

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Tickledown, Wallingford Road,  
Nr Mongewell, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andrew Muddin**

**Site Code: TWM14/201**

**(SU 6157 8716)**

**Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell,  
Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Ms Fiona Pinner**

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TWM 14/201

**October 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 6157 8716

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 27th – 29th October 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Muddin

**Site code:** TWM 14/201

**Summary of results:** Footings were observed during excavations for a new extension. No archaeological deposits were encountered during groundworks.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:  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](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 14.11.14 Steve Preston ✓ 14.11.14
---

# Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 14/201

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell, Oxfordshire, OX10 8DY ( Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Fiona Pinner, the homeowner.

Planning permission (P13/S3850/HH) has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a new extension, drainage and landscaping on the northern side of the existing house. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features two conditions (6 and 7) have been attached to the planning permission requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the ground works.

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 Service, advisers to the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin between 27th and 29th October 2014. The site code is TWM 14/201.

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 side of the Thames Valley c. 0.5km south of Mongewell, on the Wallingford Road (B4009) (Fig. 1) with the observed areas centred at NGR SU 6156 8716 (Fig. 2). North Stoke is some 1.5km to the south. The new extension is located to the north of the existing house, with drainage and associated levelling of the surrounding lawn to create the new footings to the north-west (Figs 2 and 3). The garden is terraced with a retaining wall creating a step up from the lawn to the previous extension. The underlying geology is Lower Chalk (BGS 1980). The site lies at c. 55m above Ordnance Datum on land that rises eastwards.

## **Archaeological background**

The potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2014) which notes the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential. Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon finds, representing occupation sites have been found in considerable quantities during field survey in the immediate area, most notably to the south but also on the hilltop to the east (Ford 1987; Ford and Hazell 1989). To the north lies the major Iron Age boundary work (Grim's Ditch) and excavation of a section of it in advance of construction of the Wallingford Bypass revealed Late Bronze Age occupation and a medieval stone structure as well as the Iron Age monument. A rich late Bronze Age riverside site was recorded on the west bank of the Thames also to the north west (Cromarty et al 2006) with both Saxon and Neolithic occupation recorded to the north west but on the east bank. The deserted Medieval village of Mongewell lies to the north west (Carmel College) and the Medieval village of North Stoke to the south west (Williams and Martin 2002).

A Georgian manor with large parkland and garden wall was later constructed at tMogewell, modifying or destroying much of the medieval manor. which was then later replaced with Carmel College, constructed in the 1890's. Recent excavations within the circuit of the old formal parkland (Mongewell Park), at The Wall House uncovered post-medieval deposits, with two earlier undated ditches. Residual and stray finds of Roman and Medieval date were also uncovered (Taylor 2012). Further works at the Wall House did not uncover archaeological deposits (Platt 2013)

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks and included observation of footing excavation after demolition of existing structures.

## **Results**

Observations of the new footings were carried out in two parts. The first took place for the site of the former extension. This area was stripped of overburden to reveal natural chalk geology with the footings dug through from this level (Pl. 1). These were generally between 0.4m and 0.7m from the top of the existing exposed chalk surface. An existing drain had been dug through with the new footing on its western edge (Fig. 3). No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

The second part of the watching brief took place to the north west. There the spoil / overburden from the previously excavated footings was dumped to make a level area (Pl. 2). This dump was up to 0.8m thick and lay directly on the old turf. Foundation trenches were dug through this up to a depth of 1.45m at its western extent. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

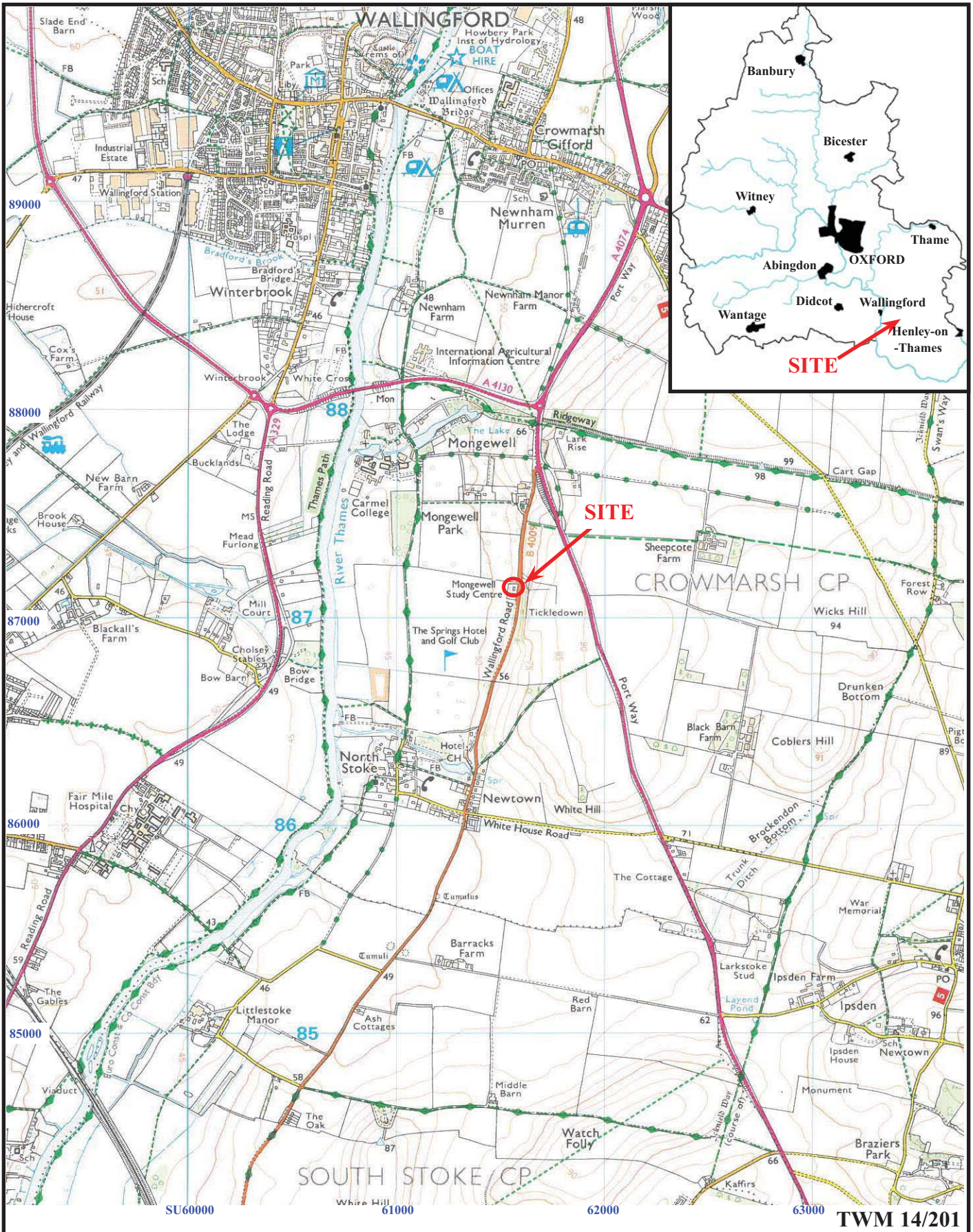
## Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were encountered during the watching brief at the site. It was noted that the current house and its former extension lay directly above the chalk natural geology suggesting that they had been terraced into the slope.

## References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cromarty, A M, Barclay A, Lambrick, G and Robinson, M, 2006, *Late Bronze Age ritual and habitation on a Thames eyot at Whitecross Farm, Wallingford: the archaeology of the Wallingford Bypass 1986-92*, Oxford Archaeol, Thames Valley Landscapes Monogr **22**, Oxford
- Ford, S, 1987, 'Flint scatters and Prehistoric settlement patterns in South Oxfordshire and East Berkshire', in A G Brown and M R Edmonds (eds), *Lithic Analysis and Later British Prehistory*, BAR **162**, Oxford, 101–35
- Ford, S and Hazell, A, 1989, 'Prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement patterns at North Stoke, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **54**, 7–23
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Oram, R, 2014, 'Tickeldown, Wallingford Road, Mongewell: Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, Oxford
- Platt, D, 2013, 'The Wall House, Mongewell, Oxfordshire, Phase 2 (Plot 3): an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/79b**, Reading
- Taylor, A, 2012, 'The Wall House, Mongewell: an archaeological watching brief (phase 1)', Oxfordshire, Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **12/79a**, Reading
- Williams, A and Martin, G, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London



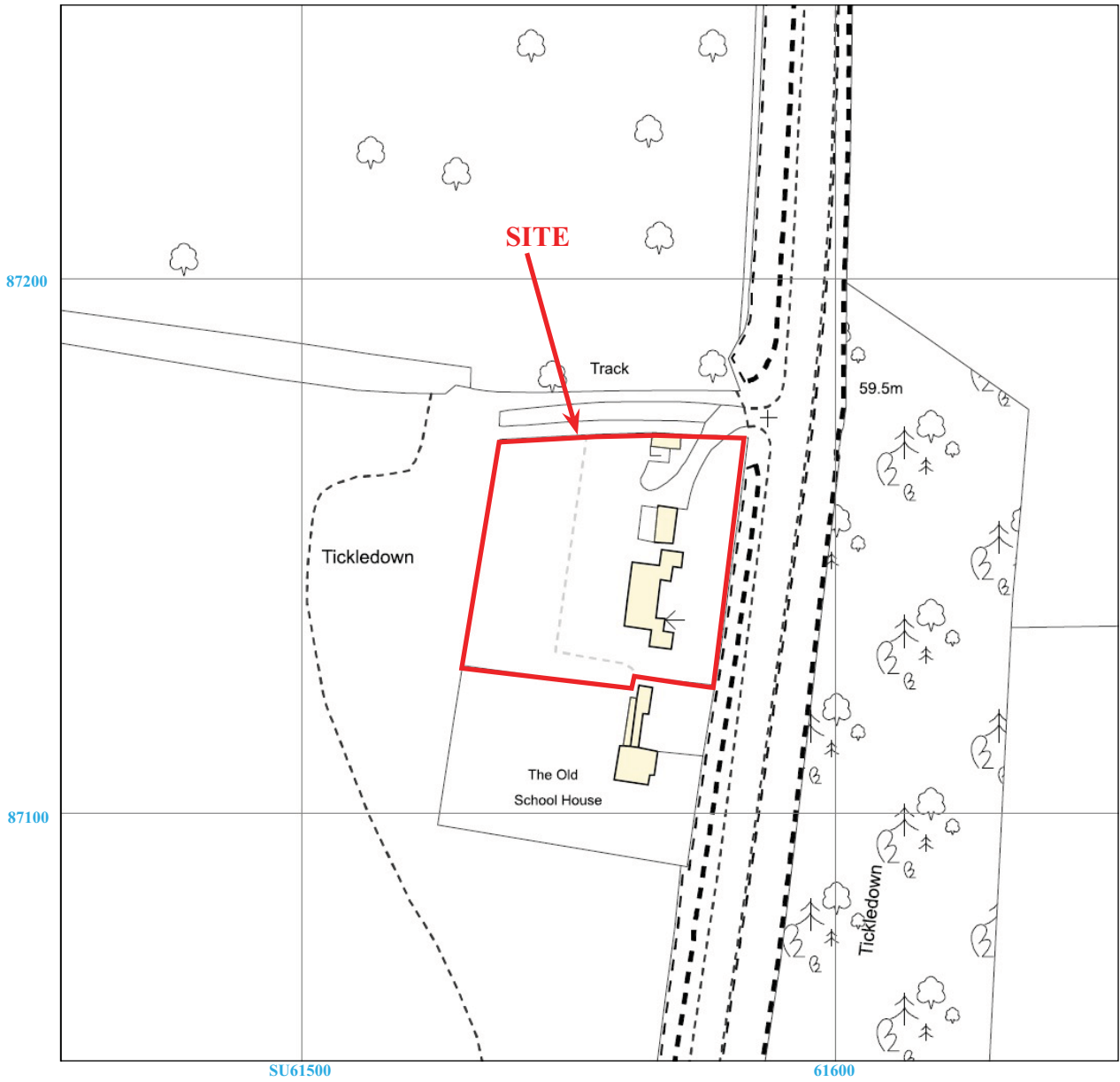


**Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell, Wallingford,  
Oxfordshire, 2014**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Mongewell and Wallingford within Oxfordshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 171 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



TWM 14/201



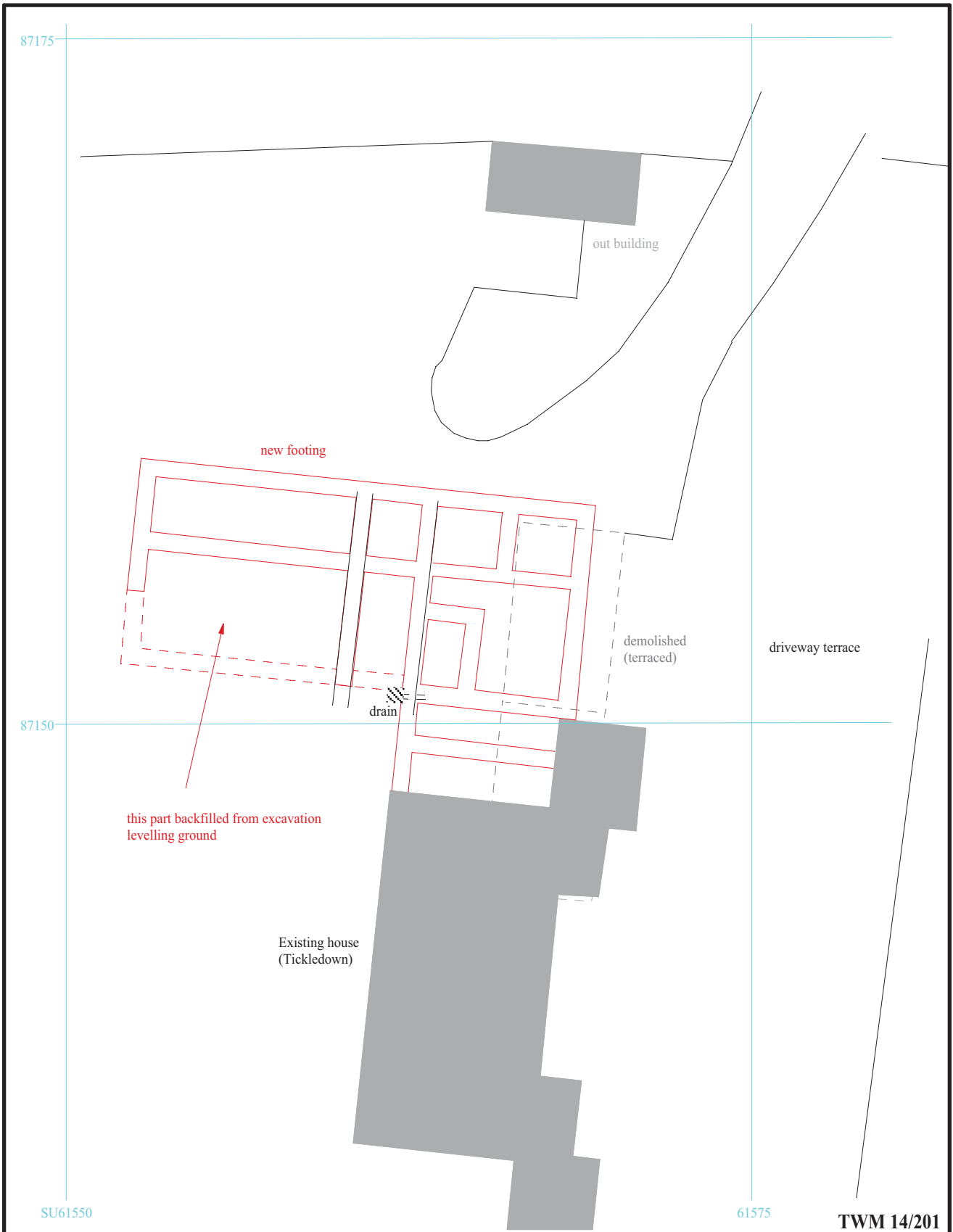
**Tickledown, Wallingford, Road, Mongewell,  
Oxfordshire, 2014  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Wallingford Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.  
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES





**Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell,  
Oxfordshire, 2014  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES

W

E

Made ground

buried turf/topsoil

subsoil

chalk (natural geology)

base of trench

TWM 14/201



**Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell,  
Oxfordshire, 2014  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section (NW footings)



THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES



Plate 1. Location of watching brief, looking south west.



Plate 2. Footing trenches looking west.

TWM 14/201

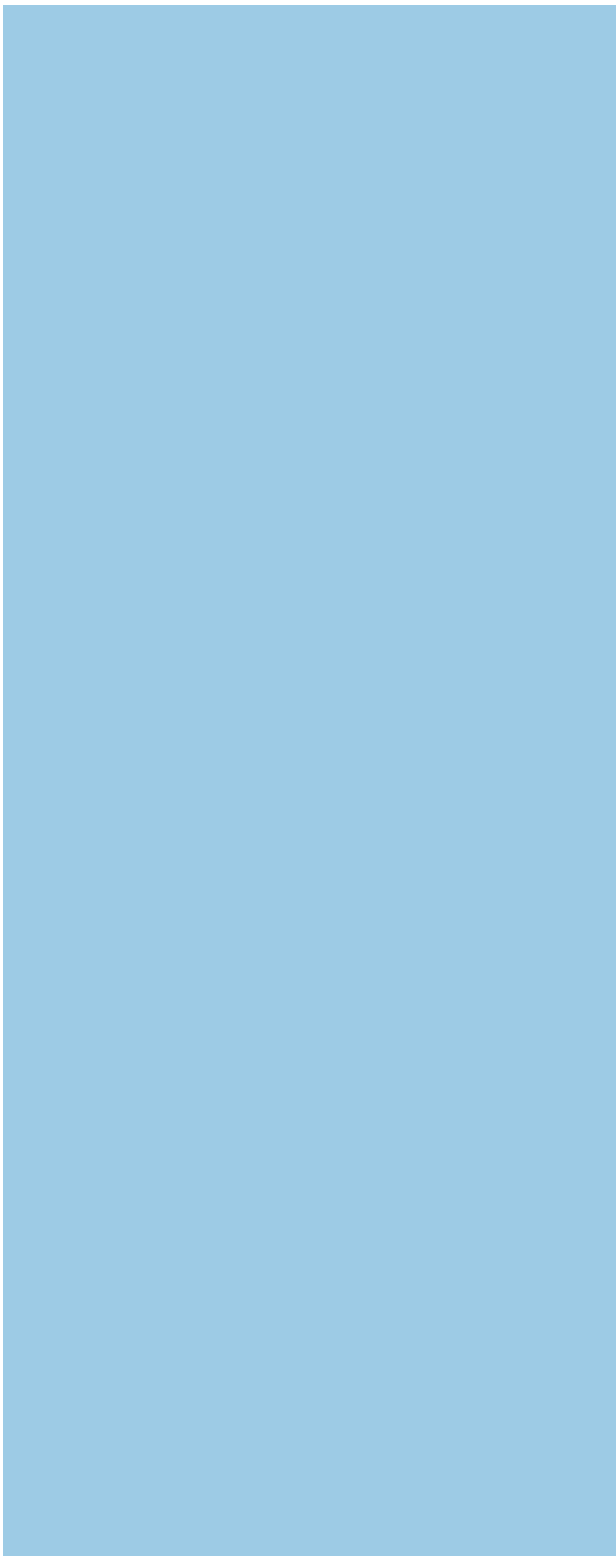
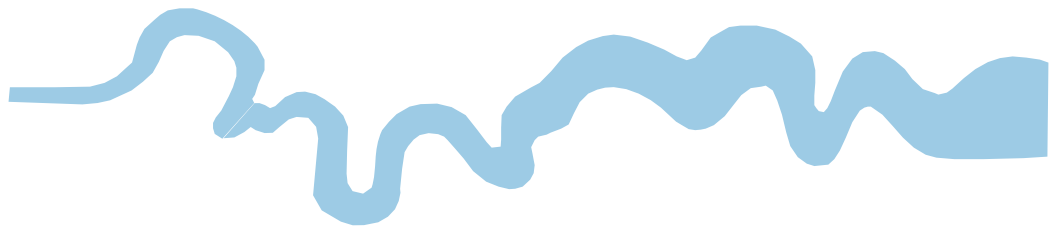
**Tickledown, Wallingford Road, nr Mongewell,  
Oxfordshire, 2014**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Plates 1 - 2.

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](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**