

**16A Victor Road,
Windsor, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
for D Jones (Builders)**

by Andrew Mundin

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code VRM 02/97

November 2002

Summary

Site name: 16A Victor Road, Windsor, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9631 7562

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 18th and 19th November 2002

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: VRW 02/97

Area of site: c. 192 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or deposits were recorded.

Monuments identified: None

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford 21.11.02 Steve Preston 21.11.02

16A Victor Road, Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 02/97

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 16A, Victor Road, Windsor, Berkshire (SU 9631 7562) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Colin Brench of Colin Brench Architectural Design, 21 Naseby Rise, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2SF on behalf of D Jones (Builders).

Planning permission (01/80808) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for construction of a replacement house on the site following demolition of the existing building. The planning permission is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires a watching brief to be carried out during the 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 field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Kev Beachus, Senior Archaeologist with Bابتie Environmental, archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew MUNDIN on the 18th and 19th November 2002 and the site code is VRW 02/97. The site archive is currently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5NR, and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a rectangular plot of land on the south side of Victor Road, Windsor, Berkshire (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology is chalk, possibly capped by clay-with-flints (BGS 1981). The clay capping was observed during the watching brief, and soon led to the bottom of the trenches becoming waterlogged. The site lies at a height of c.24m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies in the vicinity of the medieval St Peter's Leper Hospital, the exact location of which is unknown, but is thought to be about 1.5km south of the town centre on the Borough boundary, perhaps at the junction of

St. Leonard's Road and Bolton Road (Astill 1978, 62). The Hospital was first mentioned in AD 1168 and it may have given rise to the name of the hamlet of Spital. Windsor itself expanded southwards in the medieval period away from the chalk hill, on which the Castle stands (Astill 1978, 59). Victor Road would be situated on the southern extent of any of this phase of the growth of the town.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to:

1. Observe and record all archaeological deposits within areas of ground disturbance associated with the groundworks.
2. Excavate and record any archaeological deposits which would be damaged or disturbed during the groundworks.
3. Produce, where possible, relative and absolute dating and phasing for the features on the site.
4. Provide, if possible, information on the economy and the local environment of the site.
5. Establish the character of the deposits, in order to define functional areas and produce a settlement history of the site.

The foundation trenches for new development (Fig. 3) were all observed for archaeological features and finds. The footings were dug to a depth of *c.* 1m and were 0.6m to 0.8m wide. All spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

Results

The existing building had been demolished, and the site levelled, prior to archaeological observation. The position of the existing footings is shown in Figure 3. In the foundation trenches, it was observed that the site had not been greatly truncated, as the natural clay capping (52) was seen in the bottom of the trenches at approximately 0.7m depth over the entire site (Fig. 4). Representative sections were drawn and photographed from the north-facing and the west-facing sections of the new trenches (Fig. 4).

A layer of demolition rubble over most of the site (50) contained occasional modern brick and modern pottery. Under the patio, at the back of the existing house was a (different) thin lens of demolition rubble, below which was a layer of coke-rich soil (51) (Fig. 4; section 2). Also in this section was a layer of dark brown buried topsoil, that was seen on the surface in the south-west corner of the site (53). The trench in the east had had the brickearth discoloured by the drain that overlay it.

All the layers observed were relatively modern, probably Victorian, and did not extend below the depth of the footings (0.7m).

Finds

No archaeologically relevant finds were observed during the watching brief, and the modern pottery seen was not retained.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits were noted on the site nor any finds recovered.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Astill, G, 1978, *Historic towns in Berkshire*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm pubn 2, Reading
PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

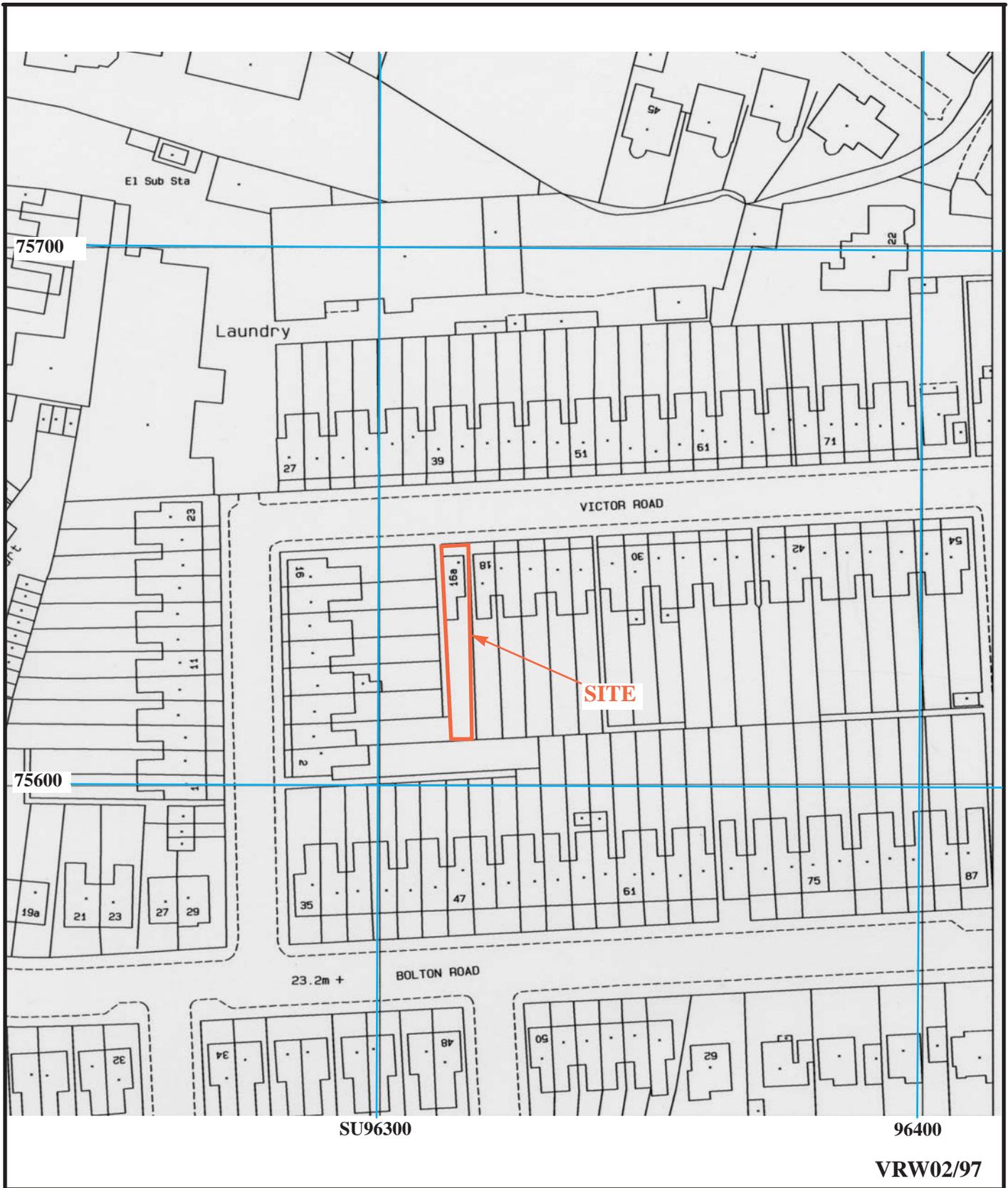


16A Victor Road, Windsor, Berkshire, 2002

Figure 1. Location of site within Windsor and Berkshire.

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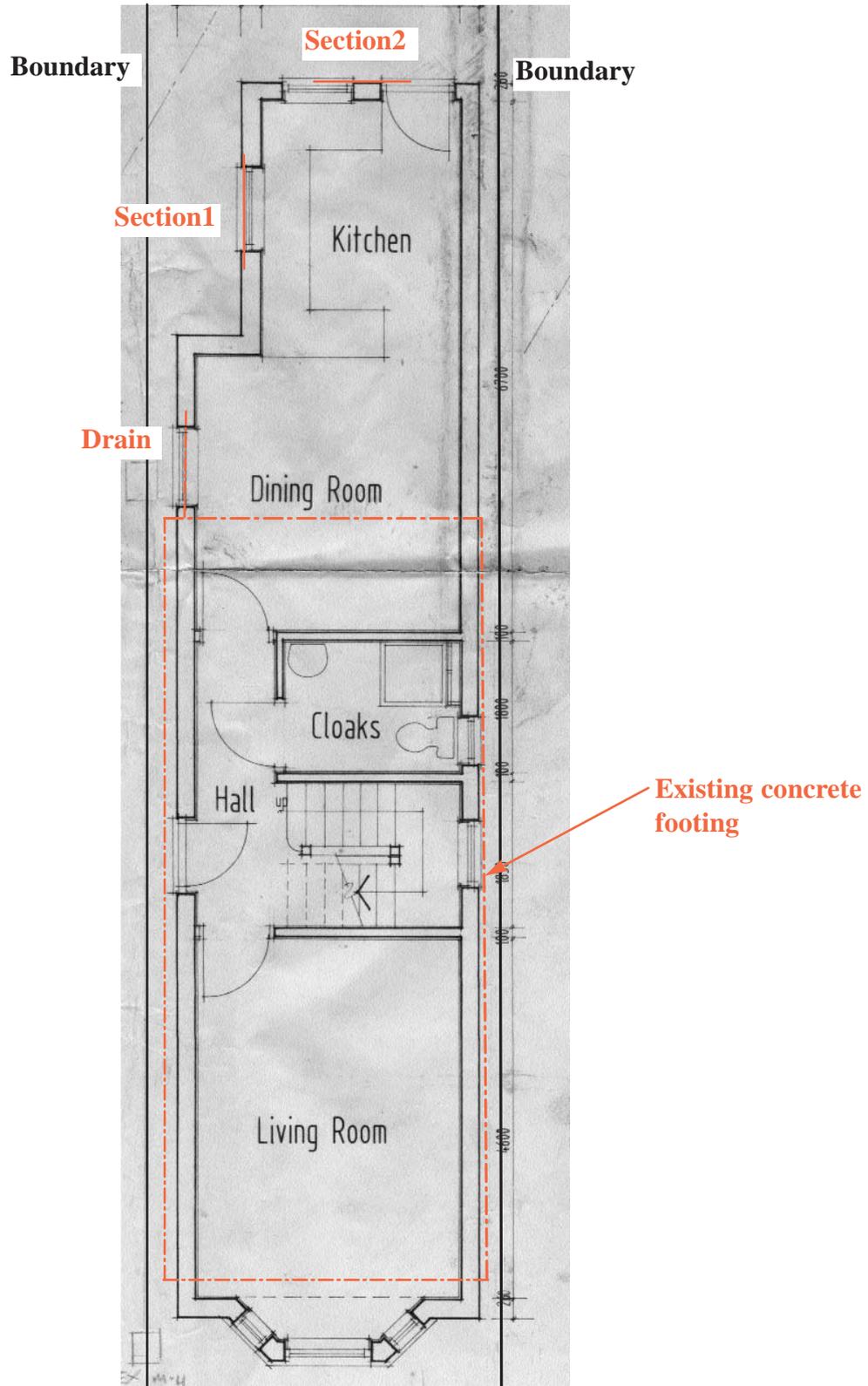
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**16A Victor Road, Windsor,
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Figure 2. Location of site on Victor Road.

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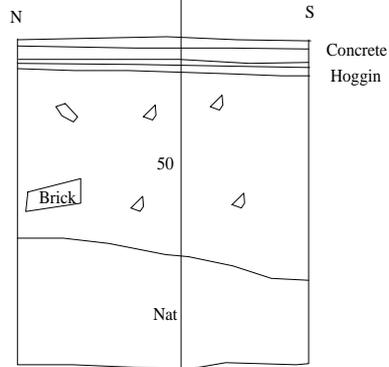
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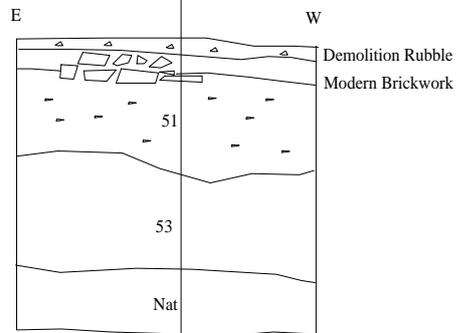
Figure 3. Areas examined in the watching brief,
showing new ground-plan.

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Section 1



Section 2



Figure 4: Sections