

Winklands, Hollybush Ride, Ascot, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For MCS Design and Construct

James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code WAB 07/136

November 2007

Summary

Site name: Winklands, Hollybush Ride, Ascot Bracknell Forest, Berkshire.

Grid reference: SU 9189 6538

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 6th–12th November 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis and James McNicholl-Norbury

Site code:WAB07/136

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits were observed nor finds recovered.

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✓ 16.11.07
	Steve Preston✓ 16.11.07

Winklands, Hollybush Ride, Ascot, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James Lewis

Report 07/136

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Winklands, Hollybush Ride, Ascot (SU 9189 6538, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul Hodges of MCS Design and Construct Ltd, Station House, Station Approach, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8UD.

A planning consent (06/00403/FUL) has been granted by Bracknell Forest Borough Council for the demolition of an existing house and garage and the construction of a new house and garage at Winklands, Hollybush Ride, Ascot. The consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.

The condition was attached due to the archaeological potential of the area which was highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Mr David Thomason of Berkshire Archaeology. The site is located immediately north to the projected line of the Silchester to London Roman road. It was considered possible that the remains of a burial site or Roman settlement would be found during construction.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological adviser to Bracknell Forest Borough Council.

The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicholl-Norbury and James Lewis, from the 6th to 12th November 2007 and the site code is WAB 07/136.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the south of Ascot and north of Bagshot in east Berkshire, within an area of open woodland which comprises Scots Pine (Fig. 2). The physical landscape is characterized by low hills and shallow river valleys and the site lies on land that slopes gently to the north. The site is at an elevation of 75m above Ordnance Datum.

The underlying geological on which the site is located are Bracklesham Beds (BGS 1981) which consist of evenly bedded loams and clays, within which are pockets of glauconite and pyrite nodules and the upper part of these comprise of buff and yellow clays and sandy loams. It was within one of these latter areas that the site was located.

Archaeological background

The site lies within an area of east Berkshire which has recorded only a modest range of archaeological finds and deposits. Nevertheless there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval find spots as recorded in the Berkshire Sites and Monuments Record and many upstanding Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). Of more immediate interest is the Roman road from Silchester to London (the Devils Highway, Margary's route 4a: Margary 1973) which passes immediately south of the site. Several large Roman sites are already known to be preferentially located close to the road but others may be located 200m or more distant, as at Wickham Bushes (Corney and Gaffney 1983; Ford 1987; 1983).

Objectives and Methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This would involve the examination of areas affected by the new construction work for the proposed new garage only, in particular ground reduction, landscaping and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. Spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

Results

Foundation Trenches for the Garage

The area where the garage was to be built had been identified as having the highest archaeological potential. It lay immediately to the north of the projected Roman road and occupied an area of 5m by 14m. The footings observed (Fig. 3) were 1m wide and 2.4m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of topsoil that was 0.30m thick overlying orange sandy clay forming the natural geology. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

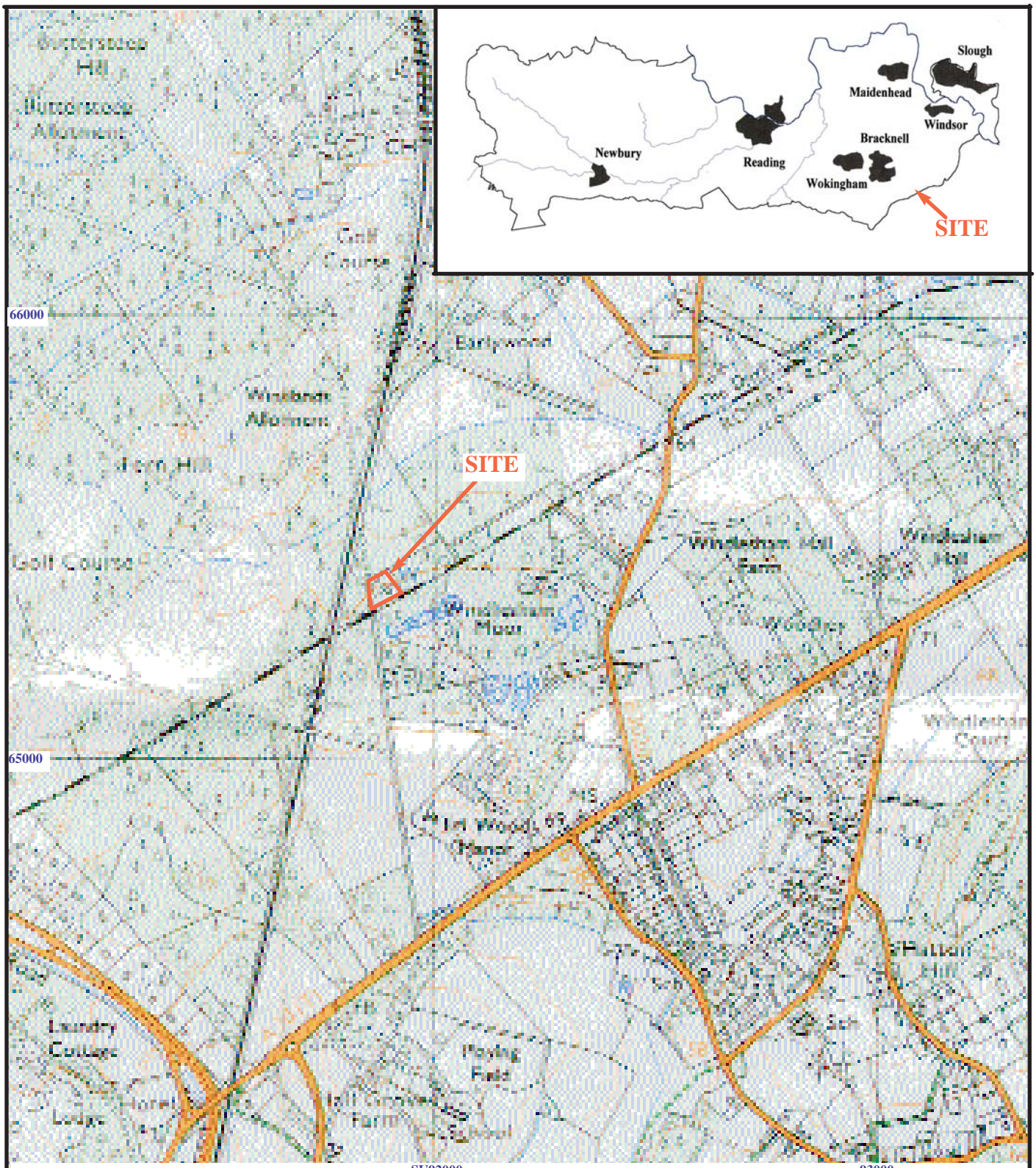
No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

No deposits of archaeological interest were observed on the site nor any artefacts recovered. Despite the relative proximity of the site to a known Roman road it does not appear that this area was occupied in the Roman period.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50 000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Corney, M and Gaffney, V, 1983, 'Wickham Bushes', in A Taylor and R Taylor (eds) *Recent Archaeology in Berkshire*, Berkshire Archaeol Soc Fld Grp, Reading, 17
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading
- Margary, I D, 1973, *Roman Roads in Britain* (3rd Edition), London
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



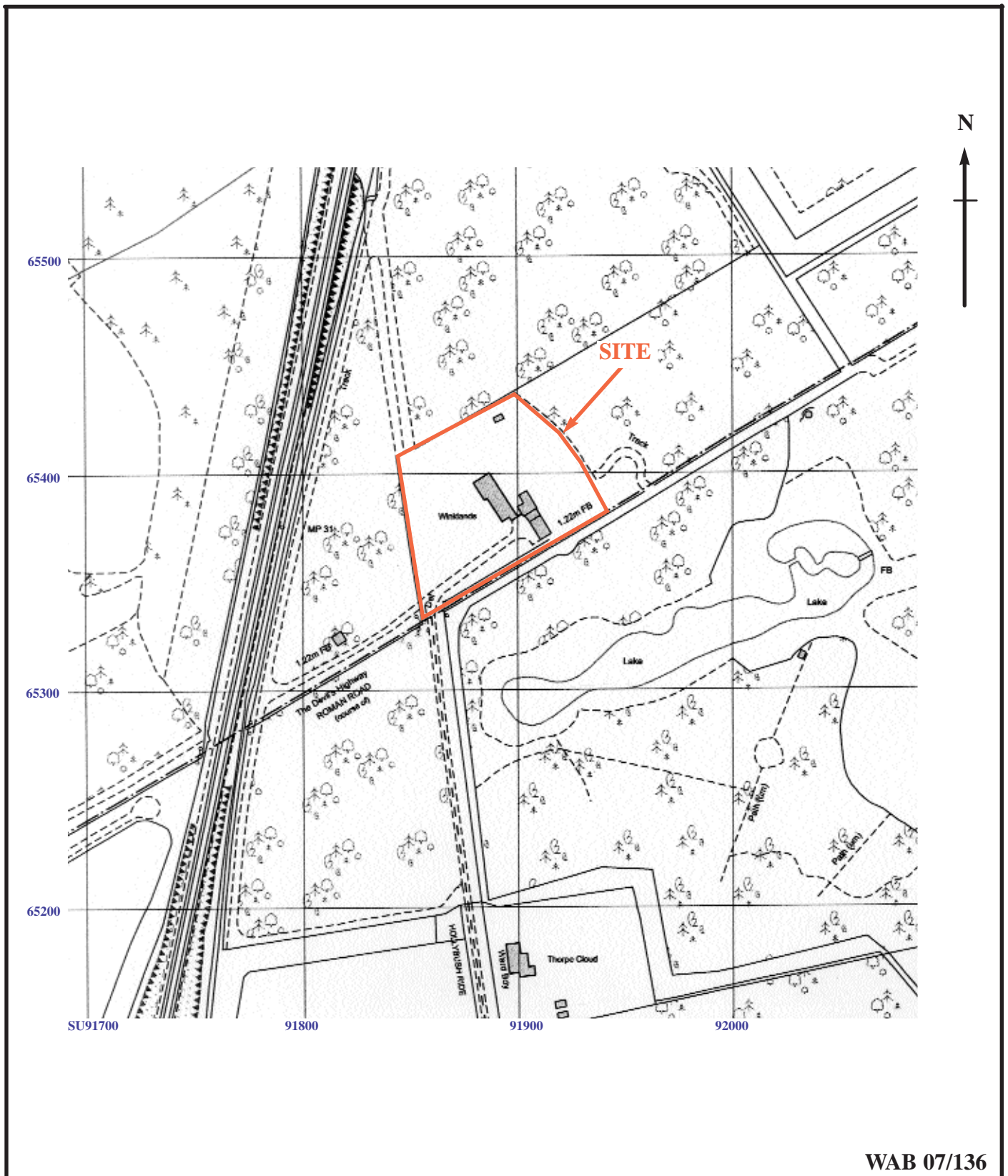
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Figure 1. Location of site within Bracknell Forest and Berkshire.

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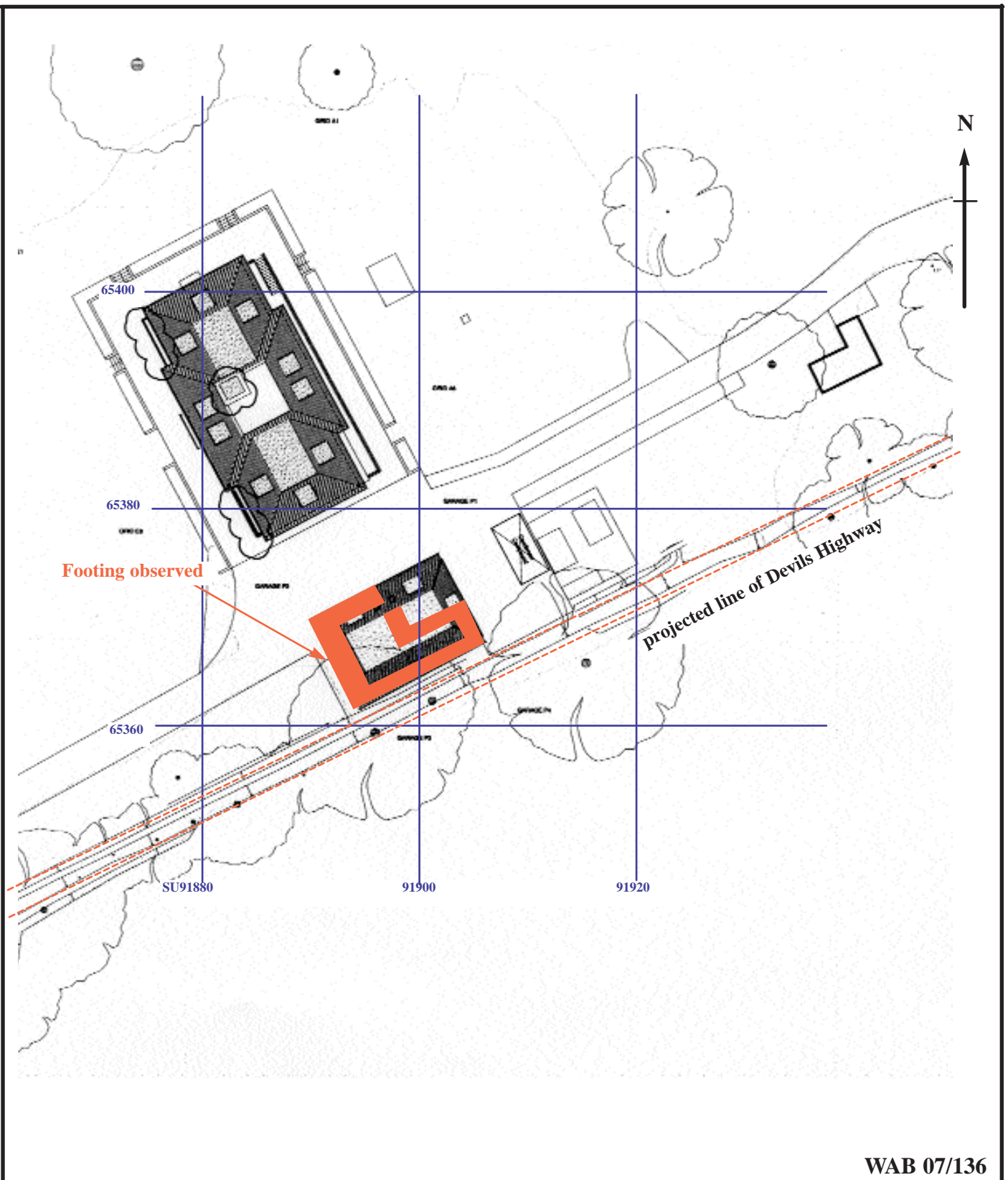
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Hollybush Ride.

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Figure 3. Detailed of areas observed during watching brief.

Scale 1:500

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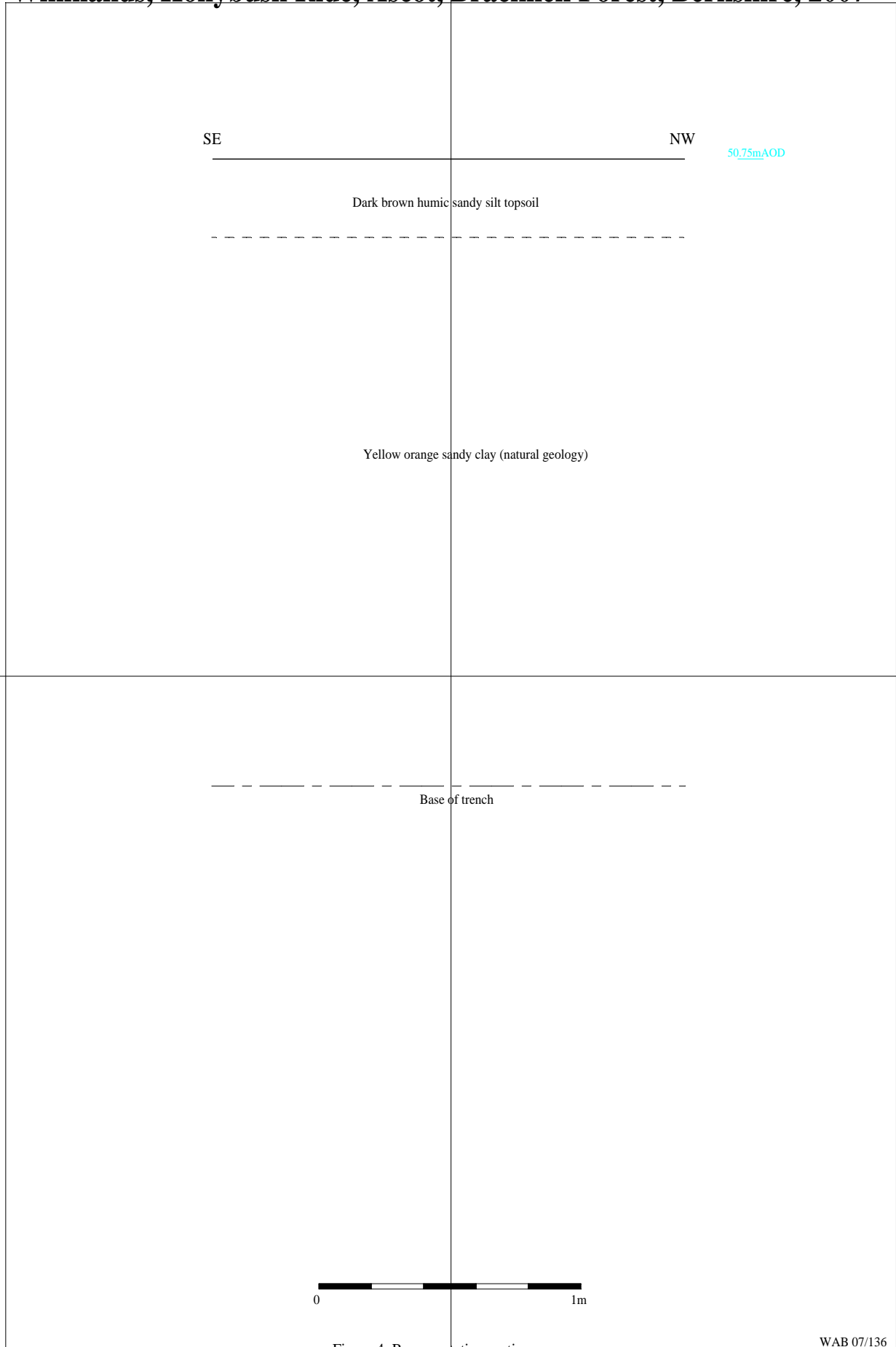


Figure 4. Representative section