

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**15 Manor Crescent,
Standlake, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Site Code: MCS14/190

(SP 3958 0316)

**15 Manor Crescent, Standlake,
Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Hiles

by Genni Elliott

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MCS 14/190

December 2014

Summary

Site name: 15 Manor Crescent, Standlake, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 3958 0316

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 9th–10th December 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Genni Elliott

Site code: MCS 14/190

Area of site: 68 sq m

Summary of results: Nothing of archaeological significance was found.

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 ✓ 12.12.14 Steve Preston ✓ 11.12.14

15 Manor Crescent, Standlake, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Genni Elliott

Report 14/190

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 15 Manor Crescent, Standlake, Oxfordshire (SP 3958 0316) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Hiles of 15 Manor Crescent, Standlake, Oxfordshire.

Planning permission (14/0815/P/FP) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council for a two-storey extension to the existing house, subject to two conditions (5 and 6) which require the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, the archaeological adviser to the district council, in response to a brief prepared by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Robinson 2014). The fieldwork was undertaken by Genni Elliott between 9th and 10th December 2014 under the site code MCS 14/190.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within the centre of the village of Standlake, at the western end of Manor Crescent, situated off the north-western side of the High Street (Figs 1 and 2). Currently the area of the extension is occupied by a garage attached to the existing house with a concrete driveway. The underlying geology is recorded as First (floodplain) terrace deposits mainly consisting of river gravels (BGS 1982) and this was observed on site. The site is at approximately 66m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been highlighted in a brief prepared by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Robinson 2014). In summary, 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). An area of cropmarks to the west is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 140). At the rear of 94 Abingdon Road, to the west of the current site, a watching brief revealed a Bronze Age barrow that whilst not visible as a cropmark was well preserved just under site overburden (Coddington 2014).

Further features of archaeological interest lie within the village and nearby, with, for example, Saxon and Medieval activity recorded at Brighthampton (Ford and Preston 2002). Other small scale works, close to the current site, have also identified medieval activity (OAU 1996; OA 2002) whereas test pitting at number 45 Abingdon Road, revealed nothing of archaeological interest, and a watching brief at 126 Abingdon Road revealed two undated features below medieval ridge and furrow (Mumford 2004). A watching brief at 133 Abingdon Road, identified that the area that was being redeveloped for two new houses had been truncated in modern times (Mundin 2013). A recent watching brief also on the Abingdon Road, uncovered no archaeological remains (McNicoll-Norbury and Taylor 2014).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks including observation of surface stripping and the excavation of foundation and service trenches.

Results

The level of the entire site was reduced down to the natural gravel geology (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). Subsequent trenching through the natural was not observed. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.17m of concrete and make-up layers above 0.12m of topsoil consisting of dark greyish brown, silty clay with some gravel inclusions. This in turn was above 0.21m of subsoil; mid brown, silty clay containing gravel inclusions. This was above the natural; gravel in a matrix of mid brown, silty clay (Fig. 4).

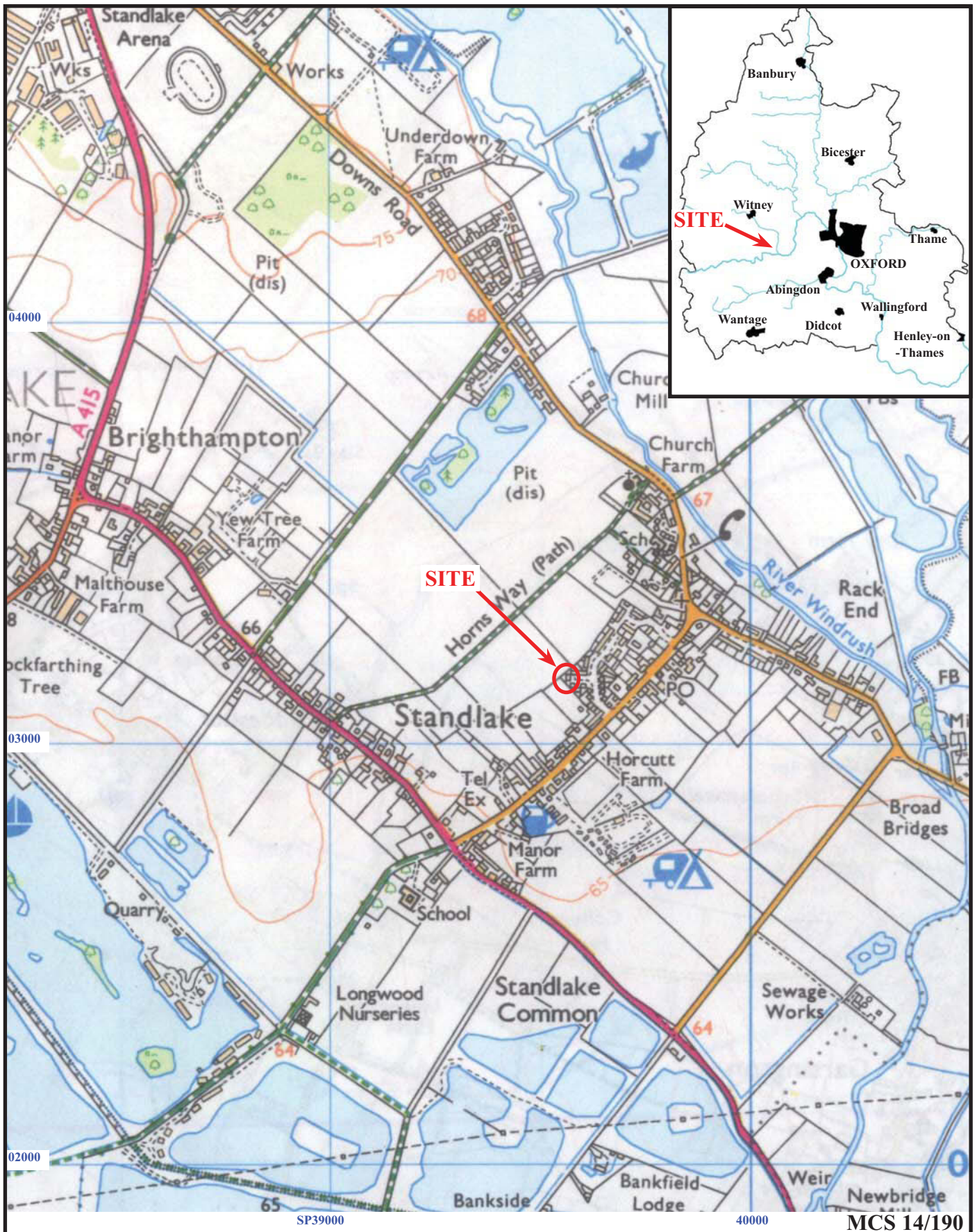
At the east end of the site was an area of dark blueish grey, silty clay sloping down to the north, to a maximum depth of 0.25m at the trench edge. This is likely to be caused by an area of water, possibly a small pond, though nothing is shown on the earlier Ordnance Survey maps.

Conclusion

Nothing of archaeological significance was found. At the east end of the trench the edge of a small pond may have been identified.

References

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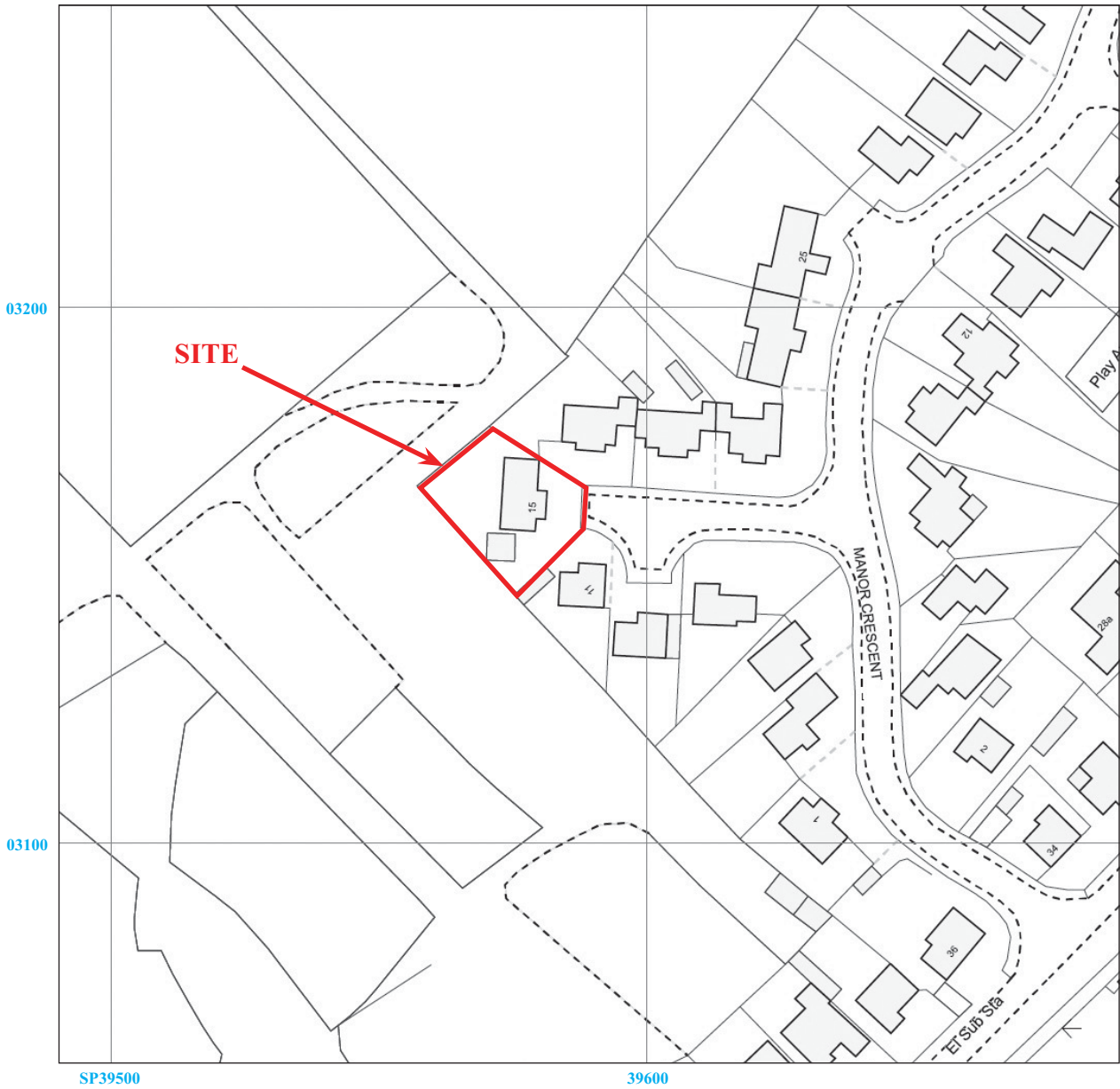


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Figure 1. Location of site within Standlake and Oxfordshire.

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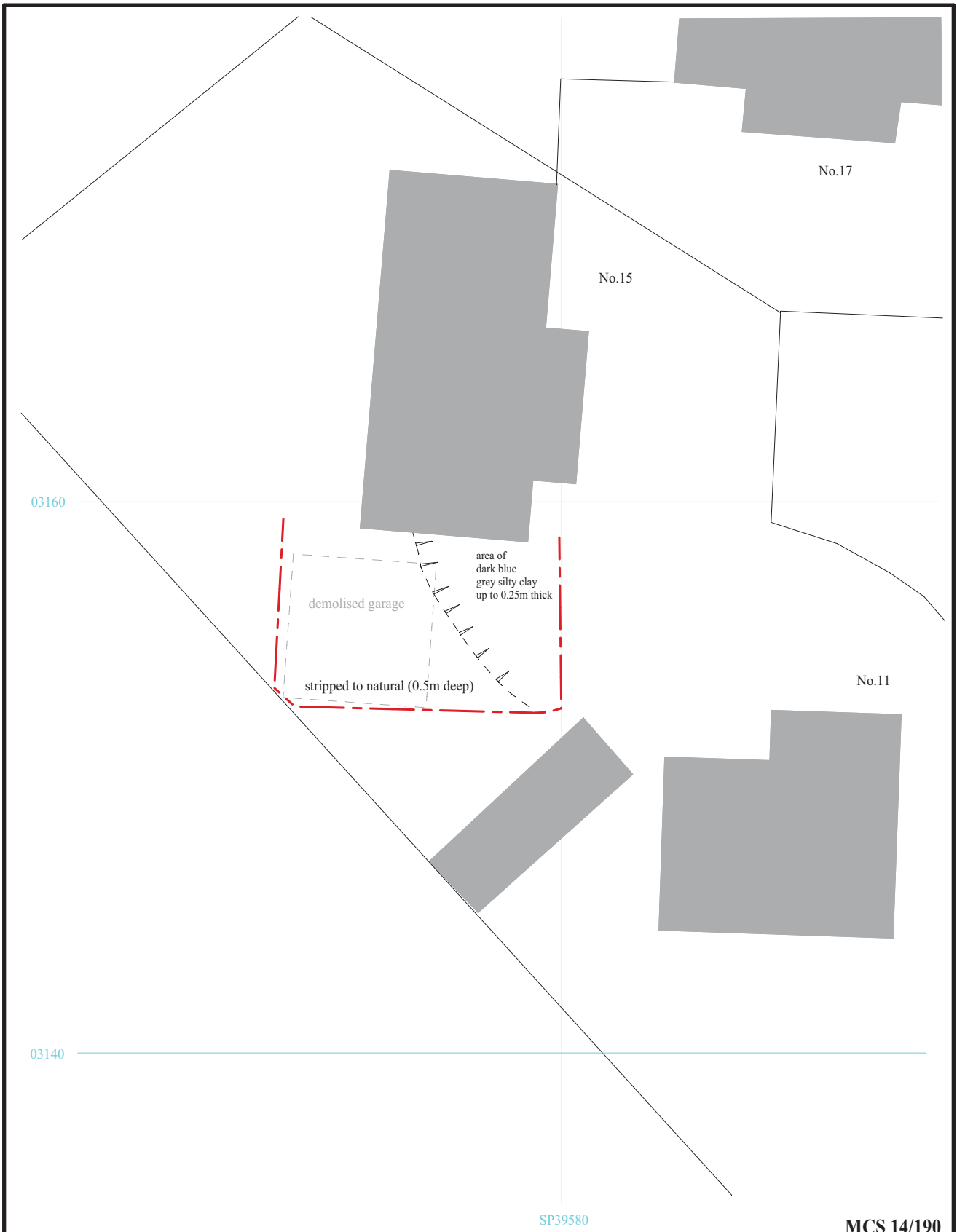


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Manor Crescent.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.

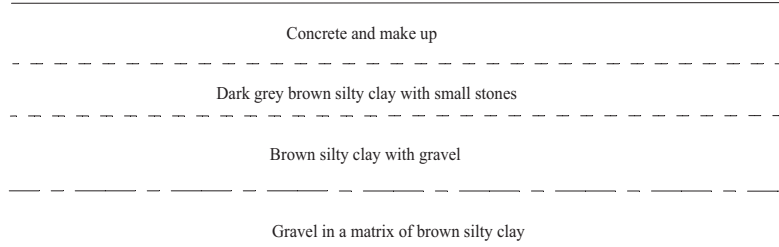


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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Stripped area, looking west, Scales: 2 x 1m.



Plate 2. Stripped area, looking toward the south of the house,
Scales: horizontal 2 x 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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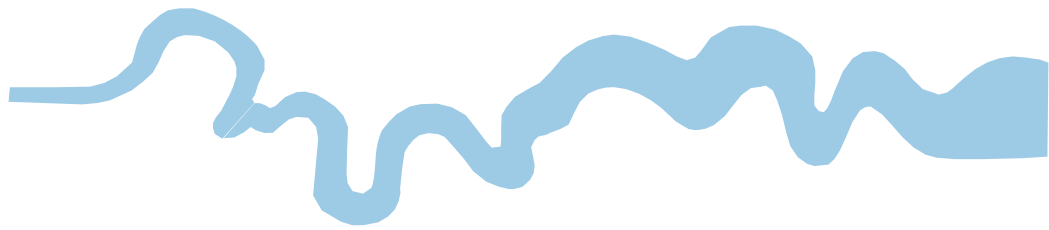
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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