

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**91 Abingdon Road,
Standlake, Oxfordshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury and Andy Taylor

Site Code: ASO14/168

(SP 3892 0316)

**91 Abingdon Road,
Standlake, Oxfordshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr J. Tubb

by James McNicoll-Norbury and

Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ASO 14/168

August 2014

Summary

Site name: 91 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SP 3892 0316

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 13th August 2014

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: ASO 14/168

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.09.14 Steve Preston ✓ 02.09.14

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Report 14/168

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 91 Abingdon Road, Standlake, Oxfordshire OX29 7QN (SP 3892 0316) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jason Tubb of the above address.

Planning permission (14/0800/P/FP) has been gained from West Oxfordshire District Council for the construction of an extension to the house at 91 Abingdon Road. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, two conditions (5 and 6) have been attached to the planning permission requiring that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the period of groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Services, and based on a brief prepared by him (Coddington 2014). The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on 13th August 2014 and the site code is ASO 14/168. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Oxfordshire County Museums Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the northern side of Abingdon Road in Standlake, Oxfordshire and comprises the existing building on the site and associated gardens to the front and rear, with the extension being located to the rear (north-east) of the house (Fig. 2). The natural geology is mapped as 1st (flood plain) Terrace deposits (BGS 1982) which was observed during the course of the groundworks.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been highlighted in a brief prepared by the Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service (Coddington 2014). In summary, the development lies within an area of widespread archaeological remains. To the north-east and south is an extensive cropmark complex that denotes prehistoric settlement and burial sites. Visible features include enclosures, ring ditches (levelled burial mounds), ring gully roundhouses, trackways and pits (Benson and Miles 1975, map 21). An area of cropmarks to the west is a Scheduled Ancient

Monument. To the south-east, at the rear of 94 Abingdon Road, a watching brief revealed a Bronze Age barrow that whilst not visible as a cropmark was well preserved just under site overburden (Coddington 2014).

Further features of archaeological interest lie within the village with, for example, Saxon and Medieval activity recorded at Brighthampton (Ford and Preston 2002). Other small scale works, near to the current site, have also identified medieval activity (OAU 1996; OA 2002) whereas test pitting at number 45 Abingdon Road, revealed nothing of archaeological interest, and a watching brief at 126 Abingdon Road revealed two undated features below medieval ridge and furrow (Mumford 2004). A watching brief at 133 Abingdon Road, identified that the area that was being redeveloped for two new houses had been truncated in modern times (Mundin 2013).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project are to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the works. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks including surface stripping, geo-technical investigations, the excavation of foundations and service trenches, landscaping works and all other invasive work. Any archaeological deposits which were exposed by the groundworks were to be recorded but not further excavated unless threatened by the groundworks. Sufficient time was to be allowed to carry this out within the groundworkers schedules.

Results

Extension foundation trench

The footings for the proposed extension were dug to a depth of 0.70m with a width of 0.60m (Fig. 3; Pl. 1). The stratigraphy comprised of 0.30m topsoil and 0.35m brown sandy clay with some gravel subsoil overlying natural gravel (Fig. 4; Pl. 2). No archaeological deposits were identified.

Soakaway

A 1m square soakaway was also dug, to a depth of 1.04m. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.44m topsoil and 0.36m of subsoil overlying natural gravel geology. Again no archaeological deposits were identified.

Finds

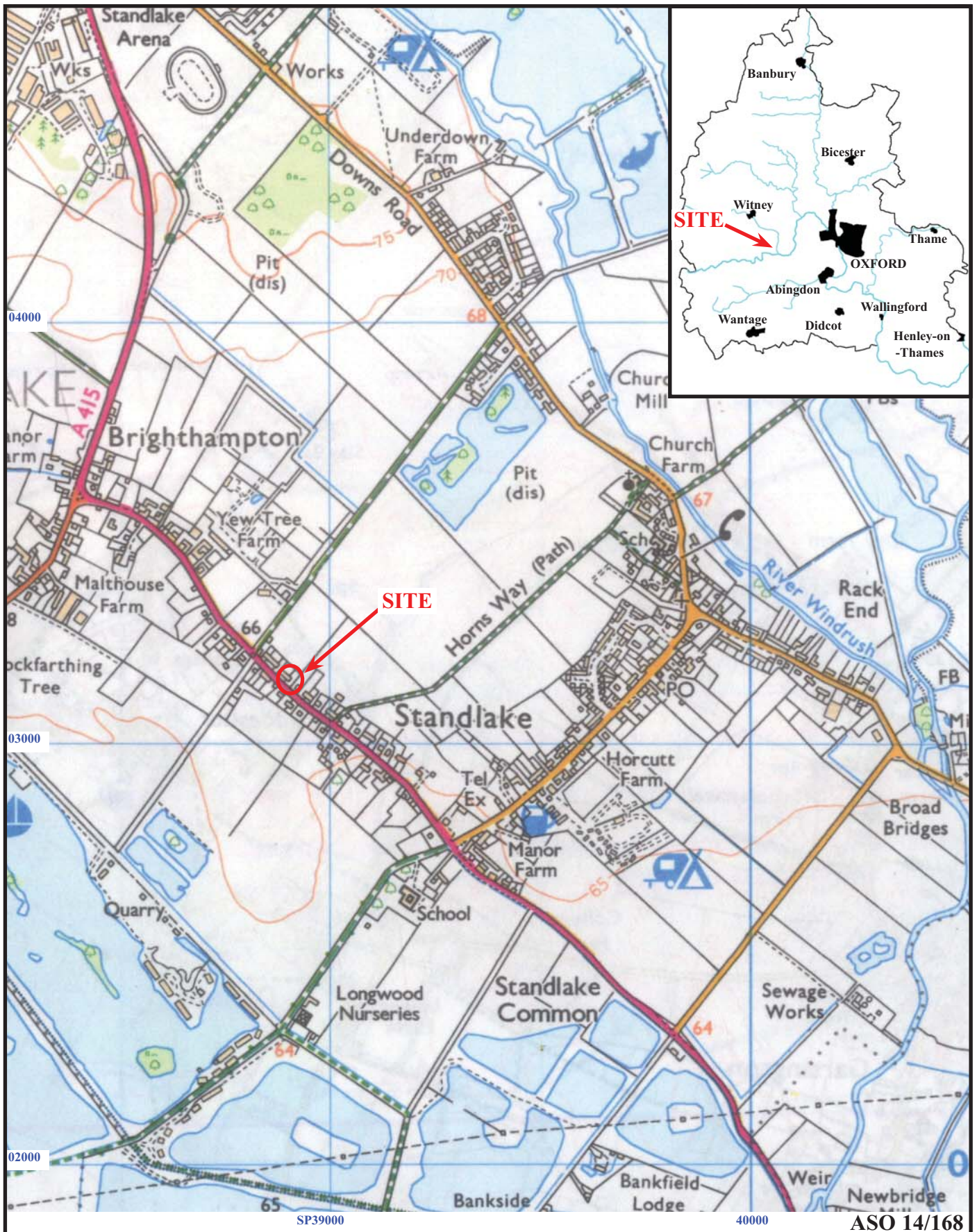
No finds were recovered from the site.

Conclusion

Despite the potential of the site for archaeological remains no such remains were identified during the course of the watching brief.

References

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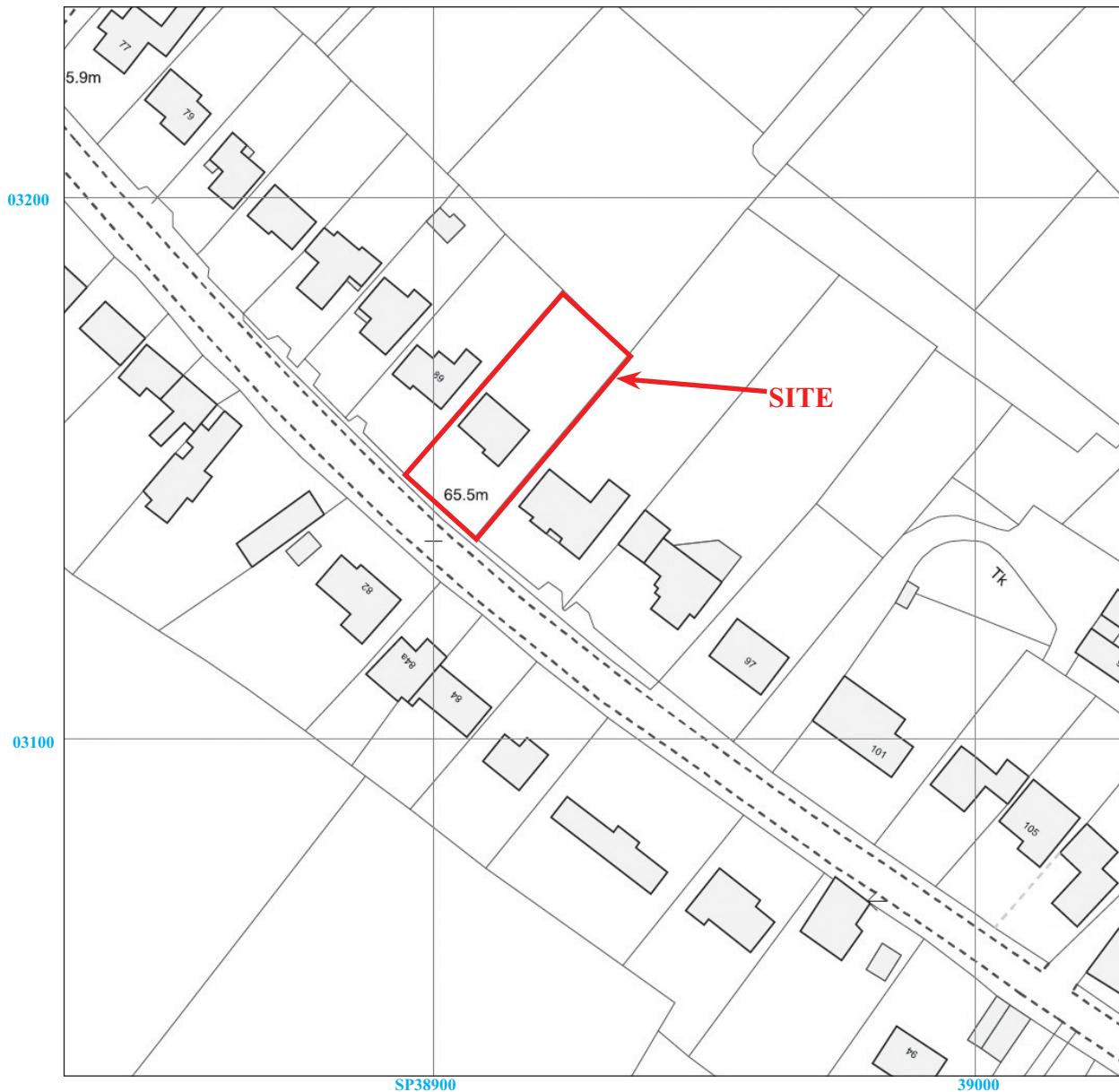
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Figure 1. Location of site within Standlake and Oxfordshire.

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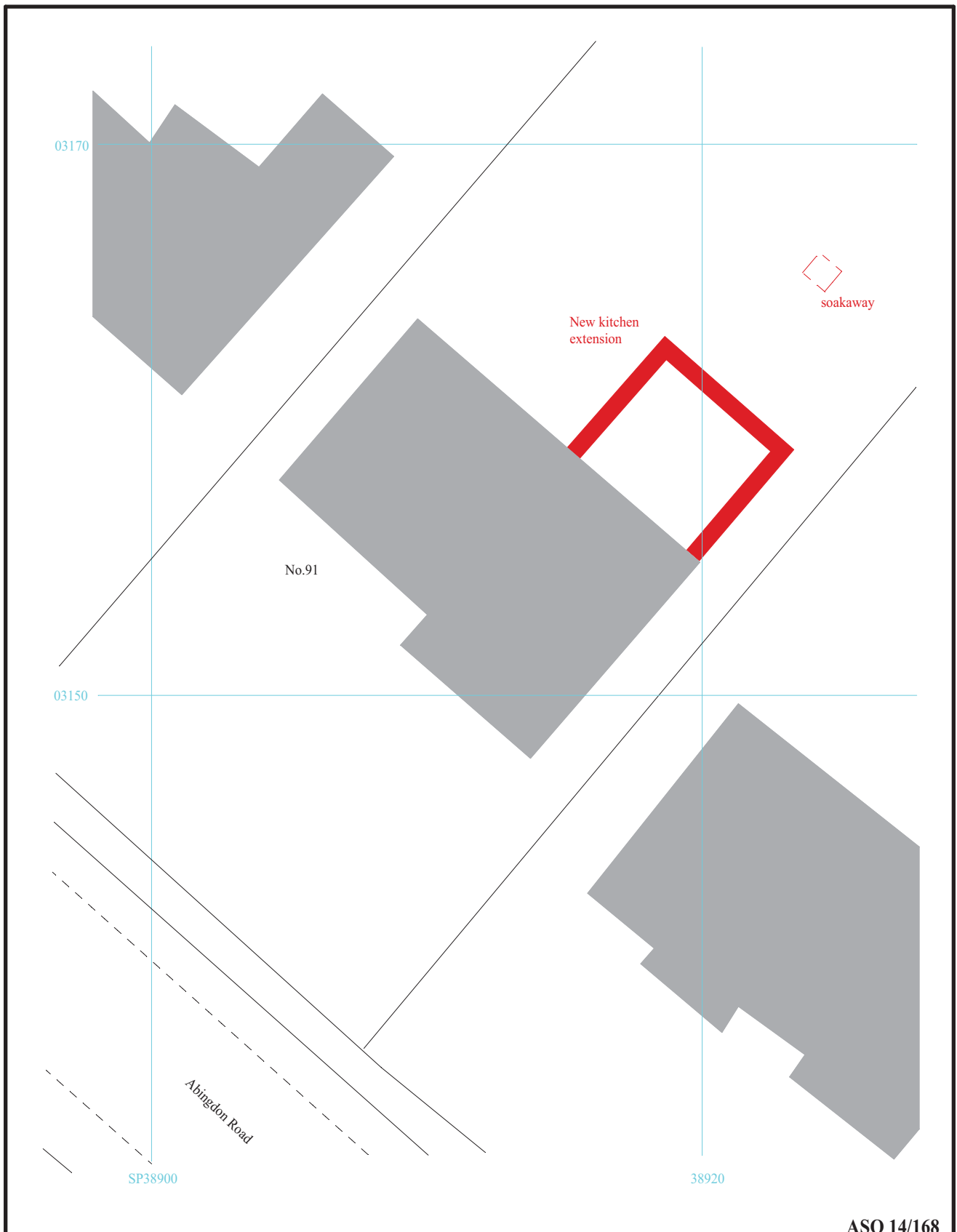


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Abingdon Road.

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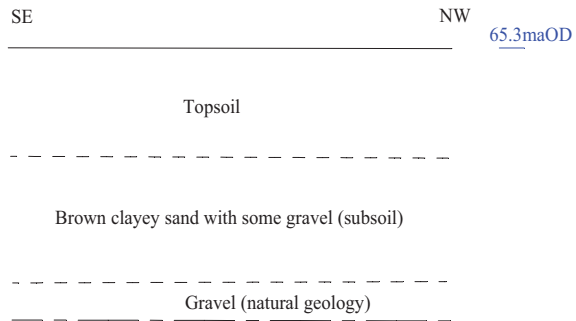


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Figure 3. Location of observed area.



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Figure 4. Representative section.





Plate 1. New footings, looking south, Scales:2m.



Plate 2. Representative section, looking north, Scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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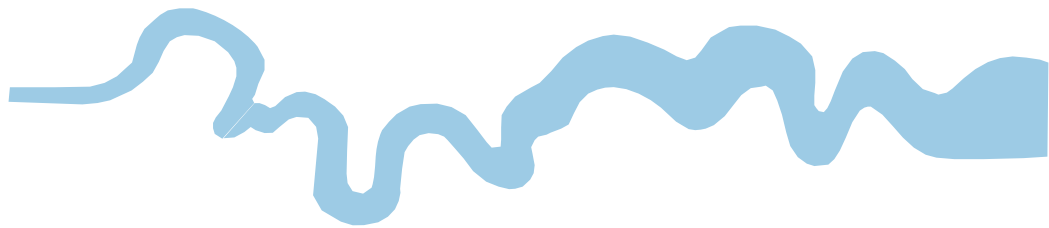
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Plates 1 - 2.

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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
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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