

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**New Garage, 101, The Grange, Northington,  
Alresford, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Anne-Michelle Huvig**

**Site Code: GPN18/165**

**(SU 5673 3664)**

**New Garage, 101 The Grange,  
Northington, Alresford, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Simon Lavers**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AY671  
GPN 18/165

**October 2018**

## Summary

**Site name:** New Garage, 101, The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 5673 3664

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 26th September 2018

**Project coordinator:** Danielle Milbank

**Site supervisor:** Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Site code:** GPN 18/165

**Area of site:** 0.57ha

**Summary of results:** Observations of footings for a new garage were observed. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds of interest were uncovered.

**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.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 16.10.18 Danielle Milbank ✓ 16.10.18
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# **New Garage, No. 101, The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

By Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Report 18/165**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out to the rear (north) of Yew Cottage, No. 101 The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire (SU 5673 3664) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scot Masker of Provision, Grosvenor Court, Ampfield Hill, Ampfield, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 9BD, on behalf of Mr and Mrs Simon Lavers, 101 The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TG.

Planning permission (15/01900/FUL) has been granted by Winchester City Council to construct a new garage at the north eastern rear of their enclosed property. The property is immediately to the northwest of the location of the former St. Andrew's Parish Church, Swarraton (now demolished), and part of its former Churchyard lies within an enclosed garden. Two conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology have been attached to the Decision Notice, requiring a programme of archaeological work to be carried out at the site, which in this instance would take the form of a watching brief during groundworks, to observe, investigate and preserve by record any archaeological deposits were present on the site.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012; revised 2018) and the Council's planning policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by Mr Neville Hall, a freelance archaeological consultant which was approved by the Ms Tracey Matthews, of the Historic Environment Team at Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig on 26th September 2018. The site code is GPN 18/165, with the Winchester City Museum accession code AY671.

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

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is situated to the north of the eastern access of The Grange Estate, Northington, which comprises parkland with a large stately home and grounds curated by English Heritage, but with private residences around the estate, of which this property is one in the east. The houses boundary is excluded from the Registered Park and Garden (Grade II\*; 1000296), but is immediately adjacent to the eastern limit (Fig.1). It is 100m west of the

Swarraton Lodge which is at the junction of the east access and the valley main road. Swarraton now forms the south part of the sprawling settlement of Northington. It is situated in the Candover Valley, a narrow valley with a watercourse at the bottom, part of the South Downs. The river has been dammed to form The Grange Lake to the south west.

A number of demolished medieval elements of the ‘deserted settlement’ (DMS) of Swarraton are present nearby (see below), though there is no legislative protection of the remains. Earthworks to the north are now in fields used as water meadows on the southern bank of the Candover Stream. The south of the site, at road level, is approximately at a height of *c.*80m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and the underlying geology is Head deposits (sand, silt and gravel) over Seaford (Upper) Chalk (BGS 1990).

### **Archaeological background**

The village of Northington is a dispersed settlement, with a housing row of 19th and 20th century date at the top of the valley and the hamlet of Swarraton attached in the south in the valley bottom just south of the bridging point. The current site is located next to the large parkland of The Grange Estate, and its extensive grounds and scattered properties. Until 1849, Northington and Swarraton were two separate parishes (VCH 1908). Historically, Northington parish was granted to Edward the Elder in AD903 and later held by Hyde Abbey in the 12th century, as part of the manorial ‘Hundred of Micheldever’ (VCH 1911). Separately, Swarraton parish was orientated to the ‘Hospitallers of Godsfield’ at the same time until 1634 (Beard 2006, 160). The parish and hundred were divided by physical boundary of the water course at the base of the valley. In Swarraton, the parish church of St Andrew’s was originally held by Waverley Abbey (with an origin likely earlier than the known late 13th century origin building that was demolished in 1849; and an adjacent rectory had also been demolished in 1820 (Devenson 2005, 199). There are also a group of settlement earthworks, west of the village and main road, and these are immediately to the north east of the current site. This earlier settlement of Swarraton has been identified as a ‘lost Medieval settlement’ (Beresford 1987, 353). Northington also has a ‘deserted Medieval settlement’ (Beresford and Hurst 1989, 188) with remains which include the line of an old road. Most of the village was moved to the north to its current position, which was largely rebuilt by 1832.

St. Andrew’s Church, Swarraton became obsolete and the parishes were amalgamated in 1847, with Northington becoming the main and sole benefice. A remnant of the Churchyard remains in the north-western walled garden at the property, though no physical remain of the Church are present. Gravestones and a monument left by the Barings family from 1858 marking the site (Grade II; 1156989) are the only indication.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aim of the project were to continually monitor the excavation of the groundworks for the excavation.

Specific objectives were:

- to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains within the area of development
- to determine the extent, condition, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- to allow the preservation by record of archaeological deposits.

The development site is situated within an area of high archaeological potential. The site lies south-east of the site of Medieval church of St. Andrew along with its still extant Churchyard (Fig. 2). The earthwork remains of the deserted Medieval settlement of Swarraton have also been identified in the vicinity. It was considered highly likely that archaeological activity and finds associated with this former medieval settlement may be identified through this work. The specific objectives of the works will require recording of deposits and features and possible structures and finds related to the research parameters of deserted Medieval settlement of Hampshire.

All excavation was undertaken by mechanical excavation fitted with a toothed bucket to break through the hard ground, but exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand excavation.

## **Results**

The site of the new garage was on the north east side of the garden (Fig.3). All trenches were 0.7m wide and excavated to a depth of between 0.84m-0.9m deep by machine. The area was rectangular and 8.4m long x 6.4m wide, covering an area of c.53 sq m within the larger garden (0.57ha) (Pl.1). The stratigraphy was dug through grass and brown silt topsoil (50). This was 0.1m deep. This overlay a made ground deposit (51) of sub-angular flint in a matrix of light grey-brown silty sand, and contained fragments of modern glass, animal bone, ceramic building material (brick and tile), and pottery fragments which were mostly white porcelain (Pl.2). This deposit was observed at the base of the excavation, and natural geology was not reached.

The shallowest part of the excavation was the north east corner, and the deepest was the south west corner, though none of the excavation uncovered natural geology. No finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were retrieved from the works.

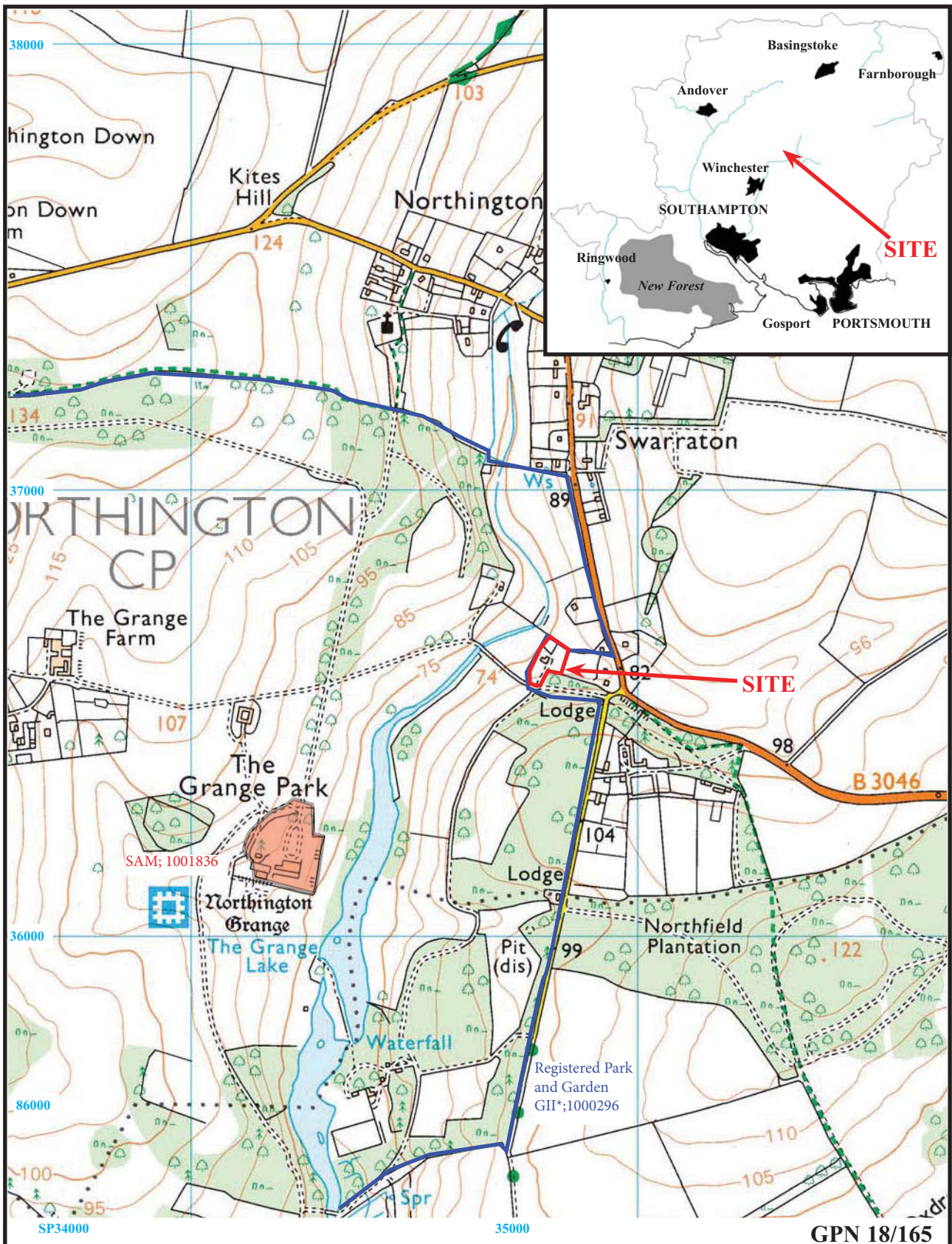
## Conclusion

Despite the potential of archaeological deposits associated the deserted Medieval settlement, and the nearby site of the Church and graveyard of St. Andrew, Swarraton, no archaeologically-significant deposits were encountered. Though the relatively recent made ground deposit encountered could have been derived from a nearby demolished flint-based structure, no *in situ* structural remains were encountered. No archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds of interest were recovered.

## References

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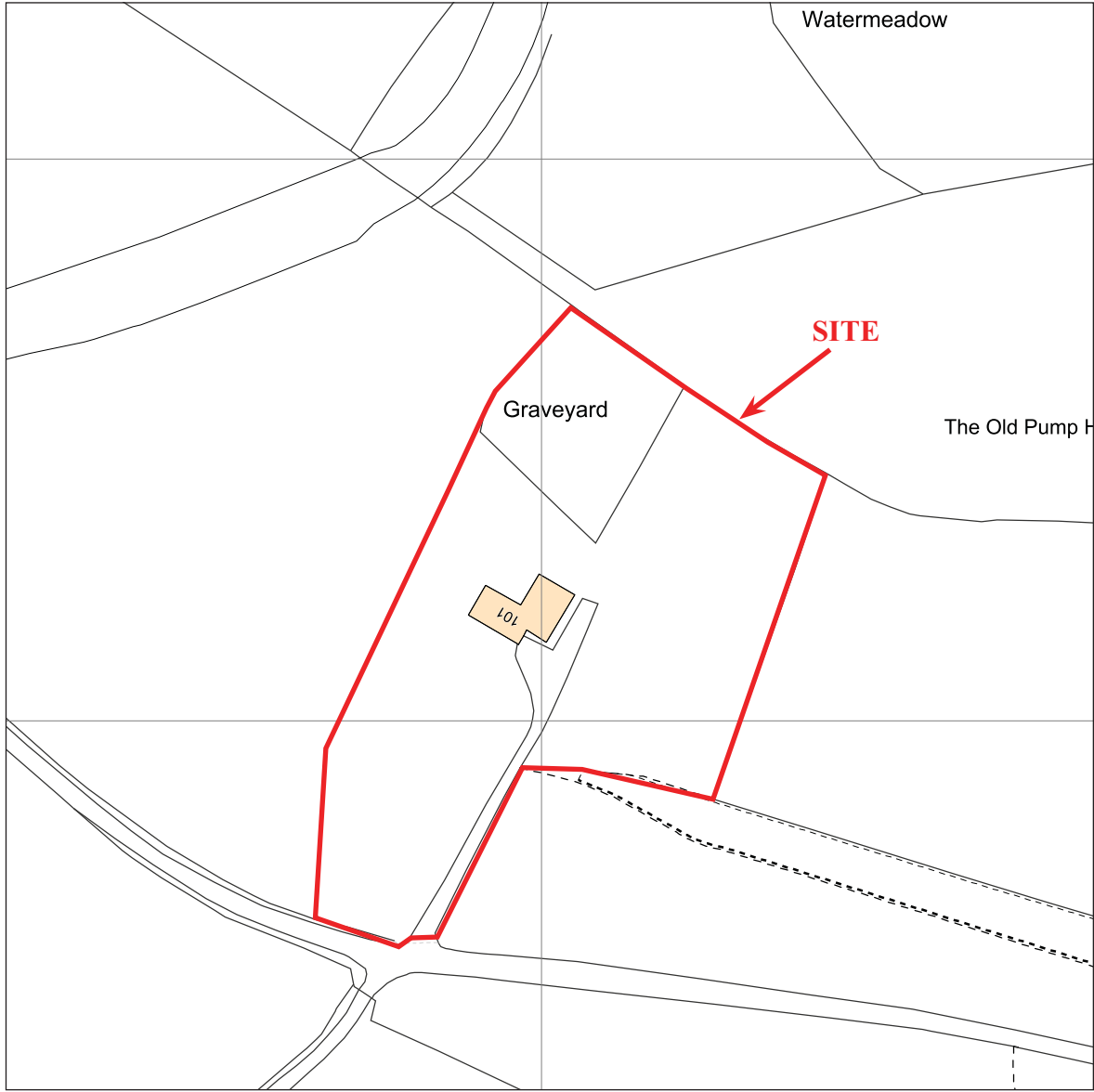


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 Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Grange Park, and in relation to Northampton and within Hampshire.

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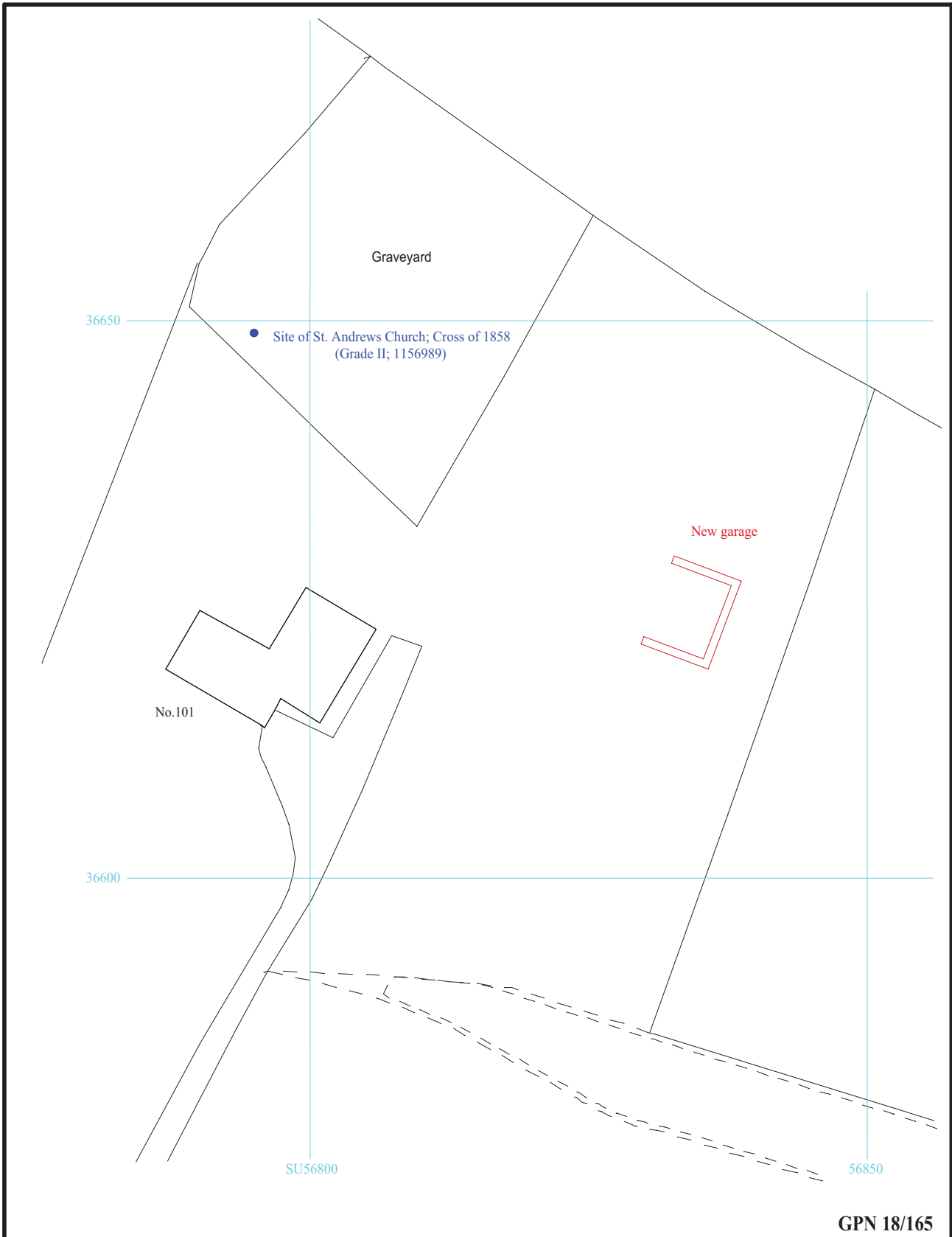
GPN 18/165



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 Alresford, Hampshire, 2018  
 Archaeological Watching Brief  
 Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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GPN 18/165



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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





Plate 1. Site of excavation, looking west.



Plate 2. Section of excavated northern trench, looking north-east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

GPN 18/165

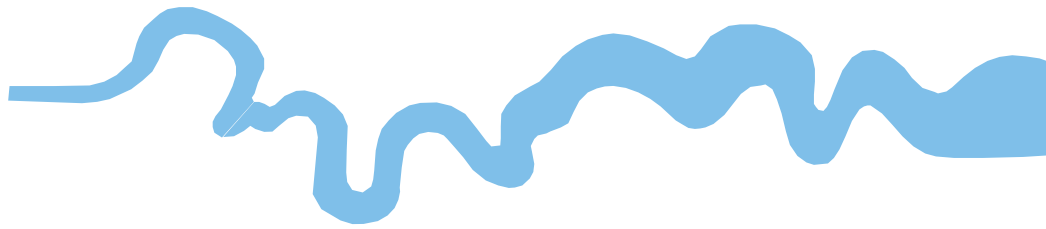
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Alresford, Hampshire, 2018  
Archaeological Watching Brief  
Plates 1 and 2.**

THAMES VALLEY  
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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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