

**9 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne,
Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Harding

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WAC 08/102

December 2008

Summary

Site name: 9 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8378 6429

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 4th and 5th December 2008

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: WAC 08/102

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were identified nor artefacts recovered

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✓ 23.12.08 Jennifer Lowe✓ 23.12.08
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9 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 08/102

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 9 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire (SU 8378 6429) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Kate Harding of 9 Wiltshire Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire.

Planning permission (app no F2008/0007) has been granted by Wokingham Council for the construction of a new extension to the existing house. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires the site to be investigated during ground works and a survey of any extant earthworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Fiona MacDonald Principle Archaeologist of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury on the 4th and 5th December 2008 and the site code is WAC 08/102.

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 on Wiltshire Avenue in Crowthorne, Berkshire which lies to the south of Bracknell and north of Sandhurst (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is Barton Beds which was observed during the ground works (BGS 1981). The site lies at a height of *c.* 90m above Ordnance Datum. The area of the site was previously occupied by a conservatory adjacent to the existing building.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location adjacent to the Devil's Highway, the Silchester to London Roman Road (Margary 1973). Apart from possibly locating elements of the road itself (as the alignment indicated on Ordnance Survey maps is not precisely known), there is a possibility of finding contemporary

roadside settlement or burial. Recent fieldwork comprising a watching brief to the south west did not reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Mundin and Ford 2008).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the ground works. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive ground works, in particular any ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services. An examination of the garden area was also to be examined for the presence of earthworks representing the Roman road.

Results

The footings were dug to a depth of 1.0m and were 0.70m in width (Fig. 3). Excavation followed removal of approximately 0.15m of turf/topsoil, a conservatory and ancillary features relating to the latter. The stratigraphy revealed in the footings comprised 0.24m of modern made ground (consisting of yellow brown sandy clay containing broken brick fragments) overlaying 0.22m of an orange brown sand, also considered to be made ground.. Beneath this was 0.08m of black sand. This in turn overlay 0.23m of leached light grey sand, overlying 0.21m of dark brown sand that in turn overlay a dark orange brown sand at the base of the trench (Fig. 4). It is considered that the deposits beneath the made ground (ie the black sand and beneath) are a near complete natural profile of a podsolised soil horizon. The only cut features observed in the footing trenches were two modern pipes. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

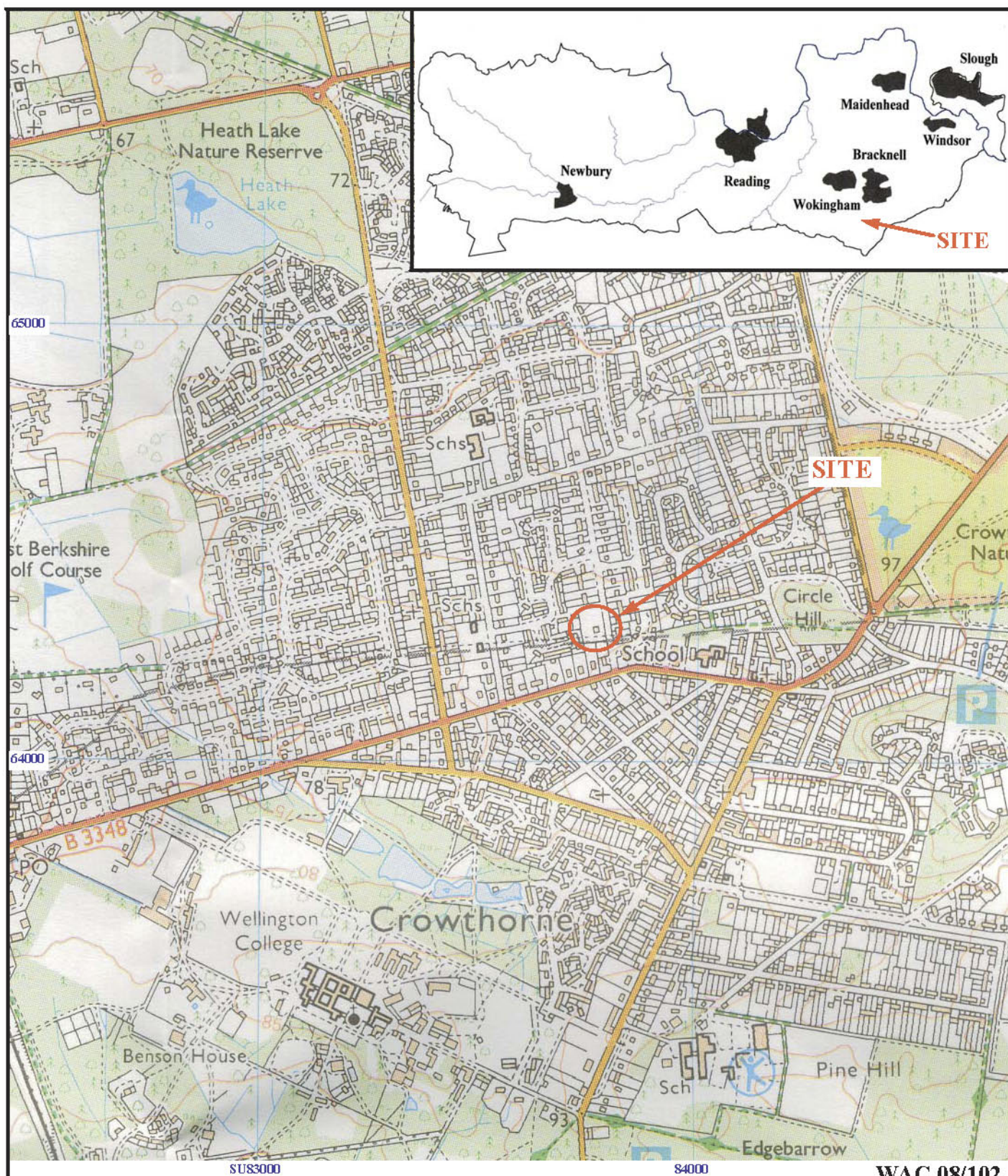
A modern white porcelain pot was discovered during the course of excavating the footings from the layer of orange brown sand directly beneath the modern made ground (not retained)

Conclusion

Despite the site's location within close proximity to the proposed course of the Devil's Highway Roman Road no archaeological features or artifacts were identified during the course of the ground works.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
Margary, I D, 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain* (3rd Edition), London
Mundin, A and Ford, S 2008, New garage, 1 Dukes Wood, Crowthorne, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief, Thames Valley Archaeological Services, report 08/41, Reading

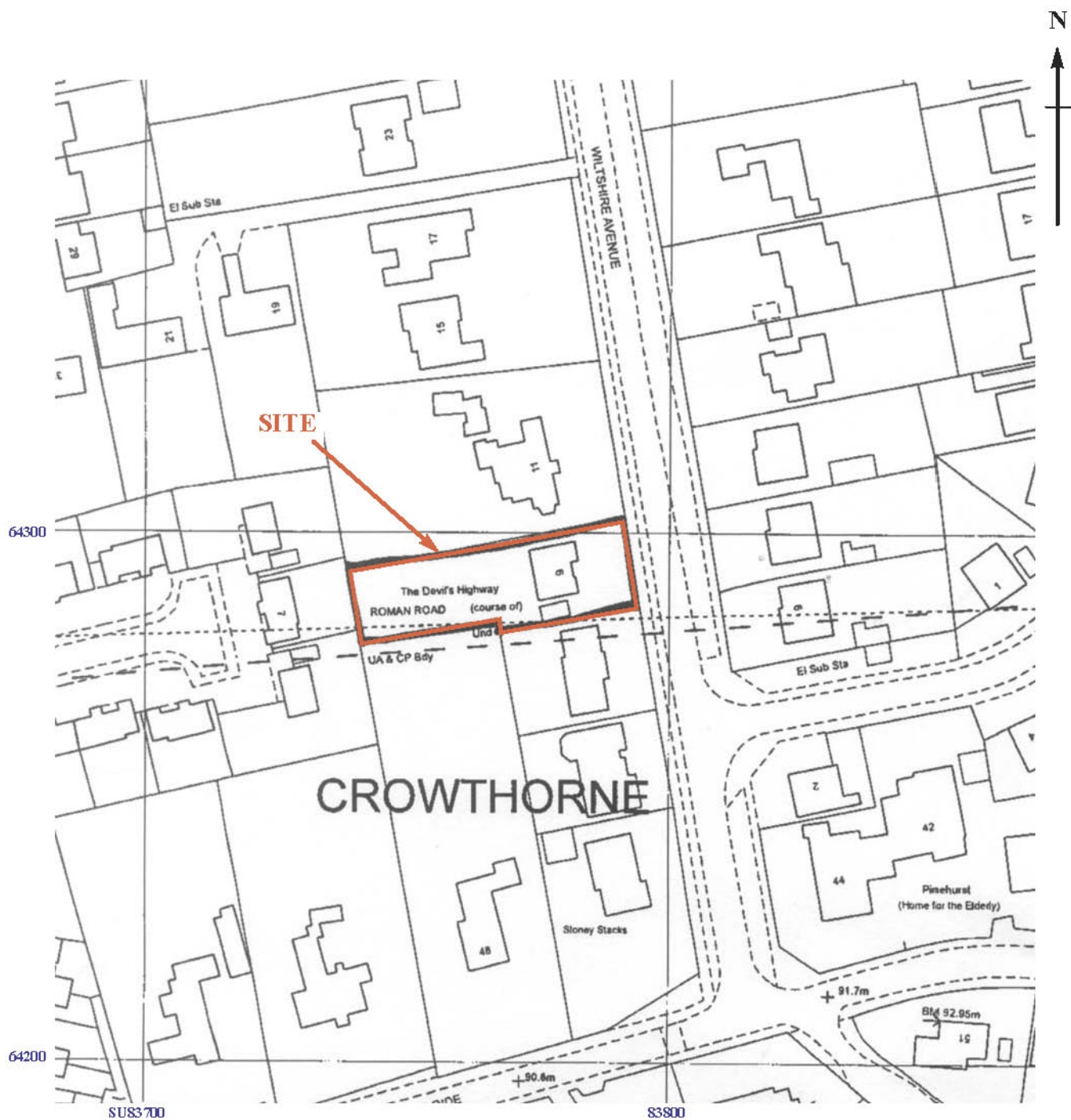


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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Wiltshire Avenue.

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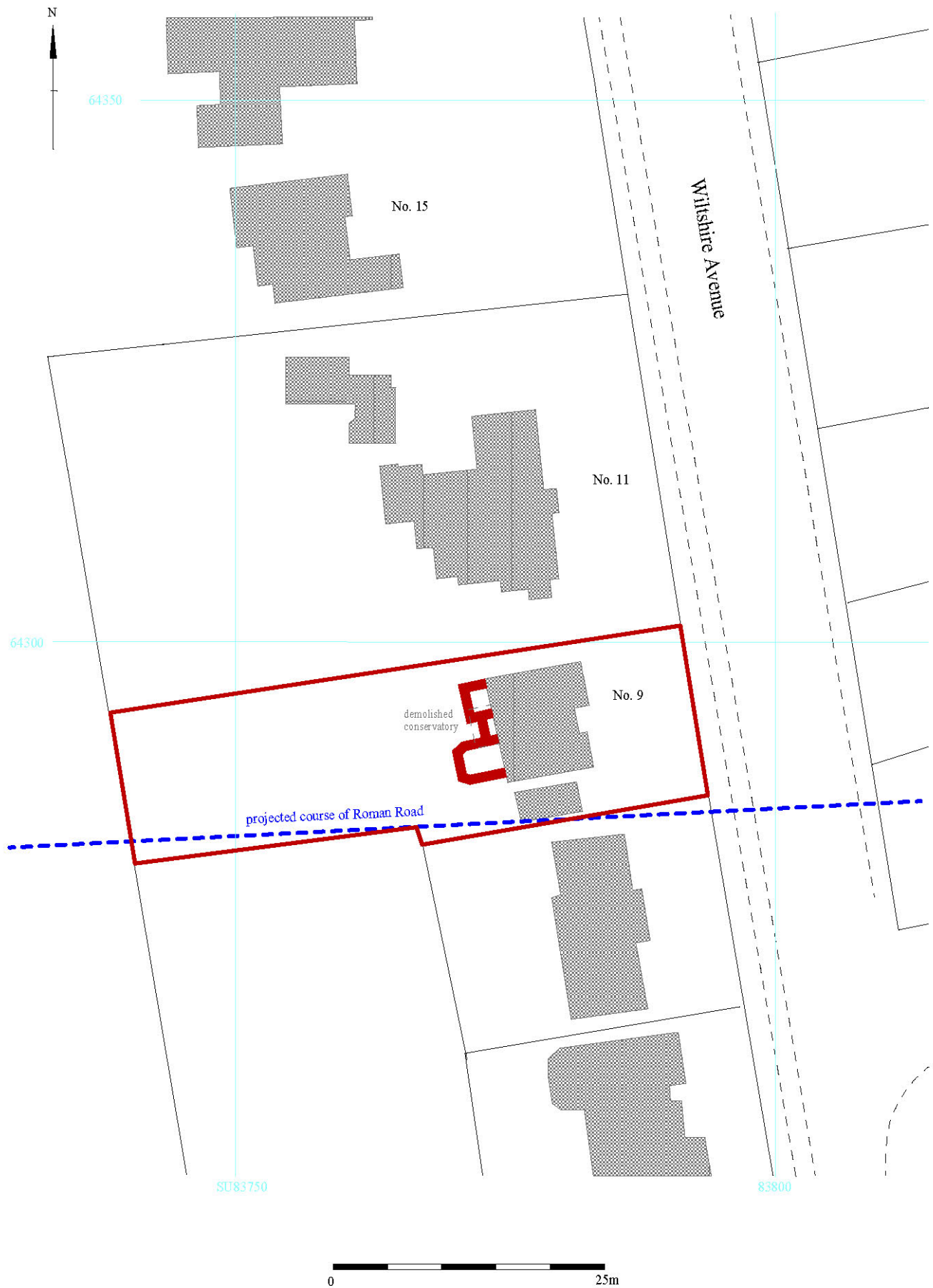


Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.

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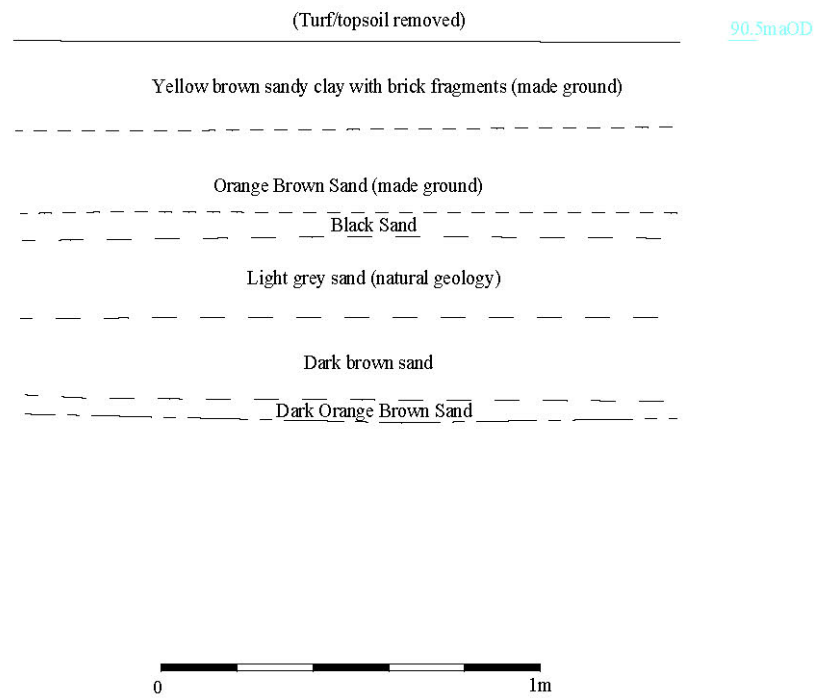


Figure 4. Representative section.