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ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Cufaude Manor,
Bramley, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site Code: CHB22/06

(SU 6493 5759)

Land at Cufaude Manor, Bramley, Hampshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Mark Flower**

by Pierre-Damien Manisse
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CMB 22/06

June 2022

Summary

Site name: Land at Cufaude Manor, Bramley, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 6493 5749

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 26th May 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: CMB 22/06

Area of site: less than *c.* 44 sq. m.

Summary of results: This watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with the construction of a new garage. Despite the close proximity of a moated site, no archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the footings of the new building. No finds of archaeological interest were found.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust or Archaeological Data Service in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 15.06.22
	Steve Preston✓ 15.06.22

Land at Cufau de Manor, Bramley, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse

Report 22/06

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Cufau de Manor, Cufau de Lane, Bramley, Hampshire RG26 5DN (SU 6493 5759) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mark Flower, of the same address. Planning consent (21/01508/HSE) has been gained from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to construct a new garage. The consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work to take place during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Hopkins, Hampshire County Archaeologist, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse on 26th May 2022 and the site code is CMB 22/06.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Hampshire Cultural Trust or Archaeological Data Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located 5.5km north-north-east of Basingstoke and 2km south of Bramley village (Fig. 1), off Cufau de lane, on a private land. The footprint of the new building is within a rectangular field, currently used as a garden attached to the manor house (Fig. 2). It is bordered on the west by a farmed field, to the north by a meadow and to the east by other residential properties. A scheduled monument, a rectangular moated site (SM1013074), is sited just to the south-west. The site is slightly sloping down from north to south but overall lies at 64m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology according to maps (BGS 1981) is London Clay.

Archaeological background

This archaeological watching brief was motivated by the presence of a moated site 35-40m from the groundworks location. This earthwork, about 60 x 40m, with a surrounding wide ditch 3-4m deep, could have been the place of a Medieval hunting lodge or manor house but it is unexcavated and there is no detail of its

function or precise date. The moat is a scheduled monument (1013074). The manor is known to have belonged to the Cufaud family as early as 1167.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. The areas of intrusive groundworks were to be monitored by an archaeologist, in particular any overburden stripping and the digging of foundation and service trenches for the construction. Any findings were to be assessed according to current general research priorities (HE 2017) or more local topics of interest (Hey and Hind 2014).

Results

The fieldwork took place under good weather conditions, with decent light. The overburden was stripped by a machine equipped with a toothless bucket. Spoil was visually inspected and checked with a metal detector for artefacts but to no avail. The footings had a rectangular U shape, with small internal returns at each end at the south (Fig. 3). They were 0.60m wide and measured 6.15m x 7.15m. They were 2m deep at the south, due to the proximity of the pond but rose up to only 1.20m deep at the north. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m topsoil, a dry dark brown to grey friable silt under grass, directly overlying the geological horizon, a firm mid orange brown to light brown clay, that matches with the expected London Clay geology (Fig. 4).

The south-eastern side of the garage formed the entrance for two vehicles and no footing trench was dug. However a pit for was dug for a central plinth which was 0.60 x 0.90m and 1.20m deep.

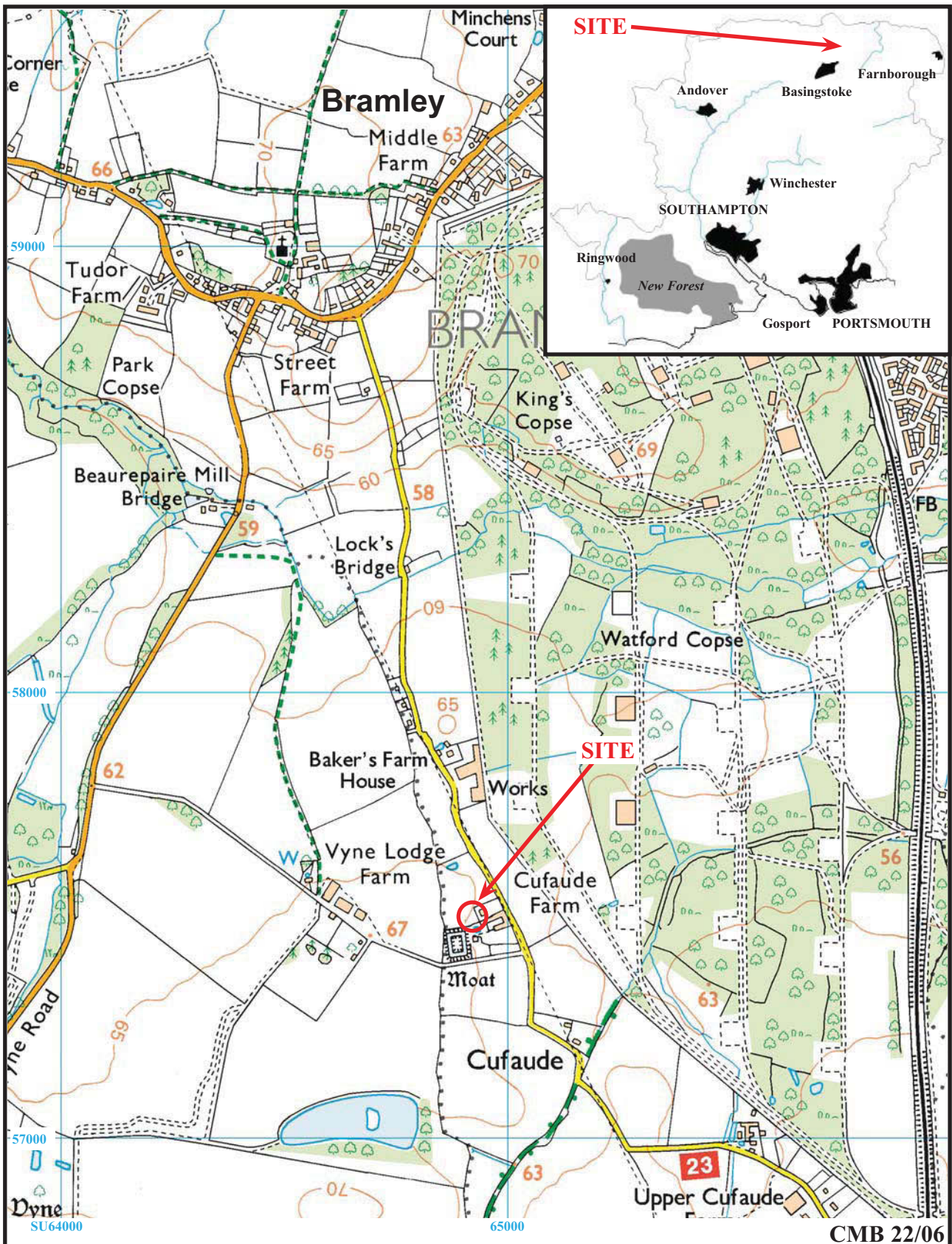
A land drain was observed in the northern section and a disused electric cable was seen in the south-west corner, but no cut features of archaeological interest were noted nor finds recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief was carried out as intended but revealed no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 284 - Basingstoke, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- CIfA, 2020, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading
- HE, 2017, *Research Agenda*, Historic England, London
- Hey, G and Hind, J, 2014, *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment: Resource Assessments and Research Agendas*, Oxford Wessex Monogr 6, Oxford
- NPPF 2021, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Minsitry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, London

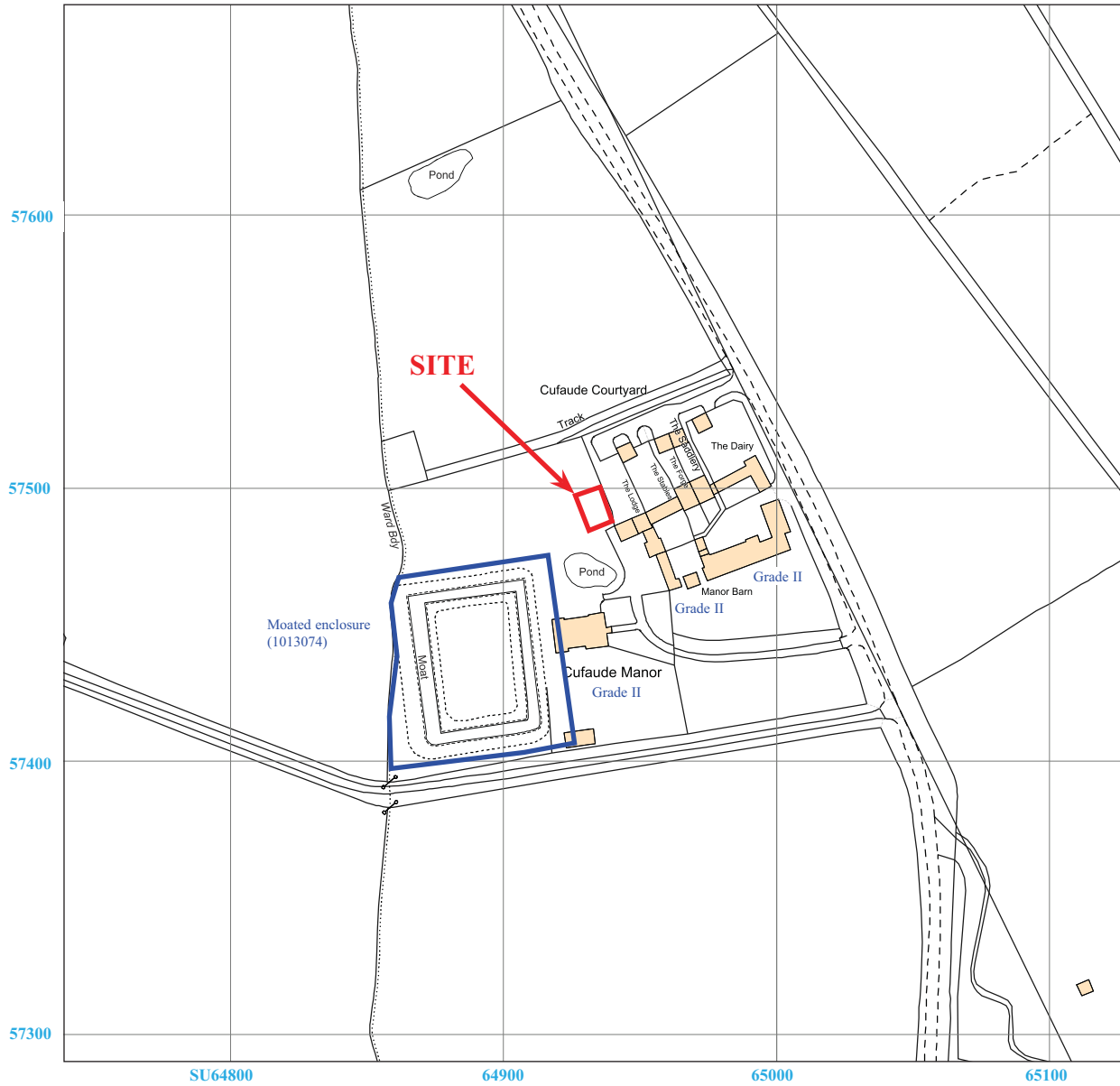


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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Bramley and within Hampshire.

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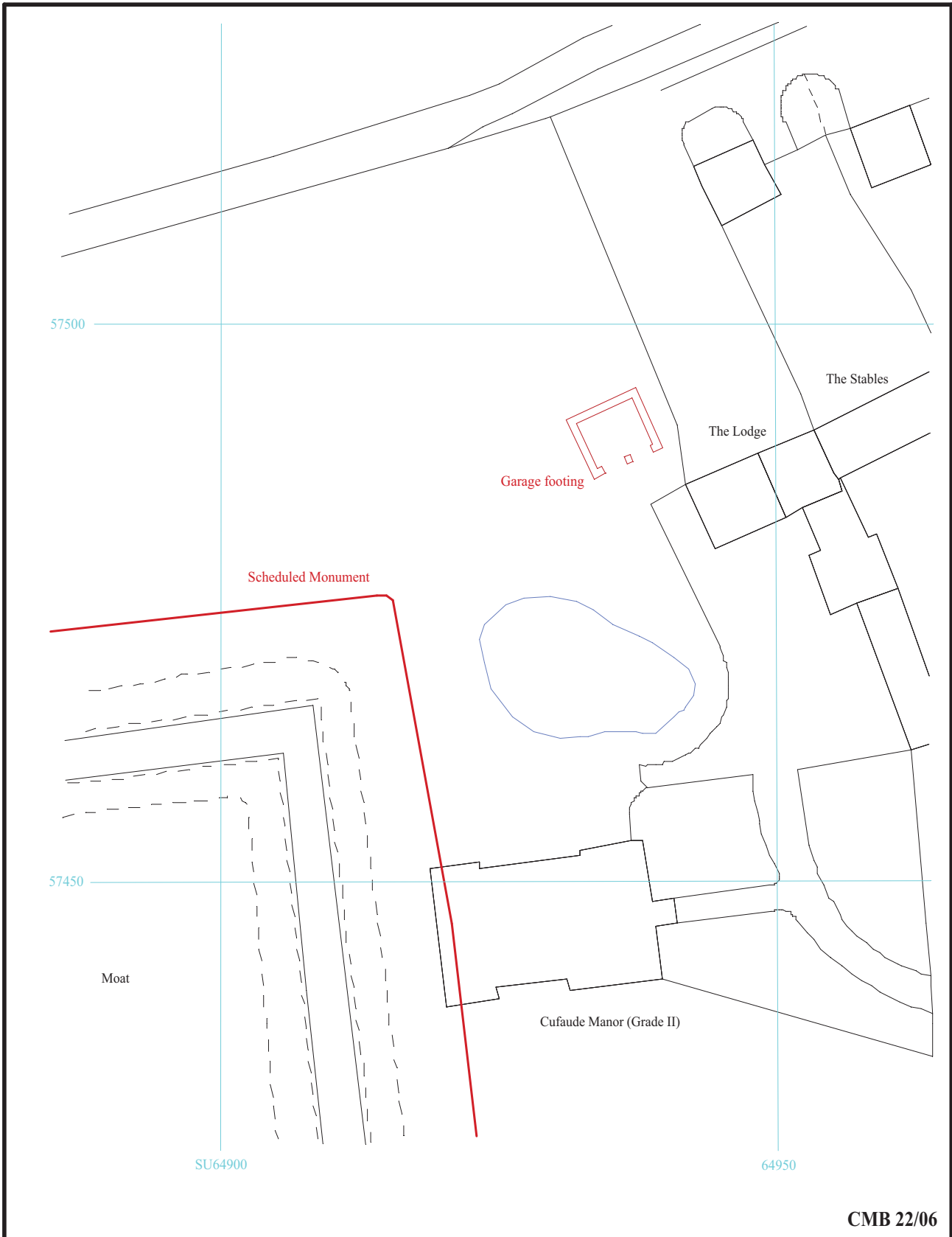


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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site, highlighting Scheduled and Listed areas.

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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Detail of garage excavation.



NNW SSE 64.4maOD

Topsoil under turf

Orange brown clay

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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section

0 1m

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Plate 1. Location of new Garage excavation, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Section, Scales: vertical 2m, horizontal 1m.



Plate 3. View from Scheduled Monument (moated enclosure), looking South West.

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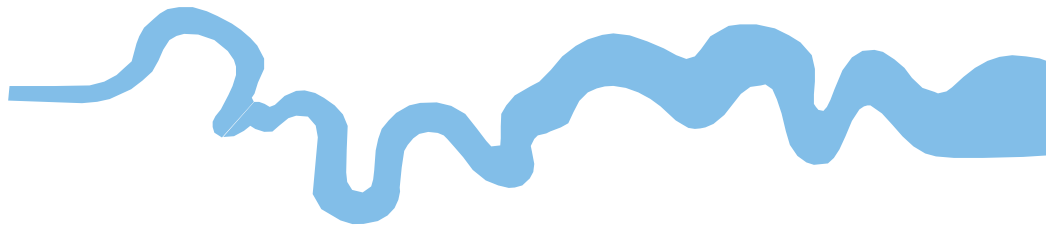
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 3.**

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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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