

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford,  
Salisbury, Wiltshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Maisie Foster**

**Site Code: TCB19/130**

**(SU 1609 2812)**

# **Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Armour Heritage**

by Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TCB 19/130

**September 2019**

## Summary

**Site name:** Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire

**Grid reference:** SU 1609 2812

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 10th - 24th September 2019

**Project coordinator:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Kyle Beaverstock and Pierre-Damien Manisse

**Site code:** TCB 19/130

**Summary of results:** Trenching for footings ahead of construction of an extension to Thatch Cottage and land reduction for a septic tank took place under archaeological supervision. No archaeological deposits were revealed. A small collection of late Post-medieval pottery from the subsoil was observed.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 07.10.19 Steve Preston✓ 07.10.19
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# **Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Maisie Foster

**Report 19/130**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 1609 2812) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Sue Farr of Armour Heritage Limited, Foghamshire Timber Yard, Foghamshire Lane, Frome BA11 5DG, on behalf of Mr Jim Dennis of Thatch Cottage, Lower Road, Britford, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Planning consent (19/05970/FUL) has been granted for the general refurbishment of the cottage, extension and replacement garage subject to a condition (3) which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work consisting of a building recording prior to the works in accordance with Historic England Level II standard and an archaeological watching brief during the initial groundworks at the site. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019), and the Council's policies on the historic environment.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by the Wiltshire County Archaeologist Melanie Pomeroy-Kellinger on the 16th June 2019. The fieldwork was undertaken by Pierre-Damien Manisse and Kyle Beaverstock on the 10th-12th and 24th September 2019 and the site code is TCB 19/130. The building was also recorded and subject to a separate report (Elliott 2019).

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Salisbury Museum in due course.

### **Location, topography and geology**

Thatch Cottage is located in the village of Britford, to the south-east of Salisbury, within the floodplain of the River Avon (Fig. 1). Specifically the building is located on the north-east side of Lower Road, adjacent to Little Manor Farmhouse and opposite the village green (SU 1609 2812) (Fig. 2). The site lies at *c.*43m above Ordnance Datum with the house set slightly lower than the front garden. The underlying geology of the site and the wider surrounding village is recorded as River Terrace Deposits 4 (sand, gravel, flint, and chalk with silt and clay) BGS 2005).

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the boundaries of Thatch Cottage, an 18th-century Grade II Listed building located within the Britford Conservation Area. Evidence of human occupation and activity in Britford can be found from the Lower Palaeolithic with a large assemblage of worked flint objects found 810m south-west of the site; straight through to the Early medieval with 'Bredford' or 'Bretford' being recorded in Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002). Evidence for Thatch Cottage itself can first be seen on Andrews and Drury's 1773 map of Wiltshire where its approximate location can be identified. The first map to show the cottage in detail is the 1838 Britford Tithe map which shows Thatch Cottage set within the north corner of the plot of land labelled 19.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks for the new development. This included monitoring the excavation of foundation trenching, ground level reduction and excavation of drainage trenches. All trenching and ground level reduction was undertaken with a small 360° type excavator fitted with a 0.45m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil heaps were monitored frequently for archaeological material.

## **Results**

The watching brief comprised the monitoring of two components of the groundworks namely the digging of footing trenches and a hole for a septic tank

### *Footing trenches (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)*

Four footings trenches 0.6m wide were excavated to create a 5m x 3.5m rectangular extension. The centre of the extension was unexcavated and remained at ground level. The footing trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision to a depth of 1.13m, the only real variation in depth was observed in the parallel south-western trench which varied from a depth 1.03m to 1.33m. Natural geology was observed from c. 0.93m depth in all trenches, and consisted of a mid brown silty clay with occasional small flint gravel inclusions.

A dark brown grey alluvial clay was recorded from 0.43m to 1.05m below ground level in the south-easternmost footing trench, but no finds or distinguishing features were observed in the deposit to suggest it was of any archaeological significance. It is far more likely to be the remains of a river channel or pond. It was overlaid by a clayey silt made ground (modern).

### *Septic Tank (Figs 3 and 4)*

The hole dug for the septic tank was 2.5m square. This revealed a stratigraphy which comprised 0.2m of turf/topsoil above 0.25m of clayey subsoil above mid brown silty clay with occasional small flint gravel inclusions, the natural geology.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Cristina Mateos*

The pottery collection comprised a total of 11 sherds weighing 1634g. The pottery all belongs to the Post-medieval period and all came from the subsoil.

The first piece is a mug made from a brown stoneware. It is decorated with an impressed GR below crown excise mark, referencing Georgius Rex (George I or possibly II) (<https://livesandlegaciesblog.org/tag/white-salt-glazed-stoneware>) and mottled brown glazed. The GR marks appear to have been adopted only by stoneware manufacturers in Bristol (Gutierrez 2014) but the type is a very common one.

Seven sherds belongs to local earthenware fabric. They are a hard orange fabric with a grey core in the thickest areas of the vessels. The inside face is covered with greenish glaze and the outside surface, in most of the sherds, has remains of the same glaze. The assemblage comprised four rims and two bases. The exterior diameter of one of the bases is 180mm and the other one is 220mm. The forms included two different bowls, one jar (180mm diameter) and one possible dish.

Five sherds of mass produced 'china' were recovered. Two fragments are bases from different vessels, the other three are rims from two different vessels. Just one of the rim has remains of the typical pattern in blue whilst the others are plain white. Both rims can be identified with dishes.

The collection can be dated to the 18th-19th centuries and is typical domestic tableware (Draper 1984; Jackson 2002; Gutierrez, 2014)

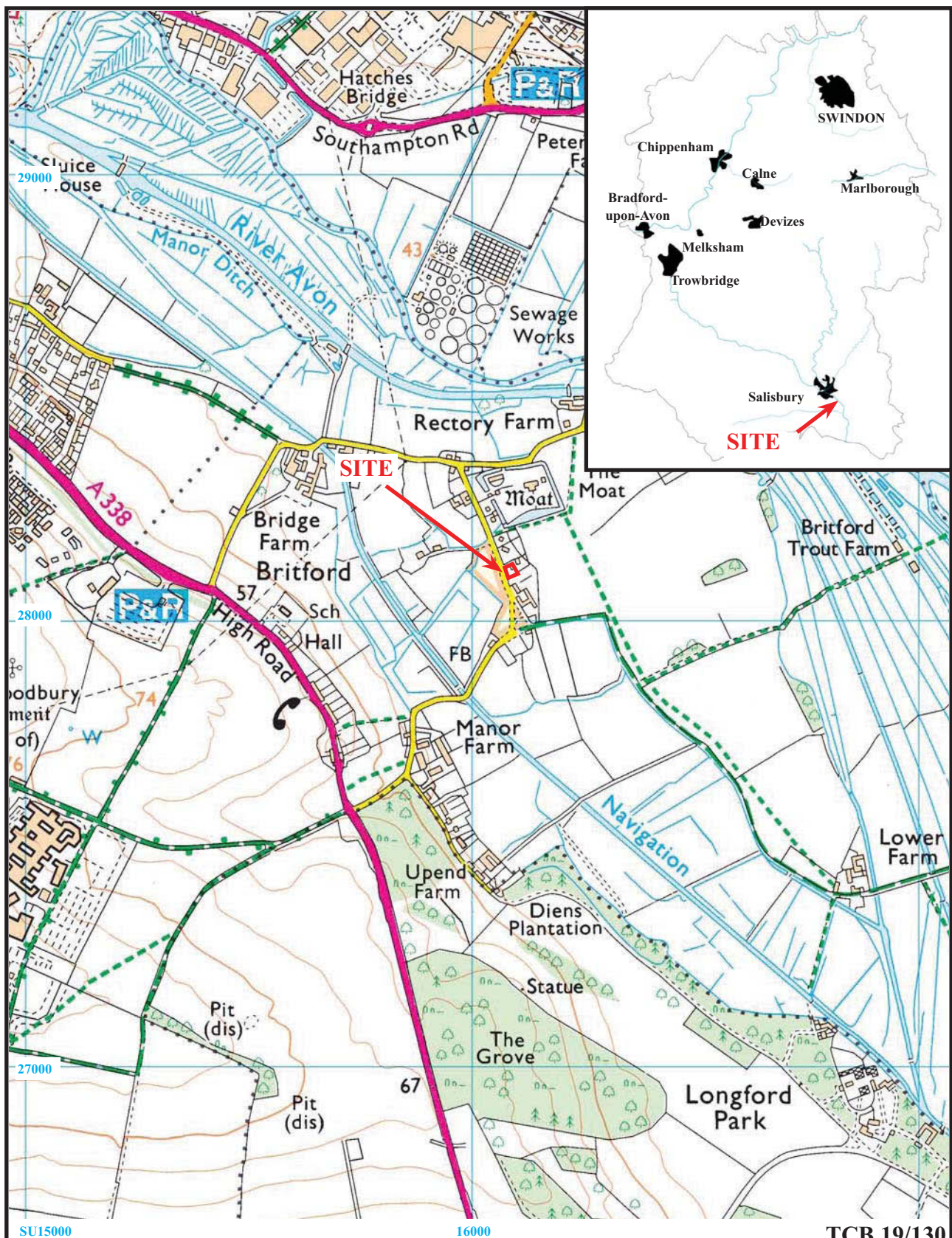
## **Conclusion**

The project groundworks were monitored as intended but no deposits of archaeological interest were observed. A small collection of late Post-medieval pottery was recorded as coming from the subsoil.

## References

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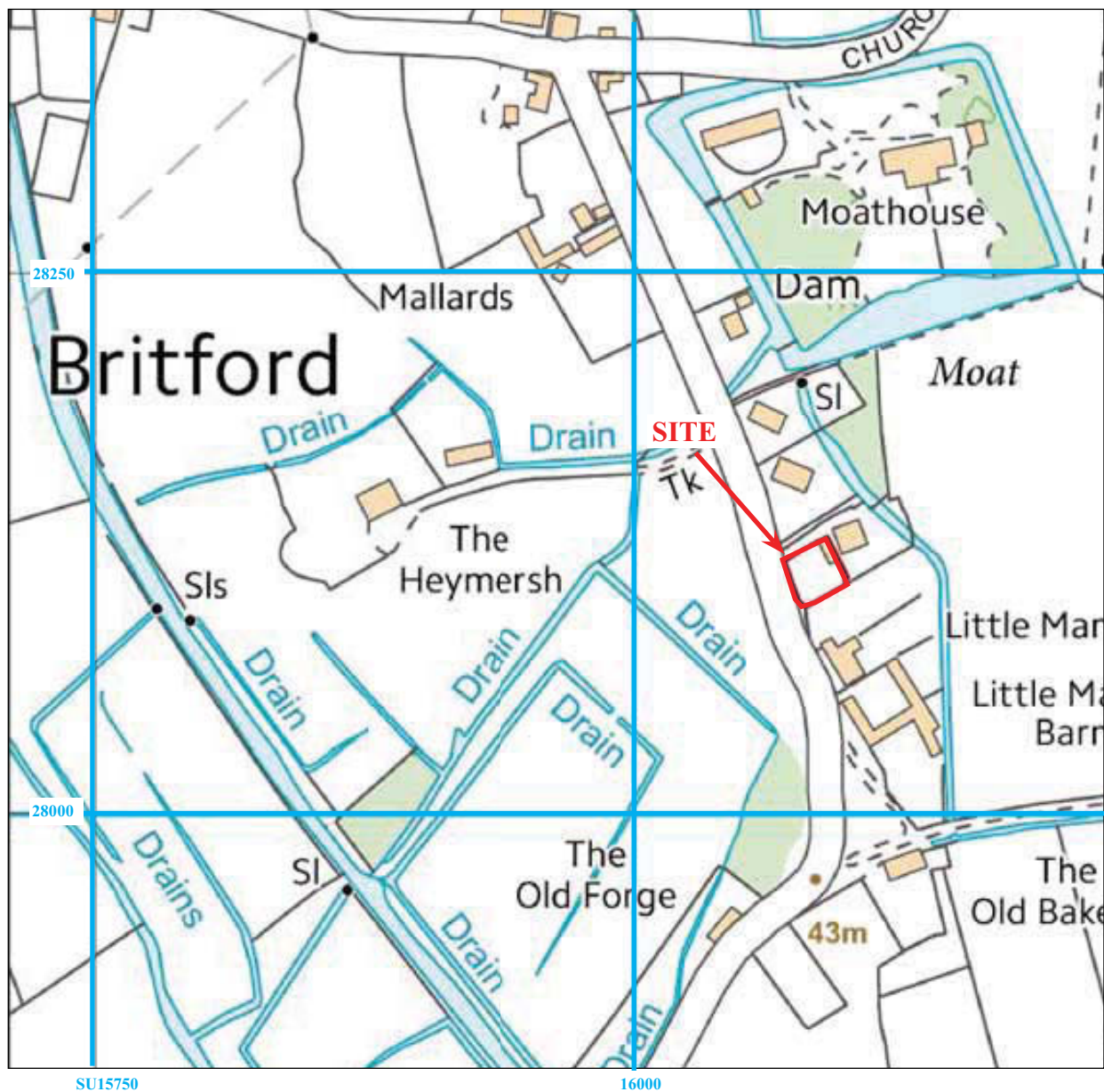
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Figure 1. Location of site within Britford and Wiltshire.

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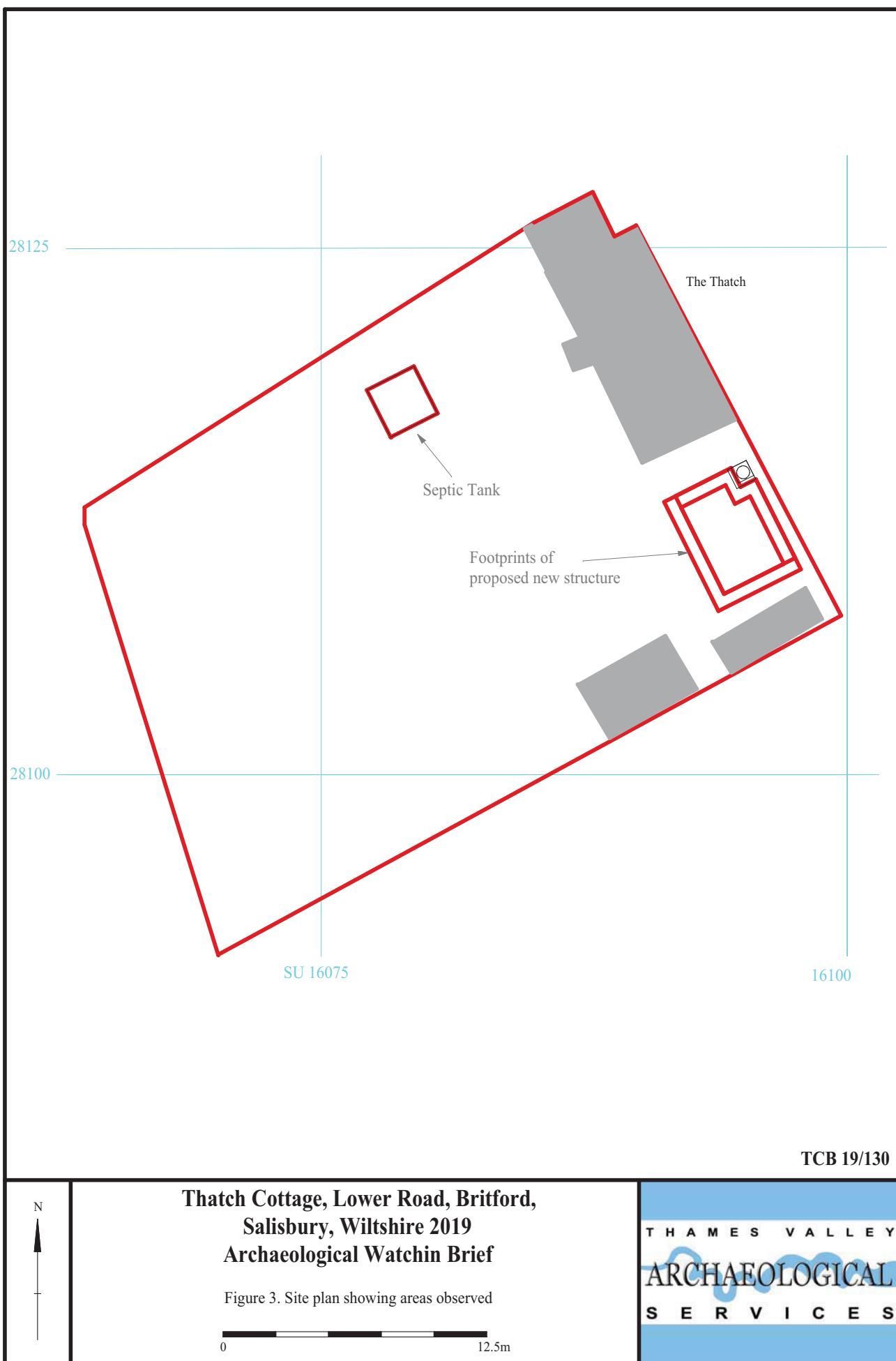


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Lower Lane.

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Madeground (Mid Grey Brown Clayey Silt)

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Alluvial Clay (Dark Brown Clay)

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Natural geology - Mid Brown Silty Clay

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SW NE [43.0maOD](#)

Topsoil (Dark Grey Loam)

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Made ground

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Natural geology - Mid Brown Silty Clay

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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Sections.

0 0.5m

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Plate 1. Section showing sites stratigraphy, looking S Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Section showing stratigraphy and house foundation, looking E, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Salisbury, Wiltshire 2019  
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Plates 1 and 2.**

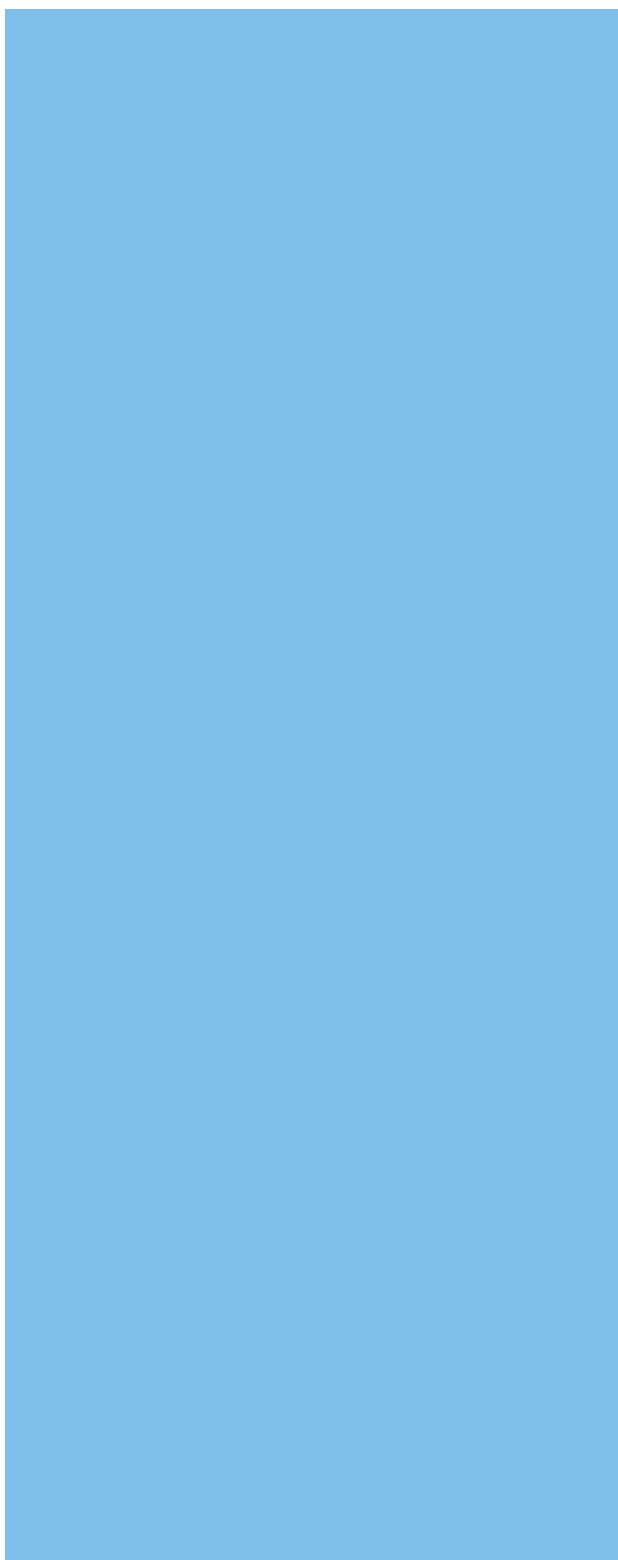
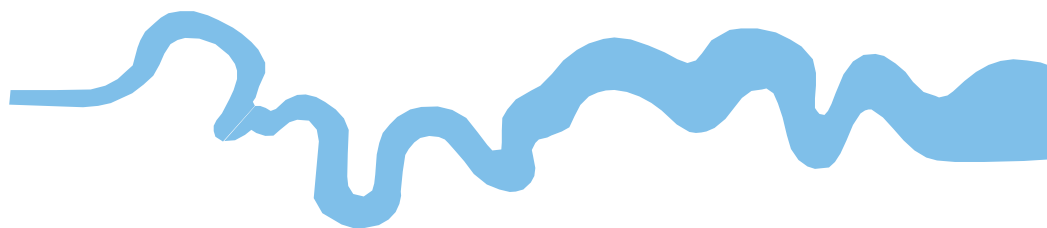
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## TIME CHART

### 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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