

Thirlstone Homes (Western) Ltd

HIGH STREET
HARTLEY WINTNEY
HAMPSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

NGR SU 7666 5668

Planning Application No. 01/00272/CONAC

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October 2001

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Prepared by: Robin Bashford Date: September 2001
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CONTENTS

Summary	4
1 Introduction.....	4
2 Background.....	4
3 Watching Brief Aims	4
4 Methodology	5
4.1 Scope of fieldwork.....	5
4.2 Recording.....	5
Results.....	5
5.4 Finds	5
5.5 Environmental Results.....	5
6 Discussion And Interpretation	5

LIST OF FIGURES

- Fig. 1 Site Location
Fig. 2 Site Plan and Sample Section

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SUMMARY

Between August and September 2001, the Oxford Archaeological Unit (OAU) undertook a watching brief at the former garage site, High Street, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire (SU 7666 5668). A large area of the site had been heavily truncated during the installation of the petrol tanks serving the garage. Where truncation had not occurred, no archaeological features or deposits were observed.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Permission had been granted by Hampshire County Council for the demolition of an existing garage, petrol station and workshops and the erection of a village store and customer car park. Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological deposits, a condition for an archaeological watching brief was attached to the permission, in line with PPG16 and local plan policy and in accordance with a brief prepared by Ian Wykes of Hampshire County Council. The development site is situated in the historic core of the village. The site lies over the Bracklesham Beds at about 59 m OD at NGR SU 76660/56688.

2 Background

- 2.1 The development site lies within the 'Area of Archaeological Potential' for Hartley Wintney as defined in the Historical Rural Settlement for Hart Survey undertaken by Bournemouth University. The development of the village can be traced to two separate settlements. Early activity is considered to have been focused around the area of the church. Later the focus for residential development shifted to Hartley Row in the area of the present High Street. The precise date of this event is unknown though some of the buildings near the development site have early post medieval and possibly late medieval origins. The development site lies within this area and has, therefore, the potential for containing archaeological deposits which may advance the understanding of the late medieval village and the nature of settlement shift.

3 Watching Brief Aims

- 3.1 To record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of archaeological remains within the entire area affected by development.

- 3.2 If exceptional archaeological remains were discovered, for which the resources allocated were insufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard, the OAU would signal to all parties that such an archaeological find had been made.
- 3.3 To make available the results of the investigation.

4 Methodology

4.1 Scope of fieldwork

The watching brief was undertaken on all areas of ground disturbance.

4.2 Recording

- 4.2.1 Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:100, sections were drawn at 1:20. All excavated features were photographed using colour slide and black and white print film. Recording followed procedures lay down in the *OAU Fieldwork Manual* (Wilkinson, 1992).

5 Results

- 5.1 The northern half of the site had been heavily truncated during the installation of the petrol tanks for the demolished garage (Fig. 2) and any archaeological remains which may have been present do not survive.
- 5.2 Following the demolition of the garage and associated buildings, areas of the site were subject to remediation by LBH Wembley (Geotechnical and Environmental). This involved the excavation of test pits across the site and the subsequent excavation of contaminated material. This procedure was closely monitored but did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits. The stratigraphic sequence was revealed but was recorded in detail during the excavation of the strip foundations to the south of the site (see 5.3).
- 5.3 The excavation of the strip foundations to the south of the site revealed a stratigraphic sequence which comprised natural clay overlain by a mid grey clay silt colluvial deposit which was in turn overlain by a deposit of demolition debris (Fig. 2). Other than features associated with the recently demolished garage, no archaeological deposits were observed.

5.4 Finds

- 5.4.1 20th-century material was present across the site but no finds were retained.

5.5 Environmental Results

- 5.5.1 Although full consideration was given to various sampling strategies, due to the absence of any suitable deposits and the tight constraints of the excavation, no environmental soil samples were taken.

6 Discussion And Interpretation

- 6.1 No archaeological remains had survived the installation of the petrol tanks to the north of the site. To the south the truncation was less severe and the colluvium which overlies the natural geology was still present across much of this area of the site - although contaminated in places. Despite this, no archaeological features or deposits

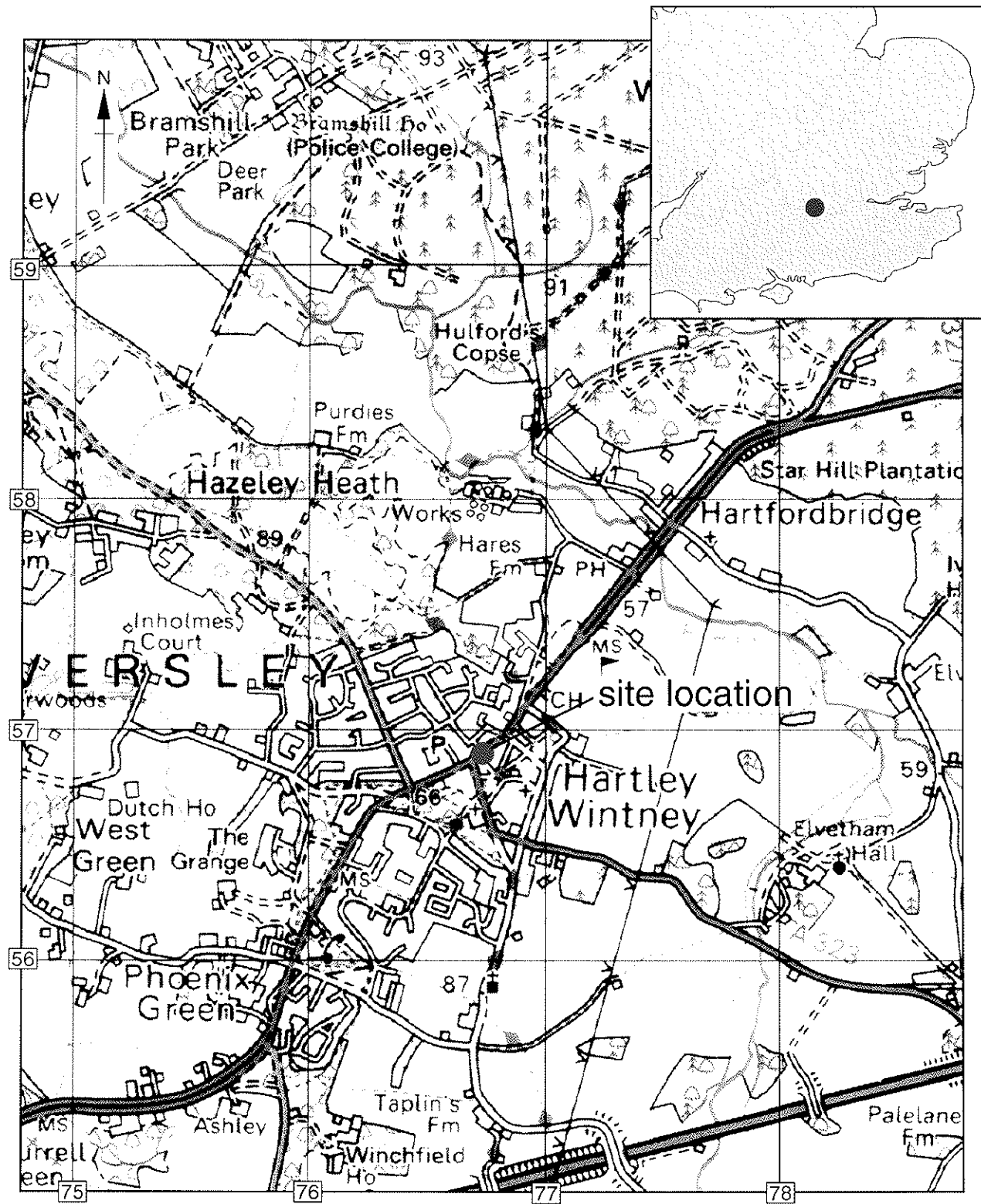
were observed during groundwork in this area, and it is likely that it is too far from the main thoroughfare (ie- the High Street) to have been utilised during the shift in the settlement during the late medieval / early post-medieval period (see above).

References.

Wilkinson, D (ed) 1992 Oxford Archaeological Unit Field Manual, (First edition, August 1992).

Former Garage Site, High Street, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire

A site visit was carried out on Monday 5th November 2001, after a bricklined well was uncovered during the reduction of ground level of new roadway. This structure was constructed of dry brick (0.19 m x 0.07 m x 0.07 m) 1 m in diameter and 1.85 m in depth. It had a pipe for a pump in it, which had been cut off below a dome capping. This had been damaged by the recent works leaving a 0.6 m hole. It appears to be from the late 19th to early 20th centuries related to the previous building on the site. See plan for location.



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Figure 1: Site location.

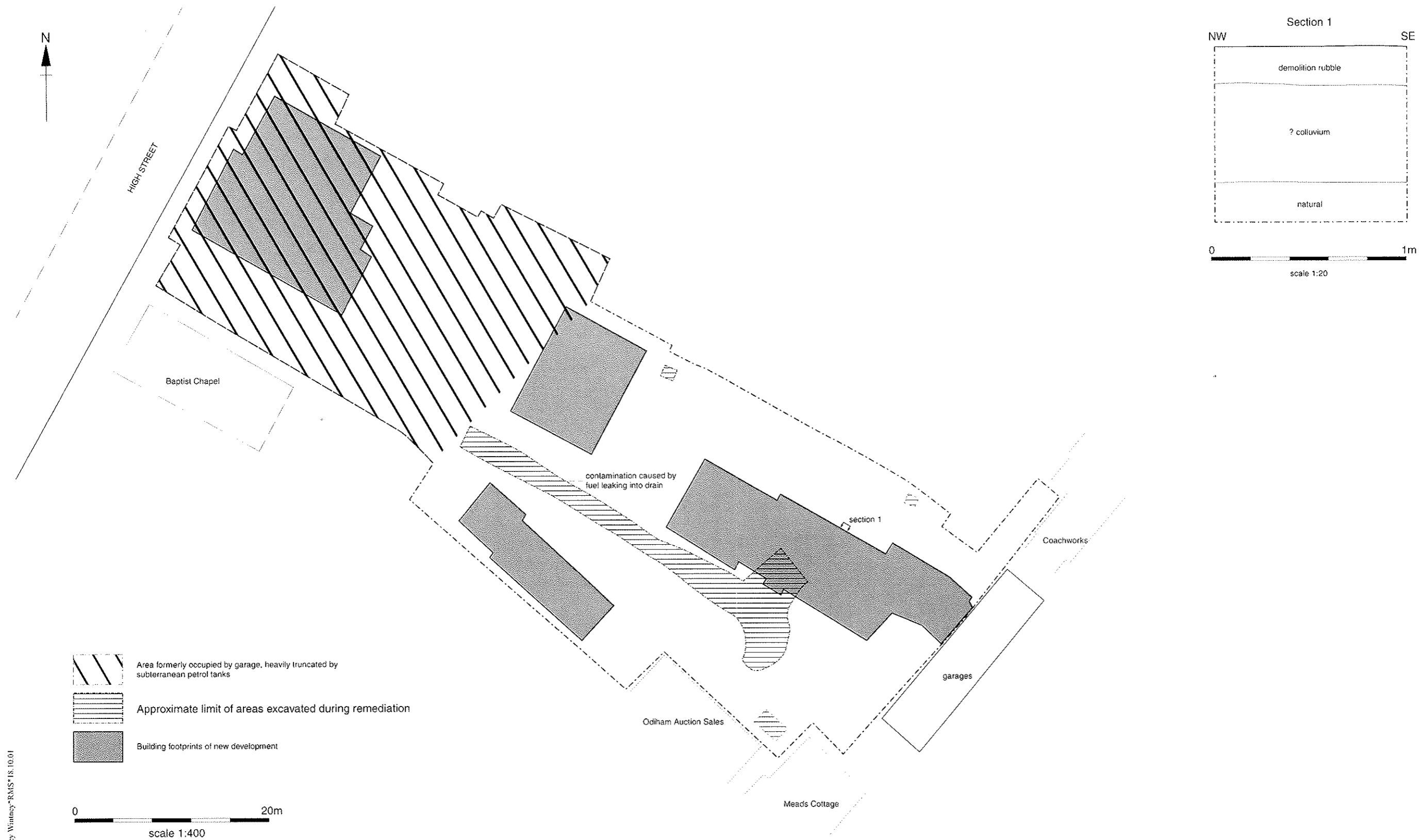


Fig 2 : Site Plan and Sample Section



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