

44 Wharf Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Mr and Mrs A Edwards**

by Henrietta Longden and Tim Dawson
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WRW09/80

October 2009

Summary

Site name: 44 Wharf Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9930 7390

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 19th–20th August 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: WRW 09/80

Summary of results: No finds nor deposits of archaeological interest were observed

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 Preston ✓ 6/10/2009

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Report 09/80

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 44 Wharf Road, Wraysbury, Staines, Berkshire (SU 9930 7390) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robert Barnes on behalf of Mr and Mrs A Edwards, 44 Wharf Road, Wraysbury, Staines, TW19 5JW.

A planning consent (08/02066) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct new houses on the site following demolition of the existing structure. This consent is subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology which required 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 Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson between 19th and 20th August 2009 and the site code is WR 09/80. 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

Wraysbury is located south-east of Windsor in eastern Berkshire. The site is located on the northern side of Wharf Road with the River Thames to the west and Wraysbury Reservoir further to the east (Figs 1 and 2). The site is currently vacant with the previous structure having been recently demolished. The underlying geology comprises flood-plain gravel (BGS 1981) and the site lies at a height of 16.5m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its position within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wide range of sites and finds recorded (e.g. Ford 1987; Gates 1975). The Berkshire Historic Environment Record notes the presence of a number of sites and finds in the immediate vicinity with prehistoric, Roman and Saxon occupation just to the north and a range of artefacts of various dates from surrounding areas, including

finds dredged from the Thames. The site lies around 1.5km south-west of a Neolithic monument at Horton (Ford and Pine 2003).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This was to involve examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular topsoil stripping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundations and services for structure.

Results

The only ground disturbance comprised the digging of the foundation trenches. The footing trenches observed were dug using a small 360° type machine and were 0.6m wide and 1.25m deep. The stratigraphy of the north and west foundation trenches consisted 0.36m of topsoil and subsoil above 0.52m of a mid brown/grey and orange/brown clay (alluvium) above 0.37m of gravel natural geology. Foundation trenches in the south-east area of the site contained topsoil and subsoil to a depth of 0.43m which included modern made ground and demolition rubble related to the position of the previous structure. Inspection of the trenches did not reveal any cut archaeological features and no finds were recovered from the spoilheaps.

Finds

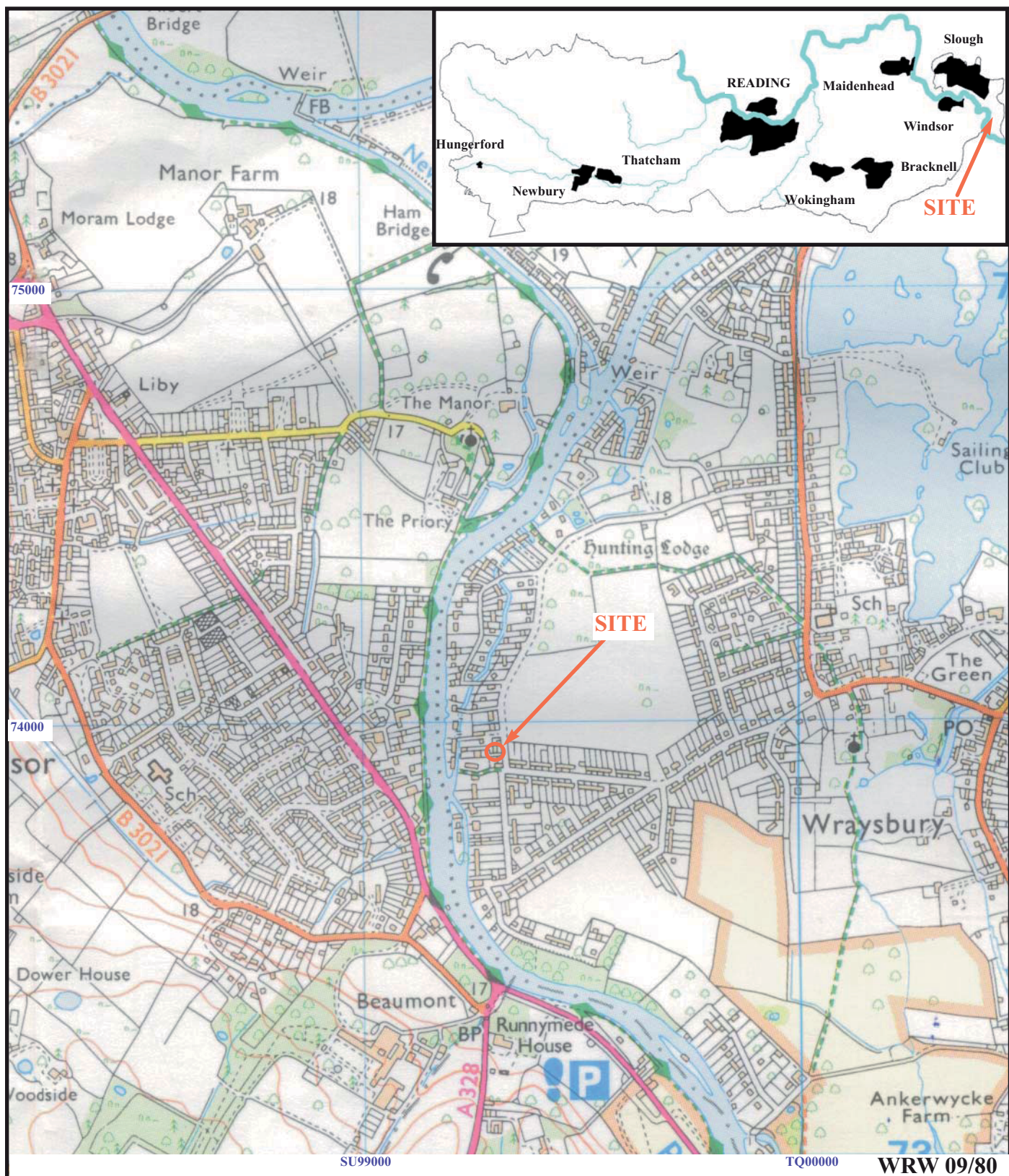
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

This small watching brief did not reveal any artefacts or finds of archaeological interest, alth the archaeologically relevant levels had survived except in the area of the previous building.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Counc Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Ford, S and Pine J, 2003, 'Neolithic ring ditches and Roman landscape features at Horton, (1989–1996)' in S Preston (ed), *Prehistoric, Roman and Saxon sites in Eastern Berkshire*, TVAS monogr **2**, Reading, 13–85
- 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

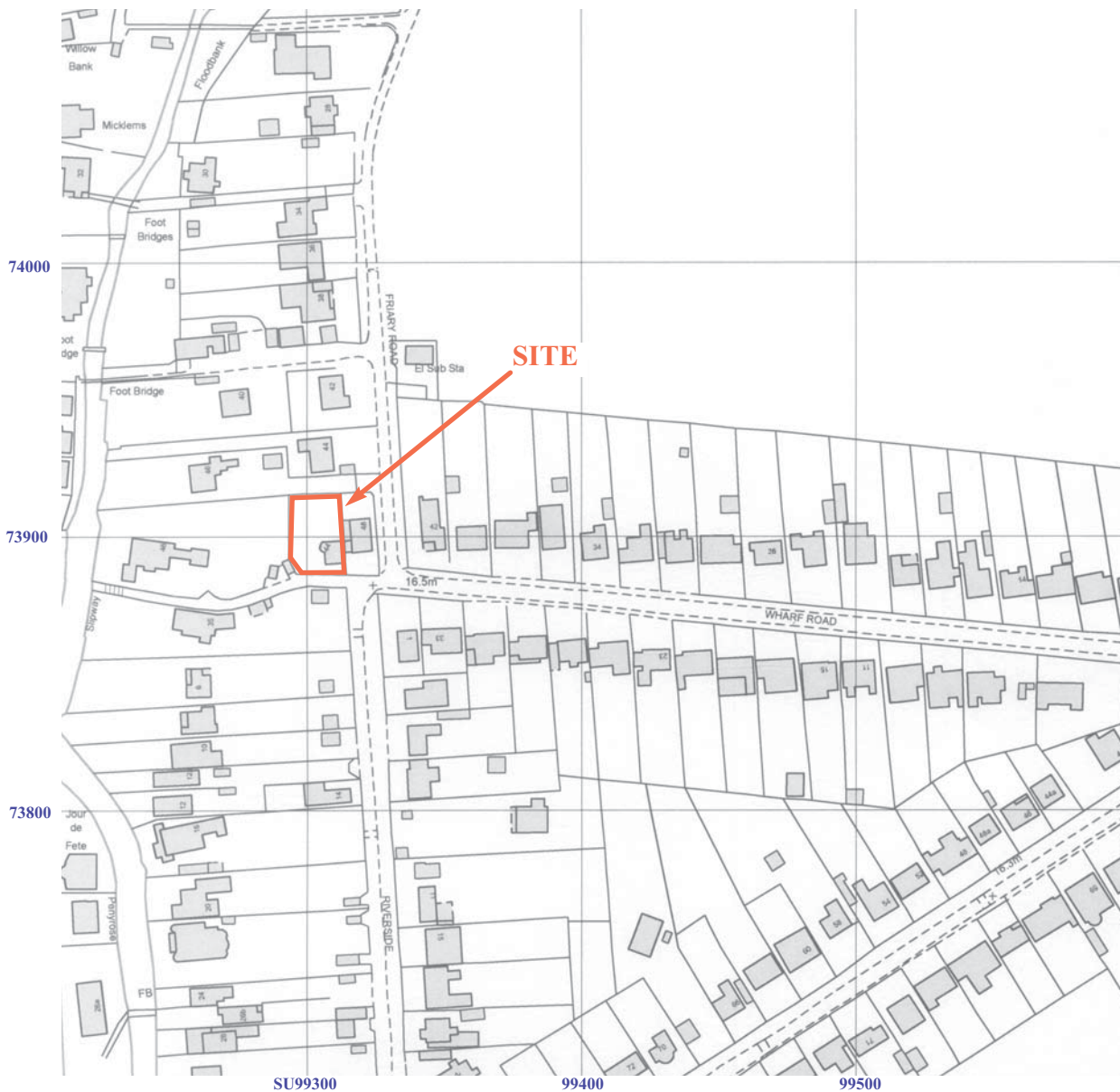


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Figure 1. Location of site within Wraysbury
and Berkshire.

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Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 2. Location of site off Wraysbury Road.

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Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.

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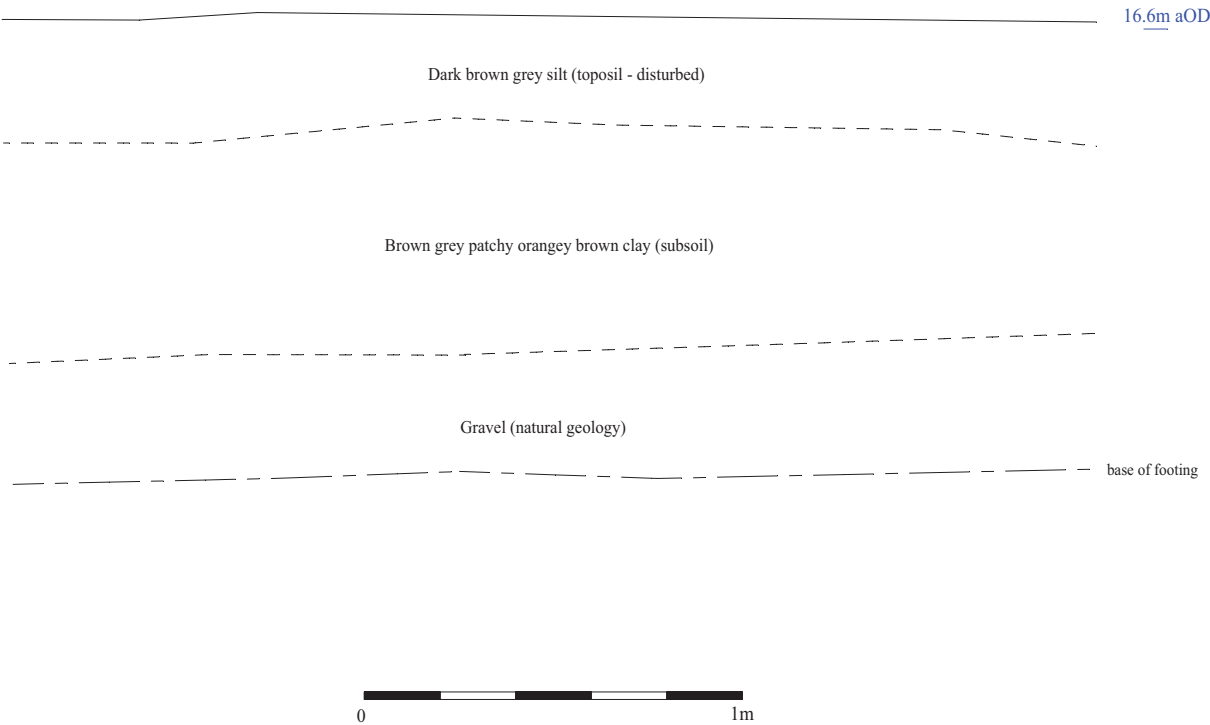


Figure 4. Representative section.