

**T H A M E S      V A L L E Y**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**

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

**Little House, Charters Road,  
Sunningdale, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Jamie Williams and Cosmo Bacon**

**Site Code: LHS17/175**

**(SU 9475 6693)**

# **Little House, Charters Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Kebbell Homes**

by Jamie Williams and Cosmo Bacon

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LHS17/175

**January 2020**

## Summary

**Site name:** Little House, Charters Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9475 6693

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 23rd August 2017 to 16th January 2020

**Project coordinator:** Tim Dawson

**Site supervisor:** Jamie Williams and Cosmo Bacon

**Site code:** LHS 17/175

**Area of site:** 94.94m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** Footing trenches for two garages were monitored and an extensive area for a soakaway was stripped of overburden and monitored for archaeological features. No deposits of archaeological interest were revealed in either of the two groundworks components.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate repository in due course

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

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# **Little House, Charters Road Sunningdale, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Jamie Williams and Cosmo Bacon

**Report 17/175**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Little House, Charters Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire (NGR: SU 9475 6693 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Steve Atkins, on behalf of Kebbell Homes, Kebbell House, Carpenders Park, Watford, WD19 5BE.

Planning permission was granted on appeal (APP/T0355/A/12/2188923) by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in 2013 for the demolition of an existing house and the construction of 6 new dwellings with basement parking, following demolition of an existing building. The consent was subject to a condition (8) requiring a programme of archaeological investigation. It was determined that this should take the form of an archaeological watching brief 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, Berkshire Archaeology with reference to a briefing document prepared by Mr Ben Jervis (2012) formerly of Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson, Jamie Williams and Cosmo Bacon between 23rd August 2019 and 16th January 2020 and the site code is LHS17/175.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an appropriate repository in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on level ground approximately 1km to the south-west of the village of Sunningdale (Fig. 2). The site is bounded by residential properties to the north, east and west and Charters Road to the south, with a railway line just beyond to the north. The site's previous land use was residential with a previous building having being demolished at the time of fieldwork (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is recorded as consisting of Bagshot Beds (BGS 1981). The geology observed on site was a green grey clay (Bracklesham Beds) on top of light yellow brown clay with frequent gravel inclusions (Bagshot Beds). The site lies at approximately 51m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a briefing document prepared by Mr Ben Jervis formerly of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, the site lies within an area of east Berkshire which has recorded only a modest range of archaeological finds and deposits. Nevertheless there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval find spots as recorded in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record and many upstanding Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). More significantly, the site lies on or close to the projected line of a Roman road from Staines to Silchester (known locally as The Devil's Highway) with the possibility of the presence of Roman roadside settlement or burial being located. A watching brief was conducted at the property Summerwood and Pucksfield (Porter, 2012) adjacent to the east of Little House but revealed no archaeology as did two earlier watching briefs on the south side of Charters road (Powell 2000, Cass 2007). Indeed, the road's line in this area has proven stubbornly resistant to discovery.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits prior to being affected by groundworks. Overburden was to be removed to expose the natural geology or the top of the archaeologically relevant horizon. The area to be stripped was to be the footprint of the new build garages to the south-west of the recent demolished building, as well as the new access road and a soakaway to the rear of the property. This groundwork excavation was to be carried out by machine fitted with a toothless bucket under continuous archaeological supervision.

## **Results**

The fieldwork, comprised two components; monitoring the excavation of a large soakaway (which also encompassed the site access), and the new garages (Pls 1-4).

### *Garages*

Stripping for two garages (Fig. 3) was limited to a depth of 0.40m to 0.60m of mid red brown made ground containing frequent brick and tile fragments, modern glass and small stones, which did not penetrate to the

archaeologically relevant level but did expose several gas and electricity services. No archaeological deposits were revealed.

### *Soakaway*

The soakaway excavated lay to the front (south west) of the new building (Fig. 3). The soakaway was excavated, requiring the removal of 0.40m to 0.60m of mid red brown made ground containing frequent brick and tile fragments, modern glass and small stones, to expose several gas and electricity services. The soakaway area was then stripped of another 0.30m of made ground, with services throughout.

The total area encompassed by the soakaway was approximately 18.8m by 5.05m (94.94m<sup>2</sup>). The observed stratigraphy was 0.70m of dark brown grey made ground with frequent modern brick and tile inclusions overlying a 0.70m thick band of green grey clay natural geology which was on top of light yellow brown clay with frequent gravel inclusions. The final depth of the soak away was 1.70m. Much of the soakaway was heavily truncated by modern service trenches. No archaeological deposits or features were observed.

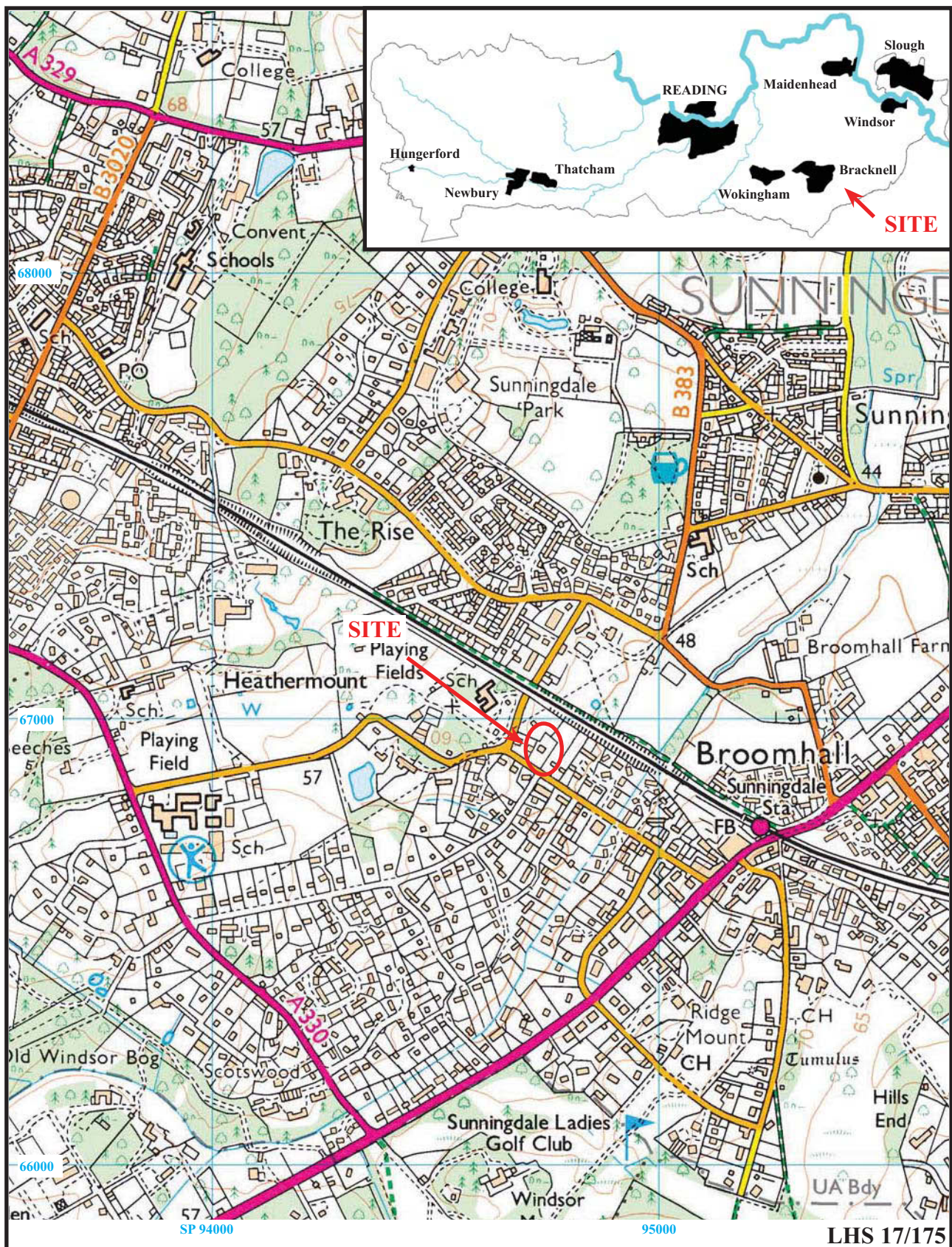
## **Conclusion**

This watching brief successfully monitored the groundworks as intended with an area strip of the location of a large soakaway. This revealed natural geology at a depth of 0.70m and several truncations from modern service trenches were noted but no archaeological features or deposits were identified.

## **References**

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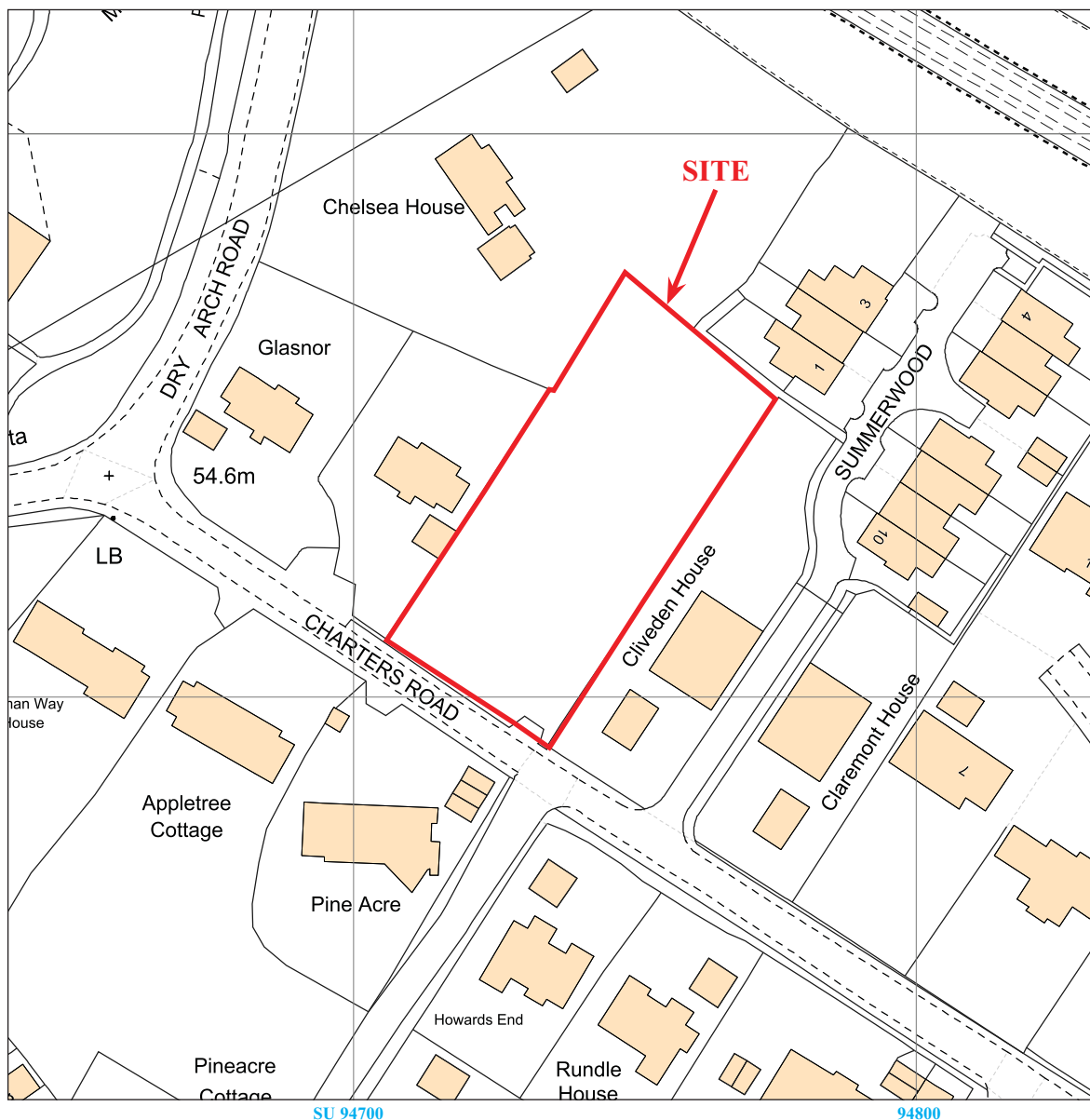
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Figure 1. Location of site within Sunningdale and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Charters Road,  
Sunningdale

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Figure 3. Location of observed areas.



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NW

SE

60maOD

Modern made ground

Greenish grey silt clay mixed gravel inclusions  
(disturbed deposits from multiple service trenches)

Yellow-reddish silt gravel (natural geology)

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Figure 4. Sections..



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Plate 1. The soakaway, looking northwest.



Plate 2. The soakaway, looking north.



Plate 3. The soakaway, looking south.



Plate 4. The soakaway, looking northeast.

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Plates 1 to 4.**

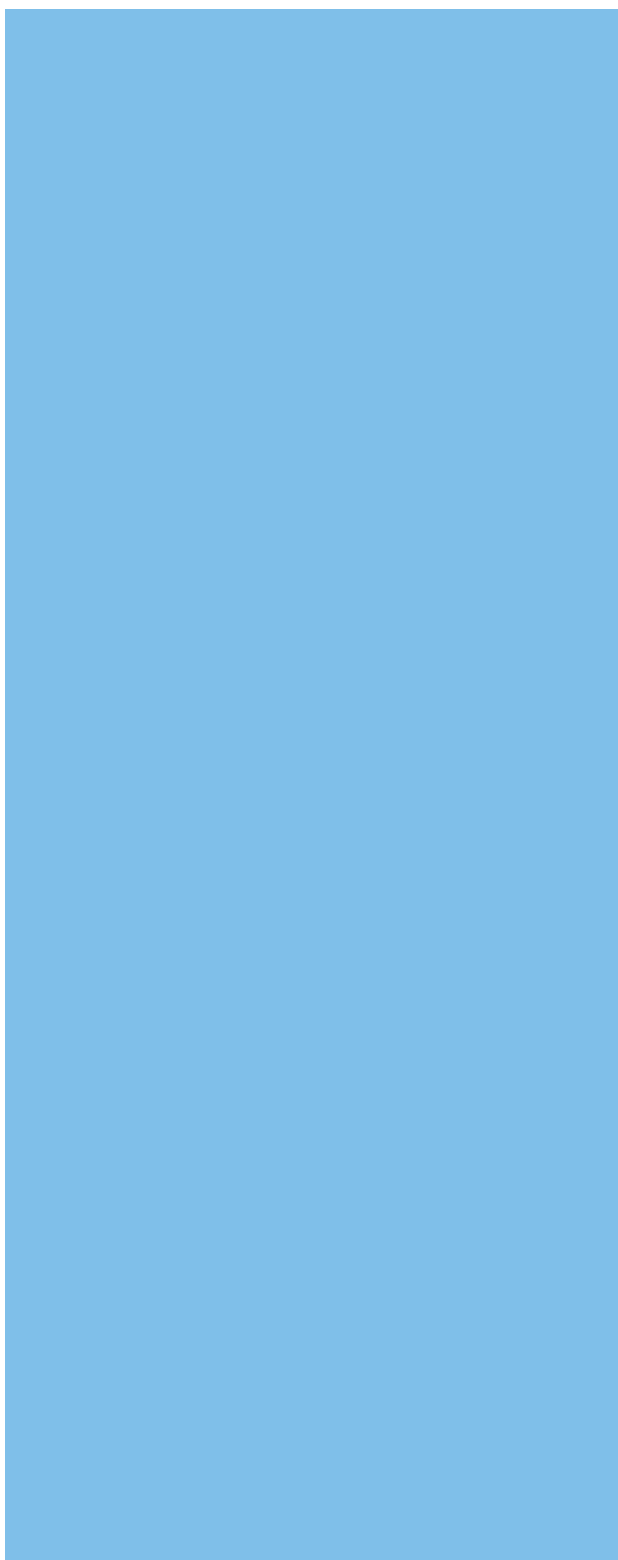
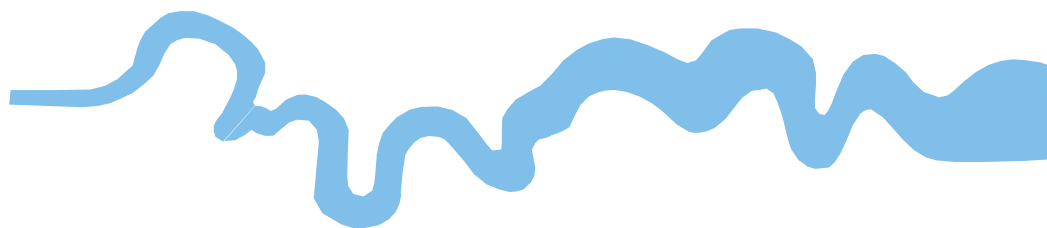
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## TIME CHART

### 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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