

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Rose Lea, Thicket Grove,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

Archaeological Evaluation

by James McNicoll-Norbury

Site Code: RLM08/45

(SU 8592 8135)

Rose Lea, Thicket Grove, Maidenhead, Berkshire

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mrs D Kheterpal

by JamesMcNicoll-Norbury
ThamesValleyArchaeologicalServices
Ltd

SiteCodeRLM08/45

November 2009

Summary

Site name: Rose Lea, Thicket Grove, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 8592 8135

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 15th – 16th June 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James McNicoll-Norbury

Site code: RLM 08/45

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological significance were discovered.

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 ✓ 2.12.09
	Steve Preston ✓ 01.12.09

Proposed extension at Rose Lea, Thicket Grove, Maidenhead, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

By James McNicoll-Norbury

Report 08/45

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Rose Lea, Thicket Grove, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4LW (SU 8592 8135) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jason Holt, of Heighway Associates Chartered Architects, Bray House, Unit 6, Martin Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7DE on behalf of Mrs D Kheterpal, Rose Lea, Thicket Grove, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 4LW.

Planning consent (08/00071) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead to construct an extension to the rear of the property. The planning consent gained is subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires a watching brief to be carried out during groundworks.

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 James McNicoll-Norbury on 15th and 16th June 2009 and the site code is RLM 08/45.

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 on the western edge of Maidenhead at Thicket Grove, a residential cul-de-sac off Newlands Road on the western edge of Maidenhead. The site is currently occupied by a detached house, garage and garden (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is described as Upper Chalk (BGS 1981) which was observed in the exposed groundworks and the site lies at *c.* 55m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Ms Fiona MacDonald of Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, part of the ditch and bank of the now flattened 'Great How Tumulus', a burial mound of probably Bronze Age date, were located within the site, indicating that further features of Bronze Age date may survive below ground. Sherds of prehistoric pottery have been found in a nearby property.

Further archaeological deposits are recorded in the area with a middle Iron Age linear earthwork, a late Iron Age enclosure known as Robin Hood's Arbour (a Scheduled Monument) and prehistoric flint scatters located on Maidenhead thicket (Boismier 1995; Bowden *et al.* 1983; Cotton 1961),

Objectives and methodology

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

Results

The groundworks were carried out by hand, using shovels and small power tools and were located adjacent to the rear of the existing building, covering a total area approximately 3.8m by 1.9m (Fig. 3). The foundation trenches measured 0.4–0.50m wide and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy of the exposed footings comprised 0.10m paving slabs above 0.48m of subsoil consisting of brown silty clay with chalk flecks, overlying the natural geology which was clayey chalk (Fig. 4). A modern pipe and soakaway were observed in the northern and eastern trenches but no archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered. The spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

Finds

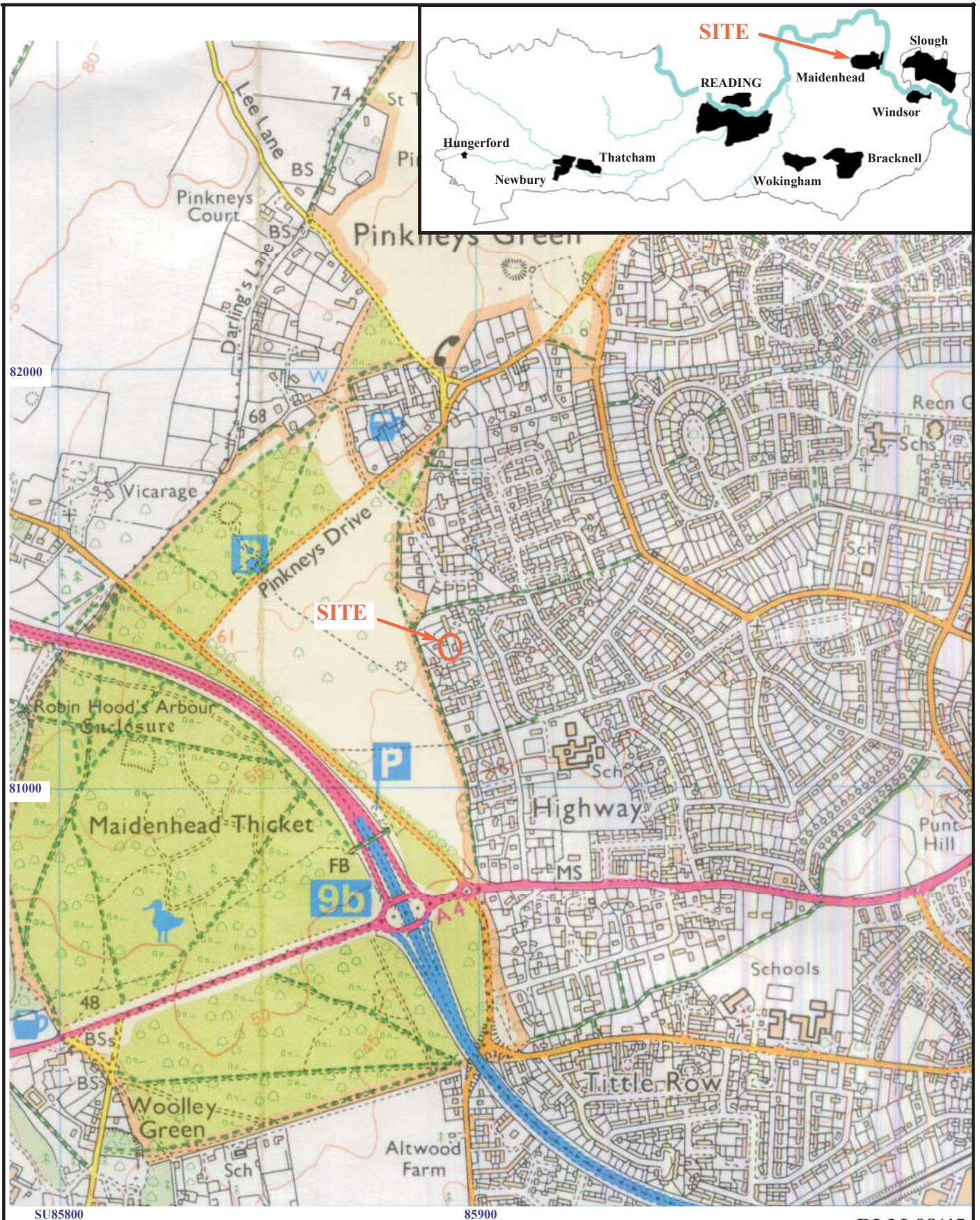
No finds of archaeological significance were discovered.

Conclusion

Despite the property as a whole lying on the location of a flattened Bronze Age burial mound, no features of this date or indeed of any features of archaeological interest were found in the small area under examination. No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, 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, 52-64 Salisbury
- 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 A, 1961, 'Robin Hood's Arbour; and rectilinear enclosures in Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* 59, 1–35
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



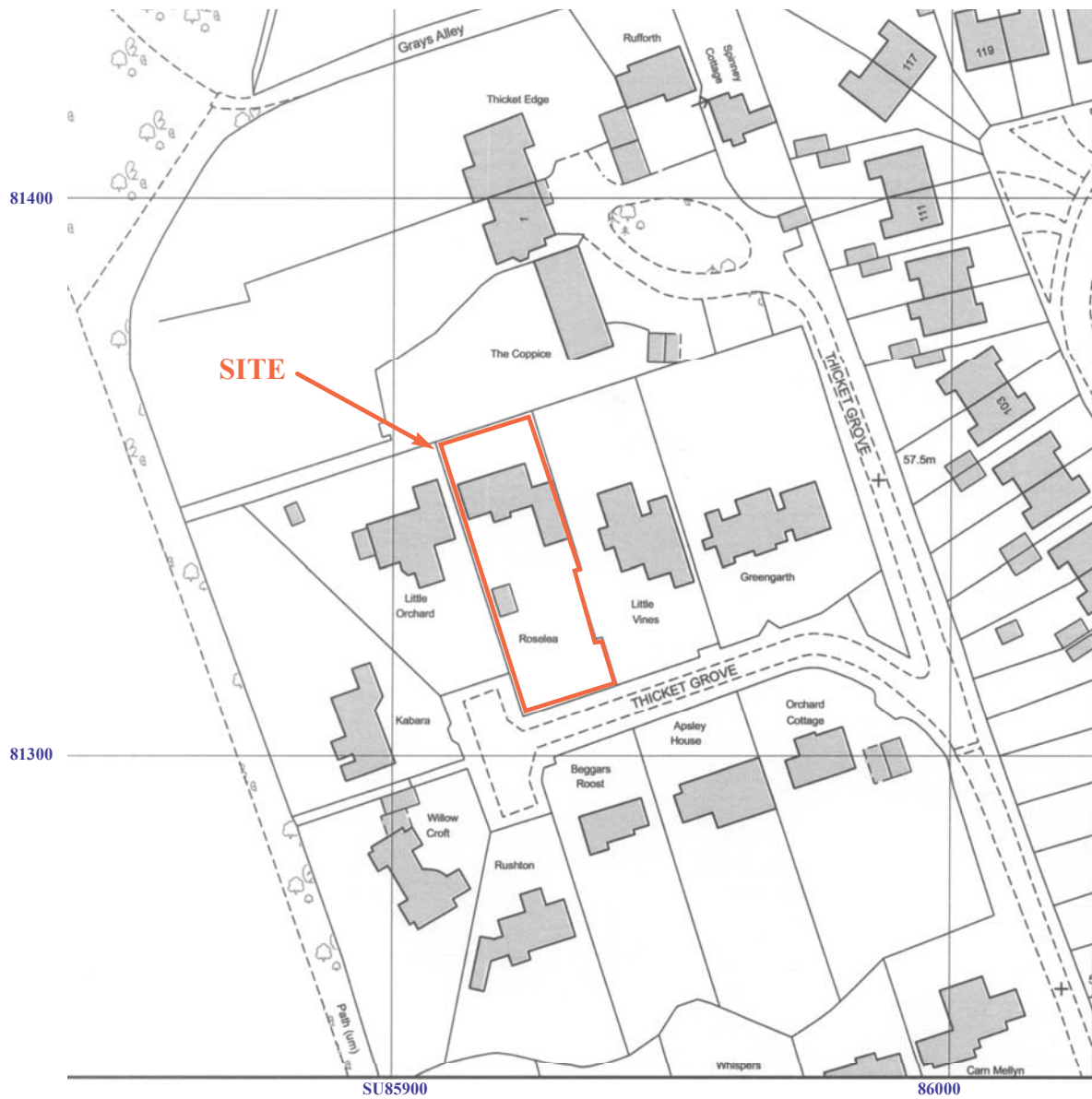
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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Thicket Grove.

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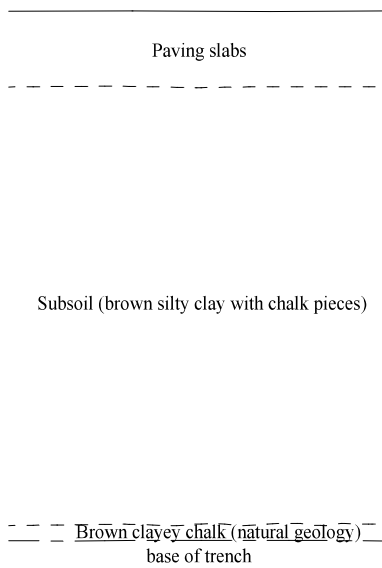
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Figure 3. Location of foundation trenches.





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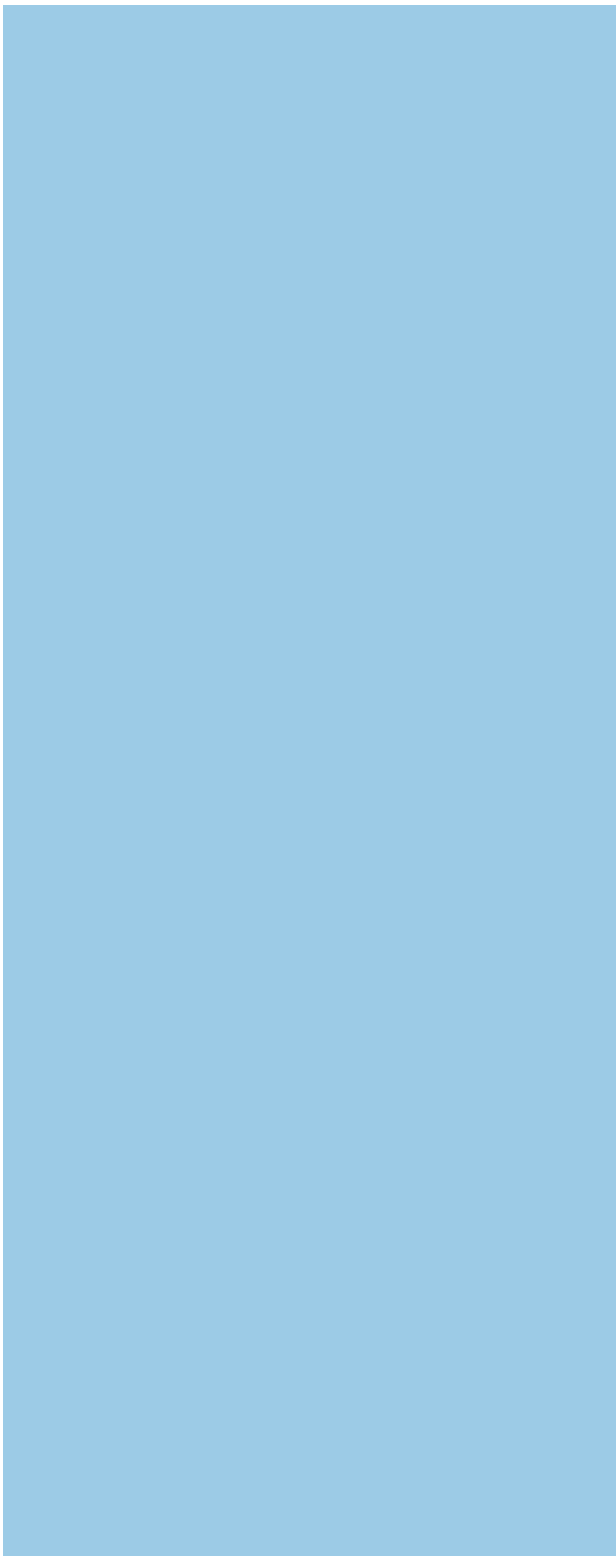
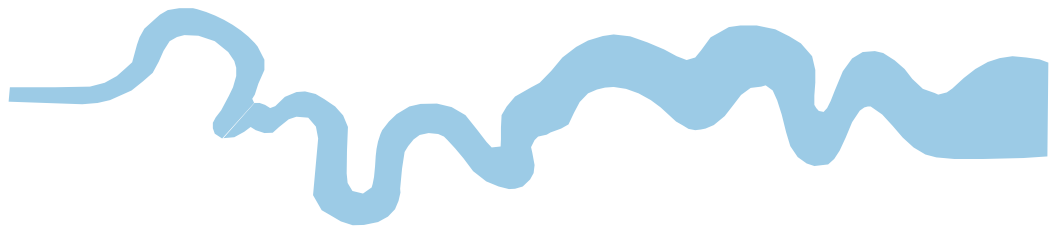
Figure 4. Representative section of footing trench.



TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**