

**THE VILLA, WINNYCROFT LANE,
GLOUCESTER**

NGR: SO 8506 1444

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 351

May 2004

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SUMMARY

On 3rd June 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at The Villa, Winnycroft Lane, Sneedhams Green, Gloucester (NGR: SO 8506 1444, Figure 1). The work was commissioned by the land owner C. T. Miller.

No archaeological finds or features were located during the course of the watching brief.

The only artefactual evidence recovered was of late post-Medieval/modern origin, found within the subsoil.

GLOSSARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Archaeology

For the purpose of this project archaeology is taken to mean the study of past human societies through their material remains from prehistoric times to the modern era. No rigid upper date limit has been set, but AD 1900 is used as a general cut-off point.

Natural

In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site, in this case, clay.

NGR

National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.

OD

Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level.

OS

Ordnance Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 3rd June 2003 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at The Villa, Winnycroft Lane, Sneedhams Green, Gloucester (NGR: SO 8506 1444, Figure 1). The work was commissioned by the landowner, C. T. Miller.
- 1.2 The project involved the observation of groundworks associated with the building of a new garage within the grounds of The Villa (planning reference no.03/00072/FUL). The site is located within the Sneedhams Green Area of Principal Archaeological Interest as defined in the City of Gloucester Deposit Local Plan.
- 1.3 The works were undertaken in accordance with the brief supplied by Gloucester Archaeology Unit (2003). The project was undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, revised 2001), *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region).
- 1.4 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The works covered by this project were undertaken as part of an application to build a new garage in the grounds of The Villa (application reference no: 03/00072/FUL).
- 2.2 The site lies on the southern outskirts of Gloucester and is bordered by a water drain and Winnycroft Lane to its west and by fields on its other sides (Figure 2).
- 2.3 Previous research in the area had indicated that remains of archaeological importance might exist on the site. Cartographic evidence shows part of a large, sub-rectangular moated enclosure, 250m to the south of the site. Consequently, any groundworks required for the proposed development had the potential to reveal significant archaeological deposits and/or finds.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains.

- 3.2 These aims were to be achieved by the pursuit of the following objectives:
- i) to define, identify and record any archaeological deposits on the upper and lower terraces, and date these where possible.
 - ii) to attempt to characterise the nature of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning of features present on the site.
 - iii) where possible to recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence and recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The groundworks involved the excavation of a series of foundation trenches for the new garage, measuring 0.60m in width by 1.0m in depth (Figure 3). Originally, the proposed garage was to be situated on The Villa's north-western boundary, however, in practice, the garage was built on the south-eastern boundary.
- 4.2 Excavation was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All groundworks were subject to constant archaeological supervision. Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds across the entire study area.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 No archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the watching brief.
- 5.2 The natural substrate comprised grey yellow clay and lay 0.33m below the existing ground surface. This was overlaid by subsoil (102), a mid brown silt clay containing occasional fragments of ceramic building material and modern glass shards, 0.14m in depth. The subsoil was overlain by topsoil (101), a black brown clay silt, 0.19m in depth.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological finds or features were identified during the course of the watching brief. The only artefactual evidence recovered was of late post-Medieval/modern origin, found within the subsoil. The stratigraphy revealed during the works implied the study area had been undeveloped land, at least in the late post-Medieval period.

- 6.2 The watching brief results suggest that a low level of archaeological activity is present within the study area. Although the site area itself contained no archaeologically significant remains, this does not preclude the possibility of surviving archaeological remains within the immediate surrounds.

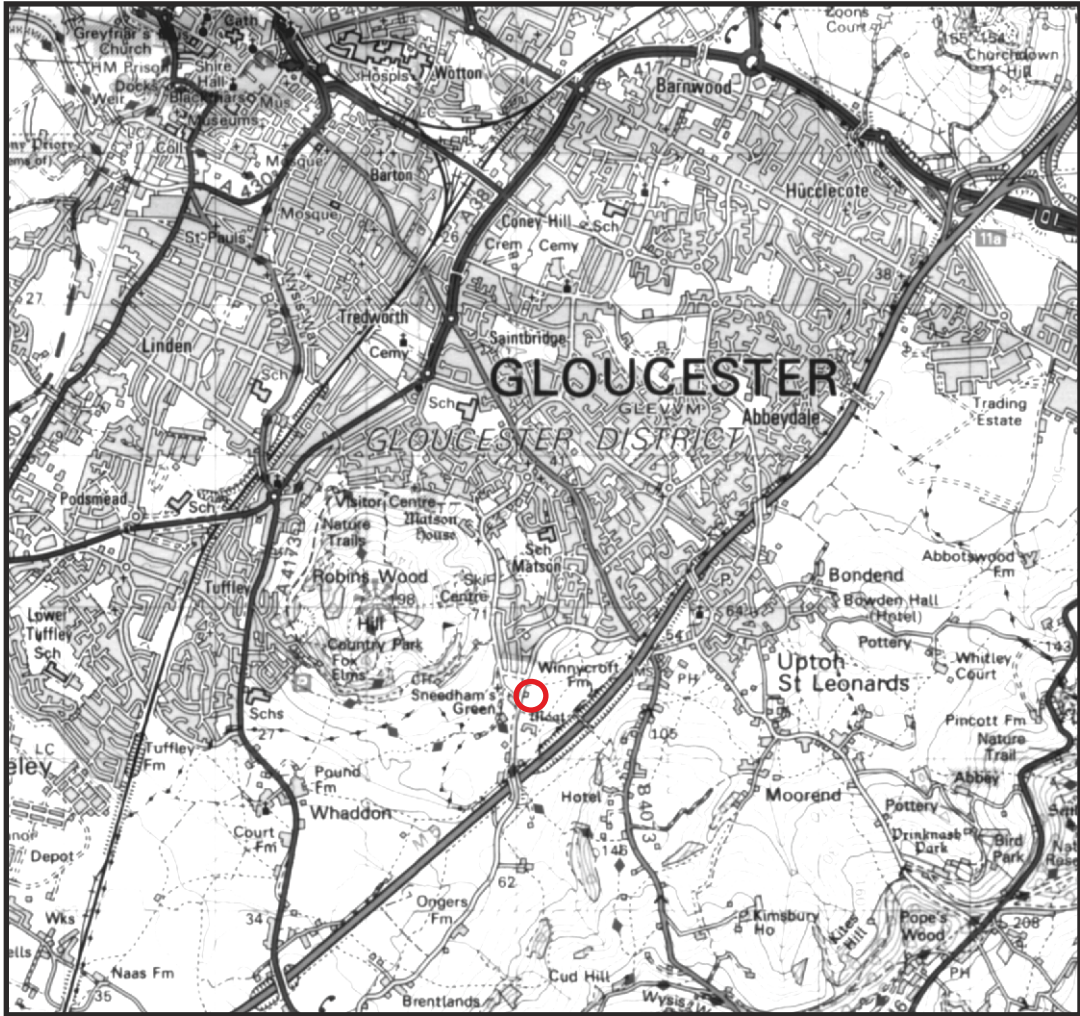
7 **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

IFA 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Gloucester Archaeology Unit, 2003, *Brief for a Controlled Archaeological Watching Brief: The Villa, Winnycroft Lane, Gloucester*

8 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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FIGURE 1: Site Location

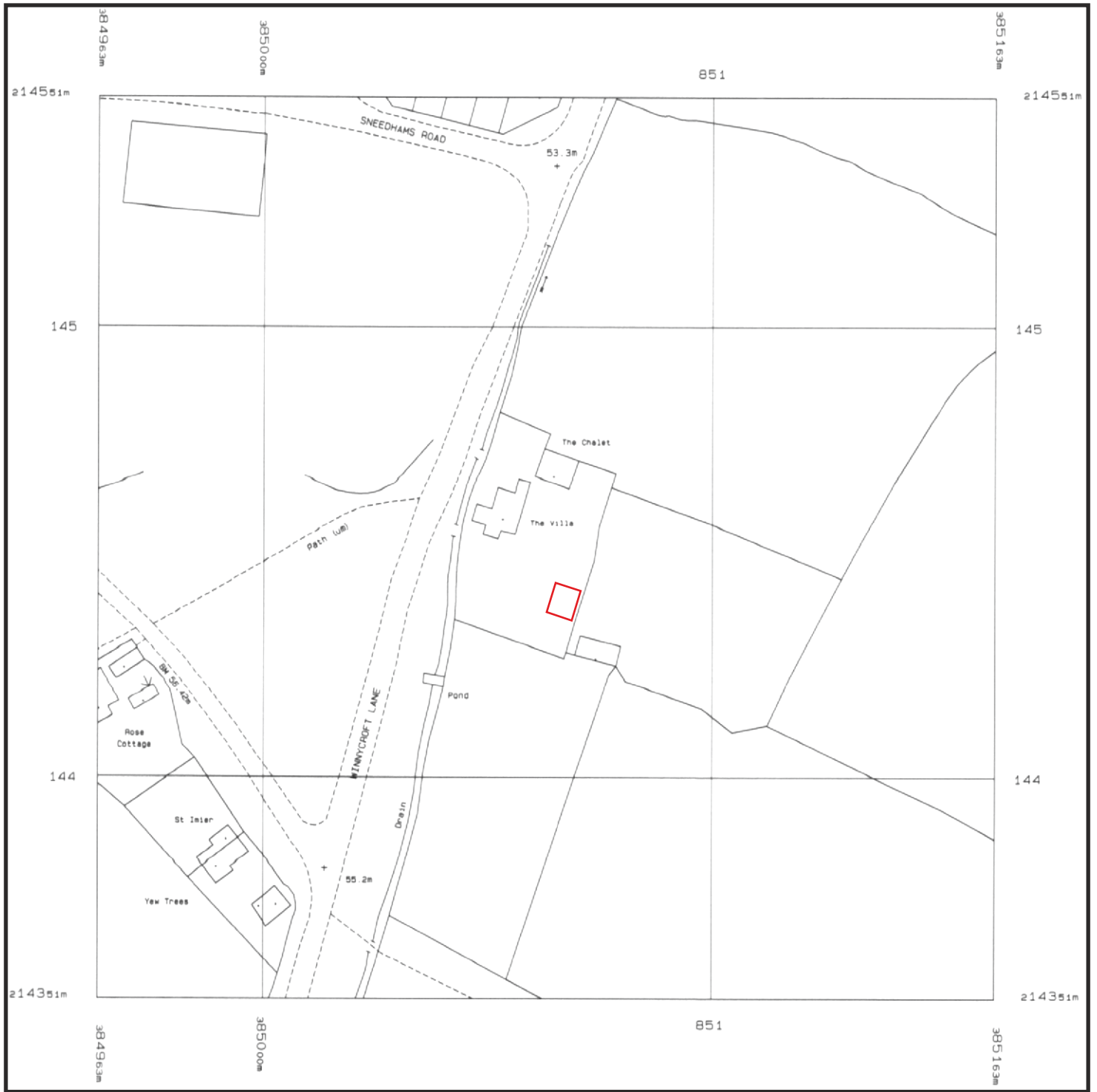


FIGURE 2: Study Area Location

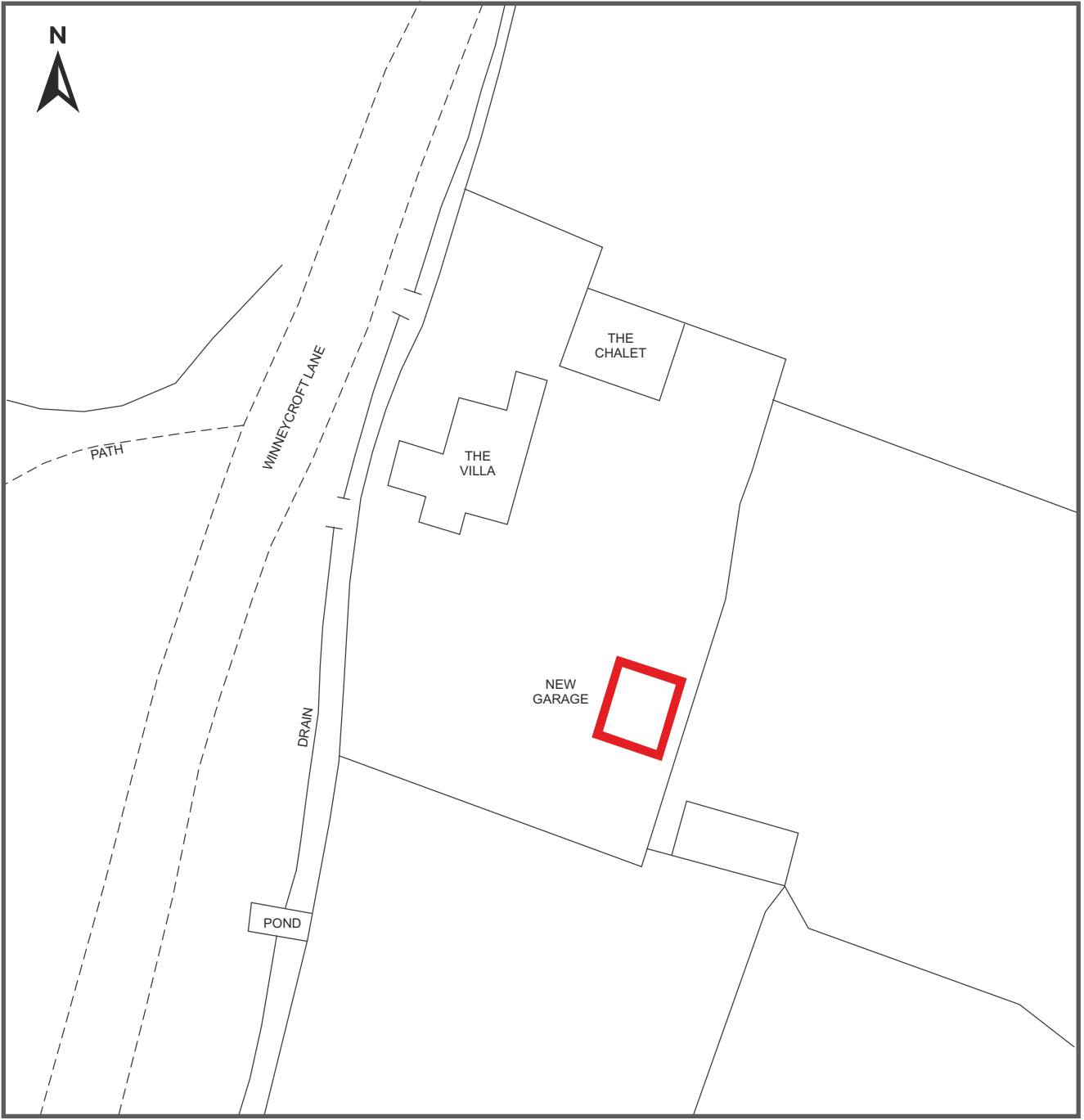


FIGURE 3: Trench Locations