

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**The Long House, Fyfield Wick,  
Abingdon, Oxfordshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Anne-Michelle Huvig**

**Site Code: FWO21/152**

**(SU 4124 9674)**

# **The Long House, Fyfield Wick, Abingdon, Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
for Jozu LLC**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code FWO 21/152

**March 2022**

## Summary

**Site name:** The Long House, Fyfield Wick, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4124 9674

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 30th September 2021

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Anne-Michelle Huvig

**Site code:** FWO 21/152

**Area of site:** c.1.5ha

**Summary of results:** Observations occurred on new footings extending a portion of the existing building. Much of the area for the new footings had been previously truncated and reinstated. No deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

**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 ✓ 07.03.22 Steve Preston ✓ 07.03.22
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# The Long House, Fyfield Wick, Abingdon, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

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## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Long House, Fyfield Wick, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX13 5NF (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Brian Belcher of Shalenet Ltd, Fieldside Cottage, Fieldside, Upton, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 9HY.

Planning permission 21/V1412/HH has been gained from the Vale of White Horse District Council for the development of single storey extensions and replacement roof. The consent is subject to two conditions relating to archaeology. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, an archaeological watching brief is required during any groundworks on site.

This is in accordance with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Steven Weaver, Planning Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, the archaeological adviser to the District, and based on a design brief supplied by him (Weaver 2021). The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig on 30th September 2021. The site code is FWO 21/152.

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 Fyfield Wick, that lies south-east of Kingston Bagpuize, near the A420 (Fig. 1). Fyfield Wick lies south of this road, with Fyfield to the north. Garford village lies c.1km to the south-east, though separated by the course of the River Ock. The site itself is in an area of modern development (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Kingston formation limestones and sandstones (BGS 2021), previously mapped as Corallian Beds (limestones, sands and clays) (BGS 1971). The site lies at a height of c.67m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

## **Archaeological background**

A brief prepared by Mr Steven Weaver of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services (Weaver 2021) has highlighted the potential for archaeological deposits in the area. The location, near the River Ock, is a zone rich in Iron Age and Bronze Age cropmarks, with four circular marks recorded from the air to the south and south west of the site. The county's Historic Environment Record (HER) also records numerous find spots of prehistoric flint across the area, along with Roman pottery and coins. The site formerly lay on the south-east edge of a former RAF airfield, a glider training school, closed by 1954.

The wider landscape has evidence of Saxon funerary activity, with a large cemetery known near Frilford, though there is a particular focus on several large enclosed Roman villa complexes, particularly one known to the south-east (Noah's Ark near Garford) (Kamash *et al.* 2010). The prehistoric material is also set within a larger landscape, with Bronze Age ring ditch complexes and enclosures known at Chadwick Farm, south of Garford. There is also evidence in the environs of Kingston Bagpuize of Roman agricultural enclosure and land use (Parrington 1976; Cowell 1979; Heawood 2004).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved continuous monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks and included observation of surface stripping, ground reduction and excavation to the top of the relevant horizon in foundation trenches, service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work as necessary.

## **Results**

Footings of an extension of a gable on the south side of the extant building were observed being excavated by a 360° mechanical digger fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 3; Pls 1-2). These covered a maximum extent of 24.7m by 15.2m and were taken to depths of 0.9–1.2m. Individual sections of trench varied between 0.65m and 0.95m wide. Most of the area had previously (historically) been stripped of its topsoil and subsoil, and replaced with a construction mat that had laid down a grey sandy silt with limestone inclusions. This in turn had been landscaped with overlaid imported loamy topsoil, 0.3m thick. The truncation of the subsoil had generally occurred to 0.5m deep, exposing the natural geology, a mottled reddish-grey silt and yellowish clay. The excavation continued through these deposits halting at between 0.9m and 1.2m deep. All trenching exposed the

natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were encountered and it was noted that a number of existing service trenches, leading southwards through the area had also truncated the natural geology.

## **Finds**

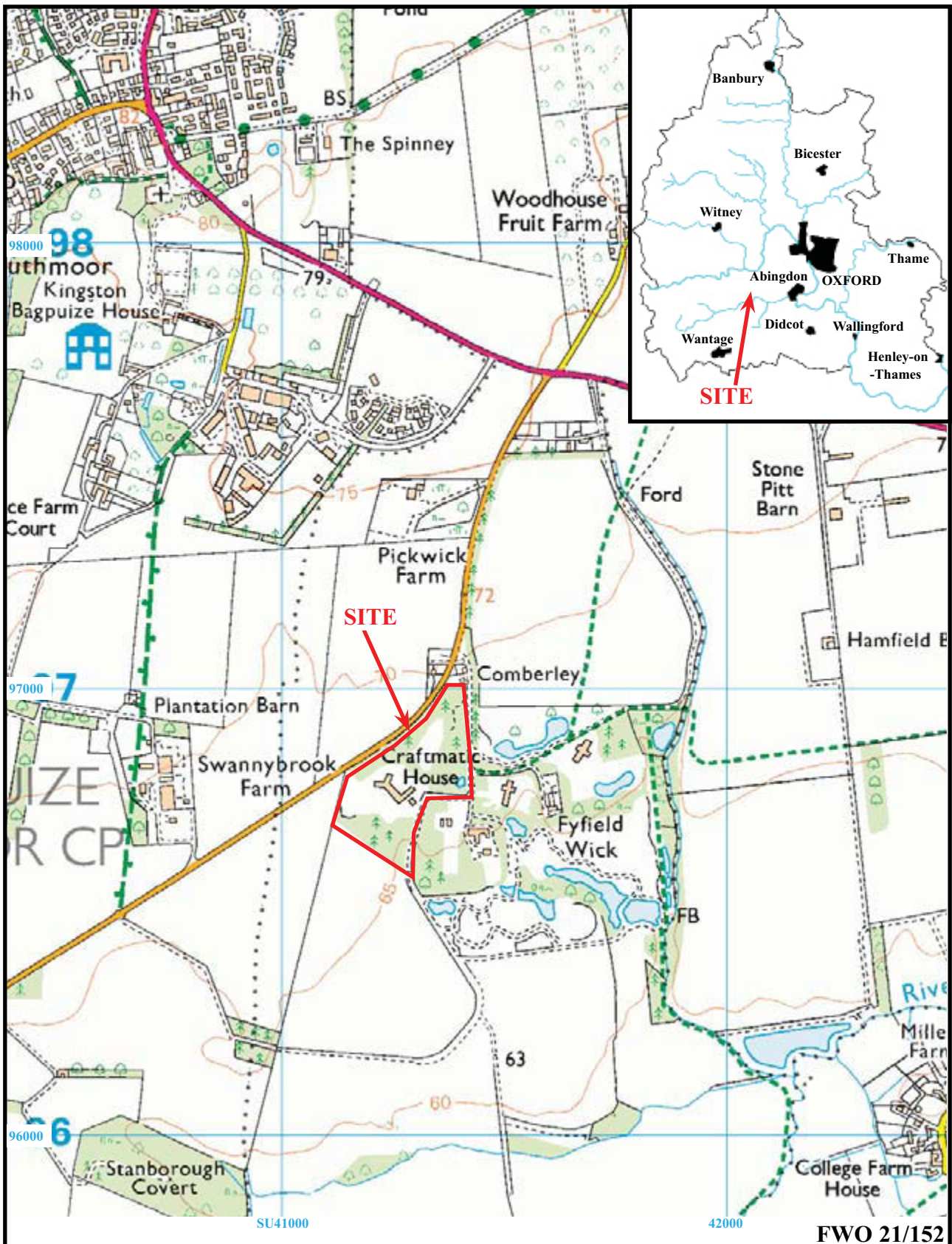
No finds of archaeological interest were encountered.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the potential of the site no deposits nor finds of archaeological interest were encountered. The site had previously been stripped of overburden and some truncation of the natural geology might have taken place removing any shallow archaeological deposits. However, any larger deeper features would have survived this activity, but none were observed.

## **References**

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- Cowell, R, 1979, 'Notes: The Roman settlement at Kingston Hill Farm, in the parish of Kingston Bagpuize, Oxfordshire', *Oxoniensia*, **44**, 96–7
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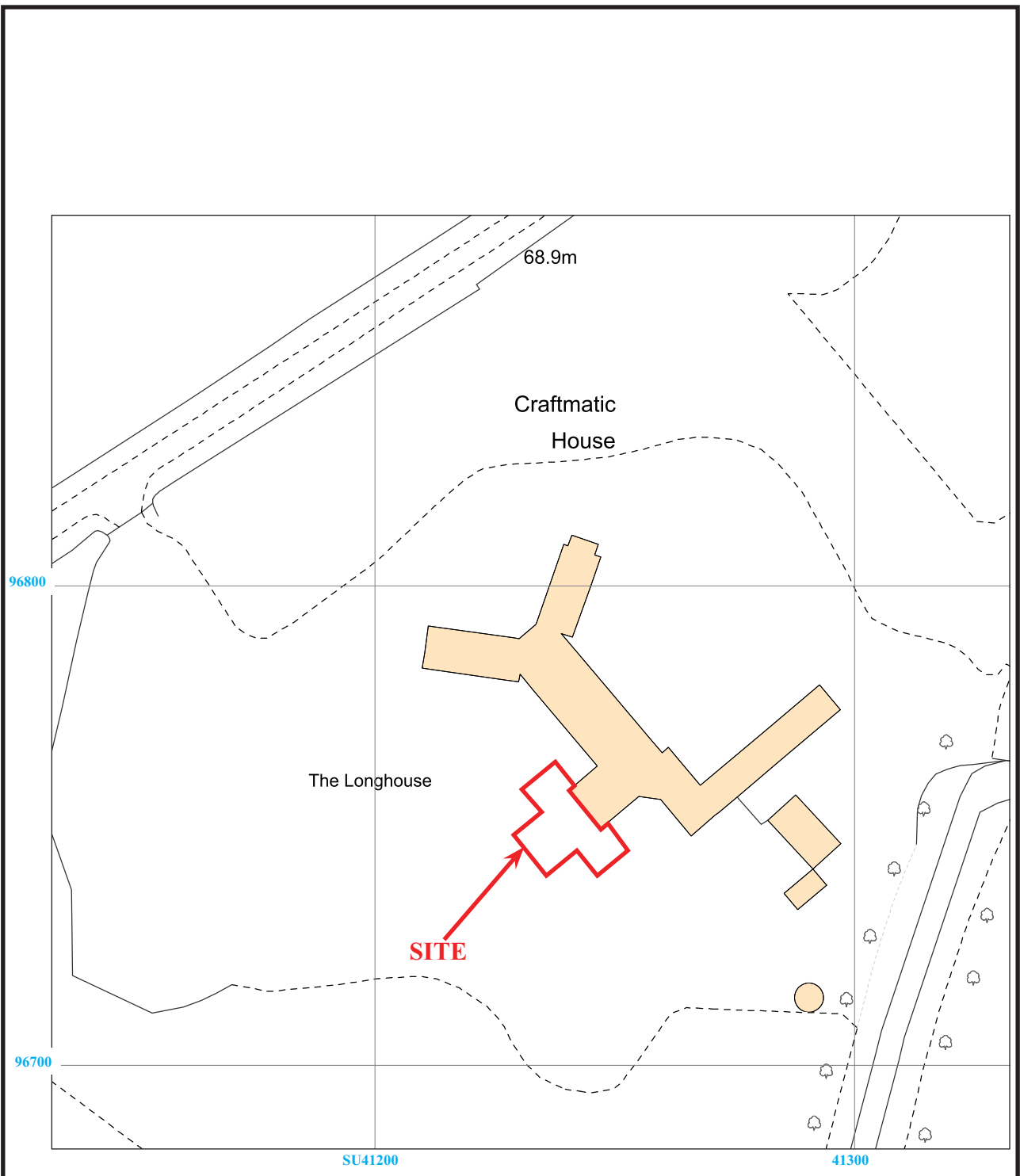


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Figure 1. Location of site within Fyfield Wick and Oxfordshire.

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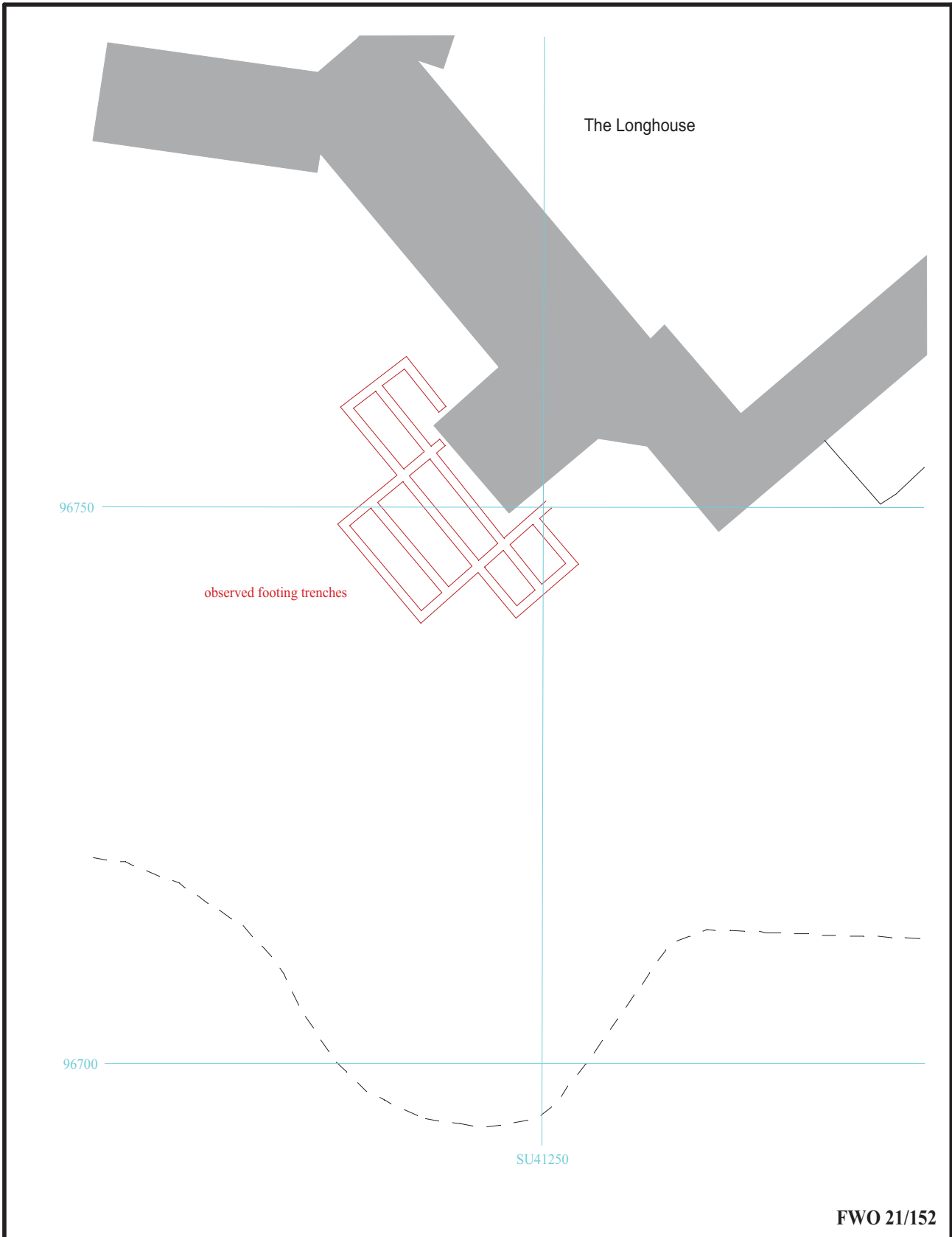


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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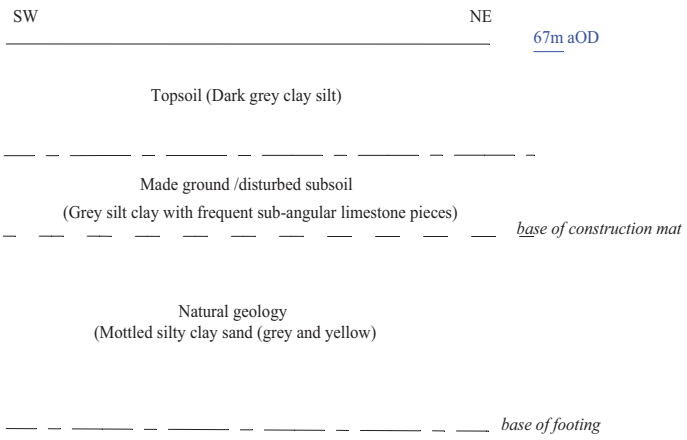




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Figure 3. Detail of observations.





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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Extension footings, looking North West, Scales: 1m x2.



Plate 2. Extension footing section, looking North West, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 1m.

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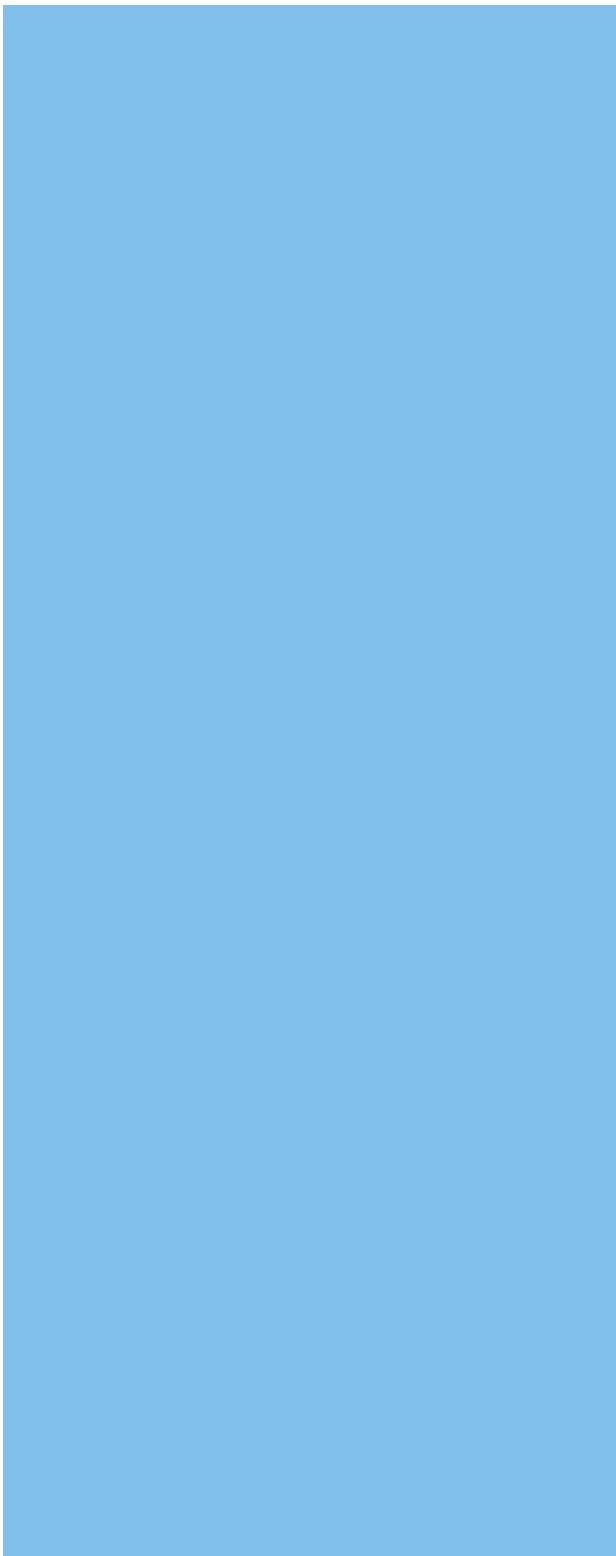
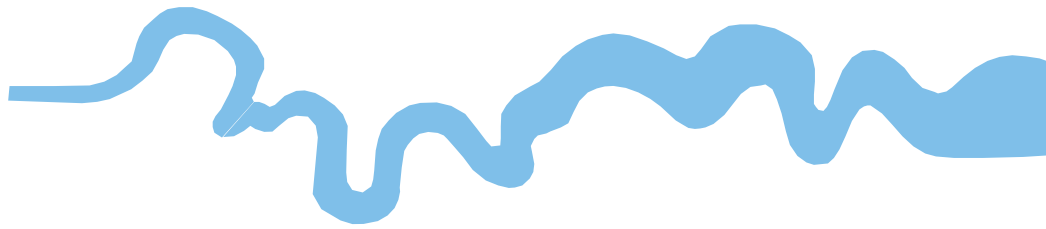
**The Long House, Fyfield Wick,  
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Plates 1 and 2.**

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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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