

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Heywood Farm, Waltham Road,  
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by David Sánchez**

**Site Code: HFM21/29**

**(SU 8652 7806)**

# **Heywood Farm, Waltham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr. and Mrs. Mueller**

by David Sánchez

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HFM 21/29

**June 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** Heywood Farm, Waltham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

**Grid reference:** SU 8652 7806

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 26th May 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** David Sánchez

**Site code:** HFM 21/29

**Summary of results:** Footing trenches for the extension of the existing listed building were monitored during the course of the watching brief. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds were recovered.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 10.06.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 09.06.21

# Heywood Farm, Waltham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief

by David Sánchez

Report 21/29

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Heywood Farm, Waltham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8652 7806) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Mueller, Heywood Farm, Waltham Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3LL.

Planning permission (ref. 20/01466) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of new extensions to the existing building (Fig. 2). The consent is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology which requires that a watching brief be carried out during groundworks. 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 of Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Sánchez, on 26th May 2021 and the site code is HFM 21/29.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south-east of the village of Woodlands Park and the White Waltham Airfield, just beyond the south-west margins of Maidenhead. The site itself lies at the end of Heywood Farm Barns Lane with agricultural fields to the east, south and west and the former barn buildings to the north (Fig. 2). The area subject to development comprises the eastern side of the property, immediately behind the existing building on an area currently used as garden. It lies at a height of *c.* 27m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is recorded as Upper Chalk with Reading Beds (Clay) to the east. The geology uncovered in the footing trenches consisted of mid reddish brown silty clay.

## Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr Matt Saywood of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, Heywood Farm is a listed building group thought to be 17th

century and documented on John Rocque's map of 1761 but in a different configuration (if Rocque's map can be trusted to such a detailed level) and may have earlier (Late Medieval) origins. Earlier elements of the farm complex might survive below ground. A Medieval moated site and fishponds lie further to the south east and the chalklands to the west are rich in prehistoric and Roman archaeology (Ford 1987; Dils and Yates 2012).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve monitoring of foundation trench digging and other intrusive groundworks such as the excavation of service trenches and overburden removal.

The potential and significance of any archaeological deposits located was to be assessed according to the research priorities such as set out in Historic England Research Agenda (HE 2017) or any more local or thematic research priorities such as identified in the Solent Thames Research Agenda (Hey and Hind 2014) as necessary.

## **Results**

The watching brief comprised the observation of the excavation of footing trenches for a new conservatory and extension to the existing listed building on its south-east corner (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The groundworks affected an area of approximately 10.5m by 4m with two footing trenches, the first from the eastern wall of the building towards the east with a length of 4m and the second trench from the eastern end the first trench towards the north with a length of 10.3m. Both trenches had a width of approximately 0.60m reaching a depth between 0.95m and 1m (Figs 3 and 4).

The stratigraphy observed in both trenches consisted of 0.12m of concrete slab, 0.23m of dark greyish brown clay silt with occasional small chalk and gravel inclusions (buried garden soil), above 0.25m of mid yellowish brown clay silty with frequent chalk and gravel inclusions (made ground), and between 0.20m and 0.25m of mixed made ground consisting of sand, silty clay and frequent modern brick and tile fragments with moderate chalk inclusions, overlying mid reddish brown silty clay natural geology (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). Frequent fragments of modern brick and tile were recorded in both made ground deposits along with two sherds of 'china' pottery from the bottom deposit. This stratigraphy was truncated by three service trenches, one in the southern footing trench and two in the eastern trench, all of them comprised live services of the existing building.

No other deposits were recorded during the excavation of the footing trenches and no features of archaeological interest were uncovered.

The groundworks associated with the extension of the building continued with ground reduction of the area encompassed by the new footing trenches and the building itself with a maximum depth between 0.35m and 0.40m, and therefore affecting only to the depth of the buried soil and upper made ground deposit, with the natural geology not uncovered in this area (Fig. 3).

## **Finds**

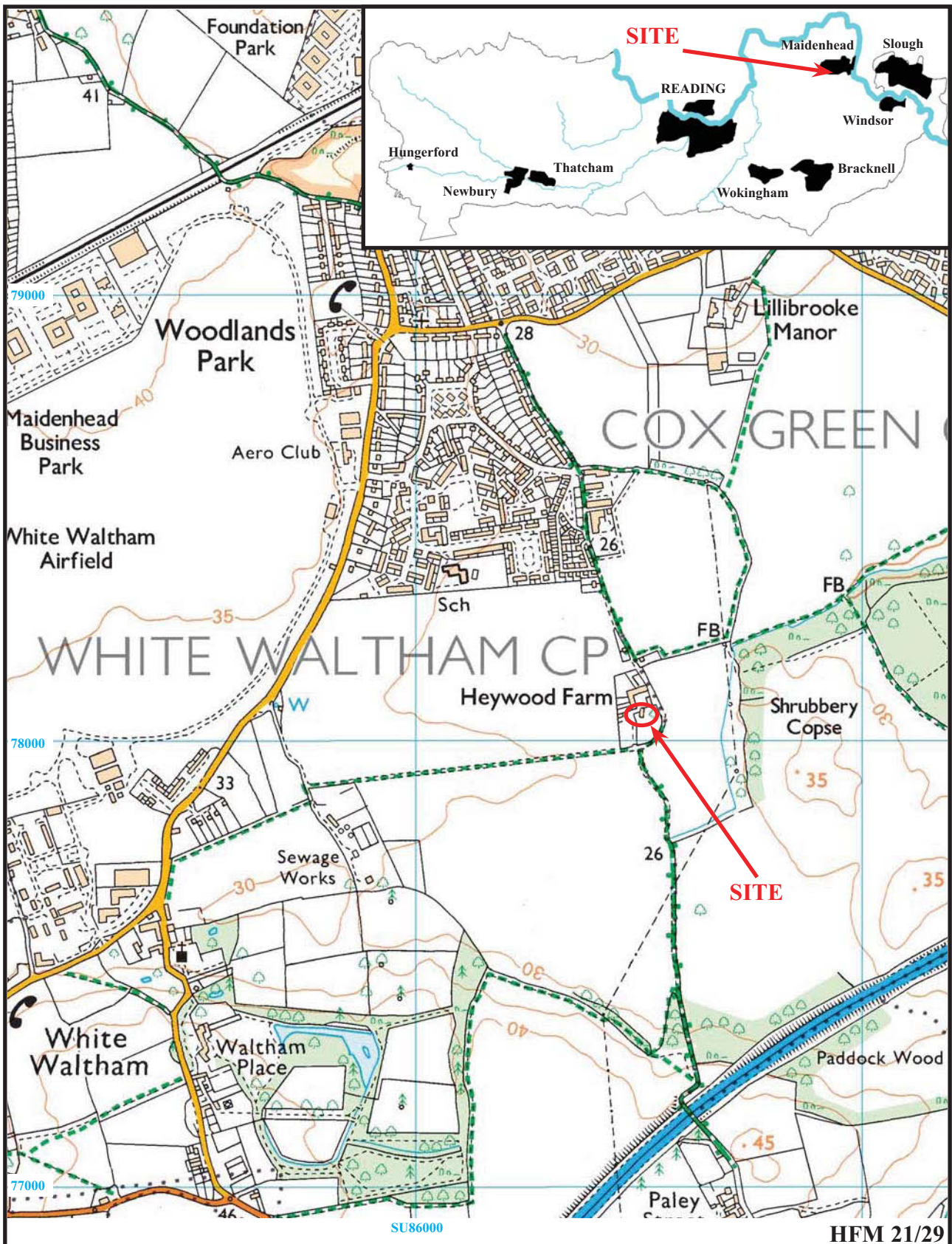
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the watching brief. During the excavation of the footing trenches modern brick and tile fragments were observed along with two sherds of modern 'china' pottery. These finds were recorded for dating purposes but retained on site.

## **Conclusion**

The archaeological watching brief at Heywood Farm revealed no deposits other than made ground deposits of modern date, most likely result of previous redevelopments of the site during the different extensions and modifications of the original building complex. These deposits directly overlay the natural clay and no features or finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

## **References**

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Dils, J and Yates, M, 2012, *An Historical Atlas of Berkshire*, Berkshire Record Society, Eynsham
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- HE, 2015, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, MoRPHE project planning*, Historic England, London
- HE 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
- NPPF, 2019, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

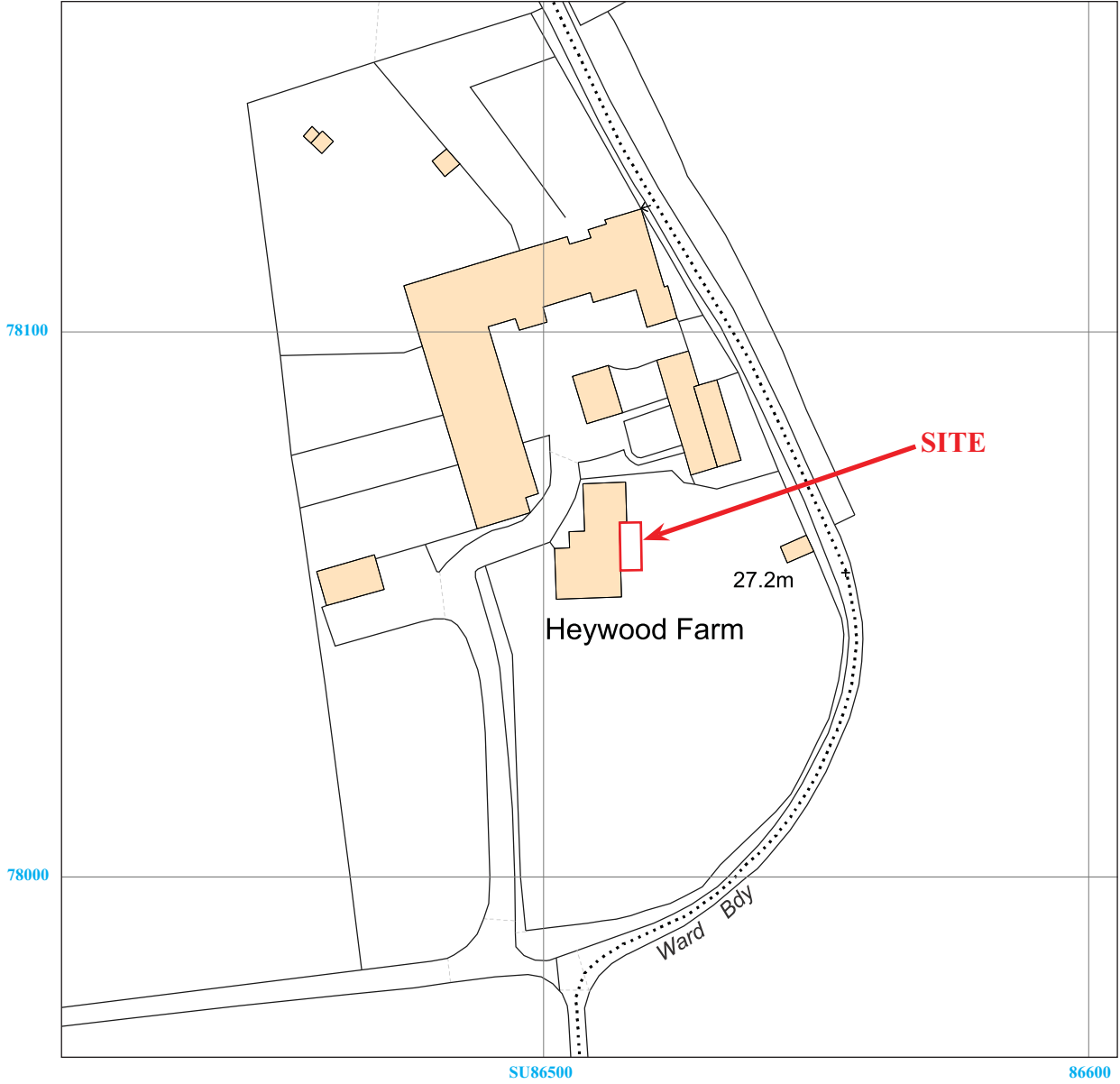


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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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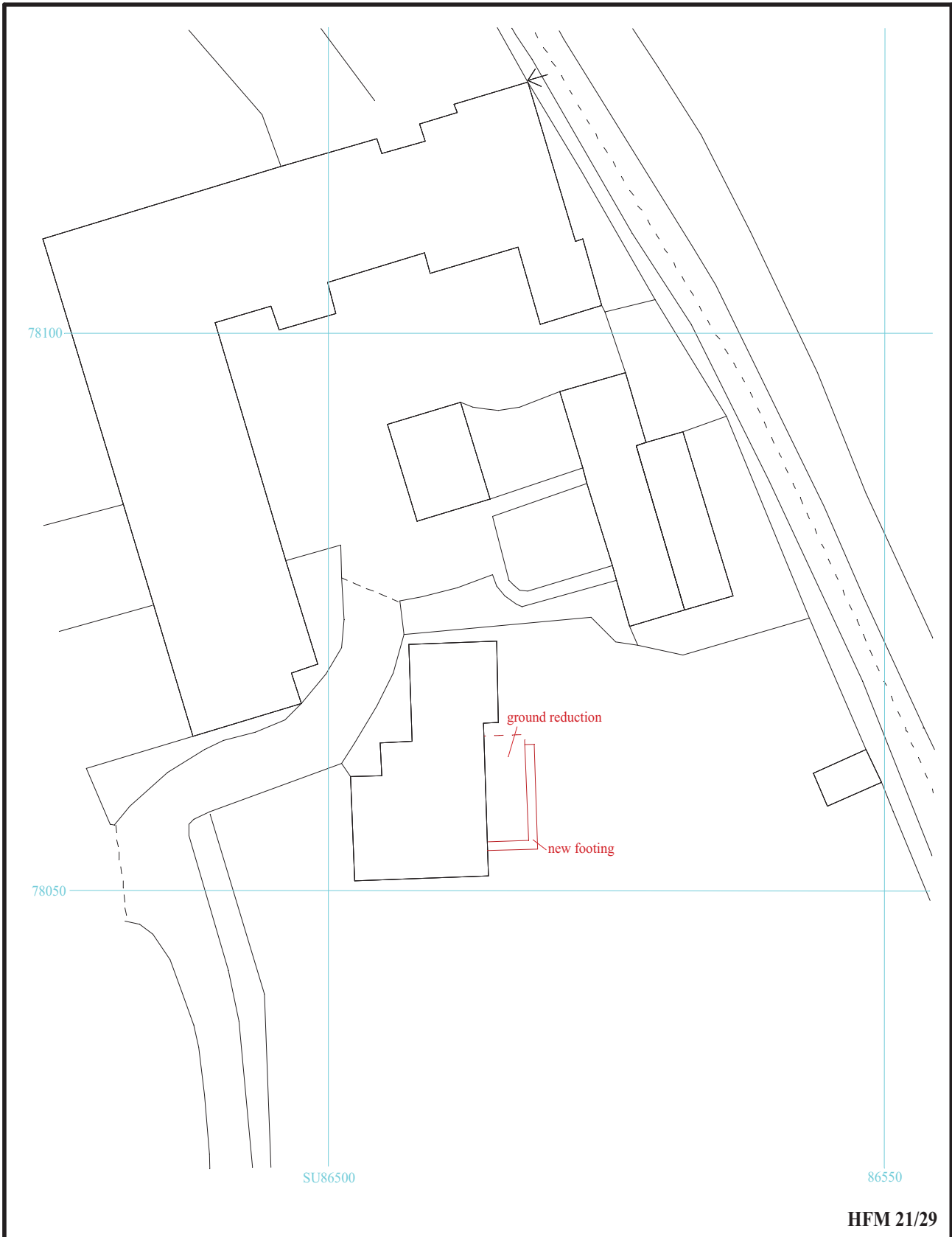


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



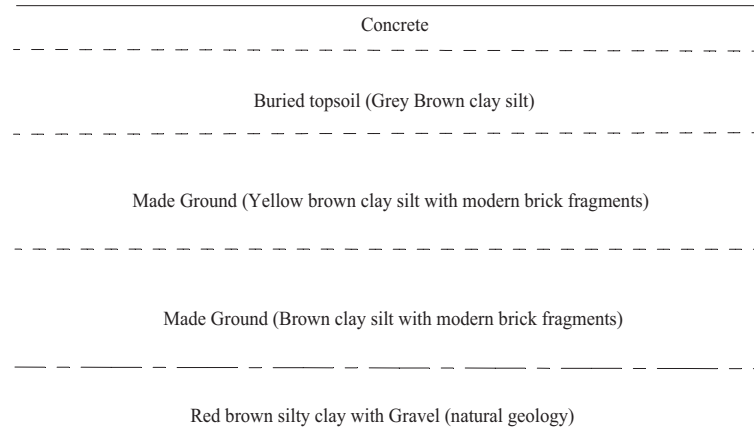
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*North facing*

E

W

27m aOD



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Footing trenches under excavation on the east side of the building, looking west.



Plate 2. Representative section of footing trenches, looking south,  
Scales: 2m and 1m.

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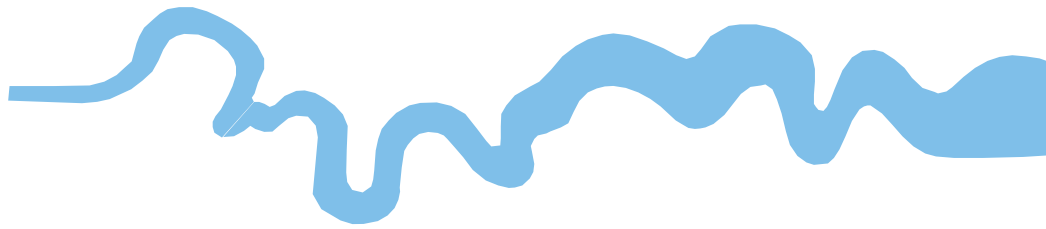
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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





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