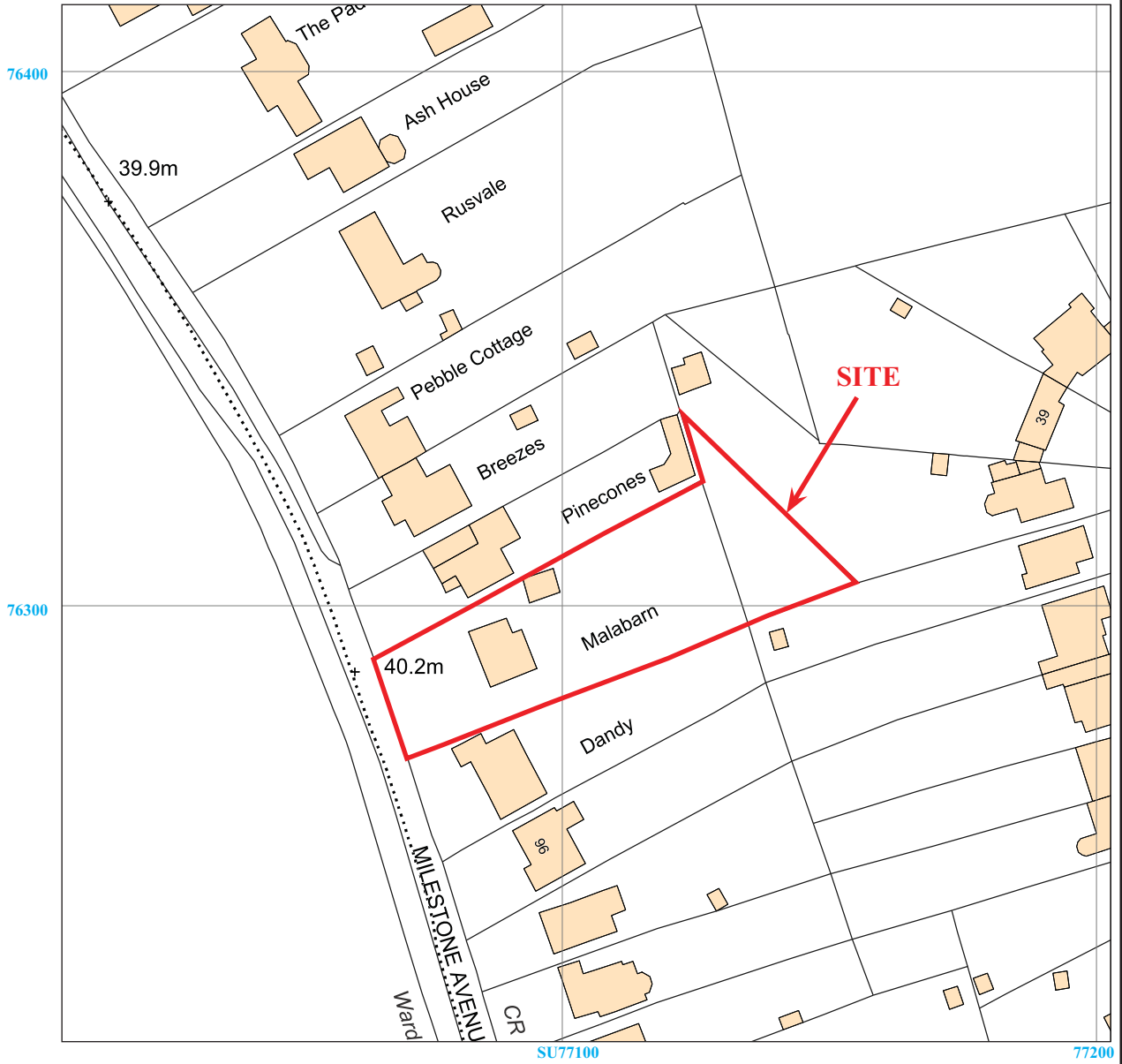


**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Charvil and Berkshire.

Reproduced under licence from Ordnance Survey Explorer Digital mapping at 1:12500
Crown Copyright reserved

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



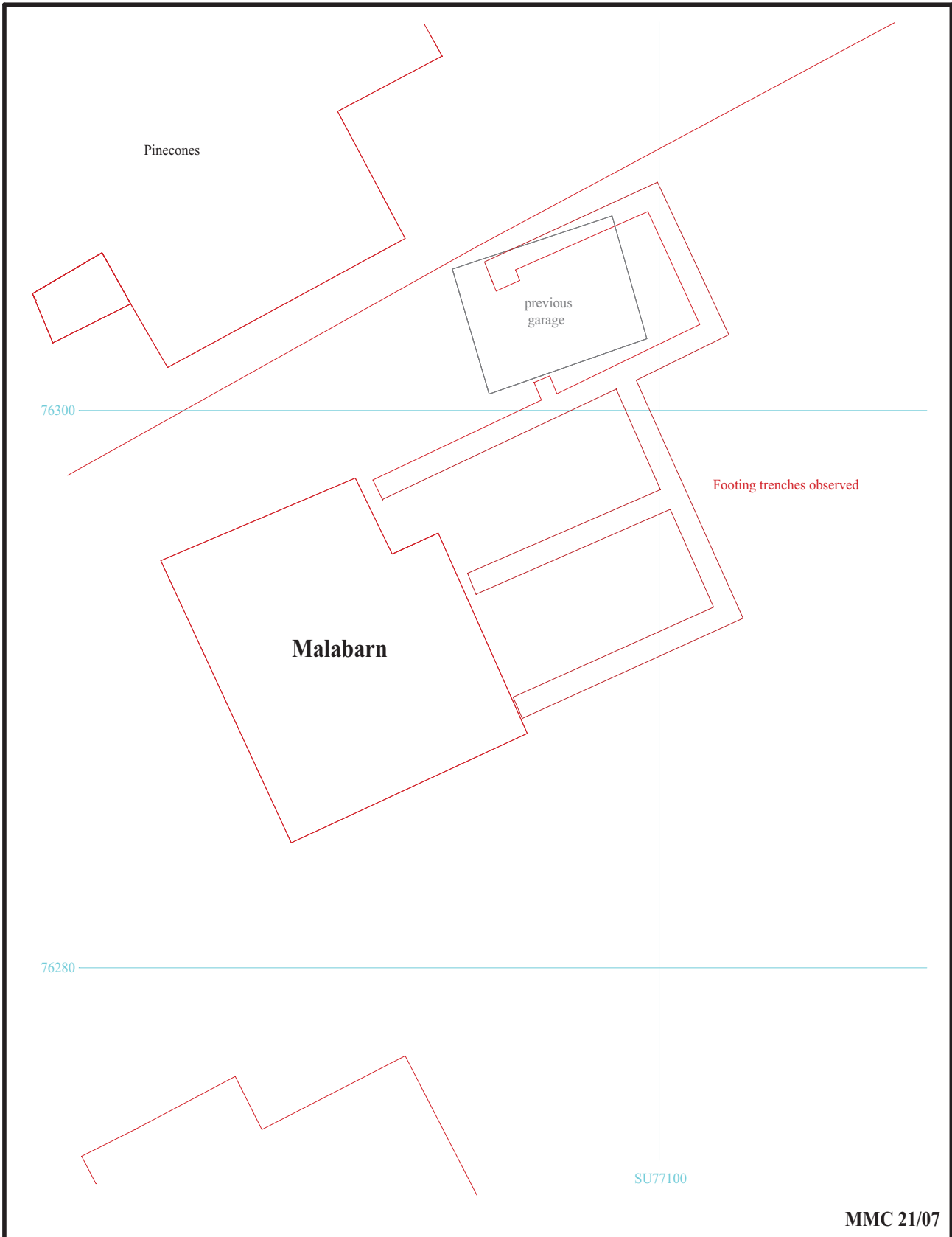
MMC 21/07



**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Milestone Avenue.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



MMC 21/07

**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Observed areas.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

NW

SE

40.11maOD

Topsoil (Dark brown grey silt)

Orange brown yellow patchy silt and yellow sand

MMC 21/07

**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. General view, looking South West, Scales: 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking South East, Scales: 1m.

MMC 21/07

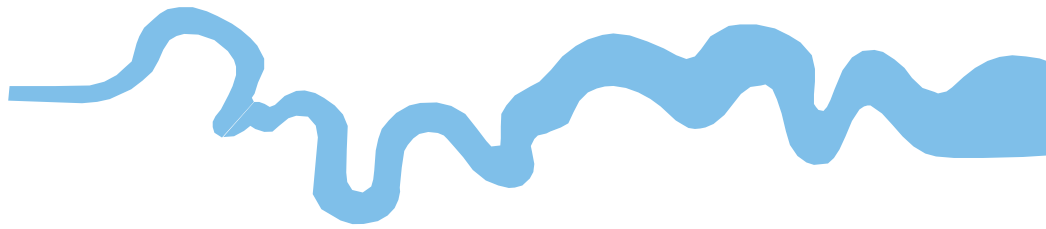
**Malabarn, Milestone Avenue,
Charvil, Berkshire, 2021
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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)***