

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Phase 5, Grimsby Road, Cippenham,
Slough, Berkshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Andy Taylor

Site Code: GRC13/57

(SU 9493 7977)

**Phase 5, Eltham Avenue,
Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Excavation
for Eton College**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GRC 13/57

May 2013

Summary

Site name: Phase 5, Grimsby Road, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9493 7977

Site activity: Excavation

Date and duration of project: 17th-22nd April 2013

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Andy Taylor

Site code: GRC 13/57

Area of site: c.0.35 hectares

Summary of results: No deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were observed. Most of the site had been deeply truncated during development with only a small area of exposed natural geology which had not obviously been deeply truncated. The southern part of the area had been previously subject to archaeological excavation.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum willing to accept material in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 31.05.13 Steve Preston✓ 30.05.13

Phase 5, Grimsby Avenue, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Excavation

by Andy Taylor

Report 13/57

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological excavation carried out at Grimsby Road, Cippenham, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9493 7977) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Roger Rippon of Rippon Development Services 19 Christchurch Gardens, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 7AH on behalf of Eton College. Planning permission has been gained (P/08770/072) from Slough Borough Council for the construction of new housing on the site, which is known as phase 5 of the general Cippenham Sector development.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough County Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Ben Jervis, formerly of Berkshire Archaeology and the fieldwork was monitored by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Principle Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor between the 17th and 22nd April and the site code is GRC 13/57. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum willing to accept material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a near rectangular parcel of land on the western side of Grimsby Road at its junction with Eltham Avenue, Cippenham, Berkshire and the site is currently occupied by a contractors compound (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as floodplain gravel (BGS 1978) but earlier excavations showed a capping of brickearth over some of this (Ford *et al.* 2003, 1), which was partially observed on the site. The site lies at a height of approximately 22m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The site lies in an area increasingly regarded as being rich in archaeological deposits. Until relatively recently the area was little explored (Ford 1987a) but large scale projects such as the Eton College rowing lake at Dorney

(Allen and Welsh 1998) and the Maidenhead, Eton and Windsor flood relief scheme (Foreman *et al.* 2002) coupled with an overview of the middle and upper reaches of the valley as a whole (Booth *et al.* 2007) have contributed significantly to a revised understanding of the region.

Extensive excavations took place immediately to the west of the proposal area prior to development of earlier phases of the 'Cippenham Sector' in 1995–7, which examined a wide range of deposits of prehistoric, Roman and medieval dates (Ford *et al.* 2003; Ford and Taylor 2004). These finds included Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation, a Bronze Age ring ditch (levelled burial mound), Iron Age and Roman enclosures and field systems, and part of the medieval hamlet of Cippenham. To the north on Bath Road, excavations revealed a Roman site (Howell and Durden 2003) and recently a further component of the medieval hamlet of Cippenham has been examined on Lower Cippenham Lane (Taylor 2012a).

The southern part of the site, now occupied by a noise bund and a sewer pipeline, has also been partially investigated by evaluation and watching brief, which revealed a small number of poorly dated field boundaries (Ford 1996; Rawlins and Ford 2003). To the north-west of the site at Cippenham Court is what is considered to be a medieval moat, though the status of this monument is unclear. To the east is Cippenham moat, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, likely to be the site of the manor first mentioned as belonging to Richard, Earl of Cornwall in the 13th century, but probably with earlier origins. Aerial photography has revealed a more extensive ground plan of a now levelled earthwork on the southern side of the moat.

An evaluation and subsequent excavation (Taylor 2012b) on this site prior to the development work commencing identified a Neolithic pit, Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation, including an Iron Age ring gully and Roman landscape features.

Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the excavation were to:

- Excavate and record all archaeological deposits and features within areas threatened by the proposed development.
- Produce relative and absolute dating and phasing for deposits and features recorded on the site.
- Establish the character of these deposits in attempt to define functional areas on the site such as industrial, domestic etc.

Specific objectives of the excavation were;

- When was the site first utilised and when was it abandoned?
- Is there further evidence of Neolithic occupation in the form of isolated pits and struck flint to be found?
- What is the function of ditches and gullies and how are they organised? What is the relationship of these presumed enclosures to the Iron Age and Roman enclosures nearby?

What is the nature and extent of Iron Age occupation on the site? Will additional Iron Age occupation deposits be revealed adjacent to those already recorded at the southern end of the proposal site?
What is the palaeoenvironmental setting of the site?

The stripping of the site was carried out using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket, with the exception of the removal of compacted hardcore. This was done under constant archaeological supervision.

Results

During the course of the stripping of the site (Fig. 3) it became evident that the site had been highly truncated since the previous phase of archaeological works. Where areas of the site were excessively wet they had been dug out and hardcore dumped in order to create the contractors' compound. Teeth marks and wheel ruts were evident across the site from these works with only the north western corner showing no evidence of significant truncation of brickearth deposits although topsoil and subsoil had been stripped from this area. No archaeological deposits were observed in this latter area, as indeed had been the case in the earlier evaluation (Taylor 2007). The trenching in this area suggested features existed only to the south, in the area which was later excavated (Taylor 2012b).

Finds

No finds of an archaeological nature were recovered during the stripping of the site.

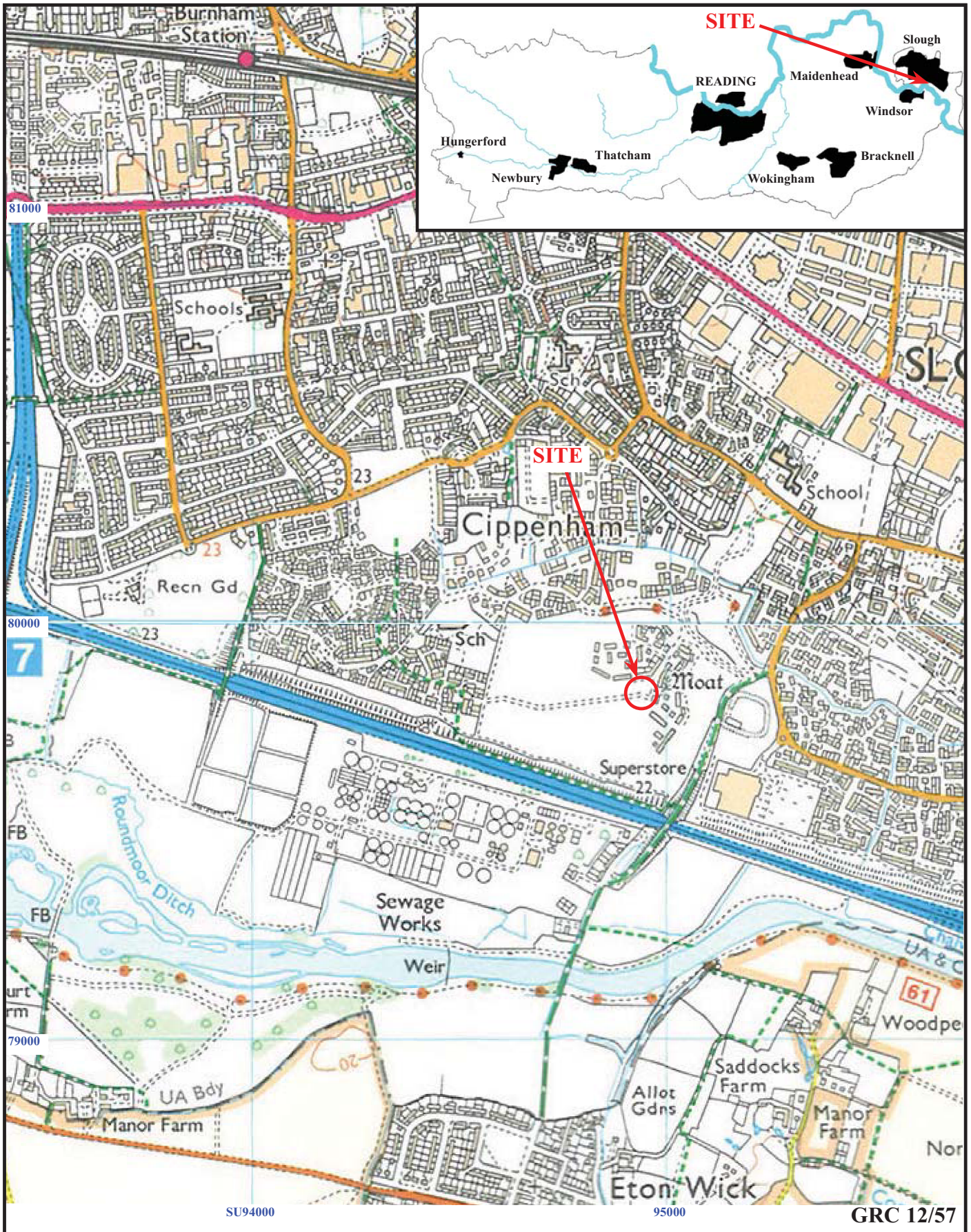
Conclusion

Despite the expected potential for archaeological deposits being present on the site based on the previous evaluation trenches and excavated areas, the site had been highly truncated prior to the construction of the contractors' compound resulting in any archaeological remains that had been present being removed.

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Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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**Land at Grimsby Road, Cippenham, Slough,
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 Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Grimsby Road.

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Figure 3. Location of observed area, showing previously excavated features (after Taylor 2012b).

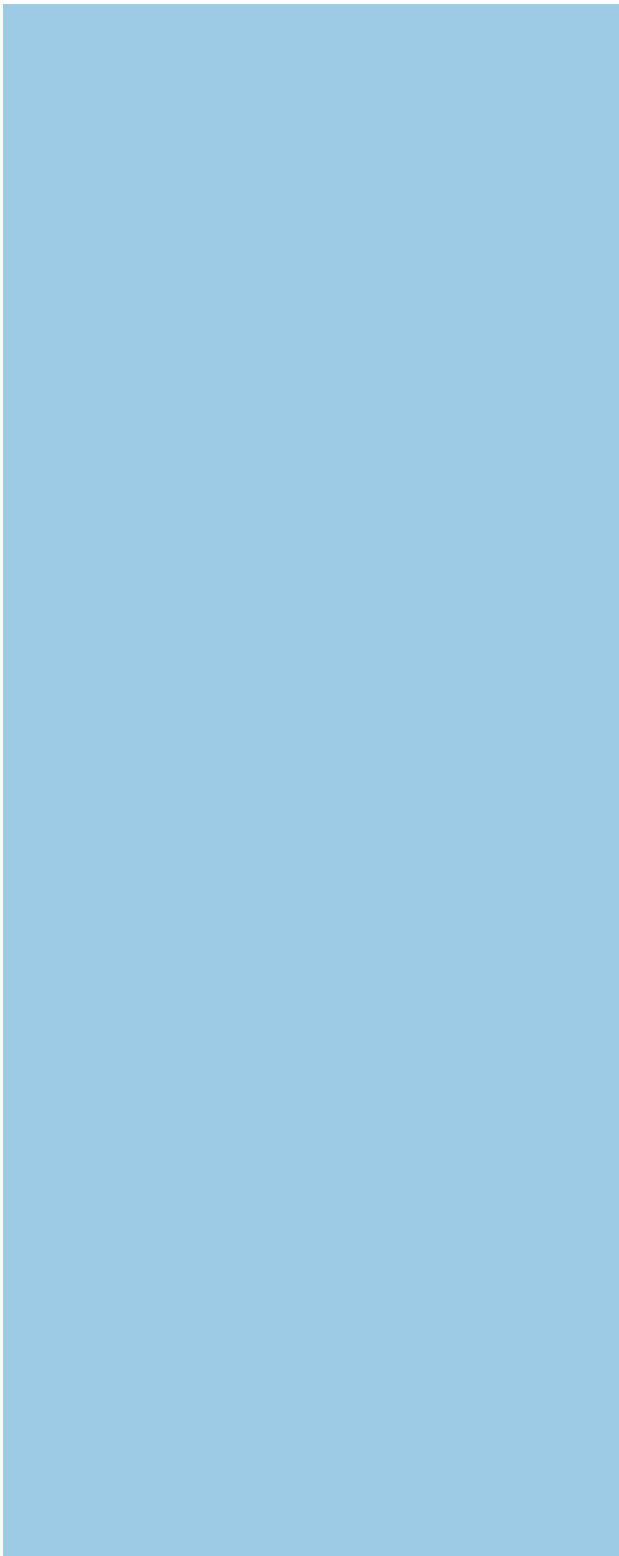
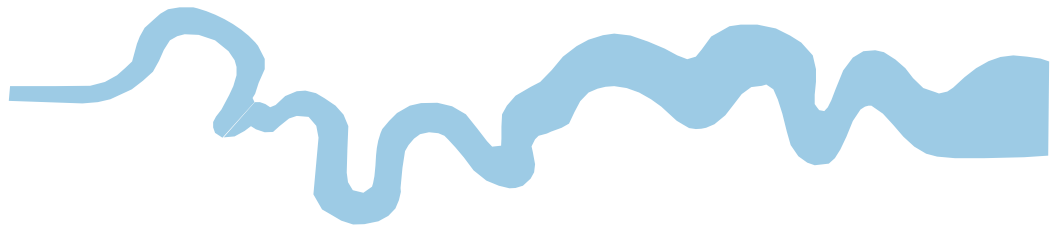


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TIME CHART

	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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