

The Barn House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr A. Pudner

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BWW 05/56

June 2005

Summary

Site name: The Barn House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8335 6763

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 20th June 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: BWW 05/56

Area of site: c. 40 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits or finds were observed

Monuments identified: None

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 ✓ xx.xx.05 Steve Preston ✓ 22.06.05

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Report 05/56

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at The Barn House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, Berkshire (SU 8335 6763) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr A. Pudner of The Barn House, Waterloo Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3BY.

A planning consent (F/2005/4110) has been granted by Wokingham District council to erect additional stables and revise the layout of existing stables and a tack room to the rear of The Barn House. This consent was subject to a condition (8) 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 District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Thomason, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 20th June 2005 and the site code is BWW 05/56.

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 to the rear of The Barn House and on the south side of Waterloo Road, which lies on the south-east margins of Wokingham, which itself is to the east of Reading and west of Bracknell (Fig. 2). The site is currently used for stables, some still existing, and is a flat area of land. The underlying geology is London Clay (BGS 1971) and the site lies at a height of *c.* 65m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies in an area where field survey (Ford 1987) has revealed finds of medieval date along with a few finds of prehistoric struck flint.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This involved examination of all areas of topsoil stripping, landscaping, ground reduction and the digging of trenches for foundation and services for the east and south side of the yard. The spoilheap was also monitored for finds.

Results

The area stripped of topsoil, which had been brought in several years ago, was observed. This had been dug to a depth of *c.* 0.50m and came directly down onto natural clay. No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed. It was deemed unnecessary to observe the digging of the trench footings, as they would only be penetrating natural geology.

Finds

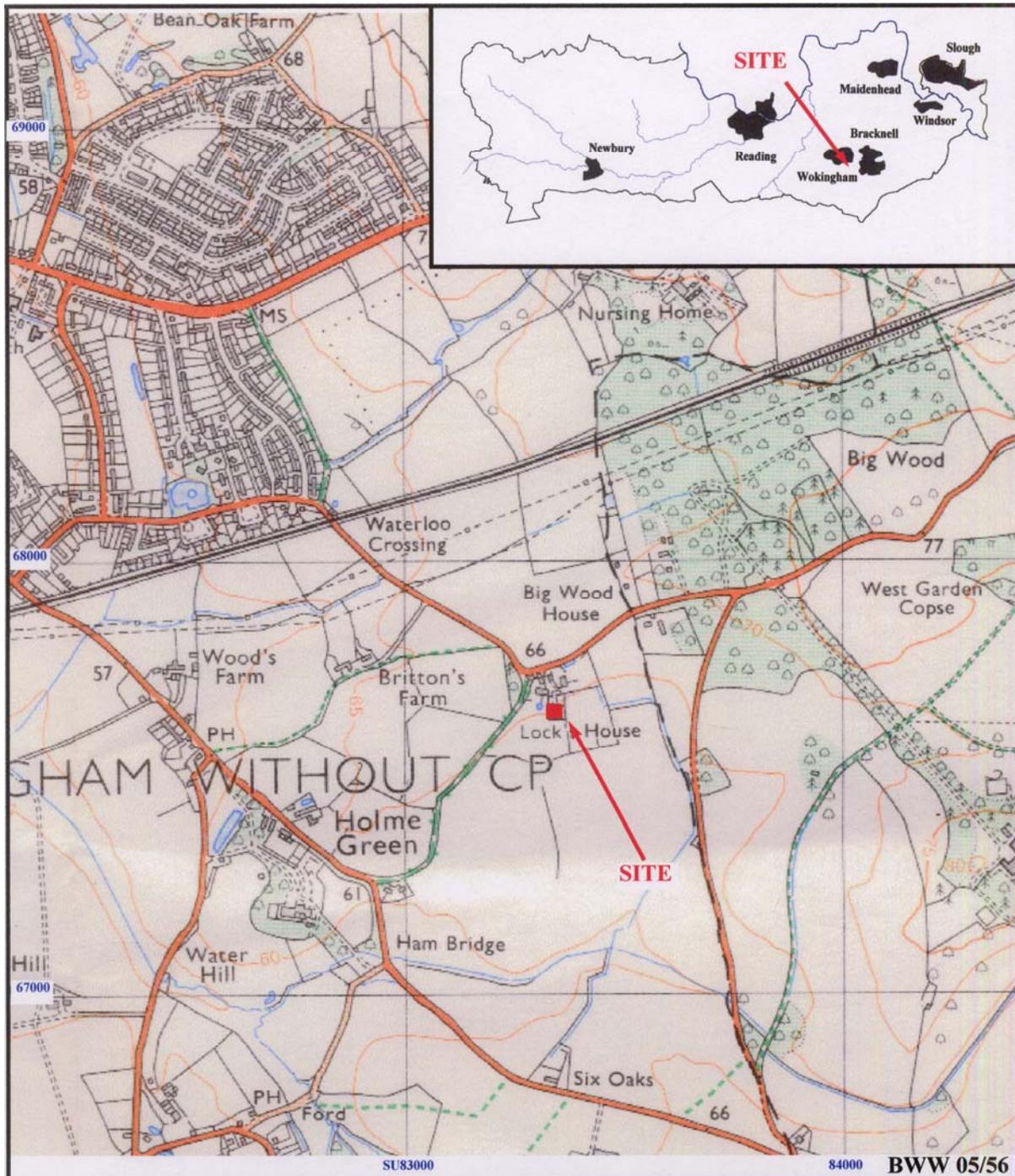
The spoilheap was found to only contain pieces of modern brick and tile and fragments of china, none of which were retained.

Conclusion

No archaeology was observed during the watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning
Occas Pap **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 Wokingham and Berkshire.

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Figure 2: Location of Area observed in the watching brief

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