

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Heath Lodge, Ridgemount Road,
Sunningdale, Berkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson

Site Code: HLS09/82

(SU 9525 6630)

**Heath Lodge, Ridgemount Road,
Sunningdale, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr W. Kanaan

by Tim Dawson

Thames Valley Archaeological Services

Ltd

Site Code HLS09/82

February 2010

Summary

Site name: Heath Lodge, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9525 6629

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 25th August 2009–10th February 2010

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: HLS 09/82

Summary of results: No finds or features of archaeological interest were observed

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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	Steve Preston✓ 18.02.10

Heath Lodge, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Tim Dawson

Report 09/82

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Heath Lodge, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire (SU 9525 6629) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr William Kanaan of Heath Lodge.

A planning consent (08/01696/FUL) was granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for construction work to be carried out on the house, subject to a condition which required the implementation of an archaeological watching brief. 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 at Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson between 25th August 2009 and 10th February 2010 and the site code is HLS 09/82.

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 c.450m south of Sunningdale railway station and the centre of Broomhall (Fig. 2). It is c.1.2km south of Sunningdale itself. The land is currently occupied by Heath Lodge with the area being developed adjacent to the south wall of the house. To the north and south of the site, along Ridgemount Road, are houses of a similar size and age to Heath Lodge; while to the east is the north-western corner of Sunningdale Golf Course. As suggested by the road name, the site is positioned on a ridge c.75m above Ordnance Datum with the surrounding land sloping downwards to the west, north and east. The geology on the site is described as a pebble bed within Barton Beds (BGS 1981). Although the subsoil contained pebbles, the underlying natural geology observed during the excavations was a yellow-green sand with no inclusions.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Berkshire Archaeology. In summary, the site lies close to a round barrow (at Round Barrow House) just *c.*65m to the south of the site. The barrow is a Scheduled Monument. Partial excavation in the early 20th century revealed a cremation cemetery with urned and un-urned cremation burials of Middle Bronze Age date (Barrett 1973). Two further small burial mounds were also identified to the west of Heath Lodge, although their exact location is unknown. It is possible therefore that further burial deposits or associated occupation sites could be present in the area. Several small-scale archaeological projects have been carried out in the Sunningdale area in recent years including one just 200m to the north of Heath Lodge at Tile House (Hull and Smith 1996). Unfortunately none of these yielded any archaeological finds or features despite the presence of a Roman road running through the centre of Sunningdale village.

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 areas of intrusive groundworks, particularly test pits and foundation trenches for the new extension.

Results

The archaeological project comprised two components of work, namely the digging of two test pits and digging of the extension foundation trench.

The test pits

Two hand-dug test pits directly abutting the existing house walls were examined along with their associated spoil heaps.

Test Pit 1

Test pit 1 measuring 0.78m × 0.50m was dug adjacent to the house wall 6.00m from the south-east corner of the building (Fig. 3). The pit had a depth of 0.68m deep and was dug through 0.33m of topsoil, which had been disturbed and included several bricks, 0.29m of brown sandy subsoil with pebbles and then 0.06m down into the yellow-green sand that comprised the natural geology. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Test Pit 2

The second test pit, measuring 0.90m × 1.00m, was, like the first, dug adjacent to the house wall 1.60m from the south-east corner of the building (Fig. 3). The pit was dug to a depth of 0.69m and exposed stratigraphy consisting of 0.34m of disturbed topsoil overlying 0.33m of subsoil all of which overlay the natural yellow-green sand geology. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

Foundation trenches

The foundation trenches for the extension were dug in the area between the two test pits (Fig. 3) and extended 2.9m south from the existing house wall. They measured 0.50m wide and 0.90m deep and were, unsurprisingly, cut through a stratigraphic sequence similar to that visible in the two test pits namely: 0.31m of topsoil, 0.36m of subsoil and the natural geology of yellow-green sand extending to the bottom of the trench (Fig. 4). As with the test pits, no archaeologically significant finds or features were observed.

Finds

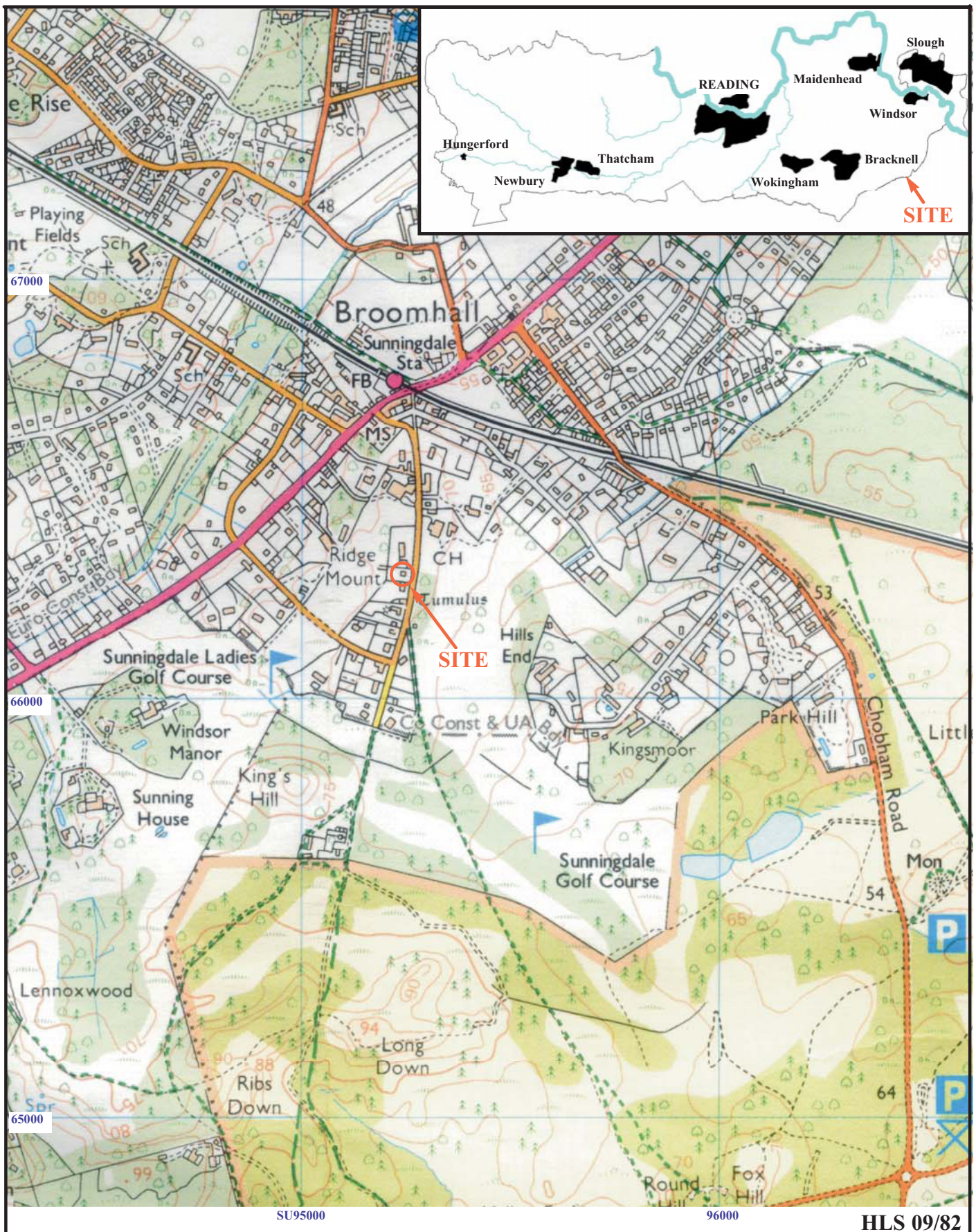
No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

Conclusion

Despite the site's close proximity to the Bronze Age round barrow and associated cremation burials just 65m to the south, no finds or features of archaeological interest were observed during the watching brief. The upper levels of the ground had been disturbed and contained bricks and rubble, probably as a result of the original construction of Heath Lodge, although the subsoil and underlying geology were undisturbed.

References

- Barrett, J C, 1973, 'Four Bronze Age cremation cemeteries from Middlesex', *Trans London Middlesex Archaeol Soc* **24**, 111–34
- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Hull, G and Smith, A, 1996, 'Tile House, Ridgemount Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire, an archaeological watching brief', Thames Valley Archaeological Services rep 96/44, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



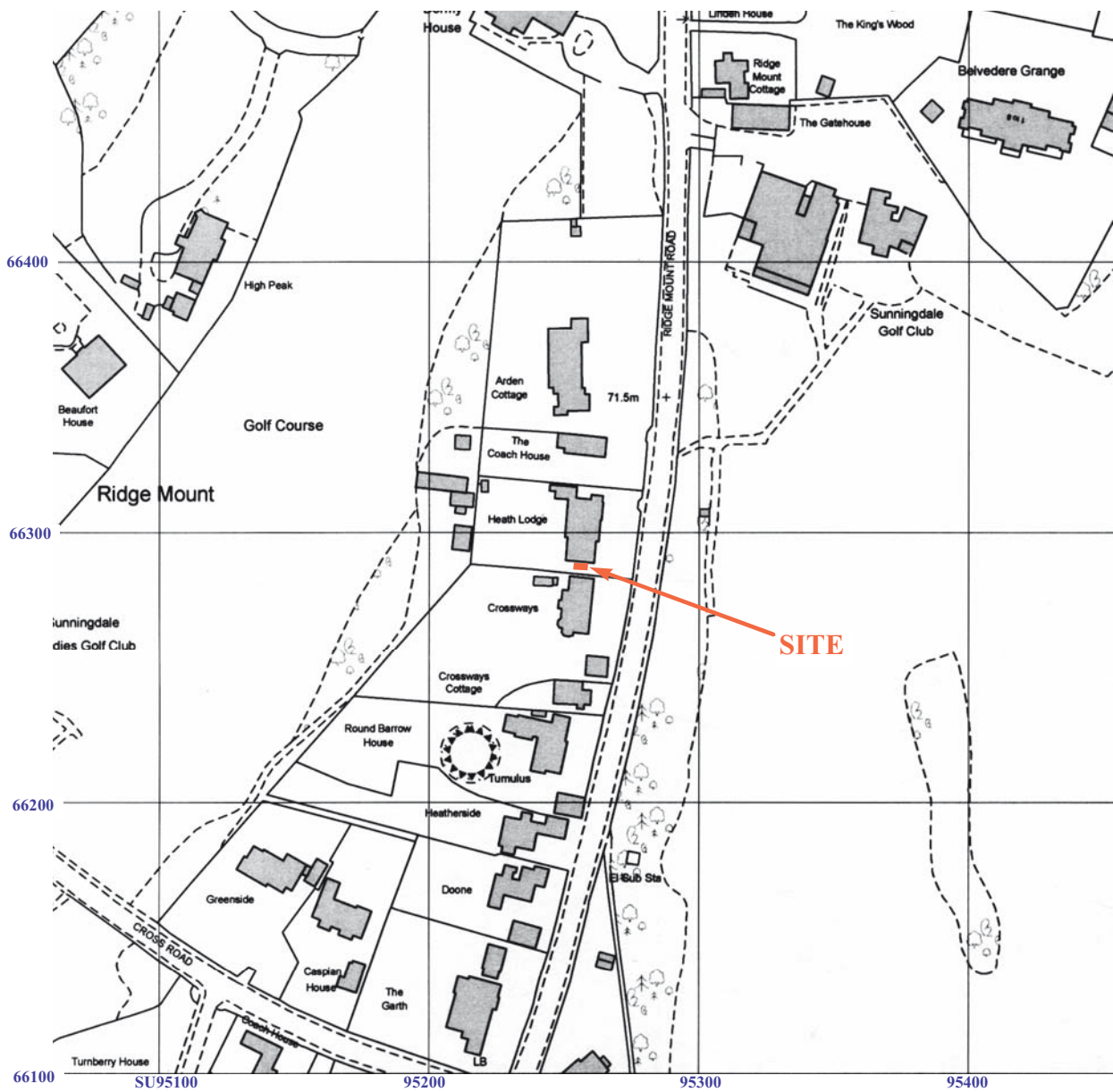
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Archaeological watching brief

Figure 1. Location of site within Sunningdale and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Location of site off Ridgemount Road.

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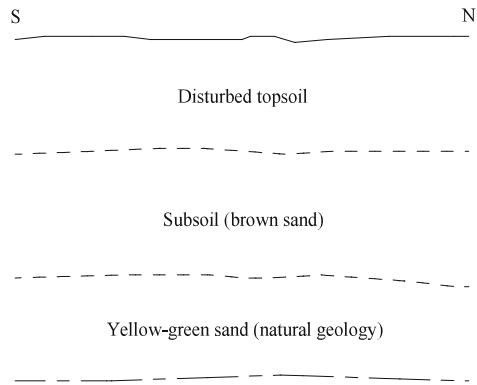
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Figure 3. Location of the foundation trench and test pits.





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Figure 4. Representative section.

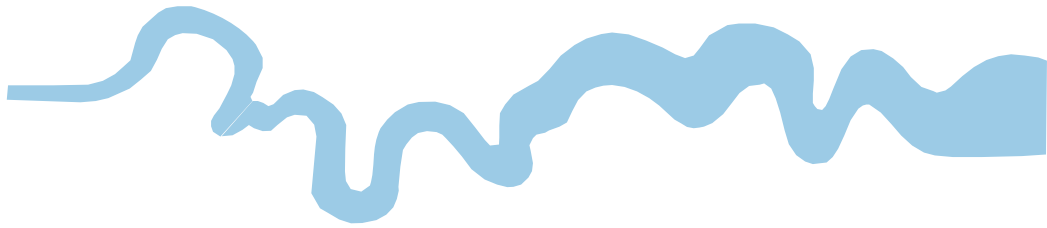


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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
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**