

**14 Acacia Avenue,
Wraysbury, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Lodge Developments**

by Andrew Muddin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code AAW 07/45

April 2007

Summary

Site name: 14 Acacia Avenue, Wraysbury, Berkshire

Grid reference: TQ 00175 75450

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th April 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: AAW 07/45

Summary of results: No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest 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 Reading Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 11.04.07 Steve Preston ✓ 11.04.07

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Report 07/45

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 14 Acacia Avenue, Wraybury, Berkshire (TQ 0018 7545) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Gerry Kelly of Lodge Developments, 67 High Street, Egham, Surrey, TW20 9EY.

Planning permission (07/00383/FUL) has been granted by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of an extension and development of the existing dwelling. The consent 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 Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 4th April 2007 and the site code is AAW 07/45.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Acacia Avenue, on a parcel of land between this and Welley Road. Sunnymeads Railway station lies c.80m to the north of the site (Fig. 2). The River Thames loops around Ham Island, north-west of Old Windsor, c.1km to the west of the site (Fig. 1). The house is currently occupied with the existing structure being extended. The underlying geology comprises alluvium and flood plain gravel (BGS 1981) which was noted as yellow gravel on site. The site lies approximately 23m above Ordnance Datum (AOD).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location in the Thames Valley, which is considered as being archaeologically rich (Ford 1987; Gates 1975). More specifically, the site lies close to excavated areas

containing Bronze Age occupation, a Roman enclosure and Early Saxon occupation to the east of Welley Road, at the Nursery site, approximately 1km to the south of this site (Pine 2003). Other finds from the area include stray finds of Bronze Age metalwork and three Saxon inhumations found at Wraysbury Combined School. BY way of contrast a watching brief at 27 Welley Road yielded no archaeology (Oram and Krakowicz 2005).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction, and digging of foundation trenches for the extension, and spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

On site the digging of footings was observed for the extension on the south-west side of the house (Fig. 3). Rubble from the previous conservatory was observed within the subsoil. The trenches were nominally 0.75m wide and 0.99m deep with some minor variation in depth due to fluctuations in the height of the gravel in the base of the trenches.

Results

Initial observation was carried out of the footing trenches before they were filled with concrete. Footing trenches were excavated with a small 360° type machine fitted with a toothless bucket, for 13.3m total length (Fig. 3). The stratigraphy typically comprised of 0.29m of mixed loose rubble from the previously standing conservatory and subsoil, overlying 0.7m of light yellow whitish brown clayey silt with occasional flint inclusions to a depth of 0.99m, which exposed orangey terrace gravel material at the base of all trenches (Fig. 4). No finds were recovered from the excavated material and no features were cut below 0.29m. No finds were recovered from the spoil heap which was observed before removal from the site. All drainage for the new development will utilize pre-existing soakaways, so no additional excavation was necessary.

Conclusion

This watching brief did not reveal any artefacts or features of archaeological interest.

References

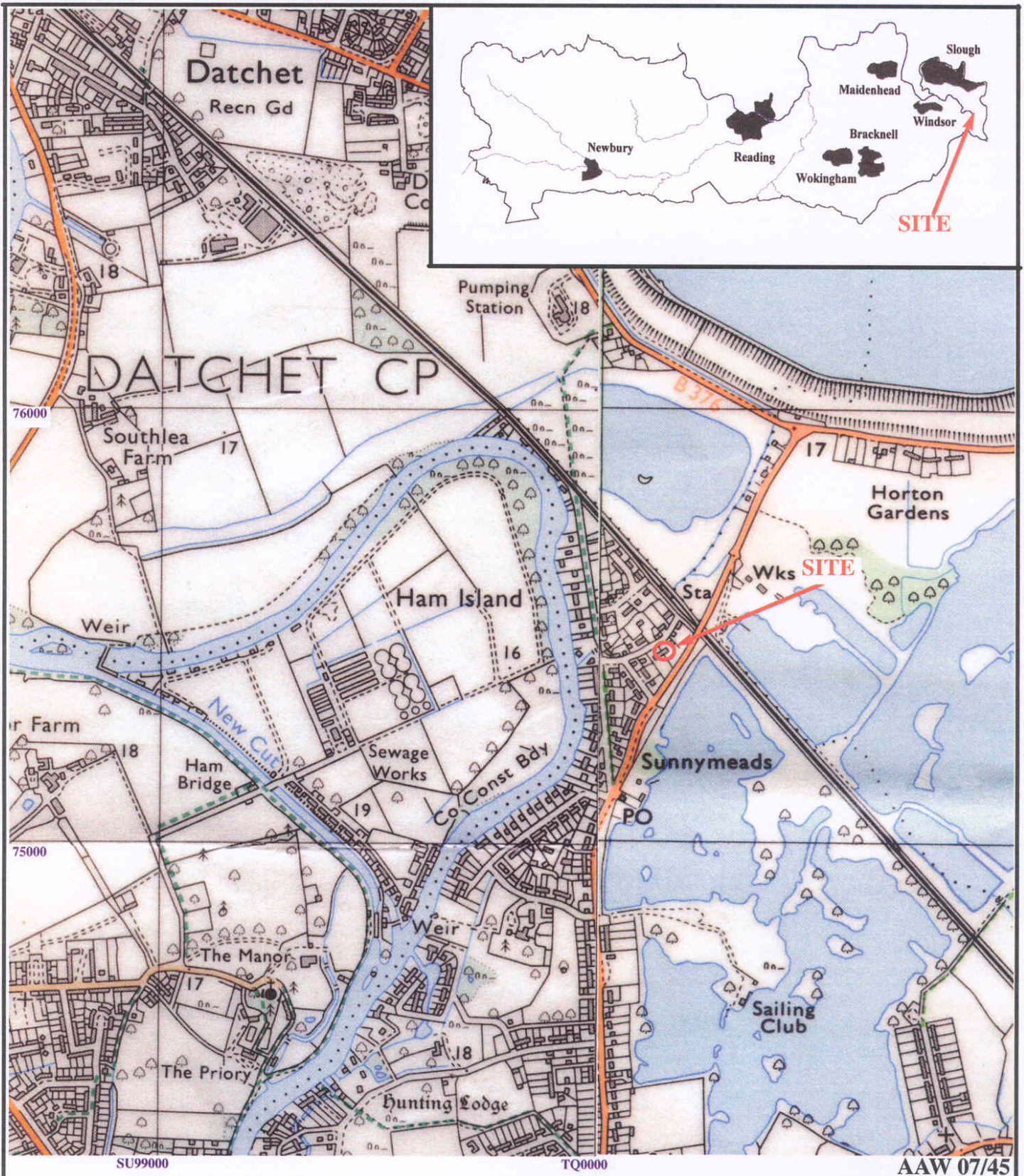
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1::50,000, Sheet 269, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways & Planning Occasional Paper 1, Reading

Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn 1, Reading

PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

Oram, R and Kracowicz, 2005, 27 Welley Road, Wraybury, Berkshire; An archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/24, Reading

Pine, J, 2003b, 'Late Bronze Age occupation, Roman enclosure and early Saxon occupation at Waylands Nursery, Welley Road, Wraybury, Berkshire 1997', in S Preston (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites in Eastern Berkshire*, TVAS monogr 2, Reading, 119–137

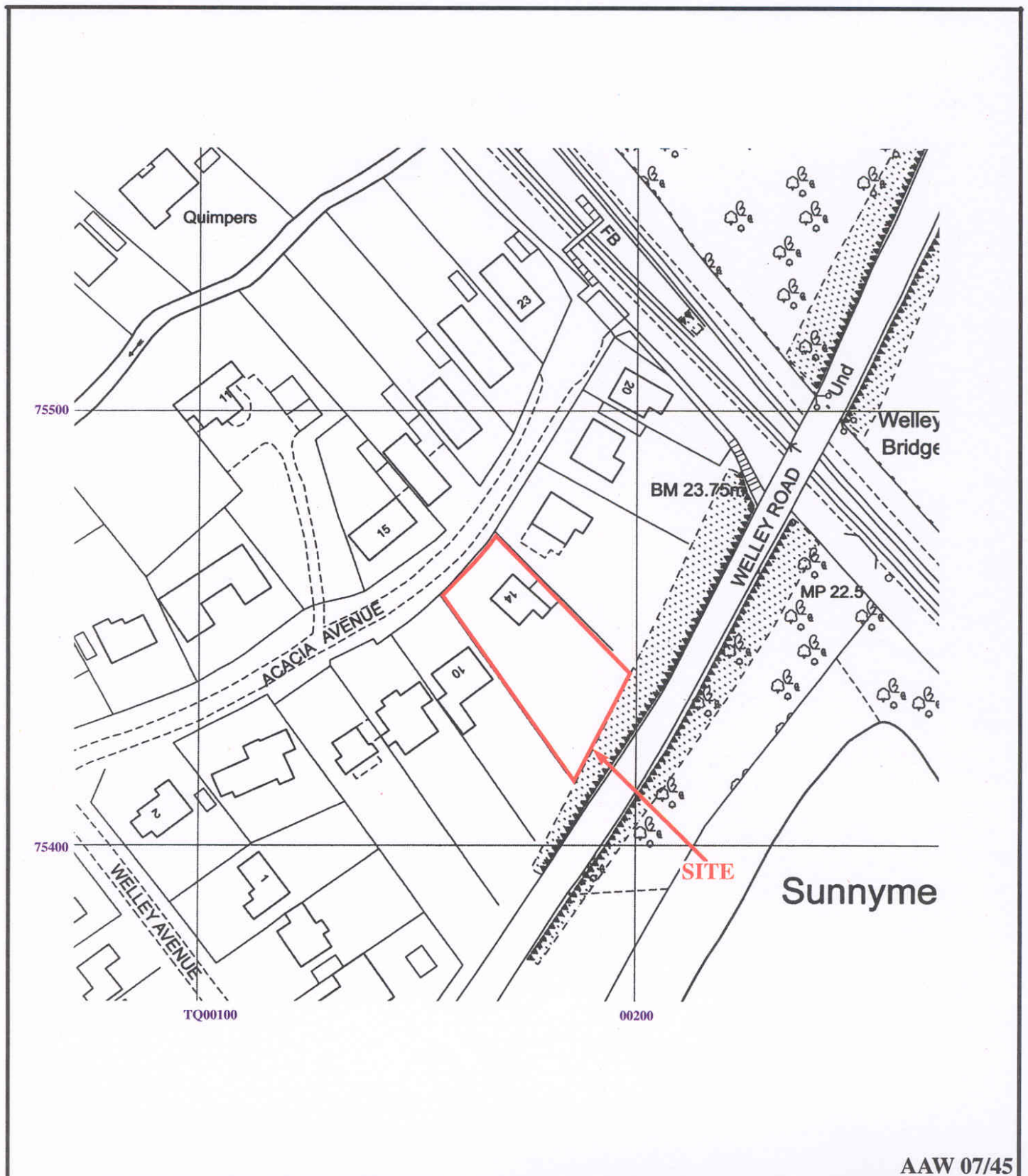


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Figure 1. Location of site within Sunnymeads, Wraysbury and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Acacia Avenue.

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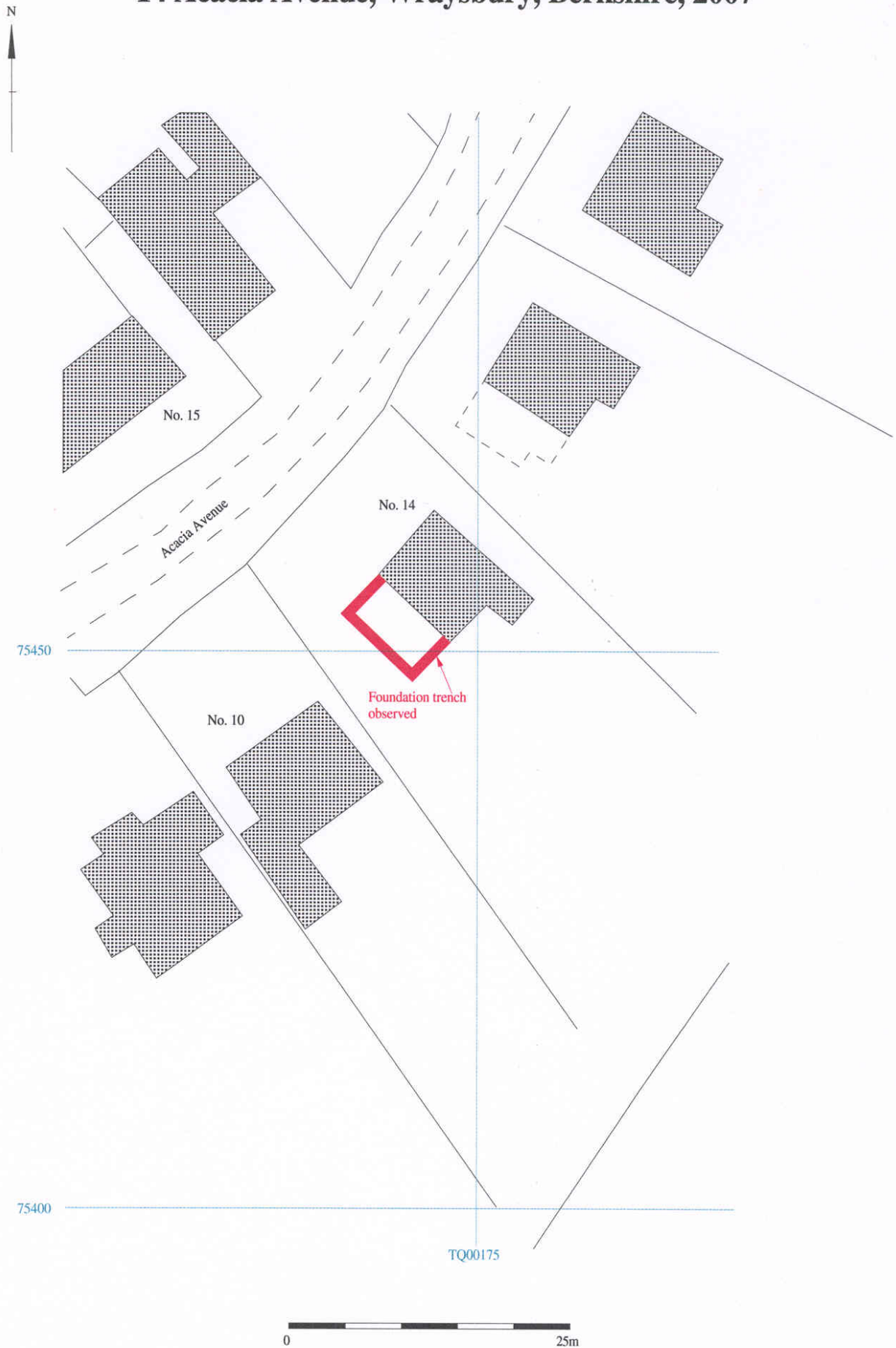


Figure 3. Area observed during watching brief

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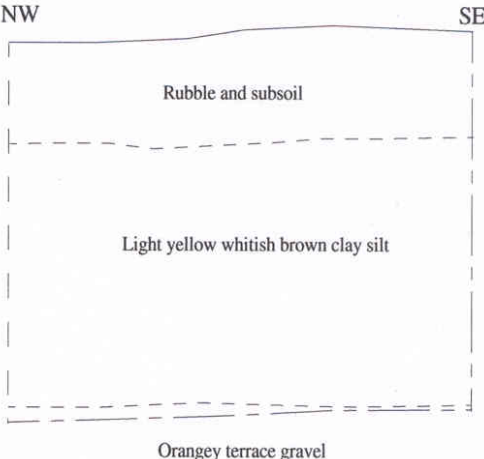


Figure 4. Representative section of part of the footing trench.