

# **Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Banner Homes**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code VRW 06/95

**October 2006**

## Summary

**Site name:** Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire

**Grid reference:** SP 765 278

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 18th–3rd October 2006

**Project manager:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisor:** Andy Taylor

**Site code:** VRW 06/95

**Area of site:** c.6 hectares

**Summary of results:** Seventy-four evaluation trenches were excavated. No finds or deposits of an archaeological nature were observed

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

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	Steve Preston✓ 17.10.06

# Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Andy Taylor

**Report 06/95**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (SP 765 278) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Paul McCann, for Banner Homes, Riverside House, Holtspur Lane, Wooburn Green, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 0TJ.

Planning permission is to be sought from Aylesbury Vale District Council to develop a c.6 hectare plot of land for residential use off Verney Road.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Radford, Archaeological Officer with Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, advisers to the District on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Taylor, Simon Cass and Sue Burden between the 18th September and 3rd October 2006 and the site code is VRW 06/95. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Buckinghamshire County Museum in due course.

An earlier desk-top study was carried by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2006). This highlighted the potential of the site to contain evidence for Iron Age, Roman or Saxon occupation. Medieval ridge and furrow can be traced in one corner of the site. Other features visible on the ground, including earthworks of unknown origin, are thought to be post-medieval.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the north-western margins of Winslow on the north side of Verney Road (Fig. 1). The site is currently pasture land and slopes down from c.110m above Ordnance Datum at the southern edge towards a stream at c.105m AOD in the centre, then back up to the northern edge. The stream flows west to feed the Claydon Brook around 1km west. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as a mix of glaciofluvial deposits of sand and gravel as well as glacial till (stony clay with flint). Both drift (glacial) deposits were observed across the site.

## **Archaeological background**

A brief highlighting the archaeological potential of the site was produced by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (Radford 2006) drawing on the previous desk-top carried out by Oxford Archaeology (OA 2006). This noted the potential for Iron Age, Roman and Saxon occupation. Winslow is documented as *Wineshlauu* (Wine's mound) (Mills 1998, 384) in middle Saxon times, when it was a royal estate granted by King Offa to St Alban's Abbey at the end of the 8th century, and it was still held (as *Weneslai*) by the Abbey at the time of Domesday Book (AD1086) (Williams and Martin 2002, 401). It briefly became a town in medieval times, with a 13th-century grant of a market. Various post medieval structures and earthworks are present on the site, several of which are documented on historic maps.

## **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 aims of the evaluation were:

To determine if archaeologically relevant have survived on this site.

To determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

To determine if any deposits relating to Iron Age or Roman occupation are present.

To determine the nature and date of upstanding earthworks present on the site.

To determine if deposits of good palaeoenvironmental potential are present on the site.

It was intended to dig 75 trenches, each 20m long and 1.8m wide to be excavated using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket. The excavations were to take place under constant archaeological supervision. All spoilheaps were to be monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

## **Results**

A total of 74 trenches were eventually excavated on the site using a 360° type machine. All trenches were wider than planned and were 2.1m wide and their lengths varied from 10.0m to 22.0m though the majority were close to 20m. These were dug as close as possible to their intended positions, under constant archaeological supervision. The spoilheaps were monitored for finds as intended.

The trenches varied in depth from 0.35m to 1.8m though depths of under 1m were typical. The stratigraphy of the trenches varied across the site but in essence reflected the three main topographic subdivisions (valley sides to north and south, valley floor).

Trenches 3 to 16, 18, 25, 39, 41, 44, 51 to 62, 64 to 67, 73 and 74 showed stratigraphy of topsoil above subsoil over a till (stony clay with flint) geology.

Trenches 19 to 24 (Plate 1), 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 43, 45, 47 to 49, 63 and 68 to 72, showed stratigraphy of topsoil over subsoil over a sand and gravel natural geology.

In the small stream valley located in the middle of the site evidence of alluvial deposits was recorded in trenches 17, 26, 27, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 38 and 50. These took the form of clay and silt deposits below the topsoil and sealing either the till or sand/gravel geology.

In trenches 40 and 42 (Plate 2) clay deposits were present below the subsoil and above the natural geology but these trenches were located to the south-east of the valley.

A number of potential features were examined in some trenches but sections through all of them revealed unambiguously that they were modern land drains or otherwise natural in origin. No archaeological deposits nor finds were observed during the digging of any of the evaluation trenches.

## **Finds**

No finds were retrieved during the evaluation either from the spoilheaps nor the trench bases.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits as highlighted in the desk-top study and despite the relatively large area of land forming the proposal site, no features or finds were observed. Any possible features were investigated and were shown either to be natural features or evidence of late post-medieval land drainage. It has been considered that the lack of archaeological deposits might be due to recognition on a difficult subsoil or due to under excavation of masking deposits. However, in this instance the geological outcrops present here are not noted for their recognition difficulties. With regard to masking deposits, negative trenches are routinely over dug to ensure that this is not the case especially so for areas on the floor of the valley where colluvial and alluvial deposits formed. There are no reasons to discount the negative results obtained by this evaluation.

It therefore seems highly unlikely that any archaeological remains would be affected by the proposed development of the site. In particular the suspected earthworks were not identified as being of archaeological origin and the development site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

## References

- BGS, 2002, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 219, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Mills, A D, 1998, *Dictionary of English Place-Names*, Oxford
- OA 2006, 'Land north of Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, desktop assessment', Oxford Archaeology, Oxford
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Radford, D, 2006, 'Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (Trial trenching): Project: Verney Road, Winslow', Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service, Buckingham
- Williams, A and Martin, G H, 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at S or W end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	18.20	2.10	0.87	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.65m mid grey clay; 0.65m-0.85m mid brown silty clay; 0.85m-0.89m+ clay natural.
2	19.60	2.10	1.30	0.00m-0.30m light grey brown silty clay; 0.30m-1.28m light grey clay; 1.28m-1.30m+ clay natural.
3	20.60	2.10	1.00	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.69m subsoil; 0.69m-0.98m mid grey clay; 0.98m-1.00m+ till natural.
4	20.00	2.10	0.71	0.00m-0.19m topsoil; 0.19m-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m-0.68m mid grey clay; 0.68m-0.71m+ till natural.
5	20.10	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.65m+ till natural.
6	19.20	2.10	1.00	0.00m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m-0.95m yellow brown silty clay; 0.95m-1.00m+ till natural.
7	20.40	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.65m+ till natural.
8	19.50	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m-0.55m+ till natural.
9	20.30	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m-0.55m+ till natural.
10	20.50	2.10	1.15	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-1.10m subsoil; 1.10m-0.15m+ till natural.
11	20.70	2.10	0.75	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.72m subsoil; 0.72m-0.75m+ till natural.
12	19.50	2.10	0.74	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.72m subsoil; 0.72m-0.74m+ till natural.
13	20.50	2.10	0.62	0.00m-0.31m topsoil; 0.31m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.62m+ till natural.
14	20.45	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.55m+ till natural.
15	20.30	2.10	0.50	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.50m+ till natural.
16	20.10	2.10	0.68	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.68m+ till natural.
17	21.90	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.52m subsoil 0.52m-0.80m alluvial silt.
18	20.00	2.10	1.05	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m-1.02m yellowey brown clay; 1.02m-1.05m+ till natural.
19	21.00	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.25m subsoil; 0.25m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m-0.80m+ gravel natural.
20	20.10	2.10	0.72	0.00m-0.32m topsoil; 0.32m-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m-0.70m light brown silty clay; 0.70m-0.72m+ gravel natural.
21	21.50	2.10	0.78	0.00m-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m-0.78m+ gravel natural.
22	20.10	2.10	1.22	0.00m-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-1.20m subsoil; 1.20m-1.22m+ gravel natural.
23	20.00	2.10	0.73	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.72m subsoil; 0.72m-0.73m gravel natural.
24	20.00	2.10	0.87	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m-0.83m yellow brown clay; 0.83m-0.87m+ gravel natural. <b>[Plate 1]</b>
25	19.70	2.10	0.76	0.00m-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.75m yellow clay; 0.75m-0.76m+ till natural.
26	18.20	2.10	1.80	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.85m subsoil; 0.85m-1.75m mid brown silty clay; 1.75m-1.80m+ till natural.
27	19.80	2.10	1.40	0.00m-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-1.00m subsoil; 1.00m-1.38m orange brown clay; 1.38m-1.40m+ till natural.
28	19.40	2.10	0.75	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m-0.75m+ gravel natural.
29	19.00	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.78m subsoil; 0.78m-0.80m+ gravel natural.
30	21.00	2.10	0.95	0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.50m grey clay; 0.50m-0.90m yellowey grey clay; 0.90m-0.95m+ gravel natural.
31	19.00	2.10	1.00	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.95m grey clay (alluvial); 0.95m-1.00m+ gravel natural.
32	20.50	2.10	0.85	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m-0.85m+ gravel natural.
33	20.60	2.10	0.70	0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.30m black silt; 0.30m-0.68m alluvial clay; 0.68m-0.70m+ gravel natural.
34	20.40	2.10	0.70	0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.55m grey clay; 0.55m-0.68m yellow clay; 0.68m-0.70m+ gravel natural.
35	21.30	2.10	0.60	0.00m-0.22m topsoil; 0.22m-0.48m mid grey sandy silt; 0.48m-0.60m grey clay.
36	20.00	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.78m grey clay; 0.78m-0.80m+ gravel natural.
37	18.90	2.10	0.71	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.60m subsoil; 0.60m-0.68m mid grey brown silty clay; 0.68m-0.71m till natural.
38	19.30	2.10	0.76	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.73m orange brown silty clay; 0.73m-0.76m+ till natural.
39	20.70	2.10	0.63	0.00m-0.29m topsoil; 0.29m-0.59m subsoil; 0.59m-0.65m+ till natural.
40	19.60	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m-0.62m grey clay; 0.62m-0.65m+ till natural.
41	20.40	2.10	0.50	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.50m+ till natural.
42	20.10	2.10	0.78	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.75m light grey clay; 0.75m-0.78m+ sandy gravel natural <b>[Plate 2]</b>
43	21.00	2.10	0.60	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.57m subsoil; 0.57m-0.60m+ gravel natural.
44	20.00	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.75m subsoil; 0.75m-0.80m+ till natural.
45	18.00	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.50m grey clay; 0.50m-0.62m yellow clay; 0.62m-0.65m+ gravel natural.
46	20.20	2.10	0.63	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.60m yellow clay; 0.60m-0.63m+ gravel natural.

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
47	19.40	2.10	0.60	0.00m-0.10m topsoil; 0.10m-0.45m black silt; 0.45m-0.60m grey clay; 0.60m+ gravel natural.
48	19.50	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m-0.60m grey clay; 0.60m-0.65m+ gravel natural.
49	20.50	2.10	0.50	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.50m+ gravel natural.
50	19.40	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.15m topsoil; 0.15m-0.40m black silt; 0.40m-0.60m grey clay; 0.60m-0.65m+ gravel natural.
51	20.20	2.10	0.58	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m+ till natural.
52	19.20	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.53m subsoil; 0.53m-0.55m+ till natural.
53	19.00	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m+ till natural.
54	19.20	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.52m subsoil; 0.52m-0.55m+ till natural.
55	19.45	2.10	0.70	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.67m subsoil; 0.67m-0.70m+ till natural.
56	21.00	2.10	0.35	0.00m-0.16m topsoil; 0.16m-0.34m subsoil; 0.35m-0.35m+ till natural.
57	22.00	2.10	0.50	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.48m subsoil; 0.48m-0.50m+ till natural.
58	20.10	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m-0.55m+ till natural.
59	19.70	2.10	0.53	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.47m subsoil; 0.47m-0.53m+ till natural.
60	20.60	2.10	0.55	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.50m subsoil; 0.50m-0.55m+ till natural.
61	20.00	2.10	0.56	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.55m subsoil; 0.55m-0.56m+ till natural.
62	20.50	2.10	0.66	0.00m-0.26m topsoil; 0.26m-0.64m subsoil; 0.64m-0.66m+ till natural.
63	20.70	2.10	0.58	0.00m-0.23m topsoil; 0.23m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m-0.58m+ gravel natural.
64	20.20	2.10	0.65	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m+ gravel natural.
65	20.50	2.10	0.58	0.00m-0.24m topsoil; 0.24m-0.56m subsoil; 0.56m-0.58m+ till natural.
66	20.00	2.10	0.74	0.00m-0.25m topsoil; 0.25m-0.58m subsoil; 0.58m-0.72m orange brown silty clay; 0.72m-0.74m+ till natural.
67	20.20	2.10	1.00	0.00m-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.95m subsoil; 0.95m-1.00m+ till natural.
68	19.60	2.10	0.82	0.00m-0.30m topsoil; 0.30m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m-0.82m+ sandy gravel natural.
69	20.00	2.10	0.66	0.00m-0.35m topsoil; 0.35m-0.65m subsoil; 0.65m-0.66m+ sandy gravel natural.
70	20.10	2.10	0.75	0.00m-0.28m topsoil; 0.28m-0.70m subsoil; 0.70m-0.75m+ sandy gravel natural.
71	20.00	2.10	0.48	0.00m-0.27m topsoil; 0.27m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m-0.48m+ sandy gravel natural.
72	14.00	2.10	0.93	0.00m-0.40m topsoil; 0.40m-0.90m subsoil; 0.90m-0.93m+ sandy gravel natural.
73	20.40	2.10	0.45	0.00m-0.20m topsoil; 0.20m-0.45m subsoil; 0.45m+ till natural.
74	10.00	2.10	0.80	0.00m-0.50m topsoil; 0.50m-0.80m subsoil; 0.80m+ till natural.





**Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, 2006  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Winslow and Buckinghamshire.

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**Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, 2006  
an archaeological evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Verney Road.

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Scale 1:2500

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# Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, 2006



Figure 3: Trench Locations

# Verney Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, 2006

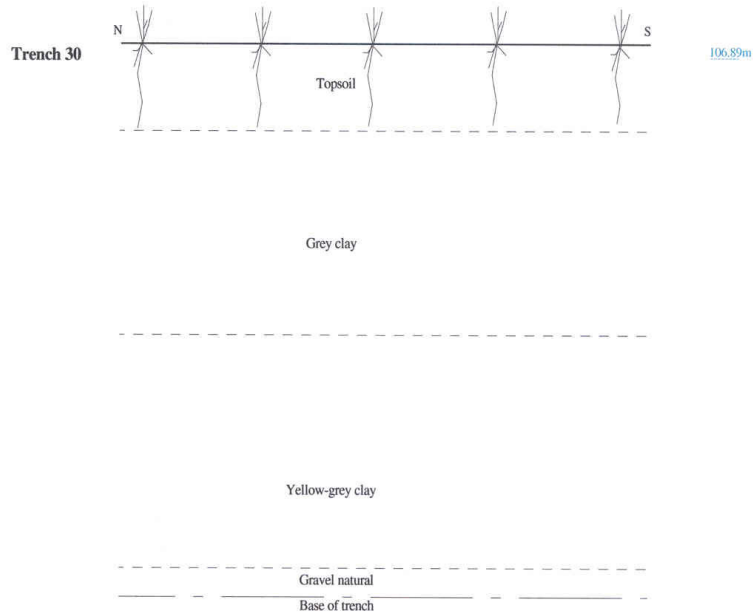
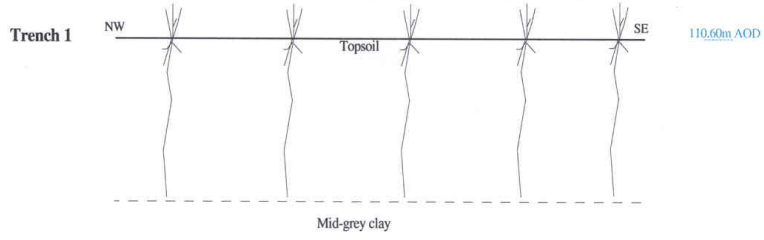


Figure 4. Representative sections



Plate 1. Trench 24 looking north, scales 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 42 looking north-west, scales 2m and 1m.