

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**New Garden Room, The Yews, 101 The Grange,  
Northington, Alresford, Hampshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andrew Muddin**

**Site Code: GPN18/165**

**(SU 5673 3664)**

**New Garden Room, The Yews, 101 The Grange,  
Northington, Alresford, Hampshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr Simon Lavers**

by Andrew Munding

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GPN 18/165b

**March 2021**

## Summary

**Site name:** New Garden Room, The Yews, 101 The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire

**Grid reference:** SU 5673 3664

**Site activity:** Archaeological Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 10th and 11th March 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Mundin

**Site code:** GPN 18/165

**Area of site:** 78.6 sq m

**Summary of results:** Excavations for footings for a new detached garden room, north-east of the main house, were observed. No archaeological deposits were encountered and pottery recovered from the was of 17th/18th century and later date.

**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, under the Winchester City Museum accession code AY671.

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	Steve Preston ✓ 23.03.21

# The Yews, No. 101 The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Andrew Munding

Report 18/165b

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the rear (north) of The Yews, No. 101 The Grange, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9TG (SU 5673 3664) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Scot Masker, of Masker Architects Ltd, Winchester Business Centre, 10 Parchment Street, Winchester, SO23 8AT, on behalf of Mr Simon Lavers.

Planning permission (19/00907/HOU) has been granted by Winchester City Council to construct a detached annexe at the property. The consent is subject to two conditions (4 and 5) which require an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Council's planning policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification sent for approval by Ms Tracey Matthews of the Historic Environment Team at Winchester City Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Munding on 10th and 11th March 2021. The site code is GPN18/165. A previous report described observations during the excavation of footings for a new garage in the east of the site (Huvig 2018; Fig. 3).

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Hampshire Cultural Trust in due course with accession code AY671.

## Location, topography and geology

Northington lies north-east of Winchester. The site is located north of the eastern access of The Grange Estate, Northington and Swarraton Lodge on its eastern boundary. The estate is an historic parkland listed Grade II\* (1000296). Private residences exist around the edges the estate, of which The Yews is one: it is excluded from, but almost surrounded by, the Registered Park. The property is immediately adjacent, to the south east of, the previous location of 'deserted' Swarraton before it was moved beyond the boundaries of The Grange from the 1850's (Beresford 1986, 353). Part of Swarraton's former churchyard lies within the current property's enclosed garden, immediately adjacent to the west of the current works (Fig. 2). Its general location, within the Candover Valley is relatively low-lying compared to the east, with the stream course dammed to form a large lake to the

south-west. The western edge of the site lies at a height of 74m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), with the area observed in this work at 76.25m aOD. The underlying geology is Head deposits (sand, silt and gravel) and alluvium over Seaford Formation (Upper Chalk) (BGS Geoindex; BGS 1990).

## **Archaeological background**

The Grange, and its extensive parklands are formed from a 18th-century landscaped garden surrounding an early 19th-century house, based on an earlier 17th-century core (Bullen *et al.* 2010, 297). The Yews is located to the east of the estate, and is a late 19th-century property. The later expansion of the parkland saw the location of both villages of Northington and Swarraton shifted from their historic locations (VCH 1908). Swarraton particularly, was originally likely to have medieval origins (VCH 1911; Beard 2006). The parish and Hundred were divided by the physical boundary of the Candover water course. In Swarraton, the parish church of St Andrew was originally held by Waverley Abbey (with an origin likely earlier than the late 13th-century) until it was demolished in 1849 when the parishes were amalgamated (Devenson 2005, 199). The building has been described as cruciform, with a central tower and a 19th-century wooden spire, as shown on a painting just before the building's demolition. There are also a group of settlement earthworks, on the south bank of the stream and the main road, with the church deemed the closest to the site due to remains of tomb slabs from it, kept within the walled garden of The Yews.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved permanent monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks which, in this instance, involved the reduction of overburden within the footings of the site. All excavation was undertaken with a mechanical excavator, fitted with a bladed ditching bucket, 0.8m wide. Exposed surfaces and sections were cleaned with hand tools to aid recording. The total area of the footings was 6.7m by 11.5m, with excavation not exceeding a depth of 1.15m deep (Fig.3; Pl.1). All spoil heaps were checked for finds, though no soil was removed from site.

## **Results**

A small concrete and timber shed had been demolished before works started, with an approximately 0.1m thick slab and surrounding pavers removed prior to excavation.

Upper deposits exposed during excavation comprised a mix of flint and ceramic building material (brick and tile) included within a grey brown sandy silt with dark grey brown silt sand topsoil (50) to a uniform depth across the site no greater than 0.42m deep. Occasional finds were noted within this deposit, with a higher frequency of modern finds in the north: transfer-printed 'china' sherds, modern metalwork and brick/tile. Beneath this was a grey brown silt with frequent sub-angular flint (51), a made ground and a possible imported soil, likely brought in to raise northern parts of the garden and the location where the current house was built due to its location in the base of the valley. This layer contained less ceramic building material than the topsoil. No finds were retained from this fill.

The centre of the footing was reduced by 0.15m. This exposed the top of a single course of footing laid bricks, crossing the centre of the most northern portion of the new footings (Fig. 3). This was probably remains of an old brick boundary, though only surviving to a depth of 0.25m. A single brick was 290mm x 120mm x 80mm with the width of the wall equal to the length of a single brick. The bricks were unfroged, and not handmade indicating it was probably 19th century. It continued beyond the excavation area to the east, but was truncated on the western side.

These layers of modern overburden reached a depth of 0.9m, where a remnant topsoil was encountered (52). This dark brown silty clay was truncated in the northern footing by modern disturbance, and was generally no thicker than 0.2m, at a total depth of between 0.9m and 1.1m (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). Three pottery sherds were recovered from this layer from the NW corner of the excavation, providing a date no earlier than the 17th century and more probably 18th. At the base of excavations, natural chalk was exposed in the northern footing at a depth of 1.15m and parts of the western footing at 0.95m deep.

Elsewhere, patchy natural soils were exposed, mostly as a reddish yellow silty sand (53) from 1m deep to the base of the footings at 1.1–1.15m.

No archaeological features were encountered in the works, with the only cuts being from modern truncations reaching *c.* 1m deep and largely disturbing upper made ground deposits across the northern half of the area.

## **Finds**

### *Pottery by Sue Anderson*

Three sherds (62g) of post-medieval pottery were recovered from layer 52. These were a base fragment of green-glazed Border ware (BORD), a body sherd of probable Border ware with orange glaze internally, and a post-

medieval glazed redware (GRE) also with orange glaze internally. These finds suggest a 17th/18th-century date for the layer.

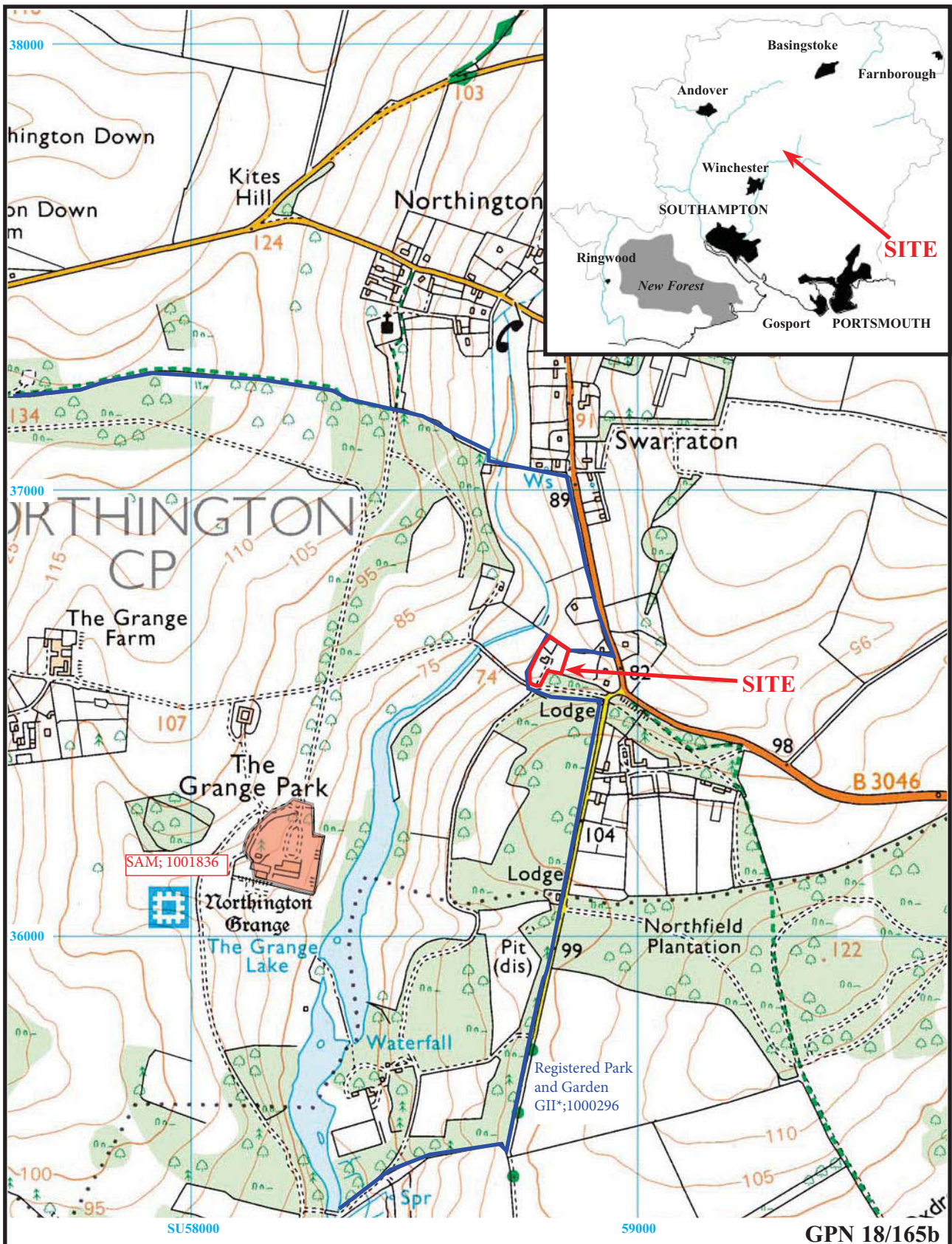
## Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits associated with the deserted Medieval settlement, and the nearby site of the Church and graveyard of St. Andrew, Swarraton, no archaeological deposits were encountered. Though the relatively recent made ground deposit encountered contained a quantity of flint derived from a nearby demolished flint-based structure, no *in situ* structural remains were encountered other than the base of a 19th-century brick boundary wall. Made ground deposits seem to belong to the 19th century, when The Yews was originally built, building the site up over a garden soil that may be 18th century (though the pottery could equally be residual in this deposit). No significant archaeological deposits were encountered.

## References

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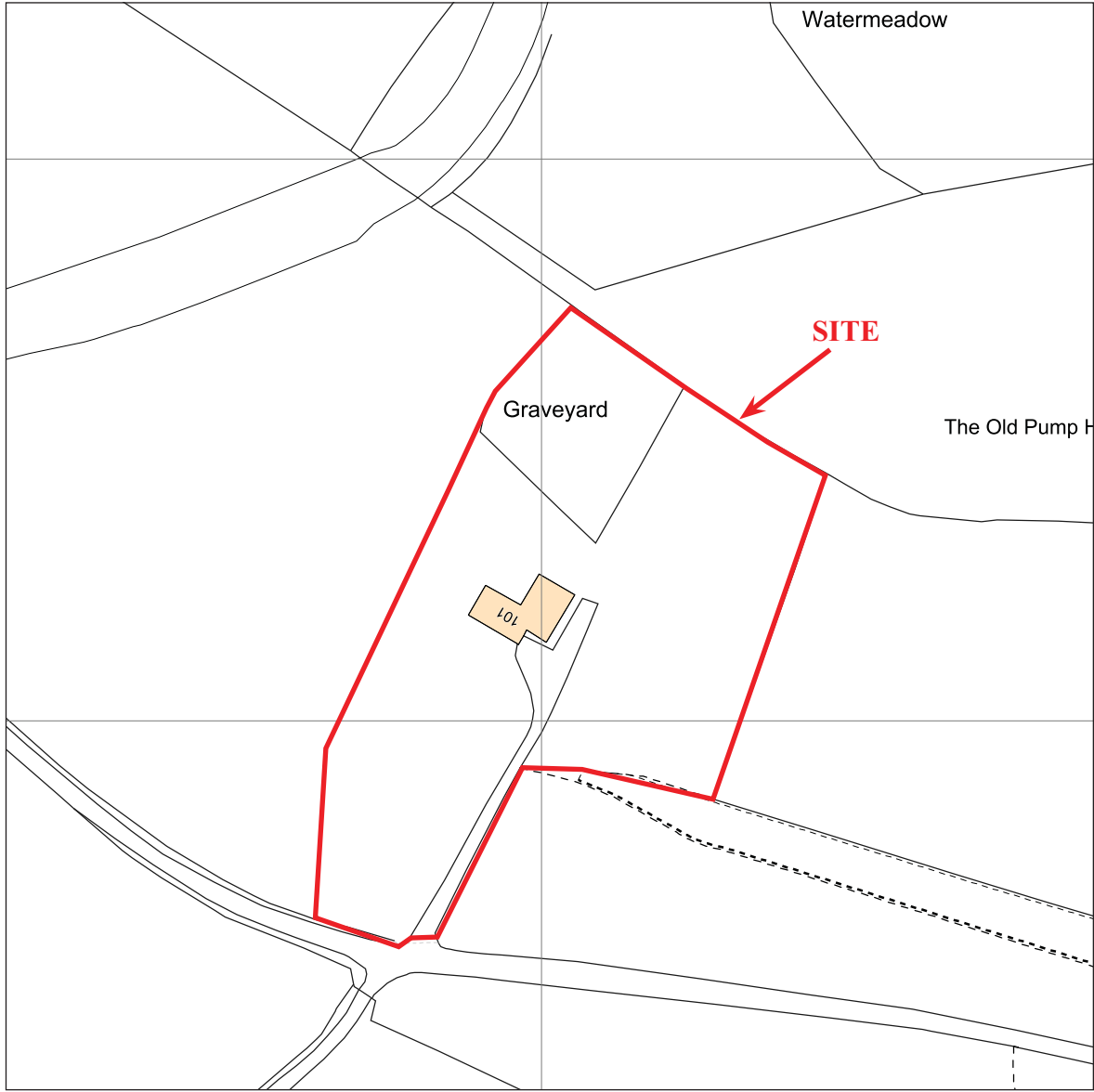


**New Garden Room, The Yews, 101 Grange Park,  
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Grange Park, and in relation to Northampton and within Hampshire.

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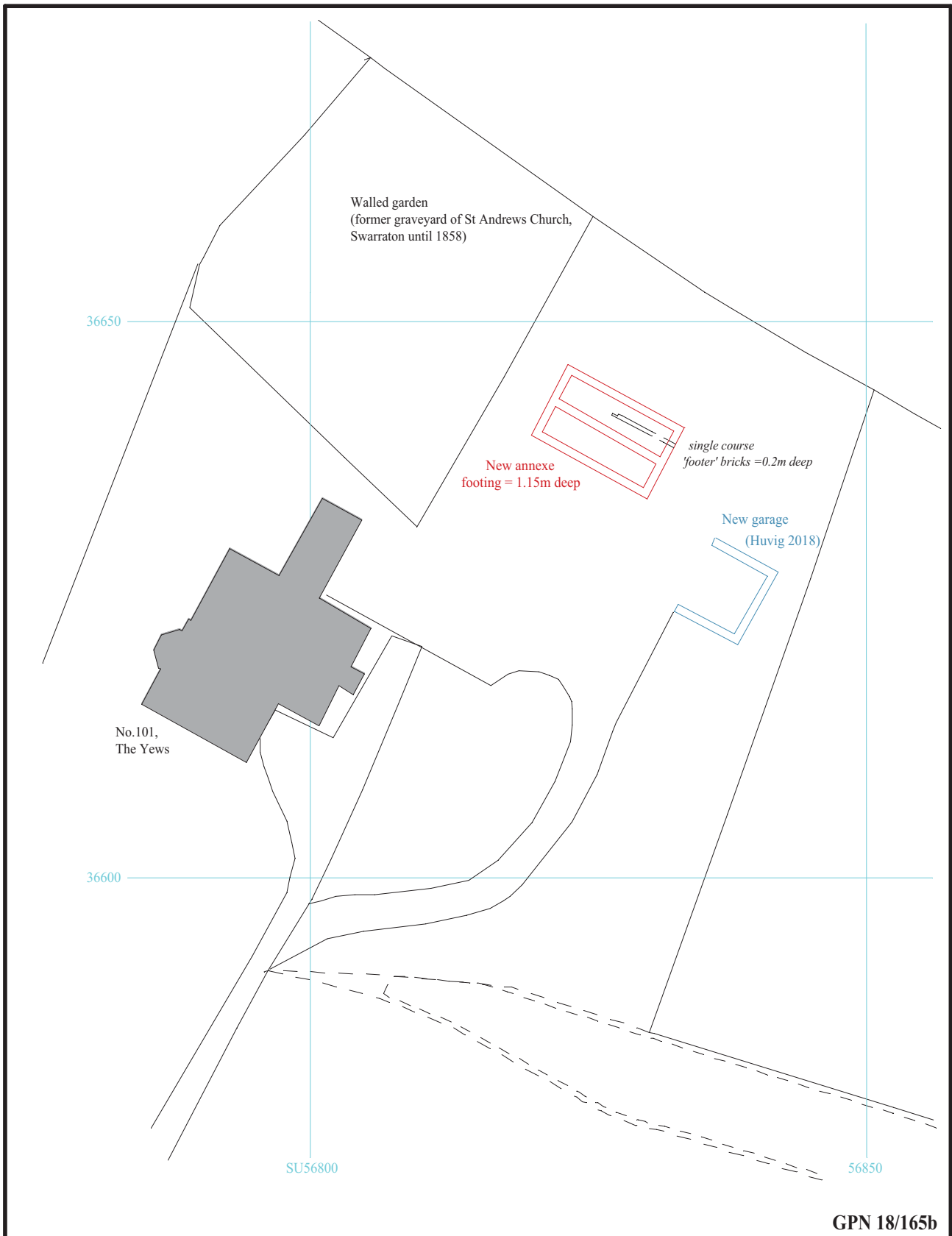
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.**

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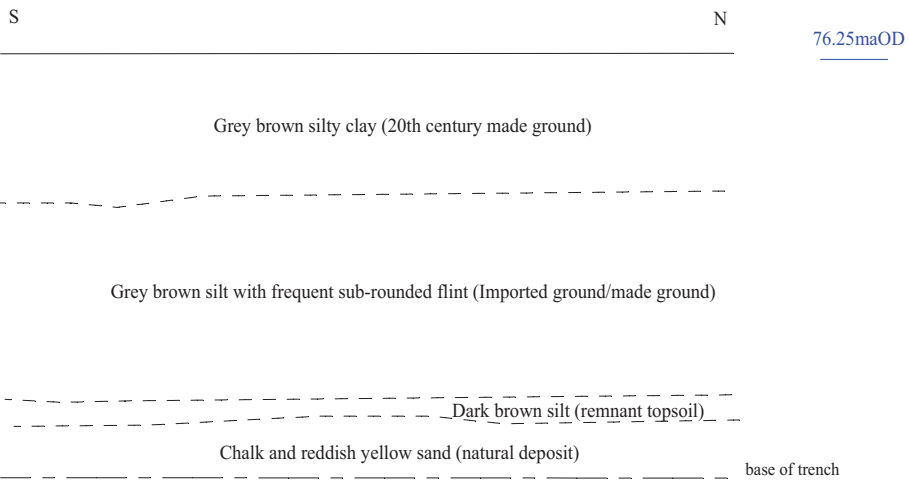
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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Progress of footing, looking South East,  
Scale: 1m.



Plate 2. Single course brick at base of overburden  
strip, looking East, Scale: 1m.



Plate 3. General footing section in North West corner, looking West,  
Scales: 1m.

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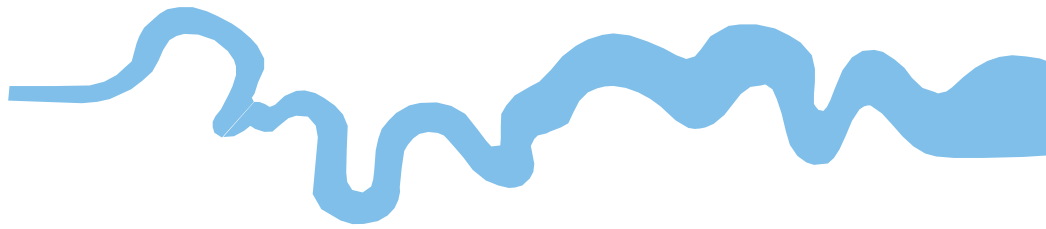
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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