

**The Quadrangle, Enborne Court, Enborne Gate,  
Newbury, West Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Thames Vale Homes**

By Danielle Colls and Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code EEN 06/38

**April 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** The Quadrangle, Enborne Court, Enborne Gate, Newbury, West Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 4590 6639

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 5th April 2006

**Project manager:** Joanna Pine

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** EEN 06/38

**Area of site:** c.560 sq m

**Summary of results:** No archaeological features or deposits were observed.

**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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<b>Report edited/checked by:</b> Steve Ford ✓ 09.04.06 Steve Preston ✓ 19.04.06
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# The Quadrangle, Enborne Court, Enborne Gate, Newbury, West Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Danielle Colls and Andy Taylor

**Report 06/38**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at The Quadrangle, Enborne Court, Enborne Gate, Newbury, West Berkshire (SU 4590 6639) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Brian Eigheten of Thames Vale Homes, The Quadrangle, Enborne Gate, Newbury RG14 6JT.

Planning consent will be sought from West Berkshire Council to redevelop the site for housing, and West Berkshire Heritage Service has been asked to advise on the potential archaeological implications. It has been advised that, due to the high archaeological potential at this site, an archaeological evaluation should be undertaken.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), 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 Heritage Service. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Danielle Colls on the 5th April 2006 and the site code is EEN 06/38. 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 comprises a parcel of land at Enborne Court, Enborne Gate, which lies at the western edge of the town of Newbury, West Berkshire (Fig. 2). The site is flat and is largely occupied by former agricultural buildings, which have been converted to office accommodation. A narrow belt of land lies between these buildings and the main Enborne Road. This is laid to grass and is where the evaluation will be targeted. The underlying geology consists of river and valley gravel (BGS 1971). The site lies at a height of c.85m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The site is located within the archaeologically rich Kennet Valley. A wide range of sites and finds are recorded for this stretch of the valley, with noteworthy records of early prehistoric material nearby and finds of later periods present nearby at Enborne Gate Farm (Lobb and Rose 1996). Neolithic pottery, Bronze Age finds and

early Iron Age pottery was recorded from a gravel pit 100m to the south of the development site. Further a large Iron Age settlement excavated in advance of development lies 100 metres to the north. An extensive area of Roman activity including buildings, hypocausts, and a cremation cemetery was centred only 300m to the east of the proposed development. Early Saxon pottery and features were also recorded close to the site. The first battle of Newbury took place on this side of the town in 1643 and it is thought that significant infantry exchanges took place in the environs of the proposal site.

## **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 evaluation were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine the presence and character of Prehistoric deposits.

To determine if there is any evidence for the transition between the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

To determine if there is any evidence for the transition between the late Roman and early Saxon periods.

Is there any evidence on the site to indicate the nature or scale of the early Saxon settlement/activity?

Is there any evidence on the site related to the first Battle of Newbury?

One trench was dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. This measured 21.5m in length, slightly shorter than its intended length, in consultation with the monitor, as near as possible to its intended position. It was dug under constant archaeological supervision and the spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix



## **Results**

### **Trench 1** (Plate 1, Fig 4)

The trench was aligned east-west and was 21.5m long, 1.6m wide and 0.86m deep overall. Turf and topsoil 0.17m thick overlay the subsoil which was 0.45m thick and comprised a light brown grey silt with moderate gravel inclusions. This overlay a light grey brown silty clay with gravels, which overlay the natural geology, a pale brown sandy clay with very frequent gravel. No archaeological deposits nor artefacts were revealed.

## **Finds**

No artefacts were recovered from the site.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the high potential for archaeology in this area, no features or deposits were observed, and the underlying geology appears to be undisturbed.

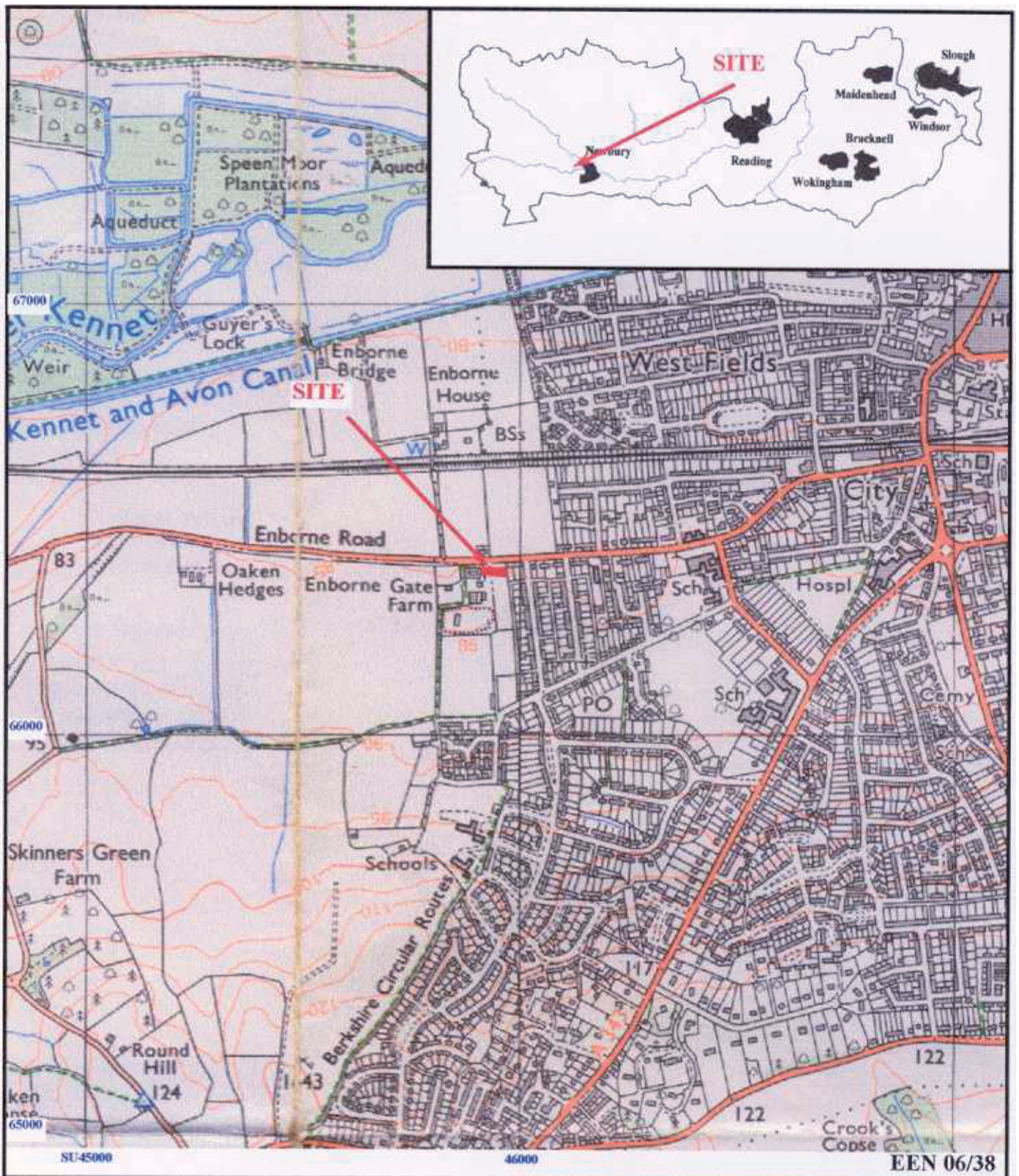
## **References**

- BGS, 1971, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, 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  
PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

**APPENDIX 1: Trench details****0m at W end**

<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	21.5	1.60	0.86	0.00m-0.17m Turf and topsoil onto 0.17m-0.62m light brown grey silt with moderate gravel subsoil; 0.62m-0.86m onto pale grey brown silty clay with frequent gravel; 0.86m+ gravel natural. [Plate 1]





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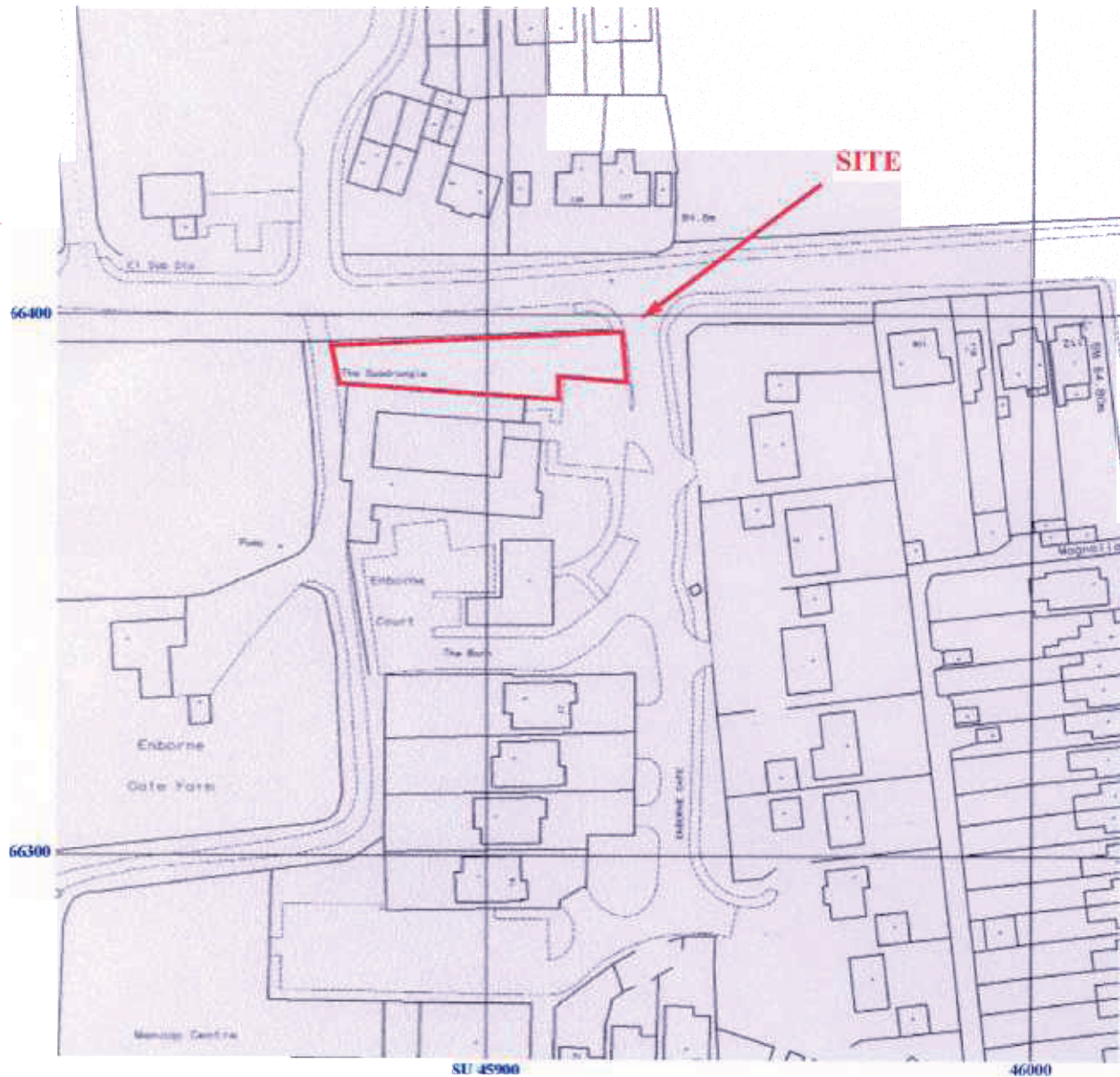
Figure 1. Location of site within Newbury  
and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Enborne Gate.

Scale: 1:1250

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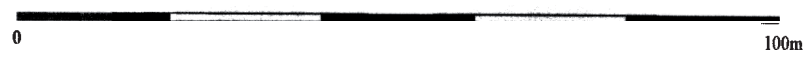
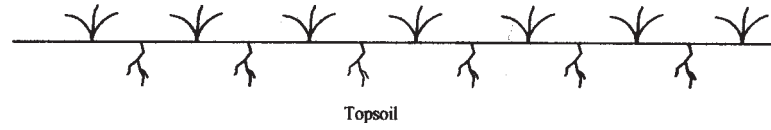


Figure 3: Trench Location

# The Quadrangle, Enborne Court, Enborne Road, Newbury, Berkshire, 2006



Light Brown Grey Silt



Light Grey Sandy Clay with Gravels



1m

Figure 4: Representative Section



Plate 1. Trench 1, Looking east, scales 2m, 1m.