

**High Barn, Church Lane,  
Finchampstead, Wokingham**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**for Mr and Mrs C. Jacobs**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HCF 02/82

**September 2002**

## Summary

**Site name:** High Barn, Church Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham

**Grid reference:** SU 7942 6372

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 17th September 2002

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** HCF 02/82

**Area of site:** 18 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological finds or deposits were identified

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held by 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 edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 19.09.02
	Steve Preston✓ 19.09.02

# High Barn, Church Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

Report 02/82

## Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at High Barn, Church Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham (SU 7942 6372) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Brian Cutler of C & S Consultants, 23 Vale Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3DR on behalf of Mr and Mrs C Jacobs, High Barn, Church Lane, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Planning permission (F/2002/6520) has been granted by Wokingham District Council to construct a new extension to a gym/snooker room. This is subject to a condition (3) relating to archaeology which requires 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 Kev Beachus, Senior Archaeologist with Babbie, Archaeological Consultants to Wokingham District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor on the 17th September 2002 and the site code is HCF 02/82.

## Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a plot of land on the south west side of Church Lane, Finchampstead and lies south-east of the parish church. The underlying geology is London Clay (BGS 1946) and the site lies at a height of c.90m above Ordnance Datum.

## Archaeological background

The site lies close (c. 120m) to the parish church of St James which suggests it is situated close to the historic centre of a village. Finchampstead is of late Saxon origin and is mentioned in Domesday Book with the church first recorded in the 12th century (Ford 1987). In subsequent times it is thought that the focus of the settlement has shifted westwards away from the original focus of the village. To the north of the site lies the course of the Roman Road known as the 'Devil's Highway' from London to Silchester.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to;

- a) Observe and record all archaeological deposits within areas of ground disturbance associated with the groundworks.
- b) Excavate and record any archaeological deposits which would be damaged or disturbed during groundworks.
- c) Produce, where possible, relative or absolute dating and phasing for the features on the site.
- d) Provide, if possible, information on the economy and the local environment of the site.
- e) Establish the character of the deposits, such as industrial, domestic, etc., and produce settlement history of the site.

## **Results**

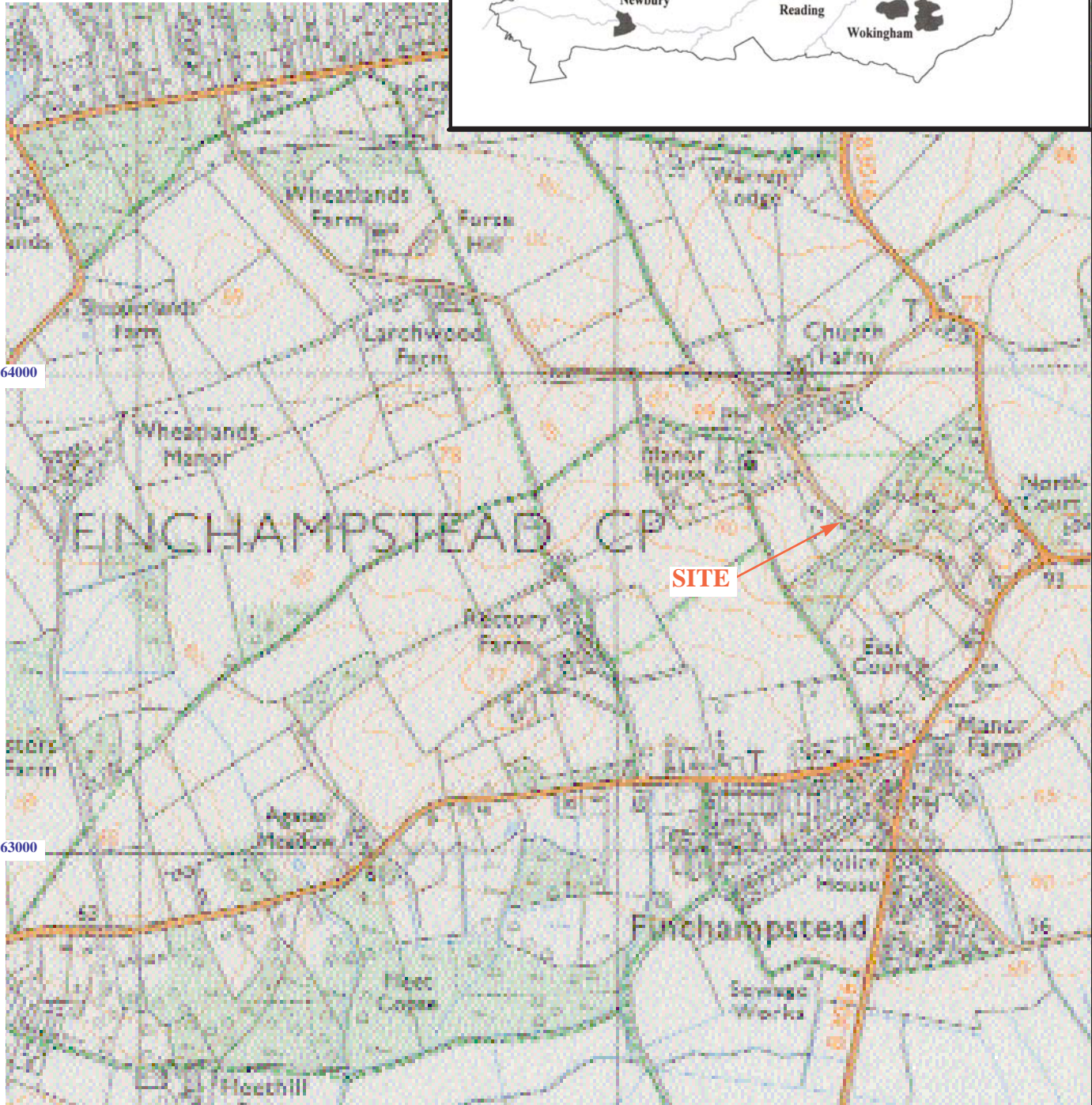
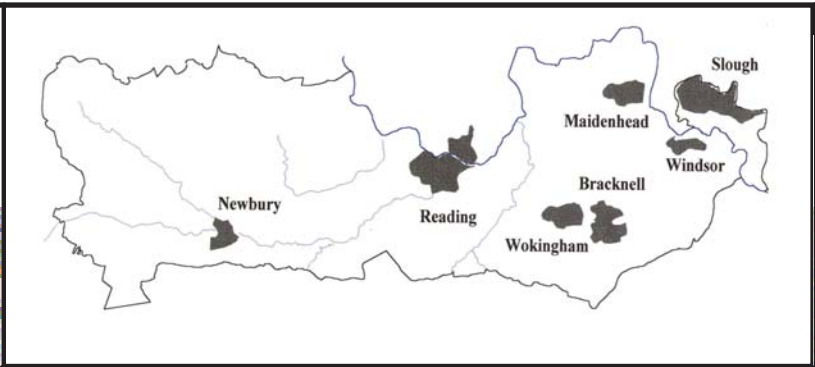
The foundation trenches were situated at the south-western end of an existing building (Fig. 3) They covered an area which extended 3.00m from the existing wall and 6.00m across. They measured 0.70m in width and were dug to depth of 1.30m to 1.70m depending on the gradient of the land. The stratigraphy revealed showed 0.20m–0.40m of topsoil overlying a yellow-grey clay natural. No archaeological finds or deposits were observed.

## **Conclusion**

No features or finds of an archaeological nature were encountered during the watching brief.

## **References**

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *The East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Department of Highways and Planning, Occ Paper 1, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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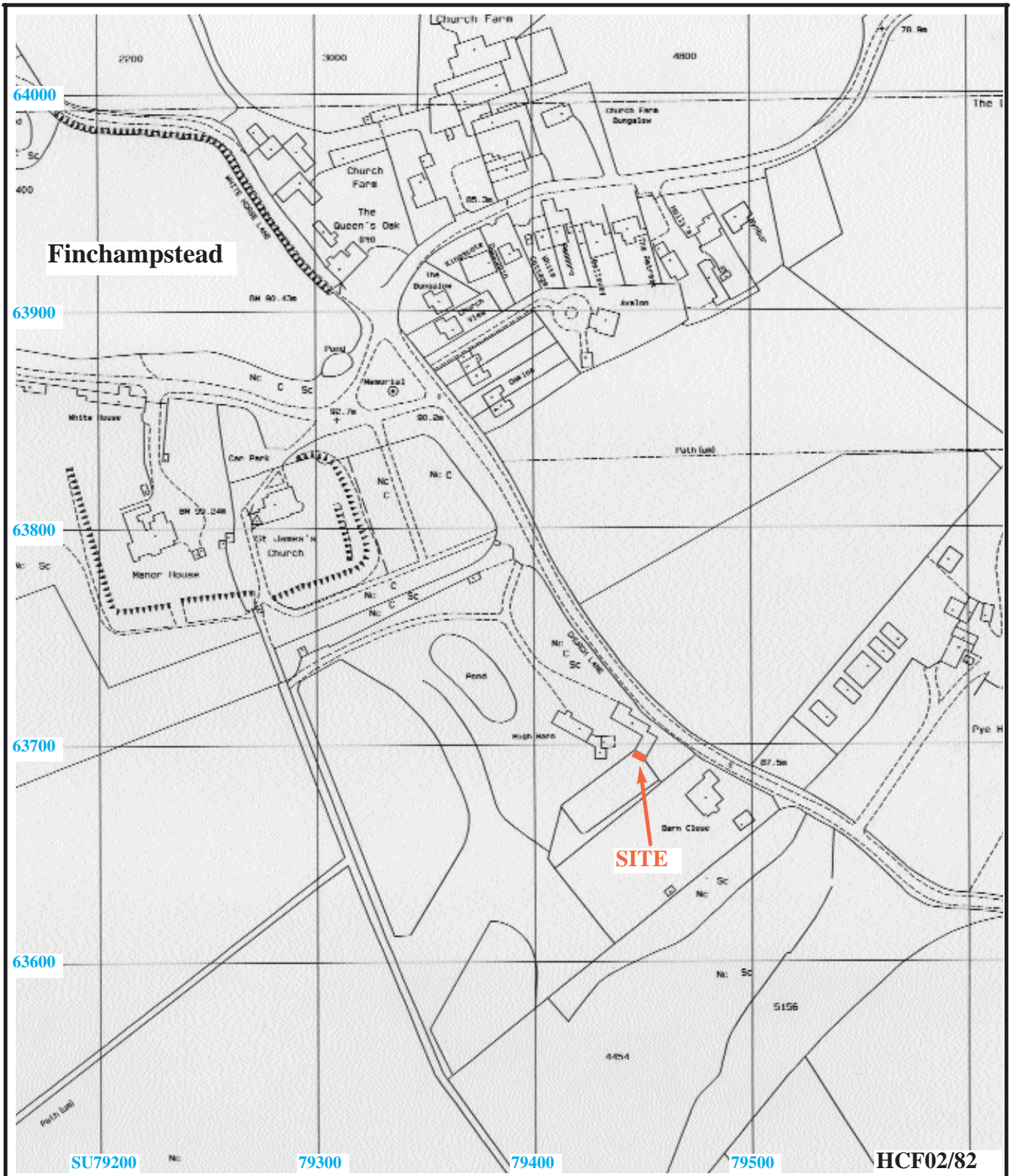
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Berkshire, 2002**

Figure 1. Location of site within Finchampstead and Berkshire.

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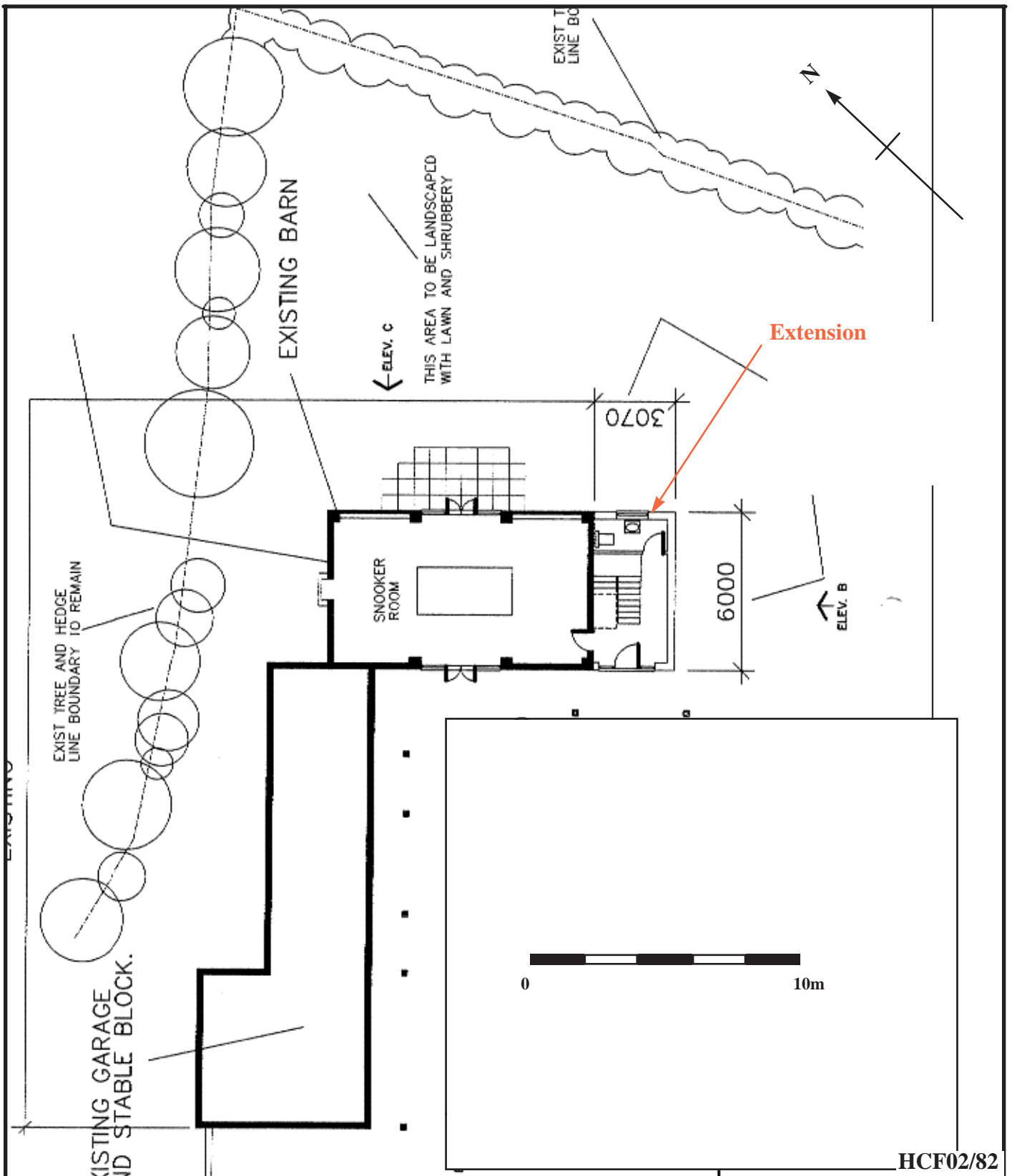
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of site of extension.

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