

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rear of 1 Green Lane,
Warborough, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Muddin

Site Code: GLW21/06

(SU 5969 9334)

Rear of 1 Green Lane, Warborough, Oxfordshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Iain O'Mahony

by Andrew Munding

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GLW 21/06

April 2022

Summary

Site name: Rear of 1 Green Lane, Warborough, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 5969 9334

Site activity: Archaeological Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 11th March 2021 to 22nd April 2022

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisors: Jamie Williams, Andrew Muddin, Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: GLW 21/06

Area of site: c. 625 sq m

Summary of results: Archaeological monitoring was carried out during groundworks for new access and footings for a new carport and house south of Green Lane. 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 Oxfordshire Museum Service or the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.04.22
	Steve Preston✓ 29.04.22

Rear of 1 Green Lane, Warborough, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

By Andrew Mundin

Report 21/06

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out to the south (rear) of 1 Green Lane, Warborough, Oxfordshire, OX10 7DY (SU 5969 9334) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Iain O'Mahony, 1 Green Lane, Warborough, Oxfordshire, OX10 7DY.

Planning permission (20/S1407/FUL) has been granted by South Oxfordshire District Council to construct a new property and garage at the site. The permission is subject to two conditions (4 and 5) relating to archaeology, which required an archaeological watching brief 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 policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approval by Mr Richard Oram, Lead Archaeologist for Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service, the archaeological adviser to the District, and based on a brief issued by him (Oram 2021). The fieldwork was undertaken by Jamie Williams, Andrew Mundin and Kyle Beaverstock from 11th March 2021 to 22nd April 2022. The site code is GLW 21/06. 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 south of Green Lane on the west side of Thame Road (A329) in Warborough (Fig. 1). The village lies 3.9km north of Wallingford on the north bank of the River Thames, just north of Shillingford. The development area lies south (to the rear) of No.1 Green Lane, within its existing garden (Fig. 2). The site is flat, and lies at an approximate height of c.48m above Ordnance Datum (OD) and the underlying geology is Northmoor Sand and Gravel, First terrace of the Thames floodplain (BGS 1980).

Archaeological background

A brief issued by Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service has highlighted the archaeological potential for the site (Oram 2021). In summary, its location is within the archaeologically rich Upper Thames Valley with numerous sites recorded from the air, gravel extraction and other fieldwork in the area (Benson and Miles 1974; Booth *et al* 2007; Lambrick *et al*. 2009). There is a Scheduled Monument to the west of the village (OX144;

1006344), containing ring ditch, *cursus*, enclosure and settlement evidence. The local geology is suited to the formation of cropmarks visible from the air, and the wider area has been covered by photographic aerial reconnaissance since 1938. Warborough parish is an area rich in remains, from Neolithic funerary activity to Roman occupation. The site also lies within the hinterland of the ‘small’ Roman town of Dorchester-on-Thames, 2km to the north-west. Recent fieldwork on the east side of Thames Road, to the east has revealed remains of Middle Bronze Age field systems (Sanchez and Foster 2019).

The first record of the settlement is as ‘*Wareberga*’ when it was assigned to the canons of Oseney Abbey in the 12th century. The village and its buildings have some historical importance, with a number of vernacular timber-framed and clunch-rubble structures present dating from the Late Medieval period (VCH 2016). The parish church dates from 14th century, with later additions (Sherwood and Pevsner 1974, 821).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved continuous monitoring of all areas of intrusive groundworks comprising the reduction of overburden on the access area, and the excavation of footing and service trenches for the new property, including a foul drain linked to Green Lane.

All excavation was undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a bladed bucket, with exposed surfaces and sections visible to record. All spoilheaps were inspected for finds.

Results

Access and new car port foundation

The new access led from Green Lane to the southwest of the property. The access required the removal of topsoil to a depth of 0.3m (Pl. 1). The depth of the area of ground reduction did not reach below the topsoil layer, and a test pit excavated within this area showed the topsoil / subsoil (a yellow brown clayey silt) horizon at 0.6m deep. Deeper excavations continued south and east of the new access (Fig. 3).

Excavations were undertaken for the new garage at the southern end of the new access road (Fig. 3). The footings were excavated to a depth of 1.1m. Natural sands and gravels were encountered at 0.85m deep (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). Overburden deposits were similar to those observed in the pipe trench. There was frequent rooting of the soil deposits to a depth of 0.6m. Natural surfaces uncovered were devoid of truncations. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered.

Drain

A new drainage trench was excavated from the south side of Green Lane parallel with the new access strip to its east (Figs 3 and 4). This trench was 0.8m wide. At the north end, the excavation was at its deepest at the location of a new junction chamber. This was a pit 3m x 2.5m, with a maximum depth of 1.6m. The exiting pipe trench then gradually became shallower to the south. At 18m to the south, its depth was 0.95m, excavated through topsoil (a dark brown clayey silt with frequent tree roots) 0.6m thick, which overlay subsoil, a yellow brown clayey silt, to a depth of 0.8m. This in turn overlay a further natural subsoil deposit, comprising yellow brown silty sand with moderately frequent rounded gravel. This overlay the natural gravels throughout the drain's length, at a depth of 1.1m in the north and 0.85m in the south. No archaeological deposits nor finds were encountered.

House foundation

New house footings were undertaken within the former garden (Fig. 3). The depth of the footings ranged from 0.95 to 1.05m. All footings exposed the natural geology at a depth no greater than 0.8m. Heavily rooted topsoil, a brown grey silty clay, was 0.45m deep which overlaid a dark brown clayey silt subsoil, at least 0.23m thick. No archaeological deposits nor were finds encountered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered in the course of the watching brief.

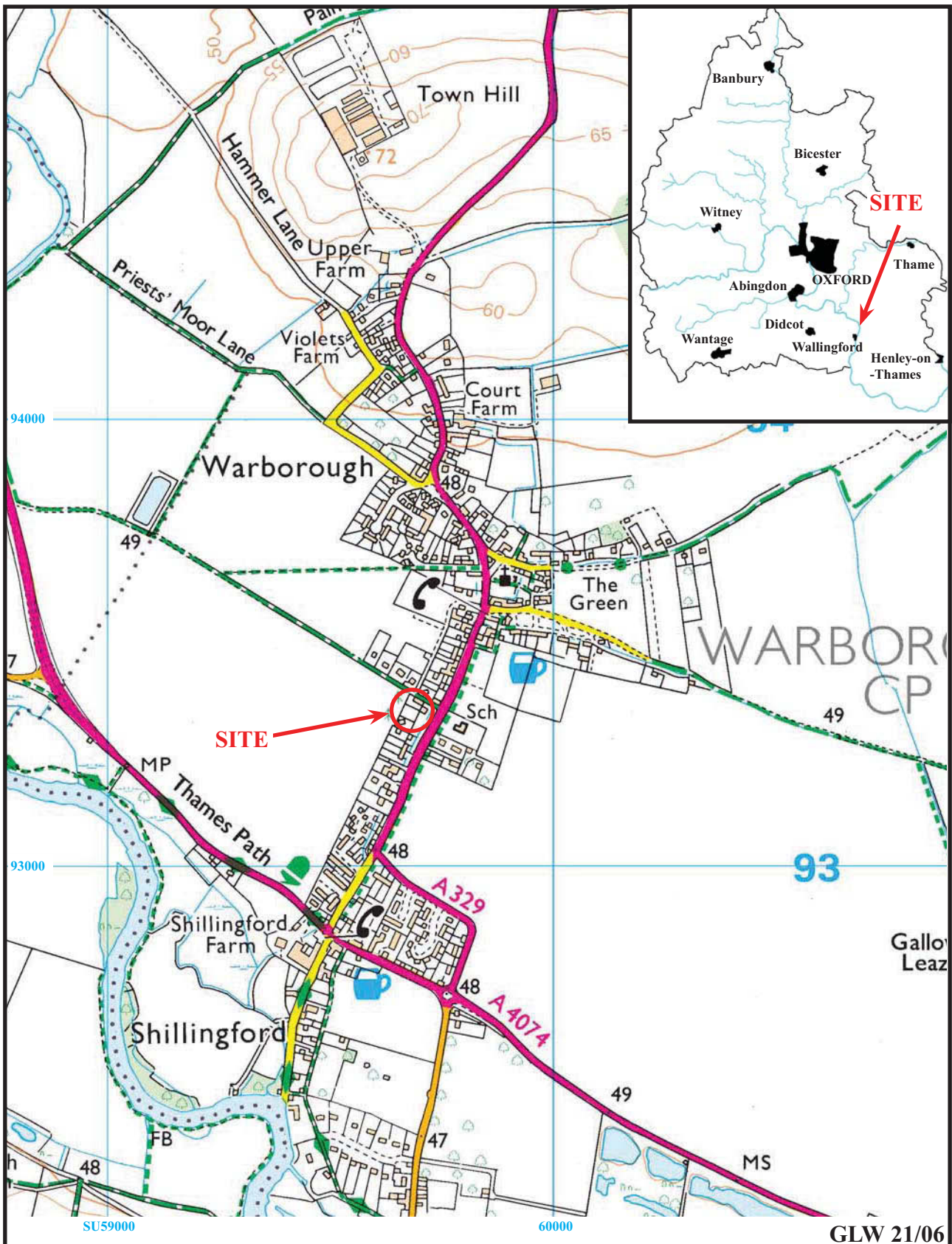
Conclusion

Monitoring of the groundworks was successfully carried out in several stages. The stratigraphy encountered suggested little modern truncation or disturbance on the site, and overall good conditions for observing any potential archaeological deposits. However, no archaeological deposits were encountered and no finds of interest were recovered.

References

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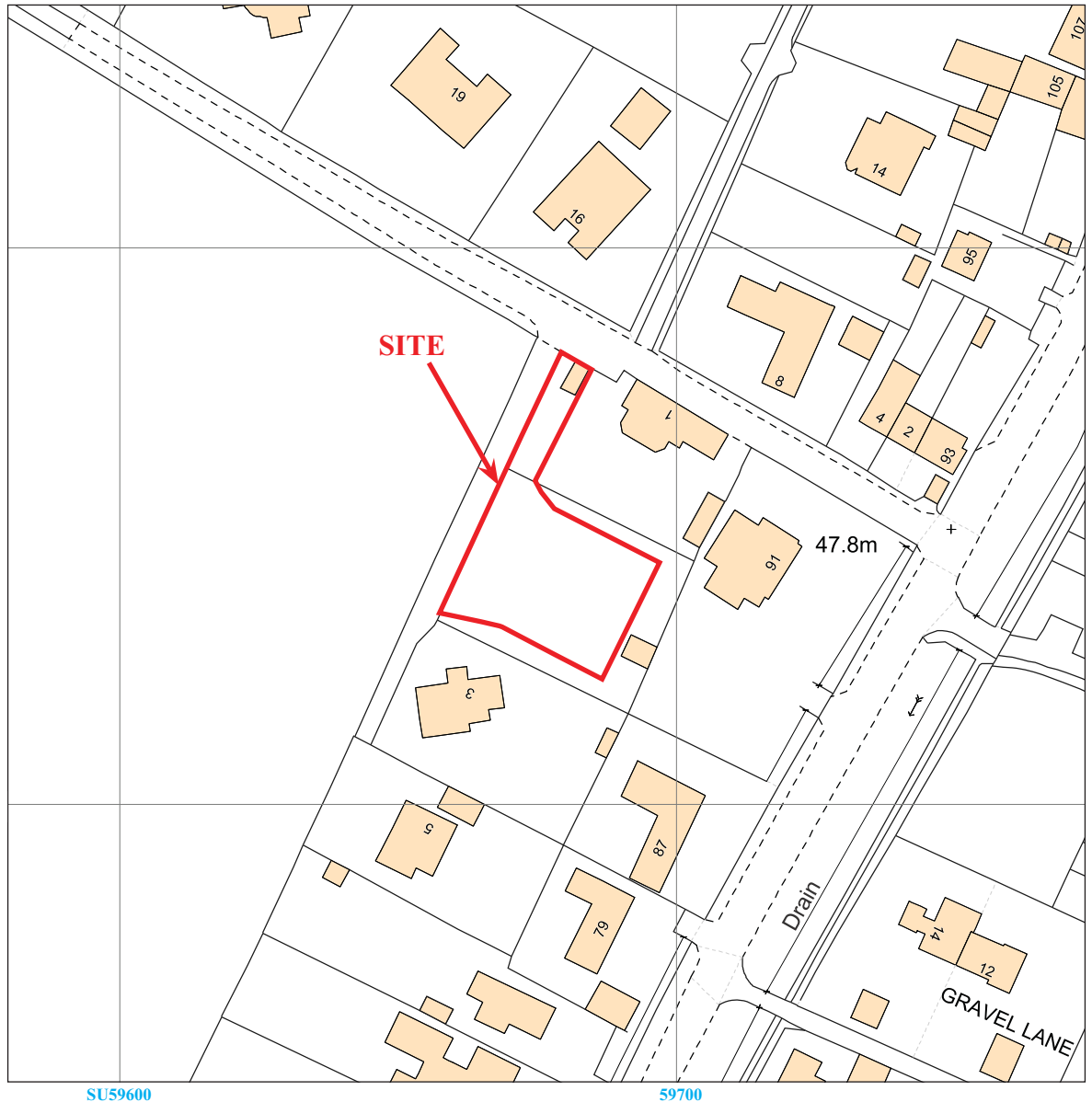
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Figure 1. Location of site within Warborough and
Oxfordshire.

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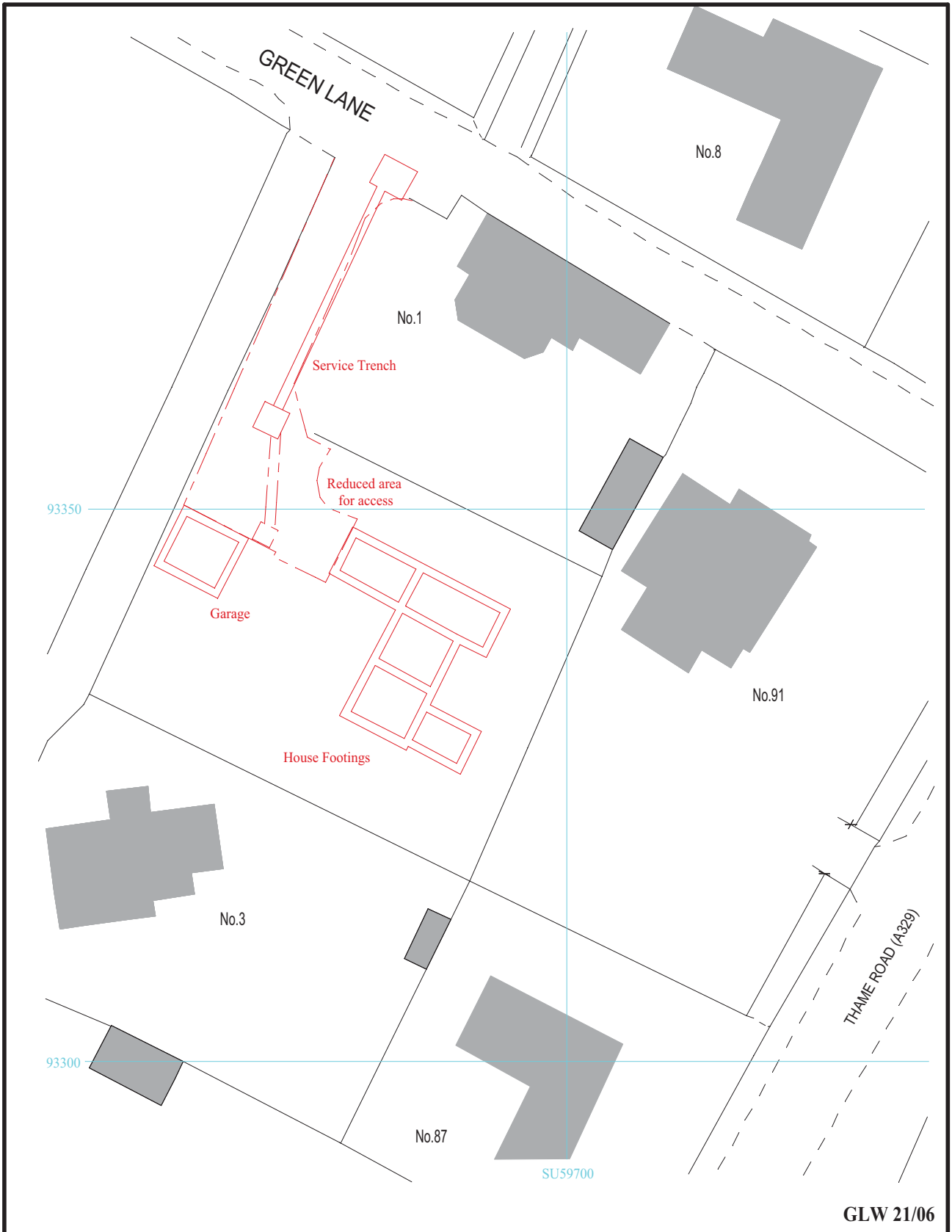
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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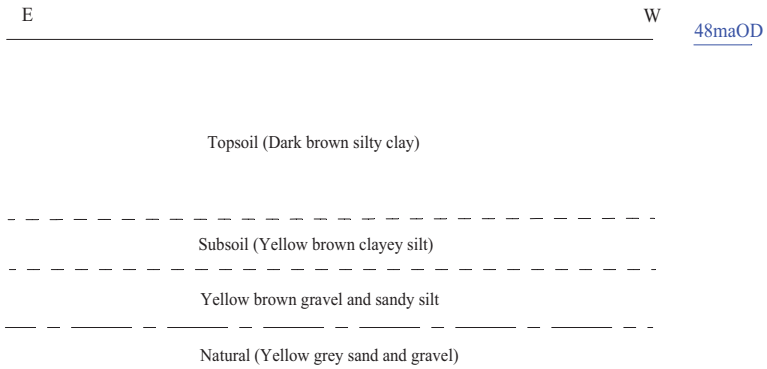


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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Area stripped viewed over location of garage, looking SW.



Plate 2. New garage footing, looking S, Scales: horizontal 1m, vertical 1m.

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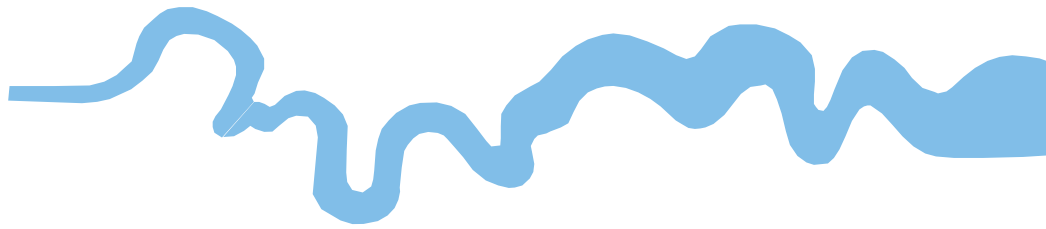
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Plates 1 and 2.

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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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