

**Red Lion Hotel, High Street,
Wendover, Buckinghamshire**

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Philip M. Lally Ltd

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code RWB 07/134

October 2007

Summary

Site name: Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire

Grid reference: SP 8691 0781

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 16th October 2007

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: RWB07/134

Area of site: 46 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were 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 5 NR, and will be deposited with Buckinghamshire Museum Service in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Joanna Pine✓ 24.10.07 Steve Preston✓ 24.10.07
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Report 07/134

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (SP 8691 0781) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Martin Arkell of Philip M Lally Ltd. Building Contractors, Redhills Farm, Baldwins Gate, Newcastle, Staffordshire, ST5 5EA.

Planning permission (07/01122/AP) is sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council to erect a new kitchen extension following the demolition of an existing shed. The results of field evaluation have been requested, so as to inform the planning process as regards potential archaeological implications of the development.

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 David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Aiden Colyer on the 16th October 2007 and the site code is RWB 07/134. 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 located at the rear of the Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. Wendover lies c. 20km south-east of Aylesbury. The site consists of the demolished area of a former shed adjacent to the car park of the hotel (Fig. 2). The underlying geology consists of Lower Chalk, (BGS 1990), which was observed in the trench and the site lies at a height of c. 122m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted by a brief prepared by Mr David Radford (Radford 2007). In summary the site lies within an area of archaeological potential as it is located within the historic core of the town and at the rear of a 17th-century inn (Grade II listed). Wendover is first recorded in Domesday Book (AD1086) (Williams and Martin 2002) and had late Saxon origins. In later medieval times it became a Borough.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were;

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

Establish whether there is evidence for Saxon or medieval occupation in this area.

Establish whether there is evidence for medieval or post medieval occupation, property boundaries, domestic, commercial or industrial activities.

A single trench measuring 7.00m in length was dug (Fig. 3) using a small 360° type machine fitted with a 1.20m wide toothless grading bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A contingency was included for excavation of the entire new building footprint (7.6m x 6m) if required.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Results

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

This trench measured 7.00m in length and was 0.65m deep. It consisted of brick rubble and chalk made ground, 0.30m deep, overlying a deposit of dirty chalk with flints, containing fragments of modern brick and tile, also 0.30m deep, overlying clayey chalk and flint natural.

Finds

No finds of an archaeological interest were observed, modern material was noted but not retained .

Conclusion

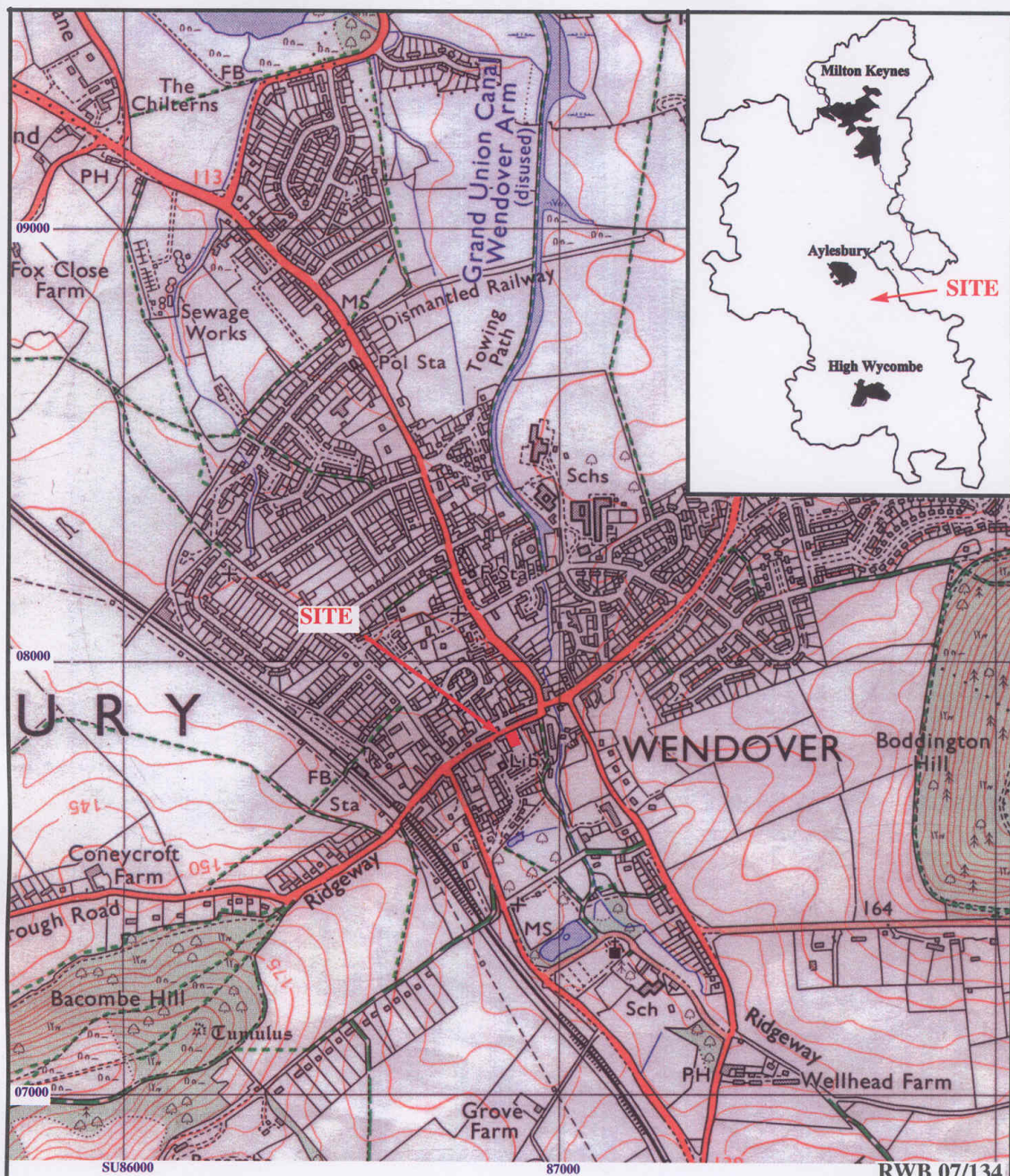
Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present on the site none were encountered. It is unlikely that any archaeological features or deposits would be damaged by the digging of footings during construction of the proposed extension.

References

- BGS, 1990, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 238, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Radford, D, 2007, 'Red Lion Hotel, High Street, Wendover, brief for Archaeological Trial Trenching',
Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, Aylesbury
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details
0m at S end

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	7.00	1.20	0.65	0.00m-0.30m brick rubble and chalk made ground; 0.30m-0.60m dirty chalk and flint with CBM; 0.60m-0.65m+ clayey chalk natural.



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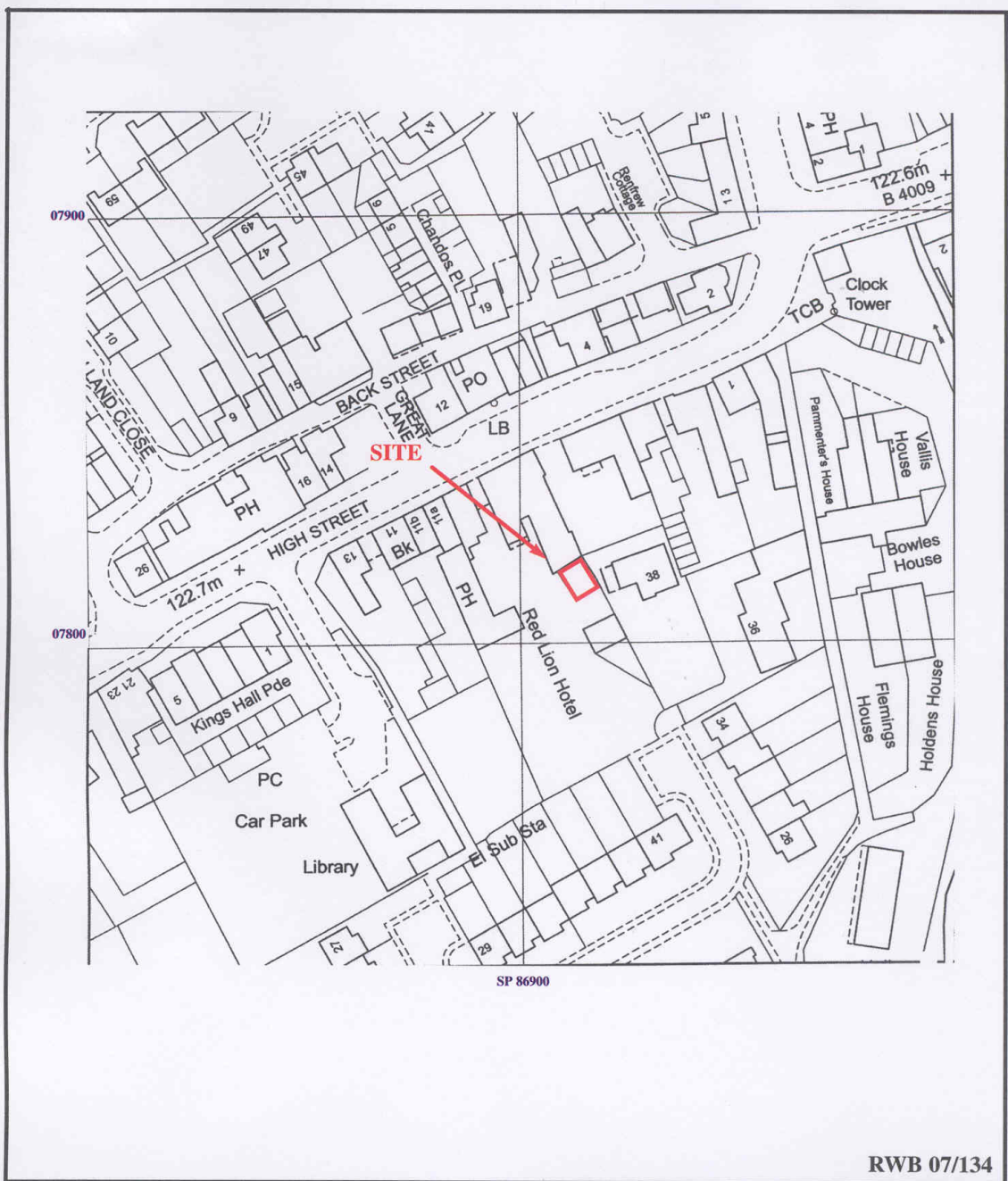
Figure 1. Location of site within Wendover and Buckinghamshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site within Wendover.

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Figure 3: Trench Location



Plate 1. Trench 1 looking north, horizontal scales 2m and 1m.