

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**23 Mansel Close, Slough,  
Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andy Taylor**

**Site Code: MCS16/35**

**(SU 9872 8165)**

# **23 Mansel Close, Slough, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For AED Practice**

by Andy Taylor

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code MCS 16/35

**May 2017**

## Summary

**Site name:** 23 Mansel Close, Slough, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9872 8165

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 13th -22nd February 2017

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Lizzi Lewins, Mike Johnson and Andy Taylor

**Site code:** MCS 16/35

**Summary of results:** The excavation of a soakaway, service runs and an area strip for the new dwelling were monitored during the watching brief. Despite the potential of the site for archaeological deposits to be present, no features of archaeological interest and no finds were recovered.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 15.05.17 Steve Preston✓ 15.05.17
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# 23 Mansel Close, Slough, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Andy Taylor

**Report 16/35**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 23 Mansel Close, Slough, Berkshire (SU 9872 8165) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Derek Hampshire, of the AED Practice, Building L27, London Road Campus, London Road, Reading, RG1 5AQ.

Planning permission (app no S/00680/003) has been gained from Slough Borough Council for the construction of a new dwelling on the site. The consent includes a condition (14) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Lizzi Lewins, Mike Johnson and Andy Taylor between 13th and 22nd February 2017, and the site code is MCS 16/35.

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

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the eastern margins of Slough (Fig. 1) and is located to the rear of the property in its back garden and is surrounded by further residential properties (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as Upnor and Reading Formations (BGS 2005), which comprise gravels and clay, which was observed on site. It lies at a height of *c.*35m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

In summary, the site has been identified as having some archaeological potential due to the presence of various finds and sites located to the north, recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record. Excavations for new care homes revealed an Iron Age enclosure and Saxon settlement (Ford 2012). The south side of that site had also revealed a few Roman deposits suggesting further remains of Roman date may have lain

closer to the site, though this may have been quarried. In general, recent fieldwork has located extensive sites elsewhere in and around Slough, such as at Cippenham and Wexham, with smaller medieval sites at Slough Cemetery (Stoke Poges) and on the Trading Estate (Ford *et al.* 2003; Preston 2012; Elliott 2014; Taylor 2014; Platt in prep; Platt in press).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was to involve 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.

## **Results**

The fieldwork had three components comprising observation of the digging of a soakaway, service trenches and an overburden strip (Fig. 3).

### *Soakaway*

The soakaway measured 2m x 1.50m and although it was to be dug to a depth of 1.50m, it was observed only to a depth of 0.50m, at which level it was already within the natural gravel geology. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil overlying 0.10m of subsoil overlying gravel natural geology. No archaeology was observed in this area.

### *Service Runs (Pl. 1)*

These trenches measured 0.80m wide and were dug to a depth of *c.*0.80m. The stratigraphy comprised 0.06m of compressed topsoil overlying 0.23m of subsoil overlying gravel and clay natural geology (Fig. 4).

### *Ground reduction (Pl. 2)*

An area of approximately 10m x 10m was dug to a depth of between 0.40m and 0.50m and the stratigraphy comprised 0.05m of topsoil overlying 0.18m of subsoil overlying gravel natural geology.

## **Finds**

No finds of any archaeological interest were recovered.

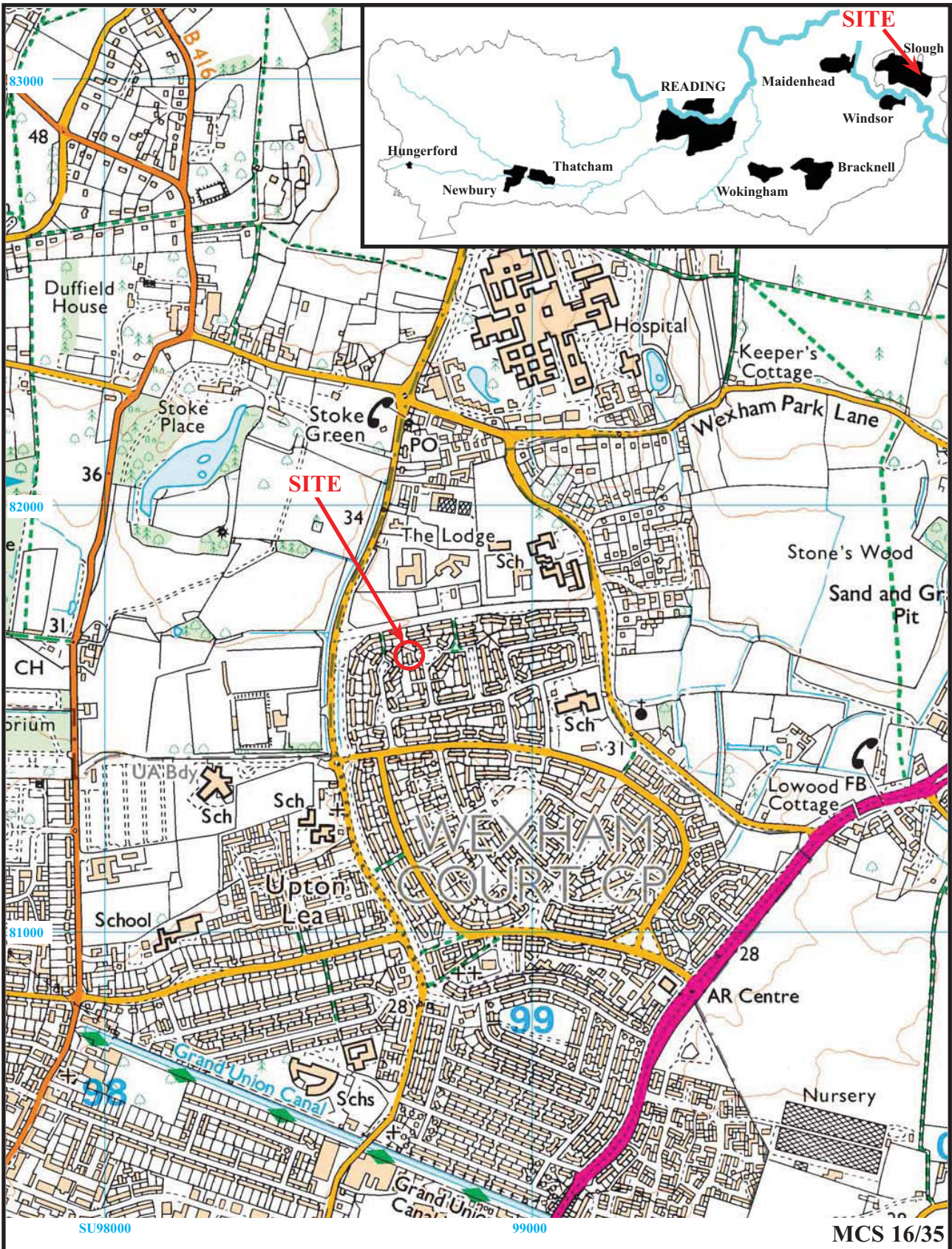
## **Conclusion**

Despite the archaeological potential of the site, the monitoring of the groundworks undertaken during the excavation of the soakaway, the services runs and the foundation area revealed no features of archaeological interest and no finds were recovered.

## **References**

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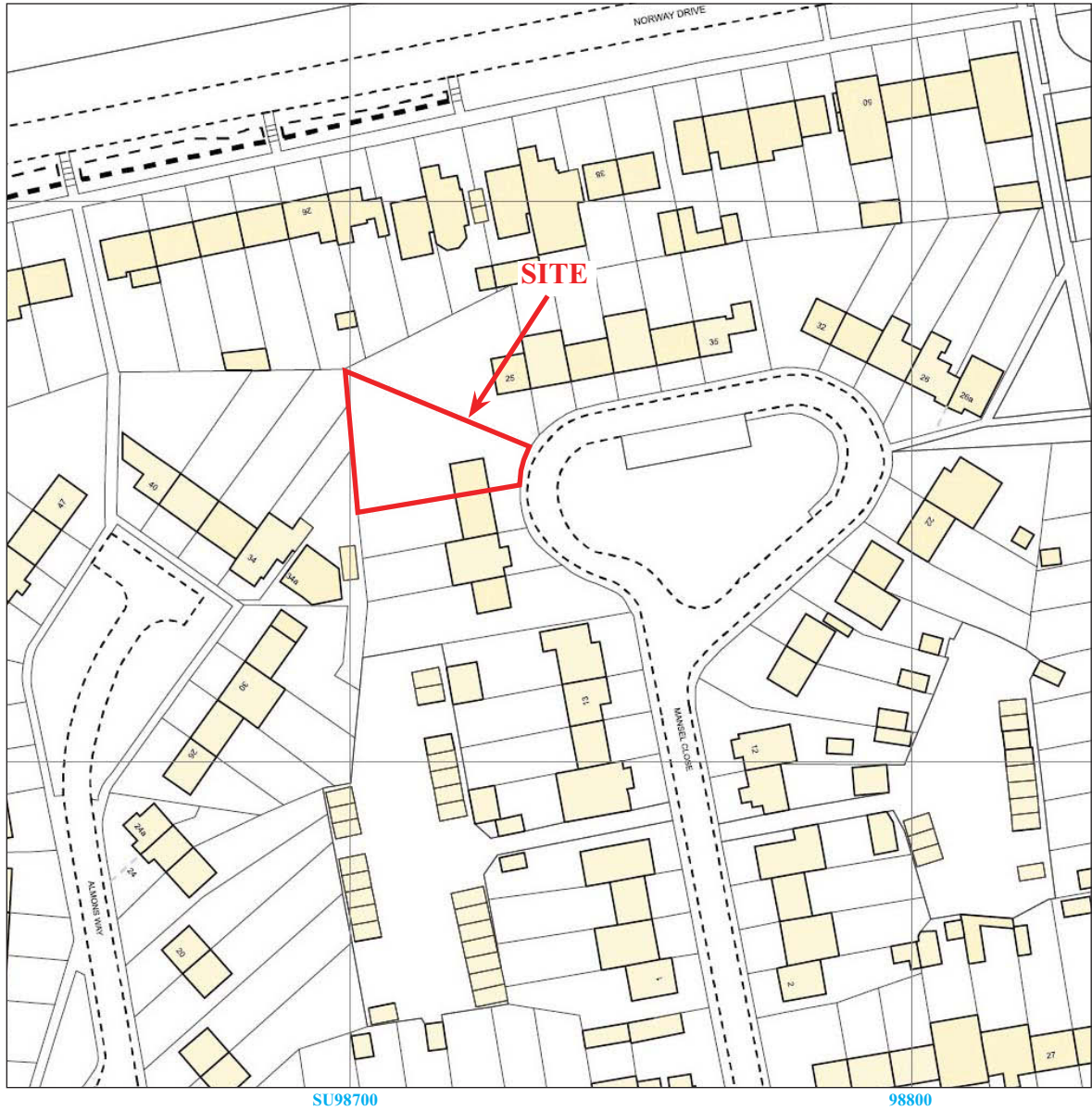
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 Figure 1. Location of site within Slough and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Mansel Close.

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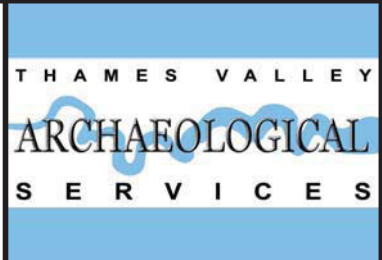
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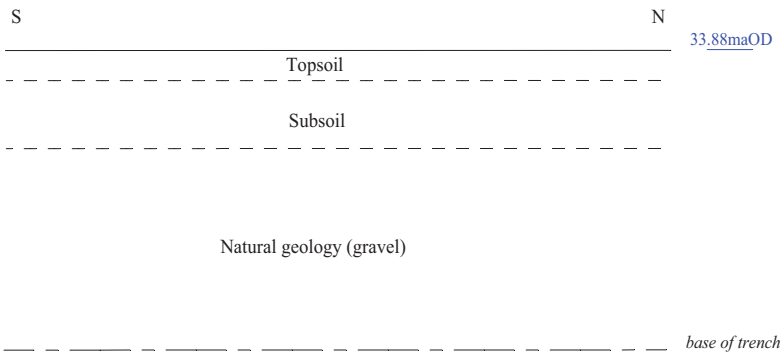


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Berkshire, 2017  
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



*Pipe trenching*



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Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 4. Representative section.



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Plate 1. Service trench, looking west north west, Scales: 1m, 0.5m and 0.3m.



Plate 2. General view of the site, looking east.

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**Berkshire, 2017**  
**Archaeological Watching Brief**  
Plates 1 and 2.

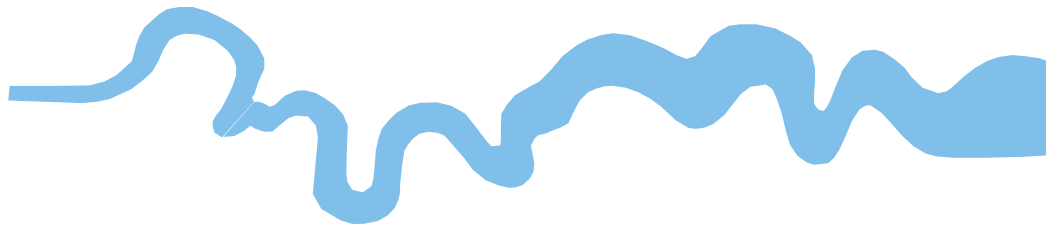
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## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	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







**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road,  
Reading RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**

*Offices in:  
Brighton, Taunton, Stoke-on-Trent and Ennis (Ireland)*