

**THE BRAMLEY,
STALLARDS PLACE,
DYMOK,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**

NGR: SO 6985 3134 (Centred)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Report No. 907
September 2013



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Quality Assurance

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The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief

Site name: The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire
Site code: TBD13
NGR: SO 6985 3134 (centred)
Site activity: Watching Brief
Date and duration: 12th August 2013, 1 day
Recipient: Forest of Dean Heritage Centre

Summary

A programme of archaeological watching brief was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new conservatory at the rear of The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire. The work was commissioned by Angie Whiting of Anglian Home Improvements.

The archaeological works comprised the monitoring of the excavations of the footprints for the conservatory. No features or deposits pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the monitored area.

A small amount of residual Medieval pottery was present, within late the Post-medieval deposits.

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.
CBM:	Ceramic Building Material.
HER:	Historic Environment Record.
Medieval:	The period between the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) and <i>circa</i> AD 1500.
MGS:	Modern ground surface.
Modern:	From 1900 to the present day.
Natural:	In archaeological terms this refers to the undisturbed natural geology of a site.
NGR:	National Grid Reference from the Ordnance Survey Grid.
OD:	Ordnance datum; used to express a given height above sea-level. (AOD Above Ordnance Datum).
OS:	Ordnance Survey.
Post-medieval:	The period from <i>circa</i> AD 1500 to 1900.
Prehistoric:	The period prior to the Roman invasion of AD 43. Traditionally sub divided into; Palaeolithic – <i>c.</i> 500,000 BC to <i>c.</i> 12,000 BC; Mesolithic – <i>c.</i> 12,000 BC to <i>c.</i> 4,500 BC; Neolithic – <i>c.</i> 4,500 BC to <i>c.</i> 2,000 BC; Bronze Age – <i>c.</i> 2,000 BC to <i>c.</i> 800 BC; Iron Age – <i>c.</i> 800 BC to AD 43.
Roman:	The period between AD 43 to <i>circa</i> AD 410.
Romano-British:	Term used to describe the fusion of indigenous Iron Age traditions with invasive Roman culture.
Saxon:	The period between <i>circa</i> AD 410 and the Norman Conquest (AD 1066), sometimes referred to as Early Medieval.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On the 12th August 2013 Foundations Archaeology undertook a programme of archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new conservatory at The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire (NGR: SO 6985 3134) (centred) (Figures 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Angie Whiting of Anglian Home Improvements.
- 1.2 The project was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) issued by Foundations Archaeology (2013) and approved by the archaeological adviser to Forest of Dean District Council. The work conformed to the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (2008), and *Archaeological Guidance Paper 4: Archaeological Watching Briefs: (guidelines)* issued by English Heritage (London Region) (2009).
- 1.3 This document presents the findings of the archaeological monitoring.

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The project comprised the construction of a new conservatory in the gardens behind The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock, Gloucestershire. Planning permission for the conservatory was granted by Forest of Dean District Council under Planning Reference PO566/13/FUL. The permission included a condition requiring a programme of archaeological monitoring.
- 2.2 The geology of the site is recorded as Alluvium of clay, silt, sand and gravel over Raglan mudstone formations (www.bgs.ac.uk).
- 2.3 Evidence for pre-Roman activity at Dymock includes a flint arrowhead (SMR 5354), a Gallo-Belgic gold coin of the Belocasses found during the nineteenth century (SMR 5358) and a silver coin of the Dobunni. Dymock has origins in the Roman period and may first have developed as a military site at the junction of two Roman roads. Numerous finds of Roman material have been recovered from a wide area around the Modern settlement. The Medieval settlement at Dymock acted as a market centre for the surrounding area and for a short period during the thirteenth century, the town also enjoyed borough status. The Bramley is thought to be within the footprint of the Medieval settlement.
- 2.4 The church of St. Mary (SMR 5360) is situated at the highest point of the settlement, very close to the projected line of the Roman road from the Tewkesbury area. The fabric in the lower parts of the walls of the church has been identified as Anglo-Saxon in date. The majority of houses in Dymock date from the seventeenth century and later, although there are also a few of fifteenth and sixteenth century date. Among these are The Old Nailshop (SMR 13018), which

was the home of Wilfred Gibson, one of the Dymock poets, who was associated with Rupert Brooks, L. Abercrombie and R. Frost., Wood's Cottage (SMR 13646) and The Old Cottage (SMR 13647).

- 2.5 The site therefore contained the potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits predominately relating to the Roman and Medieval periods. This did not prejudice the watching brief against features and finds relating to other periods.

3 AIMS

- 3.1 The aims of the archaeological watching brief were to gather high quality data from the direct observation of the archaeological deposits.

- 3.2 These aims were achieved by the pursuit of the objectives as stated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (2013):

i) to define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where possible;

ii) to attempt to characterize 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 All intrusive groundworks were monitored and recorded in order to identify archaeological finds and deposits. The works were carried out under constant archaeological supervision. The two trenches for the footings of the new conservatory were dug by hand and all identified archaeological finds and deposits were documented by written as well as photographic record.

- 4.2 Spoil tips were scanned for unstratified finds across the site area.

- 4.3 All artefactual and ecofactual remains, whether stratified or not, were collected, bagged and labelled. All artefactual and ecofactual evidence will be treated in accordance with the Foundations Archaeology Technical Manual 4 (Finds Manual) and First Aid for Finds.

- 4.4 Any significant archaeological deposits and/or features within the study area were manually cleaned, investigated and recorded in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (Foundations Archaeology 2013).

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The stratigraphic sequence was fairly consistent within the two footing trenches.
- 5.2 The footing trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m below Modern ground level. The stratigraphically earliest deposit consisted of a plastic, brown, silty clay (007), which was overlaid by (005) a solid, brown grey silty clay, up to 0.2m thick. These two deposits contained mixed archaeological material which consisted of residual Medieval pottery, chinaware, slag, animal bones and tobacco clay pipes. Both (005) and (007) were cut by a number of Post-medieval/Modern features, which consisted of a brick-built well [016], the foundation footings of the present house [011] and [013] and a Modern service pipe [009]. Overlying (005), but cut by [011] was the remains of a cobbled yard with a bricked edge (014), which was present for 0.4m across the width of the trench and was 0.2m thick. All these features were, in turn, overlaid by a Modern deposit which consisted of a yellow beige gravel (004), up to 0.2m thick and a 0.10m thick levelling layer of yellow beige sand (003). These layers were, in turn, sealed by 0.05m thick Modern concrete garden slabs (002) and 0.05m thick brown grey garden soil with turf (001).
- 5.3 No archaeological features pre-dating the Post-medieval/Modern period were present within the monitored area, although, the footings did not penetrate into the underlying natural deposits, so it was not possible to discern the entire stratigraphic sequence of the site. The presence of residual Medieval pottery within deposits (005) and (007) indicated the potential for archaeological remains of this date to be present in the vicinity.
- 5.4 The archive is currently held at the offices of Foundations Archaeology, but will be deposited within 12 months with Forest of Dean Heritage Centre. A short note will be submitted for publication in the relevant local archaeological journal and an OASIS form will also be submitted to ADS.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Foundations Archaeology, 2013. *The Bramley, Stallards Place, Dymock Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Watching Brief*.

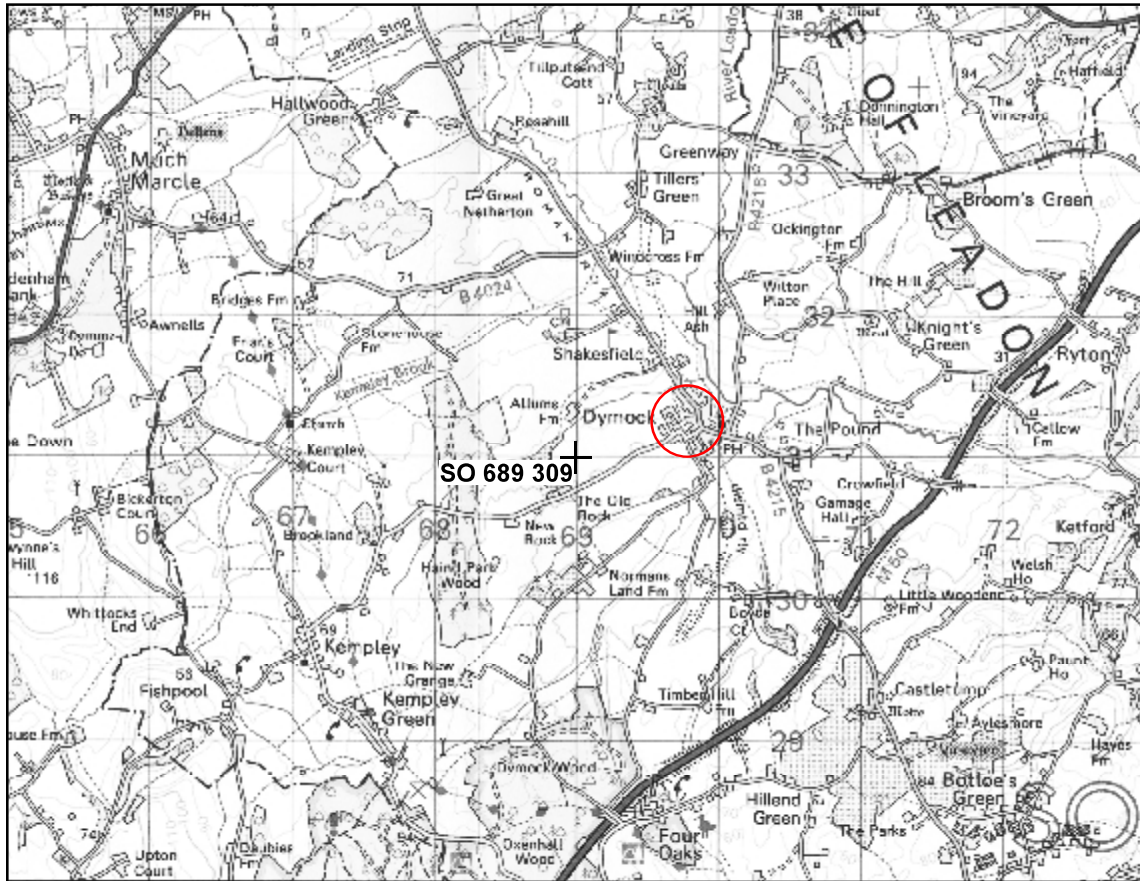
Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Foundations Archaeology would like to thank the Archaeological Officer for Forest of Dean District Council, Angie Whiting of Anglian Home Improvements and the ground workers for their assistance during the course of the project.

APPENDIX 1: The Stratigraphic Data

CXT	L(m)	W(m)	D(m)	DESCRIPTION	FILL OF	CONTAINS	OVERLIES/ CUTS	OVERLAID BY/ CUT BY
-1?	?	?	0.05	Modern deposit of brown grey garden soil with turf.			-3	-
-2?	?	?	0.05	Modern deposit of yellow grey, solid, concrete garden slabs.			-3	-
-3?	?	?	0.1	Modern deposit of yellow beige, sand.			(004), (008), (010), (012), (014)	(002), (001)
-4?	?	?	0.2	Modern deposit of yellow beige gravel.			(005), (015)	(003), [009], [013]
-5?	?	?	0.2	Solid brown grey silty clay.			(007)	(004), [009], [013], [016]
-7?	?	?	?	Plastic brownish silty clay.			?	(005), [009], [013], [016]
-8	0.23	0.23	0.6	Modern fill of yellow brown gravel for Modern service.	[009]		[009]	-3
[009]	0.6	0.45	0.6	Cut for Modern service pipe.		(008)	(004), (005), (007)	-8
-10?	?	?	0.7?	Mixed fill in Modern house foundation of clay and small stones with occasional inclusions of charcoal.	[011]		[011]	-3
[011]	?	?	0.7?	Cut of Modern house foundation.		(010)	(005), (007), (014)	(010)
-12?	?	?	0.48?	Mixed fill in Modern house foundation of clay and small stones with occasional inclusions of charcoal.	[013]		[013]	-3
[013]	?	?	0.48?	Cut of Modern house foundation.		(012)	(004), (005), (007)	-12
-14	0.6	0.4	0.2	Greyish, cobbled stone surface with a brick edge. Probably part of an older yard.				(003), [011]
-15	1.4	1.3?	?	A brick well, constructed with unfrogged red bricks with no obvious mortar.	[016]		[016]	-4
[016]	1.4	1.3?	?	Cut for the brick well.		(015)	(005)	-15



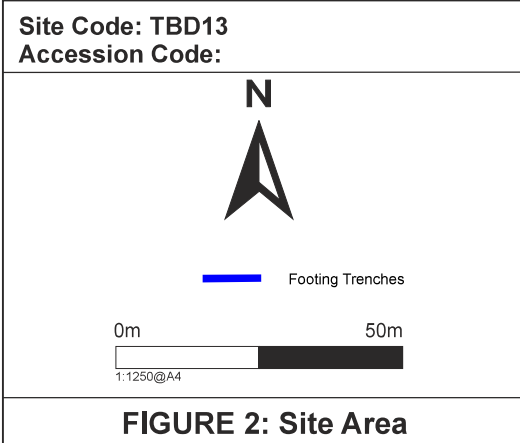
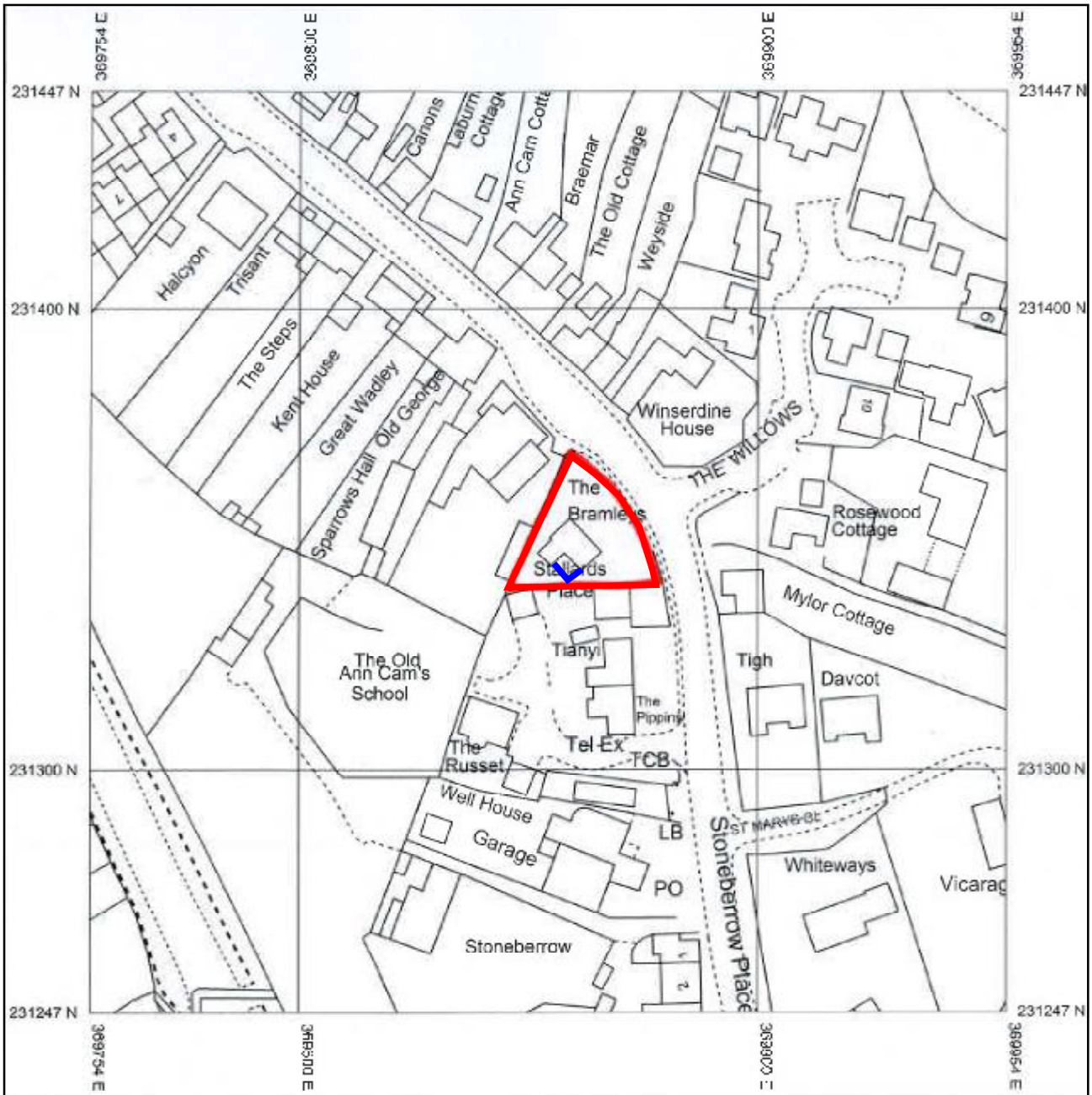
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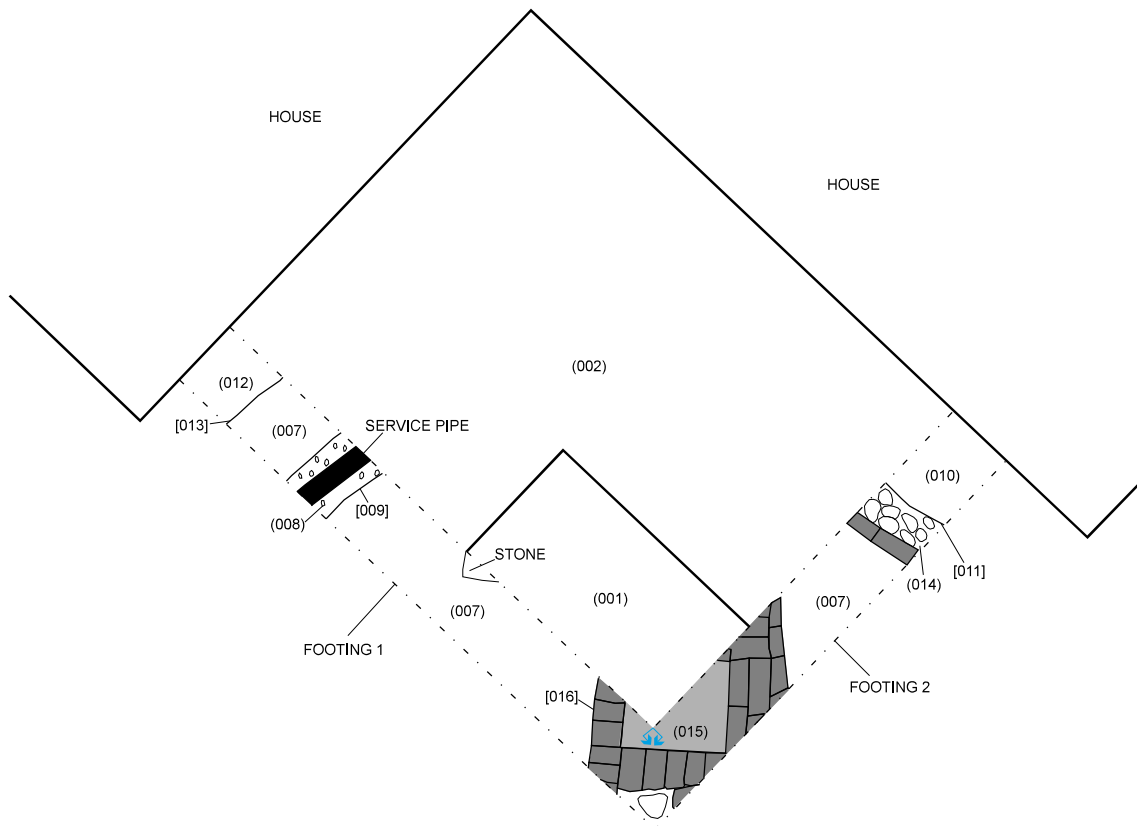
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0m 2km

1:50,000

FIGURE 1: Site Location





Site Code: TBD13
Accession Code:

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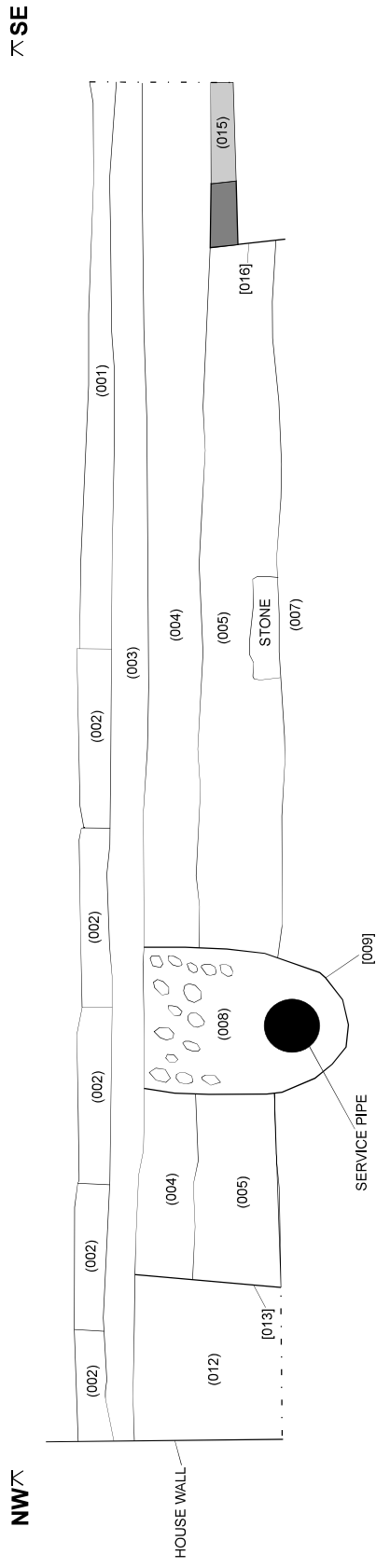
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 CONCRETE

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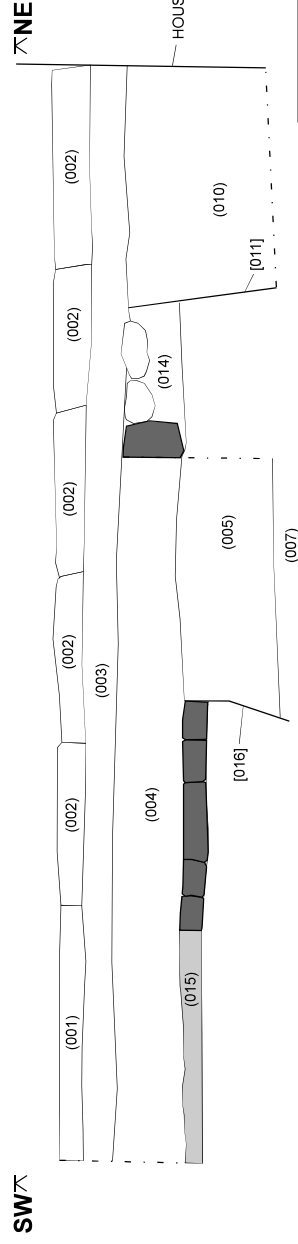
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FIGURE 3: Site Plan

SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION FOOTING 1



SOUTHEAST FACING SECTION FOOTING 2



Site Code: TBD13
Accession Code:



FIGURE 4: Sections