

Lambs Farm Swallowfield, Reading, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Brian McEntee

by Sean Wallis

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LFS 02/18

August 2003

Summary

Site name: Lambs Farm, Swallowfield, Reading, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7156 6556

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 8th August 2003

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sean Wallis

Site code: LFS 02/18

Area of site: c. 56 sqm

Summary of results: No archaeology was observed

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 ✓ 11.08.03
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Lambs Farm, Swallowfield, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 02/18

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Lambs Farm, Swallowfield, Reading, Berkshire, (SU 7156 6556) (Figs. 1 and 2). The work was commissioned by Mr Alan Sylvester of BDS Chartered Surveyors, Windward House, Hollow Lane, Shinfield, Reading, RG2 9AB on behalf of Mr Brian McEntee of Lambs Farm, Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, Reading.

A planning consent (F2001/4436) had been granted by Wokingham District Council to construct a new double detached garage. This is subject to a condition 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 of Babbie, archaeological advisor to Wokingham District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis on 8th August 2003 and the site code is LFS 02/18.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at Lambs Farm on the south side of Basingstoke Road, Swallowfield, Reading (Figs. 1 and 2). The River Loddon lies to the south east. The underlying geology of the site is on the junction of London Clay and Plateau Gravel (BGS 1946), both of which were observed in the foundations. The site lies at a height of c. 56m AOD.

Archaeological background

The site lies close to an area which was included with the Loddon Valley Survey (Ford 1994-7). A scatter of pottery of probable medieval date was found on a parcel of land from areas adjacent to Lambs Farm suggesting the presence of occupation deposits nearby. Lambs Farm itself may have medieval origins. Other finds, comprising struck flints suggest some prehistoric activity in the area.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction works. This was to involve examination of the trenches excavated for foundations and the monitoring of spoil heaps for archaeological finds. Any archaeological deposits were to be excavated and recorded.

Results

The foundation trenches for the proposed garage were rectangular, measuring approximately 8.3m by 7.0m, and were around 0.65m wide (Fig. 3). The depths of the trenches varied due to the underlying geology and were between 1.4m and 1.6m deep. Unexcavated areas were left on the east and west sides of the foundations, where garage doors were to be erected. The stratigraphy observed in the sections of the trenches varied, although generally it consisted of c.0.1m - 0.2m of topsoil onto c.0.2m - 1.3m of made ground (demolition rubble, clinker and clayey silt) onto c.0.2m - 0.6m of dark grey sandy silt onto the natural clay and gravel. The made ground was generally thicker towards the south end of the trenches. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

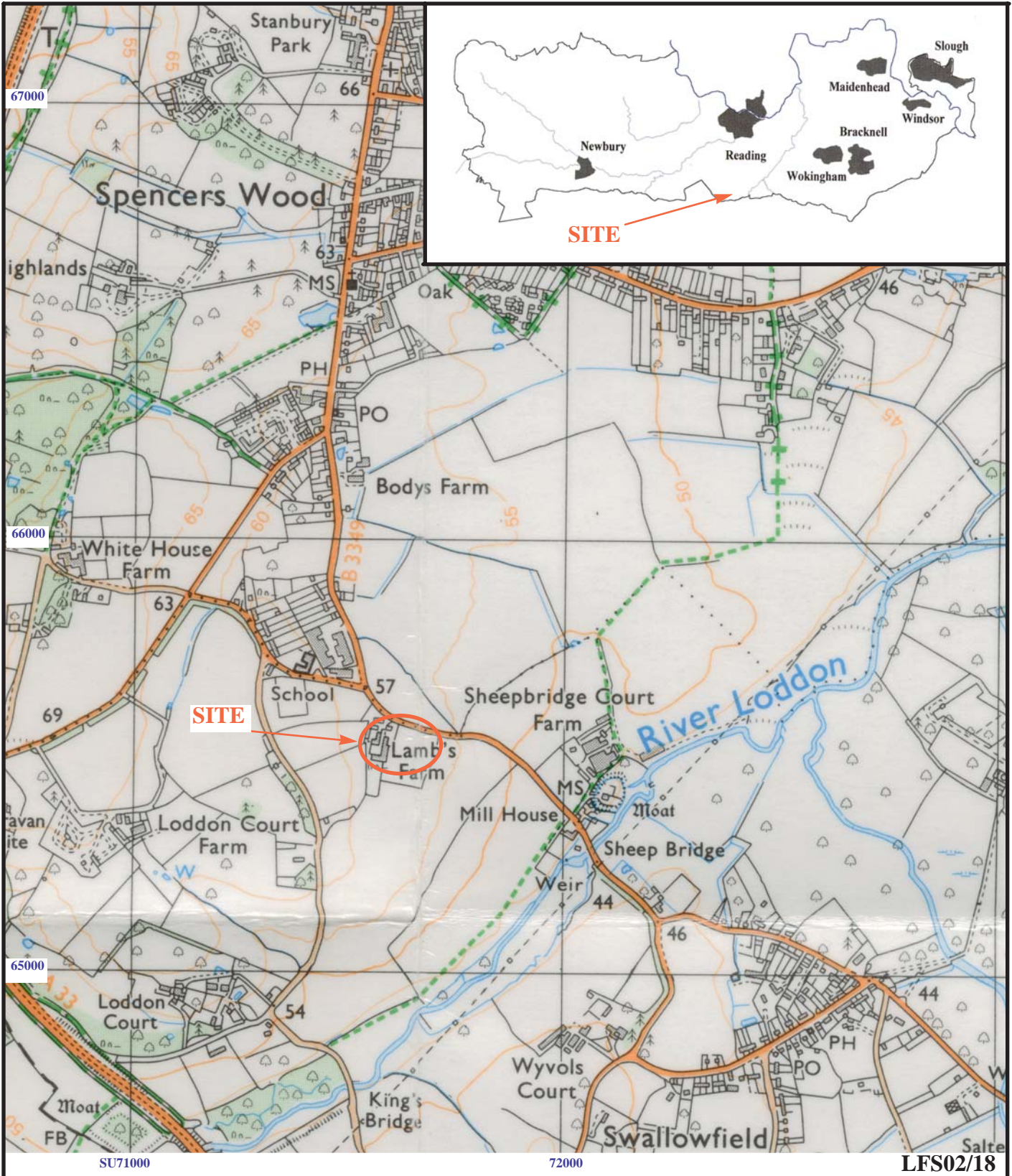
No finds were recovered.

Conclusion

The watching brief did not locate any finds or deposits of archaeological interest.

References

BGS, 1946, British Geological Survey, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
Ford, S, 1994-7, Loddon Valley (Berkshire) fieldwalking survey, *Berkshire Archaeological Journal*, **75**, 11-34
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



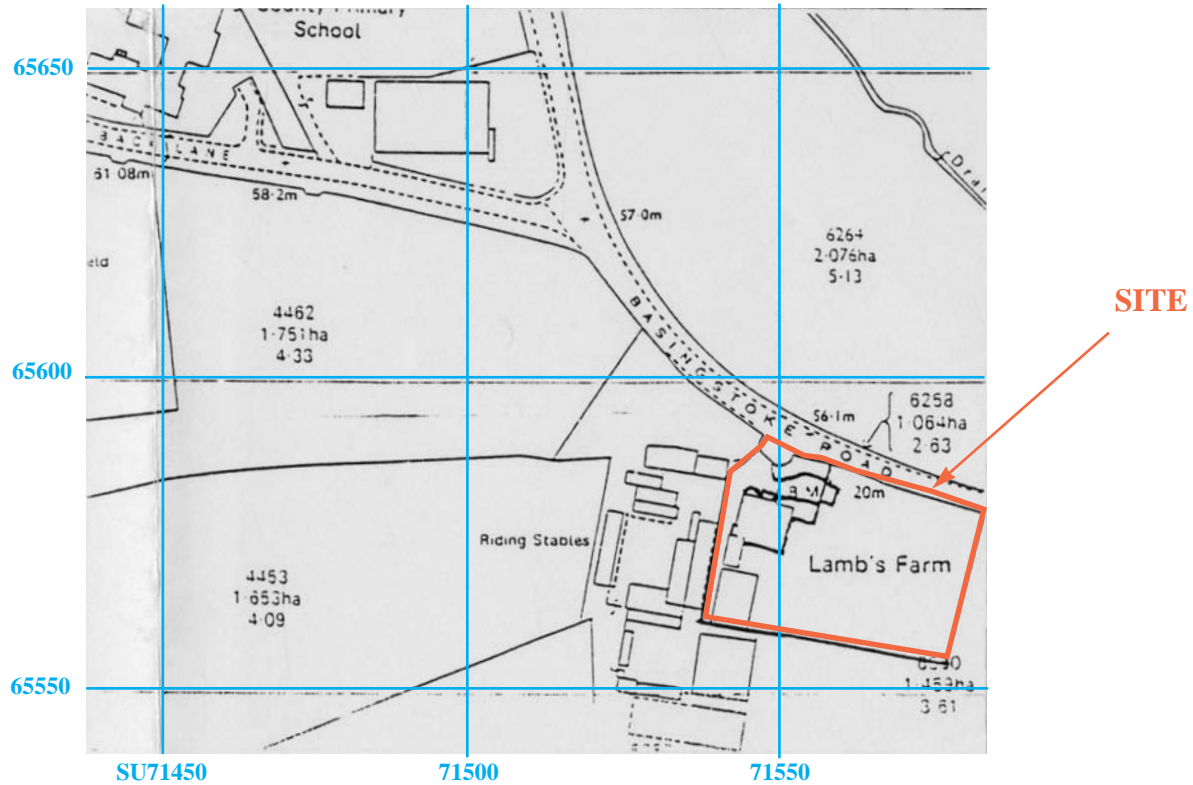
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Figure 1. Location of site within Swallowfield and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site within Swallowfield.

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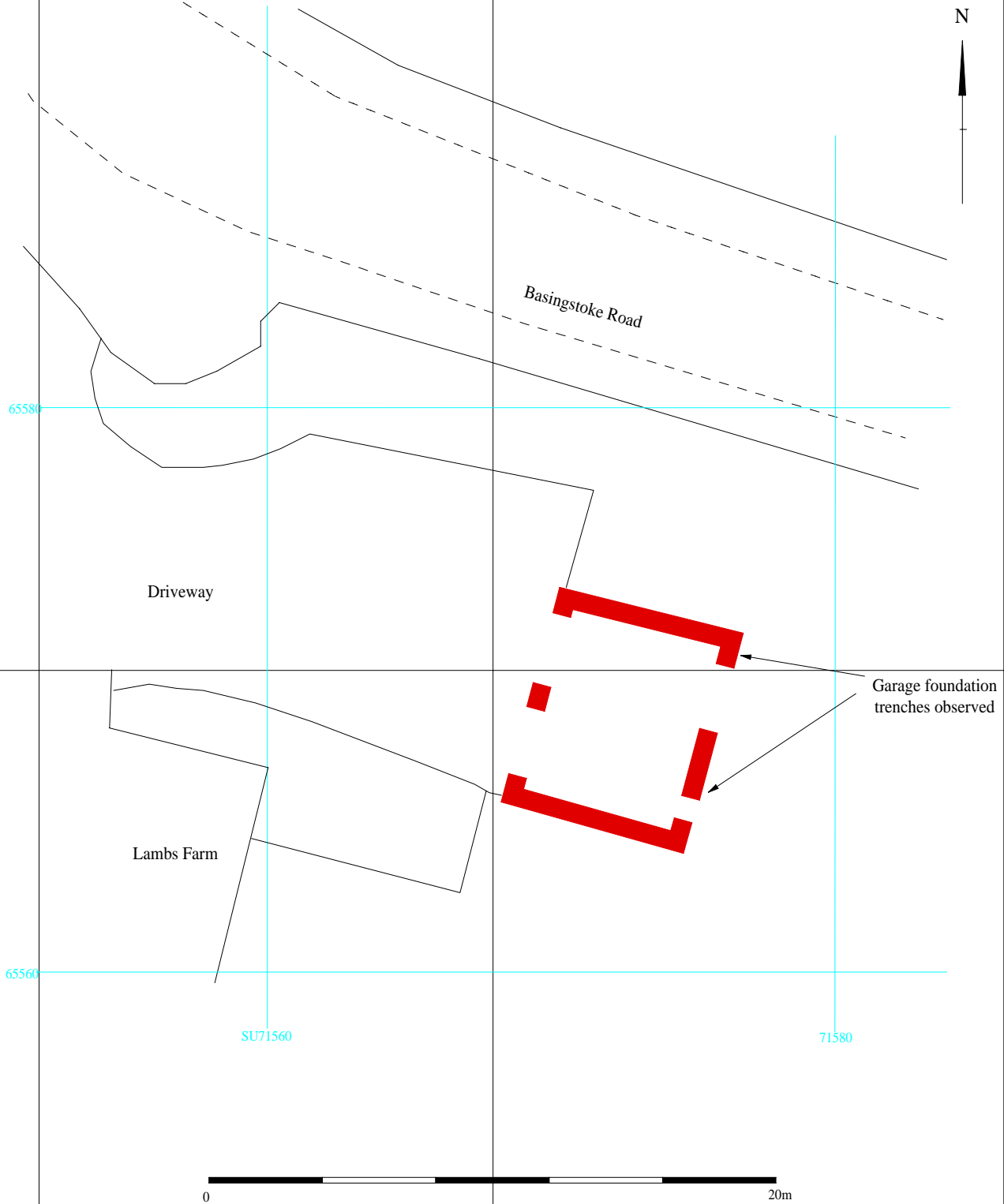


Figure 3. Detailed location of foundations observed.