

Temple Ferry Place, Mill Lane, Temple, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Wayne Burgess

by Andrew Mundin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code TPH 08/63

June 2008

Summary

Site name: Temple Ferry Place, Mill Lane, Temple, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8350 8418

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 5th–9th June 2008

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass, Andrew Muddin

Site code: TPH 08/63

Summary of results: Small pad footing trenches were observed, along with a large open excavation for the basement. No archaeological features or deposits were observed on the watching brief, and only modern truncation seems to have occurred on the site.

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 ✓ 20.06.08
	Steve Preston ✓ 20.06.08

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Report 08/63

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Temple Ferry Place, Mill Lane, Temple, Berkshire SL6 5ND (SU 8350 8418) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Wayne Burgess, of the above address.

A planning consent (07/03164) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct a new house on the site following the demolition of the existing structure at Temple Ferry Place. The planning consent is subject to a condition (4) 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 Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The archaeological potential of the site was highlighted in a brief prepared by Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was carried out to a specification approved by Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass and Andrew Muddin between 5th and 9th June 2008. The site code is TPH 08/63.

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 lies to the west of Temple, between Bisham and Hurley on the southern side the Thames, which is the boundary between Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. The site was occupied by a house and garden, associated drive and garages (Fig. 2). The site is in an area known as Temple Park, which is situated on the floodplain of the Thames (BGS 1974) alluvium was observed overlying gravel in all the areas examined on site. The site lies on flat ground at approximately 28m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

Archaeological background

The site's archaeological background has been highlighted in a brief produced by Fiona Macdonald of Berkshire Archaeology. The site is situated in an area of known archaeology, where a number of sites are known. An evaluation at Temple Cottage located evidence of probable Neolithic activity, and at Manor Cottage to the east, evaluation also uncovered deposits of mid to late Iron Age settlement.

Fieldwalking for the East Berkshire Survey uncovered flint working near Temple Park Farm and Roman finds near Temple Farm (SMR 3009) suggest a probable settlement here, south of Manor Cottage (Ford 1987). An evaluation associated with these discoveries found sparse features of possible Roman date cutting the alluvium (Torrance and Ford 1991).

Further west of this site, lies Hurley which has medieval origins with the scheduled remains of the Priory, the Benedictine monastery of 11th century date. To the east lies Bisham, a settlement with Anglo-Saxon origins mentioned in the Domesday Book. The village church is documented from the 12th century. Bisham Abbey was founded in 1377, and is located to the north-east.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by groundworks. This was to involve examination of all areas of deep foundation trenching, in particular ground reduction relating to the digging of a new basement, foundation pads and any service runs.

Results

In all 23 areas of intrusion, in the form of pad foundations and basement excavation were to occur for the new house construction. Though the new house has a bigger footprint than the previous structure, most of the ground associated with the groundworks displayed some sign of subsurface disturbance from the previous dwelling and this generally referred to the top 0.3m of the stratigraphic sequence. The only deeper intrusion was a soakaway noted in one of the north pad footings, which cut the alluvium and was c.1m deep. Most of the smaller pad footings (Fig. 3) were 1.2m long by 0.9m wide reaching natural geology (gravel) at 1.4m. The larger pad footings (Fig. 3) were 1.7m long by 1.4m wide and also reached natural geology at 1.4m. No archaeologically relevant material was recovered from any of the pad footings observed.

The basement excavation was 6.7m wide by 9m long and was 1.8m deep (Figs 3 and 4). The typical stratigraphy revealed by the excavation was slightly disturbed dark brown silty clay with rubble, which was interpreted as a modern leveling deposit, and which reached 0.6m deep. Beneath this was a clean mid brown silty clay, which was probably an original subsoil, which was mostly undisturbed. This overlay a lighter brown clay, which was interpreted as an alluvial deposit. No finds were recovered. This layer was noted to be 1.1m below the existing ground level and reached 1.5m, overlaying natural gravel, which was exposed to the base of excavation at 1.8m. No archaeological deposits were noted below the alluvium or cutting into the alluvium.

Finds

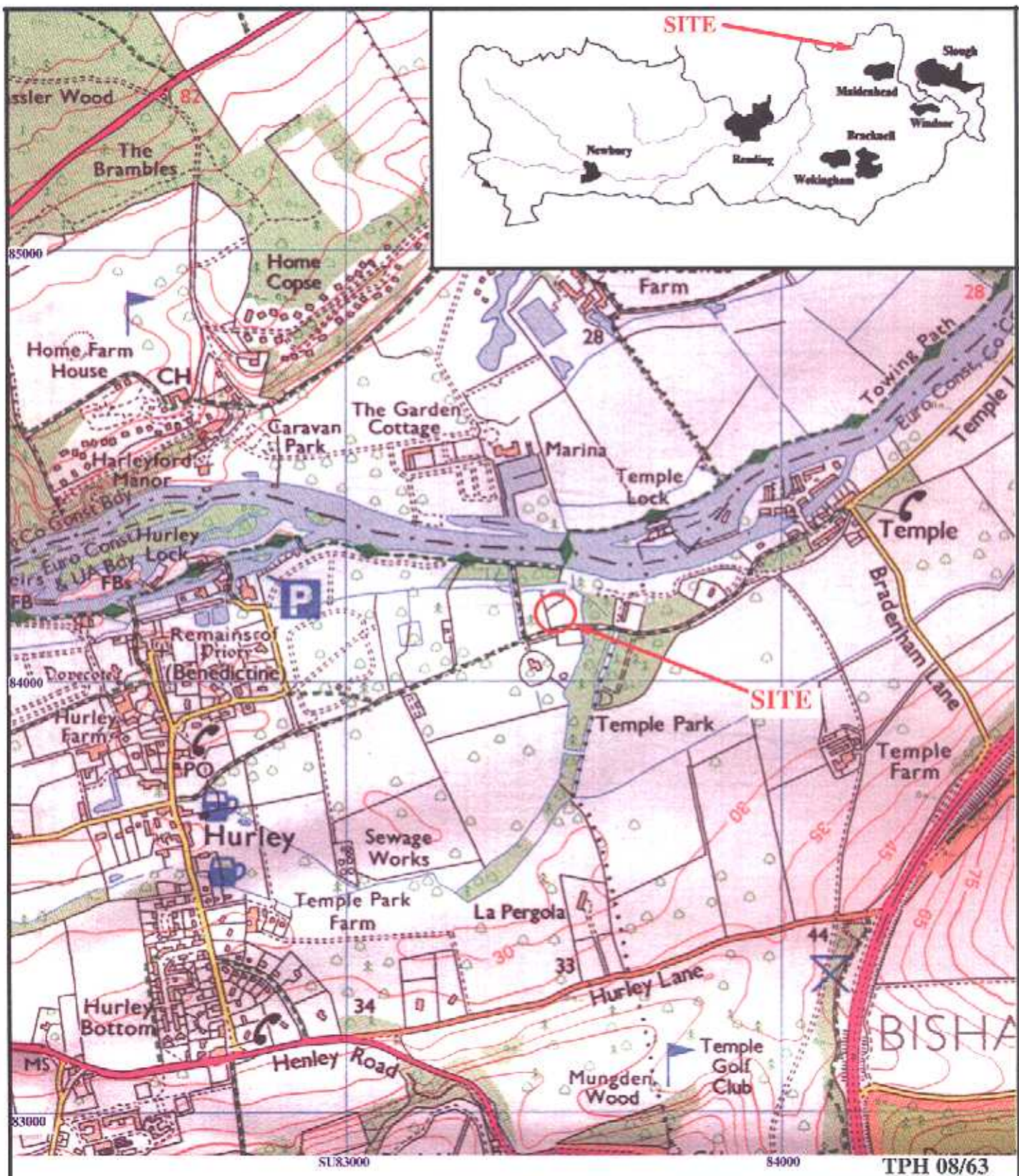
No finds of archaeological significance were recovered from the site. Only material of modern date was noted from the leveling layer (not retained).

Conclusion

No archaeological material was noted in the watching brief and no deposits of archaeological interest were disturbed. Though alluvium was noted on the site, the layer disturbed contained no archaeological material.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 255, 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
Torrance, L and Ford, S, 1991, 'Bradenham Lane, Bisham, Berkshire; an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 91/9, Reading

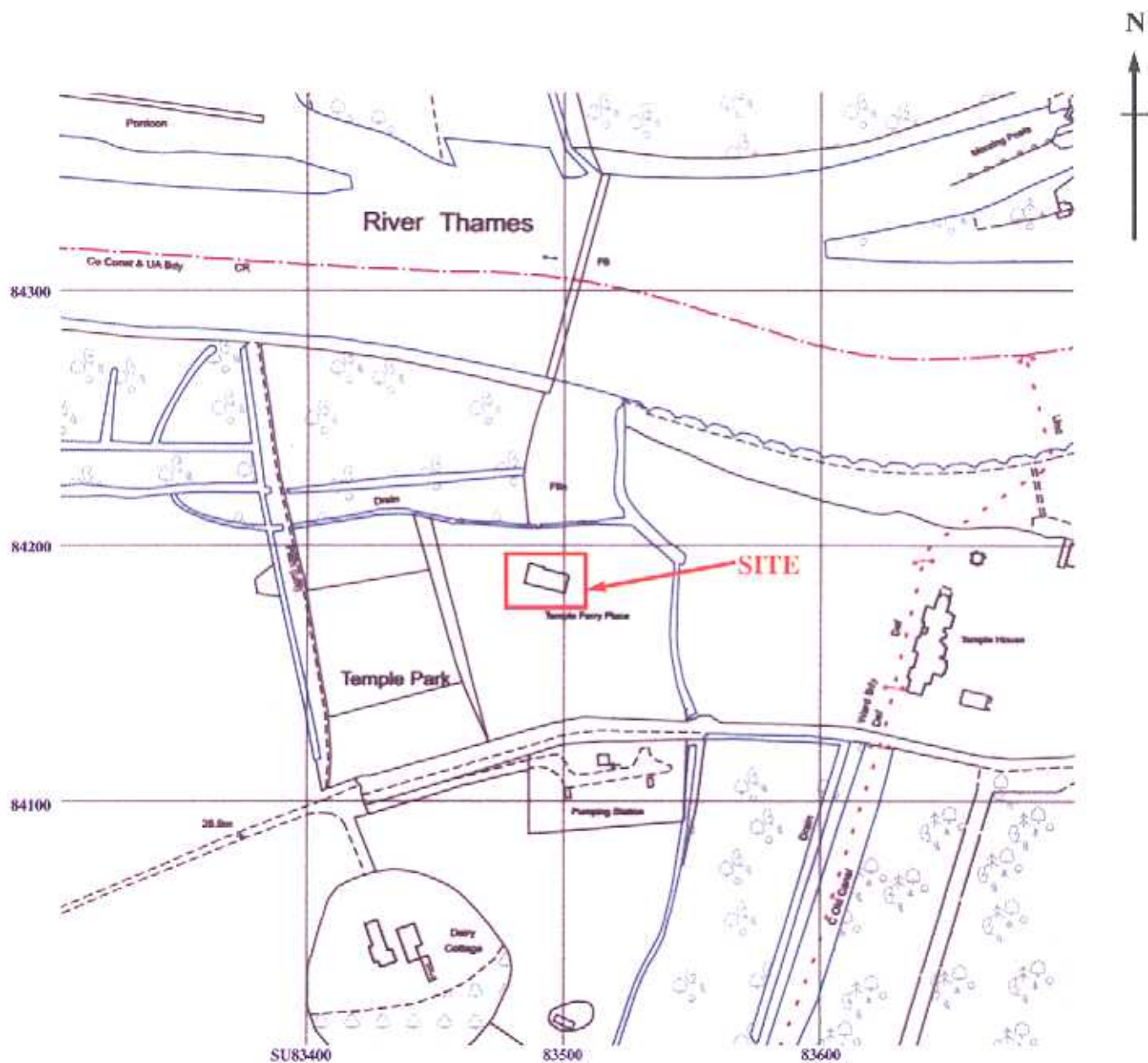


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Figure 1. Location of sites in relation to Temple and within Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site within Temple Park.

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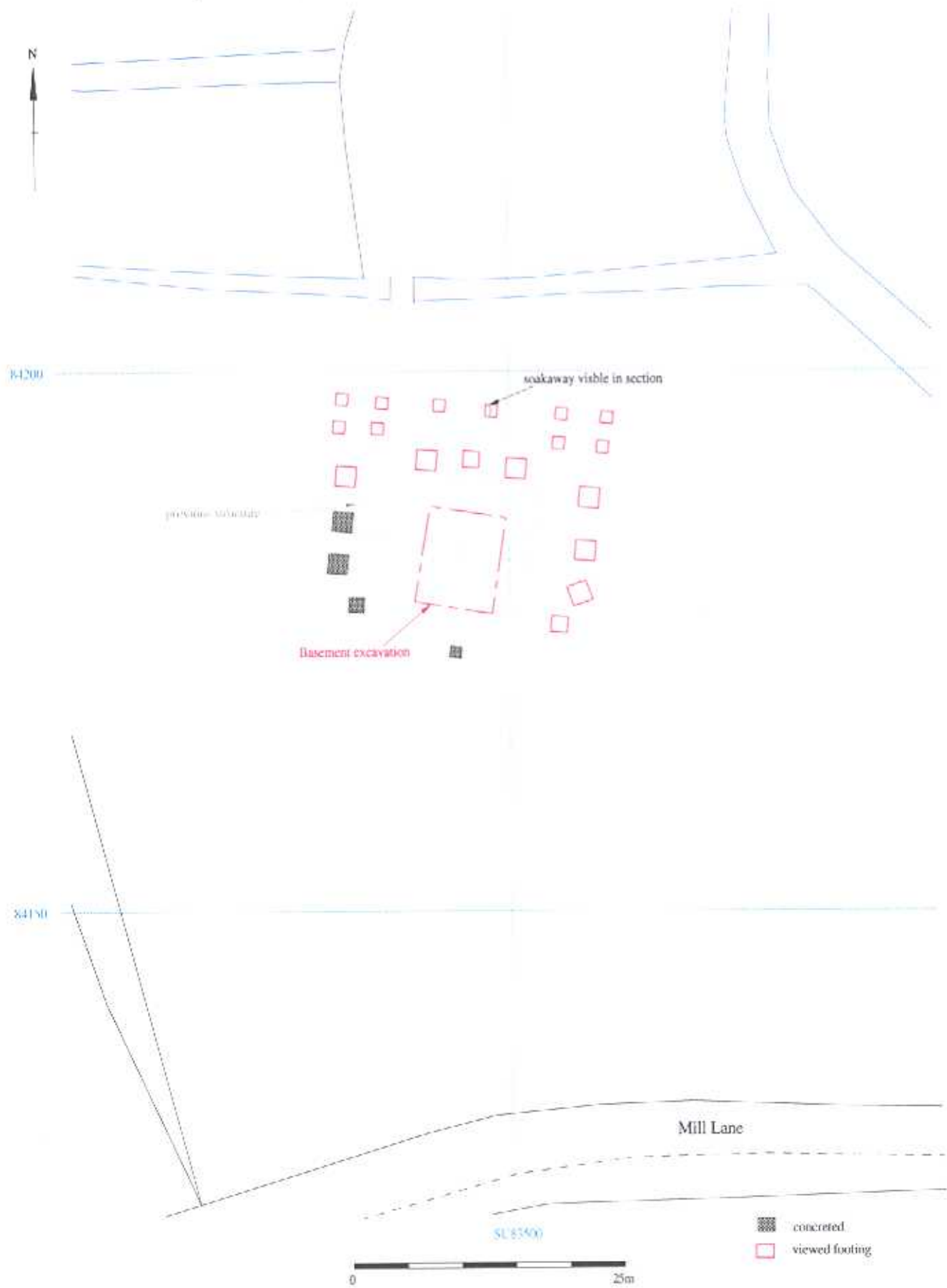


Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.

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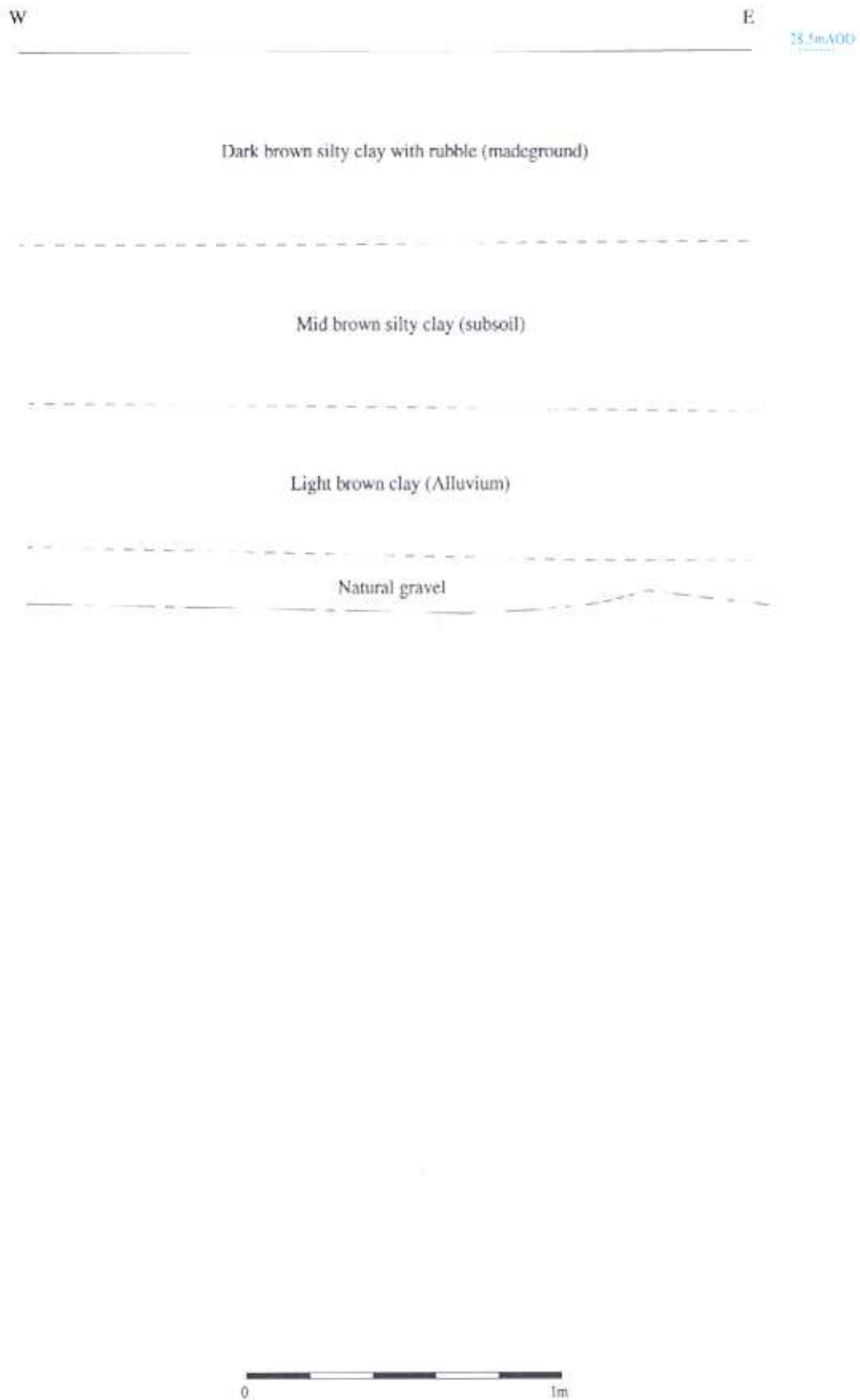


Figure 4. Representative section from basement excavation.