

**30 Broad Street, Wokingham,
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for Psilogic Ltd**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code 30BSW01/81

October 2001

Summary

Site name: 30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8102 6869

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th September 2001

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Clare Challis

Site code: 30BSW01/81

Area of site: 6 sq. m

Summary of results: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Monuments identified: None

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently at Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47–49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR, and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

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Report 01/81

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on a plot of land on the south-west side of Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8102 6869) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr A Pudner of Psilogic Ltd, Locks Barn, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, RG40 3BY. Planning permission has been granted (F/2001/3697) for the building of a single-storey rear extension. Permission was subject to a condition (3) requiring a watching brief to take place while the groundworks occur.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kev Beachus of Babtie Group Ltd, archaeological advisers to Wokingham District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Clare Challis on 24th September 2001. The site code is 30BSW01/81.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western side of Wokingham. It lies on level ground at a height of *c.* 72m above Ordnance Datum. The site is currently an open area between the rear of No. 30, fronting Broad Street, and an outbuilding. According to the British Geological Survey, the geology of the site is Plateau Gravel (BGS 1946). The foundation trench revealed an orange/yellow sand as the natural bedrock.

Archaeological background

The site lies within what is thought to be the historic core of medieval and early post-medieval Wokingham (Astill 1978, fig. 29). Wokingham was a planned town created by the bishop of Salisbury in the late 12th or 13th century. The placename, however, is of Old English (Anglo-Saxon) origin. As yet no finds or deposits of Saxon date have been found within the town or surrounding areas. The whereabouts of the Saxon settlement and the nature of its development and transition into the medieval town are not yet understood.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to monitor the ground works involved in the development, specifically the digging of the single foundation trench, and to record any archaeological remains encountered. The resultant spoil was to be examined for archaeological material and sections of the trench were to be examined for archaeological features.

Results

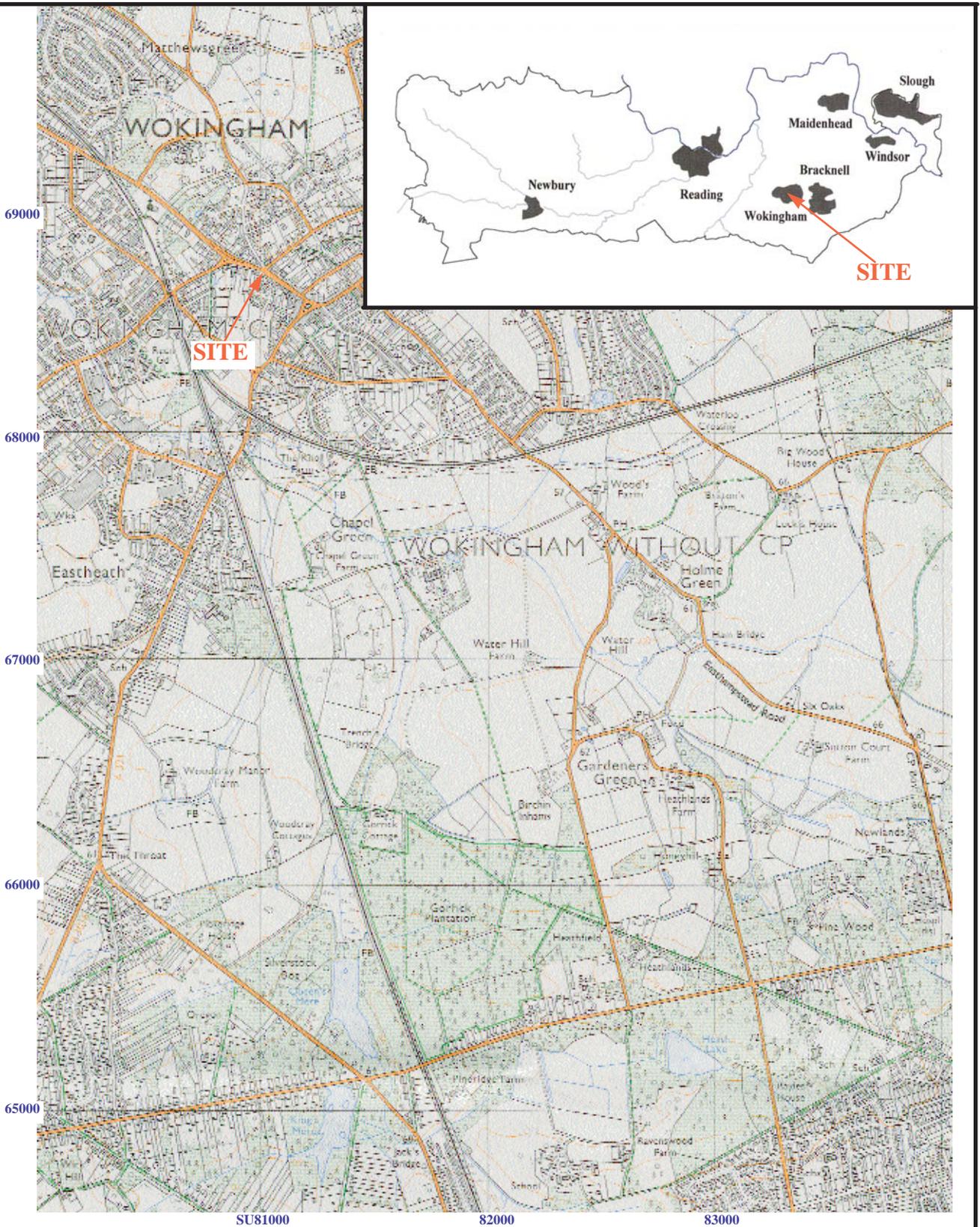
The new extension only required the construction of a single new wall, with existing fittings forming the other structural components. The wall trench was 4.5m long, 0.55m wide and dug to a depth of 0.83m. The stratigraphy comprised 0.08m of concrete above three distinct levels of made ground down to 0.83m at which point the natural geology was encountered. This comprised an orange/yellow sand. All three levels of made ground were of late 19th- or 20th-century date, the lowest levels containing modern glass and pottery and brick/tile fragments. The spoil was transported off-site to another location where it was available for examination. Apart from further modern finds (not retained), no material of archaeological interest was observed in the spoil.

Conclusion

No deposits of archaeological significance were observed on the site during inspection of the wall trench and no finds were recovered from the spoil.

References

Astill, G G, 1978, *Historic Towns in Berkshire*, Berkshire Archaeological Committee Publication 2, Reading
BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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30 Broad Street, Wokingham, Berkshire, 2001

Figure 1. Location of site within Wokingham and Berkshire.

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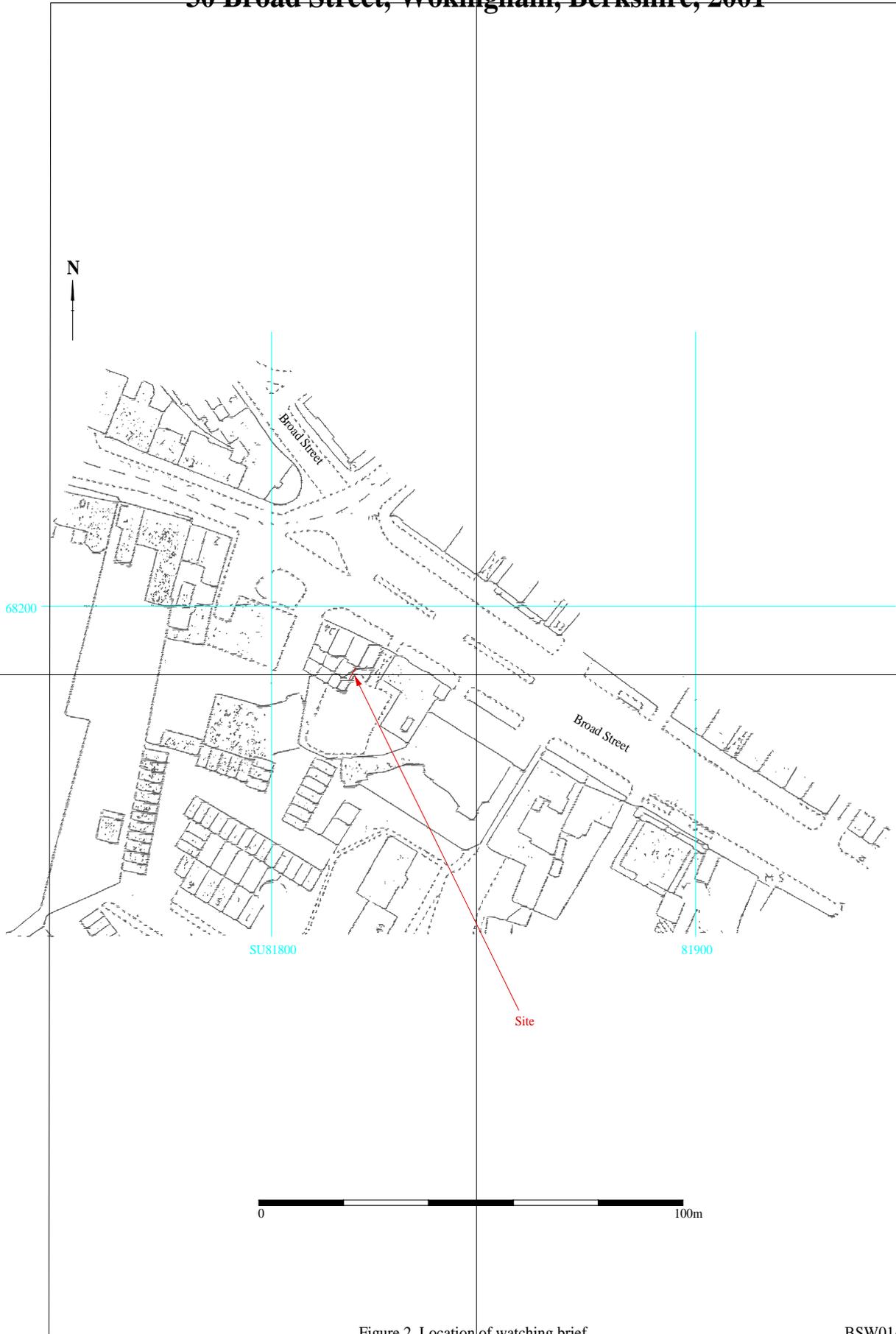


Figure 2. Location of watching brief.

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