

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Mundin

Site Code: KCC15/19

(SU 5859 8613)

7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs A. Thomas

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KCC 15/19

April 2015

Summary

Site name: 7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5859 8613

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st-7th April 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor, Dan Bray, Andrew Munding

Site code: KCC 15/19

Area of site: 440 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of of archaeological deposits were observed.

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.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 29.04.15 Steve Preston✓ 29.04.15

7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 15/19

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land adjacent to 7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Oxfordshire (SU 5859 8613) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Barrett, of Ashbrook Lets, Ashbrook Mews, Westbrook Street, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 9QA on behalf of their client, Mr And Mrs A. Thomas of 7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Oxfordshire.

Planning permission (P13/51386/FUL) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a new two-storey house. Due to the potential disturbance of archaeological features, an archaeological watching brief is required to be maintained during the groundworks of the new development.

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 on matters relating to archaeology, and was based on a brief also prepared by him. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Dan Bray and Andrew Muddin between the 1st and 7th April 2015 and the site code is KCC 15/19.

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 in the southern part of Cholsey at the western end of Kentwood Close, enclosed on all side by residential development (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk (BGS 1980) which was observed in all trenches. The site lies at approximately 48m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been detailed in a brief prepared by Mr Richard Oram of the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2015). This highlighted the potential of Roman deposits being uncovered due to the location of a series findspots of Roman coins in the vicinity recorded in the County Historic

Environment Record (HER). The nearest is just 40m away. It is thought that the Roman Road between the towns of Silchester and Dorchester ran close to the site.

Cholsey is also thought to have important Saxon connections, as it is mentioned in the Burghal Hideage and was under the King's control at the time of the Domesday (1086) survey. At this time, it had a wealthy manor, with three mills and a relatively large population for the area. A Benedictine Abbey was founded here in AD986, situated to the west of the current site. The land was granted to Reading Abbey and became an important grange and Abbot's residence. Prehistoric, Roman and Medieval finds and deposits have been identified close to the church (Coles 2005) and on Station Road to the north (Taylor 2010; Bray 2012). However, limited works during construction of a garage at The Elms further to the west, associated with one of two moated enclosures, only uncovered a short length of undated ditch (Castle and Dawson 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 monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping and the excavation of foundation trenches. Observations will also check that no unnecessary damage is caused to standing structures.

Results

The fieldwork comprised two components; monitoring of an overburden strip, and examination of the foundation trenches.

Overburden strip

Topsoil was removed from an irregular area encompassing the footprint of the new building (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). Some c. 0.3-0.35m of material was removed but this did not expose the archaeologically relevant levels. No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered.

Footing trenches

Observations of the exposed footing were made both during and after their excavation. The stratigraphy revealed typically comprised 0.3m of topsoil above 0.1m of subsoil above chalk natural geology (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). The

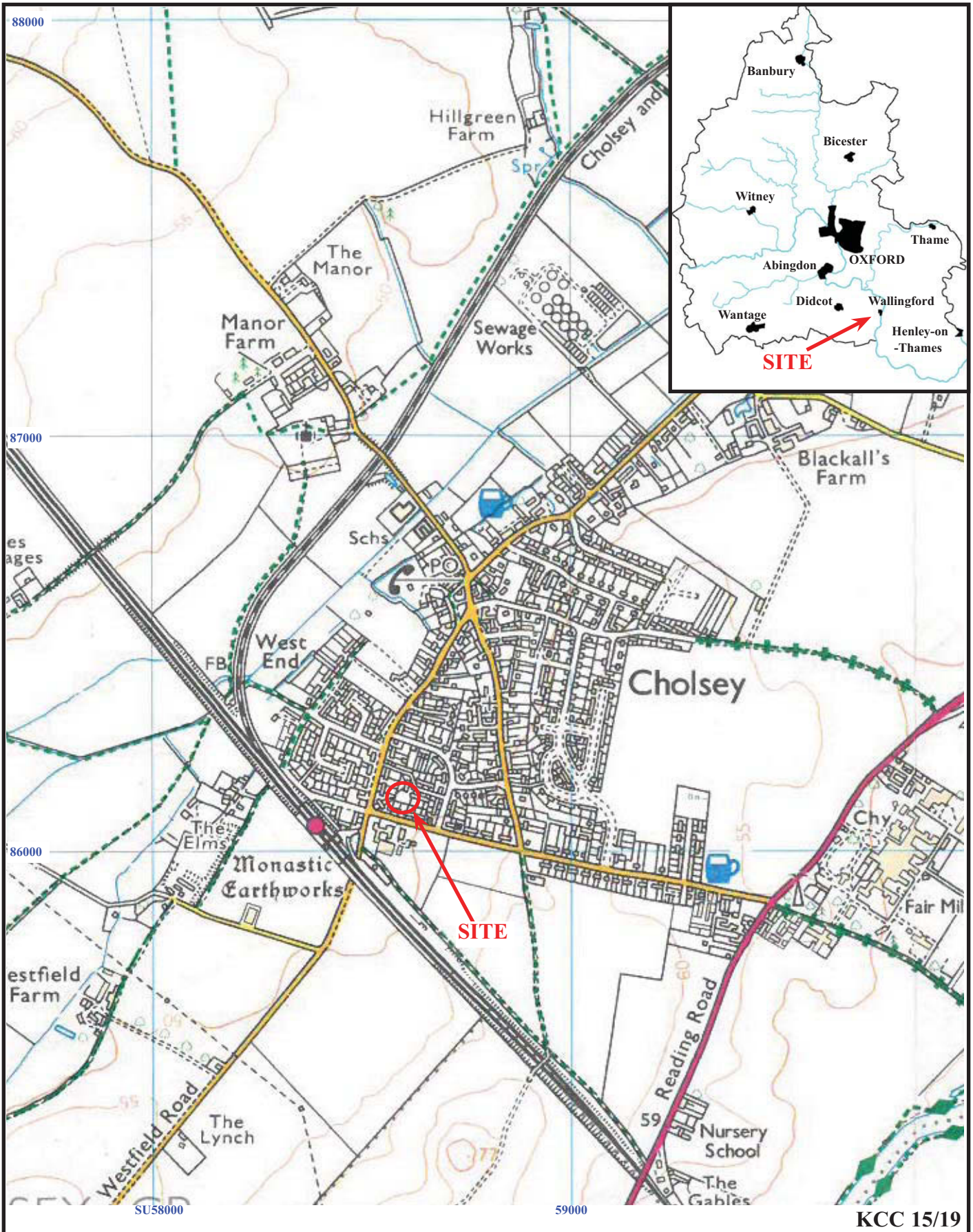
trenches were typically 0.7m wide and c. 0.85m- 0.85m deep (from the original ground surface). The only features exposed in the trenching was a sewer trench in southern half, with a cut visible from the topsoil. No archaeological deposits were encountered, nor any finds of archaeological interest.

Conclusion

No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered during the watching brief.

References

- Bray, D, 2012, Land to the rear of 27 Station Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Service report 11/102, Reading
- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 254, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Coles, S, 2005, The Hazels, Church Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire, and archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/36, Reading
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Oram, R, 2014, 7 Kentwood Close, Cholsey, Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief, Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, Oxford
- Taylor, A, 2010, 25 Station Road, Cholsey, Oxfordshire: an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 10/119, Reading

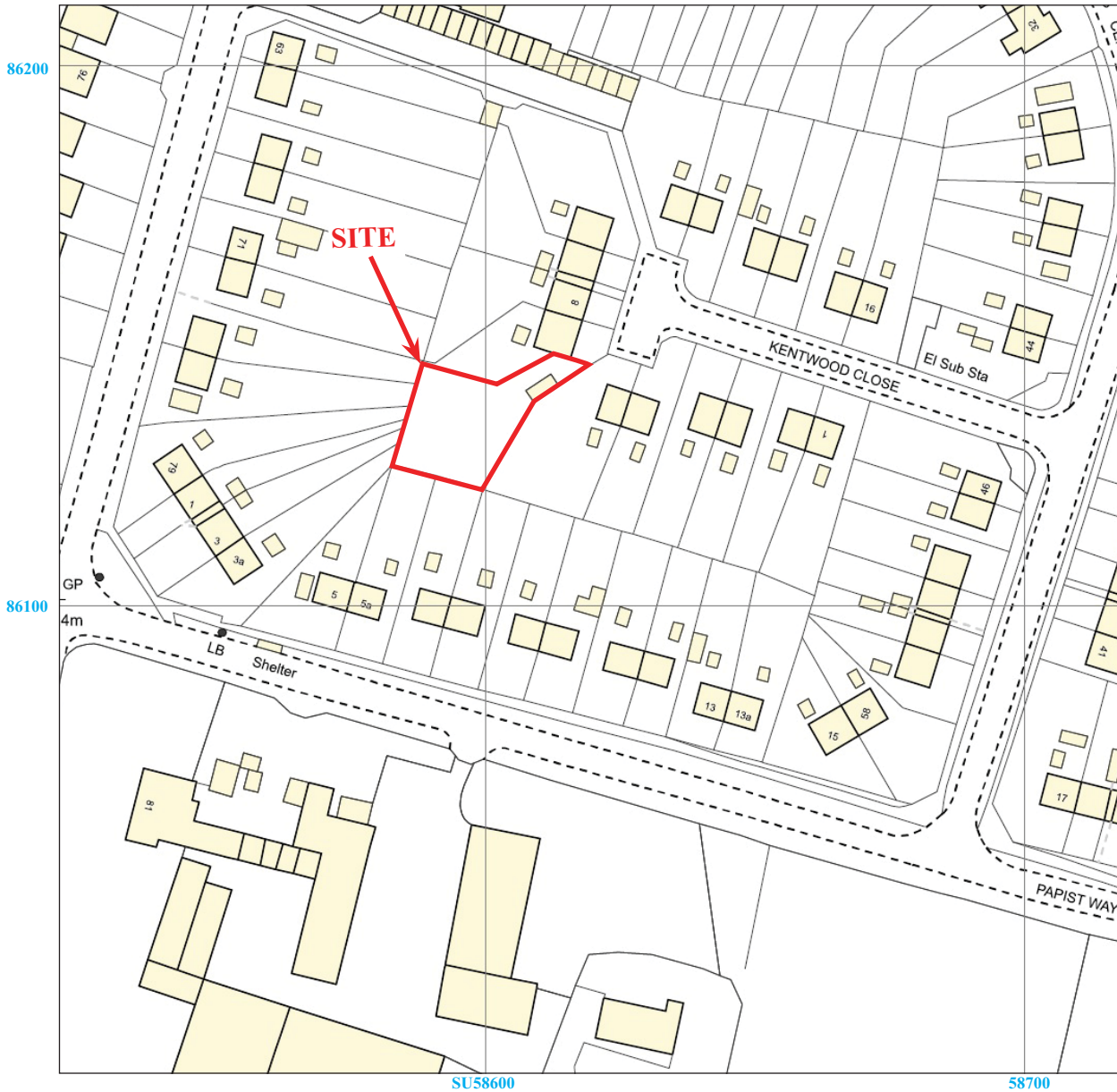


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Figure 1. Location of site within Cholsey and Oxfordshire.

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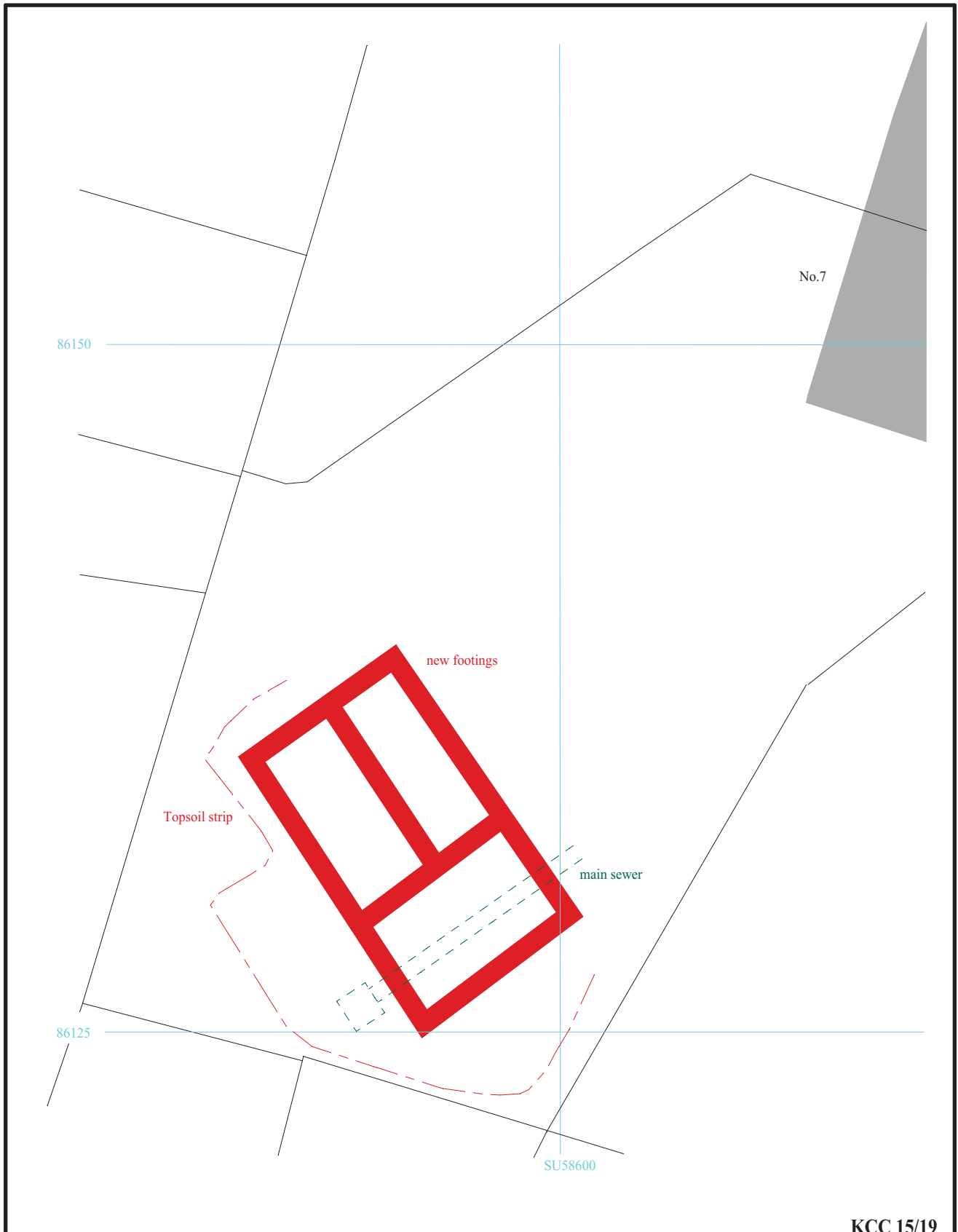


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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Kentwood Close.

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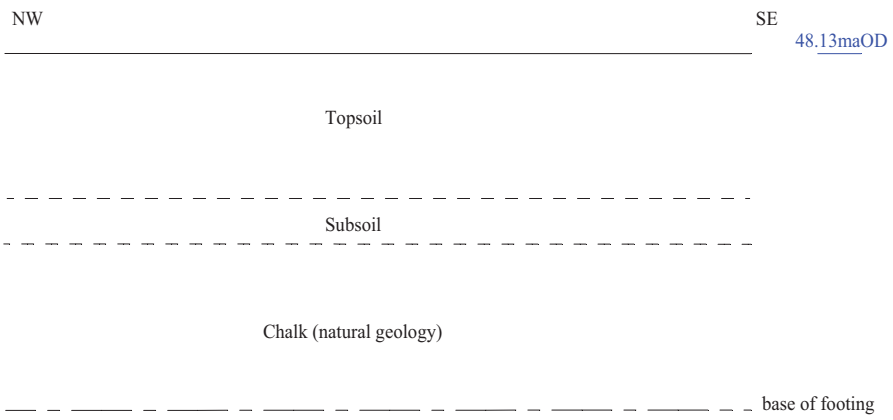
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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of footings observed and area of topsoil strip.



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North east facing footing



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. Extent of footings, looking south east.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking south west, Scales: 1m.

KCC 15/19

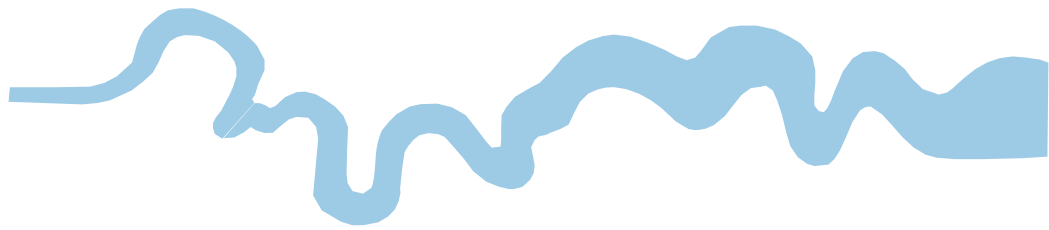
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Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 2.**

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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





**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**