

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**13 Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Luis Esteves and Andrew Muddin

Site Code: TPD17/147

(SU 5772 9386)

13 Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr J Woodhams

by Luis Esteves and Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TPD 17/147

September 2017

Summary

Site name: 13 Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5772 9386

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 30th and 31st August 2017

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Luis Esteves

Site code: TPD 17/147

Area of site: 40 sq m

Summary of results: A two-storey extension to the south of the existing house required demolition of an existing garage. The excavation of three footing trenches were observed over the footprint. No archaeological features were encountered, but a small collection of Roman sherds of pottery were recovered from the homogeneous subsoil above the exposed natural.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.09.17 Steve Preston ✓ 21.09.17

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Report 17/147

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at No.13 Tenpenny, Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, OX10 7JJ (SU 5772 9386) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jonathan Woodhams, the home owner.

Planning permission (16/S3460/HH) has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of a new extension on the existing two-storey house. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, an archaeological watching brief is required to be maintained during groundworks. The consent is subject to two conditions (5 and 6) which requiring the submission and approval of a written scheme of investigation (WSI) and subsequent fieldwork, in this instance, archaeological monitoring during footing excavations.

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, and advisors to the District on matters pertaining to archaeology within the planning process. The fieldwork was undertaken by Luis Esteves on the 30th and 31st August 2017. The site code is TPD 17/147.

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 in the south of Dorchester-on-Thames, to the south of Watling Lane (Fig.2). This series of modern housing, along with Orchard Haven to the east and the housing south of Watling Lane, lies outside of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Roman walled town (SAM OX116). The site lies at a height of 48m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and the underlying geology is Northmoor Sand and Gravel Member that forms the First Terrace Gravels of the River Thames and floodplain (BGS 1980).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location relating to the historic town of Dorchester, and in particular the remains of the later walled Roman town which lie beneath the allotments on the north side of Watling Lane (Booth *et al* 2007). To the south is also a Scheduled Monument, that of the Dyke Hills and the pre-Roman rampart earthworks (OX17). A number of archaeological investigations have been carried out at the southern end of the town, and although small, have identified various deposits (Munby and Rodwell 1975, Burham and Wachter 1990). A number of Roman cemeteries within the extra-mural settlement of the town have been located, with the most recent found to the south east (Mundin 2008; Platt 2017, Williams 2013). Cut feature of pits and post-holes, especially of 1st century AD date, should relate to the site of a pre-town encampment. Investigation on the south western edge of Watling Lane did not find cut features, just deep deposits of upcast soil (Mundin 2012).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits by the works. This involved the monitoring the area of intrusive demolition (during the break up of the garage floor slab) and the excavation of the new footing trenches. All trenching was undertaken with a toothless bucket fitted to a mini-digger. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

Observation began first on the break up of the existing garage slab to the south of the existing house (Fig.3). A minimal depth of excavation was required to remove this and nothing more than topsoil was disturbed. The footing trenches were 0.6m wide and were excavated to a depth of 1m to 1.1m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.2m of humic topsoil (50), above c. 0.6m of brown sandy silt subsoil (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). Six sherds of late Roman pottery were recovered from this deposit (51). No features cut the natural sand geology located below 0.8m deep, though a modern ceramic drainage pipe was observed (Pl.1).

Finds

Pottery by Jane Timby

A moderately small group of six sherds of pottery weighing 272 g was recovered from the subsoil. The sherds all date to the Roman period. Overall the assemblage is moderately well preserved with an overall average sherd

weight of 45 g. There are, however, no featured sherds to allow very precise dating. For the purposes of the assessment the assemblage was sorted into fabrics based on the main constituents in the clay paste. Freshly broken sherds are counted as single pieces. The sherds are catalogued below.

The sherds are all locally made types with examples of wheel-made and handmade grey Oxfordshire sandy ware and handmade grog-tempered storage jar. Such wares were current in the mid-later Roman period.

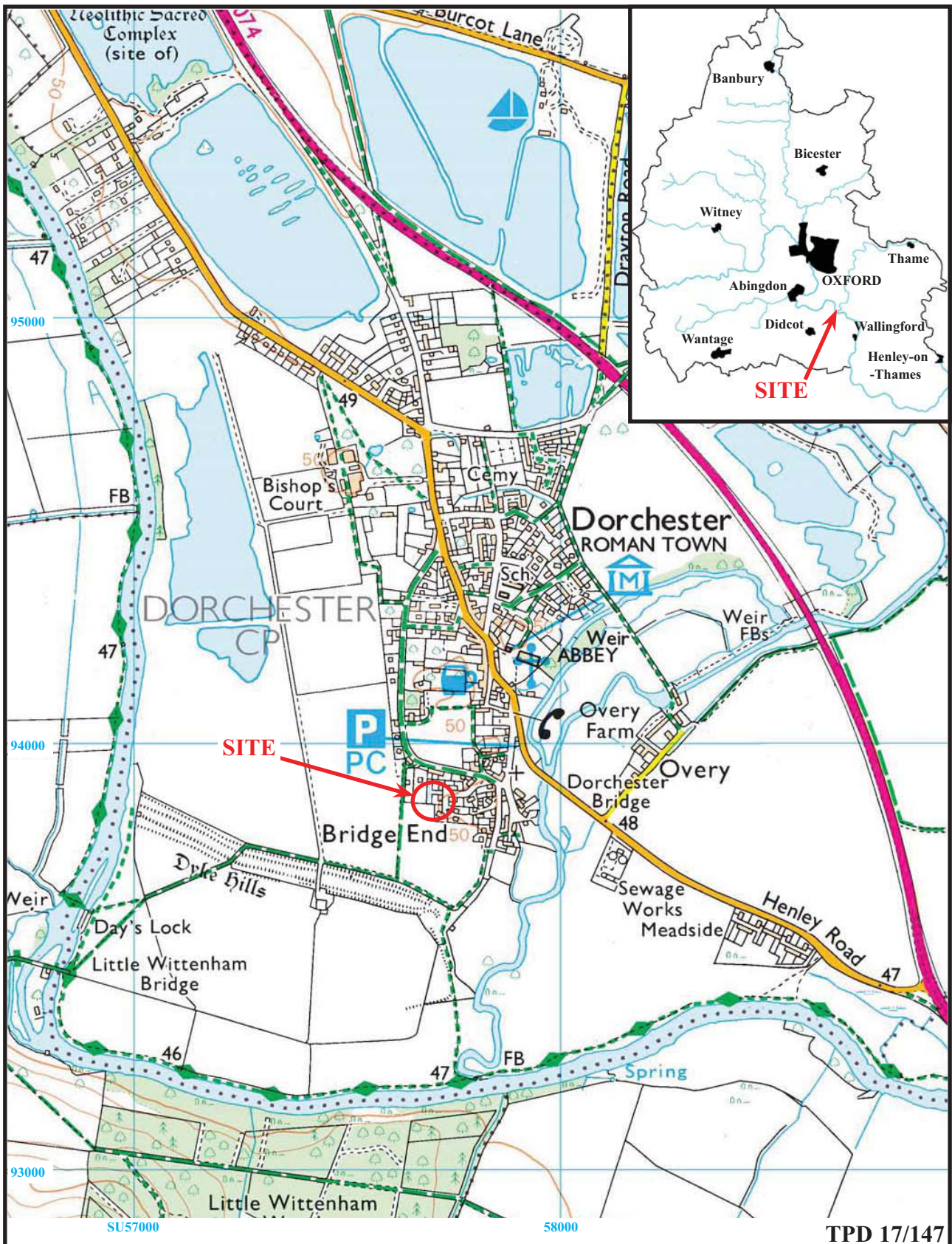
This is a small assemblage which is entirely commensurate with the sort of pottery to be expected from Dorchester. The small size of the group and the lack of archaeological context limit the amount of analysis possible.

Conclusion

No cut features were recorded but Roman pottery from subsoil contexts were recorded.

References

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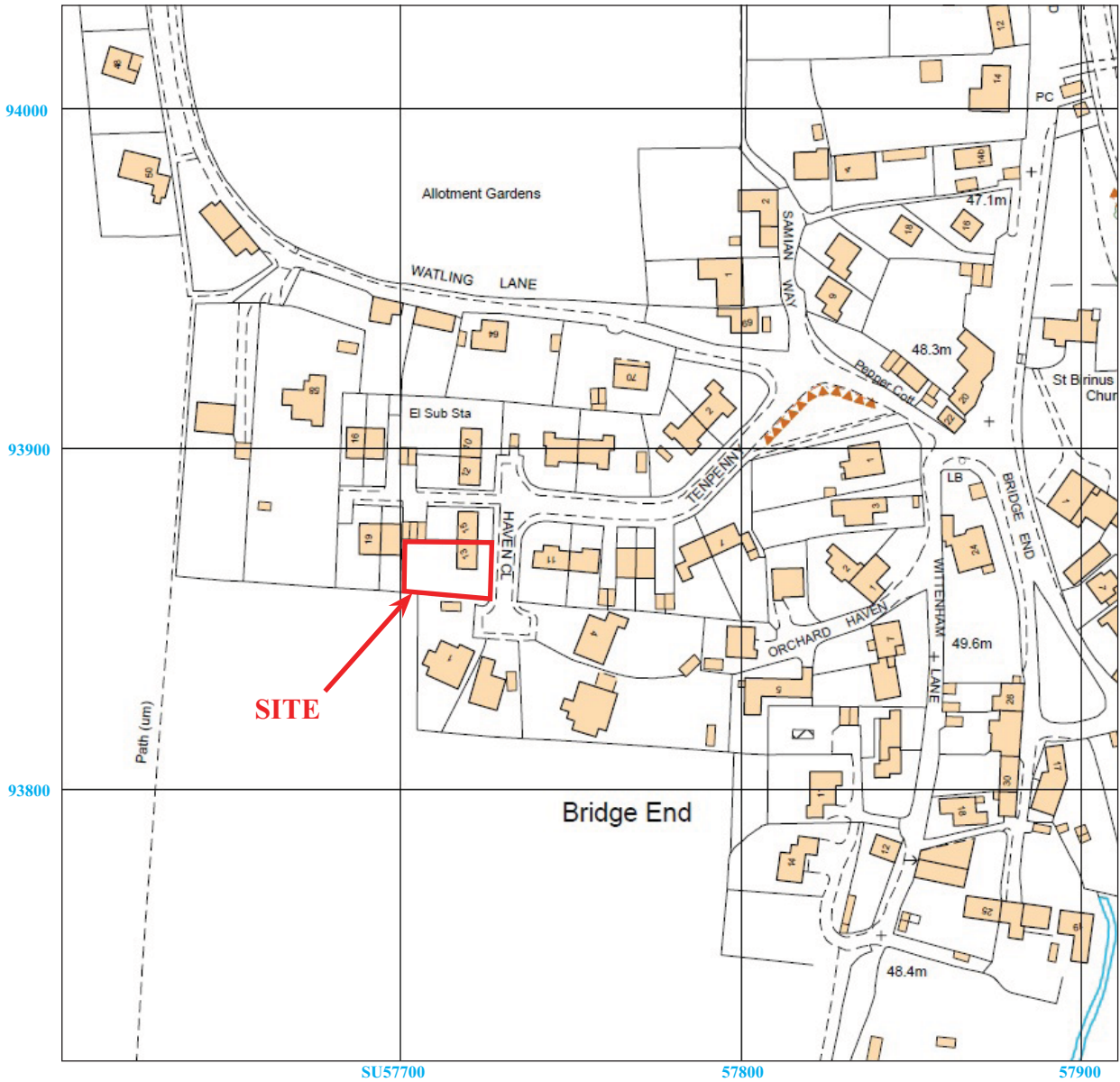
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Figure 1. Location of site within Dorchester-on-Thames and Oxfordshire.

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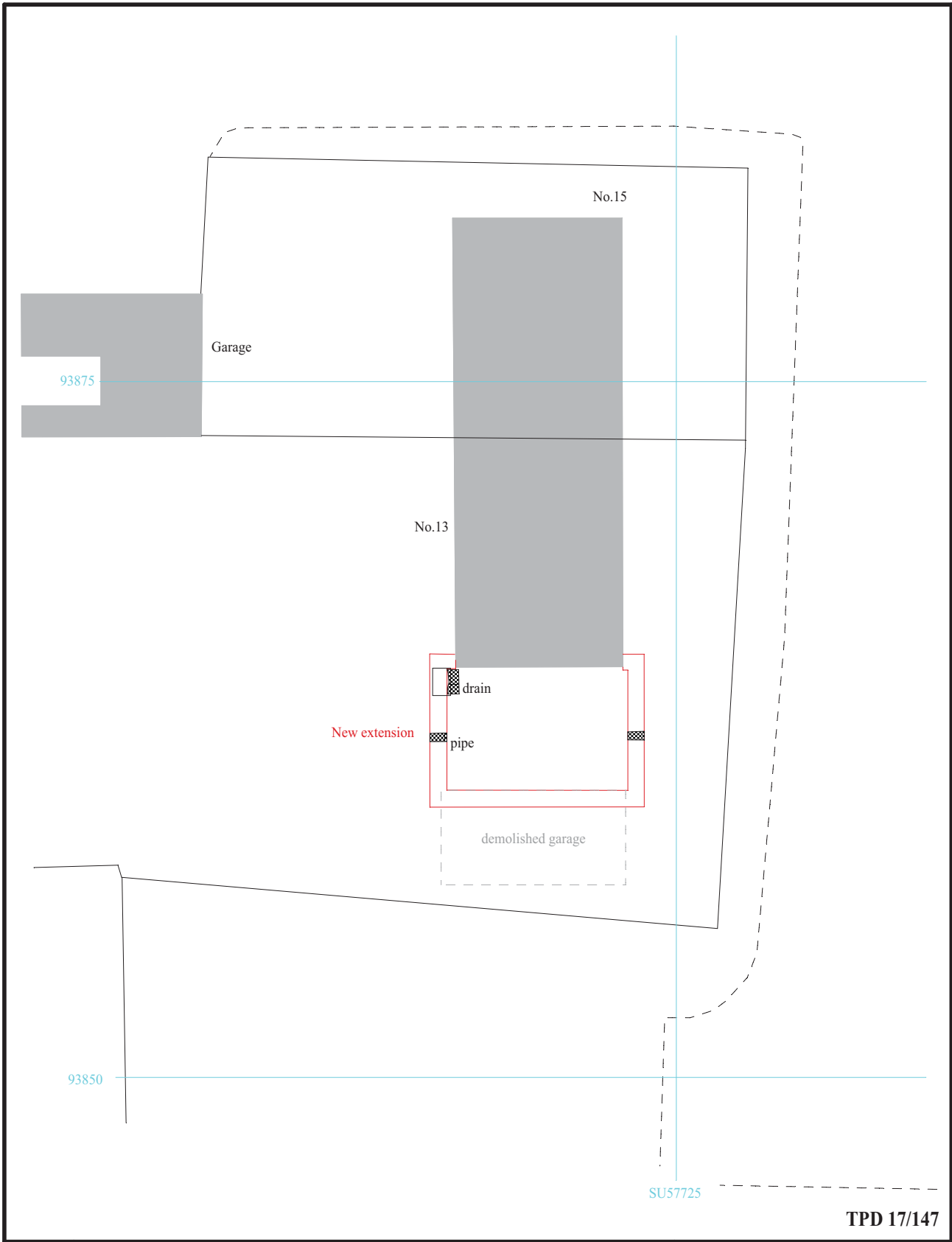
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site in south of Dorchester.

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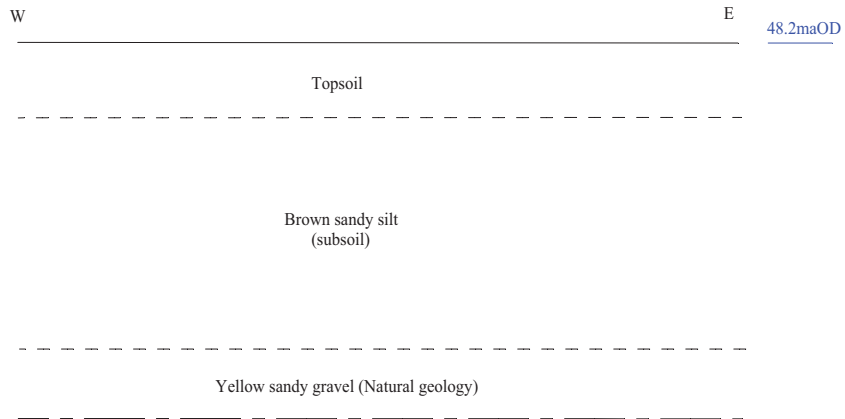
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Western footing, looking north, Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Representative section, south footing north face, looking south, Scale: 1m.

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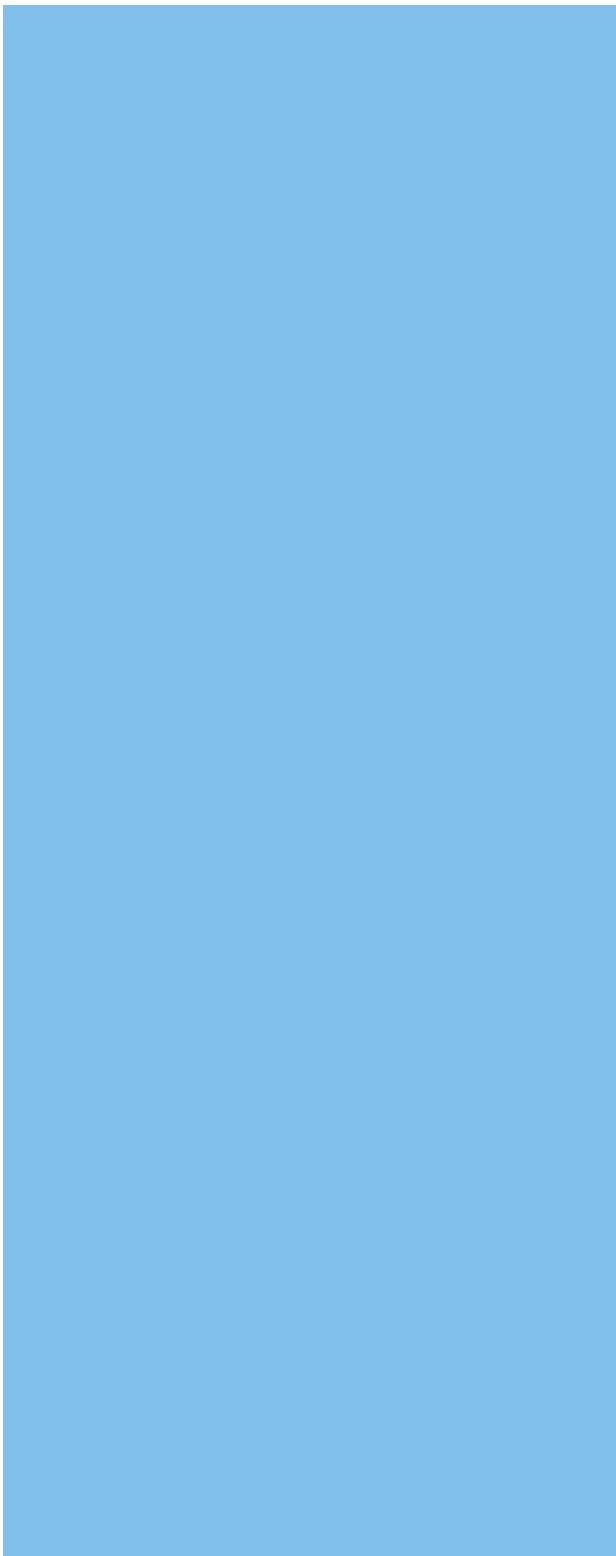
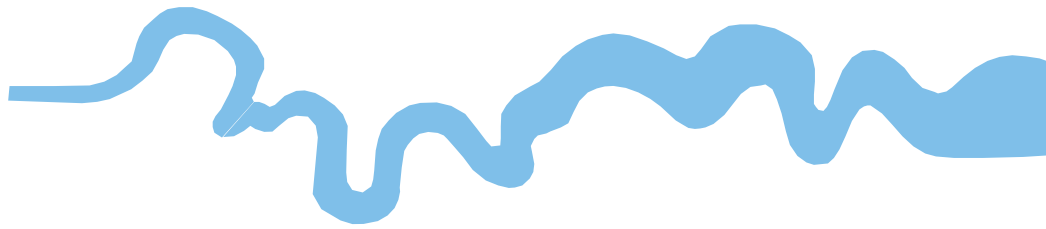
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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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