

**Gas Main Replacement
High Street
Hungerford
West Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Morrison Utility Services


CA Project: 3425
CA Report: 11172

August 2011

Gas Main Replacement
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Hungerford
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CA Project: 3425
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date	9 September 2011
issue	01

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Gas Main Replacement, High Street, Hungerford
Location: Hungerford, West Berkshire
NGR: SU 3382 6863
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 11 May – 14 July 2011
Location of Archive: To be deposited with West Berkshire Museum
Site Code: HUN 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with replacement of a gas main at High Street, Hungerford.

A red-brick wall and concrete surface associated with a canal bridge were exposed during the development. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Between May and July 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Morrison Utility Services at High Street, Hungerford (centred on NGR: SU 3382 6863; Fig. 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011) and approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer, West Berkshire Council (WBC). The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (IfA 2008), the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The groundworks observed comprised the replacement of c. 200m of existing gas main along High Street, Hungerford.

1.4 The underlying solid geology is recorded as Seaford Chalk Formation, overlain by alluvial clay, silt, sand and gravel (BGS 2011). The natural substrate was not seen in any of the observed works as the depth of the trenches was not sufficient to extend beyond make-up deposits.

Archaeological background

1.5 Hungerford is a medieval borough which although not listed in Domesday was recognised in 1170. The town was laid out by 1296 when the market is first mentioned, and it had become an important market town by the 17th century (HER No MWB3375).

1.6 A search of the HER (Ref CWB3536) revealed a large number of records related to Grade II Listed buildings on High Street and Bridge Street. The bridge over the Kennet and Avon Canal is also Grade II Listed along with the now removed Hungerford Wharf and related buildings (MWB5887 and MWB5888).

- 1.7 The remains of Platt's Brewery of 19th and 20th century date were recorded by Oxford Archaeology in works conducted prior to the construction of the Somerfield Store on Everland Road (MWB15518).
- 1.8 There is also photographic evidence of WWII defensive features on the road at the main canal bridge in the High Street. The depressions seen in the road indicate the planned use of 'hedgehogs' (girders set in sockets) to impede invading troops (Hungerford Historical Association 2011).
- 1.9 A survey of Hungerford Port Down and Freeman's Marsh by English Heritage recorded features which are probably the remains of a Roman or prehistoric field system (NMR EWB1432383) and a single prehistoric feature was recorded at the Somerfield Store, Everland Road (EWB53).

Methodology

- 1.7 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of small test pits over and around the bridge for the insertion of a new gas pipe and the excavation of a trench heading south along the high street (Fig. 2).
- 1.8 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual* (2007).
- 1.9 The archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. and will be deposited with West Berkshire Museum. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

2. RESULTS (FIGS 2-4)

- 2.1 The geological substrate was not observed in any trenches. The excavation was mainly confined to within the cut of the original gas main, or within other modern service cuts such as water and telephone, where only backfill was identified. Where excavations extended beyond the service trenches, only modern road make-up

deposits were observed. In trench 15 an older section of road surface was identified along with kerbstones.

Trench 7

- 2.2 The only feature of archaeological interest identified within the development was located in trench 7. A red-brick wall, 708, was observed running north/south parallel to the road and seemingly continuing from the end of the canal bridge. The faces of the wall were not seen due to the orientation of the trench. The wall extended in depth beyond the base of the excavation. At the limit of excavation a concrete surface, 711, was observed butting the wall on its western side. It extended the length of the trench in this direction. No surface was observed on the eastern side of the wall. Lying above this concrete surface and abutting the wall on both sides was a thick rubble deposit, 709 and 710, which was rich in tile, brick, concrete, and modern glass, none of which was retained. This was covered by a thick layer of concrete 713. This concrete had later been cut by the trench 707 for a gas main which contained four modern backfill deposits, 704, 705, 706 and 712. This backfill was covered by gravel hardcore 703 which also covered the wall on its eastern side. This deposit was then cut by the trench 701 for a water main filled by grey gravel hardcore 702. All deposits were sealed by tarmac 700.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The wall identified in trench 7 was almost certainly associated with the canal bridge and may have been covered when the bridge and the wharf area were altered to the current design in the 20th century (MWB 5888). The concrete surface and the rubble deposit associated with it certainly suggest that this remodelling work was done in the 20th century.
- 3.2 No other archaeological remains were observed within the groundworks. The location, depth and limited size of the trenches meant that mainly modern deposits were exposed. Any other archaeological remains may not have extended as far as the groundworks or may have been removed during previous development.



4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken and the report written by Alexandra Wilkinson. The illustrations were prepared by Jon Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Alexandra Wilkinson, and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Richard Young.

5. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 Geology of Britain Viewer
http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 *Gas Main Replacement, High Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Hungerford Historical Association 2011 Hungerford Virtual Museum
<http://www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk/index.html>



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
101	Deposit	Back-fill of modern service: Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel			0.10	
102	Deposit	Concrete below 100				
103	Deposit	Back-fill of modern service: Dirty yellowish brown sandy gravel			>0.25	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
201	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel				

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
301	Layer	Make-up: Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel			0.15	
302	Deposit	Back-fill of modern service: Dark grey hardcore and rubble			0.27	
303	Deposit	Make-up: Dark brownish grey silty sand with rubble inclusions			> 0.3	

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
401	Layer	Make-up: Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel				
402	Deposit	Back-fill of modern service: Mid yellowish brown sandy gravel				
403	Layer	Make-up: Dark yellowish brown silty sand with brick, limestone, flint and modern glass, below 404			>0.45	
404	Layer	Make-up: Loose tarmac aggregate below 400			0.1	

Trench 6

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
601	Layer	Modern reddish brown hardcore			>0.55	

Trench 7

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
701	Cut	Cut of modern service trench				
702	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Grey gravel hardcore				
703	Layer	Make-up: Mid yellowish brown gravel hardcore			0.53	
704	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Grey gravel hardcore			0.43	
705	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Reddish brown gravel hardcore			0.3	
706	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Yellowish brown pea gravel			0.41	
707	Cut	Cut of modern service trench				
708	Structure	Red-brick wall running north-south		0.45	>1.25	
709	Deposit	Rubble deposit containing brick, tile, concrete and glass			>0.8	
710	Deposit	Same as 709				
711	Structure	Concrete surface				
712	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Light brown sand			0.1	
713	Deposit	Concrete above 709				

Trench 8

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Tarmac			0.05	
801	Layer	Make-up: Mid yellowish brown hardcore			>0.15	
802	Deposit	Concrete covering modern water pipe				

Trench 9

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
900	Layer	Tarmac			0.14	
901	Layer	Make-up: Mid yellowish brown hardcore			0.1	
902	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: mid orangey brown gravel hardcore			>0.3	

Trench 10

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1000	Layer	Tarmac			0.1	
1001	Layer	Make-up: Yellowish brown hardcore			0.2	
1002	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Reddish brown hardcore				
1003	Layer	Make-up: Dark brownish grey rubble, including brick			0.3	
1004	Layer	Make-up: Mid brown rubble in silt sand matrix			0.8	
1005	Layer	Make-up: Mid orangey brown gravelly rubble			0.2	
1006	Cut	Cut of modern service				
1007	Layer	Make-up: Redeposited chalk			0.05	
1008	Layer	Make-up: Mid brown silty sand with frequent flint and stone			LOE	

Trench 11

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1100	Layer	Paving slabs			0.04	
1101	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: sandy rubble including brick fragments				

Trench 12

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1200	Layer	Paving slabs			0.04	
1201	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: sandy rubble including brick fragments				
1202	Layer	Make-up below pavement: Mid grey sandy clay with rubble				

Trench 13

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1300	Layer	Paving slabs			0.04	
1301	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Mid brownish grey sandy rubble including brick fragments				

Trench 14

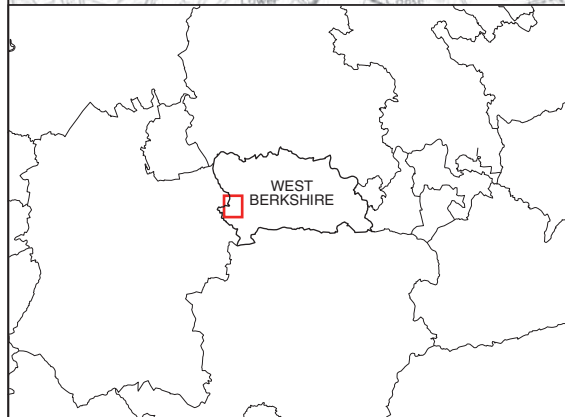
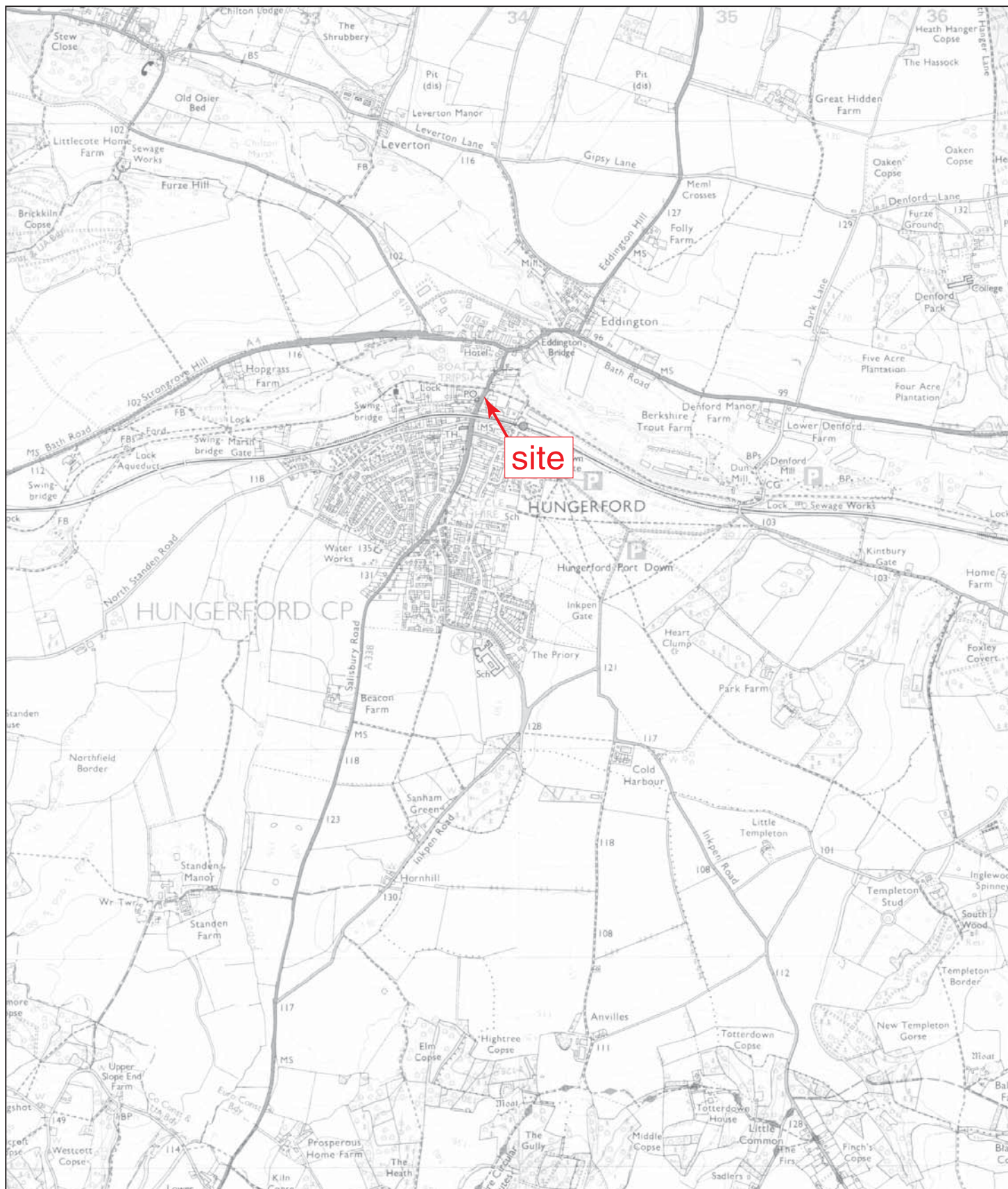
No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1400	Layer	Paving slabs			0.04	
1401	Layer	Sand bedding for slabs			0.04	
1402	Layer	Make-up: Mid reddish brown hardcore			0.06	
1403	Deposit	Backfill of modern service: Mid brownish grey sandy rubble				

Trench 15

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1500	Layer	Tarmac			0.1	
1501	Layer	Make-up: Mixed rubble including flint and bricks			0.9	
1502	Layer	Make-up: Mid orangey brown sandy clay, abundant flint and stone				
1503	Layer	Crushed red brick below 1507			0.1	
1504	Layer	Tarmac			0.15	
1505	Structure	Kerbstones of older road				
1506	Deposit	Concrete below 1505				
1507	Deposit	Bedding layer below 1500				
1508	Deposit	Backfill of modern service				
1509	Cut	Cut of modern service				

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Gas Main Replacement, High Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with replacement of a gas main at High Street, Hungerford.</p> <p>A red-brick wall and concrete surface associated with the canal bridge were exposed during the development. No other features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was recovered.</p>	
Project dates	11 May – 14 July 2011	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	None	
Future work	Unknown	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	High Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire	
Study area	c. 90m ²	
Site co-ordinates	SU 3382 6863	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Brief originator	West Berkshire Council	
Project Design (WSI) originator	Cotswold Archaeology	
Project Manager	Richard Young	
Project Supervisor	Alexandra Wilkinson	
MONUMENT TYPE	None	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	Intended final location of archive	Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc)
Physical	N/A	N/A
Paper	West Berkshire Museum	Context sheets, trench sheets, registers
Digital	West Berkshire Museum	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 <i>Gas Main Replacement, High Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire: Archaeological Watching Brief</i>. CA typescript report 11172</p>		



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PROJECT TITLE

**Bridge Street and High Street, Hungerford
West Berkshire**

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

0 1km

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Cotswold Archaeological Trust 100002109

PROJECT NO. 3425 DATE 27-07-2011
DRAWN BY JB REVISION 00
APPROVED BY PJM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



areas of observed groundworks

wall



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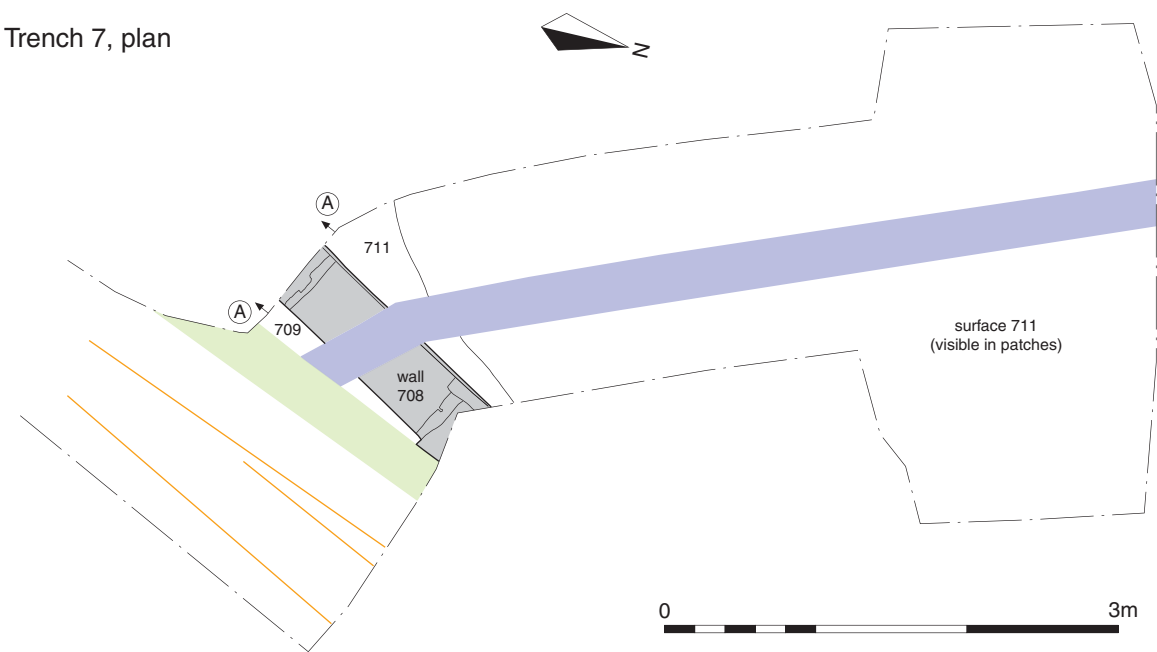
PROJECT TITLE

Bridge Street and High Street, Hungerford
West Berkshire

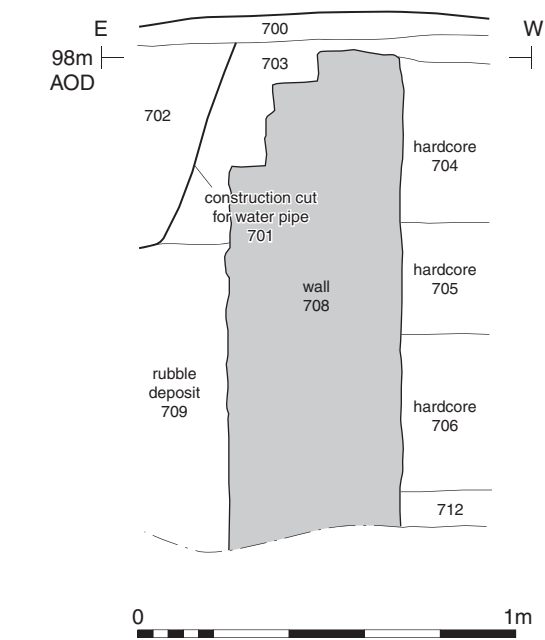
FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan, showing
archaeological features

Trench 7, plan



Section AA



- limit of excavation
- wall
- gas pipe
- water pipe
- telephone duct



View of wall 708 in Trench 7, looking north (scales 1m and 0.5m)



View of wall 708 in Trench 7, looking south (scales 1m and 0.5m)

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PROJECT TITLE
Bridge Street and High Street, Hungerford
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FIGURE TITLE
Trench 7: Plan, section and
photographs