

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Glade Lodge, Houston Way,
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Will Attard and Maisie Foster

Site Code: GLC18/188

(SU8174 6423)

**Glade Lodge, Houston Way,
Crowthorne, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs McCormick

by Will Attard and Maisie Foster

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GLC 18/188

September 2019

Summary

Site name: Glade Lodge, Houston Way, Crowthorne, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU8174 6423

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 14th December 2018 to 16th July 2019.

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson/Danielle Milbank

Site supervisor: Will Attard

Site code: GLC 18/188

Summary of results: Groundworks relating to the construction of a new dwelling were monitored over three visits. No material or horizons of archaeological interest were observed during this work.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 27.09.19 Steve Preston ✓ 25.09.19

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Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Glade Lodge, Houston Way, Crowthorne, Berkshire (SU 8178 6423) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Peter McWilliams of Matthew T Young Architects, 25 Hunts Mill, Goldsmiths Lane, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 0DN on behalf Mr John McCormick, Glade Lodge, Houston Way, Crowthorne, Berkshire, RG45 6BY.

Planning permission (182398) has been granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the construction of a new house following demolition of the existing. The consent is subject to a condition (3) requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks. This is in accordance with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2018) and Wokingham Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological adviser to the Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Will Attard, Josh Hargreaves and Kyle Beaverstock between 14th and 20th December 2018 and 16th July 2019 and the site code is GLC 18/188. The archive is presently held at TVAS, Reading and will be deposited with an approved local Museum in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located at the western end of Houston Way, Crowthorne, Berkshire, west of Lower Wokingham Road and to the north of Roman Ride (SU 8178 6423) (Fig 1). The underlying geology is mapped as being sand, silt and clay belonging to the Windlesham Formation (BGS 1974). No superficial geology is recorded for the area; natural geology encountered during this watching brief is detailed below. The site lies at a height of *c.* 73m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is derived from its proximity to the Devil's Highway, a major Roman road connecting the Roman towns of Silchester and London. A series of extensive Roman settlements are recorded along the length of the former road, as at Wickham Bushes (Corney and Gaffney 1983), Rapley Farm

(Ford 1987), Finchampstead (Hampton *et al.* 1977) and beyond at Sunningdale (Hughes 1890) and Riseley (Ford 1994-7). However, the precise line of the road is unknown along several stretches in these environs. A modest number of other finds are recorded for the environs of the site, including a Neolithic arrowhead and an undated (but probably medieval) enclosure to the east.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to identify, record and excavate any archaeological horizons encountered during groundworks associated with the demolition and removal of existing structures, as well as groundworks for the new build.

Results

Three visits were made to the site, on separate days. The first visit monitored removal of overburden to a maximum depth of 0.60m to the south of the old building corresponding with most of the footprint of the new building ((Pls. 1 and 2; Fig. 2). The second visit dealt with an extension to the initial area strip after the southern part of the old building had been demolished and foundations removed (Pl. 3). The final visit monitored another area of overburden stripping to the west and northwest of the new house (Pl. 4). The stripping was undertaken using a 360° type machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

For the southern area, topsoil (0.2m) and subsoil to a depth of c. 0.4m were removed to reveal a brown-yellow sandy clay (Fig. 3; Pls 1 and 2). The western area was cut into the slight slope on the site. No archaeological material was observed, nor were any archaeological horizons present. A series of modern land drains crossed the site, predominantly following the natural slope of the land (roughly north-east/south-west), although one was orientated north-east/south-west.

For the area examined after demolition, in the undisturbed areas, a similar stratigraphy was revealed, but for the footprint of the old building, disturbance and truncation was observed (Pl.3).

The final area for the car parking had previously been truncated, with just 0.20m of topsoil directly above the natural pale yellow grey silty clay. (Pl. 4)

Finds

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during this watching brief.

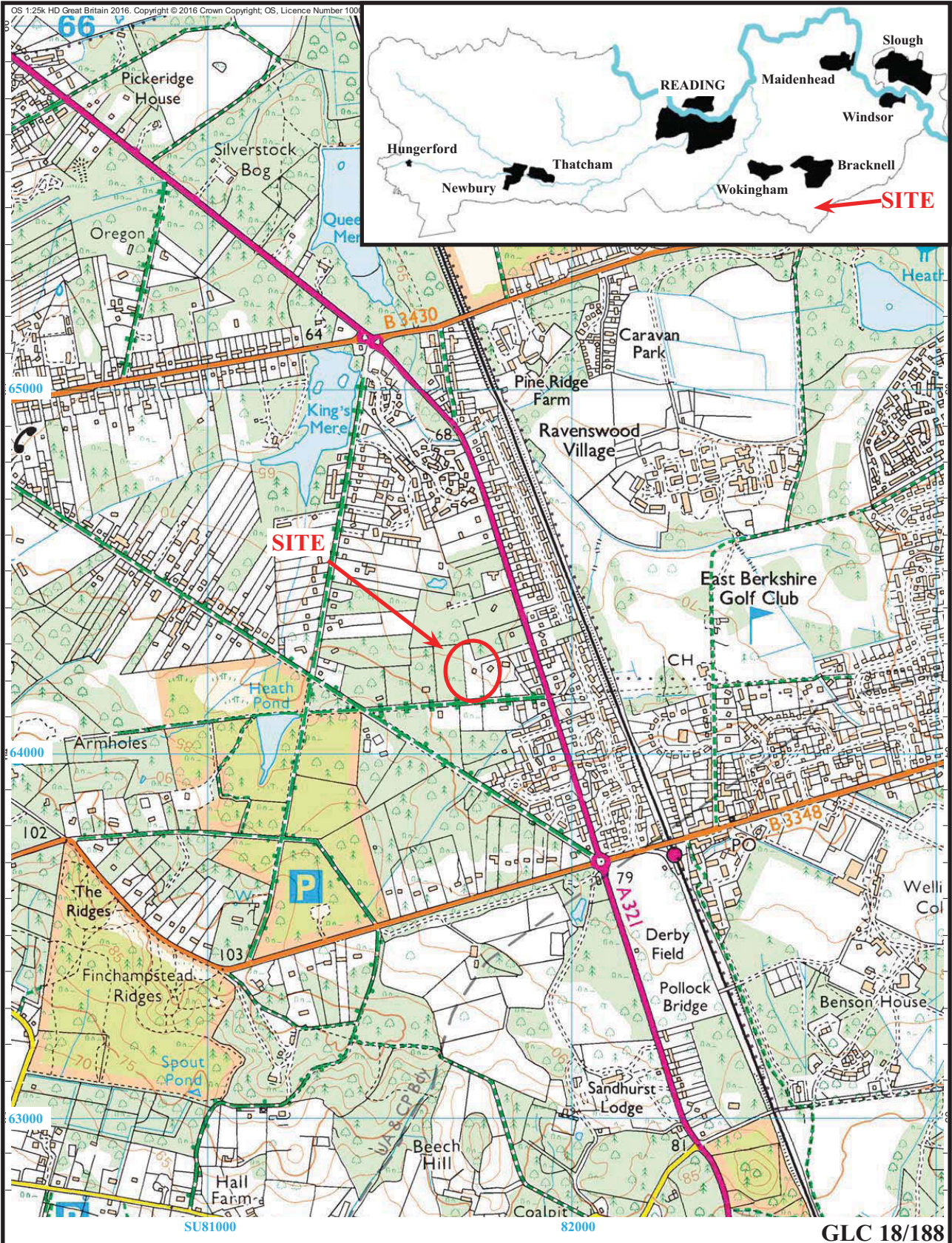
Conclusion

Overburden removal for the new development was observed as required and revealed a mixture of disturbed and undisturbed areas of natural geology. A number of land drains and modern foundations were noted but no deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed.

References

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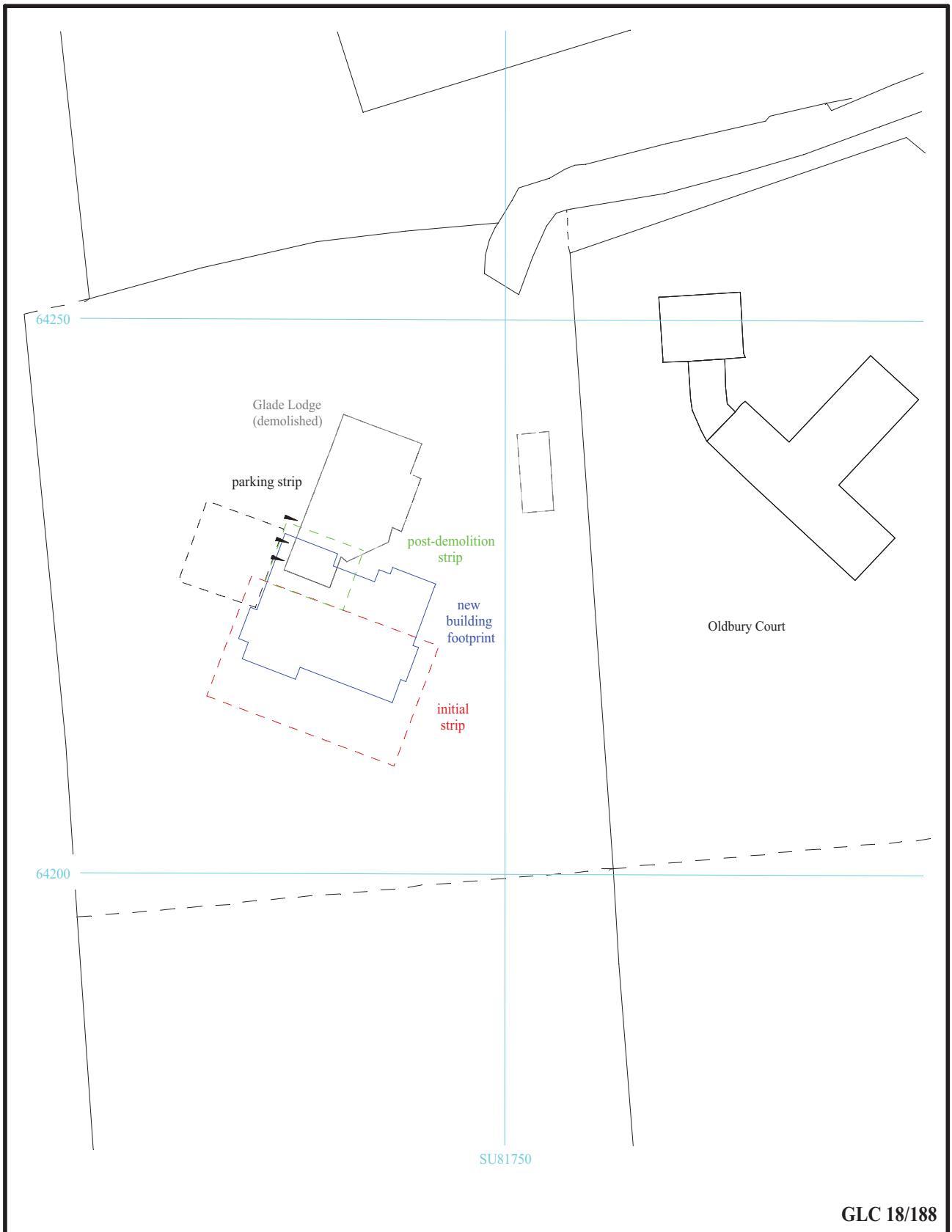
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Figure 1. Location of site within Crowthorne and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of development related to existing.



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Topsoil (Grey clay silt)

Subsoil (Brown grey silt)

Natural geology (Brown-yellow sandy clay)

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Figure 3. Sections.



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Plate 1. Initial stripped area south of existing building looking NW, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Initial stripped area south of existing building looking West. Scale: 1m.

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Plates 1 and 2.

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Plate 3. Stripped area following partial demolition of south of existing building looking East



Plate 4. Area of new parking to north west of new building looking SE. Scales: 2m and 1m.

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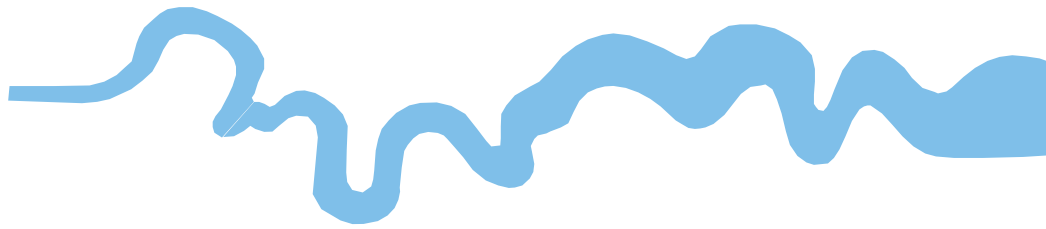
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Plates 3 and 4.

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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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