

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**133 Abingdon Road, Standlake,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Mundin

Site Code: ABS13/01

(SP 3921 0294)

**133 Abingdon Road, Standlake,
Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Edgestone Homes Ltd

by Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code ABS13/01

January 2013

Summary

Site name: 133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 3921 0294

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 25th – 30th January 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Munding

Site code: ABS 13/01

Area of site: c.750 sq m

Summary of results: The foundations for two new house plots were excavated, partly over the location of the previous structure. No archaeological deposits of interest were observed during the groundworks.

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

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 31.01.13
	Steve Preston ✓ 31.01.13

133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 13/01

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX29 7QN (SP 3921 0294) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Gemma Cade, of Edgestone Homes, 42 Netherton Road, Appleton, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 5JZ.

Planning permission (12/1420/P/FP) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of two new houses on the existing plot of 133 Abingdon Road following demolition of the previous structure. This consent was subject to two archaeological conditions requiring an archaeological watching brief to be maintained during groundwork, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by the District Council, as advised by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a scheme approved by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service and based on a brief prepared by him (Coddington 2013). The fieldwork was carried out by Andrew Muddin, Tim Dawson and Aiji Castle between 25th and 30th January 2013. The site code is ABS13/01. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the north side of the main road (A415) through the southern part of Standlake (Figs 1 and 2). Standlake is a linear settlement following the Abingdon Road in the south, leading to Brighthampton in the west, and continues along the north-south aligned High Street to the east of the current site. The underlying geology is 1st (Flood Plain) Terrace deposits on the west edge of the floodplain for the River Windrush (BGS 1982). The site was at a height of 65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site had once been the site of Fletchers Farm, but has more recently been a residential plot.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been highlighted in a brief prepared by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2013). In summary this highlights that the development lies within an area of widespread archaeological remains. To the north-east and south is an extensive cropmark complex that denotes prehistoric settlement and burial sites. Visible features include enclosures, ring ditches (levelled burial mounds), ring gully roundhouses, trackways and pits (Benson and Miles 1975, map 21). This area of cropmarks west is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM140).

Other features of archaeological interest lie within the village with, for example, Saxon and Medieval activity that recorded at Brighthampton (Ford and Preston 2002). Other small scale works, closer to the current site, have also identified medieval activity, (OAU 1996; OA 2002) whereas test pitting at number 45 Abingdon Road, had revealed nothing of archaeological interest (Hammond 2003) and a watching brief at number 126 revealed two undated features below medieval ridge and furrow (Mumford 2004).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record an archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involved the examination of the new foundation trenches making up Plot 1 and 2 and any other invasive groundworks such as the digging of new service trenches or soakaways.

Results

The watching brief examined the footing trenches of the two house plots (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2).

Plot 1

The foundation trenches for this plot were 0.6m wide. The stratigraphy revealed a modern overburden which was a hetrogenous mix of rubbish and building material from the previous structure with dark brown clayey silt, to a depth of 0.2m. This soil in places was very rooty. This overlay the natural geology which was a light grey-yellow sand and gravel. No subsoil was noted in any of the exposed sections. No archaeological deposits of interest were uncovered. The maximum depth of excavation of the new footing was 0.9m.

Plot 2

The foundation trenches for this plot were also 0.6m wide. The stratigraphy revealed two layers of made ground especially in the eastern zone of the plot. Modern made ground 0.2m deep overlay a light brown sandy silt

which contained modern brick and tile. This reached a depth of 0.55m. Below this was a dark brown sandy silt down to 0.7m. Both layers seem to be of fairly modern origin. Below this was the natural sandy gravel geology. The maximum depth of excavation was 1.1m. No archaeological finds nor deposits were uncovered during the excavation of this plot.

Finds

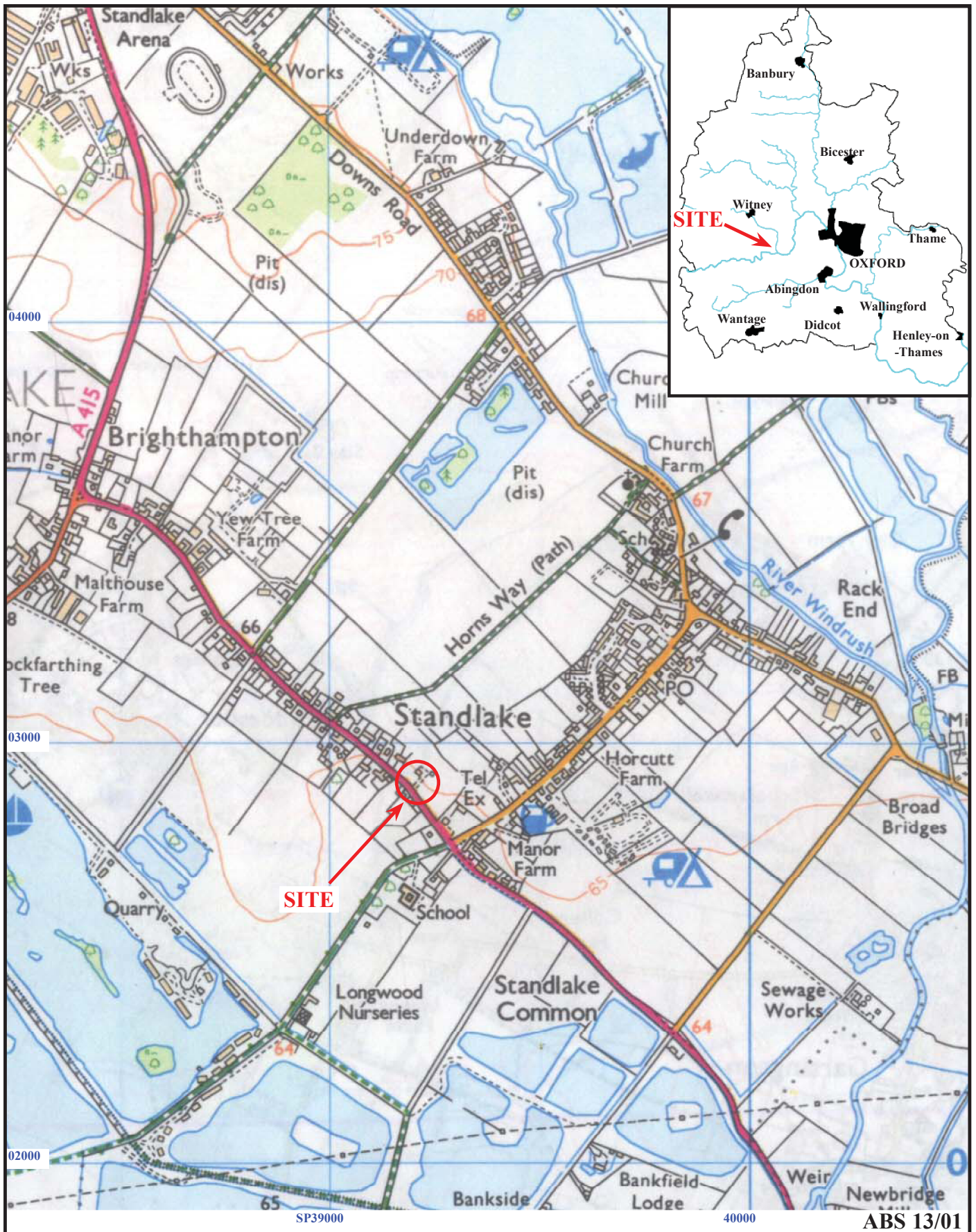
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered. All modern material noted was of 20th century date, including china, and scrap metal. This was retained on site..

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were observed nor finds recovered during the groundworks, and although the site lies within an area of considerable archaeological potential, this potential was not realised on this site.

References

- Benson, D and Miles, D, 1974, 'The Upper Thames Valley: an archaeological survey of the river gravels', Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit Survey **2**, Oxford
- BGS, 1982, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 236, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coddington, H, 2013, '133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Design for Archaeological Watching Brief', OCAS, Oxford
- Ford, S and Preston, S, 2002, 'Medieval Occupation at The Orchard, Brighthampton', *Oxoniensia*, **47**, 287–312
- Hammond, S, 2003, 'Standlake, Pump Close, 45 Abingdon Road', *South Midlands Archaeol* **33**, 84
- Mumford, J, 2004, 'Standlake, 126 Abingdon Road', *South Midlands Archaeol* **34**, 73
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- OAU, 1996, 'Land at 122 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxon, Archaeological Evaluation Report', Oxford Archaeological Unit unpubl rep, Oxford
- OA, 2002, '128 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire, Archaeological watching brief', Oxford Archaeology unpubl rep **1347**, Oxford

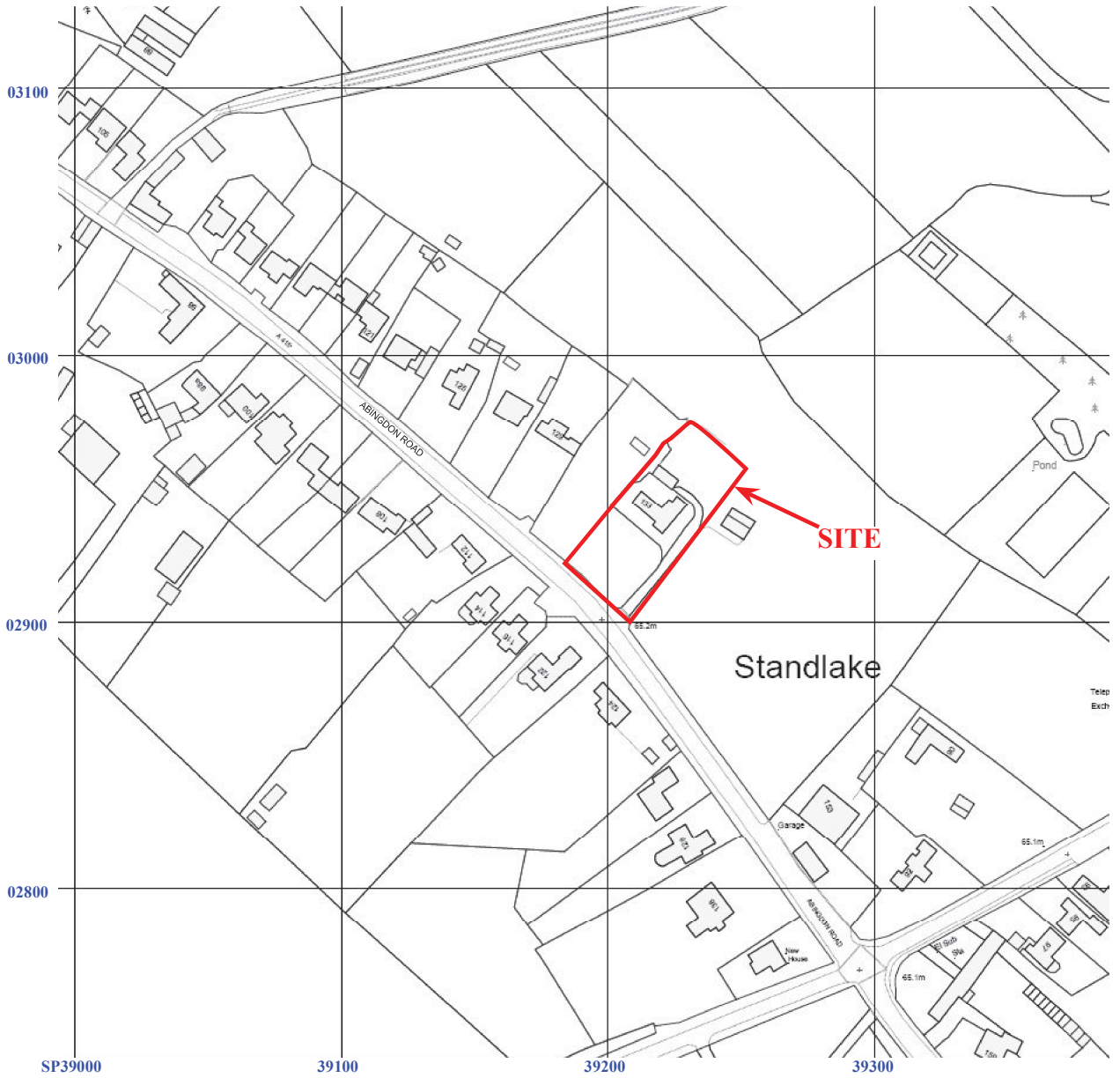


**133 Abingdon Road, Standlake,
Oxfordshire, 2013
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Standlake and Oxfordshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 180 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



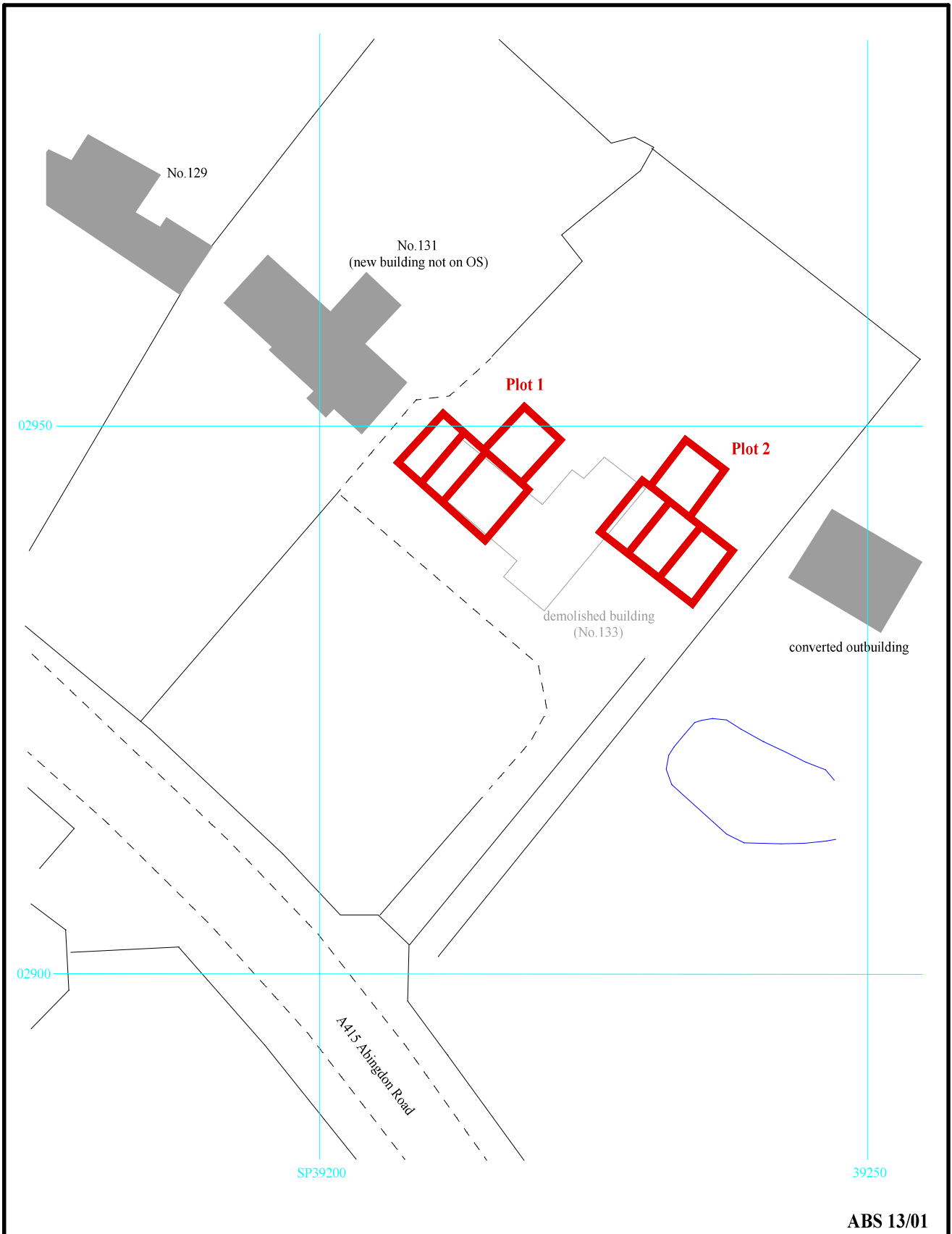
ABS 13/01



**133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire, 2013
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Abingdon Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey digital mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale: 1:2500



ABS 13/01

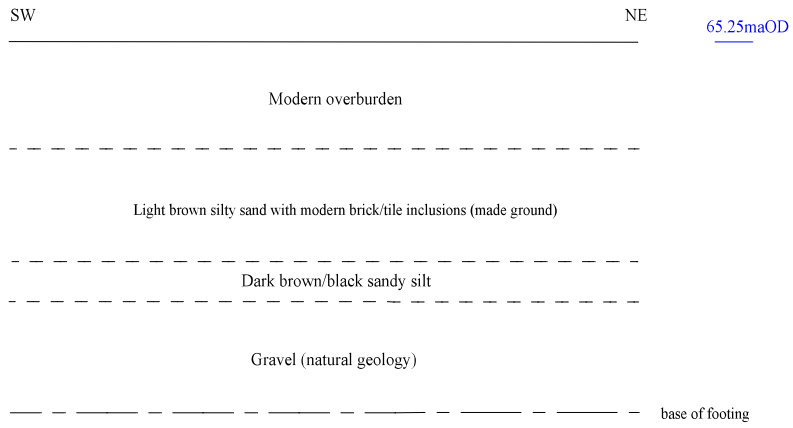
133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire, 2013
Archaeological watching brief

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 SERVICES

Plot 2



ABS 13/01

**133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire, 2013
Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Plot 2 footing, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Plot 2 section, looking west, Scale: 1m.

ABS 13/01

133 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire, 2013
Archaeological watching brief

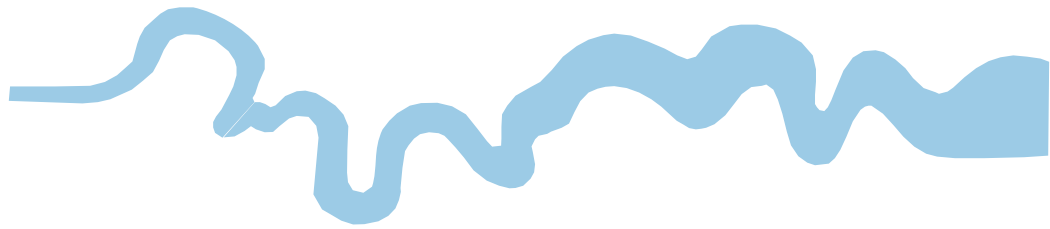
Plates 1 and 2.

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**