

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Chalk Pit Cottage, 2 Wallingford Road,
North Stoke, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Christopher Crabb, and Tim Dawson and Susan Porter

Site Code: CPC12/09

(SU 6142 8627)

**Chalk Pit Cottage, 2 Wallingford Road,
North Stoke, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Howard

by ChristopherCrabb,TimDawson
andSusanPorter
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices
Ltd

SiteCodeCPC12/09

October 2012

Summary

Site name: Chalk Pit Cottage, 2 Wallingford Road, North Stoke, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 6141 8627

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 3rd October 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Christopher Crabb

Site code: CPC 12/09

Summary of results: Groundworks in the areas of development to the north and east of the existing house were observed but no finds or features of archaeological interest were present.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 19.10.12 Steve Preston ✓ 19.10.12

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Report 12/09

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Chalk Pit Cottage, 2 Wallingford Road, North Stoke, Oxfordshire OX10 6BD (SU 6141 8627) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Eric Howard of 7 Finch Way, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3XT.

Planning permission (P11/W1952) has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of extensions to the side and rear of Chalk Pit Cottage. This was subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching during the period of groundworks.

This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist at Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services and based on a brief prepared by him (Oram 2012). The fieldwork was undertaken by Christopher Crabb on 3rd October 2012 and Susan Porter on 12th October and the site code is CPC 12/09.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in Newtown, an extension to the village of North Stoke, some 400m east of the core of the settlement (Fig. 1). North Stoke lies 3km south of Wallingford near the foot of a steep slope overlooking the River Thames, which flows southwards c.700m west of the site. The site is currently occupied by Chalk Pit Cottage within its garden and is bordered by the B4009 (Wallingford Road) to the west, a lane to the north, open fields to the east and further housing to the south (Fig. 2). Topographically, the site slopes downhill from its north-eastern corner with the house itself being terraced into the hillside leaving a steep bank to its north and east (Pl. 1). The underlying geology is described as Lower Chalk with the site lying just to the east of an exposed band of Totternhoe Stone (BGS 1980), the Lower Chalk was observed on site. The site is at a height of 60m above Ordnance Datum in the north-east dropping to 55m in the south-west.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site area has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2012). In summary, the site's potential stems from its position within an area of considerable archaeological interest, as it is located north east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of North Stoke Bronze Age ring ditch and Neolithic bank barrow complex (SM 121) (Case 1982; Ford 1984) and east of the Late Saxon and medieval village of North Stoke (Williams and Martin 2002). The scheduled area also contains a Roman site with a further Saxon site to its west (Ford and Hazell 1990). An archaeological recording action at Black Barn Farm to the north-east recorded two pits of Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age Date (Mundin and Colley 2010) though a watching brief on Cook Lane to the south west revealed nothing of interest (McNicoll-Norbury 2008). Fieldwork in the area surrounding the proposal site has revealed extensive lithic scatters representing Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement with an extensive Iron Age and Roman settlement on the hilltop to the east (Ford 1987; Ford and Hazell 1989).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including observation of surface stripping, the excavation of service trenches and landscaping works. Spoil heaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

The existing house was constructed on a terrace and as such the areas of the new extension were located on the higher natural ground level beyond the retaining walls of the patio to the north and east of the house, (Fig. 3, Pl.1), these areas were stripped down to the surface of the natural geology (chalk) using a mini-digger with grading bucket, prior to further ground reduction.

Topsoil of varying depth 0.20-0.30m was removed exposing the chalk natural geology with no subsoil deposits observed. The area to the north of the existing house (Pl. 2) was 5m wide and sloped steeply down to the south (towards the existing house). To the east of the existing house with a 2.5m wide patio and retaining wall separating it from the house. The area stripped was 3.5m in width and was relatively flat by comparison to the area to the north. No archaeological deposits were observed.

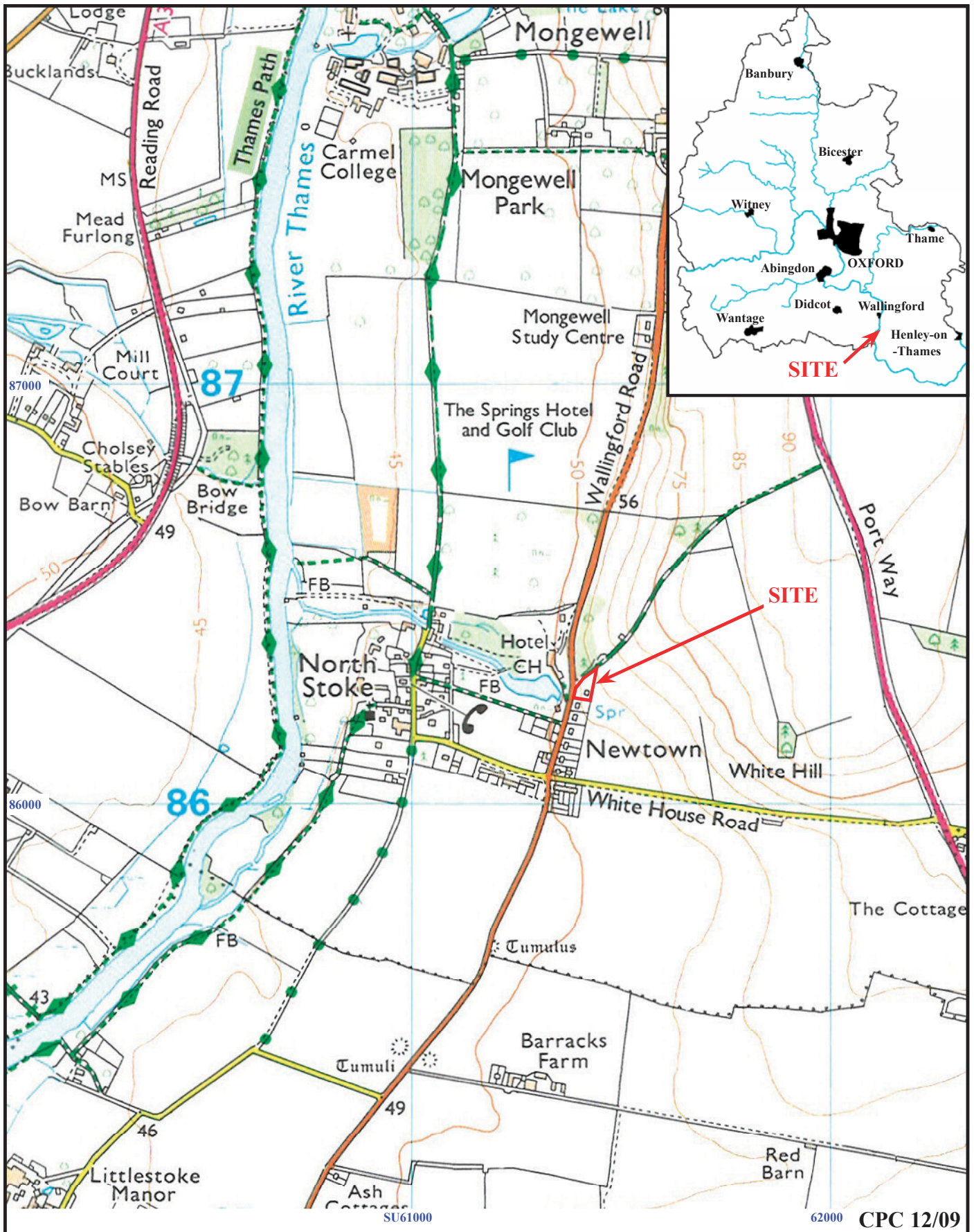
The excavation of service trenches was not monitored as they consisted only of re-opening existing trenches to allow the new services to be placed alongside.

Conclusion

Despite the considerable potential for archaeological activity in the wider area the works on site revealed no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were recorded.

References

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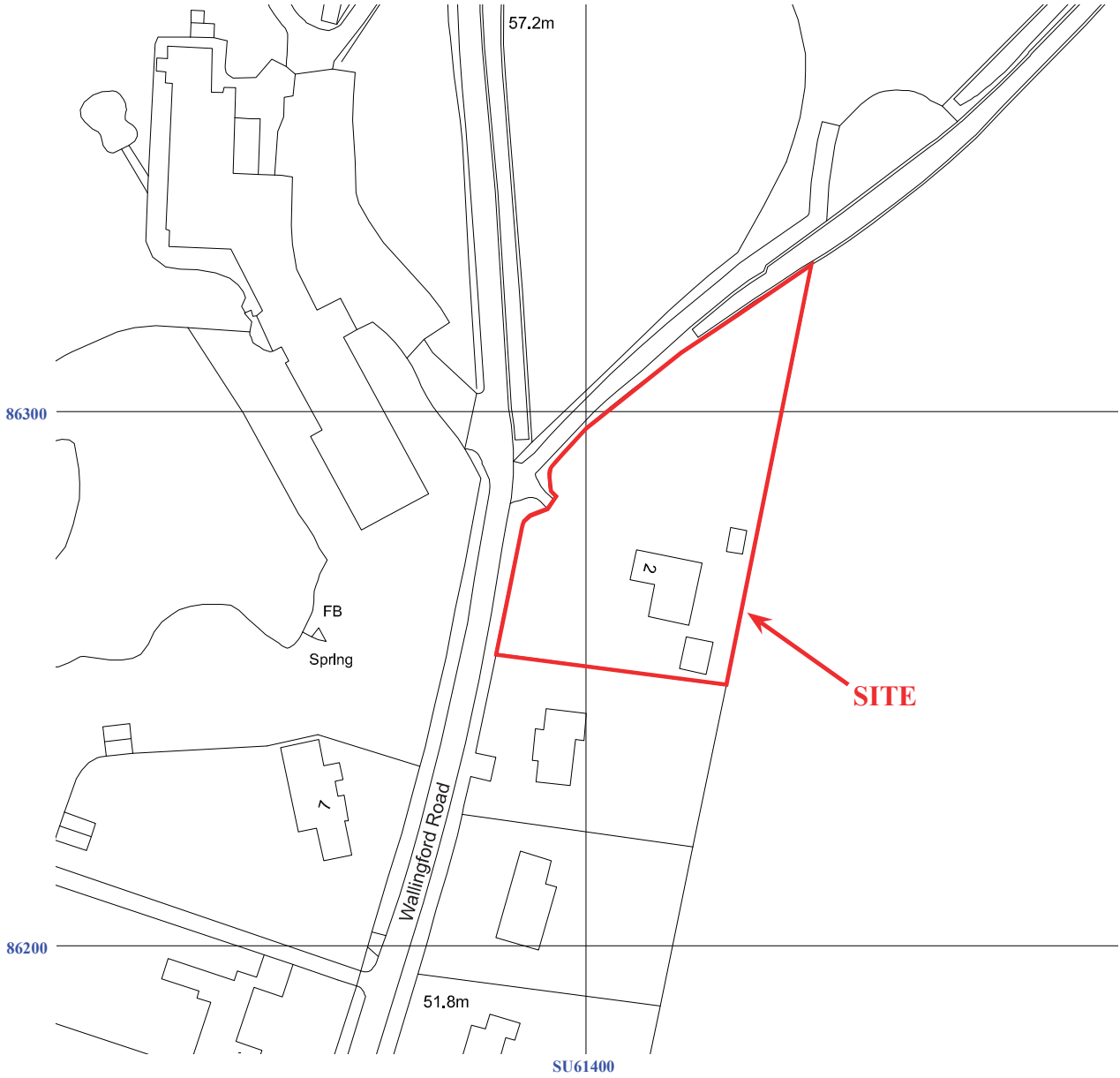


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Figure 1. Location of site within North Stoke and Oxfordshire.

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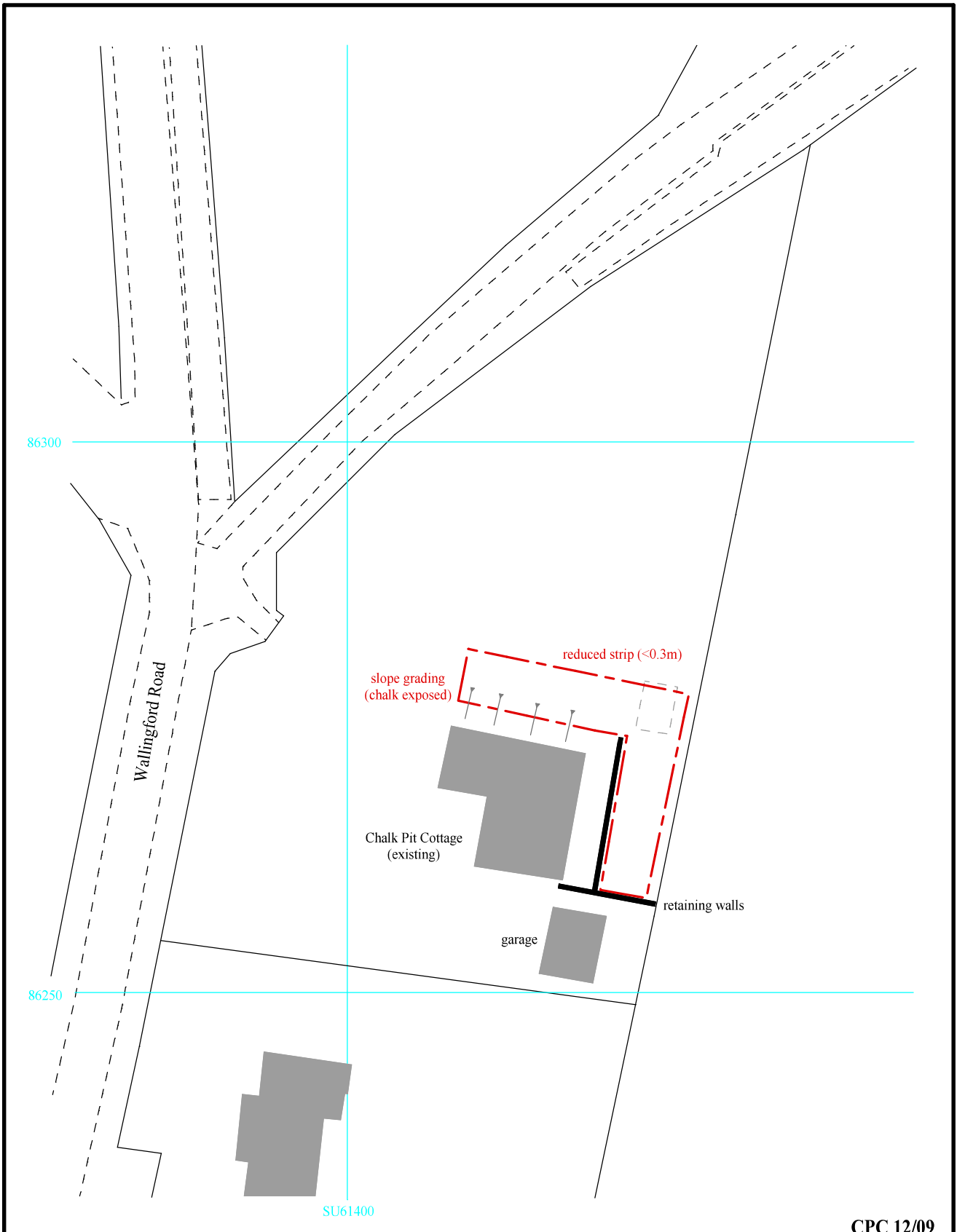


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Wallingford Road.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Top of terracing, looking south west.



Plate 2. Terracing slope at north of house, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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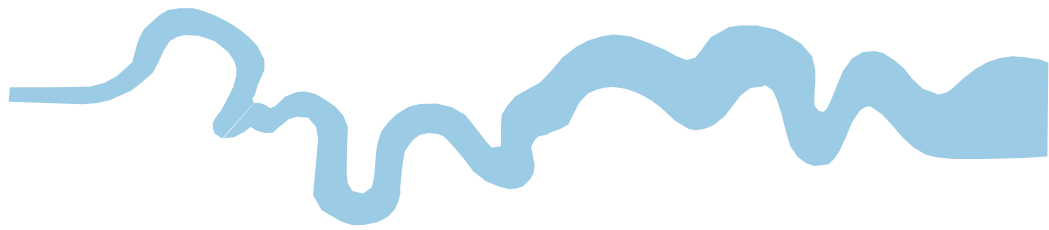
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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