

**Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road,
Twyford, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Hodson Developments**

by Simon Cass

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MMT07/04

January 2006

Summary

Site name: Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road, Twyford, Berkshire.

Grid reference: SU 7939 7558

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 22nd–23rd January 2007

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Simon Cass

Site code: MMT 07/04

Area of site: 0.268ha

Summary of results: No finds or deposits of archaeological interest were noted.

Monuments identified: None.

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

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 29.01.07
	Steve Preston ✓ 30.01.07

Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road, Twyford, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Simon Cass

Report 07/04

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road, Twyford, Berkshire (SU 7939 7558)(Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Linda Whitehead of Hodson Developments, Forge Lane, Hallowell Road, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1DP.

Planning consent (F/2006/9075) has been granted by Wokingham District council for the construction of six new dwellings on the site. This consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which required a programme of archaeological works on the site. This was to take the form initially of field evaluation, in order to assess the need for further mitigation.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr David Thomason, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the District on matters of archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Cass and Andrew Lawler on the 22nd and 23rd January 2007 and the site code is MMT07/04. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of Winchcombe Road, at its junction with Waltham Road in the southern part of Twyford (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology, as shown on the British Geological Survey map, is plateau gravel (BGS 1946) (Lynch Hill terrace: Wymer 1999) and this was observed in the trenches. The site lies at a height of approximately 52m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is derived from its position in an area relatively rich in stray finds, from Palaeolithic handaxes to Roman and medieval pottery, pointing to continued activity in the area through time. In

addition, the site is believed to lie at, or just beyond, the historic core of the medieval village (first recorded in AD1170). An evaluation carried out a short way to the north found no archaeological features, though it was apparent that that site had been severely truncated in the relatively recent past (Anthony 2004).

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. This was to be carried out in such a way as not to compromise the integrity of any deposits which might warrant preservation *in situ*, or which might better be excavated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific aims of the projects 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 deposits of prehistoric, Roman, Saxon or medieval date are present on the site;

In order to achieve these objectives, it was agreed that three trenches should be excavated, each 15m long and 1.6m wide, targeted on the footprints of the new buildings. The trenches were dug using a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features are certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools and sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits would be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims of the project. All spoilheaps were to be searched for finds. Provision was made for a programme of environmental sampling, and a contingency was provided for additional trenching if required to clarify the initial results.

Results

Three trenches were excavated, located within the site to investigate the footprints of the proposed new buildings. The trenches were all 1.6m wide and between 12.3 and 15.2m long, excavated under archaeological supervision at all times (Fig. 3). Trench 1 was moved from its original position to avoid the foundations of the previous building on site and a section of Trench 2 was left unexcavated because of a new gas pipe running through it. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Plate 1)

Trench 1 was 12.3m long and 1.75m deep at its deepest point (the north-eastern end). The stratigraphy in this trench (at the south-western end) consisted of 0.14m of disturbed topsoil/ garden soil, above 0.49m of pale brown silty sand with occasional medium gravel inclusions above the natural orangey brown sandy gravel (Fig. 4). At the north-eastern end the stratigraphy was the same, though the layers were thicker. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 2 (Plate 2)

Trench 2 was 14.1m long and 1.07m deep at its deepest point (the north-eastern end). The stratigraphy in this trench (at the south-western end) consisted of 0.23m of disturbed topsoil/ garden soil above 0.41m of pale brown silty sand with occasional medium gravel inclusions above the natural orangey brown sandy gravel. At the north-eastern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.65m of disturbed rooty topsoil/garden earth above 0.42m of the silty sand layer. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was 15.2m long and 1.20m deep at its deepest point (the northern end). The stratigraphy at the southern end of this trench consisted of 0.16m of disturbed topsoil/ garden soil above 0.49m of pale brown silty sand with occasional medium gravel inclusions. This again overlay natural orangey brown sandy gravel. At the northern end the stratigraphy consisted of 0.24m of disturbed rooty topsoil/garden earth above 0.96m of the silty sand layer above the natural gravel. Again no archaeological deposits were observed or finds recovered from the spoilheaps.

Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered from the trenches nor from an examination of the spoilheaps.

Conclusion

In conclusion, no evidence of archaeological activity was found in any of the evaluation trenches nor artefacts of interest recovered from the spoilheaps. On the basis of these results the site would appear to have low archaeological potential.

References

- Anthony, S, 2004, 'Woods Warehouse, Ruscombe Lane, Ruscombe, Twyford, Berkshire; an archaeological evaluation', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 04/64, Reading,
- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 268, Drift Edition, Keyworth
- PPG16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO
- Wymer, J J, 1999, *The Lower Palaeolithic occupation of Britain*, Salisbury

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	12.3	1.6	1.75 (NE) 0.63 (SW)	0-0.14m topsoil; 0.14-0.63m pale brown silty sand subsoil; 0.63m+ orange brown sandy gravel. [Plate 1]
2	14.1	1.6	1.07 (NE) 0.68 (SW)	0-0.23m topsoil; 0.23-0.64m pale brown silty sand subsoil; 0.64m+ orange brown sandy gravel. [Plate 2]
3	15.2	1.6	1.20 (N) 0.7 (S)	0-0.16m topsoil; 0.16-0.65m pale brown silty sand subsoil; 0.65m+ orange brown sandy gravel.

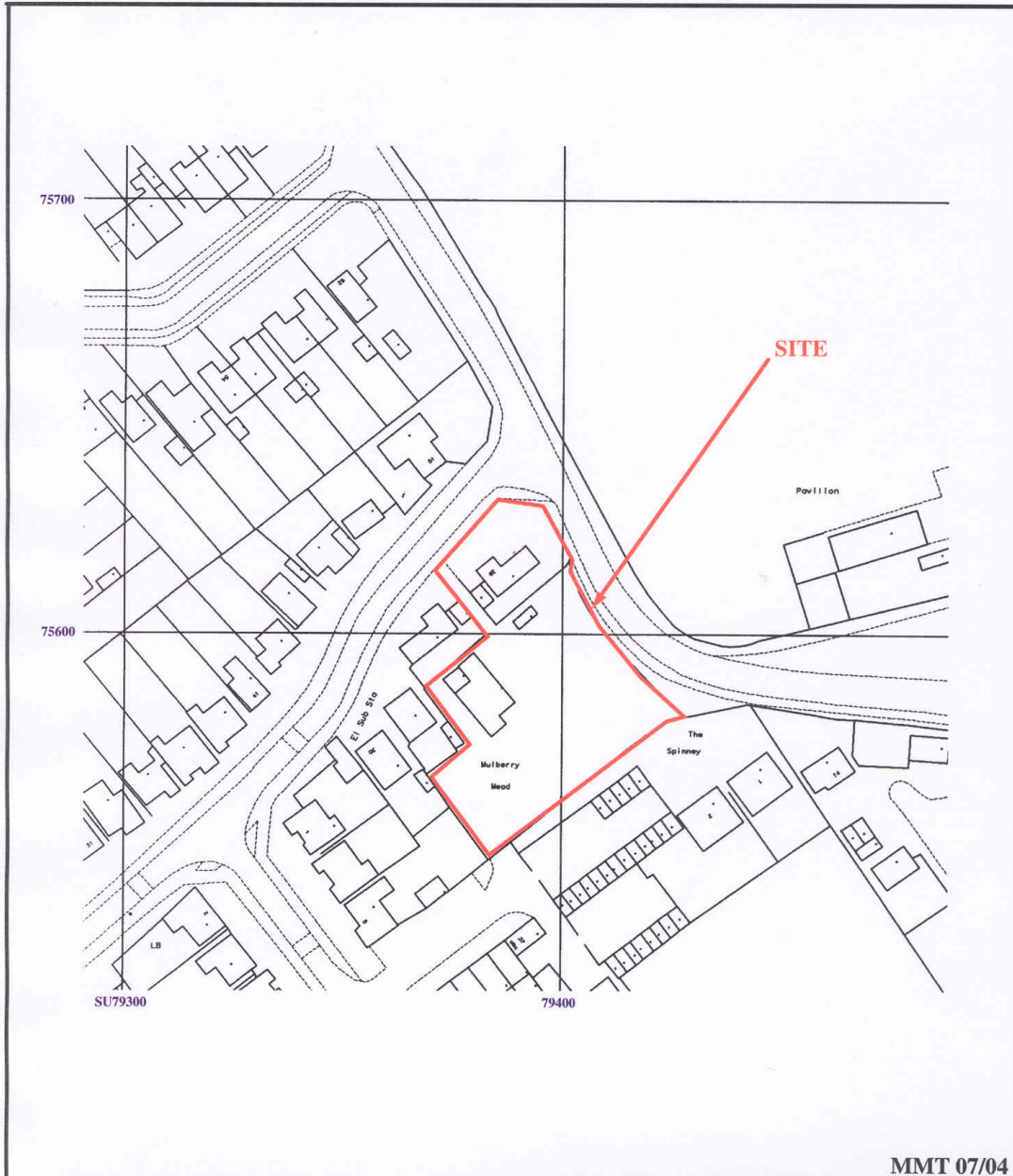


Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road,
Twyford, Berkshire, 2007
An archaeological evaluation

Figure 1. Location of site within Twyford
and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 1172 SU67/77
at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



MMT 07/04

**Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road,
Twyford, Berkshire, 2007
An archaeological evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Winchcombe Road.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping,
Scale 1:1250

T H A M E S V A L L E Y
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 S E R V I C E S

Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road, Twyford, Berkshire, 2007



Figure 2. Location of trenches.

MMT07/04

Mulberry Mead and 36 Winchcombe Road, Twyford, Berkshire, 2007

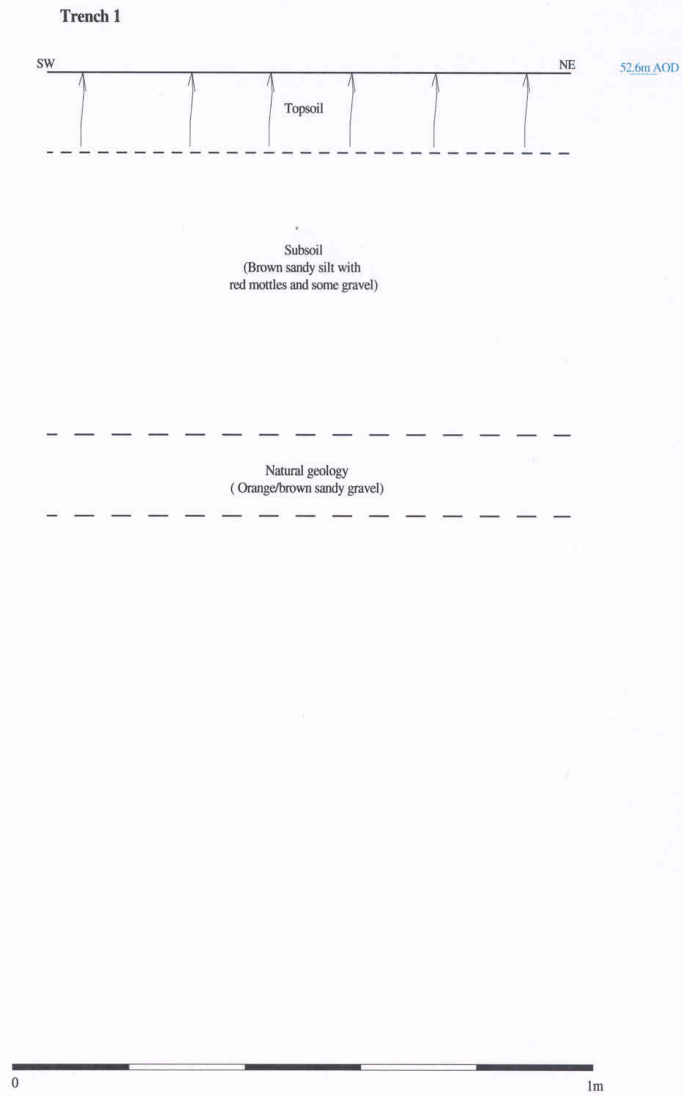


Figure 4. Representative section

MMT07/04



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



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