

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street,
Hungerford, West Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Site Code: 5CLH12/40

(SU 3408 6887)

**Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford,
West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Tek Trading Limited**

by Steve Ford
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code 5CLH12/40

April 2012

Summary

Site name: Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 3408 6887

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 29th March 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Steve Ford

Site code: 5CLH12/40

Area of site: c. 430 sq m

Summary of results: No archaeological deposits nor finds were recorded. A modern (20th century) pit partially truncated one of the trenches. The site is considered to have no archaeological potential.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Preston ✓ 03.04.12
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Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Steve Ford

Report 12/40

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford, West Berkshire (SU 3408 6887) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nigel Thornton on behalf of Tek Trading Limited, Orwell House, 50 High Street, Hungerford, RG17 0EP.

Planning permission (app 12/00491/FULD) has been sought from West Berkshire Council for the construction of two new semi-detached houses on the site. The application is to be supported by the results of field evaluation by trial trenching to determine the archaeological potential of the site, from which a mitigation strategy could be devised as appropriate. This is in accordance with *Planning for the Historic Environment*, (PPS5, 2010) and the Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Duncan Coe, Archaeological Officer with West Berkshire Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Steve Ford and Matt Gittens on 29th March 2012 and the site code is 5CSH12/40. 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 south side of Charnham Street (A4) on the north-east side of Hungerford. It lies to the rear of the former Lamb Public House and is accessed off Faulknor Square. The site forms an irregular area of gravelled car park and garden. The ground is level at a height of *c.* 95m above Ordnance Datum. (Fig. 2).

The river Dun lies just to the south of the site. The underlying geology is depicted on the geology map of the area as alluvium (BGS 1947). However the geology encountered in the trenches was a sandy ill-sorted gravel.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the area stems from its location close to or within the Charnham suburb of Saxon and medieval Hungerford (Astill 1978). This location in the Kennet Valley is also considered to be rich in

Mesolithic occupation sites and stray finds (Froom 1971). Areas to the north-west of the site were subject to extensive excavation in 1989 (Ford 2002) when a wide range of deposits of prehistoric through to post-medieval times were examined, and more recent evaluation also to the north-west has revealed further possible prehistoric deposits (Ford 2010). However, watching briefs on Charnham Street surprisingly failed to reveal any deposits of archaeological interest (Anthony 2004; Lewis and McNicoll-Norbury 2008).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

Specific aims of the project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine the presence and character of any Mesolithic deposits present; and
- to determine whether any evidence exists on the site for medieval or early post-medieval settlement associated with the Charnham suburb.

Two trenches were to be dug, each measuring 8m in length and 1.6m wide. The trenches were located to target the footprint of the proposed new building. These were to be dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

Results

Two trenches were dug using a Kubota-type machine in the positions as intended. The trenches both measured 1.30m wide and were lengthened to conserve the total area sampled (Fig. 3). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 1)

This trench measured 9.1m in length and was dug to a depth of 0.95m at the south end and 0.8m at the northern end. The stratigraphy revealed comprised 0.26m of gravel and scalpins car park surface above 0.49m of black silty sand (buried old topsoil) above brown sandy ill-sorted gravel. The buried old topsoil contained modern brick, tile, glass, etc, and become lighter with depth. A modern pit, containing bricks, coal and modern window glass was cut through the buried topsoil at the southern end of the trench and truncated the natural geology by at least 0.1m. No archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed.

A test pit was dug for geotechnical purposes at the southern end of Trench 1. It was 0.5m wide and was dug down to 1.8m. It only revealed waterlogged gravel.

Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 2)

This trench measured 10.1m in length and was dug to a depth of 0.75m. The stratigraphy revealed again 0.25m of gravel and scalps car park surface above 0.45m of black silty sand buried old topsoil above brown sandy ill-sorted gravel. The buried old topsoil again contained modern brick, tile, glass, etc, and was again lighter with depth. No archaeological finds nor deposits were revealed.

FINDS

No finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

Conclusion

The evaluation has revealed no finds nor deposits of archaeological interest and it is considered that the site has no archaeological potential.

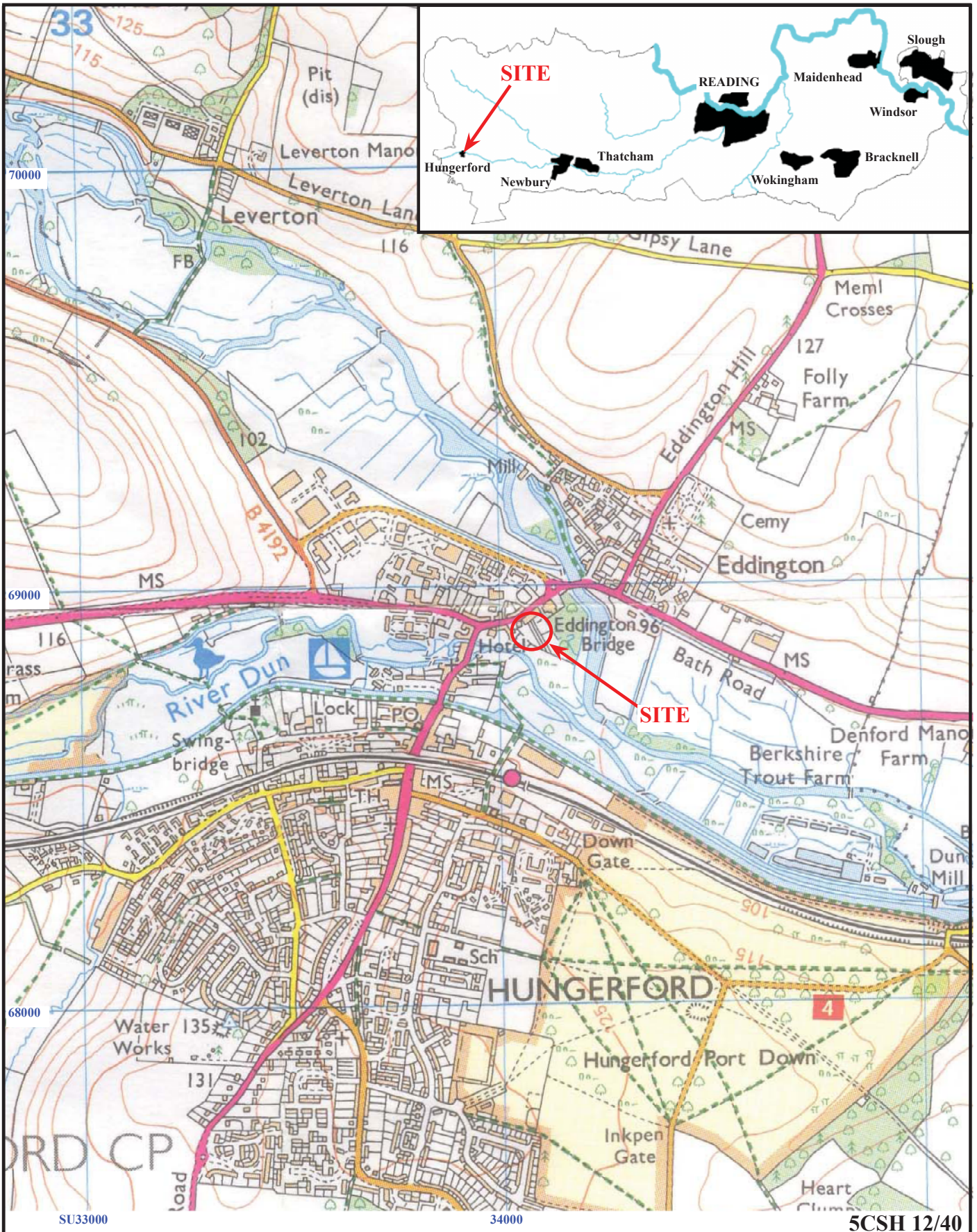
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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	9.1	1.30	0.80 N 0.95 S	0-0.26m gravel and scalpins; 0.26-0.75m black humic silty sand with brick, glass and wood fragments, etc (buried old topsoil); 0.75m+ brown sandy ill-sorted gravel natural geology. Modern pit at south end with coal, brick, glass ,etc. [Pl. 1]
2	10.1	1.30	0.75	0-0.25m gravel and scalpins; 0.25-0.70m black humic silty sand with brick and glass fragments, etc (buried old topsoil); 0.7m+ brown sandy ill-sorted gravel natural geology. [Pl. 2]



**Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford,
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Figure 1. Location of site within Hungerford and
West Berkshire.

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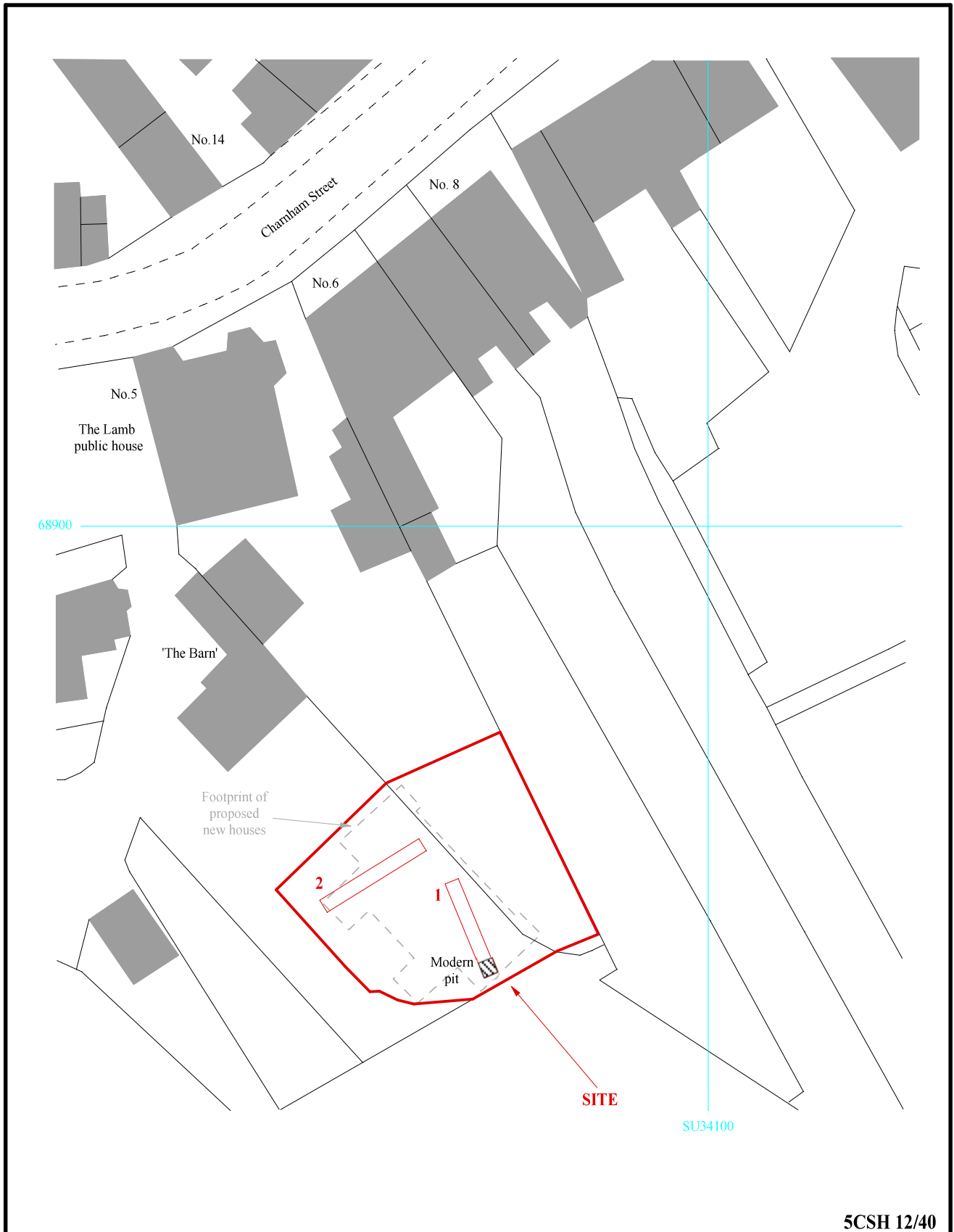


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



Trench 1

NW

SE

95.7m aOD

Scalpings

Black humic buried soil
(modern made ground)

Dark brown humic buried soil

Sandy Gravel (natural geology)

base of trench

Trench 2

SW

NE

95.7m aOD

Scalpings

Black humic buried soil

Dark brown humic buried soil

Sandy Gravel (natural geology)

base of trench

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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north west, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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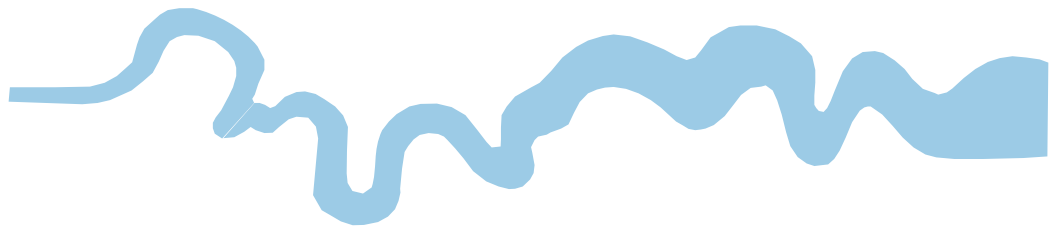
Land to the rear of 5 Charnham Street, Hungerford,
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Plates 1 and 2

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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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