

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Sports and Social Club, Station Road,
Chinnor, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Muddin

Site Code: SCC15/45

(SP7542 0110)

**Sports and Social Club, Station Road,
Chinnor, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Chinnor Parish Council

by Andrew Muddin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SCC 15/45

November 2015

Summary

Site name: Sports and Social Club, Station Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP7542 0110

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 29th April - 1st June 2015

Site supervisor: Andrew Munding, Daniel Strachan

Site code: SCC 15/45

Area of site: c.0.25ha

Summary of results: Observations were made during excavation of the footings for a new community centre in Chinnor. Though the footprint of the new building was located away from the previous Sports and Social Club no archaeological deposits were observed and no finds of interest were recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service, with the accession code OXCMS:2015.125.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 12.11.15 Steve Preston ✓ 12.11.15

Sports and Social Club, Station Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andrew Muddin

Report 15/45

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at the location of The Sports and Social Club, which was to be replaced by a new community centre on Station Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire (SP7542 0110) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Debbie Mellor, of PCMS Design, on behalf of Chinnor Parish Council, Brunel House, 36 Station Road, Chinnor, Oxfordshire, OX39 4QH.

Planning permission (P12/S1792/FUL) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the demolition of the existing clubhouse and the erection of a new single storey building. Due to the potential of below ground archaeological deposits being disturbed, a condition (11) has been attached to the decision which requires a archaeological watching brief to be maintained during groundworks.

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, the archaeological adviser to the district Council, and based on a brief prepared by him (Oram 2013). The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin and Daniel Strachan between 29th April and 1st June 2015. The site code is SCC 15/45.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course, with accession code OXCMS:2015.125.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within Chinnor, in south-eastern Oxfordshire (Fig. 1) and located to the east of Station Road, with the Library and Wellington House Surgery just to the south (Fig. 2). Most of the site of the new building is situated on part of the attached playing field, with the demolition of the sports and social clubhouse underway immediately before the new footings were excavated. These areas were fenced off to separate this from the foundation trenching, which was to the east. Most of the area of the previous building was to be reduced to create a new car park. The underlying geology was Lower Chalk and the site lies at a height of approximately 116m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The brief prepared by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Oram 2013) highlighted the potential for below ground remains drawing on information contained within the county historic environment record. To summarize, the site is located close to the Lower Icknield Way, thought to be a Roman road. In 1933, Saxon burials were discovered close to the route of this road, on the western side of the playing field. Further undated burials were located to the south-west and south-east. A Roman site is also known some 300m to the south-east, which could mean the burials related to this, which therefore suggests aspects of this or further Saxon burial could be found on this site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits or features affected by groundworks. This would involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, which would incorporate new foundation trenches, and other enabling works. Service trenches were observed only at the point where they connected to existing pipework, and minimal observation of ground reduction of the previous structure and grubbing out of the previous footing as this had truncated natural, or only removed topsoil to create a levelled area for a new car park.

Results

Connecting service trench (Fig. 3)

During demolition works of the previous building, electrical and sewage connections were made to the below ground services for the contractors' site cabins. This trench did not uncover natural chalk, but was 0.6m deep and uncovered dark brown clayey silt under Tarmac. No finds of archaeological interest were uncovered.

Foundation trenching (Figs 3 and 4)

Most of the area of the new building had been previously had a store located on it, adjoining an area of concrete. Areas to the north and east were located within the playing field. Strata recorded here comprised topsoil and turf over a subsoil or made ground that was no deeper than 0.75m (Fig. 4; Pls 1 and 3). Most trenching in this area

was 1.2m deep and uncovered natural chalk in its bases. Areas where concrete was present, had raised the ground slightly, so that concrete overlay a made ground, and then sat on the same subsoil.

Trenching to the south needed to be 1.8m deep to allow for roots affecting the footing on the southern boundary of the site, and then to allow the removal of the deep concrete footing that was located here (Fig. 4; Pls 2 and 4). No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were encountered here.

Finds

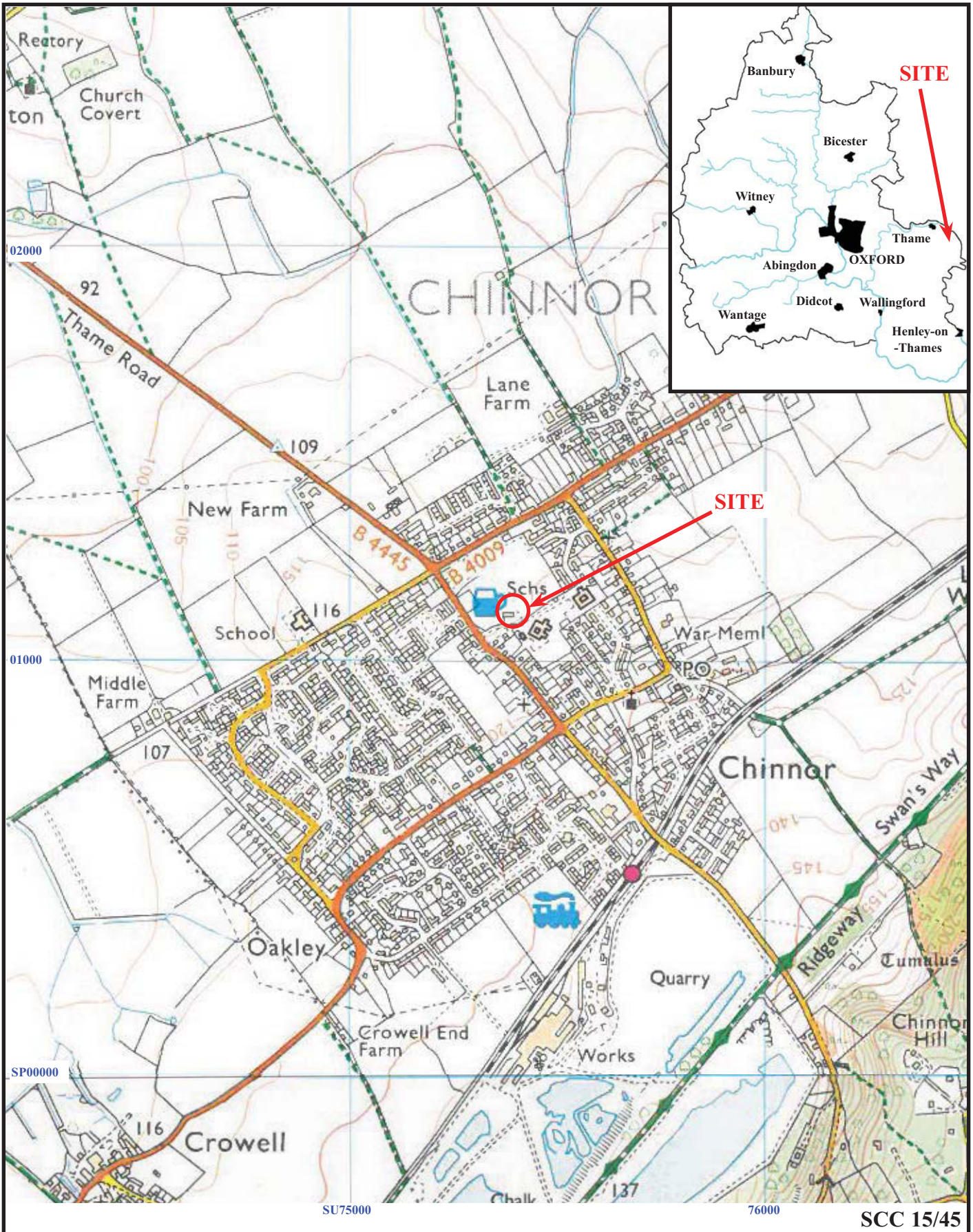
No finds of archaeological interest have been uncovered from the groundworks.

Conclusion

Though there was a potential of finding human burial and/or other features on the site, no archaeological deposits were uncovered, with areas of previous made ground disturbing subsoil deposits across large parts of the site, and areas where less disturbance was evident under the playing field, ground was devoid of archaeological deposits. The footings of the previous standing store had truncated the ground to a depth of 0.8m where the natural geology was present at a maximum of 0.75m below ground level.

References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Oram, R, 2013, 'The Playing Field Sports and Social Club, Station Road, Chinnor: Design Brief for Archaeological Watching Brief', Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, Oxford

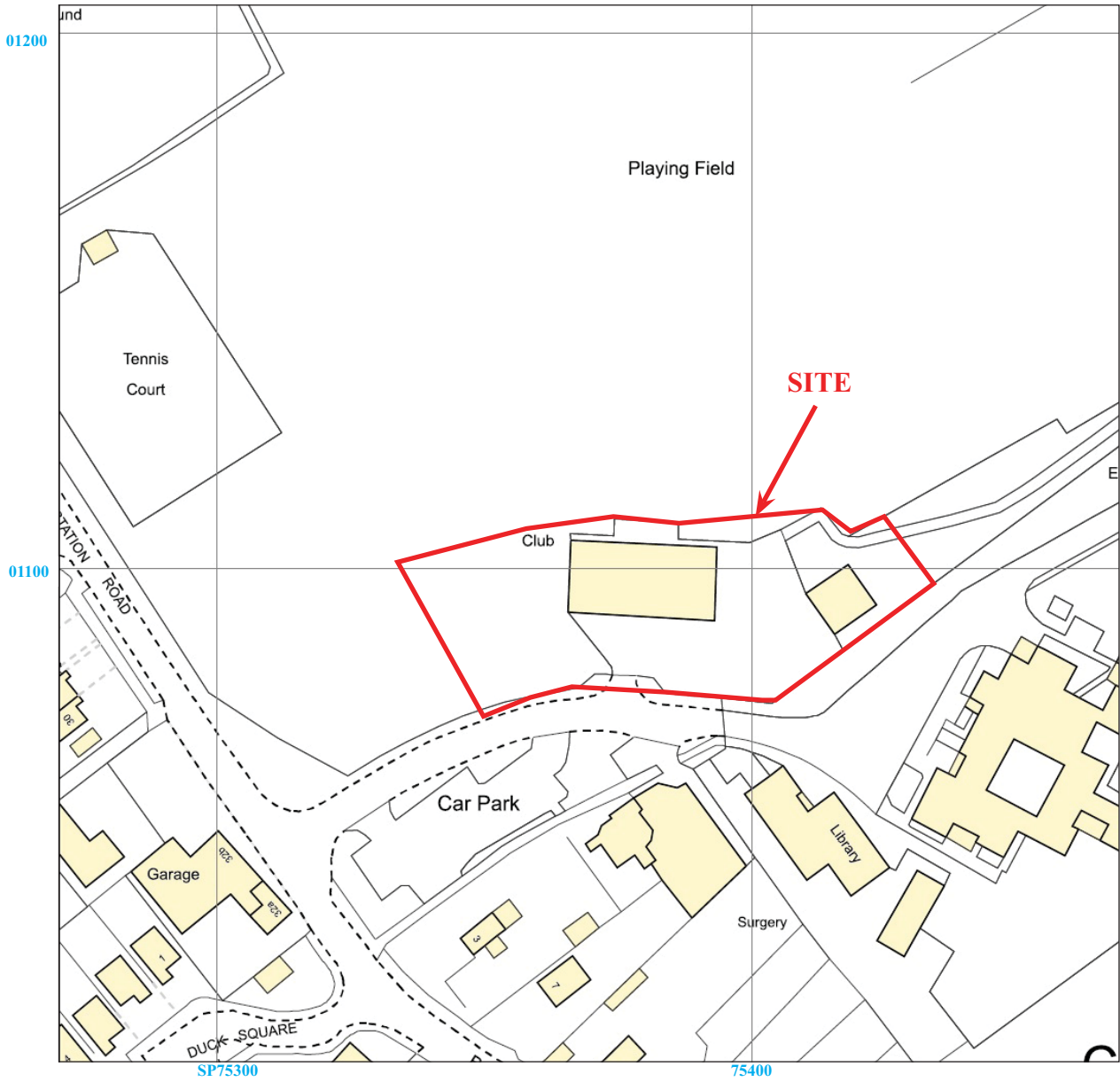


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Figure 1. Location of site within Chinnor and Oxfordshire.

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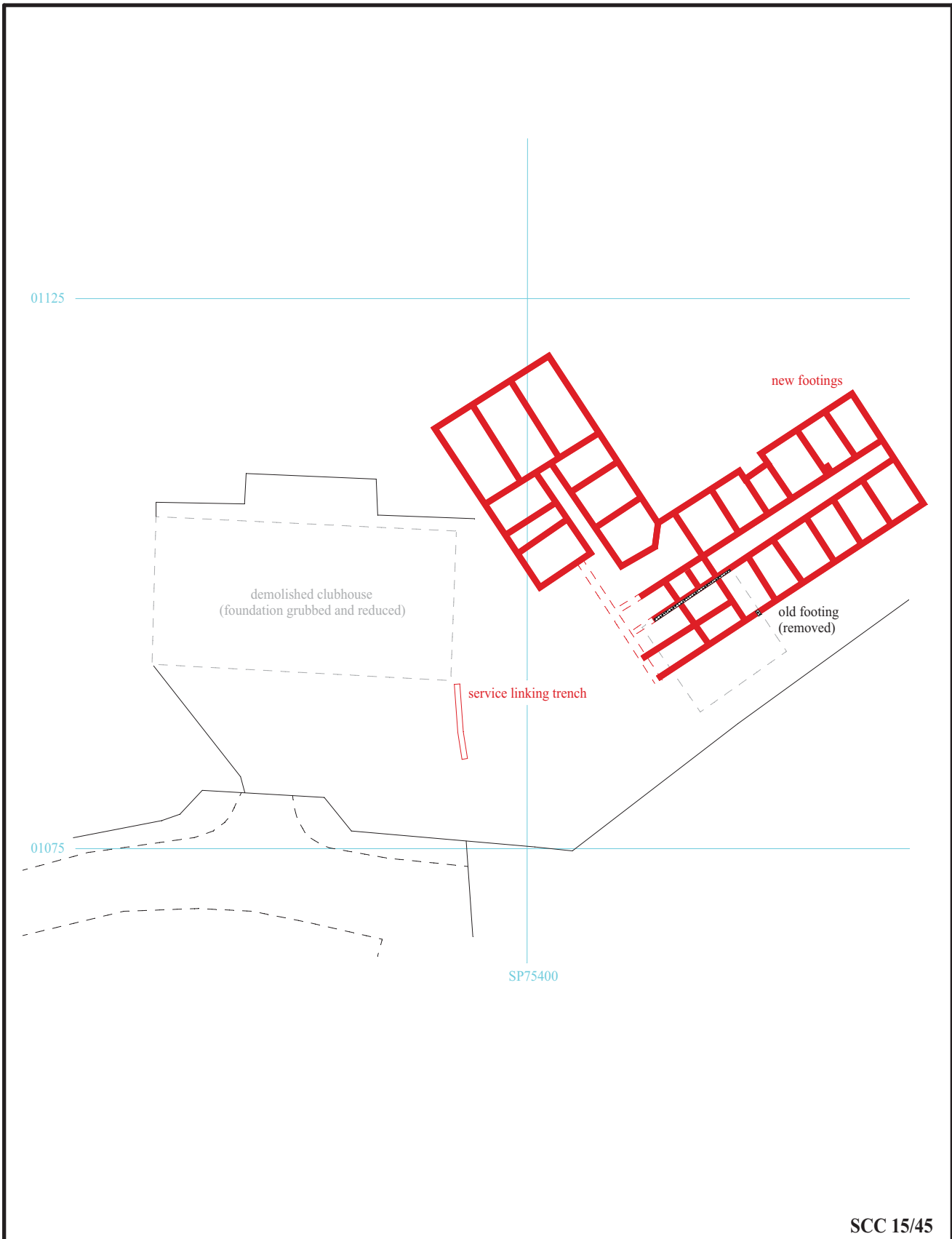


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Station Road.

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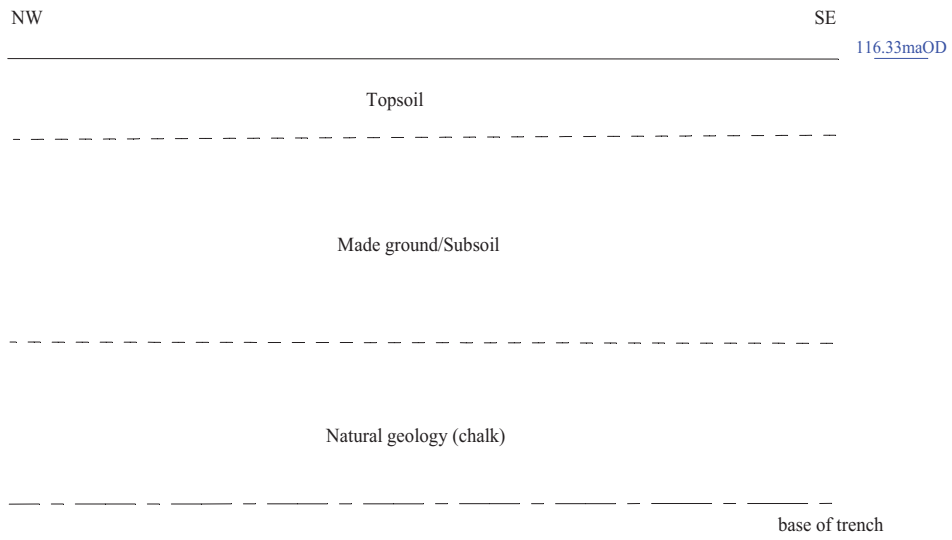
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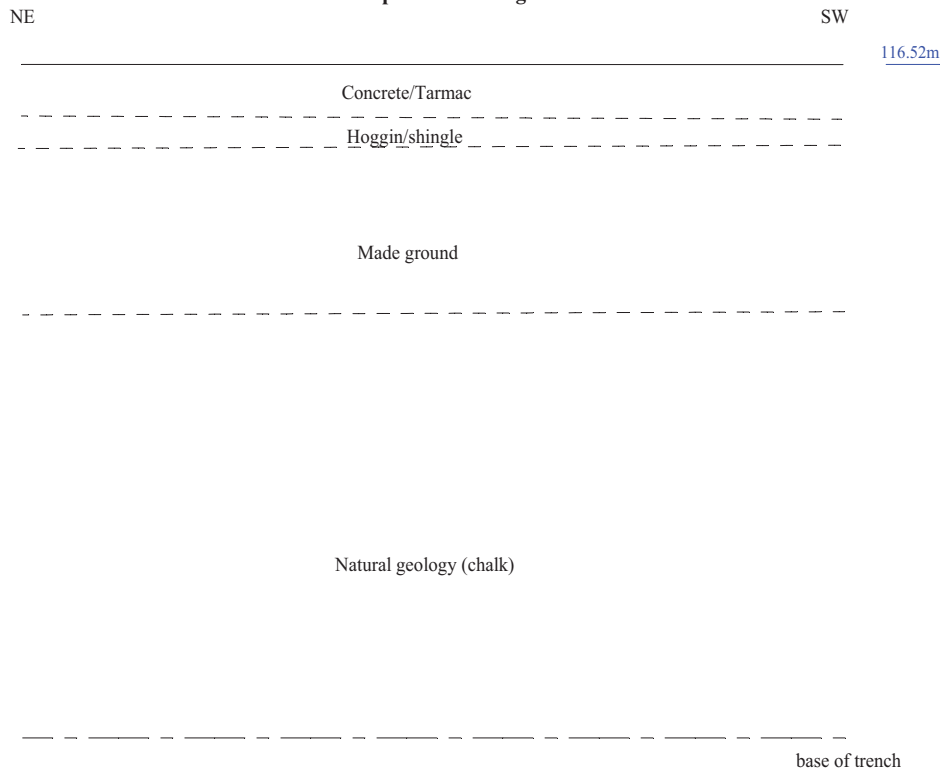
Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



General 1.2m footing



Deep 1.8m footing



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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. General shot over footings, looking west.



Plate 2. Deep 1.8m footings, looking west.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Representative of 1.2m deep footing, looking south east, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Deep 1.8m footings, looking south west.

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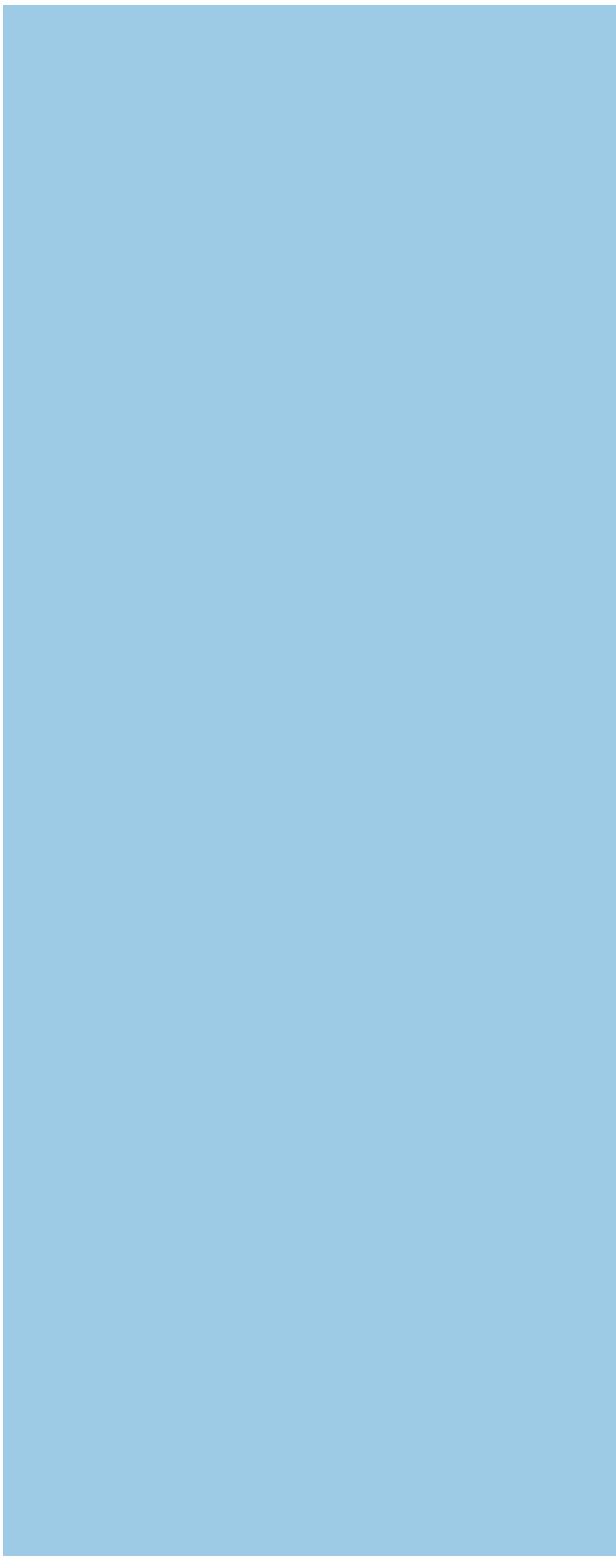
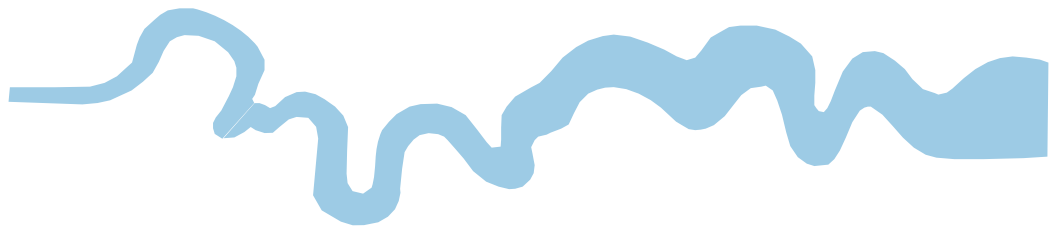
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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