

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**New Stables, Newington House,
Thame Road, Newington, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site Code: NHN18/105

(SU 6083 9637)

**New Stables, Newington House,
Thame Road, Newington, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Nettleton and Co Ltd

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Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code NHN 18/105

July 2018

Summary

Site name: New Stables, Newington House, Thame Road, Newington, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 6083 9637

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 2nd – 4th July 2018

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Pierre-Damien Manisse

Site code: NHN 18/105

Area of site: 147 sq m

Summary of results: The location for the new stables was stripped of overburden. Modern disturbance was noted under topsoil on the southern side. A drain cut the natural clay, with a thin layer of subsoil on its northern side. No archaeological deposits were encountered and only modern finds retrieved.

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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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 05.07.18
	Steve Preston ✓ 05.07.18

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Report 18/105

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on land at Newington House, Thame Road, Newington, Oxfordshire (SU 6083 9637) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Alexandra Nettleton of Nettleton and Co Ltd, Newington House, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 7AG.

Planning permission has been gained from South Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of two timber-clad equestrian outbuildings, landscaping and access and a change of use of this part of the the grounds to Equestrian care. The consent is subject to two conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology, which in this instance, require archaeological monitoring of the ground works.

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 Services, the archaeological advisers to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Anne-Michelle Huvig between 2nd and 4th July 2018. The site code is NHN 18/105. 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 on the grounds of Newington House, which is a large county estate on the south side of the village of Newington in South Oxfordshire (Fig. 1). The area for the new stable is south of the main house and driveway access, to the west of Newington Cottages, that front the Thame Road (A329). The southern main Walled Garden is immediately to the north (Fig. 2) and the river Thame flows within 100m to the west. The garden is flat at approximately 54m above Ordnance Datum and grassed. The underlying geology is Gault Clay Formation, with alluvium from the River Thame to the west (BGS 1980).

Archaeological background

Newington House is a Grade II* Listed Building (1048070) was built by Walter Dunce in 1635, but was altered in 1680, and a second storey was added in 1777. The existing annexe Manor House is also 17th century (Grade II listed; 1286260), and is to the north, but most likely contains element that are of an older date. It is situated between the House and the Church of St Giles, which dates from the 12th century (listed Grade I; 1193229). The original stables and coach house date from late 17th century to early 18th century (listed Grade II; 1193277) and are constructed of coarse limestone with brick dressing and are towards the front of the gardens, with the main Walled Garden included in its Listing with the entrance gateway (Grade II; 1048071). The original stables had the ground floor converted to accommodation in 1989 with the upper storey converted in 2002.

Archaeological deposits have previously been found at the site, during observations made when the pond in the southern gardens was excavated. This is located *c.*20m to the west of the current site. Medieval deposits had been encountered during rescue excavation in 2006 at the site of the pond, representing a croft; a smallholding, and a 'smithy', with pottery found in the remains of its foundations indicating a date of 13th century (Williams 2013). Evidence obtained from work nearby, undertaken by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group between 1983-1986, suggest earthworks and evidence of settlement are present in the fields immediately to the south, indicative of a deserted Medieval village, with abandonment likely in the 15th century (Williams 2013, 44).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This was to involve monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and include observation of surface stripping, the excavating of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

Results

The excavated area was 147 sq m (10.5m x 14m) (Fig. 3), slightly larger than the intended building. The ground was reduced gradually all over with the topsoil removed first. This was 0.3m deep, and revealed in the north an area which had previously been disturbed to a depth of 0.5m (Pl. 1). This material, which was an homogeneous yellow brown clay and light bluish grey silty clay contained modern glassware and ceramic building material. A small patch of rough brick paving 1.2m x 0.65m was uncovered (Pl. 2). This contained yellow, grey and red tiles but in no patterned order, and is thought to represent the remnant of an ornamental garden path.

The ground to the south was excavated to a depth of 0.85m. The centre of the area was cut by a land drain, which cut the beyond the top of the natural clay. A thin layer of subsoil was observed 0.1m thick above the natural clay which was uncovered here. The natural geology exposed was a patchy mottled yellow grey clay with grey clay patches. No further deposits of archaeological interest were encountered.

Finds

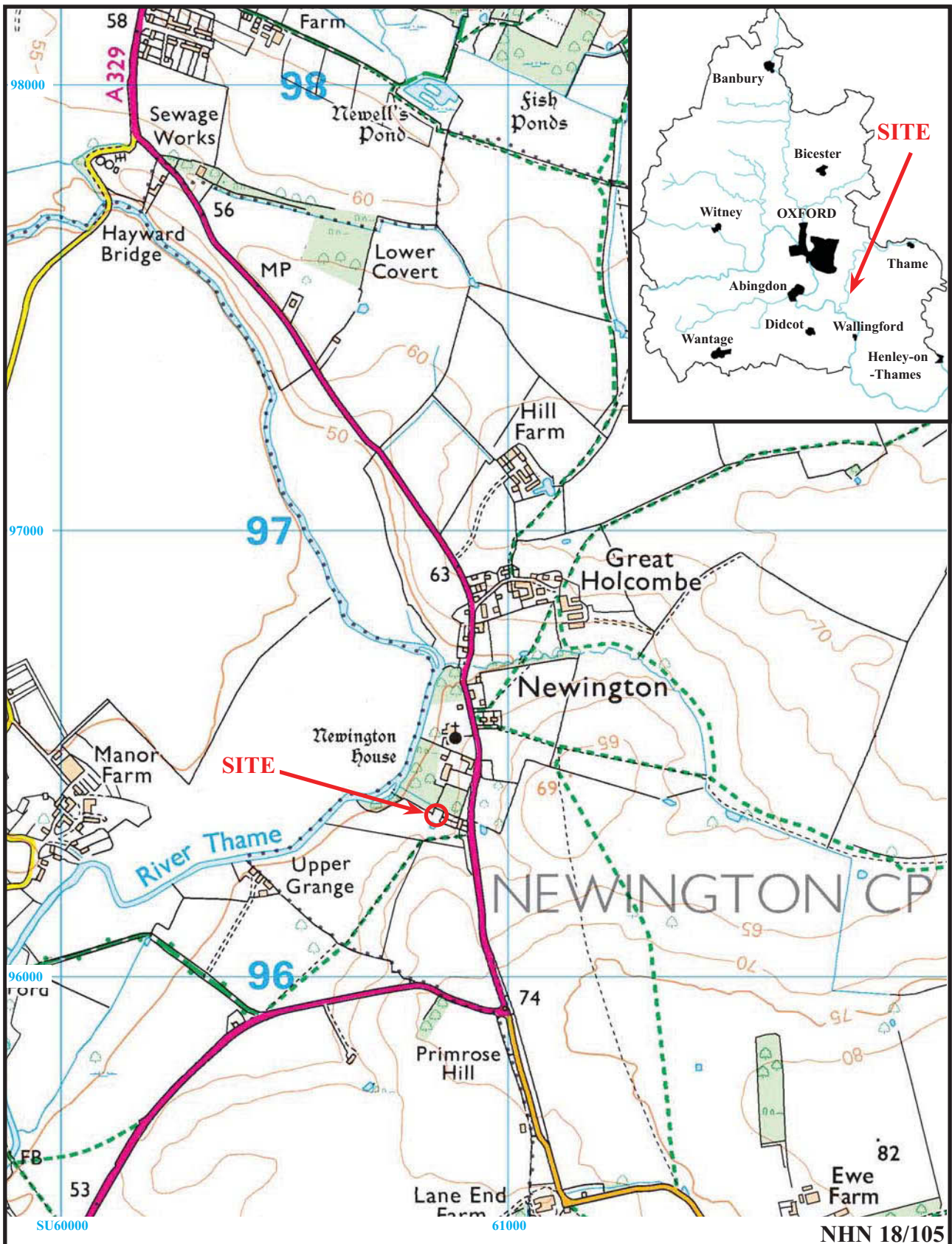
A complete, early 20th century, ceramic earthenware ink pot was encountered in the disturbed ground in the northern area. Three pieces of glass bottles were also encountered in the excavation. One was stamped 'Ponds extract', a producer of remedy tonic from the late 19th century, and the other two were vessels of early 20th century date. The ceramic building material was of no particular interest. None of the material is of archaeological interest and none was retained.

Conclusion

The excavation of the footprint for the location for the new stables was successfully observed. Modern disturbance was noted under topsoil which was stripped on the northern side. A drain cut the natural clay, with a thin layer of subsoil was excavated on its northern side. No archaeological deposits were encountered.

References

- BGS, 1980, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 254 (Henley-on-Thames), Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- NPPF 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
- Williams, G, 2013, 'Archaeological Interventions at Newington House, Newington, Oxfordshire (1984-2007)', JHMS (John Moore Heritage Services) unpubl client rep **5276**, Beckley, Oxford

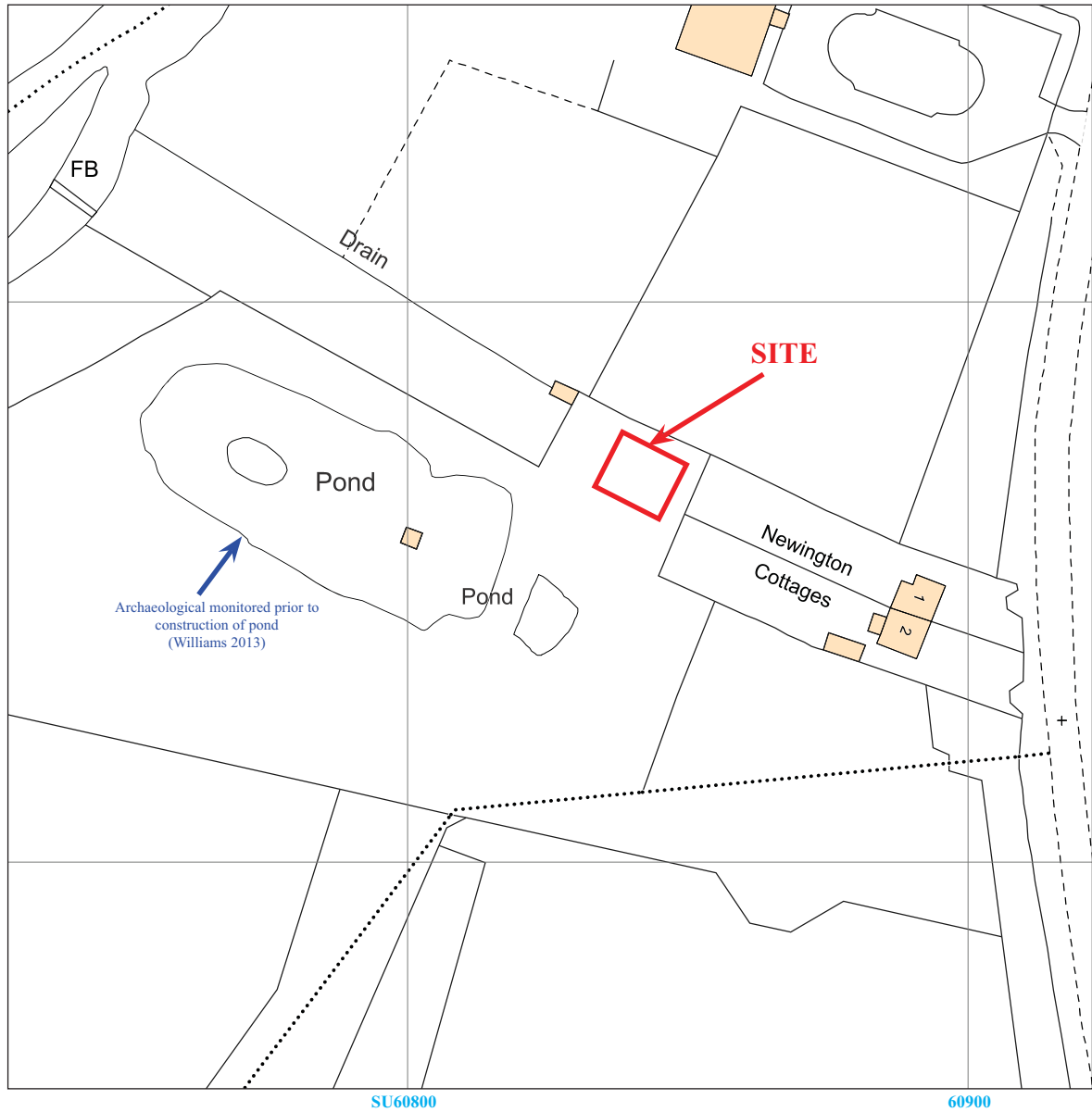


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Figure 1. Location of site within Newington and Oxfordshire.

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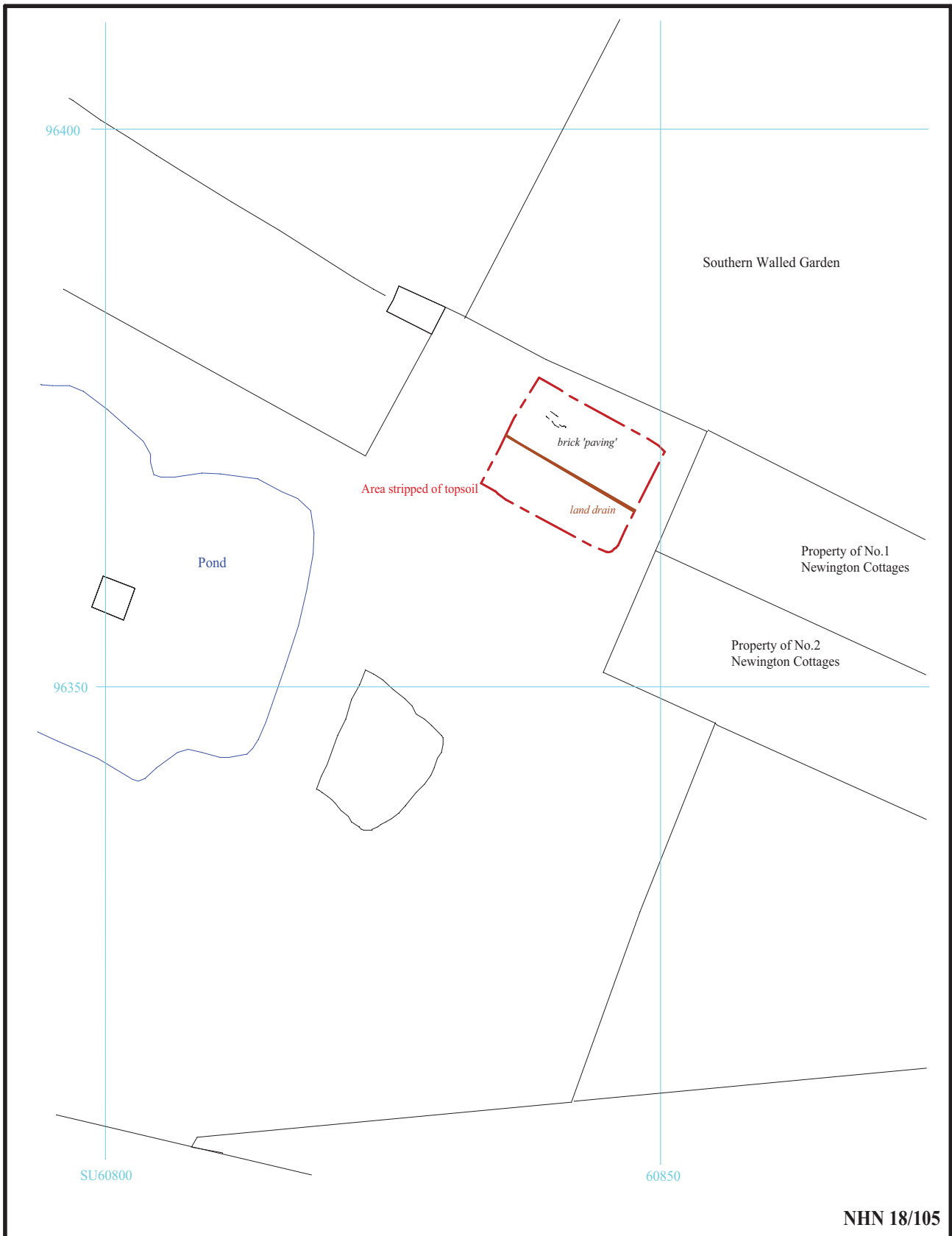
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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Figure 3. Location of observed area.





Plate 1. Area of ground reduction, looking north east, Scales: 1m and 0.2m.



Plate 2. Area of brick paving, looking looking south east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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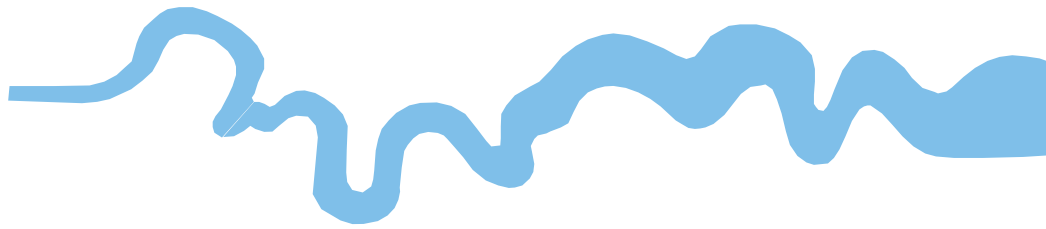
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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