

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
S E R V I C E S

**25 Salcombe Road, Newbury,
West Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

Site Code: SRN11/21

(SU 4610 6630)

**25 Salcombe Road,
Newbury, West Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Nick Wood

by SteveFord

ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServicesLtd

SiteCode: SRN11/21

April 2011

Summary

Site name: 25 Salcombe Road, Newbury, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 4610 6630

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 28th March 2011

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: SRN11/21

Area of site: 48 sq m

Summary of results: This small watching brief only recorded the presence of disturbance and truncation of the natural gravel geology of 20th century date. No archaeological finds nor deposits were recorded and the site contains no heritage assets.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at West Berkshire Museum in due course.

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 06.04.11
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25 Salcombe Road, Newbury, West Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Steve Ford

Report 11/21

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out on an extension to the existing garage at the rear of 25 Salcombe Road, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4610 6630) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Wood of 25 Salcombe Road, Newbury.

Planning consent (10/00626/house) has been granted by West Berkshire Council for the construction of a garage extension. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological work, in this case a watching brief during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The fieldwork was carried out following a written scheme of investigation approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer for West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford on the 28th March 2011. The site code is SRN 11/21.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the western fringes of Newbury (Fig. 1), at the rear of the house on Salcombe Road which backs onto the adjoining houses of Kingsbridge Road (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is Valley Gravel (BGS 1947). The site lies at 85m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note for the project produced by Mr Duncan Coe of West Berkshire Archaeology Service. In summary the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, designated Zone 2 in *Historic Newbury, Fit for the Future* (WBAS 2006). This is due to the presence of a high status Roman settlement in the vicinity, first recorded in 1907, presumably when the suburban housing in this area was first constructed. This reported the discovery of flint walls, ceramic tiles, wall plaster and a

hypocaust system along with 20 cremation burials from an extensive zone covering up to 8ha. It is considered that this represents the site of a Roman villa with associated settlement (Lobb and Rose, 1996, 86). The proposal site lies just within the projected eastern boundary of the area of interest.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. The watching brief would involve examination of the digging of the foundation trench for the new structure and deep trenches for services as necessary. The research objectives of the project are to provide further detail of the nature, date and extent of archaeological deposits of Roman date addressing the research questions presented in Appendix 2 of *Historic Newbury, Fit for the Future* (WBAS 2006).

Results

The watching brief comprised the examination of a single foundation trench. (Fig. 3; Pl.1). The footing trench was 0.70m wide and 6.36m in length and it was excavated to a depth of 0.80m. The trenching was carried out with a small 360° mechanical excavator fitted with bladed ditching bucket.

The stratigraphy of the trench showed concrete and hoggin 0.10m deep which overlay made ground consisting of a black sandy gravel with brick rubble which was between 0.30m and 0.70m deep (Fig. 4). This in turn overlay the gravel natural geology in the northern part of the trench but the remainder of the trench was truncated by two modern pits to a depth below the base of the foundation trench. These pits contained similar material to the made ground above, such as metal containers and a kitchen worktop, No original topsoil or subsoil deposits were present in section.

Finds

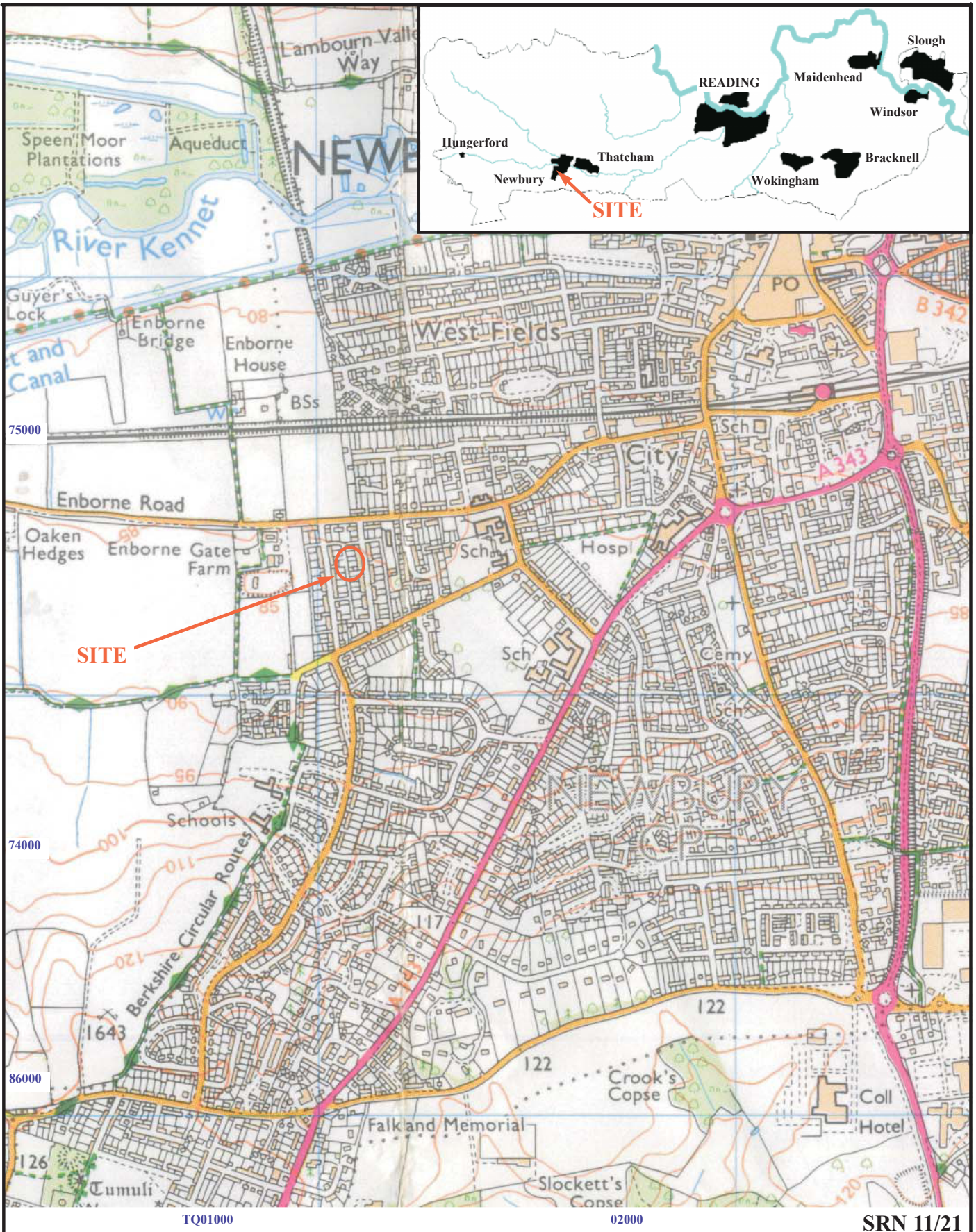
No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

Only modern (mid-late 20th century) deposits were encountered in the new groundworks which had deeply truncated the archaeologically relevant level for most of the trench area. The top of undisturbed natural gravel was only encountered in the northern part of the trench. No stray finds of archaeological interest were observed. No heritage assets were exposed or disturbed by the groundworks.

References

- BGS, 1947, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63 360, Sheet 267, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Lobb, S J and Rose, P G, 1996, *Archaeological Survey of the Lower Kennet Valley, Berkshire*, Wessex Archaeol Rep 9, Salisbury
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, Planning Policy Statement 5, The Stationery Office, Norwich
- WBAS 2006, *Historic Newbury, Fit for the Future*, West Berkshire Archaeology Service, Newbury



SITE

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Figure 1. Location of site within Newbury and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Salcombe Road.

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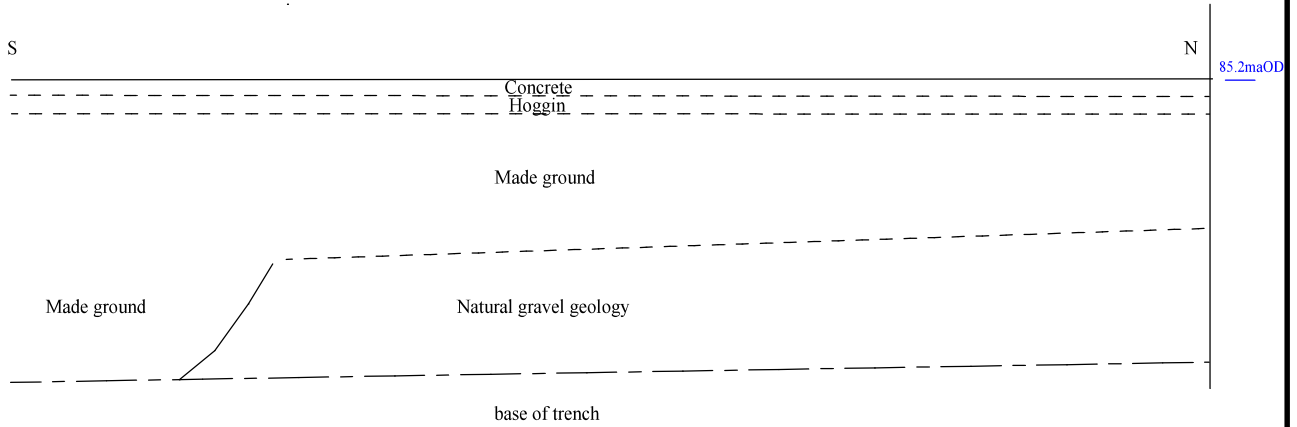


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Archaeological watching brief

Figure 3. Location of area observed as groundworks.



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Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 4. Representative section (north end of trench).



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Plate 1. Eastern end of foundation trench, looking west, Scale: 0.4m

SRN 11/21

25 Salcombe Road, Newbury, West Berkshire, 2011
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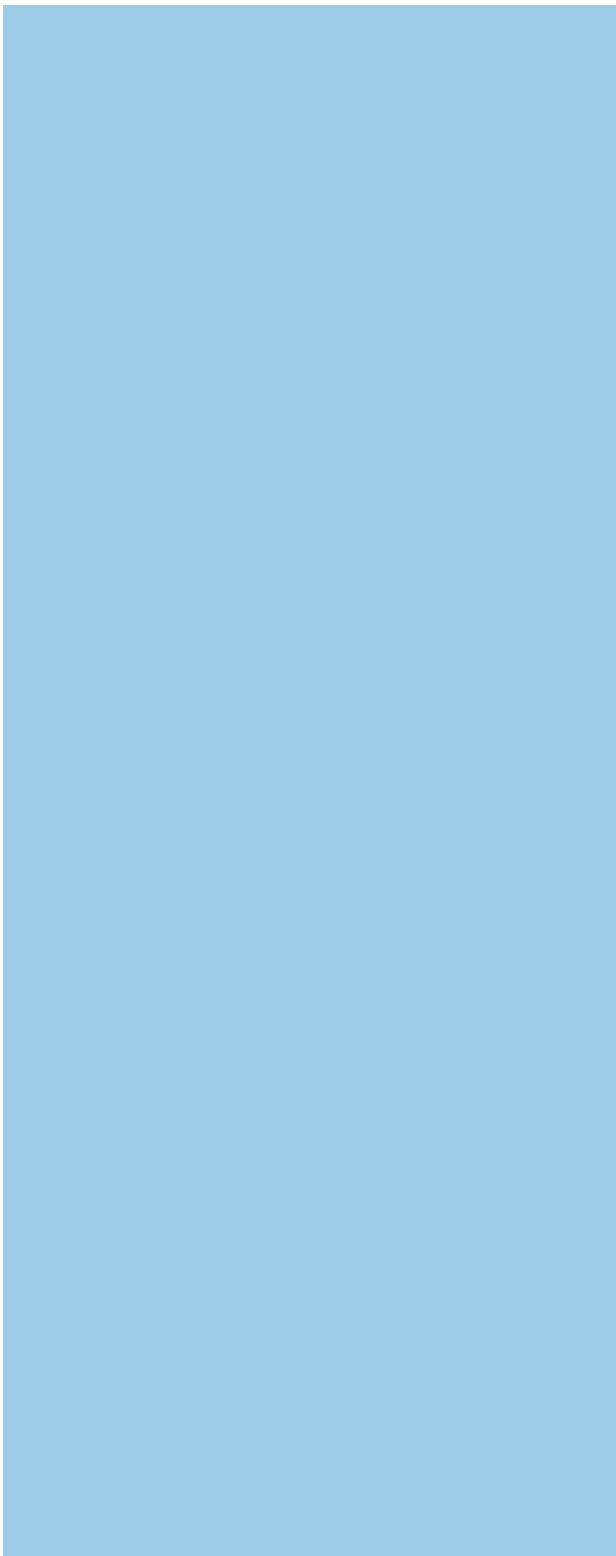
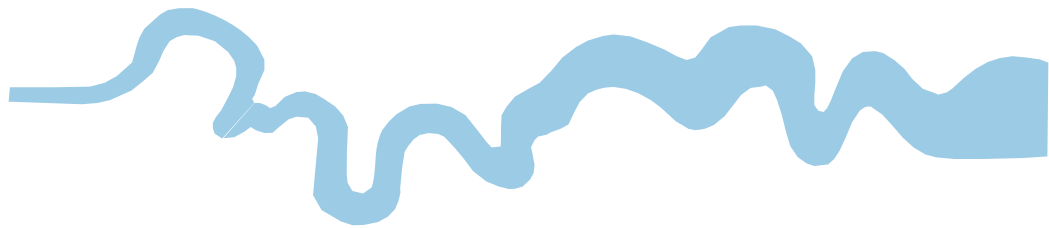
Plate 1.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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