

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at 51 Park View Drive North,
Charvil, Berkshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Luis Esteves and Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: PVC15/225

(SU 7737 7618)

**Land at 51 Park View Drive North,
Charvil, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Recording Action

For Mr Robin Hester

by Luis Esteves and Kyle Beaverstock
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code PVC15/225

March 2016

Summary

Site name: Land at 51 Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7737 7618

Site activity: Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 11th February 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Danielle Milbank

Site code: PVC 15/225

Area of site: c. 0.1ha

Summary of results: Overburden was removed to expose the top of the natural geology but no archaeological features or finds were observed.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 24.03.16 Steve Preston ✓ 24.03.16

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Report 15/225

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at the west side of Park View Drive North, Charvil, Berkshire (SU 7737 7618) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Robin Hester, Sandhill Cottage, Land End, Charvil, Berkshire RG10 0UE.

Planning consent (F2015/0308) has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a new dwelling. The consent is subject to a condition (6) relating to archaeology requiring a phased programme of archaeological investigation at the site. It was determined that this should take the form of a watching brief during the groundworks. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough Councils' policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by ms Ellie Leary, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough in archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by Danielle Milbank on 11th February 2016 and the site code is PVC 15/225.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with a museum willing to accept the material in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in a parcel of land of the west side of Park View Drive North, Charvil, north-east of Reading, north of Woodley and west of Twyford on the south bank of the Thames (Fig. 2). The site covers parts of three gardens west of Park View Drive North, in a residential area. According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of the Taplow Gravel (BGS 2000), during the archaeological monitoring on site it was observed as a brown orange sandy clay with some clayey sand patches.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr. Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary this potential stems from its location within the lower London Valley close to that river's confluence with the Thames. Various surveys, such as fieldwalking (Ford 1987; Ford

1991-3) and aerial photography (Gates 1975) have revealed a wide range of sites and finds in surrounding areas, most notably the Sonning Neolithic ceremonial complex to the north-west (Slade 1964). The Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record notes other deposits and finds of Neolithic and Roman date recorded to the east of the site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the recording action was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits or finds affected by the new construction work. This was to involve the supervised stripping of overburden to expose the archaeologically relevant levels. The specific research aims of this project are:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site; and
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present.

The overburden was to be removed and the archaeological horizon exposed across the whole footprint of the new building by a 360^o-type machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Any archaeological deposits found were to be cleaned, excavated and recorded using the appropriate hand tools.

Results

Initially a test pit to a depth of *c.*1m. was dug to ascertain the stratigraphy of the site, which showed topsoil directly overlying natural geology. The removal of the remaining topsoil across the site area (Fig. 3) then took place to a depth of 0.38m (Pls 1 and 2). This took place in two phases due to limitation of space. No archaeological deposits were revealed a few modern features were noted..

Finds

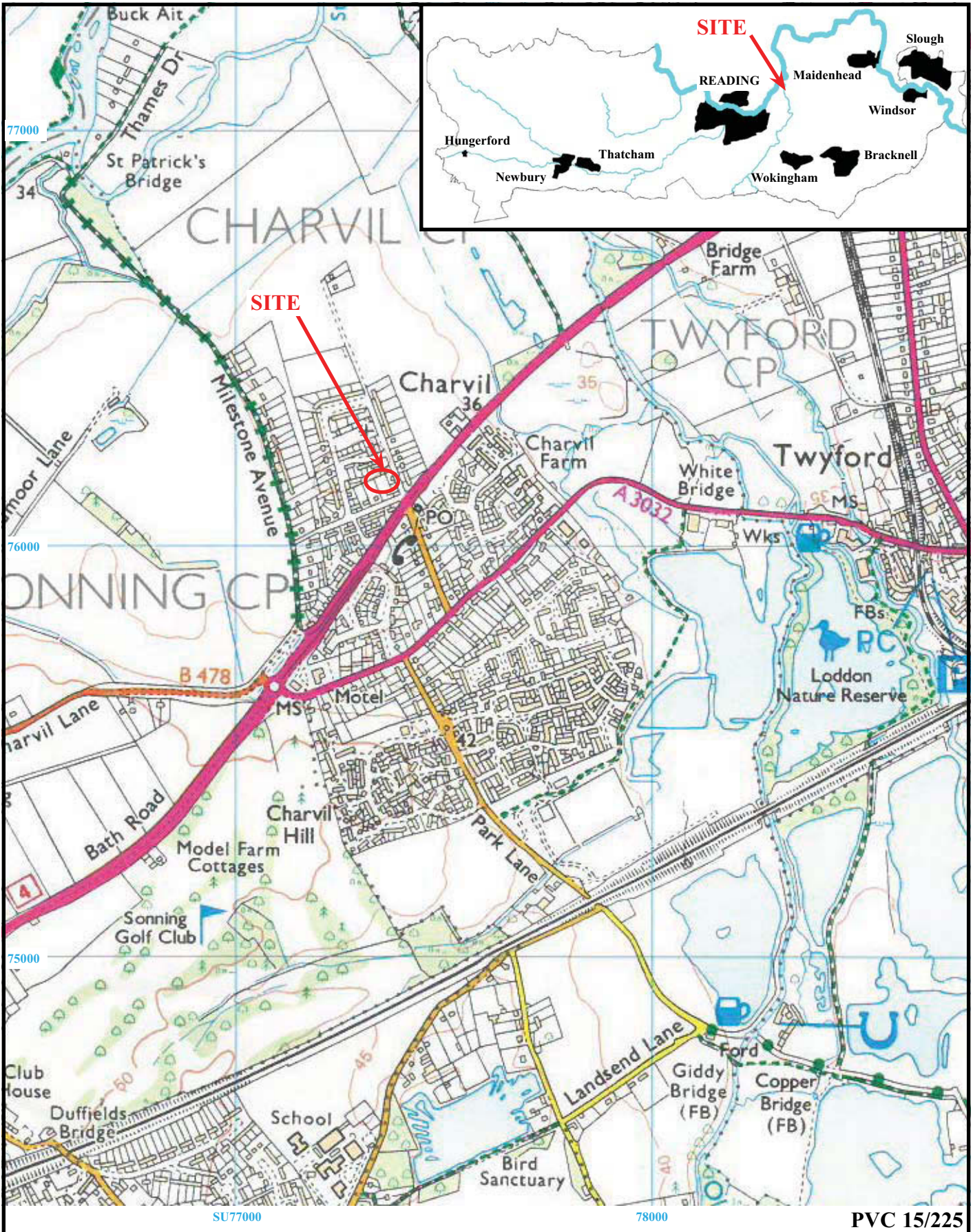
No finds of archaeological interest were observed.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeological deposits being present no features or finds of archaeological significance were present. The entire area of the new building was reduced to the archaeological level and only modern activity was revealed. The development will therefore have no impact on any archaeological deposits.

References

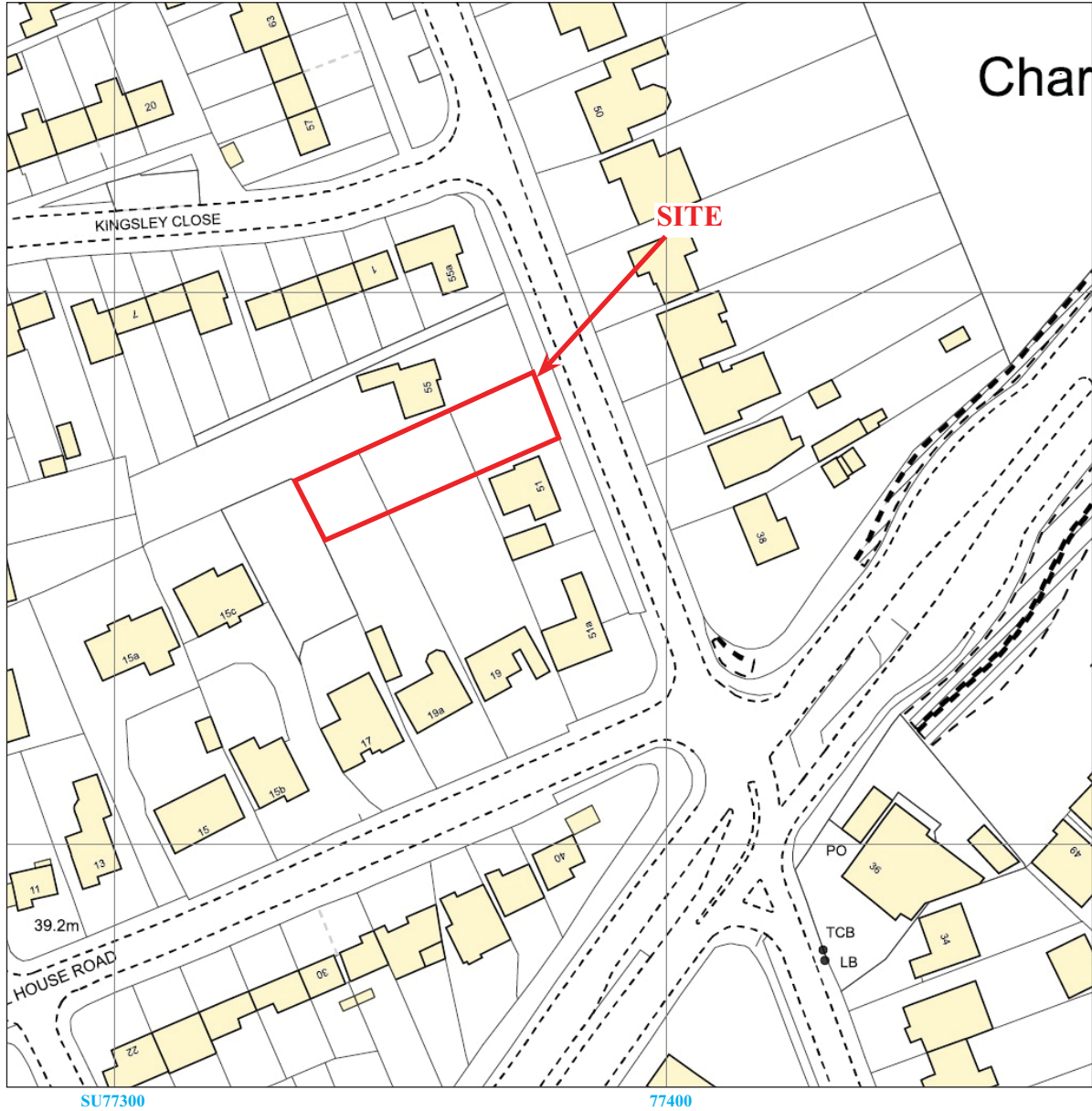
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**Land at 51 Park View Drive North, Charvil,
Berkshire, 2016**
Archaeological Recording Action
 Figure 1. Location of site within Charvil and Berkshire.

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**Land north of 51 Park View Drive, Charvil,
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.





Plate 1. Area of overburden strip looking north, Scale: 2m.



Plate 2. Area of overburden strip looking north east, Scale: 2m.

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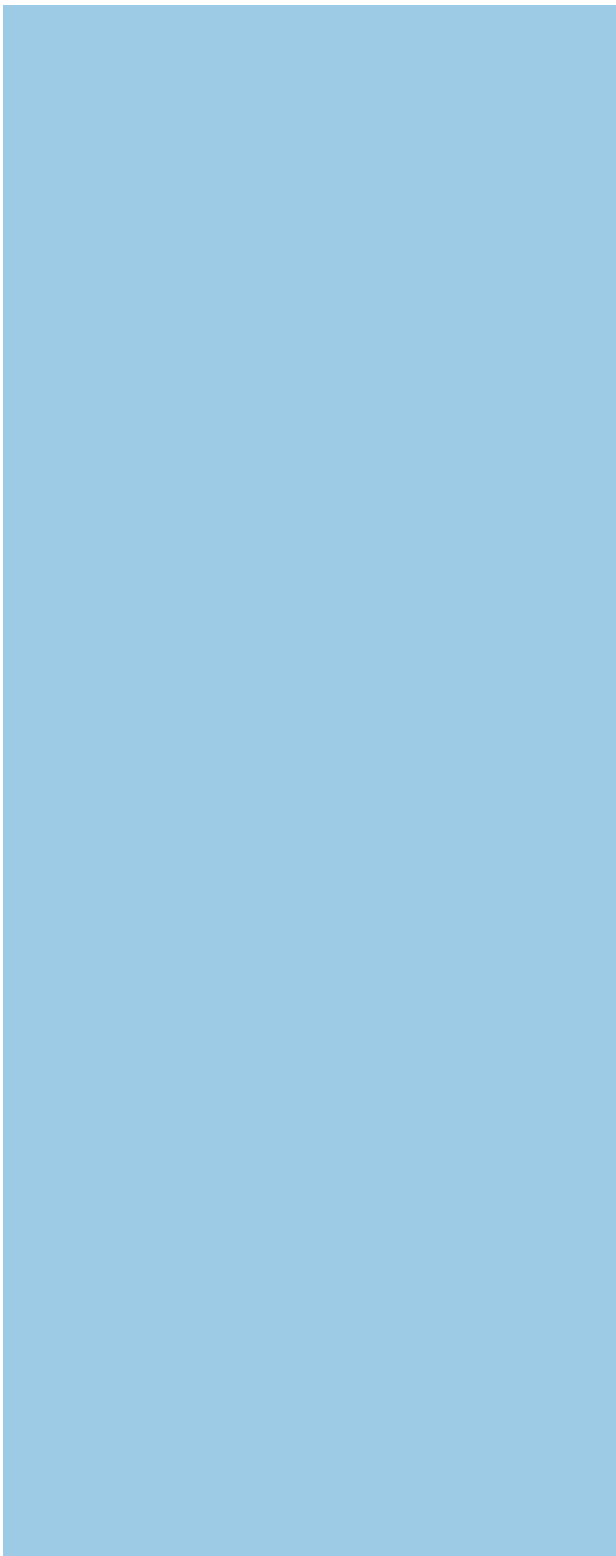
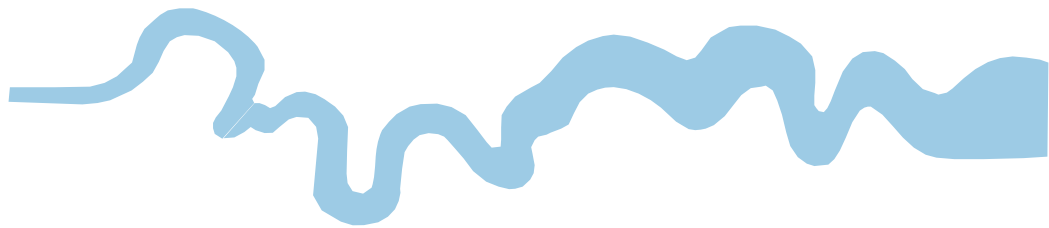
**Land north of 51 Park View Drive, Charvil,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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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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