

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**42 Wallingford Road, Cholsey,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: WRC13/195

(SU 5919 8687)

**42 Wallingford Road,
Cholsey, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr N Clarke

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRC 13/195

February 2014

Summary

Site name: 42 Wallingford Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5919 8687

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 6th November-17th December 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Natasha Bennett, Andy Taylor and Andrew Muddin

Site code: WRC 13/195

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 20.02.14 Steve Preston ✓ 20.02.14

42 Wallingford Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 13/195

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 42 Wallingford Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire (SU 5919 8687) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Clarke of Pippins, 22 Abingdon Road, Dorchester on Thames, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 7JY.

A planning consent has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council (P13/S2276/FUL) for the construction of a new house and garage. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology that requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

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 specification approved by Mr Richard Oram, Planning Archaeologist with Oxfordshire County Council, the archaeological advisers to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Natasha Bennett, Andrew MUNDIN and Andy Taylor between 6th November and 17th December 2013 and the site code is WRC 13/195.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern side of Wallingford Road, on the northern side of Cholsey (Fig. 2) which itself lies c.1km south of Wallingford (Fig. 1). The site was a rectangular plot of land, formerly the gardens of number 42. The underlying geology was 2nd Terrace Deposits (gravel) (BGS 1980) which were observed across the site and it lay at a height of 46.60m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Mr Richard Oram (Oram 2013) of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services. In summary, the site lies within the curtilage of a late 17th-century house with another house of similar date to the south. The site also lies within an area where cropmarks visible from the air suggest the presence of boundaries and enclosures, which are likely to be of

prehistoric or Roman date. A variety of prehistoric, Roman and medieval finds have been recorded within the village and the Roman road from Dorchester to Silchester passes to the west.

Evaluation trenching at Station Road (Taylor 2010) revealed field or paddock boundaries, tentatively dated to the Roman period and a single struck flint of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date. Other finds have included medieval pottery and ditches (Coles 2005; Bray 2011; Crabb 2012). Various other small investigations within the village have generally revealed little of archaeological interest (e.g., Bennett 2007; Dawson 2008; Muddin 2011; Castle and Dawson 2013; Porter 2013).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This would involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, including the observation of surface stripping, geo-technical investigations, excavation of foundations and service trenches, landscaping and all other invasive works.

Results

Foundations

The site was partially stripped of c.0.20m of topsoil overlying 0.30m of subsoil through which foundation trenches would be excavated. The foundations observed (Fig. 3) measured 0.75m wide and were dug to a depth of 1.50m comprising a further 0.14m of subsoil overlying gravel natural geology (Fig. 4).

Foundations were also dug for a garage which measured 0.60m wide and 1.15m deep (Pl. 1). The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.30m of topsoil directly overlying gravel natural geology.

Soakaway

An area for a soakaway was stripped measuring 6mx2m. It was dug to 0.45m deep and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.34m of topsoil overlying gravel with chalk patches natural geology.

Service Trench

This trench was to link between the existing property on the site, the new build and Wallingford Road. It was dug to a depth of 0.80m and the stratigraphy consisted of 0.19m of driveway gravel overlying 0.18m of a dark grey black clayey silt. This overlay 0.23m of a dark brown clayey silt overlying 0.20m of chalky clay (Fig. 4 and Pl. 2).

No archaeological features were observed in any of these works.

Finds

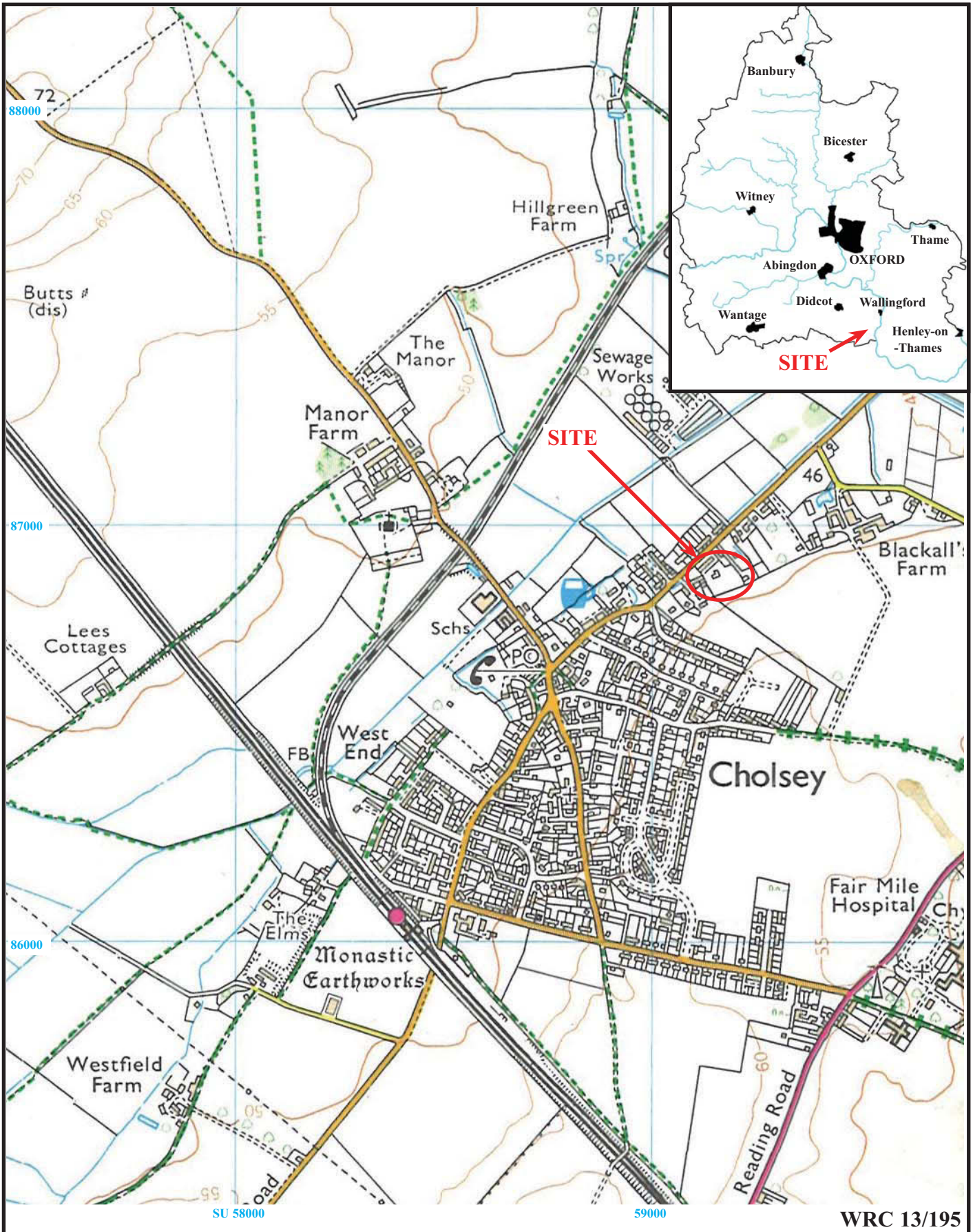
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological features being present on the site no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

References

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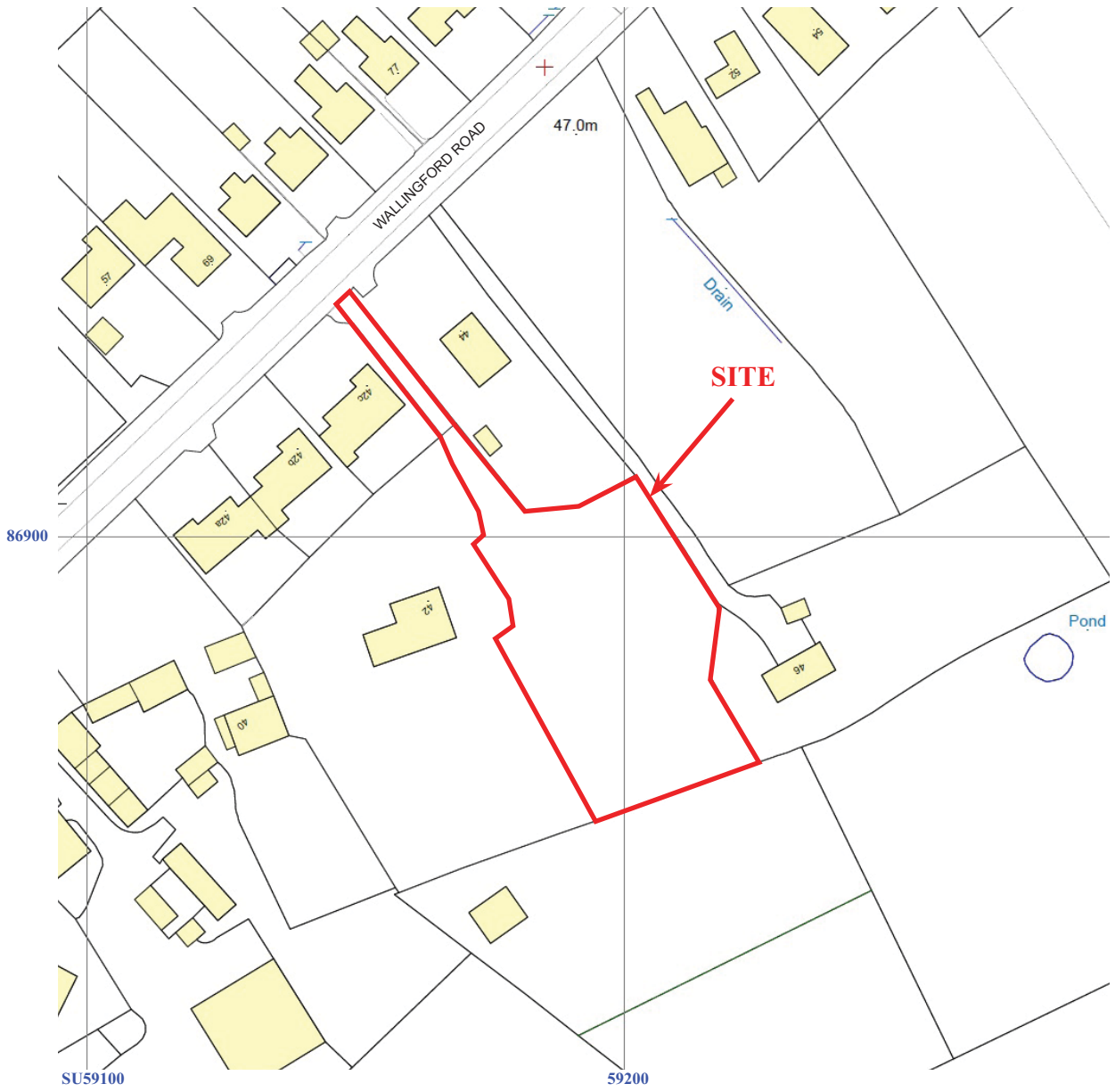


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Figure 1. Location of site within Cholsey and Oxfordshire

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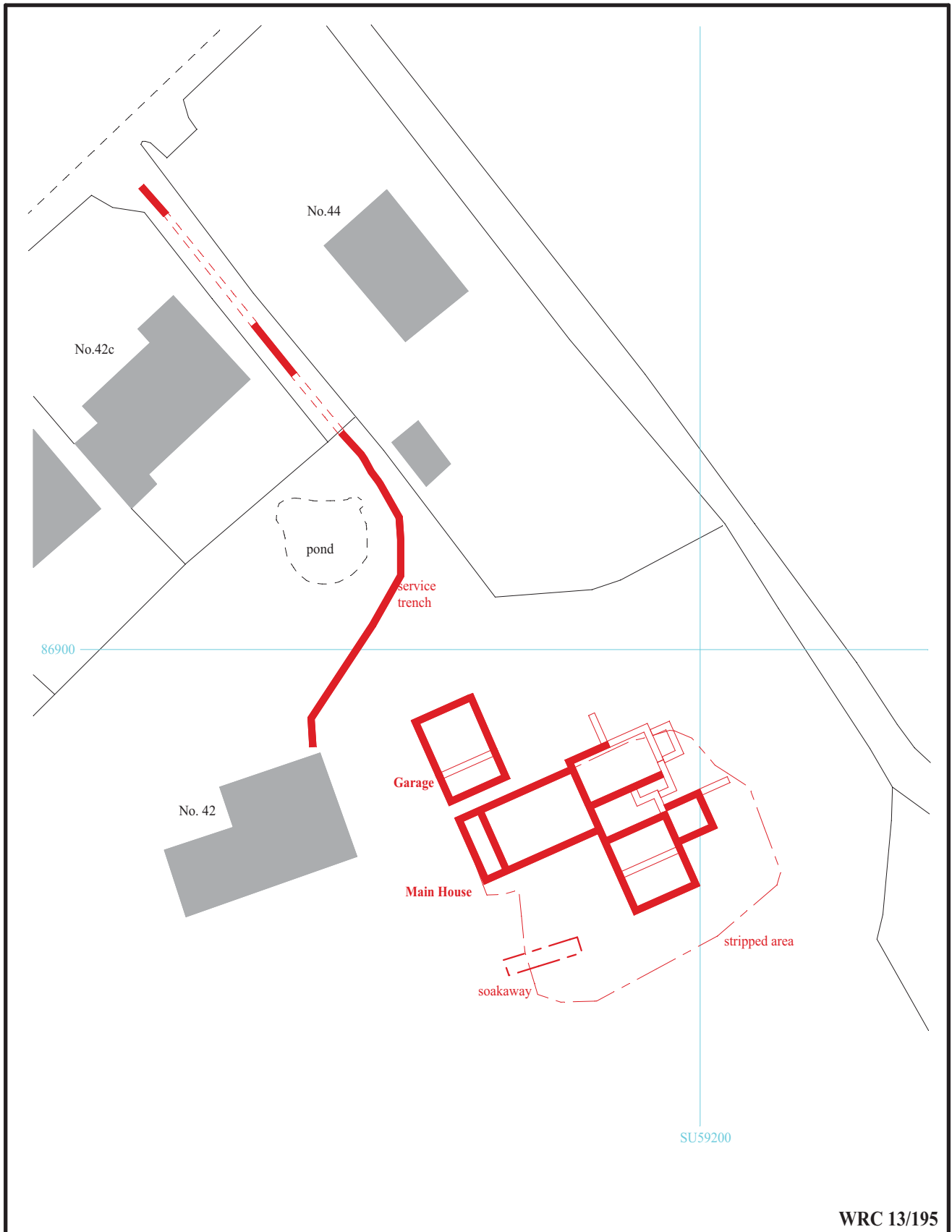
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Wallingford Road.

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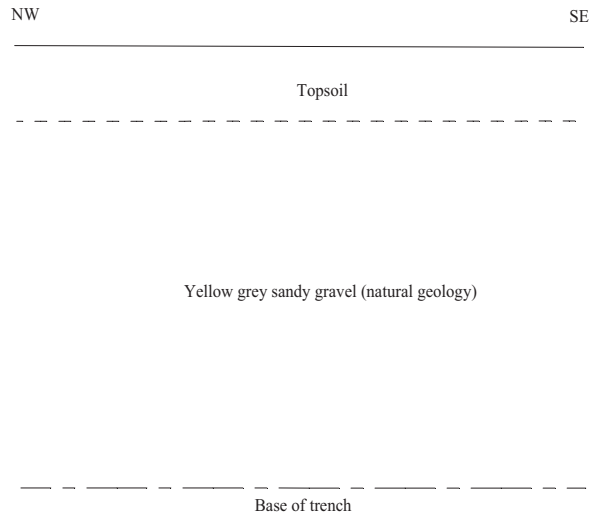
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Figure 3. Location of watching brief areas.

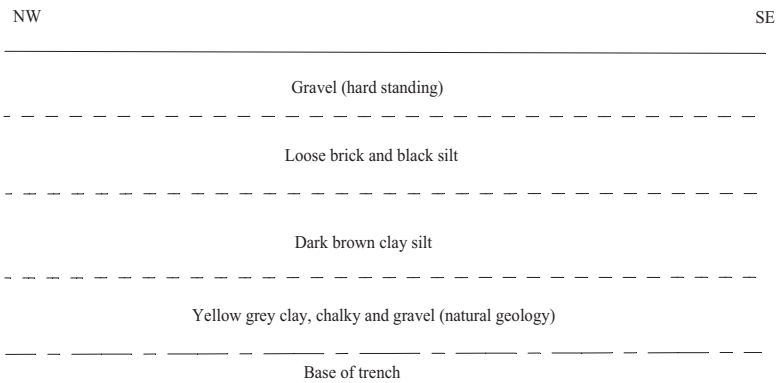


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House and Garage foundation



Service trench



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Figure 4. Representative sections.



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Plate 1. Garage foundation, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Service trench, looking west.

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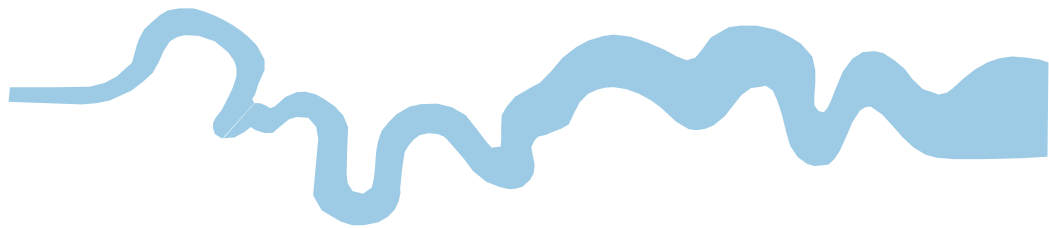
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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