

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Access road at Wells Lane, Ascot,
Berkshire**

Archaeological Recording Action

by Kyle Beaverstock

Site Code: WLA14/200

(SU 9318 6861)

Access road at Wells Road, Ascot, Berkshire

**An Archaeological Recording Action
for Altitude (Ascot) Ltd**

by Kyle Beaverstock

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WLA 14/200

May 2021

Summary

Site name: Access road at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9318 6861

Site activity: Archaeological Recording Action

Date and duration of project: 19th-20th April 2021

Project coordinator: Tim Dawson

Site supervisor: Kyle Beaverstock

Site code: WLA 14/200

Area of site: c.400 sq m

Summary of results: Monitoring of the area stripped for the footprint of the new road did not reveal any features or finds of archaeological interest.

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

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Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 17.05.21 Steve Preston✓ 14.05.21

Access road at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire An Archaeological Recording Action

by Kyle Beaverstock

Report 14/200b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological recording action carried out at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire (SU 9318 6861). The work was commissioned by Mr Daniel Bray of Stantec, Caversham Bridge House, Waterman Place, Reading, United Kingdom, RG1 8DN on behalf of Altitude (Ascot) Ltd.

Planning permission (15/02727/FUL) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead on appeal (APP/T0355/W/16/3160065) for the construction of a new access road into the site followed by the construction of new housing at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire (SU 9324 6853). Due to the potential disturbance of below ground archaeological features, a condition (9) has been attached to the consent requiring that a programme of archaeological investigation be carried out. This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2019) and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology.

In order to partially discharge the planning condition and build the new access, a strip, map and sample exercise has been agreed with Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advisers to the Royal Borough, which represents the first phase of archaeological work at the site. The programme of archaeological work for the remainder of the site will be agreed with Berkshire Archaeology in due course and will be subject to a separate written scheme of investigation and report. This phase of the field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Matt Saywood, Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Kyle Beaverstock between 19th and 20th April 2021 and the site code is WLA 14/200.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-eastern side of Ascot *c.*750m to the north-west of Sunninghill. This rectangular parcel of land lies within a small paddock bounded by Wells Lane to the north and a recycling facility to the south. The underlying geology is mapped as Bagshot Formation (BGS 1999), which was observed across the site and it lies at a height of *c.*60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) gently sloping down from north to south.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been set out in two desk-based studies (Dawson 2014; Stantec 2021a). In summary, the site lies within an area of east Berkshire which has only a modest range of recorded archaeological finds and deposits (Dils and Yates 2013). Nevertheless there is a persistent presence of prehistoric, Roman and medieval find spots as recorded in the Berkshire Archaeology Historic Environment Record and many upstanding Bronze Age burial mounds (round barrows) are located on the heathland areas of east Berkshire (Ford 1987). For example a small barrow cemetery of Bronze Age date lay to the west at Heatherwood Hospital (Bradley and Keith-Lucas 1975; Esteves and Elliott 2017).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of this recording action was to strip, map and sample the footprint for an access road into the site followed by the construction of new housing at Wells Lane. All archaeological features were to be excavated and recorded, with samples taken where appropriate. All stripping of overburden was undertaken with a 360⁰-type excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All machine work was conducted under continuous archaeological supervision.

Results

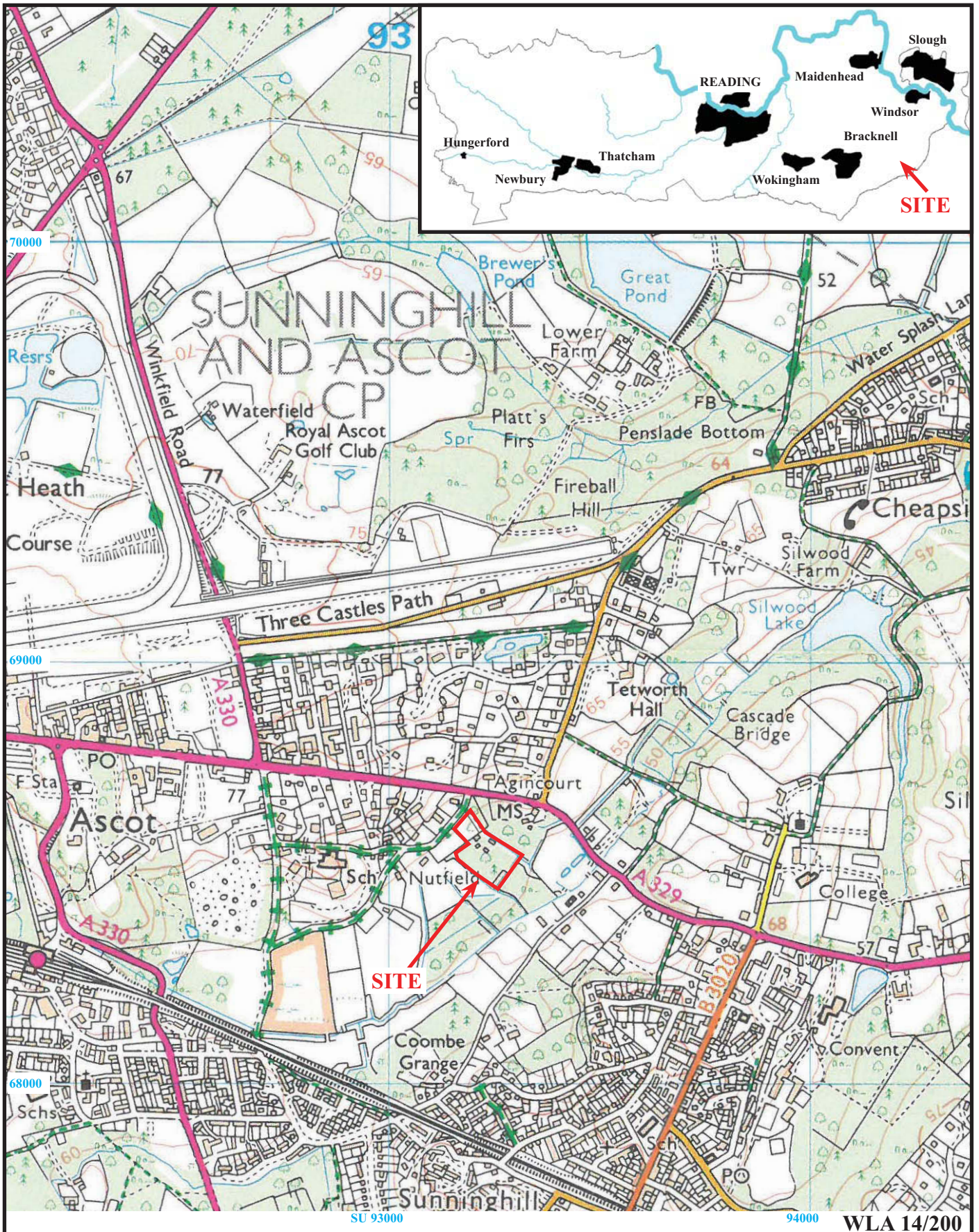
The area of the new road measured 65m long by 6m wide and to a depth of 0.52m (Fig. 2) where the natural geology was identified, which was a yellow brown gravelly sand. Only part of the area was able to be accessed due to the presence of live buried services. The stratigraphy observed consisted of 0.42m of topsoil overlying 0.15m of subsoil overlying sand natural geology. A tree hole, 2.1m in diameter and 0.1m deep was identified however no features of any archaeological interest were uncovered and no finds recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the site's potential for archaeological remains to be present no deposits or finds of any archaeological interest were identified within the area of the recording action.

References

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- Dawson, T, 2014, 'Land at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, an archaeological desk-based assessment', Thames Valley Archaeological Services unpubl rep **14/200**, Reading
- Dils, J and Yates, M, 2013, *An Historical Atlas of Berkshire*, Berkshire Record Society, Eynsham
- Esteves, L and Elliott, G, 2017, 'Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot, Berkshire: an archaeological evaluation phase 2', Thames Valley Archaeological Services report HHA16/141c, Reading
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- Stantec, 2021a, 'Oakfield Farm, Wells Lane, Ascot, Historic Environment desk-based assessment', Stantec report 41528080, Reading
- Stantec, 2021b 'Archaeological WSI, Strip, Map and Sample Excavation and Assessment and Report for New Access at Wells Lane, Ascot', Stantec, Reading

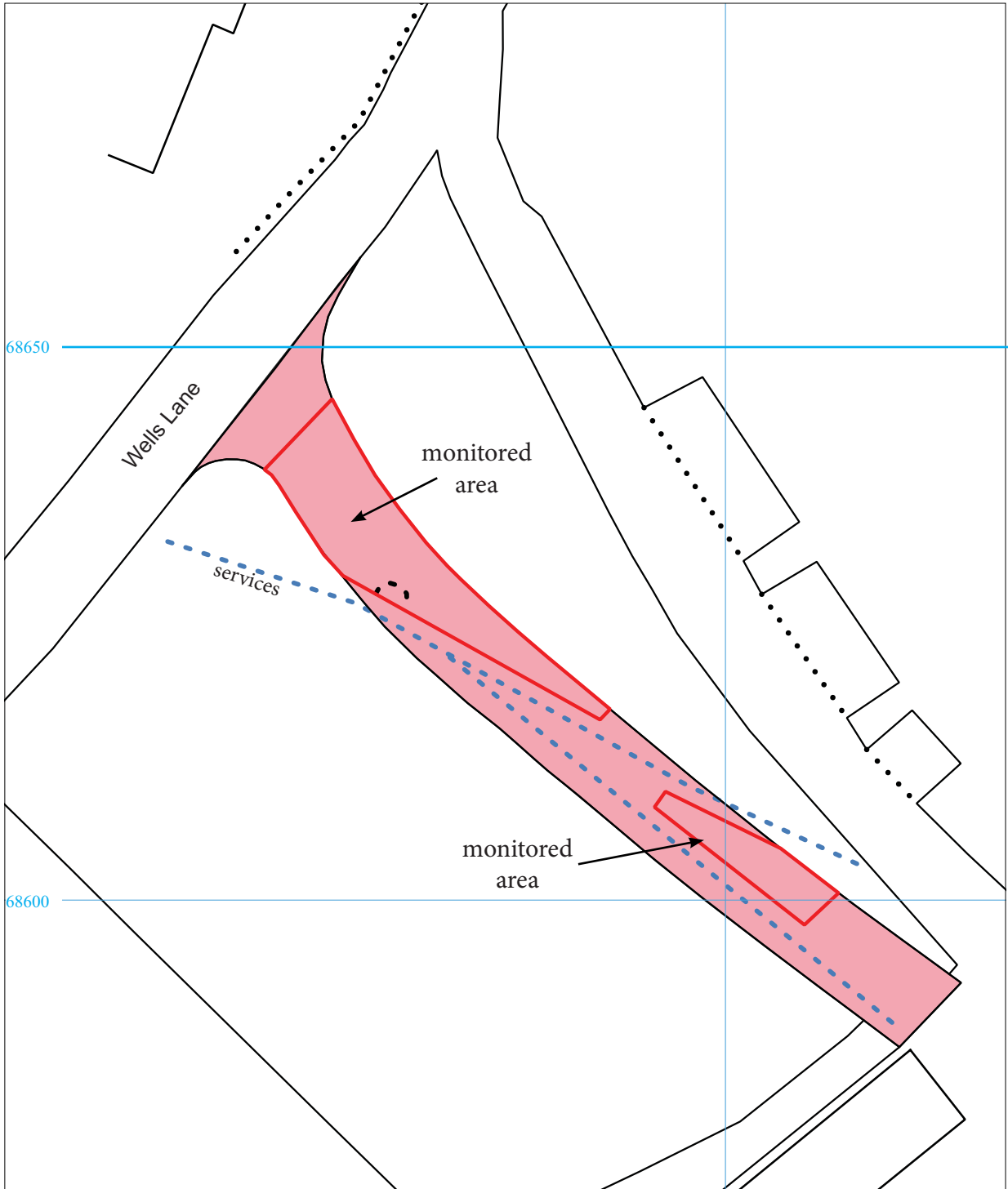


**Land at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, 2021
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Figure 1. Location of site within Ascot and Berkshire

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Figure 2. Location of site and areas monitored.





Plate 1. General view of stripped area looking north-west, Scales: horizontal 2 x 2m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Tree-hole, looking south-east, Scale: 1m.

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Land at Wells Lane, Ascot, Berkshire, 2021
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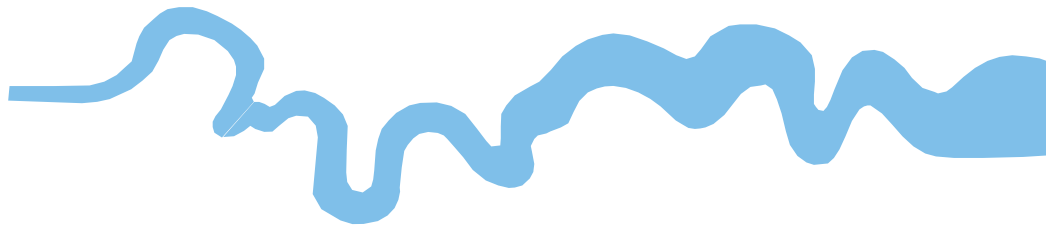
Plates 1 and 2.

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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





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