

# **2 Island Cottages, Jubilee Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire**

## **An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr R Handley**

by Tim Dawson and  
James McNicoll-Norbury  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services  
Ltd

Site Code ILG 09/71

**October 2009**

## Summary

**Site name:** 2 Island Cottages, Jubilee Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 8395 7996

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 25th August 2009

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Tim Dawson

**Site code:** ILG 09/71

**Summary of results:** No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 15.10.09
	Steve Preston✓ 15.10.09

## **2 Island Cottages, Jubilee Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

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**Report 09/71**

### **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 2 Island Cottages, Jubilee Road, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 8395 7996) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Barry Watts, The TPA Design Co Ltd, 33A St Lukes Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DN on behalf of Mr R. Handley, Bangors Farm, Bangors Road South, Iver, SL0 0AZ.

Planning consent (09/01105) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct an extension to the existing property on the site. The consent is subject to a condition (4) relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks as a result of the possibility of damage or destruction to archaeological deposits.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson on 25th August 2009 and the site code is ILG 09/71.

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

### **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located between Jubilee Road and Coronation Road in the hamlet of Littlewick Green which lies to the south-west of Maidenhead (Fig. 1). The site is currently occupied by an existing building, gardens and a drive (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is mapped as upper chalk (BGS 1981) which was observed in excavated areas and the site lies at *c.* 57m above Ordnance Datum.

### **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has several origins. The site lies within the hamlet of Littlewick Green which has several early post-medieval buildings and which may have medieval or earlier origins. However, it is

likely that the potential is greater for encountering finds or deposits from the Roman period with the Berkshire Historic Environment Record noting the presence of Roman finds a little to the north and pottery and tile found close to the site itself. Further archaeological sites are recorded for the area in general with a middle Iron Age linear earthwork, a late Iron Age enclosure (Robin Hood's Arbour) and prehistoric flint scatters on Maidenhead Thicket (Boismier 1995; Bowden *et al.* 1983; Cotton 1961) and a possible Roman villa to the south.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This would involve examination of all intrusive groundworks, in particular any ground reduction and the digging of foundation trenches for the structure and service runs.

## **Results**

The footings were dug using a mini digger fitted with a toothless bucket and had a width of 0.60m and a depth between 0.85–1.00m. The stratigraphy comprised 0.46m made ground overlying natural chalk. A modern pit was found in the corner of the footings, the fill of which contained fragments of modern glass and iron.

A drainage trench was also excavated which was 17m long, 0.20m wide and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy comprised of 0.16m gravel overlying 0.18m made ground which in turn overlay natural chalk with clay patches. No archaeological features were identified in this area of the site, fragments of china and bone occurring in the made ground of the drainage trench were retained on site.

## **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

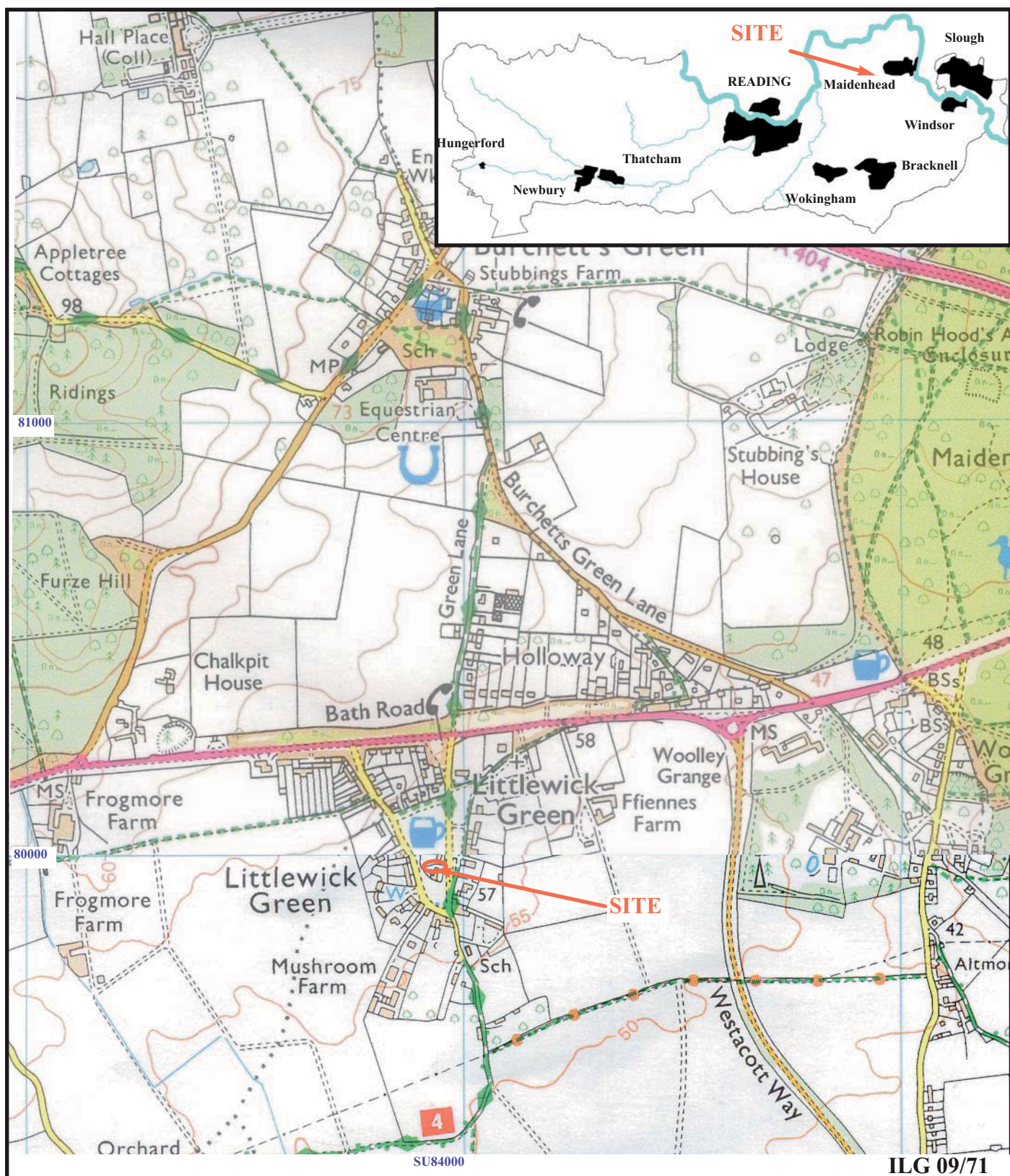
## **Conclusion**

Despite the presence of Roman and Iron Age finds in the area around the site only modern truncations were observed in the exposed footings in and beneath the made ground that overlay the natural geology and no finds of archaeological interest were recovered from site.

## References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Boismier, W A, 1995, 'An analysis of worked flint artefact concentrations from Maidenhead Thicket, Maidenhead', in I Barnes, W A Boismier, R M J Cleal, A P Fitzpatrick and M R Roberts (eds), *Early settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman occupation sites in the Thames and Kennet valleys*, Wessex Archaeol Rep **6**, Salisbury, 52–64
- Bowden, M, Ford, S and Gaffney, V, 1983, 'The excavation of an earthwork on Maidenhead Thicket, 1982', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **71**, (for 1981–2), 21–32
- Cotton, M, 1961, 'Robin Hood's Arbour; and rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **55**, 48–68
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO





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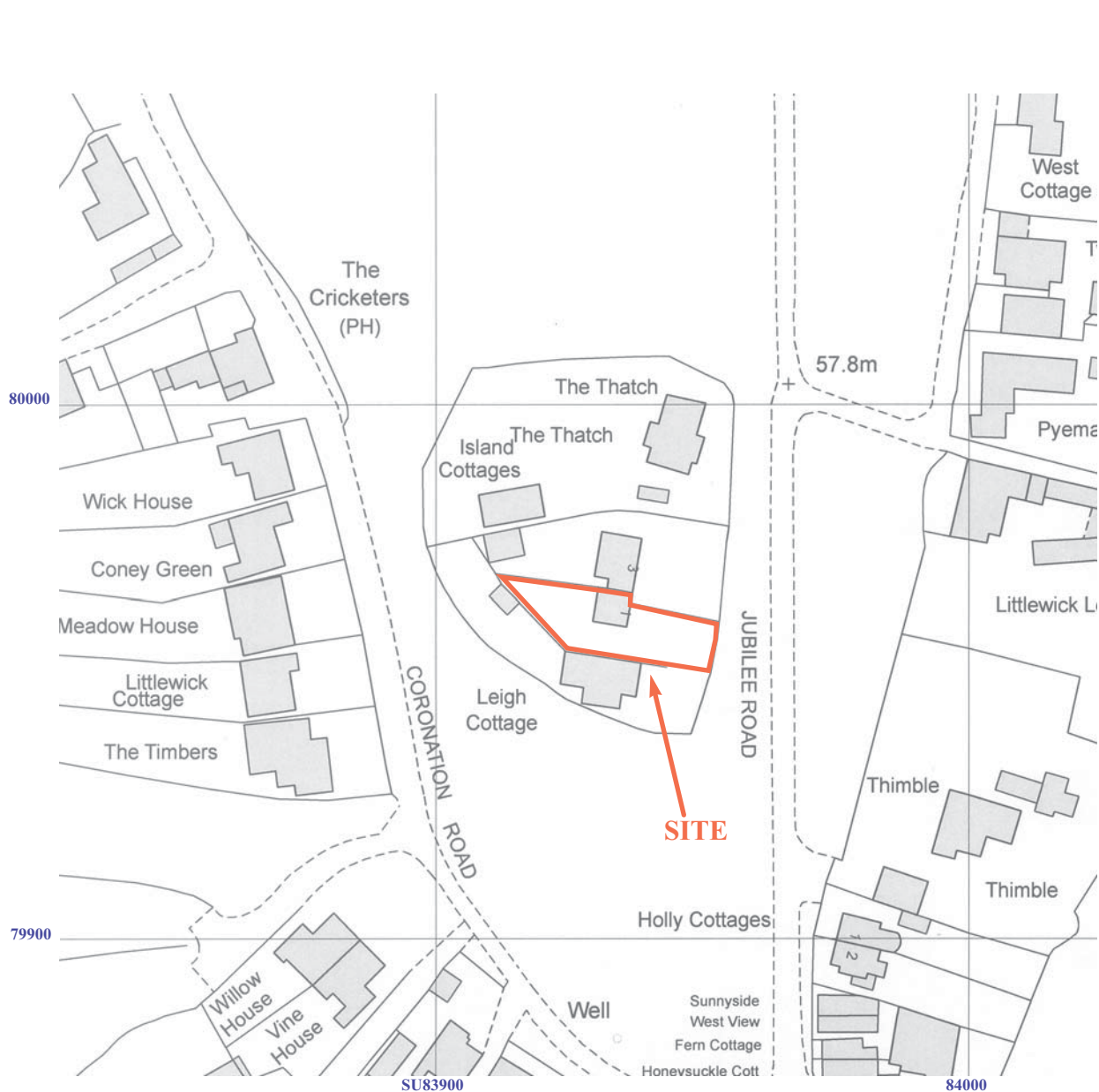
Figure 1. Location of site within Littlewick Green and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Jubilee Road.

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Figure 3. Location of excavated footings and services



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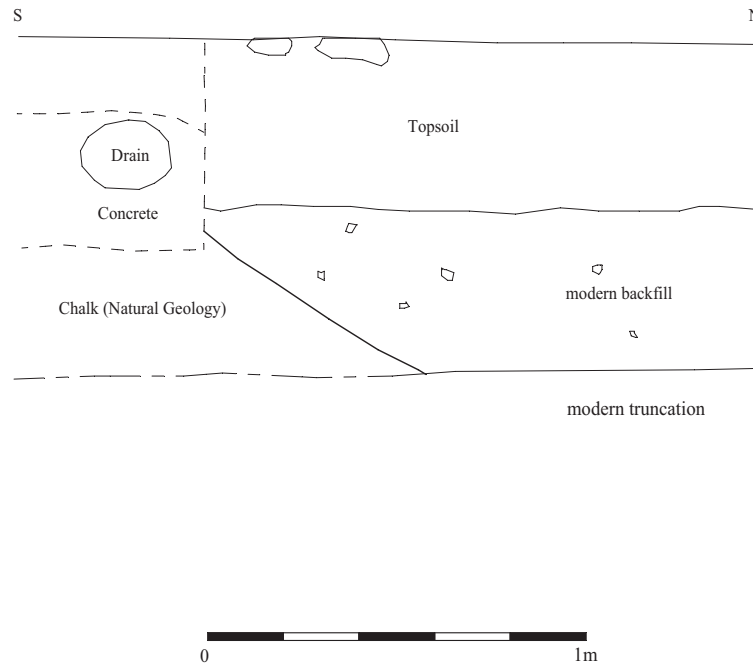


Figure 4. Representative Section