

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Nutfield, Altwood Bailey,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site Code: ACM19/51

(SU 8702 8023)

Nutfield, Altwood Bailey, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Finewood Homes Ltd**

by Anne-Michelle Huvig
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ACM 19/51

November 2019

Summary

Site name: Nutfield, Altwood Bailey, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8702 8023

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 28th November 2019

Project coordinator: Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Anne-Michelle Huvig

Site code: AMC 19/51

Area of site: c. 900 sq m

Summary of results: No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were found in the three trenches dug. On the basis of these results the site can be considered to have negligible archaeological potential.

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

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

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 02.12.19 Steve Preston ✓ 02.12.19

Nutfield, Altwood Bailey, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Anne-Michelle Huvig

Report 19/51

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at land to the rear of Nutfield, Altwood Bailey, Maidenhead, SL6 4PQ (SU 8702 8023) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Graham Thomson on behalf of Finewood Homes Ltd., The Courtyard, Sky House, Raans Road, Amersham, Buckinghamshire, HP6 6JQ.

Planning permission (17/003336) has been gained on appeal (APP/T0355/W/17/3188237) from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of a new detached dwelling at the site. This consent is subject to a condition (4) pertaining to archaeology requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. It was determined that this investigation should take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenches. Based on the results of this further fieldwork might be required to satisfy the condition. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matt Saywood, Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Anne-Michelle Huvig on 28th November 2019. The site code is ACM 19/51. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate designated museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located in the western suburbs of Maidenhead, north-west of Windsor (Fig. 1). It is an irregular plot of land north of Altwood Bailey, that was currently used as a garden. It is bordered on the other sides by residential properties (Fig. 2). It is relatively flat, very slightly gently sloping towards the south and lies at 41m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology as shown on maps (BGS 1999) suggests the presence of Upper Chalk Formation. The geology observed in the trenches was a reddish brown clay with chalk patches, probably a superficial deposit above the main chalk bedrock.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an area of eastern Berkshire which is relatively rich in finds of prehistoric and Roman date (Ford 1987; Dils 2013) as is reflected in the number of archaeological entries noted for this area in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record. However, despite this rich regional background in terms of prehistoric and Roman finds for east Berkshire, various modern investigations (Dawson and Taylor 2012, McNicholl-Norbury 2013) carried out near the site at Altwood Close have failed to locate anything of much archaeological significance despite the recording of Roman finds during the development of this area in the 1930s. A post hole and ditch encountered during an evaluation at Altwood Bailey to the south-west were tentatively dated to the Saxon period (Coles 2005). Aerial photography provides evidence of a rectangular enclosure to the west. Also in that direction, three undated human burials had been found during the construction of a tennis court in 1936 (Underhill 1937, 37). Finally, a Roman villa is suggested at the County Boys School on Shoppenhanger Road, east of the site but uncertainties abound regarding the discoveries made there (including Roman pottery, and a Neolithic axe).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

The specific research aims of this project are;

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on this site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period are present; and
- to determine if there are any deposits of Roman or Saxon date on the site.

Three trenches, each 12m long and 1.6-2m wide were to be dug over the footprint of the new dwelling and its access driveway. A contingency for an extra 5m was included if necessary to clarify any result. The excavation was to be undertaken using a machine fitted with a bladed bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Spoil heaps were to be checked for finds. If archaeological deposits or features were encountered they were to be hand cleaned and sufficiently sampled to meet the aims outlined above. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ*, or might better be excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

Results

All trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 11.70m to 15.10m and in depth from 0.30m to 0.60m. The stratigraphy of the site was uniform. The lowest deposit observed, the top geological horizon, was a reddish brown clay with chalk patches, probably a superficial deposit above the main chalk bedrock. It was overlaid by a mid brown silty clay subsoil (not present in trench 3), on top of which was a dark brownish grey loamy silt. Some unclear patches were tested within trenches 1 and 2 but were natural undulations.

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

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 4)

Trench 1 was aligned W - E and was 11.70m long and 0.40-0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.15m of topsoil and 0.23m subsoil overlying natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3 Pl. 2)

Trench 2 was aligned SW - NE and was 12m long and 0.30-0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.10m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological finds were recovered nor features revealed.

Trench 3 (Figs 3 and 4; Pl. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SSE - NNW and was 15.10m long and 0.30-0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil directly overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were present and no finds were recovered.

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

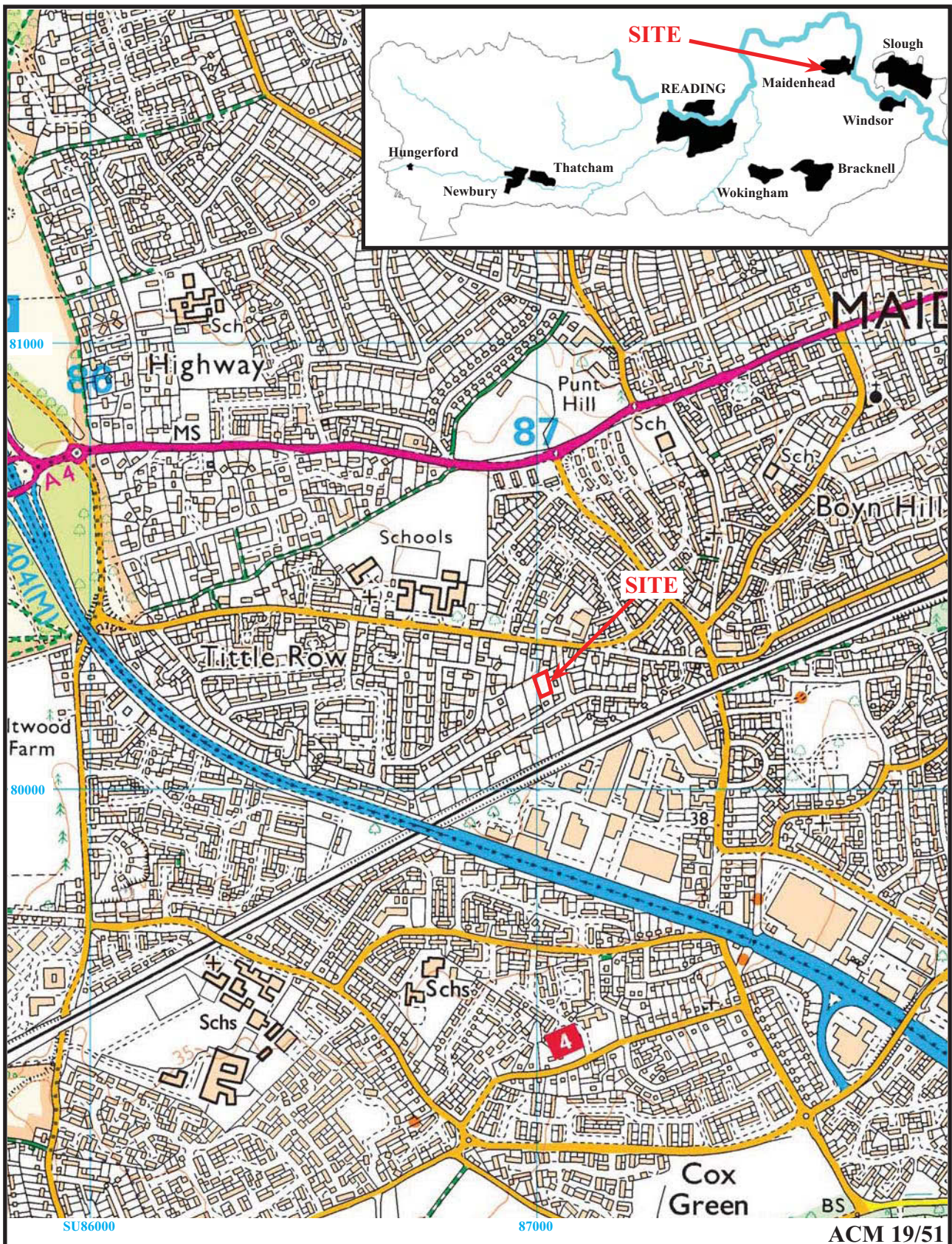
The three trial trenches were dug as intended, targeting the house footprint and the access road. They did not reveal any archaeological deposits or finds liable to suggest the need for further work. The archaeological potential is considered to be very low, if not null.

References

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APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	12	1.6	0.60	0–0.15m topsoil, 0.15-0.38m subsoil, >0.38m natural geology [Pls 1 and 4]
2	12	1.6	0.60	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.30 subsoil, >0.30m natural geology [Pl. 2]
3	12	1.6	0.40	0–0.20m topsoil, >0.20m natural geology. [Pl. 3]



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Archaeological Desk-based Assessment
 Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Altwood Bailey.

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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1

ENE

WSW

40maOD

Dark brown clayey silt (Topsoil)

Mid brown silty clay (Subsoil)

Mid reddish brown calcareous silty clay (Natural geology)

Trench 3

NNW

SSE

40.5m

Topsoil

Natural geology

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Maidenhead, Berkshire, 2019
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Trench sections.



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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking ENE,
Scales: 2 x 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking NNE,
Scales: 2 x 1m.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking N,
Scales: 2 x 1m.



Plate 4. Representative section in trench 1, looking NNW,
Scales: 1m and 0.3m.

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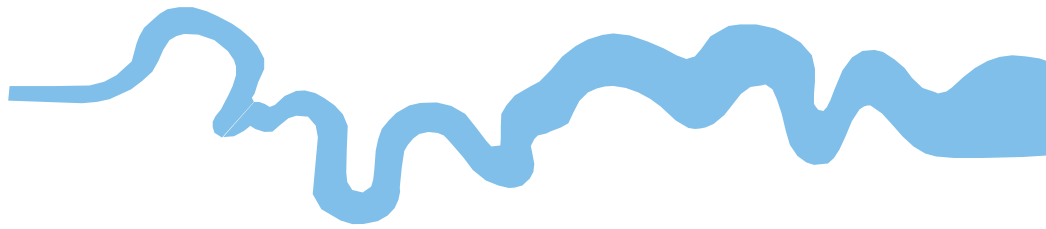
**Nutfield, Altwood Bailey,
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Plates 1 to 4.**

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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 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





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