

Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
25 HORN STREET
WINSLOW
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

on behalf of Broughton Beatty Ltd.



Calli Rouse BA

MAY 2005

ASC: 665/WHS/2

Letchworth House
Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall,
Milton Keynes MK6 1NE
Tel: 01908 608989 Fax: 01908 605700
Email: office@archaeological-services.co.uk
Website: www.archaeological-services.co.uk



Site Data

<i>ASC project code:</i>	WHS	<i>ASC Project No:</i>	665
<i>County:</i>	Buckinghamshire		
<i>Village/Town:</i>	Winslow		
<i>Civil Parish:</i>	Winslow CP		
<i>NGR (to 6 figs):</i>	SP 767 275		
<i>Present use:</i>	Garage / outbuildings and residential gardens		
<i>Planning proposal:</i>	Three two storey dwellings with garaging		
<i>Planning application ref/date:</i>	04/2419		
<i>Local Planning Authority:</i>	Aylesbury Vale		
<i>Date of fieldwork:</i>	27/04/05 and 28/04/05		
<i>Client:</i>	Broughton Beatty Ltd. Station House Newport Pagnell Buckinghamshire MK16 0AG		
<i>Contact name:</i>	Neil Tanner		
<i>Telephone</i>		<i>Fax:</i>	

Internal Quality Check

<i>Primary Author:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	10/05/2005
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	
<i>Revisions:</i>	Calli Rouse	<i>Date:</i>	25/05/2005
<i>Edited/Checked By:</i>		<i>Date:</i>	

© Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd

No part of this document is to be copied in any way without prior written consent.

Every effort is made to provide detailed and accurate information. However, Archaeological Services & Consultancy Ltd cannot be held responsible for errors or inaccuracies within this report.

© Ordnance Survey maps reproduced with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

ASC Licence No. AL 100015154

CONTENTS

Summary	5
1. Introduction	5
2. Aims & Methods	7
3. Archaeological & Historical Background	8
4. Results.	13
5. Conclusions	19
6. Acknowledgements	20
7. Archive	20
8. References	21

Appendices:

1. Trench Summary Tables.....	22
2. Finds Concordance	24
3. Extract from Notice of Sale, 1899	24

Figures:

1. General location	3
2. Proposed development and indicative trench locations	5
3. Extract from the Salden Estate Map 1599	8
4. Extract from 1880 Ordnance Survey	9
5. Extract from the 1900 Ordnance Survey map	11
6. Extract from the 1926 Ordnance Survey map	11
7. Extract from the 1950 Ordnance Survey map	12
8. Extract from the 1978 Ordnance Survey map	12
9. Actual trench layout	17
10. Section drawing, 105	18
11. Section drawing, 106	18
12. Trench Plan, Trench 1	22
13. Trench Plan, Trench 2	23

Plates:

Cover: North view of site, showing Trench 1

1. View west along Trench 1	15
2. Context 101, facing south	15
3. Context 102, facing north	15
4. Context 102 showing section, facing north	15
5. Trench 2, view southeast	15
6. Square arm of trench 2, view south	15
7. Test Pit 1, trench 2, view northeast	16
8. Test pit 2, trench 2, view northwest	16
9. Trench 2, section, view southwest.....	16



Figure 1: General location (scale 1:25,000)

Summary

In April 2005 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at 25 Horn Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, prior to the construction of three houses on the site. The site was in the historic core of Winslow and the evaluation consisted of two trenches and three test pits. A pit and two linear features were revealed, one which contained a small assemblage of animal bone and pottery, one sherd of which was of the Roman period.

1 Introduction

1.1 In April 2005 *Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd* (ASC) carried out an evaluation at 25 Horn Street, Winslow (NGR SP 767 275: Fig. 1). The project was commissioned by *Broughton Beatty Ltd.* on behalf of *Mrs S. Wigley*, and was carried out according to a project design prepared by ASC (Hancock, 2005), and a brief (Radford, 2004) prepared on behalf of the local planning authority (LPA), *Aylesbury Vale District Council*, by their archaeological advisor (AA), the Buckinghamshire County Archaeology Service. The relevant planning application reference is 04/2419.

1.2 *Planning Background*

This evaluation was required under the terms of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16* (PPG16), in response to proposals for the development of the site. These comprise construction of a garage for the current dwelling plus construction of a further three two storey dwellings and garages within its grounds.

1.3 *Location*

The development site is located in the town of Winslow on the southern side of Horn Street (Figs. 1 and 2). It is in the administrative district of Aylesbury Vale and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 767 275. Horn Street is located towards the southwestern margin of the town in the historic town core. The buildings fronting it largely date to the 18th and 19th centuries.

1.4 *Description*

25 Horn Street is a late 19th – early 20th century building located within a large, irregularly shaped plot of land that encompasses *c.*0.27 hectares. At the eastern side of the house is a late 19th – early 20th century barn currently used as a garage. At the rear of the house is a terraced lawn and behind the garage are a concrete yard, two wooden outbuildings and a vegetable garden. Beyond the southern boundary are open fields.

1.5 *Geology & Topography*

The natural soils of the area overlie chalky till and belong to the *Ashley Association*, which is characterised “as fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging associated with similar but wetter soils, some calcareous and non-calcareous slowly permeable clayey soils” (Soil Survey, 1983 572q). However, the site is essentially urban in character and it is probable that the natural soils have been extensively modified if not truncated altogether.

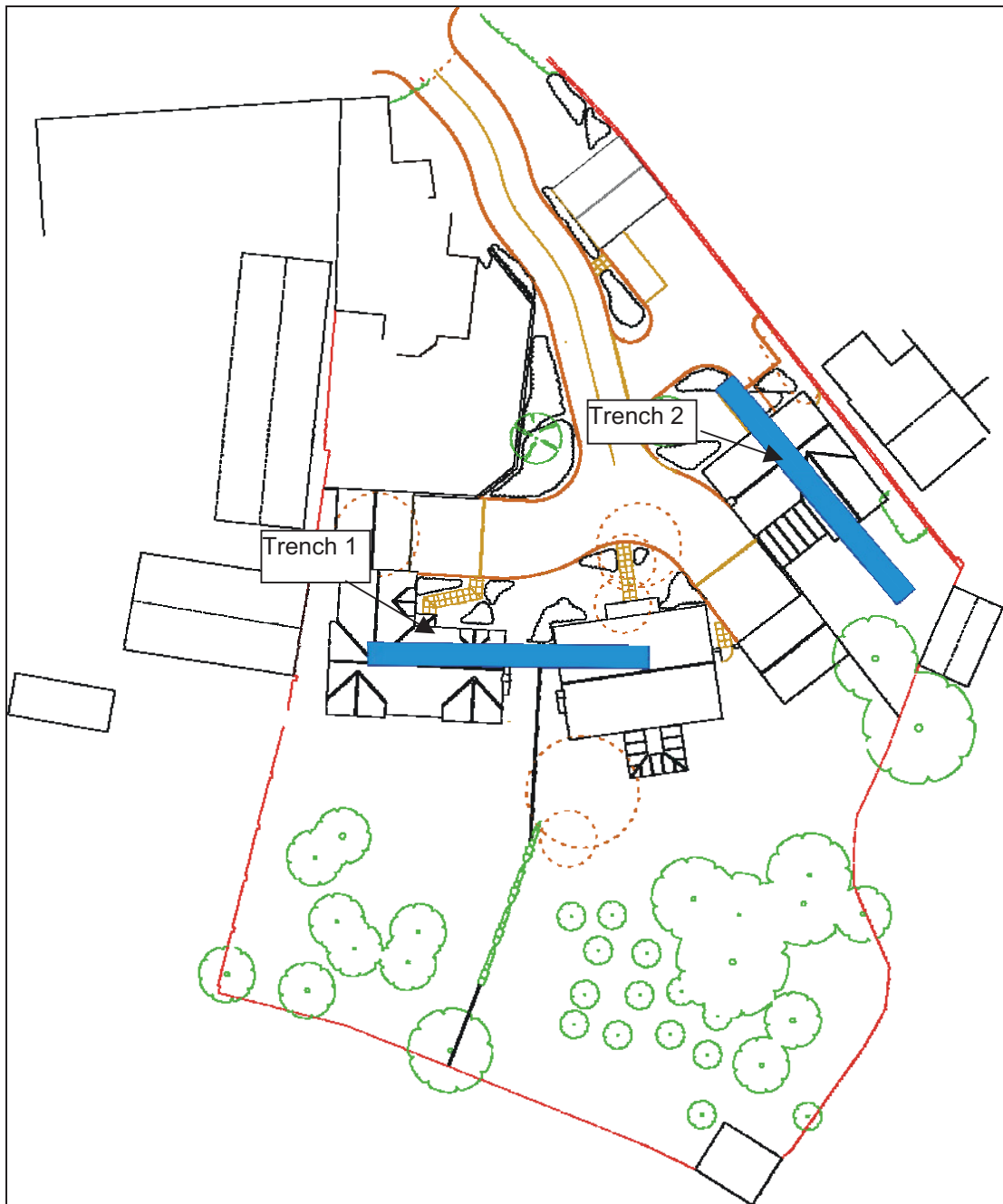


Figure 2: Proposed development and indicative trench locations, (*mapping provided by Broughton Beatty Ltd: not to scale*).

2 Aims & Methods

2.1 Aims

As described in the brief (*Procedure and Professional Standards*), the aims of the evaluation were:

- To gather sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains within the area of study.
- The specific aims of this evaluation shall be the characterisation of structures, boundary features and activity areas within the tenements fronting on to Horn Street

2.2 Standards

The work conformed to the project design, to the relevant sections of the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (IFA 2000) and *Standard & Guidance Notes* (IFA 2001), and to the relevant sections of ASC's own *Operations Manual*.

2.3 Methods

The work was carried out according to the brief (*Procedure and Professional Standards*), which required:

- Machine-based trial trenching with hand-cleaning and appropriate recording to inspect and assess the archaeological deposits and achieve the evaluation objectives.

2.4 Constraints

Due to limited access and consequent limitations on the size of excavating plant that could be used, it proved necessary to modify the trench pattern, as shown in Fig. 9. Because of the significant depth of overburden on the site, and the limitations of the excavating plant it was not possible to reach the natural strata in Trench 2, apart from in two machine-dug test pits.

3 Archaeological & Historical Background

3.1 Prehistoric (before 600BC)

Evidence for prehistoric activity is comparatively sparse in this part of Aylesbury Vale. Palaeolithic activity is suggested by the reputed recovery of an Acheulian flint flake of uncertain provenance (CASS 0589100000) from a peat bed in Winslow. The SMR holds no records indicating Mesolithic, Neolithic or Bronze Age activity within the vicinity of the site.

3.2 Iron Age (600BC-AD43)

Research has uncovered no evidence for Iron Age activity on the site or its surrounding area.

3.3 Roman (AD43-c.450)

Romano-British activity is evident and is characterised as rural or dispersed in character. A coin of Vespasian (SMR 0759000000) was discovered in the 1980's in residential gardens at Missenden Road, c. 150m northwest of the site, and RB pottery, including 1st and 2nd century material, and coins of Constantine have been recovered close to Shipton Farm c. 800m southeast of the site (SMR 0507500000)

3.4 Saxon (c.450-1066)

The earliest documentary reference to Winslow is found in a grant of land at Winslow, Salden, *Scuccan hlaw* or *Fenntun* with Horwood and *Lygetune* (Luton?) to the monastery of St Albans by Offa king of Mercia in AD 792 (Sawyer 1968, no. 138). To what extent this grant comprised the entire area of the vill or township is uncertain.

Winslow has been suggested as a Royal Residence of Mercian kings (Lipscomb 3, p543) although this is probably a romantic construct of Victorian antiquaries. John Cowley Esq, Surgeon of Winslow, possessed a Saxon coin hoard (SMR 0511700001, Clear, 1894), reputedly found c. 700m to the east of the site at Dene Hill, which is the suggested site of an 8th century Royal Palace or Manor (SMR 0511700000, 0511701000). Unfortunately the coins are no longer available for examination as the collection was dispersed at Cowley's death in 1856.

3.5 Medieval (1066-1500)

In the Domesday Survey of 1086 Winslow is entered under the possessions of St Albans Abbey (Morris 1978, section 8.3).

The Church of St Laurence is the earliest ecclesiastical building in the town and although much altered in the 15th and 19th centuries retains elements dating from the 14th century (SMR 0235500000).

In the Hundred Rolls of 1279 Winslow is described as a 'borough' with ten burgesses (Levett 1938, 182). The burgesses would have held rectangular plots of land fronting the main street, a form of plot evident to the east of the church on the High Street.

Archaeological evaluations at 10 High Street (Network Archaeology, 2001, 2003), and 30 High Street (ASC, 2003), have not revealed evidence confirming the presence of burgh plots and conclude that post medieval landscaping and construction may have severely truncated or removed medieval features.

An aerial photograph (AP) dated 1963 (Section 16), shows extensive survival of ridge and furrow cultivation strips in the fields surrounding Winslow. An AP dated 1985 shows that much of this medieval strip field system was denuded by agricultural intensification during the late 20th century. The ridge and furrow has been plotted in recent years and Buckinghamshire SMR holds a copy of the annotated map.

3.6 Post-Medieval (1500-1900)

By the late 16th century much of the area was held by Sir John Fortescue, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, for whom the *Salden Estate Map* was prepared in 1599 (Fig. 3). The map shows the extent of the town and indicates that 25 Horn Street lay within the historic town core.

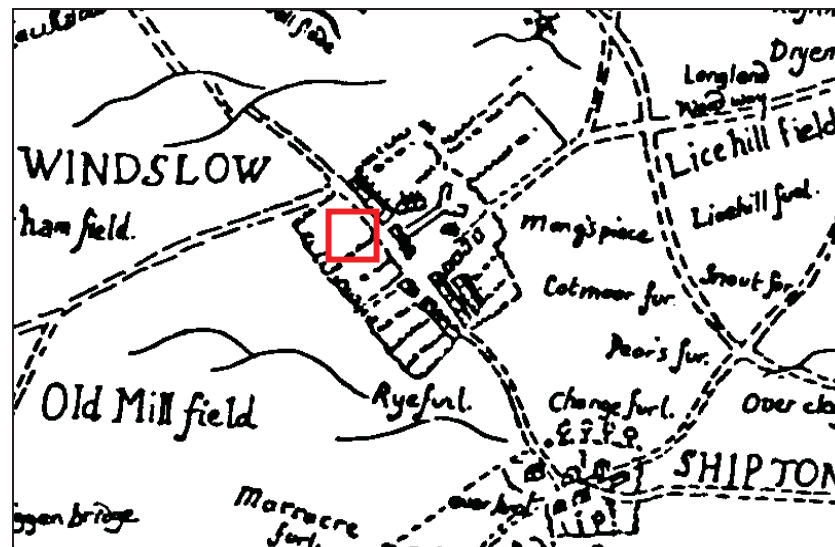


Figure 3: Extract from the Salden Estate Map 1599 showing approximate location of site (not to scale).

William Lowdnes, Secretary to the Treasury, held Winslow and much of the surrounding area from 1697, and built Winslow Hall in 1700 (SMR 0202000000). The SMR holds a review of historic parks and gardens in Buckinghamshire, which lists a formal garden, laid out c. 1700 north of the Hall. Extensive remodelling of this area during the 1970's destroyed this garden and nothing now survives.

Detail from the 1st ed. Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (Fig 4) definitively shows that buildings had been constructed on the site by 1880. This map shows that the current boundary had been established and that the former agricultural outbuilding currently used as a store / garage was probably extant. A building was located in the general area of the current house, a circular structure was located to the southeast of it and a path bisected the gardens in the general location of the extant dividing path. The footprint and position of the building represented on the map does not match that of the current house and it is unclear whether this building was subsequently demolished or if later additions have been made and it thus forms the core of 25 Horn Street. No indication of the existence of a circular structure is currently evident at the location shown.

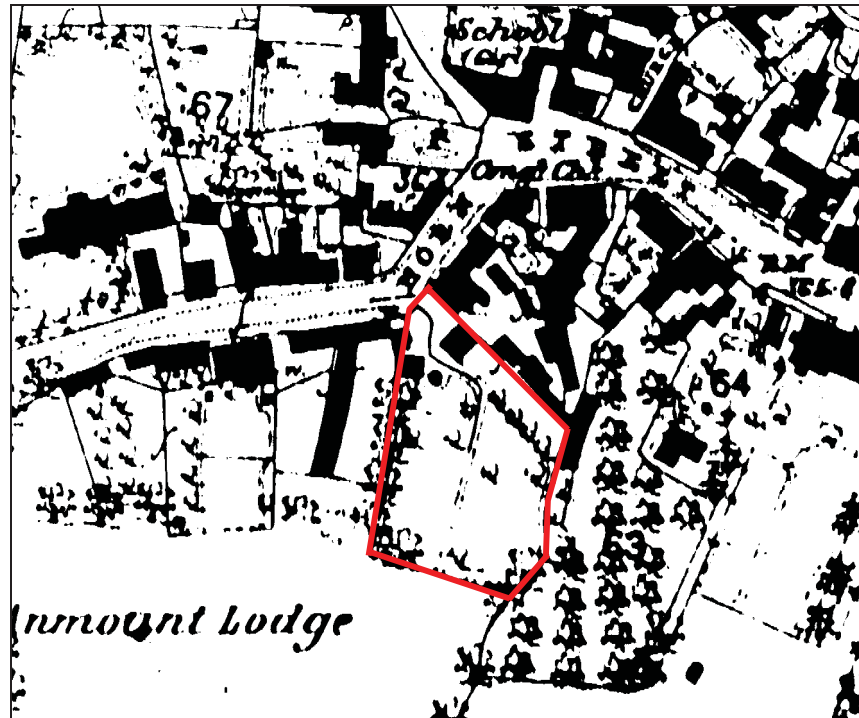


Figure 4: Extract from 1880 Ordnance Survey (1:1250)

The London and North Western Railway's Oxford and Bletchley branch line opened in 1850 and ran just north of Winslow. Winslow expanded northwards towards the station on the Oxford and Bletchley Branch although in comparison to many other towns the presence of the railways appears to have had relatively little impact on its size (Leleux, 1984, 39).

3.7 **Modern** (1900-present)

The contemporary layout of Winslow is shown on Figure 1. The town remains relatively small although considerable development occurred during the late 20th century, particularly on the eastern side of the town. In 1991 the population was only 4005 (Pevsner *et al*, 2004, 754).

It appears probable that the current house layout of 25 Horn Street was finalised during the late 19th century. OS mapping from the 20th century (Fig's. 5,6,7 and 8) indicates that the footprint of the house and barn fronting Horn Street remained unaltered and that a circular structure was located in a similar position to the extant circular outbuilding.

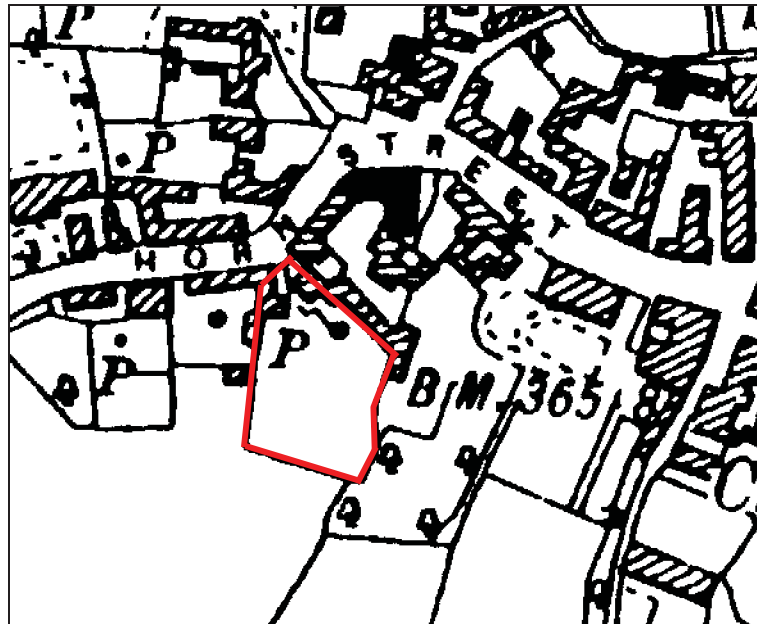


Figure 5: Extract from the 1900 Ordnance Survey map (1:2640).

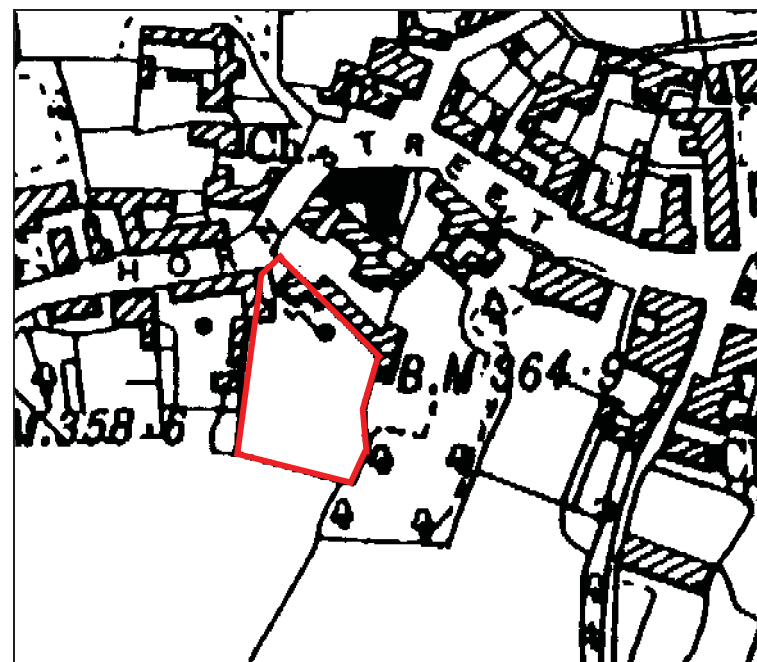


Figure 6: Extract from the 1926 Ordnance Survey map (1:2640).

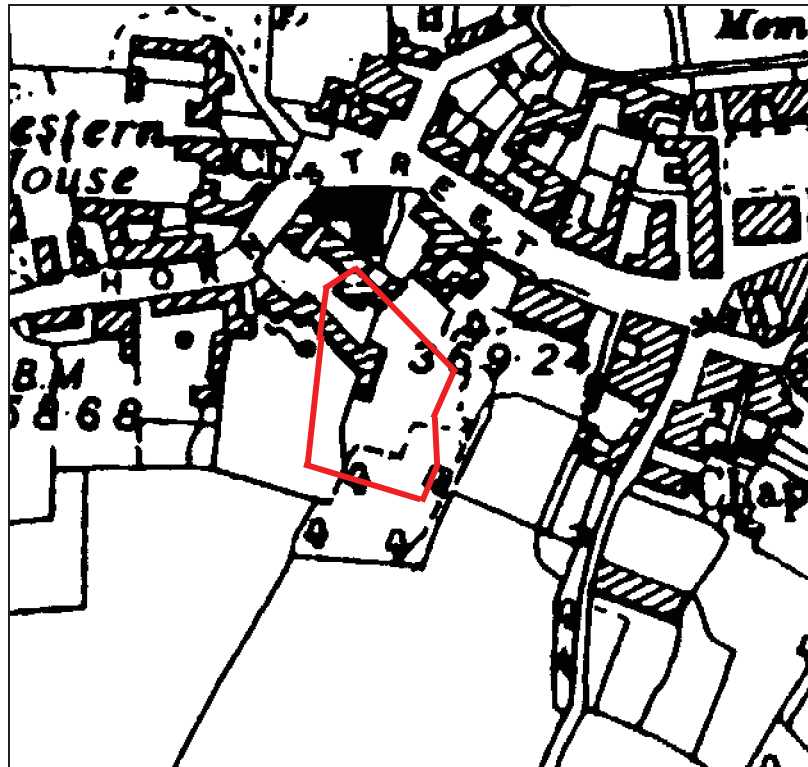


Figure 7: Extract from the 1950 Ordnance Survey map, (1:2640).

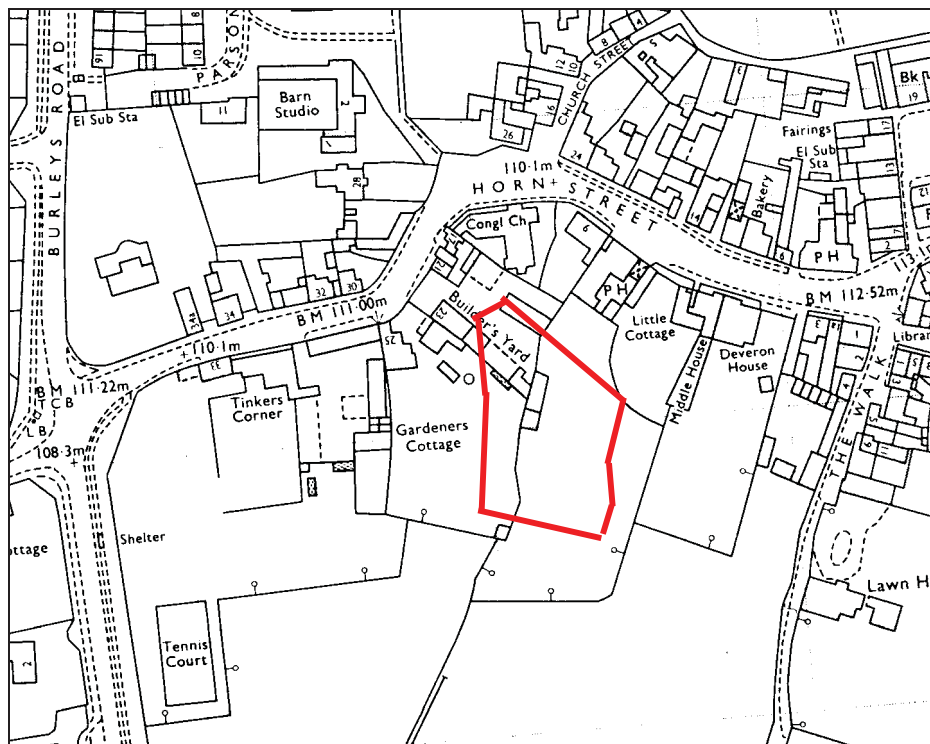


Figure 8: Extract from the 1978 Ordnance Survey map, (1:2500).

4 Results

Full details of the trenching results appear in Appendix 1. The following section summarises those findings.

4.1 Trench One

4.1.1 The trench cut through a considerable depth of topsoil overlying a sandy clay. The topsoil consisted of a dark brown, slightly sandy organic soil with occasional small stones and fragments of brick/tile.

4.1.2 Four discrete features were identified within Trench One. A patch of re-deposited clay (103) was identified at the eastern end of the trench, stretching 2.1m to the west. This was cut by a pit (107). 3.6m from the west end, context 105 (Plate 2) is a narrow slot (0.4m wide and 0.17m deep), fairly flat in profile, filled with a grey silt, with *c.*50mm of water in the bottom. Context 106 (Plates 3 and 4) is 7.8m from the western end of the trench and is a slot (0.6m wide and 0.18m deep) filled with a dark grey/red silt which contained animal bone and fragments of pottery. Also noted in trench 1 was a modern 0.25m wide drainage slot, *c.*5m from the western end of the trench, and a disturbed area of ground, located at the western end of the trench.

4.2 Trench Two

4.2.1 The topsoil (202) in this trench was *c.*250mm deep and consisted of dark brown, slightly sandy organic soil with occasional small pebbles, fragments of modern brick/tile and flints. Below this were subsoils (201) of dark grey, gritty silt with olive flecks. There are also dumps of clay of late Victorian date. Two machine test pits (test pits 1 and 2) (Plates 7 and 8) were dug at the western end of the trench, one within the main arm of the trench, and the other within the northern arm of the trench. A third, smaller hand-dug test pit (test pit 3) was excavated approximately halfway along the central arm of the trench.

4.2.2 The depth of subsoil within Trench 2 was such that the natural strata was only reached in the two machine dug test pits, which were 2.1m and 2.01m deep respectively. Both contained water, to a level of 0.2m in test pit 1, and 0.12m in test pit 2.

4.2.3 No archaeological features or finds were observed in Trench 2.

4.3 Finds

4.3.1 Context 106 in Trench 1 contained 9 fragments of animal bone, two of which were long bones. From the size of the bones, it is likely that they belonged to cattle. At least one of the long bones showed gnaw marks, intimating that the bones had been left in the open, rather than having been immediately buried.

4.3.2 Seven sherds of pottery were also excavated from this context. Five of these were un-diagnostic coarse-ware body sherds from four different vessels. One

of the remaining sherds was a piece of white/buff sandy ware from a carinated vessel, but again was un-diagnostic. The seventh sherd is a section of grey/brown coarse-ware from the rim of a Roman flanged bowl, probably late third century in date.

4.3.3 No further work on the pottery is considered necessary.



Plate 1: View west along Trench 1



Plate 2: Cut 105, facing south



Plate 3: Fill 102, facing north



Plate 4: Cut 106, facing north



Plate 5: Trench 2, view southeast



Plate 6: Square arm of trench 2, view south



Plate 7: Test Pit 1, Trench 2, view northeast

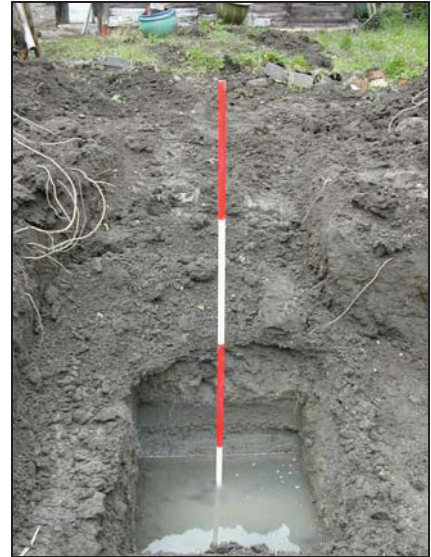


Plate 8: Test Pit 2, Trench 2, view northwest



Plate 9: Trench 2, section, view southwest

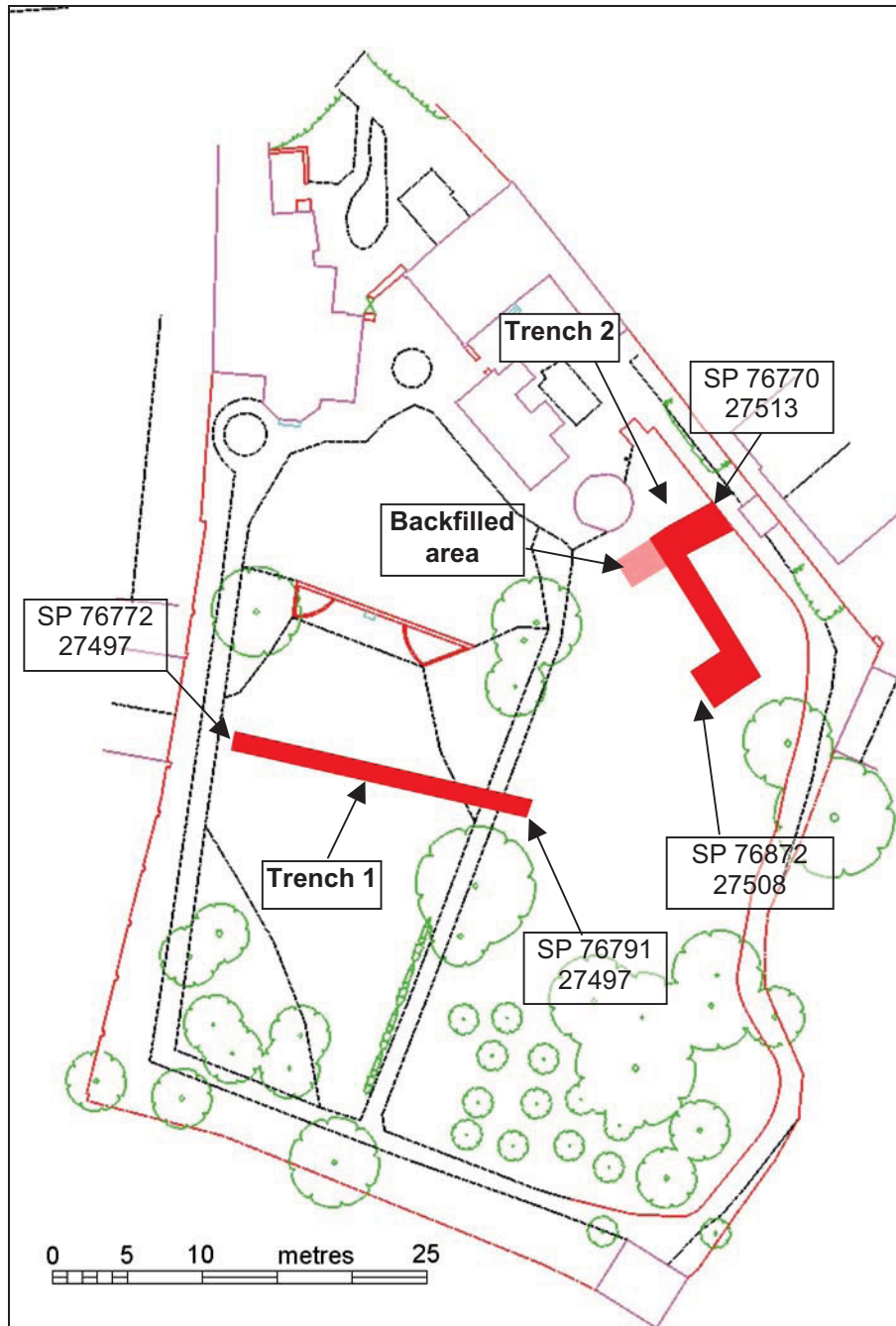


Figure 9: Actual trench layout (scale 1:500)

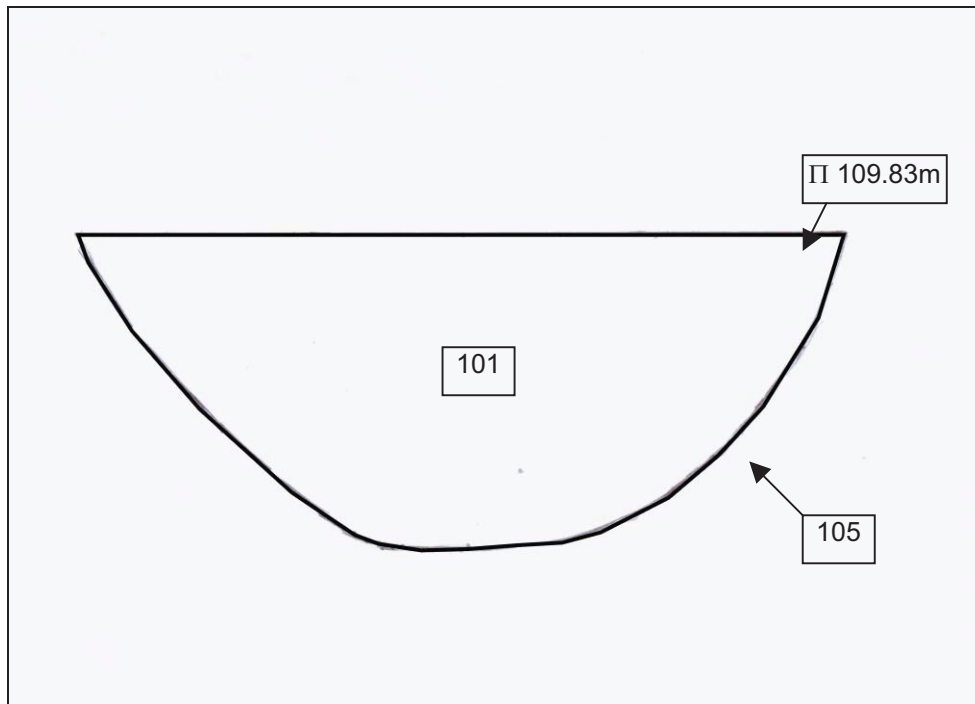


Figure 10: Section Drawing, 105 (scale 1:4)

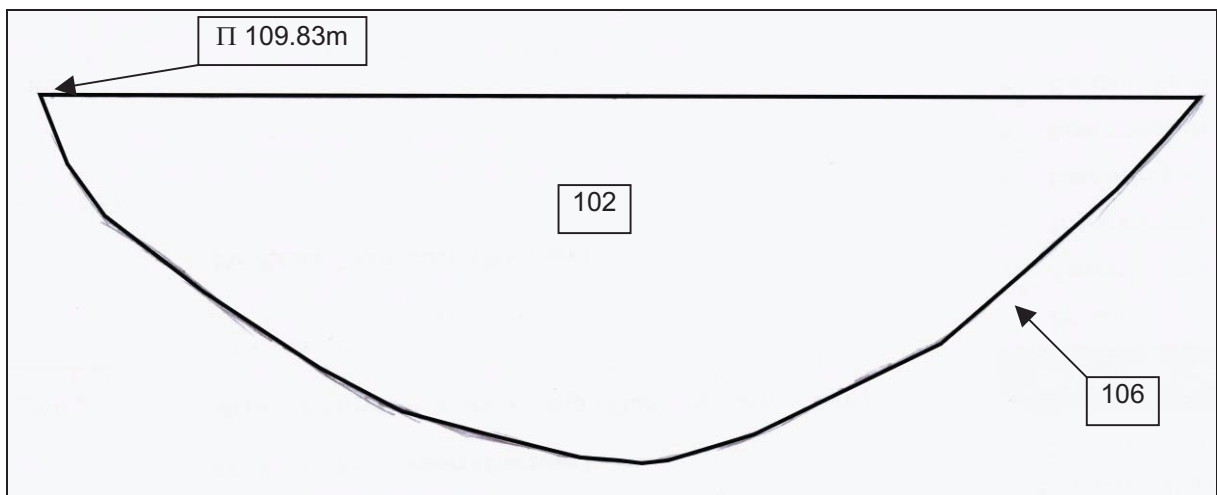


Figure 11: Section Drawing, 106 (scale 1:4)

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The evaluation revealed several archaeological features in the proposed development area, beneath a significant depth of garden soil and overburden.
- 5.2 Of the features in Trench 1, only one (106) produced any dating evidence, in the form of a single late Roman sherd. It is possible that the other undated features in the trench could relate to activity of this period, but this is by no means certain. The nearest Roman activity previously recorded in the environs of the site was in the form of a coin of Vespasian (AD 69-79), found 150m to the northwest. Taken together, these discoveries could indicate settlement in the Winslow area during the Roman period.
- 5.3 Context 103, the re-deposited dump of clay in Trench 1, was undated due to a lack of diagnostic material. However, a notice of sale dating to 21st April 1899 (Appendix 3), lists a tennis court as among the property's attributes. The patch of clay disappeared under the eastern end of the trench, and the edge visible in the trench itself was very straight and clean. The sale notice does not specify the position of the tennis court, but it is possible that this area of clay represents the remains of its foundations. The pit (107) recorded cutting the clay was again un-dateable, but must be by default later than context 103. If we assume that context 103 dates from 1899 or earlier, then context 107 must be 20th century in date.
- 5.4 The problems encountered in digging Trench 2 have already been mentioned (para. 2.4, above). The trench consequently failed to reach natural strata, except in two machine-dug test-pits. Due to the significant depth of overburden there is the potential for archaeological features similar to those in Trench 1 also surviving in this area, but it was not possible to demonstrate this under the circumstances.
- 5.5 *Confidence Rating*
- The evaluation was carried out in bright sunny conditions on the first day, and damp overcast conditions on the second. Because of this, and for reasons already discussed, a high confidence rating is attached to the results of Trench 1, but a lower one to Trench 2.

6. Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Broughton Beatty Ltd for commissioning the evaluation and to David Radford of Buckinghamshire County Council Archaeology Service for monitoring the project. Thanks are also due to Alpha Plant Hire for providing the machinery, and to Mrs Wigley for her co-operation during the evaluation.

The fieldwork was carried out by Dr Jonathan Hunn BA PhD MIFA and Calli Rouse BA. The pottery was initially identified by Dr Jonathan Hunn, and reported on by Bob Zeepvat BA MIFA. The report was prepared by Calli Rouse and edited by Bob Zeepvat and David Fell BA MA MIFA

7. Archive

7.1 The project archive will comprise:

1. Brief
2. Project Design
3. Initial Report
4. Clients site plans (digital)
5. Site records
6. Finds records
7. Finds
8. Site record drawings
9. List of photographs/slides
10. Colour slides
11. B/W prints & negatives
12. Supporting information
13. CDROM with copies of all digital files.

7.2 The archive will be deposited with Buckinghamshire County Museum. Accession number 2005.66 06.187.

8. References

Standards & Specifications

IFA 2000a Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct*.

IFA 2001 Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Excavations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds)*.

Radford D 2004 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*. Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service

Secondary Sources

ASC Ltd. 2003 *An Archaeological Evaluation: 30 High Street, Winslow, Buckinghamshire* (unpublished report).

Leleux, R. 1984: *A Regional History of the Railways of Great Britain: Vol. 9. The East Midlands*. David St John Thomas, David & Charles .

Levett, A. E. 1938: *Studies in Manorial History*. Oxford University Press. Oxford.

Lipscomb, G. 1847. *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*. (London).

Morris J, 1978: *The Domesday Book*. Buckinghamshire section. Phillimore (Chichester).

Network Archaeology 2001: *Land to the rear of 10 High St, Winslow. Archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation*. (unpublished report).


Network Archaeology 2003 *Land to the rear of 10 High St, Winslow. Archaeological excavation*. (unpublished report).

Pevsner, N. & Williamson, E. 1994: *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. Penguin Books (London).

Sawyer, P. H 1968: *Anglo-Saxon Charters: An annotated list and bibliography*. Royal Historical Society (London).

Soil Survey 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales, and accompanying legend* (Harpندن).

Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1					
		Max Dimensions			
		Width	1.55m	Length	20m
		Depth	c.0.55m	Level (top)	110.33m
		NGR Co-ordinates			
		SP 76791 27497 (East)	SP 76772 27497 (West)		
Orientation		East-West			
Reason for Trench		To investigate development area			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Thick. (mm)	Depth (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)
108	Layer	Dark brown slightly sandy organic soil with occ. small stones and frags. of brick/tile. Topsoil.	-	c.250	-
109	Layer	Dark brown slightly sandy soil with occ. small stones and frags. of brick/tile. Subsoil.	-	c.250	c.250
101	Fill	Grey silt	400	170	c.500
105	Cut	Linear cut with flattened U-shaped profile. Feature of uncertain function.	400	170	c.500
102	Fill	Dark grey/red silt	600	180	c.500
106	Cut	Linear cut with U-shaped profile. Ditch construction cut.	600	180	c.500
103	Layer	Deposit of grey clay. Area of modern re-deposited clay, poss. assoc. with tennis court.	1.2m+	UXC	c.500
104	Fill	Mid grey brown silty clay.	1.2m	UXC	c.500
107	Cut	Irregular cut extending beyond limit of excavation. Modern pit cutting 103.	1.2m	UXC	c.500
110	Layer	Orange sandy clay. Natural strata.	-	UXC	-

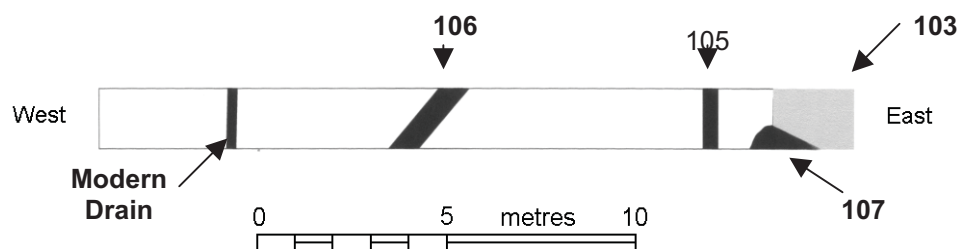



Figure 12: Trench Plan, Trench 1 (scale 1:200)

Trench 2						
			Max Dimensions			
			Width	2.3m	Length	15m
			Depth	0.8m	Level (top)	110.19m
			NGR Co-ordinates			
			Easternmost point: SP 76770 27513	Northernmost point: SP 76803 27518		
			Westernmost point: SP 76872 27508			
Orientation		East-West				
Reason for Trench		To investigate development area				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Max Thick. (mm)	Depth (mm)	Depth BGL (mm)	
202	Layer	Dark brown slightly sandy organic soil with occ. pebbles, brick/tile and flints. Topsoil.	-	c.250	-	
201	Layer	Dark grey gritty silt with olive flecks. Subsoil.	-	c.1.85m	c.250	
203	Layer	Orange sandy clay. Natural strata.	-	UXC	c.2.1m	

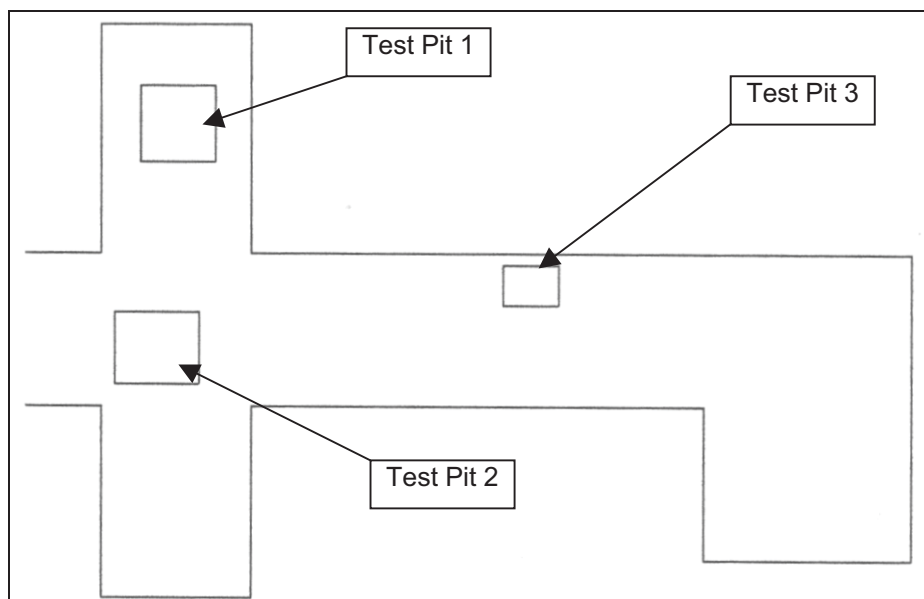


Figure 13: Trench Plan, Trench 2 (scale 1:100)

Appendix 2: Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Bone		Flint (no)	Shell (g)	Stone (no)	Other Finds	
	(no)	(g)	(no)	(g)				Type	(no)
102	7	55	9*	945					

* Animal bone fragments were not retained.

Appendix 3: Extract from Notice of Sale, 21st April 1899

A BRICK-BUILT AND SLATED

FREEHOLD RESIDENCE,

Standing in its own grounds, having a frontage to Horn Street, Winslow,

With large Flower and Kitchen Gardens, Lawns, Asphalte Tennis Court, Summer-house, Stabling, Coach-house, Harness Room, &c., occupying an Acre of ground, more or less, and known as "The Old Tan Yard."

The House, which is approached by two entrances from the Street, contains Drawing Room (opening into Conservatory), Parlour, Cloak Room, 2 Entrance Halls, Kitchen, Scullery, Coal and Boot House, Cellar, 4 Bedrooms, Bath Room, W.C. with water supply by force pump from soft water Tank.

The Gardens are well stocked with young fruit and filbert Trees, and there are 2 lawns with asphalte Tennis Court, a circular boarded and thatched Summer House, a brick-built and corrugated roof Tool House and Potting Shed, and capital well of water; a brick-built and corrugated roof Fruit and Store Room.