

**Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay,
Oxfordshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Leadbitter Construction**

by Andy Taylor
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code TWSC
03/57

July 2003

Summary

Site name: Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire

Grid reference: SU 4939 9261

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 9th and 10th July 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: TWSC 03/57

Area of site: 65.6 sqm

Summary of results: No archaeology was observed

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Oxfordshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 11.07.03
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Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 03/57

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, (SU 4939 9261) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Stewart of Leadbitter Construction, Grange Court, Abingdon Science Park, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 3NU on behalf of Mr M Norton, 9 High Street, Eynsham, Oxford, OX29 4HA.

A planning consent (SUT/17131/1) has been granted by Vale of White Horse District Council to demolish existing structures on the former garage site and construct three dwellings. This is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Hugh Coddington, Deputy County Archaeological Officer of Oxfordshire County Archaeological Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 9th and 10th July 2003 and the site code is TWSC 03/57.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the southern end of Sutton Courtenay and on the south side of Tyrrells Way, off Bradstock Way. Existing garages were demolished to make way for three dwellings (Fig 2). The underlying geology is limestone silt and Second Terrace gravel (BGS 1971), which was observed in all foundation trenching. The site lies at a height of c.58m AOD.

Archaeological background

The site lies to the north of a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 250), which comprises cropmarks visible from the air and which are likely to represent Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation sites. Also visible from the air, immediately to the west of the site, is a trackway that is associated with the occupation site. A nearby watching

brief in Sutton Courtenay identified a gully and several pits, one of which was dated to the Saxo-Norman period (Taylor 1999).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This is to involve examination of areas stripped of topsoil/overburden, and excavation of trenches for foundations and services.

Results

The area of development had already been stripped of topsoil/ overburden and most of the subsoil by 0.5m. The foundation trenches measured 0.7m wide and 0.7m in depth. The stratigraphy observed in the sections of the trenches consisted of 0.15m of remaining subsoil. This was overlying 0.3m of sandy gravel, overlying 0.1m of decayed chalk(?), which was overlying sandy gravel. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

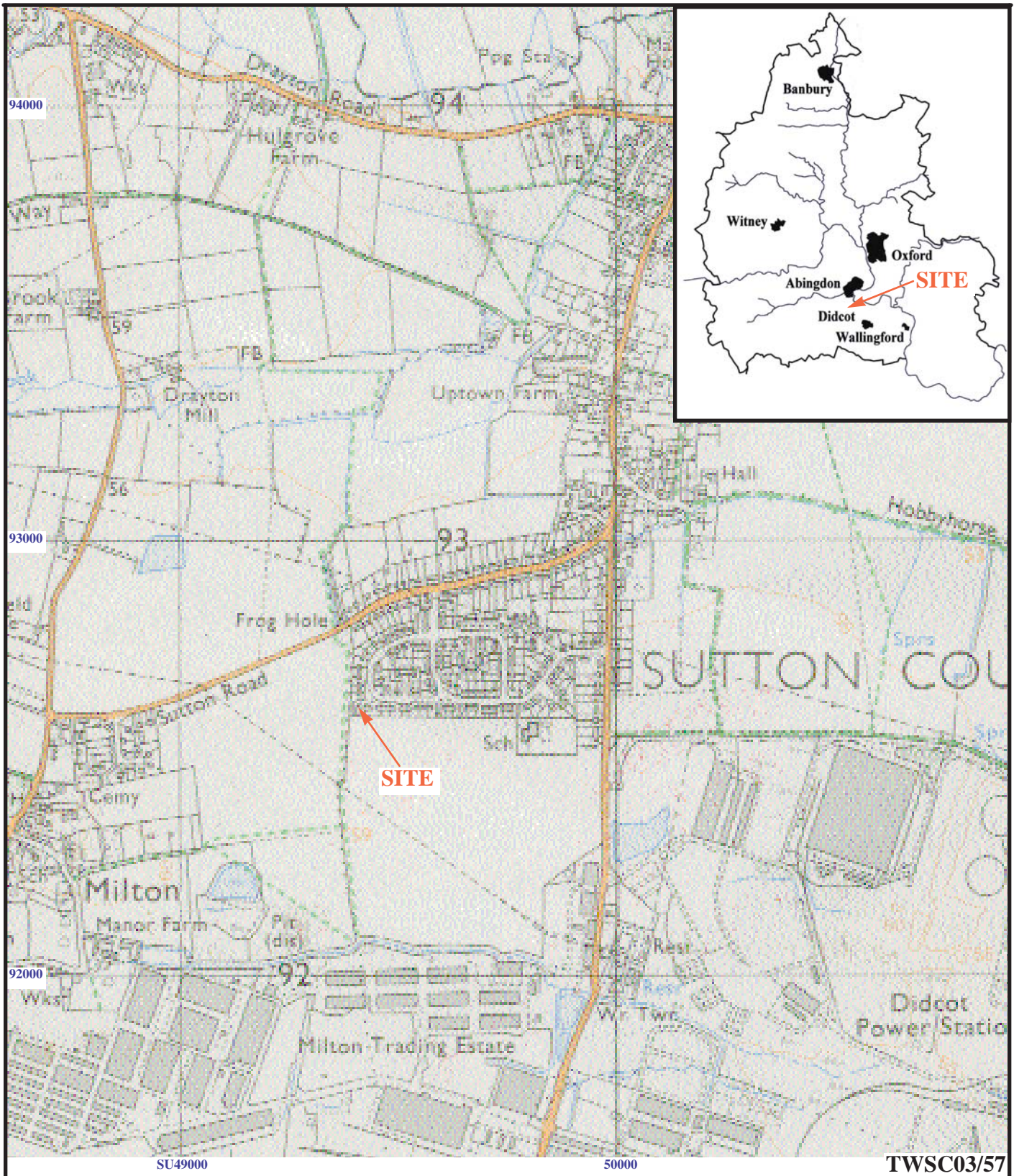
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief did not locate any finds or deposits of archaeological interest.

References

BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 253, Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Taylor K, 1999, Lady Place, High Street, Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire, An archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 99/45, Reading

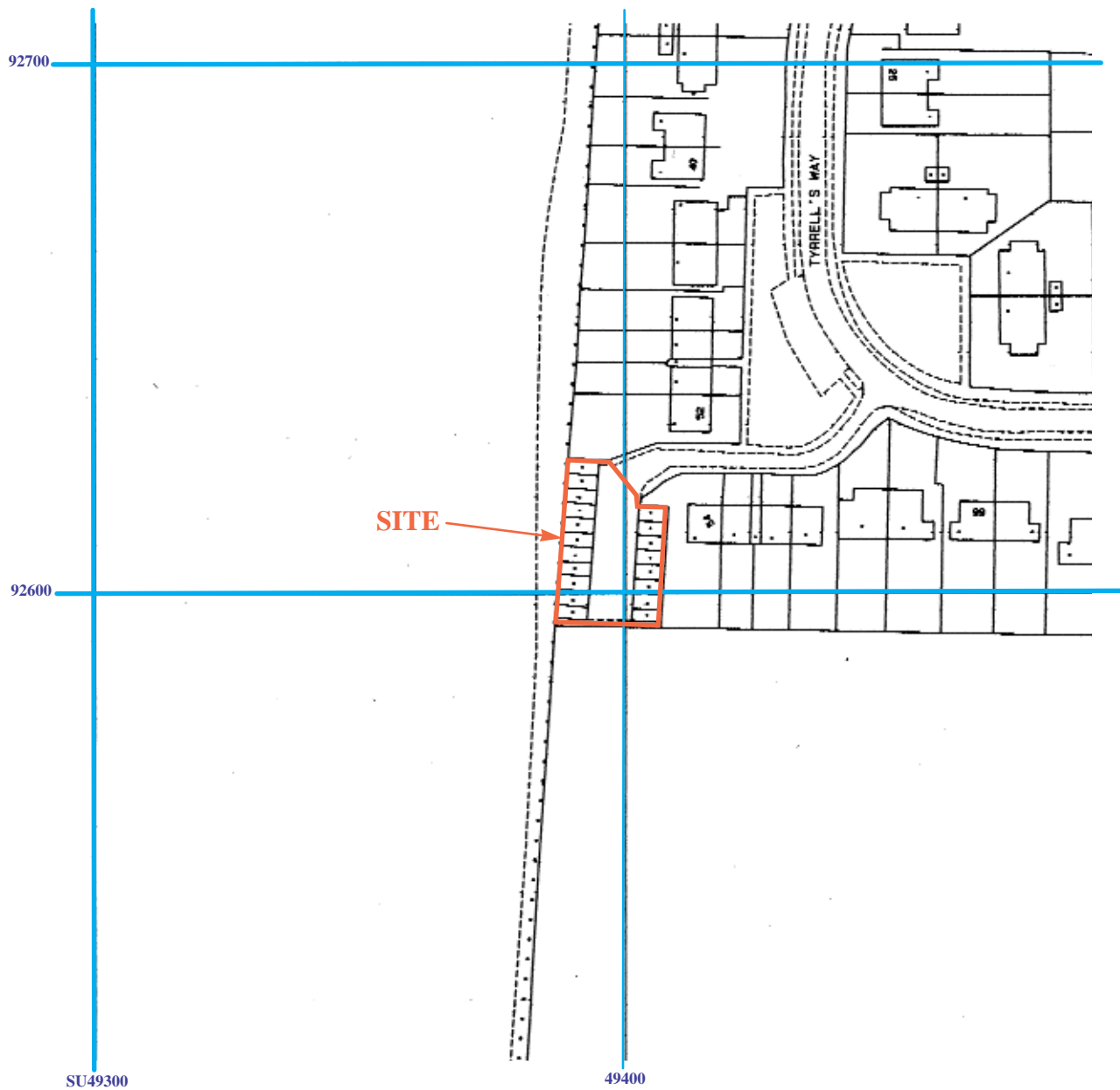


**Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay,
Oxfordshire, 2003**

Figure 1. Location of site within Sutton Courtenay and Oxfordshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site within Tyrrells Way, Sutton Courtenay

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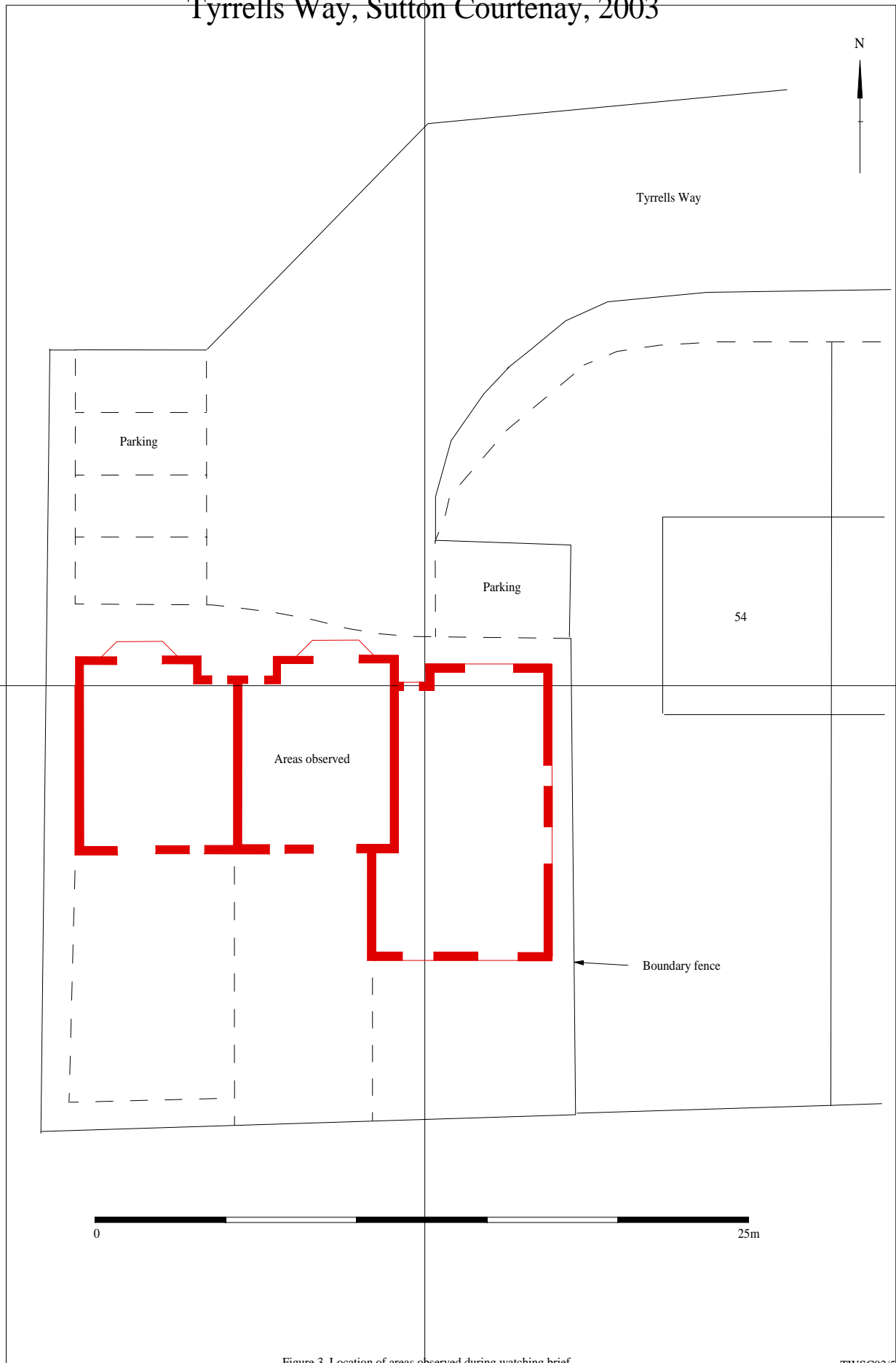


Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief