

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

**S E R V I C E S**

**Ridgemont, 18 Court Close,  
Bray, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: CCB13/126**

**(SU 9045 7860)**

**Ridgemont, 18 Court Close,  
Bray, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Mr R C Gomme**

by Andy Taylor  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code CCB 13/126

**August 2013**

## Summary

**Site name:** Ridgmont, 18 Court Close, Bray, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9045 7860

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 12th August 2013

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** CCB 13/126

**Area of site:** c. 312 sq m

**Summary of results:** No deposits or finds of an archaeological nature were observed. One trench contained a considerable volume of made ground suggesting that part of the site had been quarried and backfilled. 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 with a local museum prepared to accept the material in due course, with accession code.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 23.08.13
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# **Ridgemont, 18 Court Close, Bray, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation**

by Andy Taylor

**Report 13/126**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Ridgemont, 18 Court Close, Bray, Berkshire (SU 9045 7860) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr R Gomme, 18 Court Close, Bray, Berkshire, SL6 8DL.

Planning permission (app no 10/02487) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Maidenhead and Windsor for the construction of a new detached dwelling and garage. The consent includes a condition (3) relating to archaeology.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor and Dan Strachan on the 12th August and the site code is CCB 13/126. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at a local museum willing to accept the material in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the southern margins of Bray, which itself lies c.2km south of Maidenhead (Fig 1). The site is on the northern side of the A308, at the eastern side of Court Close and east of number 18 (Fig. 2). It currently comprises the garden associated with number 18 and is a relatively flat plot of land that had had a garage demolished previously. The underlying geology consisted of Taplow Gravel (BGS 1981), which along with sand was observed in trench 2. The site lies at a height of c.25m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing note provided by Mr Paul Falcini of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary this potential stems from its location in the archaeologically rich Thames



Valley with a range of sites recorded (eg Ford 1987; Gates 1975). Locally excavations in advance of gravel extraction to the north revealed extensive Bronze Age deposits (Barnes et al 1995) and further to the east on the opposite side of the river, extensive Neolithic, Bronze Age and Roman occupation has been recorded (Allen and Mitchell 2001). To the west a dense Mesolithic site has been recorded (Ames 1993) with Neolithic occupation at Cannon Hill (Bradley et al 1976).

## **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 if archaeological deposits of any period are present.
- To determine if any archaeologically significant deposits are present so as to inform the development of a mitigation strategy.

Two trenches were to be dug targeting the footprint of the proposed structures. These were dug using a JCB-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were monitored finds.

## **Results**

Both trenches were excavated as close as possible to their intended positions. Trench 1 had to be shortened due to its excessive depth and collapsing sides. This took place in consultation with the monitor. The trenches measured between 4.80m and 8m in length and between 0.80m and 1.80m deep. 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 was aligned approximately east-west and measured 4.80m in length and 1.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil overlying 0.47m of brown sandy subsoil. This overlay at least 1.18m of made ground comprising mid-dark brown silty clay which contained brick fragments. Due to the excessive depth and collapsing sides the natural geology was not reached in this trench. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

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

This trench was aligned approximately north-south and measured 8.0m in length and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil overlying 0.53m of subsoil overlying clayey sand natural geology. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

### **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeology being present on the site, no deposits or finds of archaeological interest were observed. Of more significance is the depth of made ground deposits recorded in trench 1 which indicate that part of the site has previously been quarried (for gravel) and then backfilled. As such the archaeologically relevant level has been removed from some and possibly most of the site. The site is not considered to have any archaeological potential.

### **References**

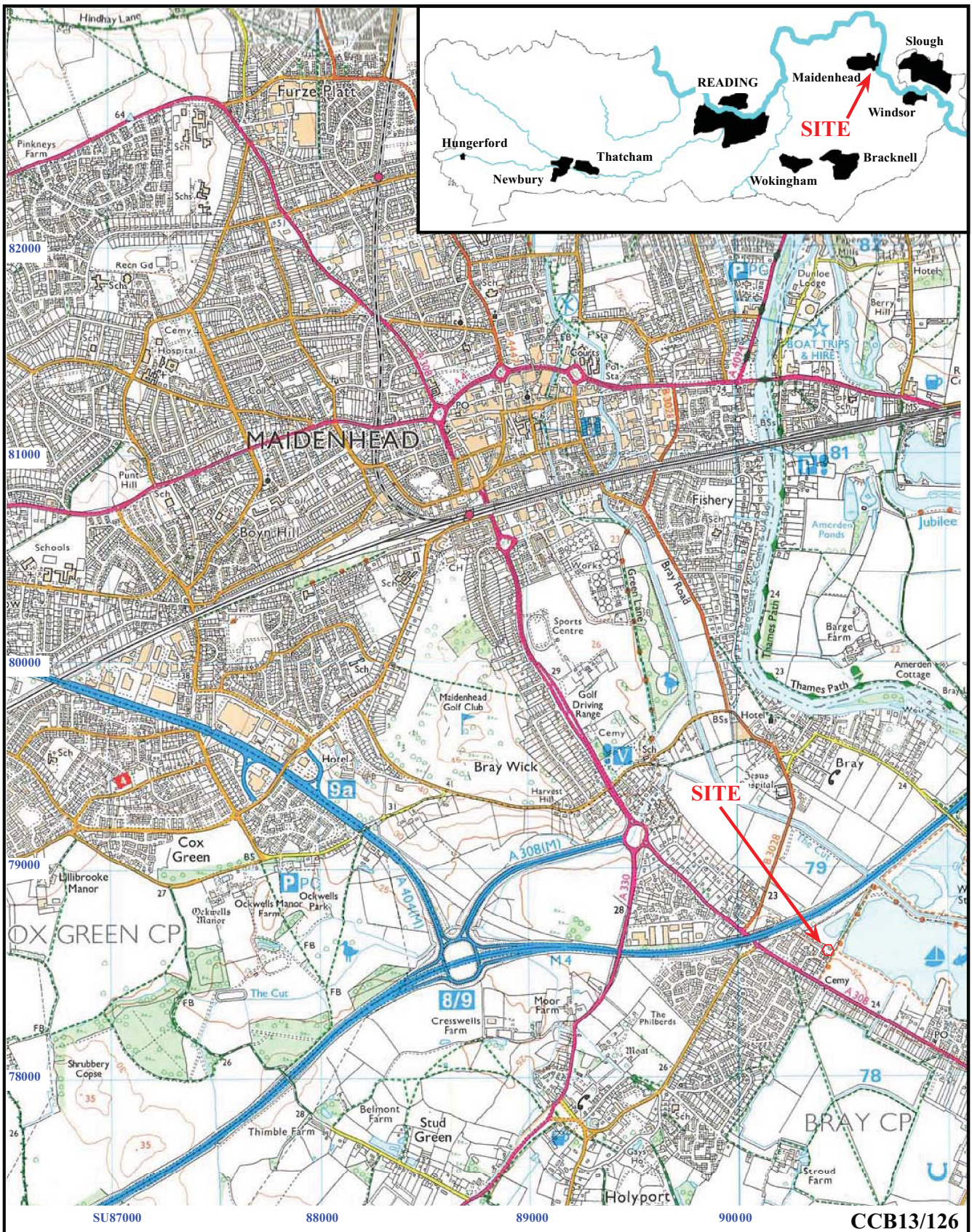
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## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	4.80	1.60	1.80	0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.62m brown sandy subsoil; 0.62m-1.80m+ mid-dark brown silty clay with brick fragments (made ground). Natural geology not encountered. <b>[Pl. 1]</b>
2	8.00	1.60	0.80	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m clayey sand natural geology <b>[Pl. 2]</b> .



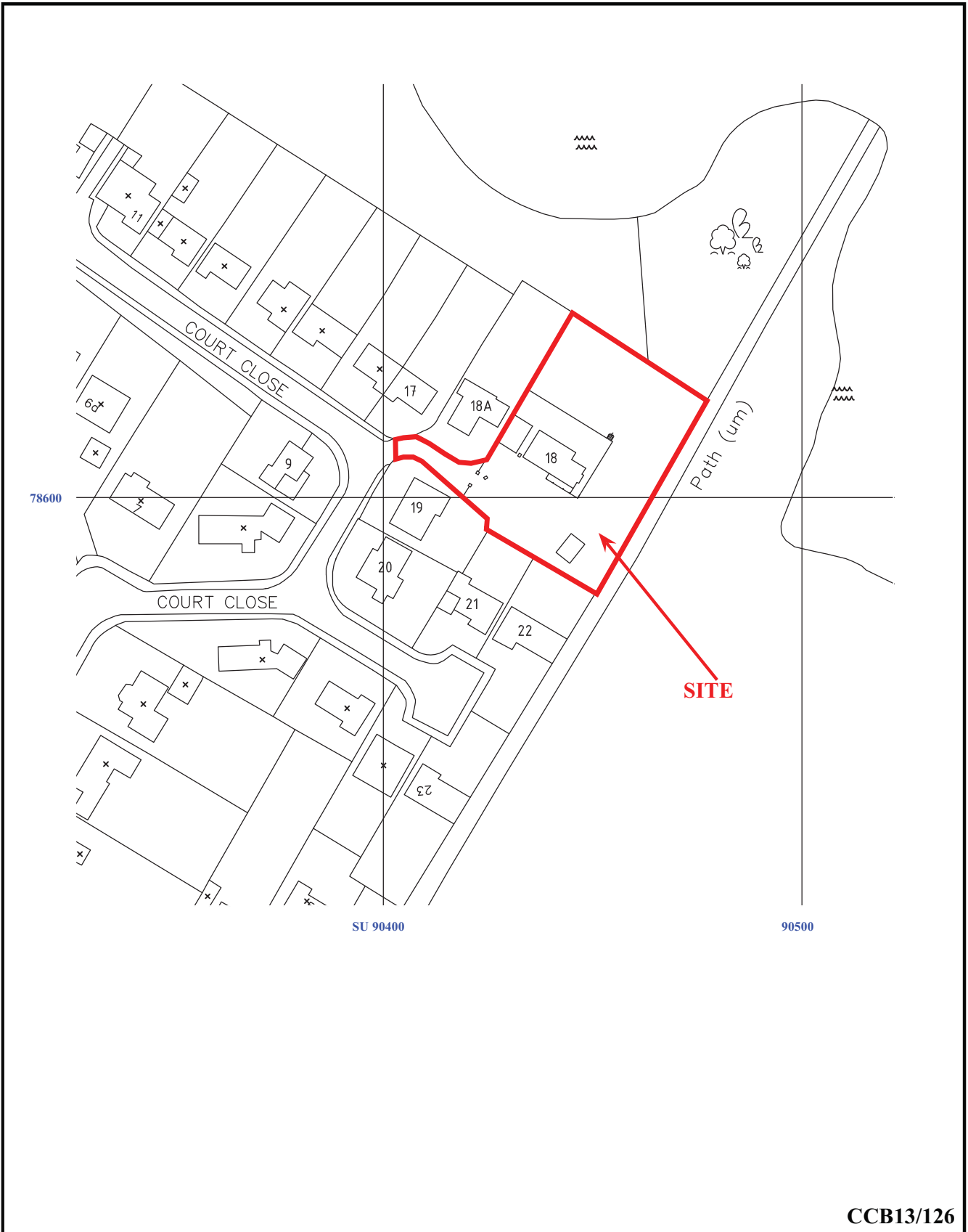


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Figure 1. Location of site within Bray and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Court Close.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches



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**Trench 1**

25.3m aOD

Turf/topsoil

Made ground (brown sand with gravel and brick fragments)

Made ground (dark brown silty sand with gravel and brick fragments)

Base of trench (natural geology not encountered)

**Trench 2**

25.3m aOD

Turf/topsoil

Subsoil (dark brown sandy clay)

base of trench — — — — — Natural geology (clayey sand) — — — — —

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Figure 4. Representative sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1 looking south east, Scales 2m and 1m



Plate 2. Trench 2 looking north, Scales: 2m, 1m and 0.3m.

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Plates 1 to 2.

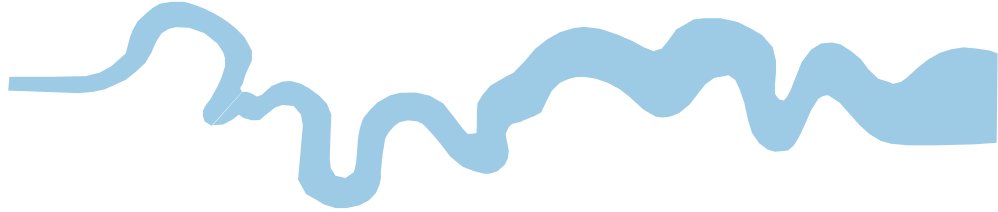
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## TIME CHART

	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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