

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: GCM14/106

(SU 5885 8402)

12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Lindsall

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GCM 14/106

August 2014

Summary

Site name: 12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5885 8402

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th June 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: GCM 14/106

Area of site: c. 60 sq m

Summary of results: Footings for a new northern extension of the house were observed. No archaeological deposits were encountered nor finds retrieved.

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 ✓ 15.08.14 Steve Preston ✓ 14.08.14

12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 14/106

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1) (SU 5885 8402). The work was commissioned by Mr David Lindsall of the same address.

Planning permission (P14/S0679/HH) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a new extension following demolition of the existing garage and conservatory on the north of the house. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features from the new development two planning conditions (5 and 6) have been attached to this permission requiring a programme of archaeological works based on a specification agreed in advance. In this instance a watching brief is required to be carried out during the course of all foundation trenching for the new northern extension. A further southern extension planning application is pending.

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 for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, advisers to the District Council on matters pertaining for archaeology in the planning process, and based on a brief supplied by him (Oram 2014).. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on 18th June 2014. The site code is GCM 14/106.

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

Moulsoford lies on the left (western) bank of the river Thames, south of Wallingford, Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The site is located on the south side of the western end of Glebe Close (Fig. 2), a residential cul-de-sac which leads off the main road (A329) through Moulsoford village. The underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk (BGS 1980) which was recorded as a degraded deposit in the base of the footing trench. The site is approximately 53m above Ordnance Datum at the foot of the valley side that rises steeply westwards from the river.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in the brief prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (Oram 2014). In summary, the site lies in an area of some archaeological interest.

To the west, cropmarks visible from the air indicate the presence of a trackway and field system, perhaps of Iron Age or Roman date. An excavation in the 1960s, after a chance discovery of a Bronze Age torc while ploughing, uncovered Roman burials. A second gold torc was recovered with a metal detector some 550m west of the site. Elsewhere, Roman coins have been recovered 150m to the west of the site and within the grounds of the Old Vicarage) with Roman pottery recovered from the playing fields immediately to the south. Fieldwork in advance of a pipeline located an Iron Age and Roman settlement on Halfpenny Lane to the west with another Late Iron Age settlement to the south (Ford 1990). The projected course of the Roman road from Dorchester to Silchester lies somewhere in the vicinity of the site and may follow the main road forming the eastern boundary of the school (Margary 1973, 151).

Evaluation prior to establishing of artificial turf pitches at Cranford House School, just to the north of Glebe Close, uncovered a human grave and a small number of linear features. These features were undated but the grave may represent a continuation of the Roman cemetery identified to the west (Platt 2012a). Recording action during the building of the new pitches uncovered an isolated group of intercutting pits, also of Roman date. One sherd of late Saxon pottery also recovered, a rare find in this part of Oxfordshire (Platt 2012b).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits threatened by the development. This would involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks including footing trenching or, where appropriate, ground reduction. All works were carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a bladed bucket, that was 0.65m wide.

Results

A former garage and adjoining conservatory had been removed from the northern part of the house prior to the fieldwork. The area of the new annexe was to cover 9.1m by 6.7m (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The foundation trenches were dug using a toothless bucket and were 0.6m wide and c.1-1.1m deep. The stratigraphy observed throughout the sections excavated consisted of 0.24m of topsoil, which was a grey brown silt, overlying 0.6m of brown clayey

silt subsoil. . Below this was an orange-brown silt, a natural deposit above the degraded chalk natural geology (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). The natural chalk was recorded at a depth in section of 1.07m throughout.

No archaeological deposits were uncovered.

Finds

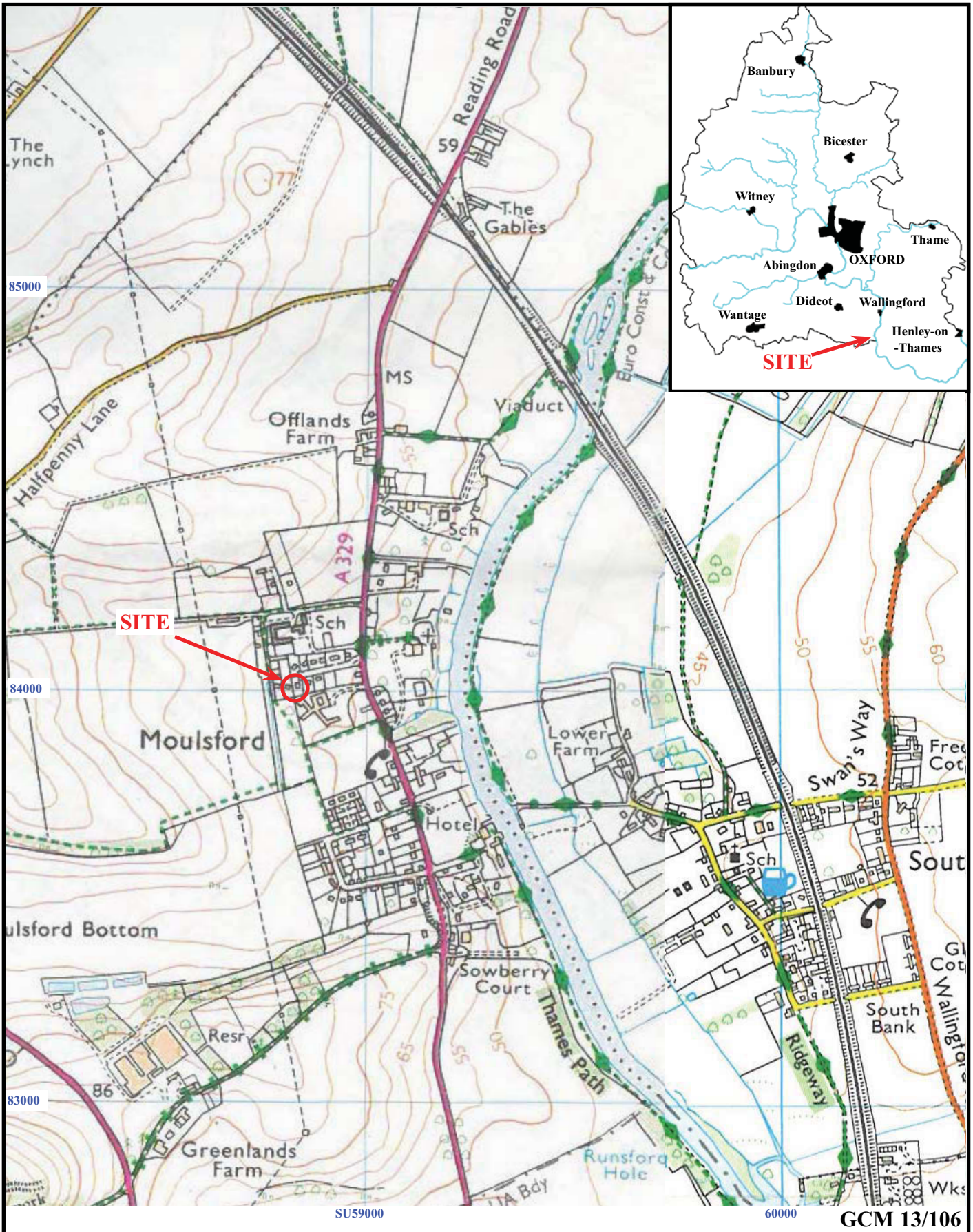
No finds were recovered from the groundworks..

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were identified within the groundworks, with deep undisturbed strata (>1m) present on the site.

References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
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- Margary, I.D, 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain*, 3rd edn, London
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
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- Platt, D, 2013a, 'New Artificial Turf Pitch, Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire: an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/05**, Reading
- Platt, D, 2013b, 'New Artificial Turf Pitch, Cranford House School, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire: an archaeological recording action', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/05b**, Reading



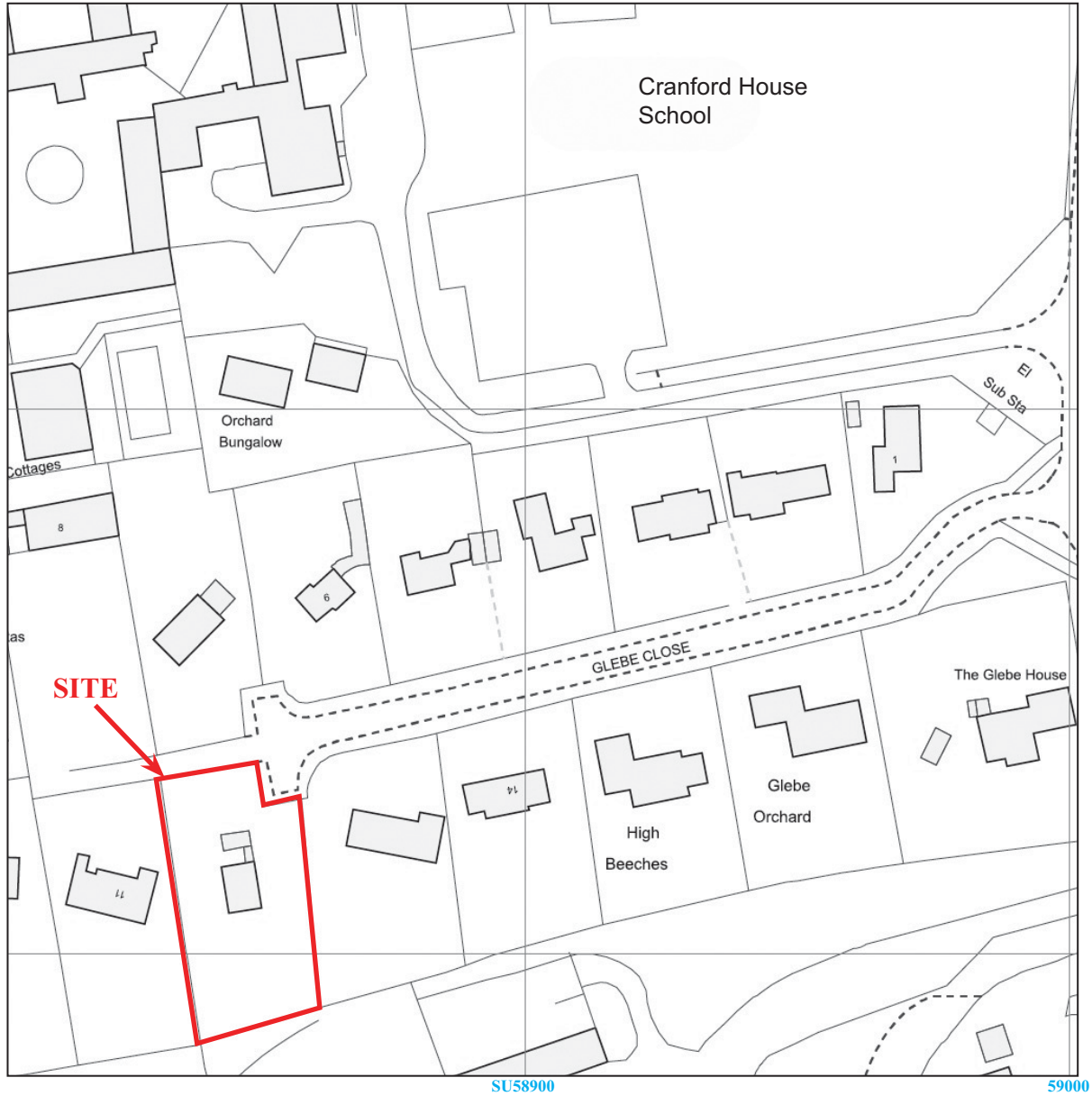
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Figure 1. Location of site within Moulsoford and Oxfordshire

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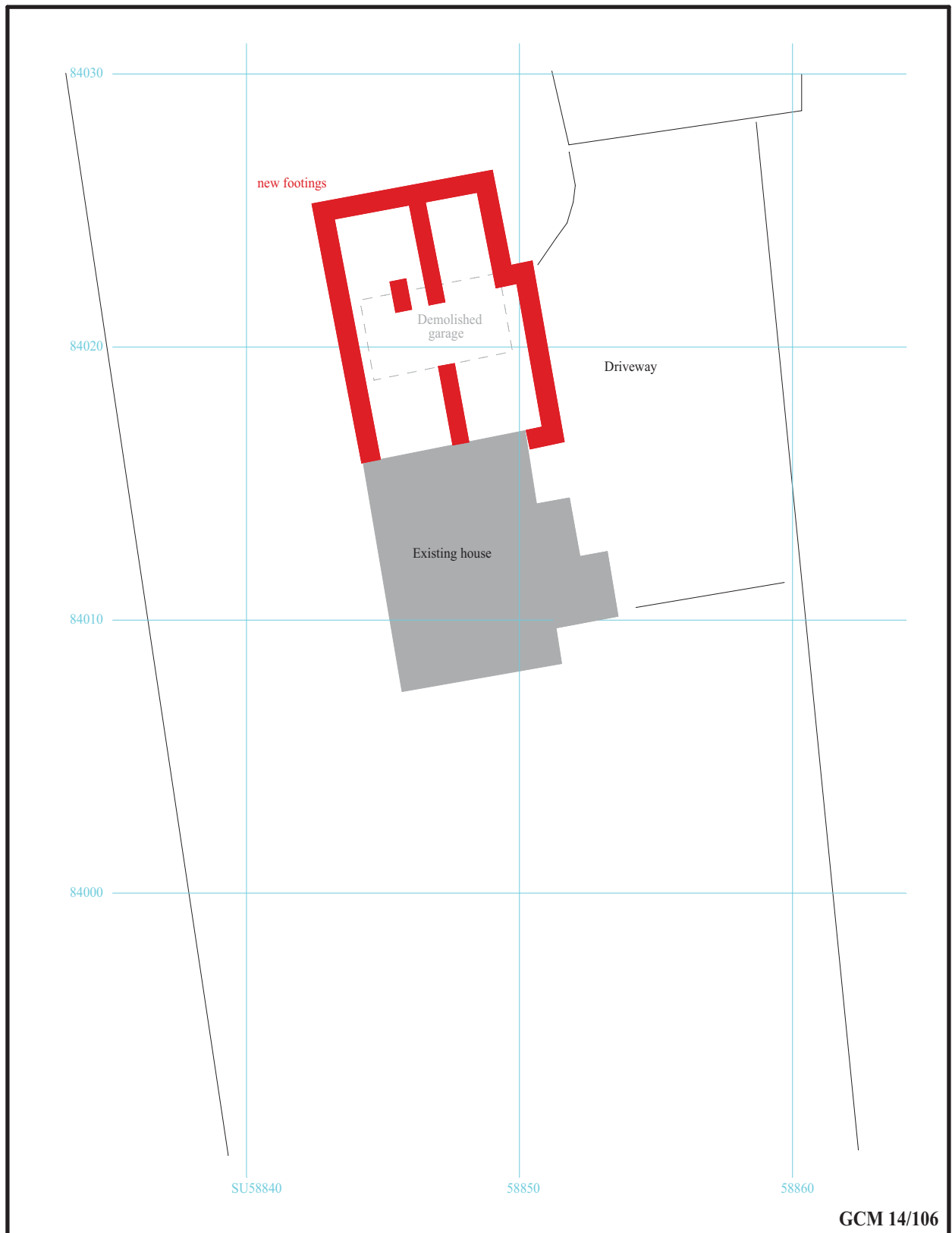


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Glebe Close.

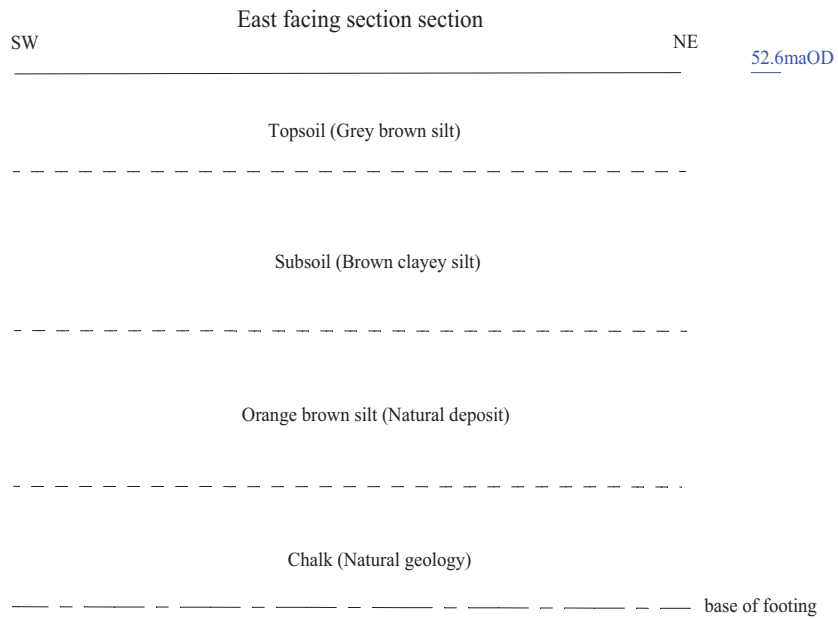
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<p>N</p>	<p>12 Glebe Close, Moulsoford, Oxfordshire, 2014 Archaeological Watching Brief</p> <p>Figure 3. Location of observed area.</p>	<p>THAMES VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES</p>
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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Area of new footings, looking north east.



Plate 2. South west corner of western footing section, looking west, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.5m.

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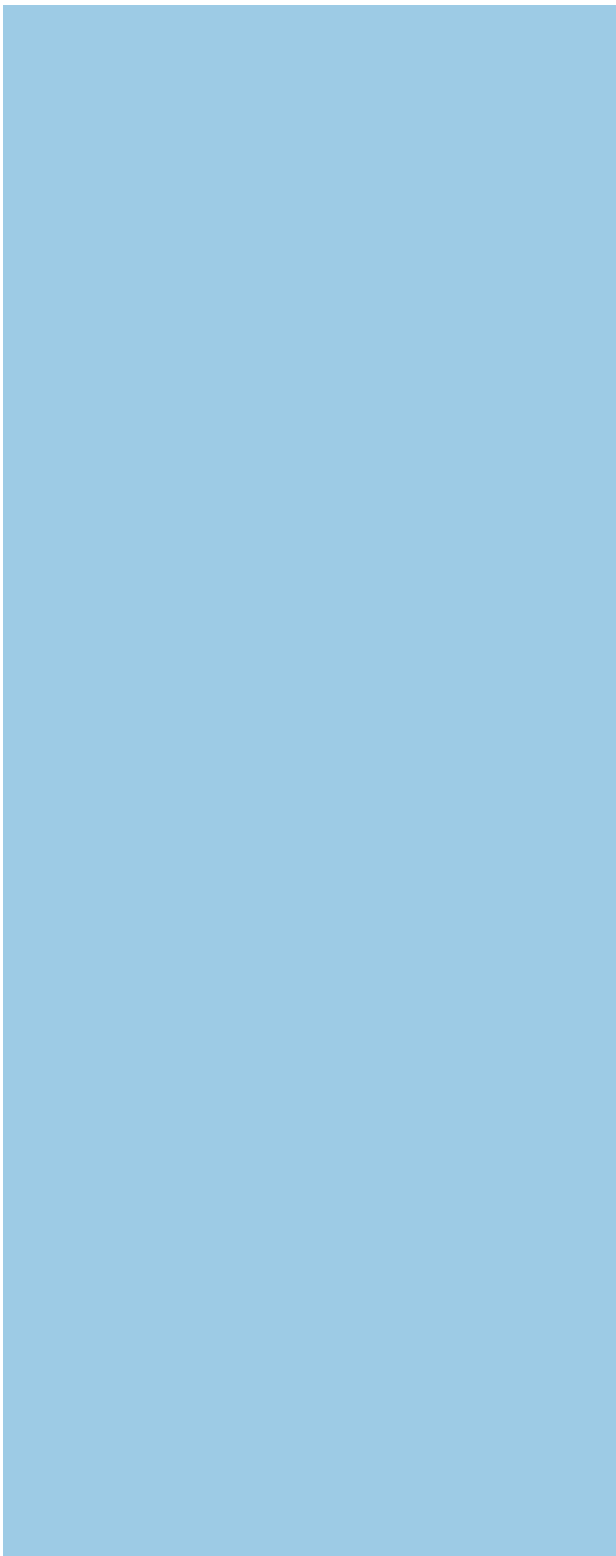
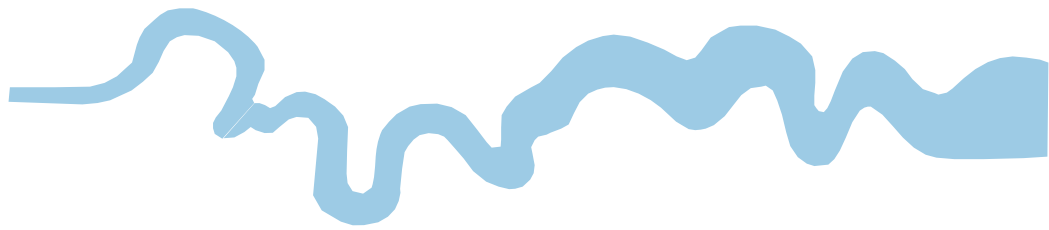
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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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