

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**3 Sunning Avenue,
Sunningdale, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: SAS12/58

(SU 94017 66610)

**3 Sunning Avenue,
Sunningdale, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Applegate Homes Ltd**

by Susan Porter
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code SAS12/58

May 2012

Summary

Site name: 3 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 94017 66610

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 15th May 2012

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: SAS 12/58

Area of site: c. 2650 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed on the site. The line of the Roman road (The Devil's Highway) was not detected.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate museum or repository.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 21.05.12 Steve Preston ✓ 17.05.12

3. Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 12/58

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at 3 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale, Berkshire, SU 94017 66610 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Lee Simon of Applegate Homes Ltd, Probyns, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Surrey, TW20 0HU.

Planning permission (app no 12/00460/FUL) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new house following demolition of the existing house. The consent includes a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a phased programme of archaeological investigation. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation, based on the results of which, an appropriate mitigation strategy could be devised if required.

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 Borough's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) has superseded PPS5. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology, adviser to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter, Aidan Colyer and Chris Crabb on 15th May 2012 and the site code is SAS 12/58. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a residential area to the north of the A30 and west of the A330, on the north side of Sunning Avenue in the village of Sunningdale, south of Windsor (Fig. 1). The land lies at a height of 57m above Ordnance Datum and currently forms a grassed garden around the house (Fig. 2; Pl. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as Bracklesham pebble beds and Plateau Gravel (BGS 1979), however a clayey sand with variable colour was observed in the trenches.

Archaeological background

The projected line of the Roman road (The Devil's Highway) from *Londinium* (London) to *Calleva* (Silchester) traverses the site and it is possible that flanking ditches or even the road surface or causeway (*agger*) itself may be encountered during the redevelopment. This road is Margary's (1955) route 4a, and large stretches of it were clearly visible in his day, though not in this particular location. Several large Roman sites are also known to be located adjacent to the road, as at Wickham Bushes (Ford 1987, 83) and other roadside sites can be anticipated. One such site is reported in antiquarian sources for the environs but to the north, although the specific location is not known (Hughes 1890). A medieval priory is recorded in the general area at Broomhall and several Bronze Age round barrows are present to the south. However, a watching brief at 12 Sunning Avenue to the east revealed no deposits of archaeological interest (Cass 2007). An evaluation in the adjacent property no.4 Sunning Avenue on the projected line of the Roman road also revealed no deposits of archaeological interest (Porter 2012).

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.

The specific research aims of this project were to:

- determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on this site;
- determine if any archaeological deposits of any period were present;
- determine if the Roman road does traverse the site and if so determine its nature; and
- determine if there was any roadside settlement and burial present.

It was proposed to dig one trench, 22m long and 1.6m wide. The trench was to be located to target the footprint of the new house in the zone beyond the footprint of the existing structure. The trench was also to be located, as far as practicable, at right angles to the projected course of the Roman road. A contingency of 7m of trench was included should it be required to clarify initial findings.

Topsoil and overburden were to be removed with a JCB-type machine equipped with a ditching bucket, with all possible archaeological deposits being hand cleaned and dug.

Results

The trench was begun as intended but had to be split into three sections (Fig. 3) due to the presence of services on site. The full length of 22m was excavated. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

All three segments of trench 1 were on a roughly SW-NE alignment. Trench 1A was 4m long and 0.60m deep, Trench 1B (Pl. 1) was 11m long and 0.80m deep, and Trench 1C was 7m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.30-35m topsoil, above 0.25-35m of mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil, overlying mid reddish brown clayey sandy natural geology (Fig. 4). A field drain was observed in trench 1B. Trench 1C lay alongside trench 1B (Pl. 2) due to the presence of a large drain immediately to the south of trench 1B.

No archaeological deposits or finds were observed.

Conclusion

The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new development, although due to a number of drains crossing the site the trench segments were roughly 11m north of the projected line of the Roman road. Although the projected line of the road itself was therefore not covered by the trenches, any deflection of its course northwards could have been encountered but was not. No evidence for roadside settlement was observed nor any artefacts of archaeological interest recorded.

References

- BGS, 1979, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Cass, S, 2007, '12 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale, Berkshire, An archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep07/22, Reading
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap 1, Reading.
- Hughes, G, M, 1890, *History of Windsor Forest and Sunninghill and the Great Park*
- Margary, I D, 1955, *Roman Roads in Britain*, London
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London (TSO)
- Porter, S, 2012, '4 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale, Berkshire, An archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep 12/59, Reading.
- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1A	4	1.60	0.60	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35-0.60m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil; 0.60m+ mid reddish brown clayey sand natural geology.
1B	11	1.60	0.80	0–0.60m topsoil; 0.60-0.80m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil; 0.80m+ mid reddish brown clayey sand natural geology. [Plate 1]
1C	7	1.60	0.60	0–0.30m topsoil; 0.30-0.60m mid yellow brown silty sand subsoil; 0.60m+ mid reddish brown clayey sand natural geology.



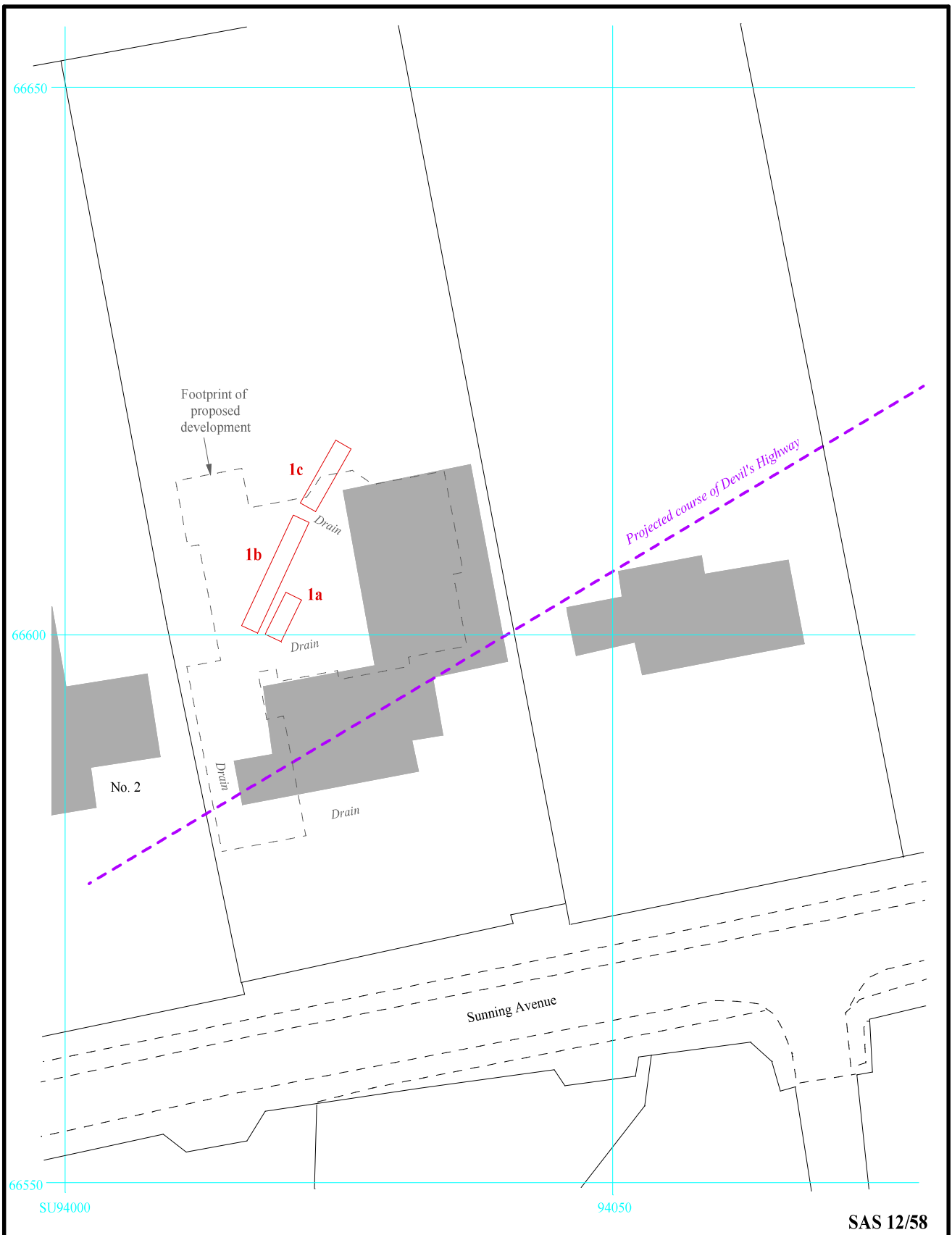
SAS 12/58



**3 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale,
Berkshire, 2012
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Sunning Avenue.

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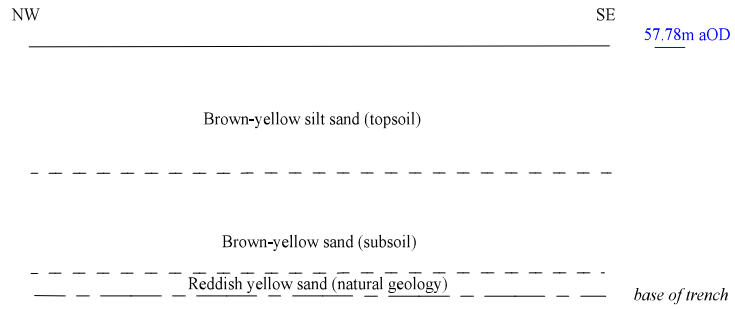


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Figure 3. Location of Trench 1.



Trench 1b



SAS 12/58

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Archaeological Evaluation

Figure 4. Representative section.



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



Plate 2. General view of the site, looking north.

SAS 12/58

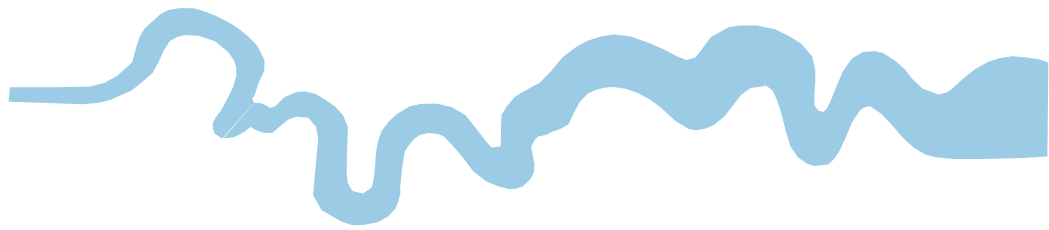
**3 Sunning Avenue, Sunningdale,
Berkshire, 2012**
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 and 2.

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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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**