

52 Temple Street, Brill Buckinghamshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr A Killick

by Joanna Pine and Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TSB 07/56

May 2007

Summary

Site name: 52 Temple Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 6562 1414

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 27th May 2007

Project manager: Joanna Pine

Site supervisor: Joanna Pine

Site code: TSB 07/56

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were uncovered

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 07/56

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 52 Temple Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire (SP 6562 1414) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Andy Killick, of 52 Temple Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire, HP18 9SX.

Planning consent (06/2090) has been granted by Aylesbury Vale District Council for the construction of a new extension at the rear of the property. 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 Joanna Pine on 27th May 2007 and the site code is TSB 07/56.

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

The site is situated at the northern edge of the village, just to the north of the historic core of Brill (Fig. 1), just below the summit of the hill occupied by the village, with a steep drop down to the north. The site is situated on the eastern side of Temple Street, immediately adjacent to Temple Farm (Fig. 2), at a height of approximately 183m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is sand and clay beds, comprised of the Whitchurch Sand Formation (BGS 1994).

Archaeological background

The village of Brill is mentioned in Domesday Book (AD1086) and is at this time referred to a *Brunhelle* and prior to this, in 1072, as *Bruhella* meaning 'hill called *Bre*' (Mills 1998), which, since '*bre*' (almost certainly the ultimate source of *Bru-* here) also means hill, is quite an unusual mixture of Celtic and Old English word

elements with identical meanings (“hill hill”). Brill itself was probably 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 with decline thereafter. Brill is particularly noteworthy as a centre of medieval pottery and brick/tile production during this time.

A report on a watching brief at 28 Temple Street (Lowe 2004) and a brief for this project (Radford 2007) recorded in detail the history and potential of this part of Brill. In summary, the site lies within the medieval development of the village, close to a kiln site. Areas of medieval and post medieval pottery production have been noted on the county Sites and Monuments Record at 58 Temple Street (SMR05678) and at the former Magistrates Court, from an excavation in 1990 (SMR05712). Medieval pottery indicating a possible 14th - 15th century kiln has been recorded adjacent to the site itself. A further 100m to the north further medieval kilns were recorded and are now a scheduled ancient monument (SAM No. 144). 80m to the south a medieval tile kiln and opposed flue pottery kiln have been recorded. Evidence for 14th century kilns was also recorded at Dairy Yard located 40m to the east, with historic maps indicating the site lay within a village ‘close’ in the 19th century (and probably earlier) and fronts onto the historic roadway. All indicators are that this is the site of medieval settlement and industry.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits exposed in the footing trenches and associated groundworks. This was to involve the examination of topsoil stripping over the area of the footings and the footing trenches themselves. In addition particular attention was to be paid to recovery of evidence relating to the potential of kiln deposits and medieval industrial activity.

Results

Initially an area of topsoil, some of which was buried by a patio (removed) was excavated over a slightly larger area than the footprint of the extension. The extension lies to the south-east of the existing dwelling (Fig. 3). This stripping was to a depth of 0.3m, but did not penetrate below the topsoil.

The footing trenches were dug by machine through the stripped area and were 0.6m wide and dug to a depth of 1m. Typically, 0.60m of topsoil overlay 0.30m of light brown silty sand subsoil, above yellow-orange sandy natural geology (Fig. 4). The foundation trenches encountered modern services but no archaeology deposits.

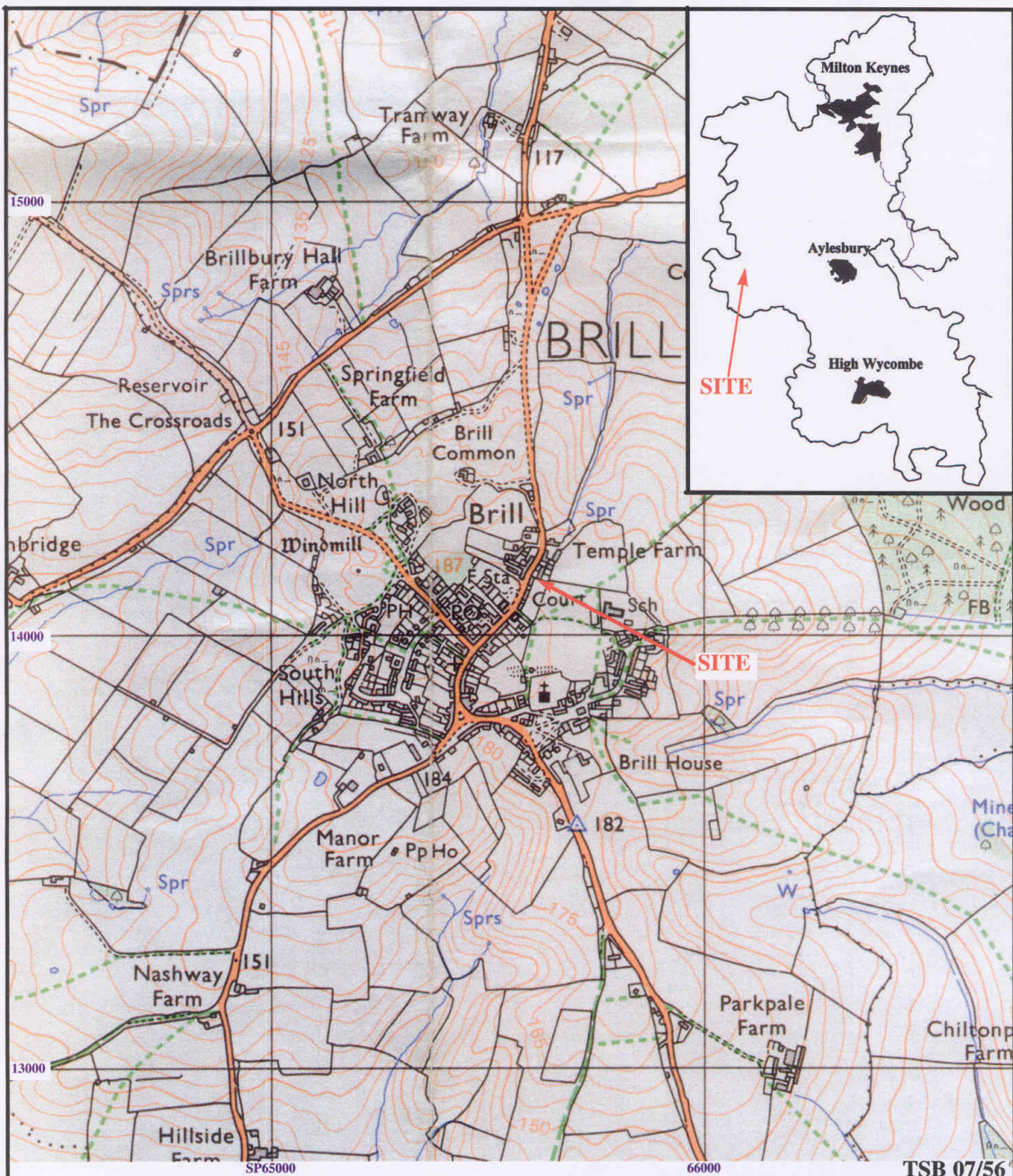
No artefacts of archaeological interest were recovered from either the stripped surface or the footing trenches.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology, especially from the medieval period, no archaeological finds or deposits were encountered during groundworks on this site.

References

- BGS, 1994, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 237, Solid & Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Lowe, J, 2004, *28 Temple Street, Brill, Buckinghamshire; an archaeological watching brief*, Thames Valley Archaeological Service report 04/102, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept. of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Mills, A, D, 1998, *Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names*, Oxford
- Radford, D, 2007, 'Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service Brief for an archaeological watching brief; Project: 52 Temple Street, Brill', Aylesbury



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Figure 1. Location of site within Brill and Buckinghamshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Temple Street.

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Figure 3. Location of area observed during watching brief.

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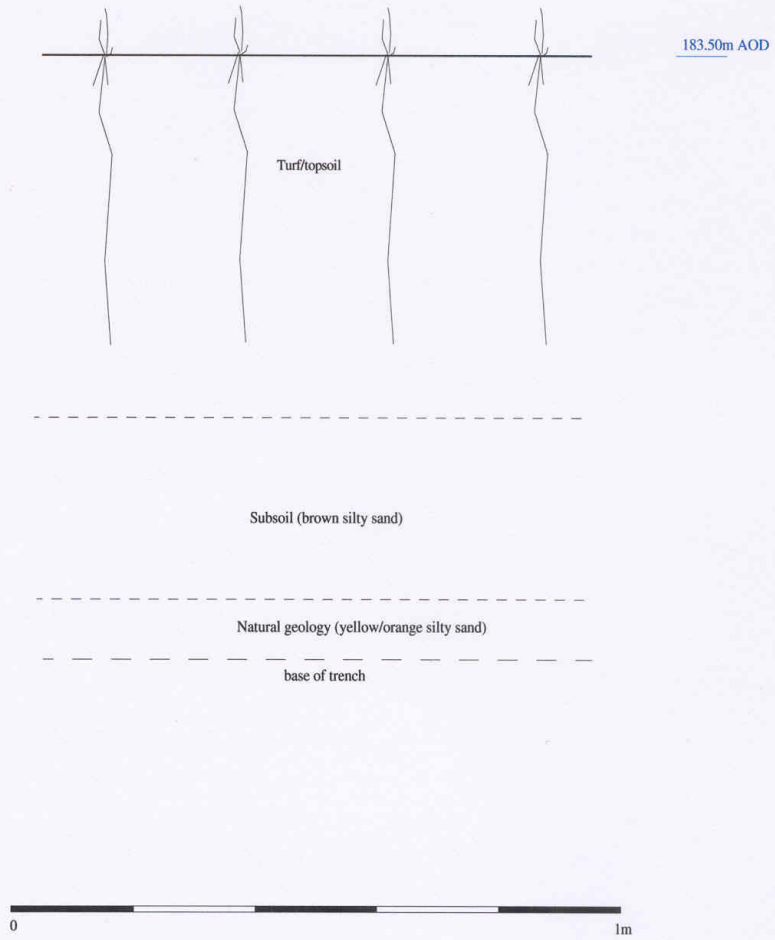


Figure 4. Representative sections