

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**24 Winterbrook, Wallingford,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: WWO21/11

(SU 6036 8814)

24 Winterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief for Premier Developments

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WWO 21/11

July 2021

Summary

Site name: 24 Winterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 6036 8814

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th-22nd July 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: WWO 21/11

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the course of the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 02.08.21
	Steve Preston ✓ 03.08.21

24 Winterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 21/11

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 24 Winterbrook, Wallingford, Oxfordshire (SU 6036 8814) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David Powell of Premier Developments, Swaledale High Street, North Moreton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 9AT.

Planning permission (P20/S2981/FUL) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of two semi-detached houses and associated facilities. The consent is subject to two conditions (11 and 12) relating to archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Council, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor between the 19th and 22nd July 2021 and the site code is WWO 21/11.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern edge of Wallingford and on the west side of Wallingford Road (Figs 1 and 2). It is bounded by a residential property to the north, a care home to the east, the main A4130 (Wallingford Road) to the south and an open field to the west. The underlying geology is mapped as First Flood Plain Terrace Deposits (sand and gravel) (BGS 1980), which was observed across the investigated areas and the site lies at a height of *c.*47m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr Richard Oram of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2021). In summary the potential of the site stems from its location in general within the archaeologically rich Upper Thames Valley with numerous sites recorded

from the air, gravel extraction and other fieldwork in the area (eg: Cromarty *et al.* 2006; Booth *et al.* 2007; Lambrick *et al.* 2009; Benson and Miles 1974). Areas to the west and north west contain extensive prehistoric remains visible from the air including ring ditches (levelled round barrows) a hengiform monument (Neolithic ceremonial site) and an extensive Early Iron Age settlement (Lewis 2009). Further extensive Bronze Age, Middle and late Iron Age settlement was more recently recorded 450m to the north with further Bronze Age ring ditches to the south. The site, however, lies well to the south of the town itself, with its rich Saxon and Medieval archaeology (Christie *et al.* 2013).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve permanent monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, ground reduction to the top of the relevant horizon and the excavating of foundation trenches, service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

Results

The field observations comprised monitoring three components of work- the digging of the house foundation trenches, drainage trenches and the digging of three soakaways.

Foundation Trenches (Fig. 3;Pls 1 and 2)

The foundations for the new houses were traditional strip foundations laid in trenches. These trenches measured 0.65m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.*1m (Fig. 4). The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.50m of brown gravelly sand subsoil overlying sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed nor finds recovered.

Drainage Trench (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

A trench was dug linking the new construction into an existing manhole. This trench measured 0.35m wide and was dug to a depth of *c.*1.20m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil overlying 0.70m of brown gravelly sand subsoil overlying sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

Soakaways (Fig. 3; Pl. 4)

Three soakaways were dug. Each of the soakaways measured 2.20m long, 1.20m wide and all were dug to a depth of c.1.20m. The stratigraphy consisted of c.0.40m of topsoil overlying c.0.50m of brown gravelly sand subsoil overlying sand and gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

Finds

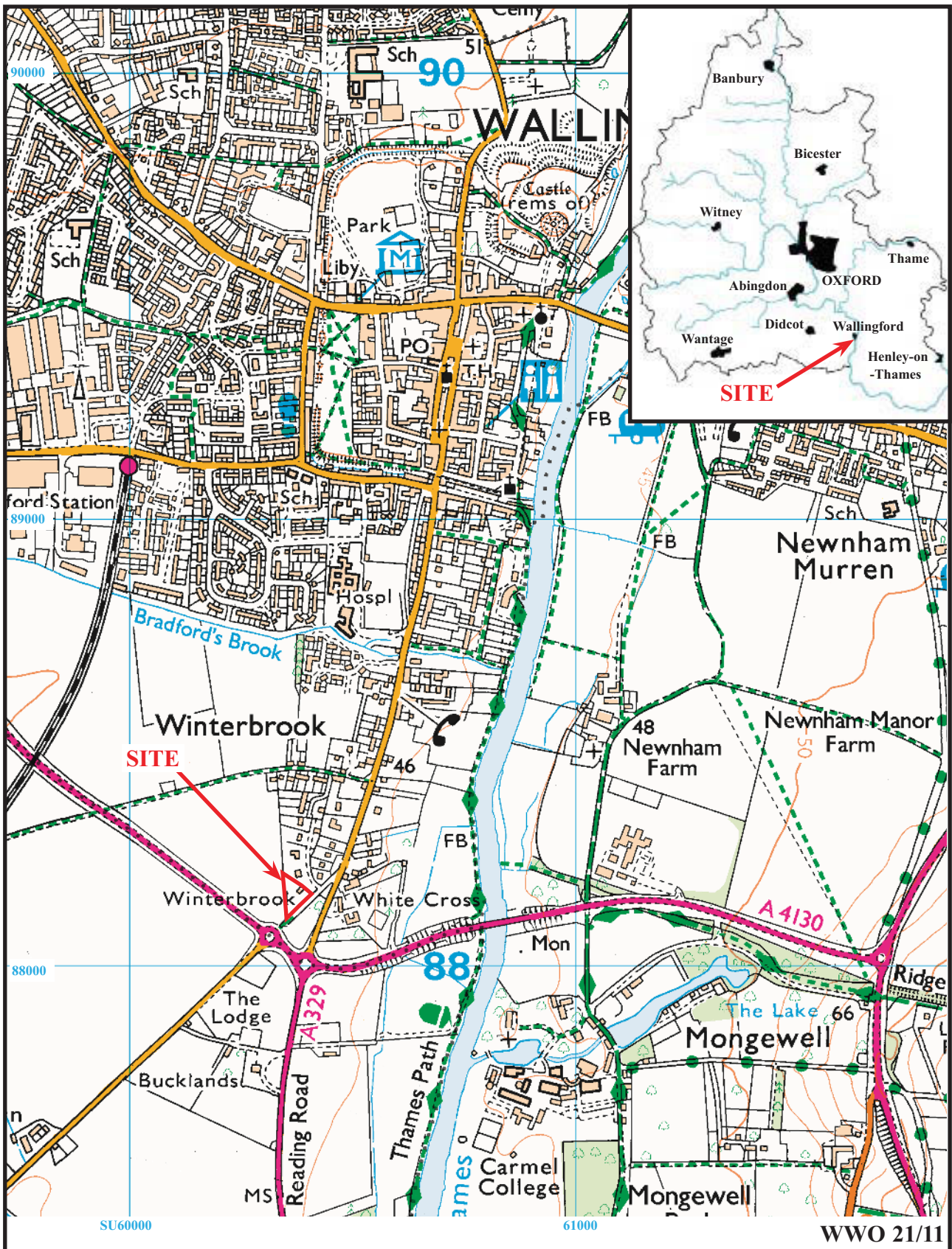
No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the potential of the site to contain archaeological deposits, no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

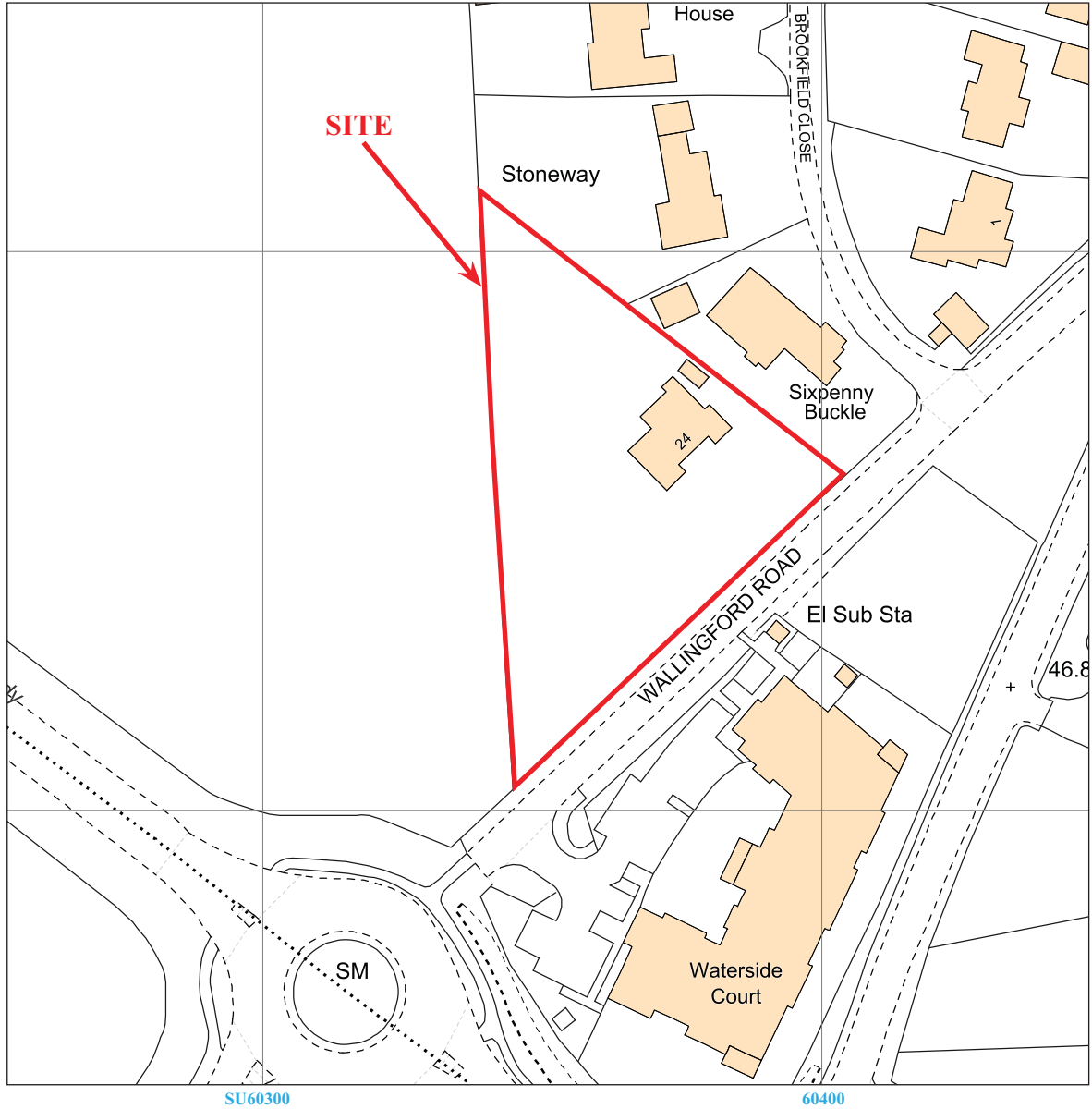
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Figure 1. Location of site within Wallingford and
Oxfordshire.

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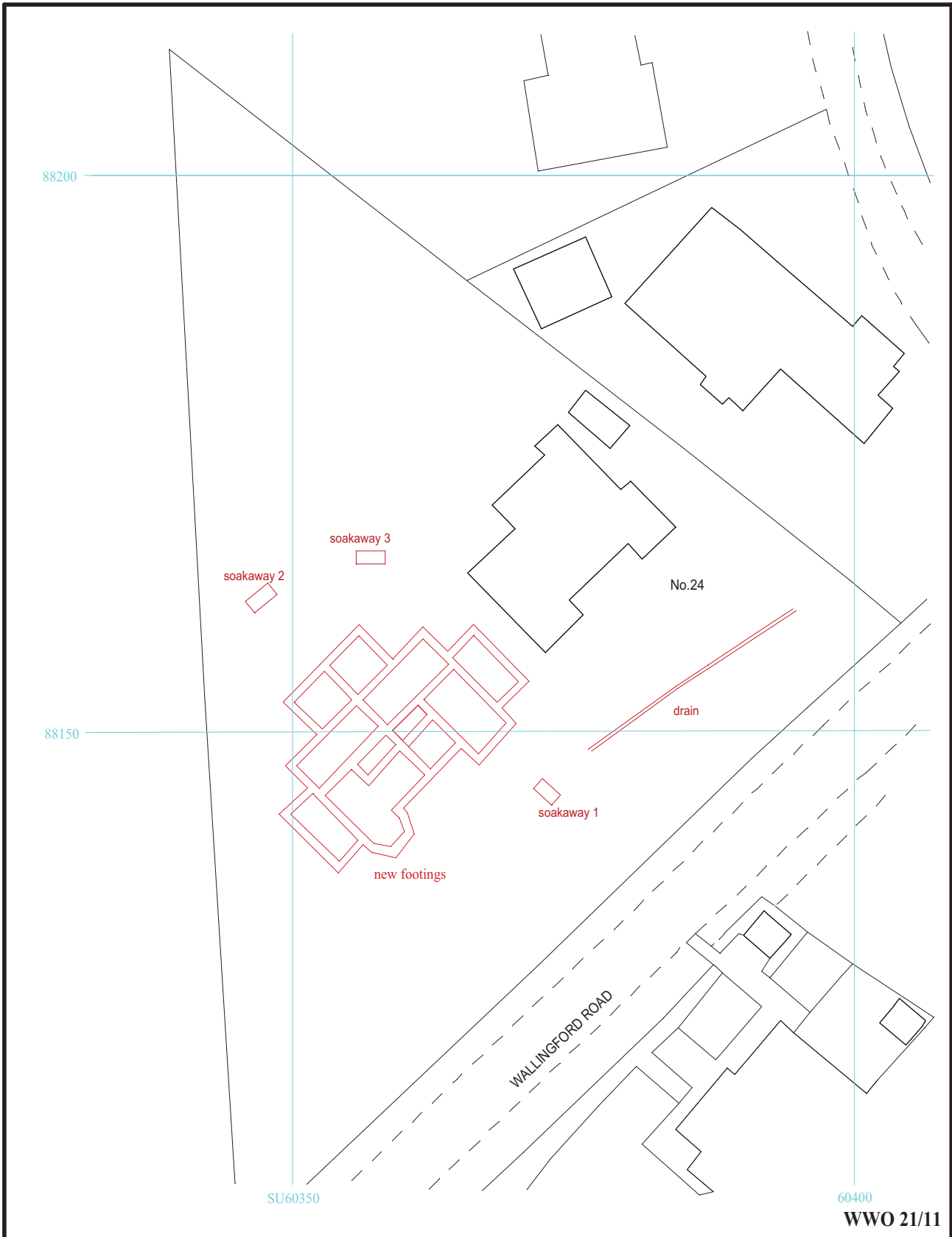
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas for new property.

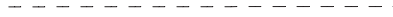


SW

NE

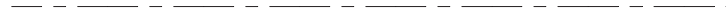
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Topsoil



Subsoil

Gravel natural



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Figure 4. Representative Section (house footing).



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Plate 1. Foundation Trench , looking North, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Foundation Trenches, looking North West, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Drainage Trench, looking North East, Scales: 2m.



Plate 4. Soakaway 3, looking North, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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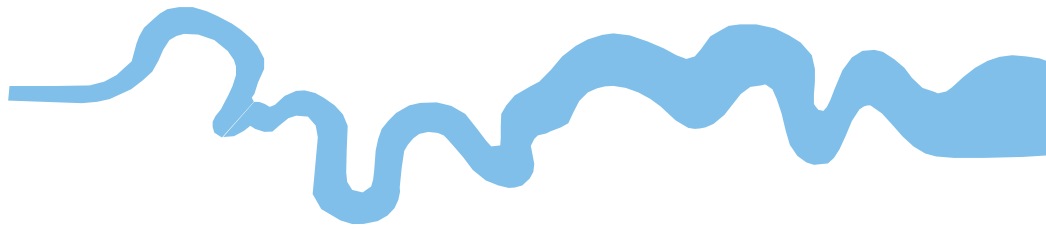
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Plates 3 and 4.

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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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