

**2-4 College Road,
Reading Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr and Mrs Juggurnauth

by Heather Hopkins and Tim Dawson
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code CRR 09/92

October 2009

Summary

Site name: 2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 7360 7301

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 24th September 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Tim Dawson

Site code: CRR 09/92

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.

This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 23.10.09

2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Heather Hopkins and Tim Dawson

Report 09/92

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1QD (SU 7360 7301) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Juggurnauth of 4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG6 1QD. A planning consent (008/00466/FUL) has been granted by Reading Borough Council to construct a three storey extension to 2 College Road, Reading, Berkshire (SU 7360 7301). This is part of a change of use from a multiple occupancy house to a care home. The 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 Mary O'Donoghue, the archaeological advisor to Reading Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Dawson on 24th September 2009 and the site code is CRR 09/92.

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 at the junction of Wokingham Road, a main road into Reading, and College Road, in an area of Victorian residential development in the east of Reading. The property is overlooked by further residences to the south but beyond the road to the north is Palmer Park, an area of communal open space (Fig. 2). The site is approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying natural geology is gravel which was observed during the watching brief (BGS, 1946).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of sites and finds from both prehistoric and later periods. There are a small number of entries of

archaeological interest in the Berkshire Historic Environment Record relating to the surrounding area, though there are none recorded for the site itself. In particular there are the finding of components of a medieval cemetery (leper hospital?) at Cemetery Junction along with finds of medieval pottery. Stray finds of Roman coins are also recorded, one of which comes from Palmer Park to the south east. At a slightly greater distance, evaluation at Thames Valley University to the north west revealed a post-medieval ditch and a few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery (Milbank and Ford 2008) where as evaluation at Bulmershe Road to the south reveal only an undated posthole (Ford 2006).

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the groundworks. This was expected to involve the monitoring of foundation trench digging for the new structure. Other intrusive groundworks such as the excavation of service trenches were also to be examined as necessary if they were of sufficient depth to impinge on the archaeologically relevant levels. Archaeological deposits which were threatened by digging of foundation trenches and other groundworks were to be excavated and recorded.

Results

The footing trenches were dug before the watching brief commenced (Fig. 3). However, the latter were all available for inspection. The footing trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m and a width of 0.7m. The stratigraphy revealed comprised topsoil to a depth of 0.14m, below which was a brown sandy subsoil to a depth of 0.22m over a sandy gravel to a depth of 0.34m (Fig. 4). However, all of these were a product of later dumping as below this was modern made ground to a depth of 0.79m below which was the natural geology which was yellow/brown sandy gravel. The stratigraphy contained modern finds of brick, glass, tile and concrete throughout.

Various disturbance of the natural geology was noted through the laying of modern drains, a manhole and pipework. No finds or features of archaeological interest were encountered.

Finds

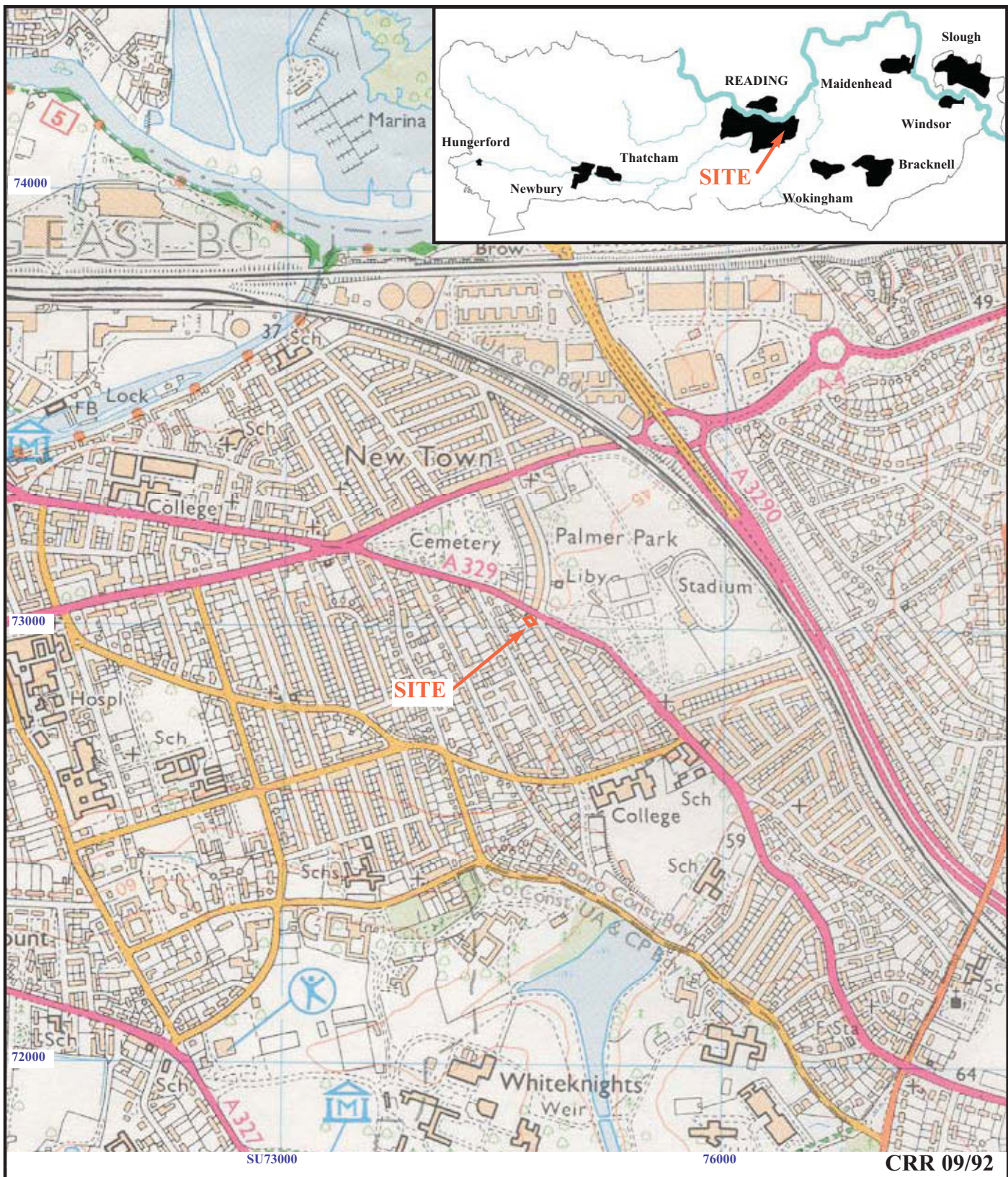
No finds of archaeological interest were discovered.

Conclusion

No finds or features of archaeological interest were discovered. The stratigraphy showed significant disturbance of the site area through truncation and the laying of modern pipes. Modern domestic and building debris had intruded throughout.

References

- BGS, 1946, *British Geological Survey*, 1:63360, Sheet 268, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 2006, Rear of 51-65 Bulmershe Road, Reading, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 05/115, Reading
- Milbank, D and Ford, S 2008, Thames Valley University, Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire, an archaeological evaluation, Thames Valley Archaeological Services report 08/15, Reading
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



**2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, 2009
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 1. Location of site within Reading and Berkshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 159 at 1:12500.
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

73100

73000



SU 73500

73600

CRR 09/92

**2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, 2009
Archaeological Watching Brief**

Figure 2. Location of site within Reading

Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, 2009



Figure 3. Layout of the foundation trenches.

2-4 College Road, Reading, Berkshire, 2009

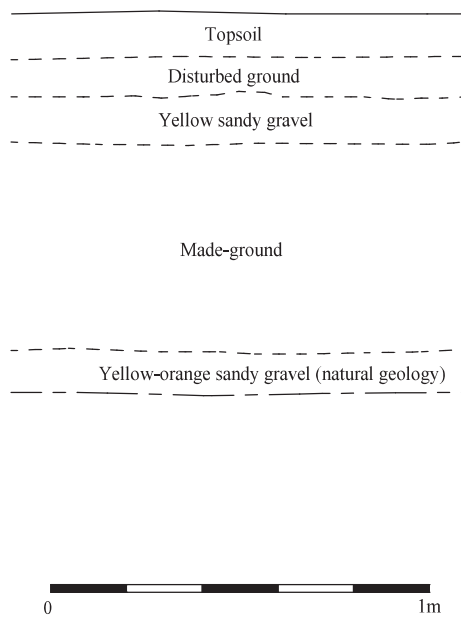


Figure 4. Sample stratigraphic sequence as observed in the foundation trenches.