

Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Wilkins

by Sean Wallis and Danielle Milbank

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code KRB 06/92

November 2006

Summary

Site name: Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 6541 1383

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th July 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: KRB 06/92

Area of site: c. 30 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were observed

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 15.11.06
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Report 06/92

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire (SP 6541 1383) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Wilkins of Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire.

Planning consent (05/01898/APP) has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for the construction of a new extension at Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill, Buckinghamshire. As a condition of the planning permission, an archaeological watching brief was required during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on the 24th July 2006 and the site code is KRB 06/92.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

Brill is located to the west of Aylesbury, and north-west of Thame, in Buckinghamshire (Fig. 1). The site lies to the south of the centre of Brill, at NGR SP 6541 1383, on the western side of the High Street, with 'The Square' to the east, at a height of 183.6m above Ordnance Datum (Fig. 2). The site is currently occupied by a residential property, and a two-storey extension is to be built at the rear. The underlying geology is sand and clay beds, which comprise the 'Whitchurch Sand Formation', this was the geology observed in all footings trenches.

Archaeological background

The brief provided by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (Radford 2006) has highlighted in detail the potential of the site. In summary, the site lies within the historic (medieval) core of Brill, close to areas recorded as containing pottery production sites (to the west of the site) and close to a probable prehistoric

earthwork which may be the remains of an Iron Age hillfort (and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument). The settlement was established in late Saxon times (as a royal hunting lodge according to documentary sources) but increased in importance and size within the medieval forest of Bernwood to become designated as a Borough in the 13th/14th centuries but fell into decline thereafter. It was the centre of an important regional pottery and tile production industry throughout the medieval period and into post-medieval times.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits exposed in the footing trenches and associated ground disturbing works for the new extension prior to their damage or destruction. In addition, particular attention was paid to recovery of evidence relating to prehistoric deposits associated with the earthwork remains, recovery of any evidence relating to occupation fronting 'The Square' in this core area of the settlement, and recovery of evidence relating to pottery and brick/tile production.

Results

The excavation of footing trenches was carried out under archaeological observation. These were located to the west of the main building (Fig. 3). The footing trenches were 0.7m wide and 1.05m deep. The footings at the northernmost part of the site were excavated to a depth of 2.0m.

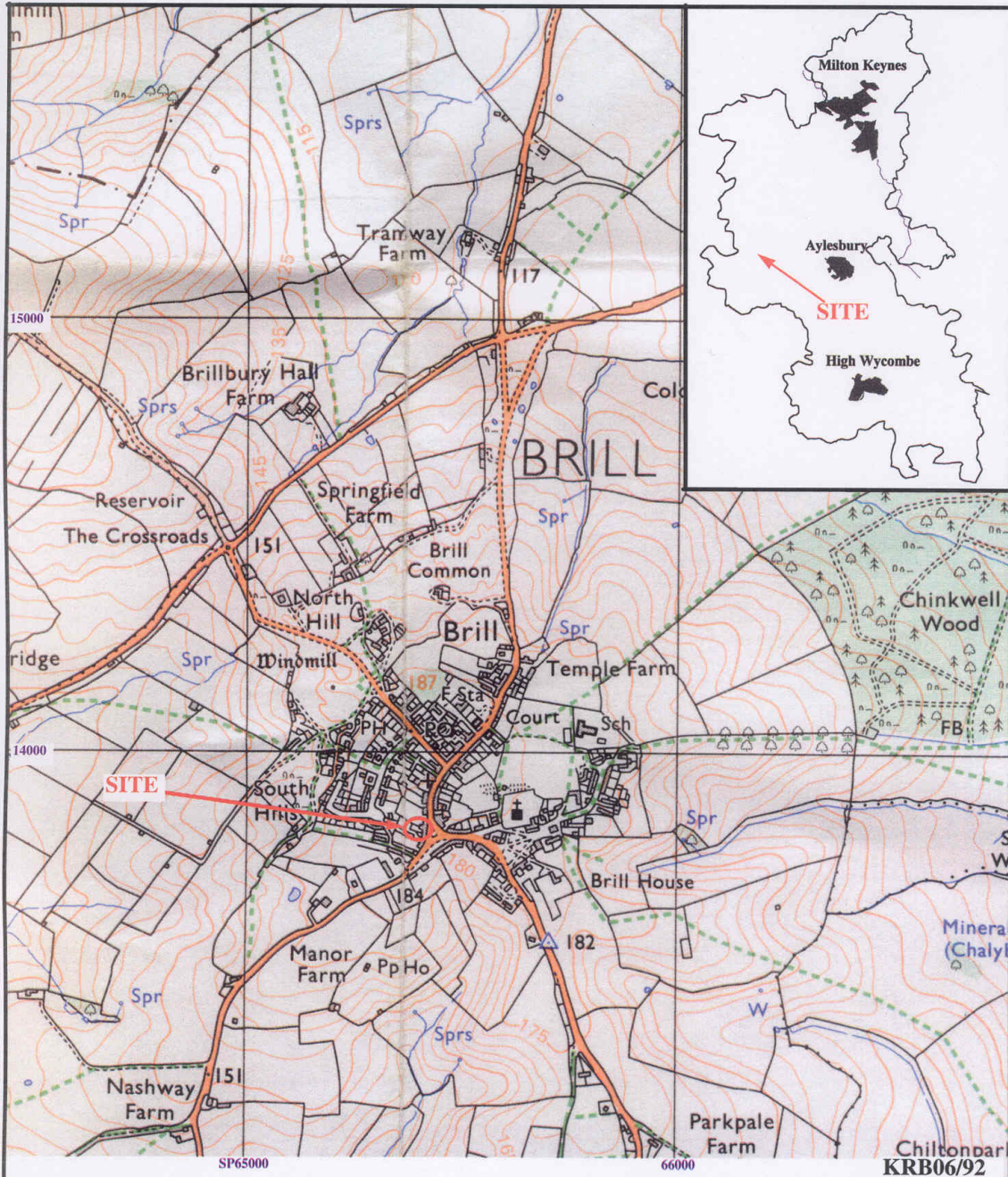
The typical stratigraphy encountered in the footing trenches was 0.10m of gravel path surface overlying 0.20m of green-grey sandy bedding layer. This overlay 0.10m of dark brownish grey sandy silt (possibly a buried soil horizon) containing modern brick/tile fragments, transfer printed pottery and oyster shell. These modern finds were not retained. This in turn overlay the natural geology, which was observed as orange-brown sandy clay (the 'Whitchurch Sand Formation'), steadily becoming sandier towards the base of the trenches. The same stratigraphy was observed in the footings dug to a depth of 2.0m. No archaeological deposits or finds were encountered in any of the trenches.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology, especially of prehistoric and medieval periods, no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered during groundworks on this site.

References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 237, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Radford, D, 2006, 'Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Brief for an archaeological watching brief:
Project: Kings Ride Cottage, Brill', Aylesbury



**Kings Ride Cottage, The Square, Brill,
Buckinghamshire, 2006
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

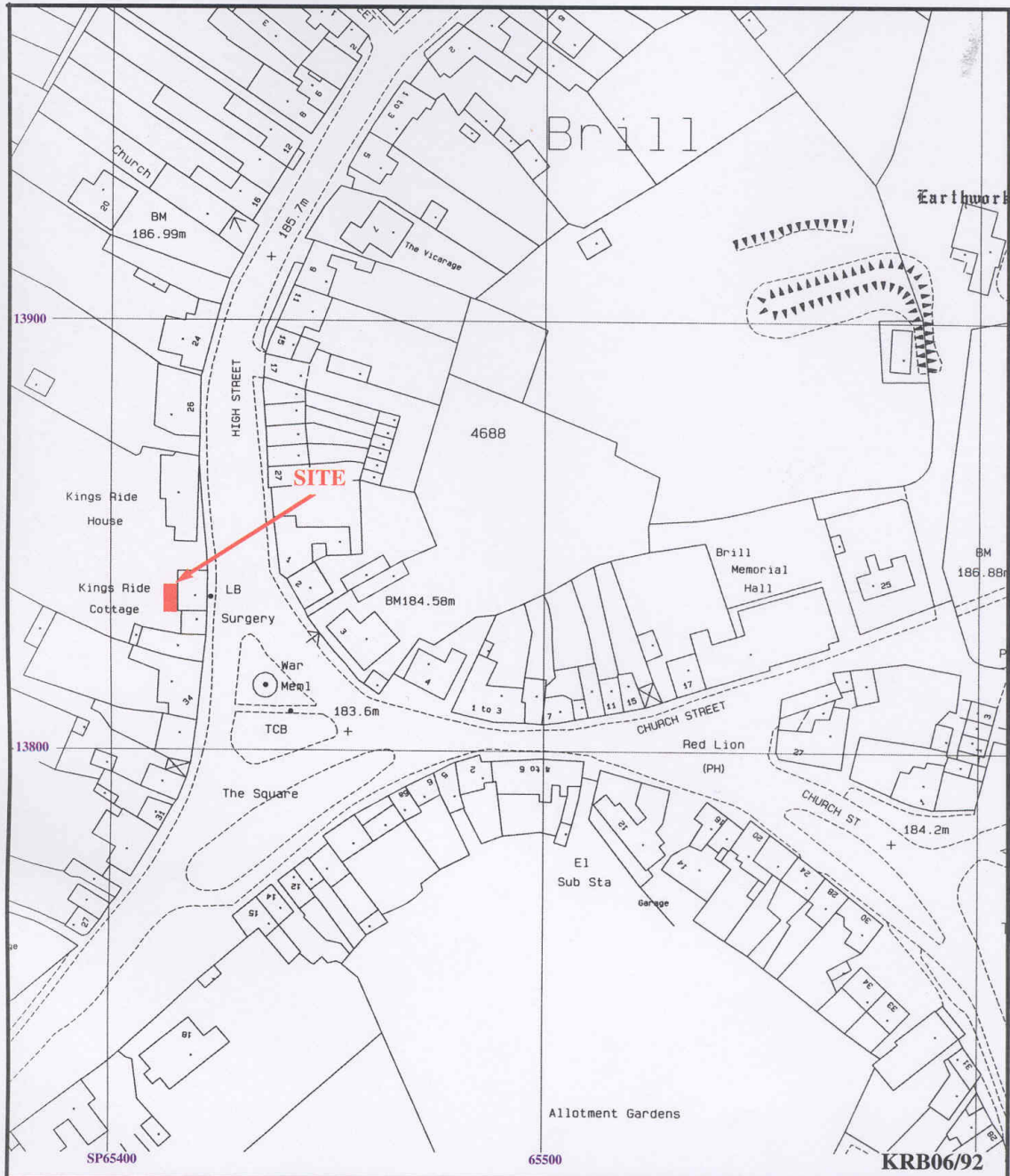
Figure 1. Location of site within Brill and Buckinghamshire.

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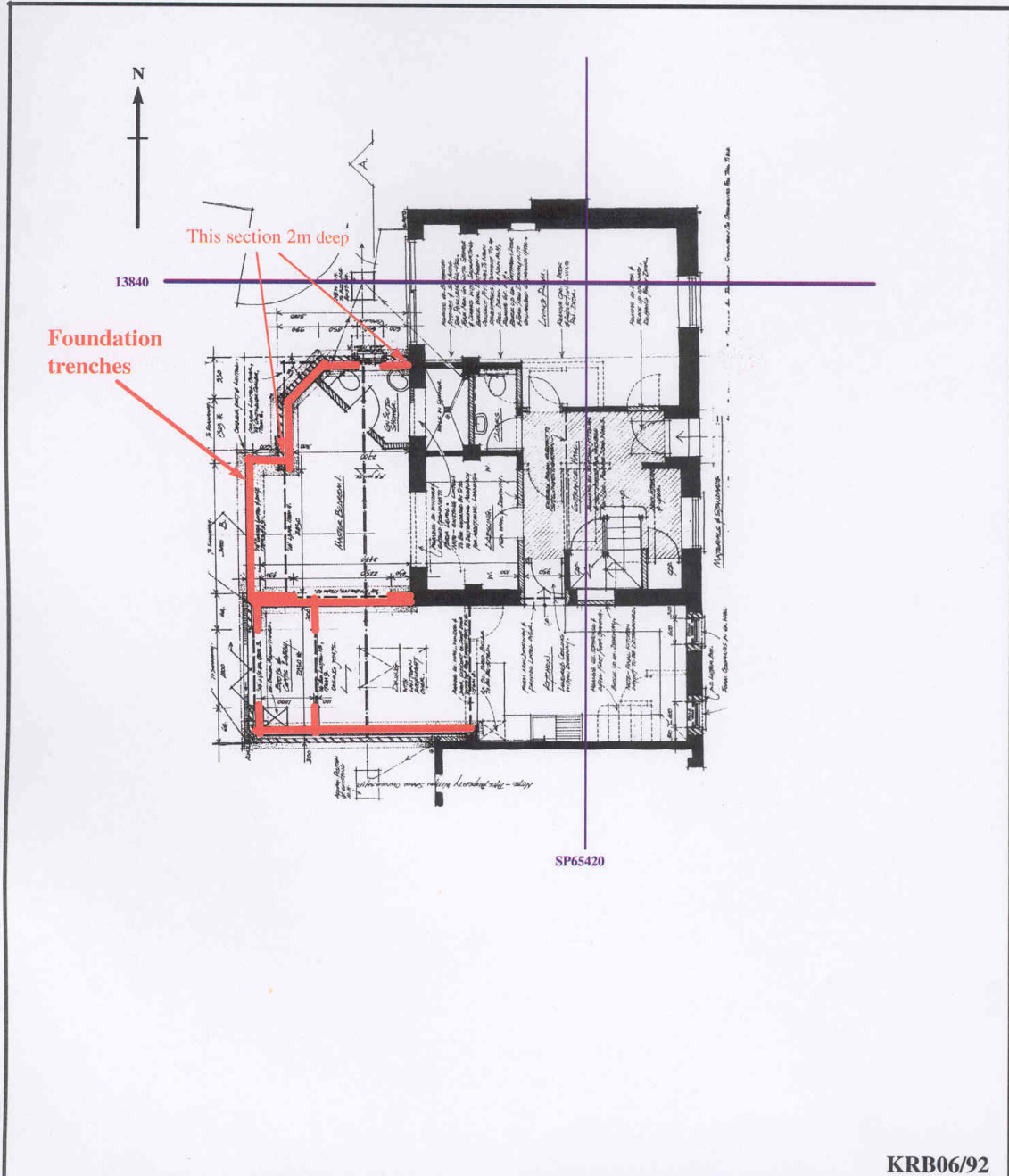


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Buckinghamshire, 2006
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Location of site within Brill.

Scale 1:1250

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Buckinghamshire, 2006
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Foundations observed during watching brief.

Scale 1:125

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Figure 4. Representative section

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