

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Access Road, Zinnia, Ham Island,
Old Windsor, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Jamie Lewis

Site Code: ZOW10/11

(SU 9921 7542)

Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Philip Shaw

by James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code ZOW 10/11

May 2010

Summary

Site name: New Access Road, Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9921 7542

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th - 20th April 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis

Site code: ZOW 10/11

Area of site: 245sq m

Summary of results: A single wide but shallow linear feature was recorded and which is likely to be responsible for a linear cropmark visible from the air in this vicinity. The feature was not excavated. No other features nor finds of archaeological interest were found.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 07.05.10 Steve Preston ✓ 07.05.10

Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James Lewis

Report 10/11

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9921 7542) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Mike Verity of JNP Group, Consulting Engineers, Link House, St Mary's Way, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, HP5 1HR on behalf of Mr Phillip Shaw, Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor, Berkshire.

Planning consent (09/00686) has been granted by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct a new access road at Zinnia, Ham Island, Old Windsor. In addition due to the site's location within a Scheduled Area (SAM Berkshire 79, Kingsbury) Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for and granted (No.S00005193). The consents were subject to conditions which required an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), the *Ancient Monuments and Scheduled Areas Act 1979* and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by English Heritage on behalf of Department of Culture, Media and Sport and based on a brief produced by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis, on the 19th and 20th April 2010 and the site code is ZOW 10/11.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north-west edge of an parcel defined by a bend in the Thames, known as Ham Island (Fig 2). The site was set immediately to the south of a row of houses which front onto the River Thames and which backs onto large fields. To the east of the site is a sewage works and beyond this and the island are a number of artificial lakes and reservoirs. To the south-west of the site is Old Windsor and to the south-east is the

village of Wraysbury. The geology consists of Flood Plain gravels and the site is at an elevation of between 16.4 to 18.3m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The Archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the environs of Edward the Confessor's Palace at Old Windsor and lies within a Scheduled Monument. The palace is thought to originate from the 9th century (Astill 1978) and is located to the south of the church. Excavations to the north-east of the church at 'The Manor' have revealed evidence for late Saxon and early Medieval activity in addition to later deposits (Hindmarch and Ford 2005). The last court held at the royal palace was in AD1107 before moving to (New) Windsor. Unpublished excavations undertaken near the site of the palace may have found evidence for a grange complex dating to the 13th to 14th century which was mentioned in contemporary sources along with a water mill (Wilson and Hurst 1958).

Information from aerial photography (Gates 1975 with additions) (Fig. 3) has established the existence of a number of cropmarks within the area of the scheduled monument. One of these, an L-shaped cropmark located in the corner of the field is in very close proximity to the site. In addition, observation of the construction of a water pipe trench west of the site which followed the access road revealed the presence of undated ditches (Saunders 1995).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits threatened by the groundworks. This involved an examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular ground reduction for construction of the new road and the digging of any related service runs. Robust archaeological deposits (such as ditches and large pits) exposed by the groundworks but not otherwise impacted by the groundworks were to be mapped but not excavated and preserved *in-situ*. Fragile deposits (such as cremation burial) which would not survive reburial were to be fully excavated and recorded.

Results

The watching brief was undertaken to monitor the construction of a new access road around Zinnia to the adjacent property Giwrae (Figs 2 and 4). The road extended east from an existing road for approximately 35m and then turned north-east through the garden belonging Giwrae to connect to the driveway. It measured 70m in

length and 3.5m wide. The depth of construction varied between 100mm and 380mm; 100mm of topsoil was initially removed as the road continued across the field and at the point where the road left the field and turned north east into the garden of Giwrae 320mm of topsoil was removed. In this latter area, the natural gravel geology was exposed. Towards the north eastern end of the road a layer of made ground was encountered. It was approximately 280mm thick and included modern red brick and plastic sheeting. This was probably deposited during the construction of the nearby house. The natural geology was not exposed in the latter area.

Approximately mid way along the route, a wide north-south aligned feature (1) was recorded which was 3.6m wide (Plate 2). The feature was not excavated and was preserved *in-situ*. The depth of the feature was established by use of an auger. Three equally spaced measurements were taken in a north-south line in the centre of the feature and these varied between 300mm in the south to 620mm in the north. The feature was filled with black compact sandy clay with gravel (50). No datable finds were recovered from the stripped surface nor the auger holes. Despite the width of the feature, it has shallow depth suggesting that its profile is more of a hollow than a ditch.

The feature appears to represent the L-shaped cropmark as reproduced by Gates (1975, map 30). The plot reproduced here as Figure. 3 is based on the more up-to-date RCHME interpretation of the air photo coverage of the area. The cropmark comprises two linear features aligned NNW–SSE and WSW–ENE. Both ends seem to stop at modern landscape features. The cropmark has two gaps one in each element. Also recorded are maculae which are possibly large pits. Three of these pits would now be located under the made ground and the other pit was located just beyond the southern edge of the access road.

Finds

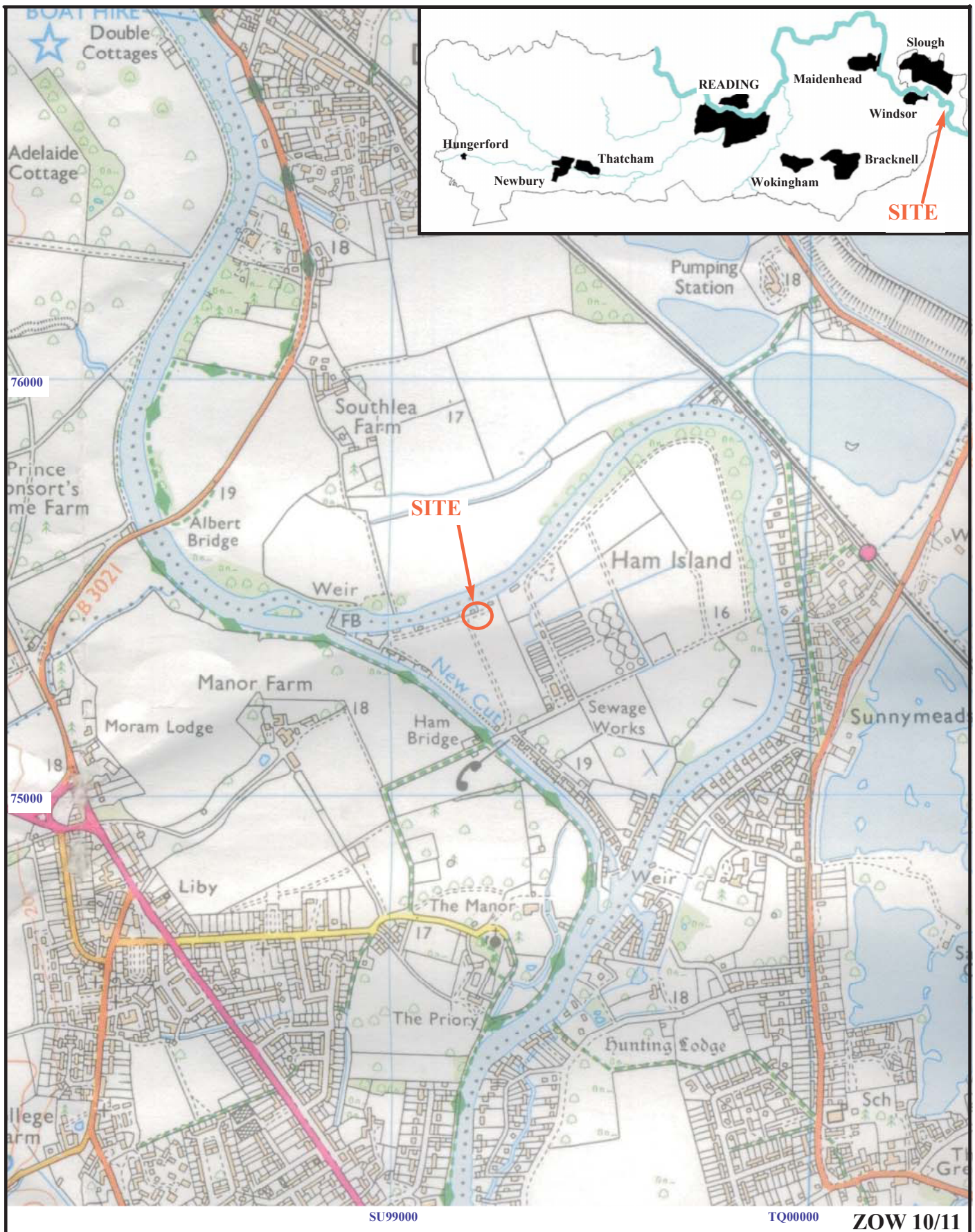
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered from the feature, stripped surface nor spoilheaps.

Conclusion

The watching brief has confirmed the presence of deposits of possible archaeological interest on the site and which can, with a reasonable degree of confidence, be related to a previously recorded cropmark. Unfortunately no evidence was recovered to date the linear feature, but it has been established that it is a substantial feature and has been preserved *in situ*.

References

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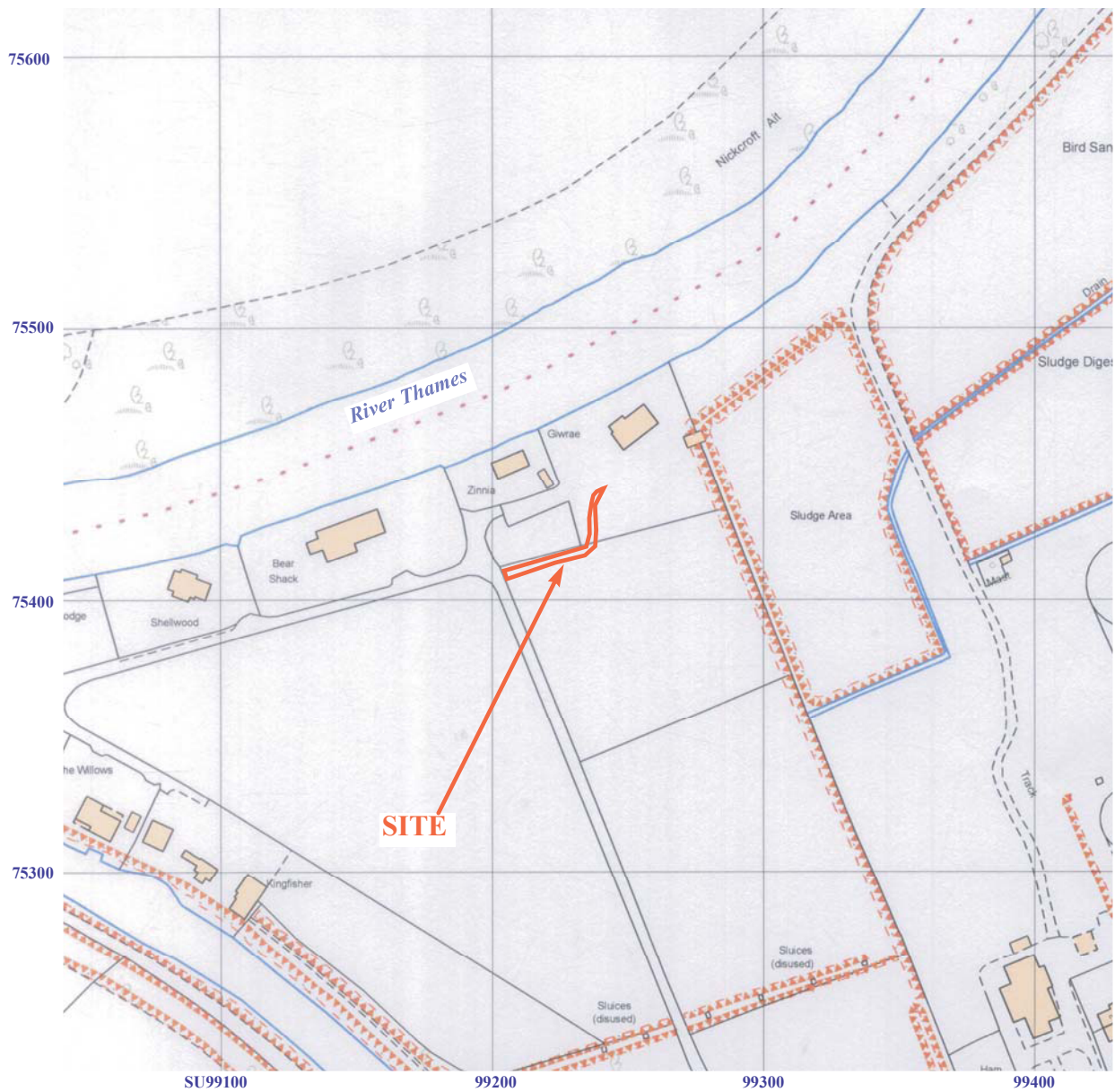


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Figure 1. Location of site on Ham Island and within Berkshire.

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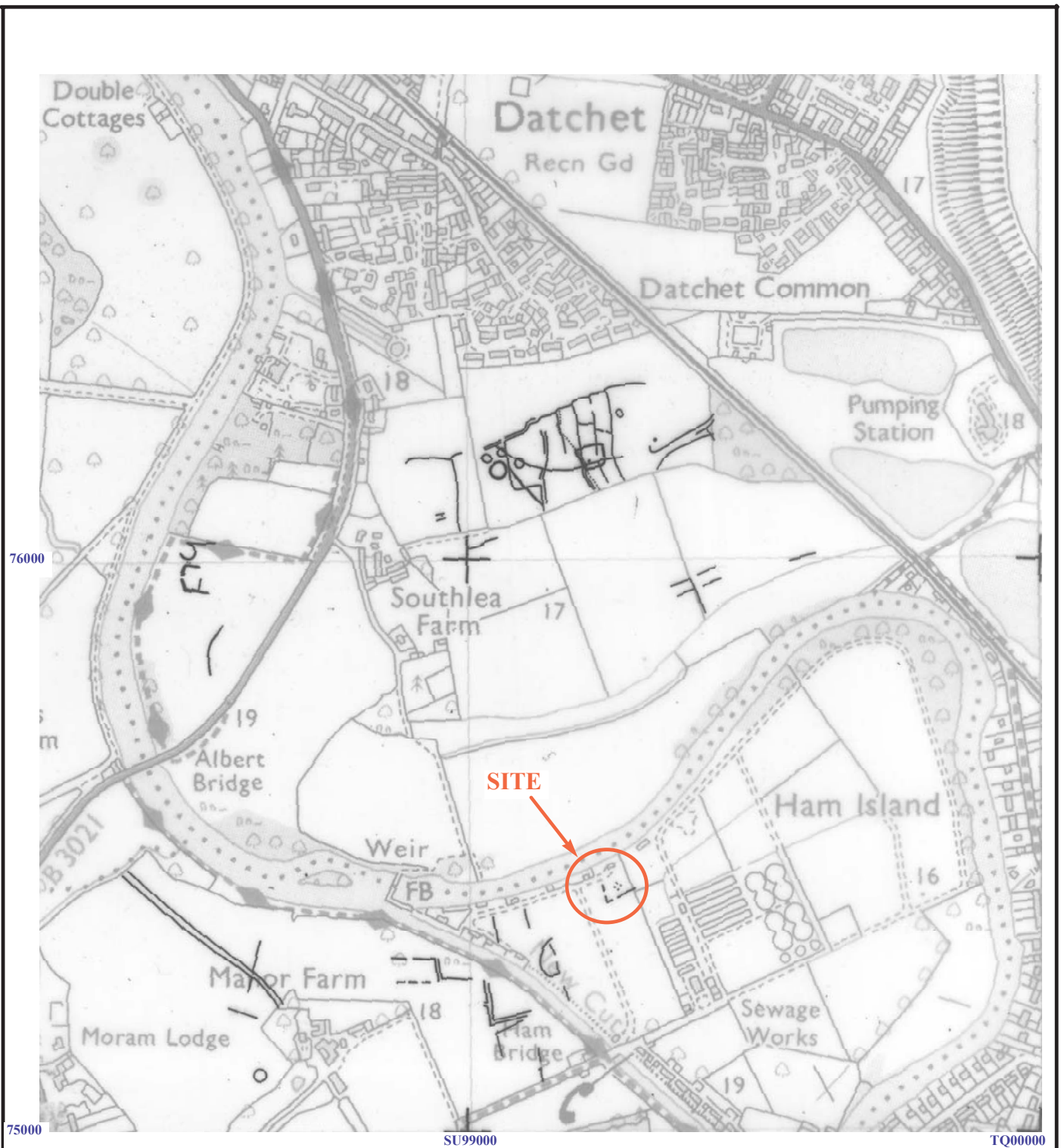
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Figure 2. Detailed location of new access.

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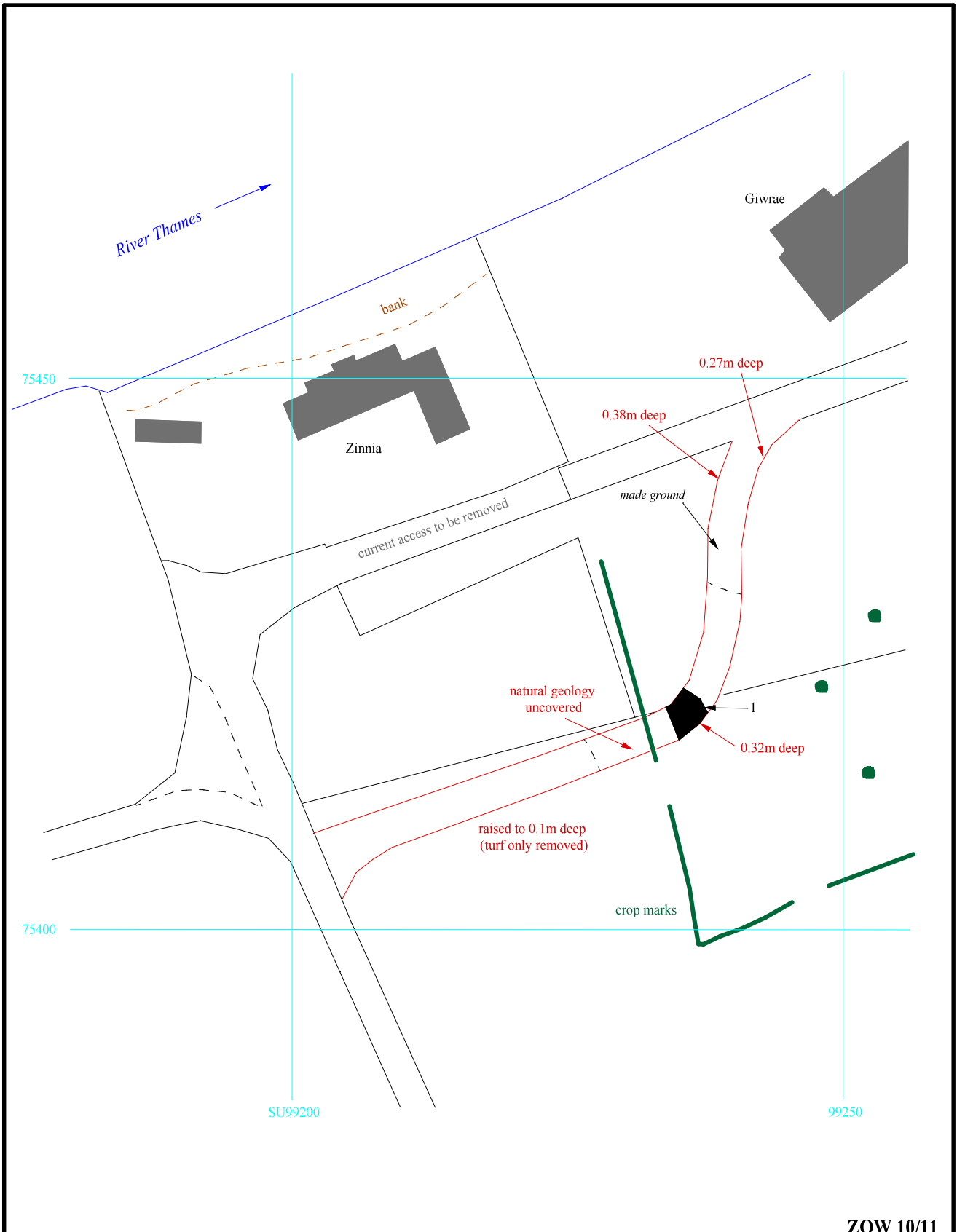


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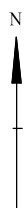
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Figure 3. Cropmark interpretation

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Figure 4. Detail of road overburden strip.



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Plate 1. Strip at west end, looking east, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Top of linear feature 1 exposed, looking west, scales 2m and 1m.

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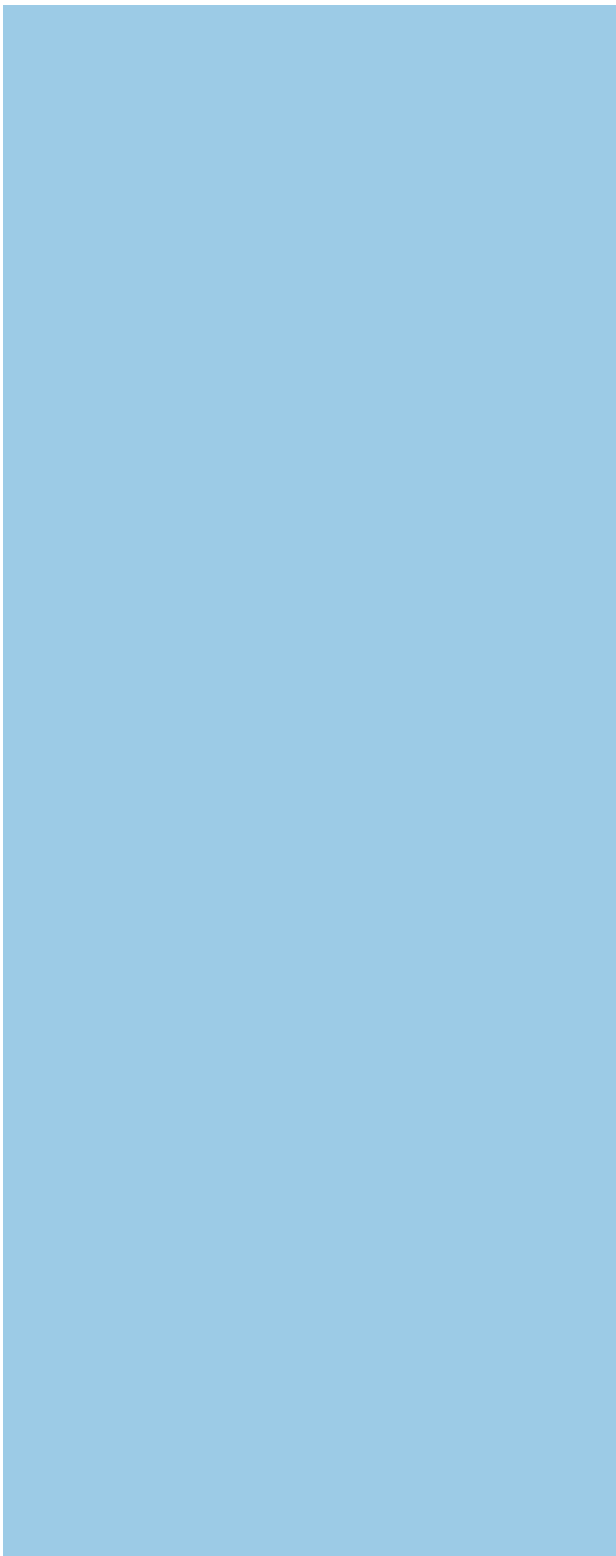
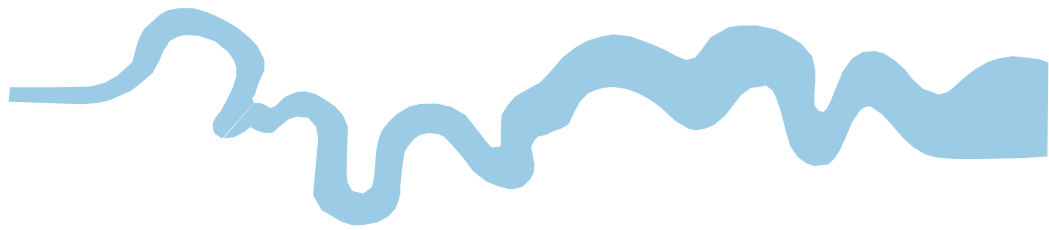
Plates 1 and 2

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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
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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