

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor and Daniel Strachan

**Site Code: AY571
SHW15/72**

(SU 4757 2798)

**Sparkford House. 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Dr E McMorris

by Andy Taylor and Dan Strachan

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SHW 15/72
AY 571

September 2015

Summary

Site name: Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road, Winchester, Hampshire

Grid reference: SU 4757 2798

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th June - 25th August 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Dan Strachan

Site code: AY571

Area of site: c. 670 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust 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 All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website: www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 21.09.15 Steve Preston✓ 21.09.15

Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road, Winchester, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor and Daniel Strachan

Report 15/72

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road, Winchester, Hampshire (SU 4757 2798) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Dr Ewan McMorris of the above address.

Planning permission (15/00111/FUL) has been gained from Winchester City Council to construct two extensions to the house. The consent is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. It was determined that this should take the form of a watching brief.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the City Councils policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Tracy Matthews, Archaeologist with Winchester City Council's Historic Environment Team. The fieldwork was undertaken by Dan Strachan between 24th June and 25th August 2015 and the site code is AY 571. The TVAS project code is SHW15/72

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a parcel of land on the east side of St Cross Road, which lies on the southern side of Winchester and it consisted of gardens associated with the property. (Fig. 2). The River Itchen flows southwards to the east of the site with St Catherine's Hill hillfort further eastwards. It lies at a height of *c.* 33m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Valley Gravel and Sand (BGS 1974), which along with some chalk was observed on the site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within one of the suburbs of historic Winchester. The site lies just east of the Roman road from Winchester to *Clausentum* (Southampton) with the possibility of Roman roadside settlement or burial being present. Saxon occupation is also possible, perhaps of relatively high

status, as suggested by the findings of loomweights to the south-east, an ivory carving to the north, the base of a stone carving also to the north and a Saxon building at Back Street to the south-east. The suburb takes its name from the foundation of a hospital in 1136, located further to the south of the proposal site. The hospital was noteworthy for its scandalous history of mismanagement and corruption rather than its charitable work (VCH 1911). In general the suburbs of Winchester are also rich in prehistoric sites. For example, to the east (but on the opposite side of the river) is the Iron Age hillfort of St Catherine's Hill. To the south and west recent excavations have revealed Iron Age and Roman occupation sites (Lewis and Preston 2012; Platt 2015).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record and archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of foundation trench digging as well as other intrusive groundworks such as ground reduction and the excavation of service trenches if they were of sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant levels.

Results

The watching brief comprised three components; removal of a large tree, the digging of a new manhole and the digging of foundation trenches for the new extensions (Fig. 3). The removed tree only showed modern disturbance with evidence of the earlier foundations of the demolished extension with bricks, metal and glass bottles evident, none of which were retained.

Manhole/Service Area (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This area measured *c.* 1.50m² and was dug to a depth of 1.10m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.40m of subsoil overlying chalky gravel natural geology. No archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed.

Foundation Trenches (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

The foundation trenches measured 0.60m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.* 1m. For the eastern extension, the stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil overlying 0.50m of subsoil overlying chalky gravel and sand natural geology (Fig. 4). For the southern extension, the stratigraphy consisted of made ground only with no natural geology clearly revealed. No finds or features were encountered.

Finds

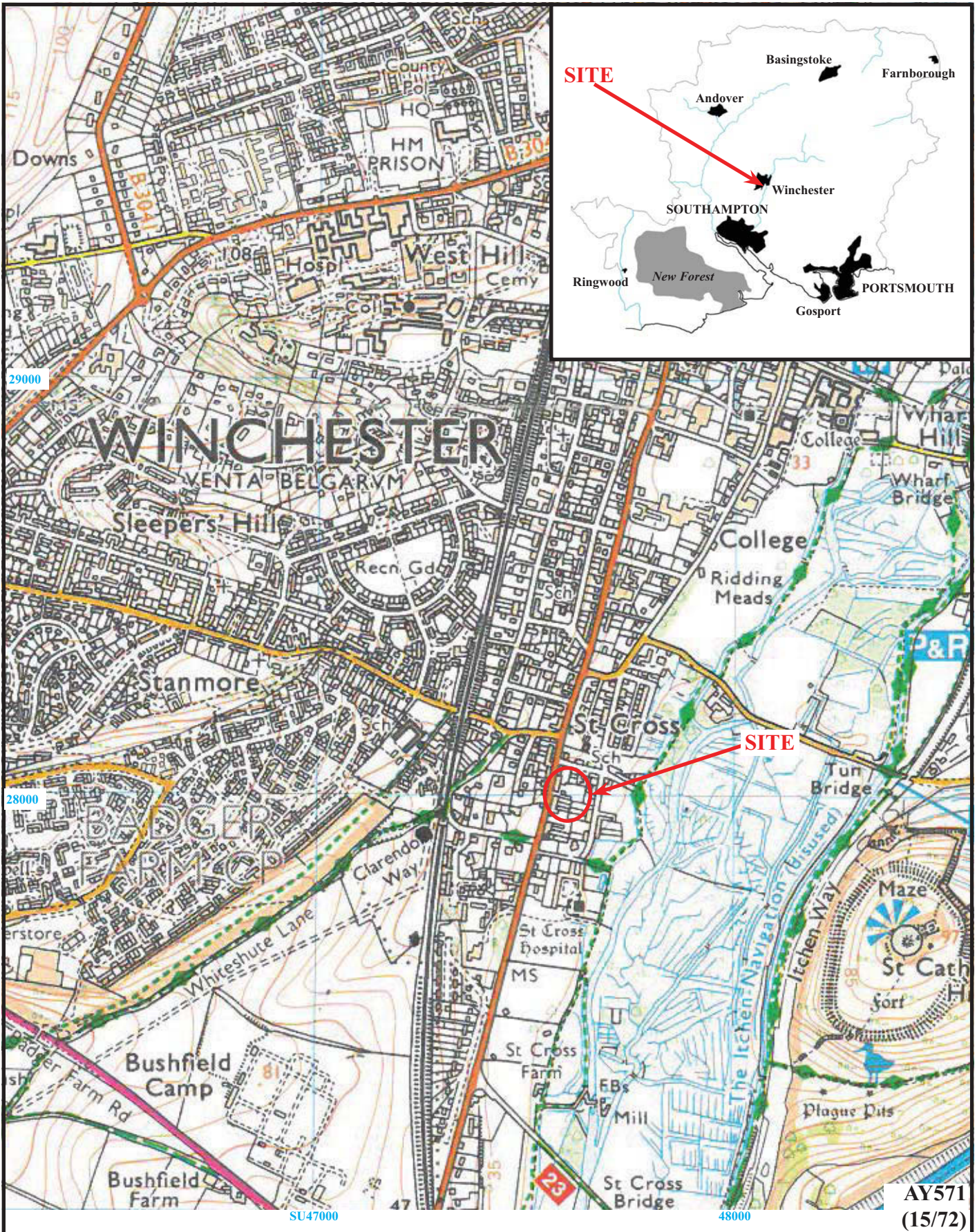
No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology being present on the site no archaeological deposits or finds were observed during the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 299, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Lewis, J and Preston, S, 2012, *Bronze Age and Roman Settlement, with Neolithic and Saxon Burials, at Itchen Farm, Winchester, Hampshire: the archaeology of South Winchester Park and Ride*, TVAS Monogr **15**, Reading
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Platt, D, 2015, 'Iron Age Occupation at Cromwell Road, Winchester, Hampshire, an archaeological excavation, draft publication report', TVAS unpubl rep **13/182**, Reading

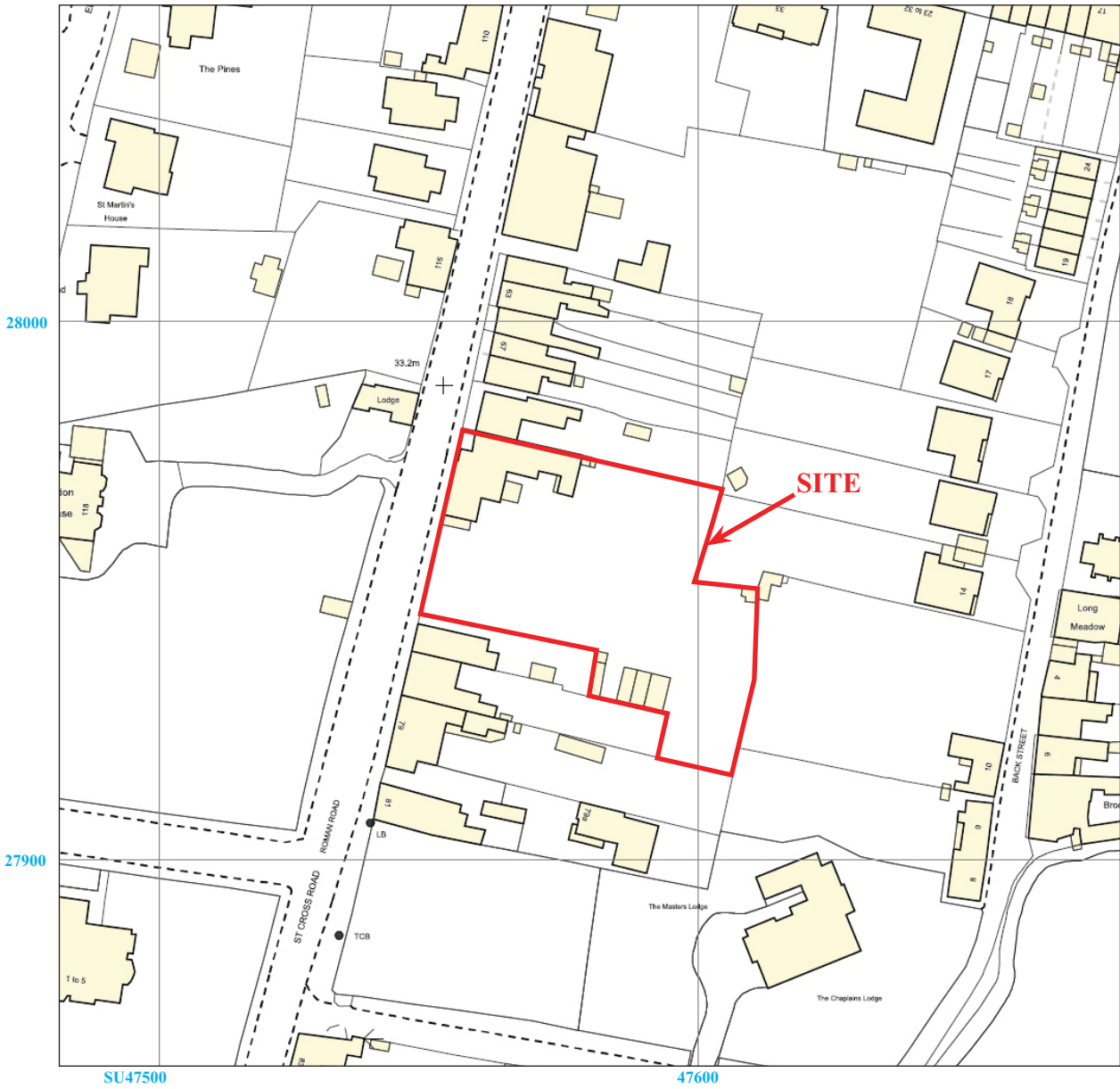


**Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Winchester and Hampshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 132 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



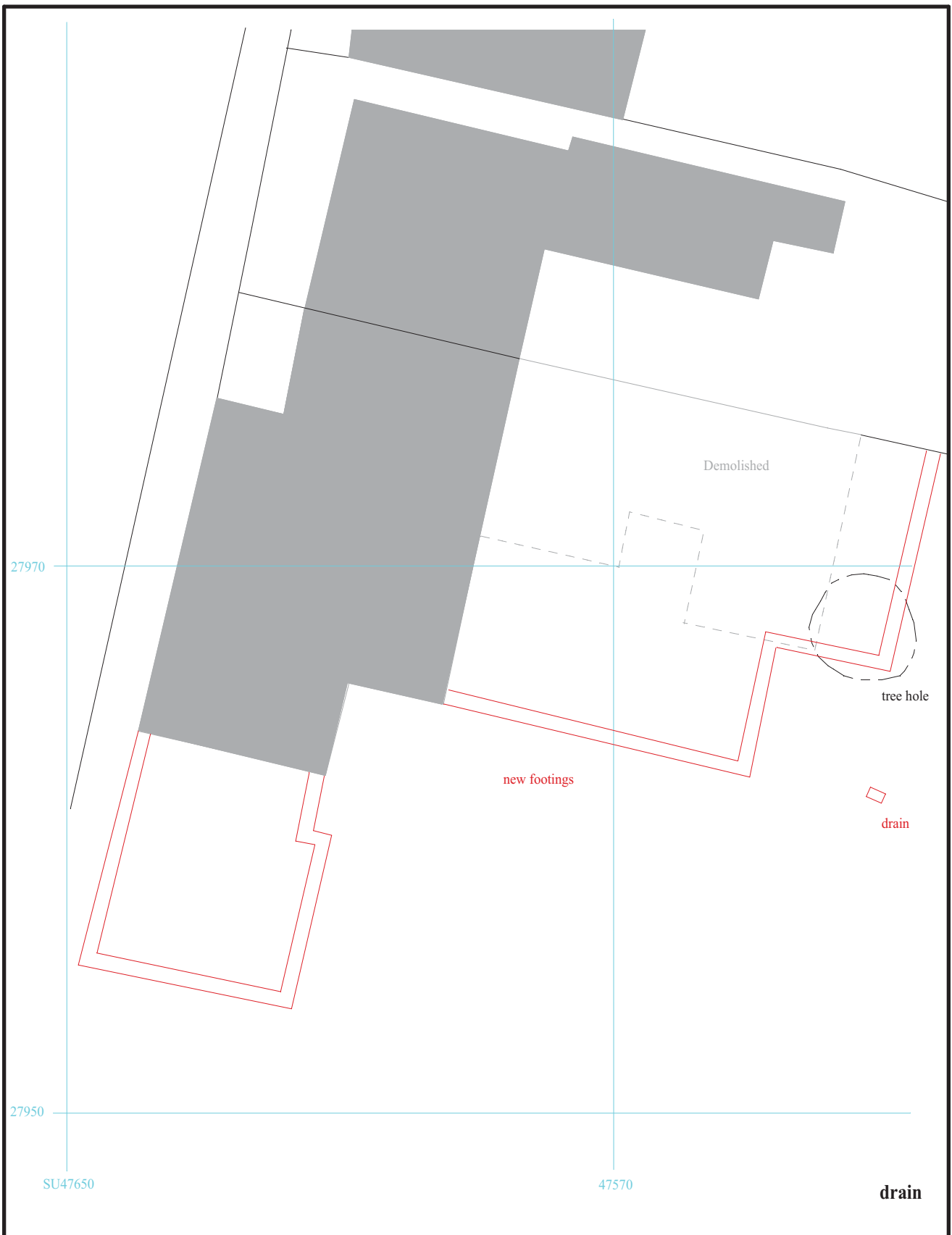
AY571
(15/72)



**Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**
Figure 2. Detailed location of site off St Cross Road.

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





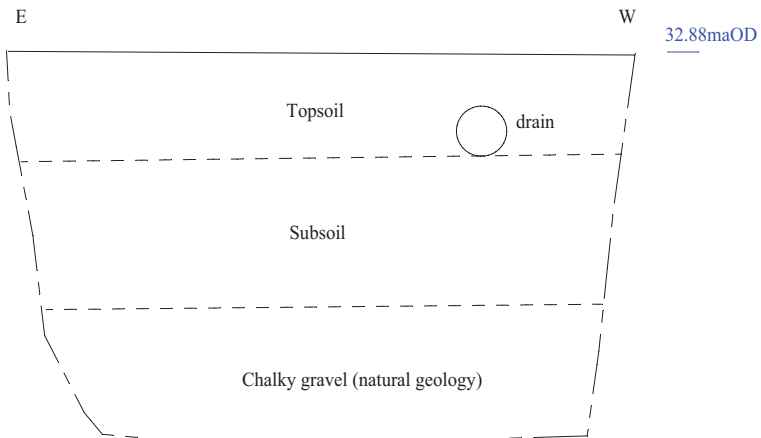
**Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.

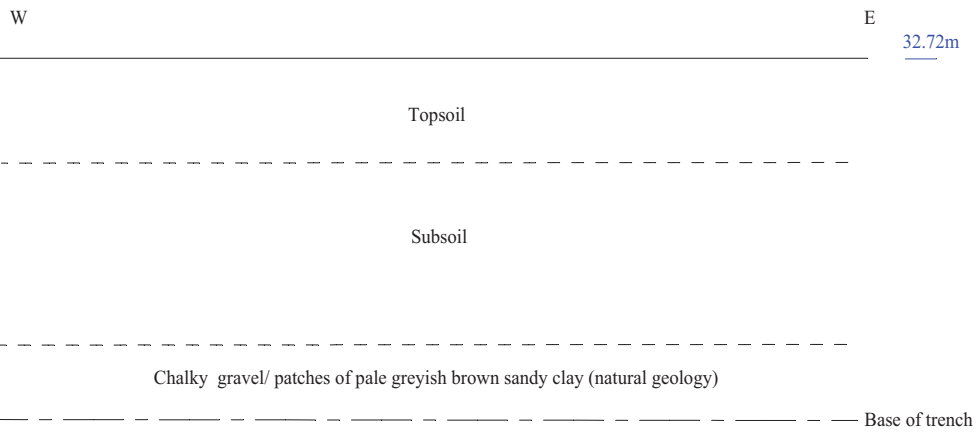


THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

Manhole/drain section



Footing trench (east side)



AY571
(15/72)

**Sparkford House, 73 St. Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative sections.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



Plate 1. Manhole/drain section, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Footing trench, looking south, Scales: 2m and 1m.

AY571
(15/72)

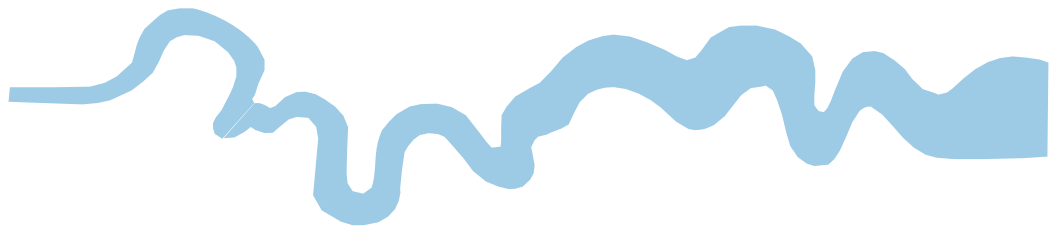
Sparkford House, 73 St Cross Road,
Winchester, Hampshire, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 2.

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
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**