

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**71-73 High Street, Maidenhead,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lizzi Lewins

Site Code: HSM16/30

(SU 8878 8118)

**71-73 High Street, Maidenhead,
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Maidenhead Property Investments Limited**

by Lizzi Lewins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code HSM 16/30

April 2016

Summary

Site name: 71-73 High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8878 8118

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 16th February - 5th April 2016

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: David Platt and Andy Taylor

Site code: HSM 16/30

Summary of results: The level of the archaeologically relevant horizons were not reached by the foundation trenches and no archaeological features were revealed. No artefacts of archaeological interest were encountered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 13.04.16 Steve Preston✓ 13.04.16

71-73 High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Lizzi Lewins

Report 16/30

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 71-73 High Street, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8878 8118) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr David McCormack of Studio Map Architecture and Project Management, The Busworks, North Road, London, N7 9DP on behalf of Maidenhead Property Investments Limited, 10 Mulberry Walk, London, SW3 6DY.

Planning permission (14/01714) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a mixed retail and residential development on the site, following demolition of a part of the existing building at the rear of the site. The work is subject to a condition (28) relating to archaeology which requires that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during the groundworks due to the possibility of damage or destruction of archaeological deposits.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved Mr Roland Smith, Archaeological Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, who advise the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by David Platt and Andy Taylor between the 16th February - 5th April 2016 and the site code is HSM 16/30.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum or repository (to be decided by the local planning authority) in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south side of High Street, near the centre of Maidenhead (Figs 1 and 2). The site comprises a flat parcel of land occupied by commercial buildings and lies at a height of *c.*30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The underlying geology is mapped as Taplow Gravel (BGS 2005).

Archaeological background

In general the site is located within the Middle Thames Valley which is relatively rich in finds of prehistoric and Roman date (Ford 1987). However, the site has been identified as having archaeological potential from its

location within the historic core of Maidenhead. The town is considered to have Saxon origins and is recorded in Domesday Book in 1086 as *Ellintone* (*Elentone/Aylington*). The medieval town developed along the High Street but Astill (1978) suggests it did not extend over the lower lands to the Bridge due to the flooding potential of these low lying areas. Evaluation at the west end of the High Street revealed a wooden revetment of likely medieval or early post-medieval date (Cass 2006) with medieval deposits identified during a watching brief (Cass and Pine 2006), and to the east of the site, a single early post-medieval gully was encountered during evaluation (Platt *et al.* 2012).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This involved the examination of all areas of intrusive groundworks, in particular any overburden stripping prior to ground reduction, the digging of foundation trenches and service runs and any deeply invasive landscaping as necessary. Any archaeological deposits that were threatened by the groundworks were to be excavated and recorded, with sufficient time allowed to carry this out within the groundworker's schedule.

Results

The digging of the foundation trenches was observed (fig. 3). The trench initially measured 0.5m wide and 0.7m deep, and was subsequently widened to 0.85m. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.10m of concrete overlying 0.10m of gravel overlying 0.25m of rubble overlying a dark brown grey sandy clay made ground. A foundation for an existing wall was noted in trench 4. The natural geology was not observed within the foundation trenches and no archaeological features or finds were encountered (Pls 1–4).

Finds

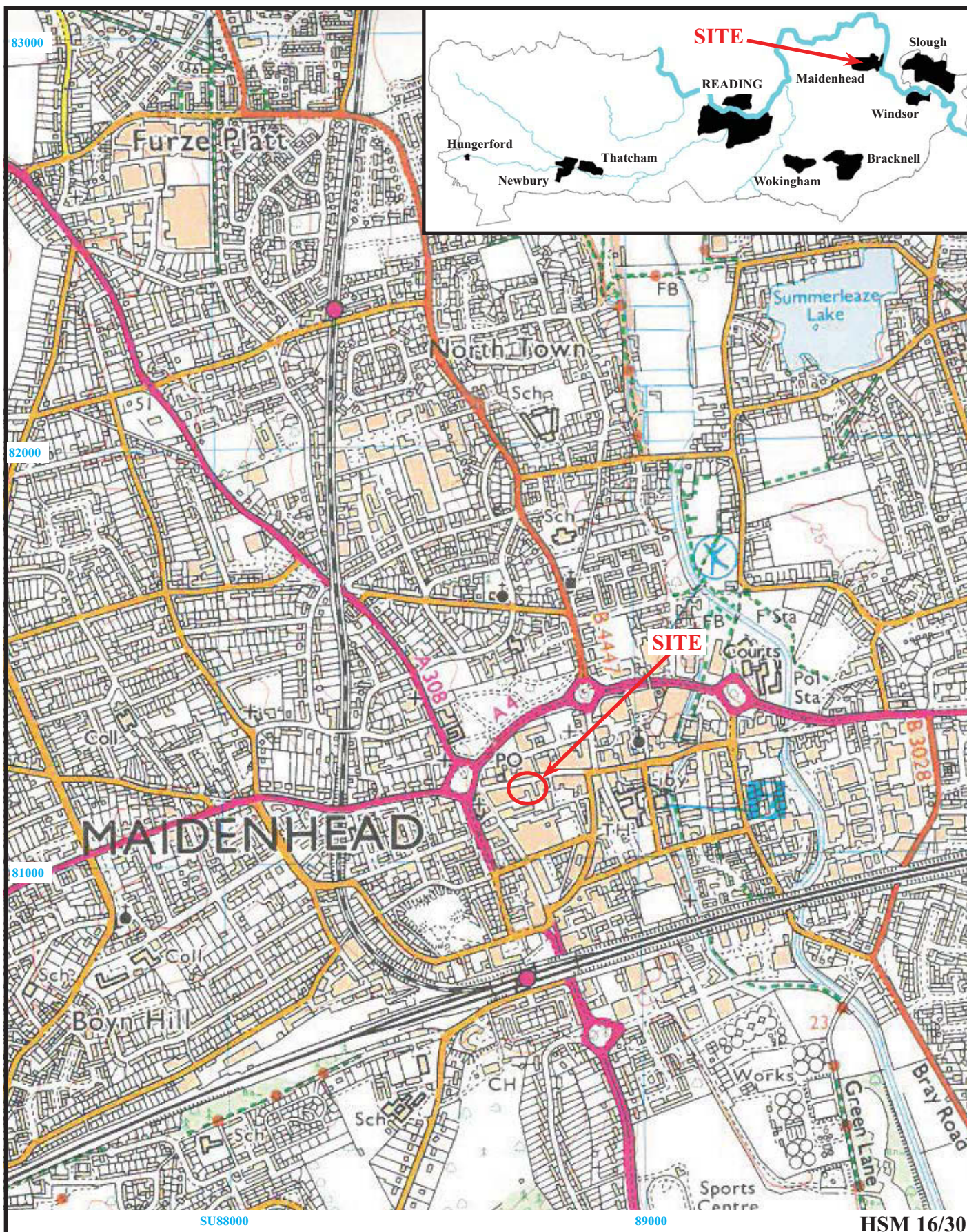
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the potential for archaeology no archaeological features or finds were encountered during the course of the watching brief. The presence of made ground in the foundation trenches, likely associated with the former structure, suggests some levelling of the site taking place prior to construction as no subsoil or natural geology was observed in any portion of the trenches, No stray finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

References

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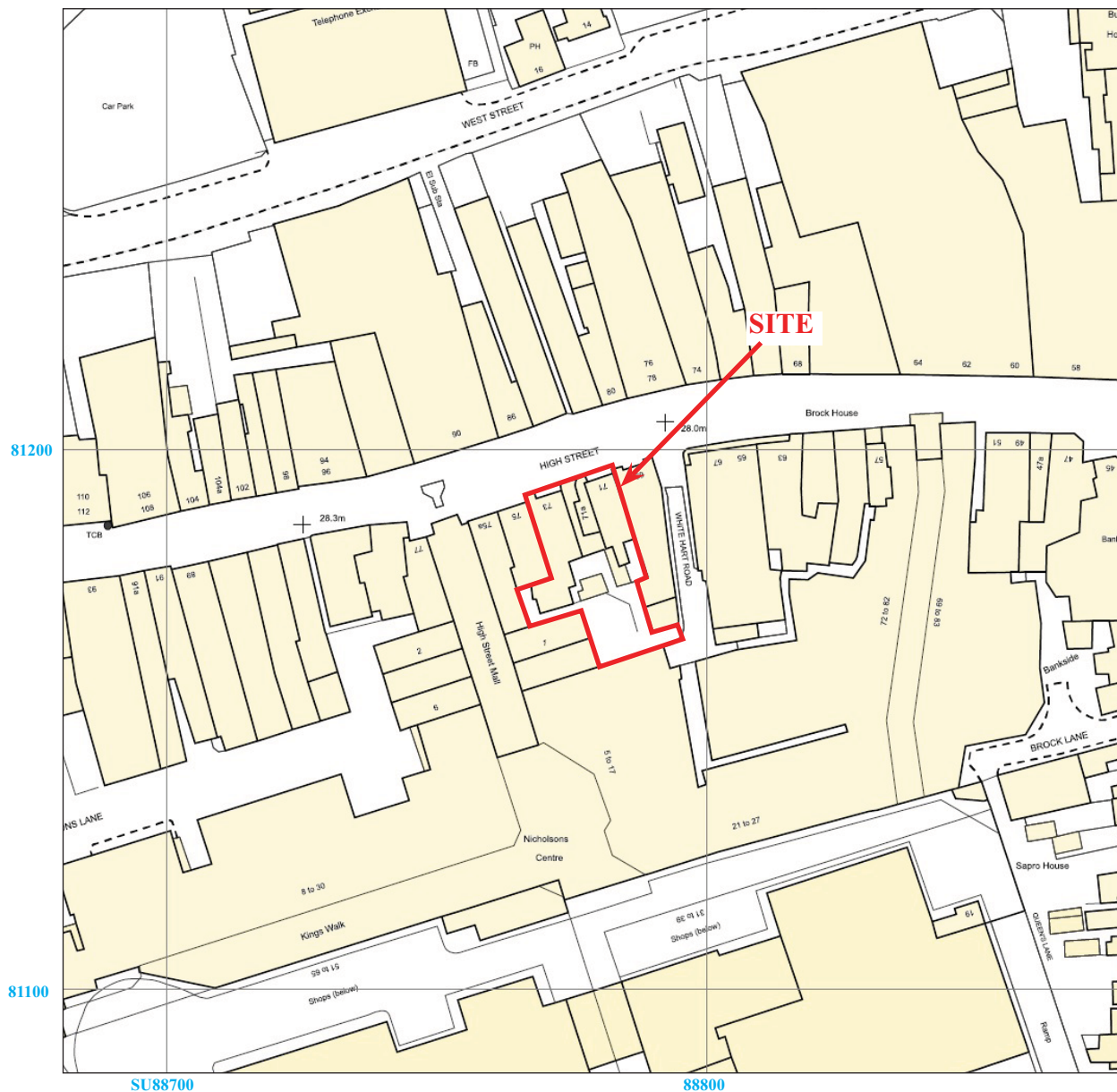


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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off the High Street.

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81200

High Street

81175

SU88775

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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Plate 1. Foundation trench 2, looking southwest, Scales: horizontal 1m and vertical 0.50m.



Plate 2. Existing wall foundation in trench 4, east facing, Scale: 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Site shot, looking south west, Scale: 1m.



Plate 4. Site shot, looking south west, Scale: 1m.

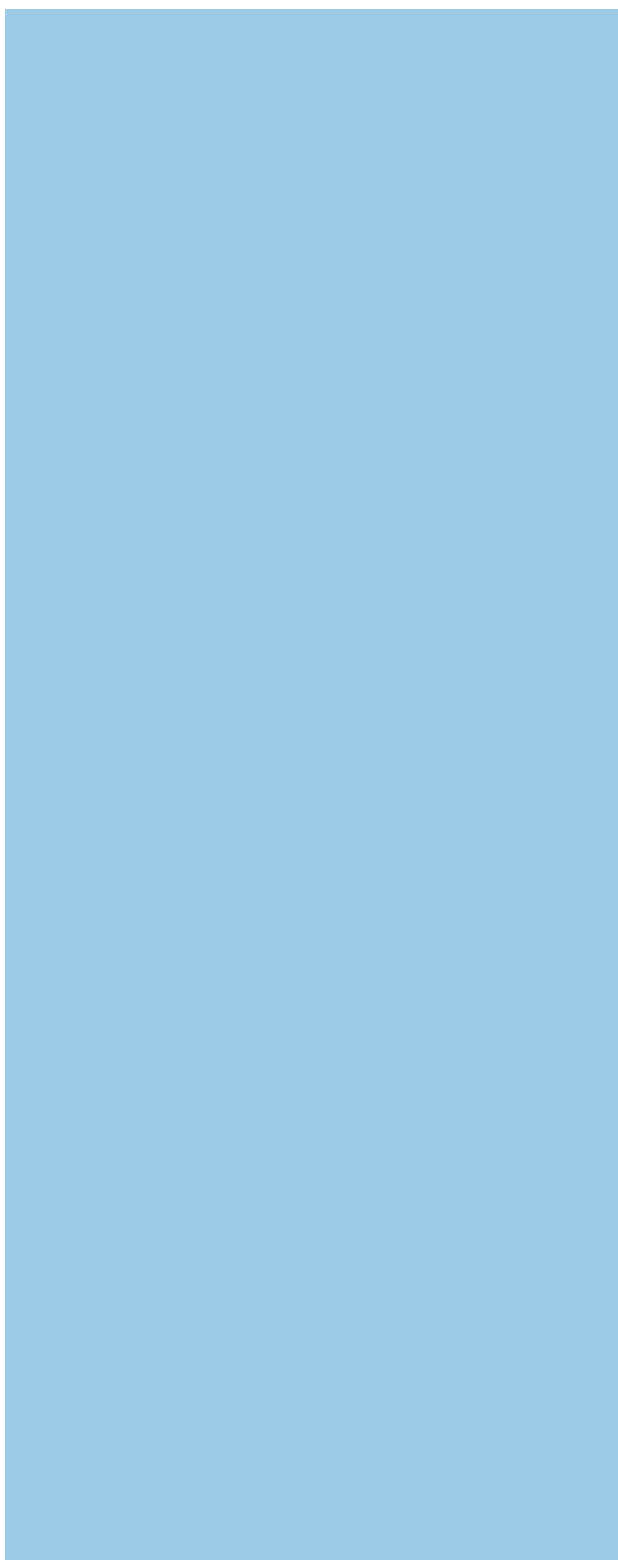
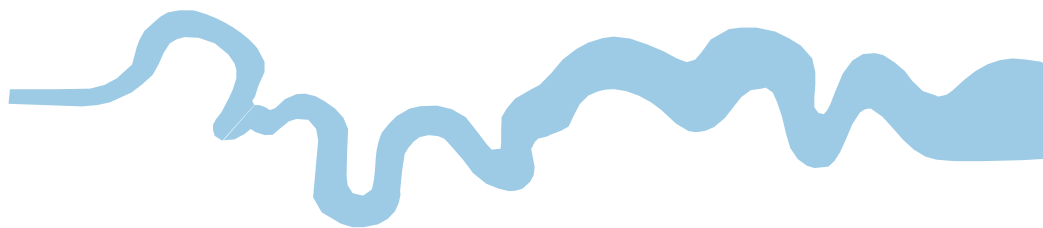
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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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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