

**38 Eton Road,
Datchet, Berkshire**

An Archaeological Watching Brief

For Mr Jeremy Poole

by Richard Oram

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code ERD 05/131

January 2006

Summary

Site name: 38 Eton Road, Datchet, Berkshire.

Grid reference: SU 9832 7770

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 8th December and 15th December 2005

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Richard Oram

Site code: ERD05/131

Summary of results: No archaeological features were observed not finds recovered.

Monuments identified: None

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 05/131

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 38 Eton Road, Datchet, Berkshire, SL3 9AY (SU 9832 7770) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jeremy Poole, 38 Eton Road, Datchet, Berkshire. SL3 9A. Planning permission (app no 05/01712) has been gained from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of a new single storey rear extension. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, which requires the site to be monitored during ground-works.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the Royal Borough's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Fiona Macdonald, Principal Archaeologist at Berkshire Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Richard Oram on the 8th and 15th of December 2005 and the site code is ERD05/131.

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 to the north east of Windsor on the north bank of the river Thames It comprises a near rectangular parcel of land on the north east side of Eton Road, Datchet (Fig. 2). The land is level and was previously in use as a garden and patio. The underlying geology is flood plain gravel (BGS 1981). The geology actually observed was fine sand above loose gravel. The site lies at approximately 20m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief for the project prepared by Berkshire Archaeology (Macdonald 2005). In general, the site lies on a terrace of the Thames Valley, which is usually regarded as being archaeologically rich. A range of sites and find of many periods are recorded from field survey, aerial photography and trial trenching (Ford 1987; Gates 1975; Foreman *et al.* 2002). The site is located adjacent to an area where trial trenching (evaluation) revealed a large pit of Iron Age/Roman date along with a ditch and undated deposits.

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, in particular any ground reduction, and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs.

Results (Figs 3 and 4)

The watching brief initially observed the digging of foundation trenches. However, only one length of foundation trench, the most north easterly one, was dug as excavation to a depth in excess of 2m deep was required to reach firm ground. The stratigraphy of this trench showed topsoil 0.20m deep overlying subsoil 0.10m deep over bands of sand onto loose gravel and no archaeological deposits were observed.

As such, an alternative foundation design was employed which required pad foundations. Four large, 2m square, holes were excavated on the corners of the extension as plinths for the walls. All four of these were observed to a depth of 2m and showed similar stratigraphy to the foundation trench and again no archaeological deposits were observed.

The spoil heaps were constantly monitored for finds of archaeological interest but none were recovered.

Finds

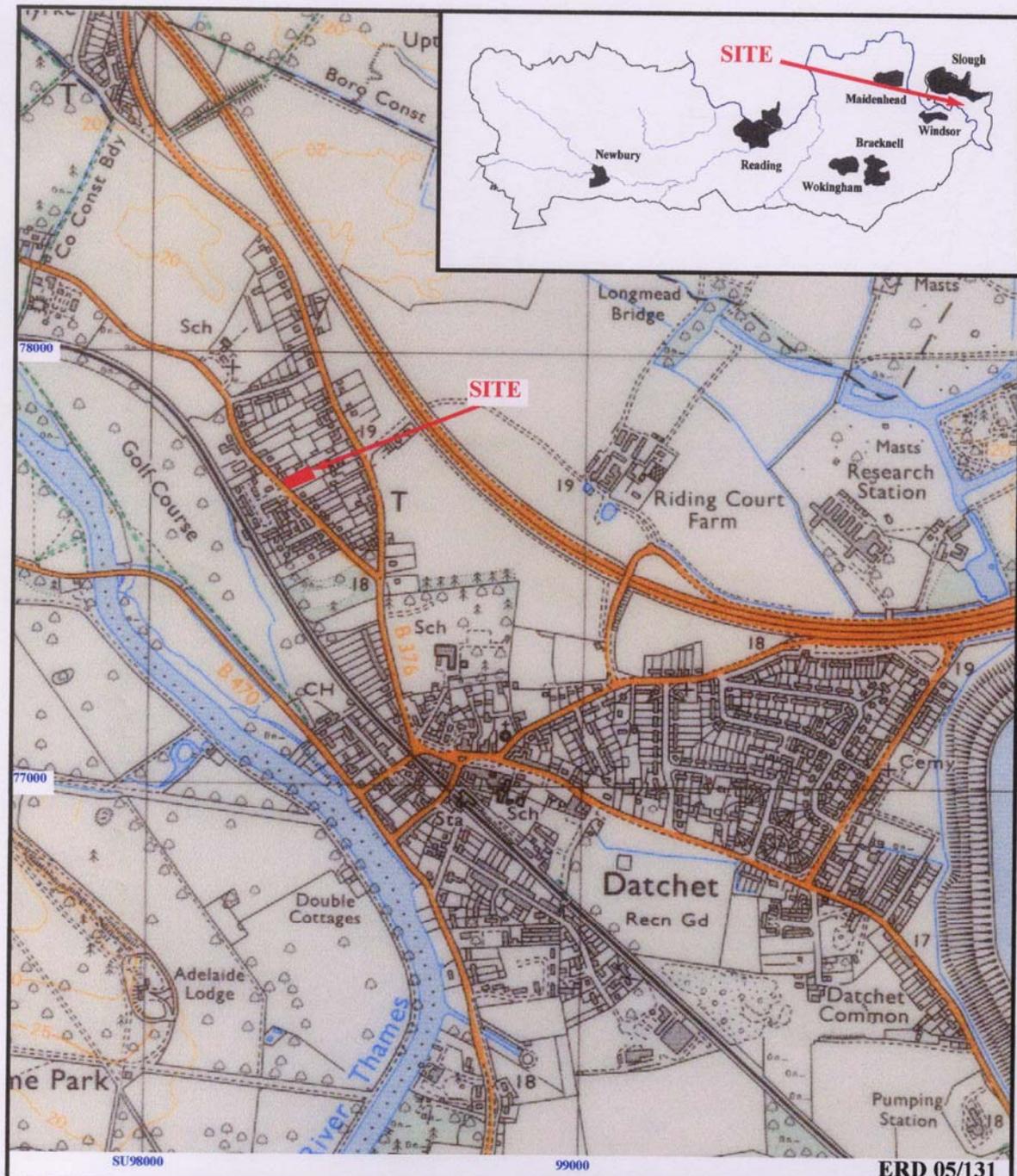
No finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

Conclusion

No archaeological deposits or features were noted in the excavation of the foundations and no finds of archaeological interest were recorded.

References

- BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Ford, S, 1987, *East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Dept Highways and Planning Occas Pap **1**, Reading
- Foreman, S, Hillier, J and Petts, D, 2002, *Gathering the people and settling the land, the archaeology of a middle Thames landscape, Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval*, Oxford Archaeol Monogr **14**, Oxford
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley, An archaeological Survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Pubn 1, Reading
- Macdonald, F, 2005, 38 Eton Road, Datchet, Berkshire: Brief for an archaeological watching brief, Berkshire Archaeology, Reading.
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

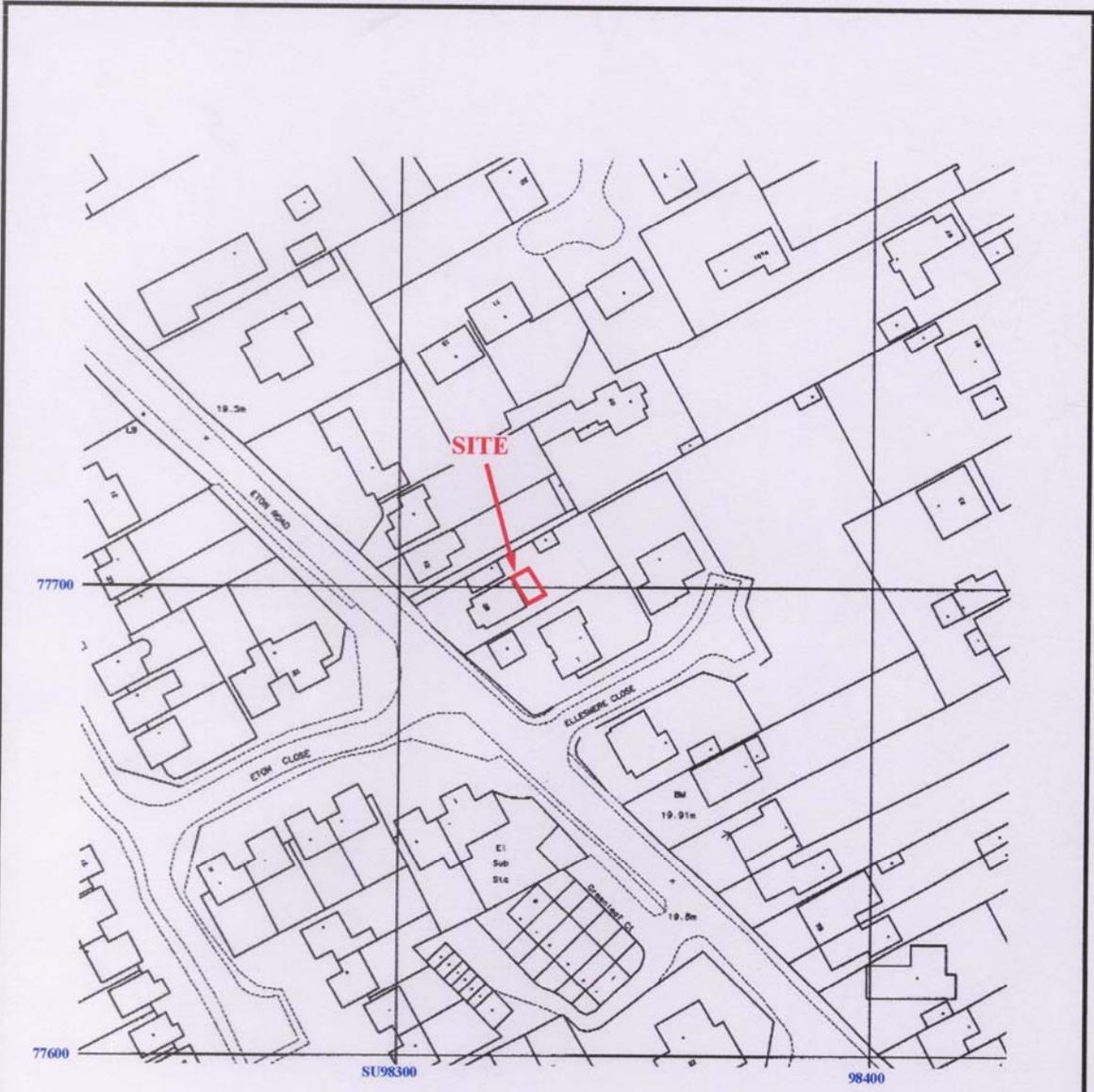


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Figure 1. Location of site within Datchet and Berkshire.

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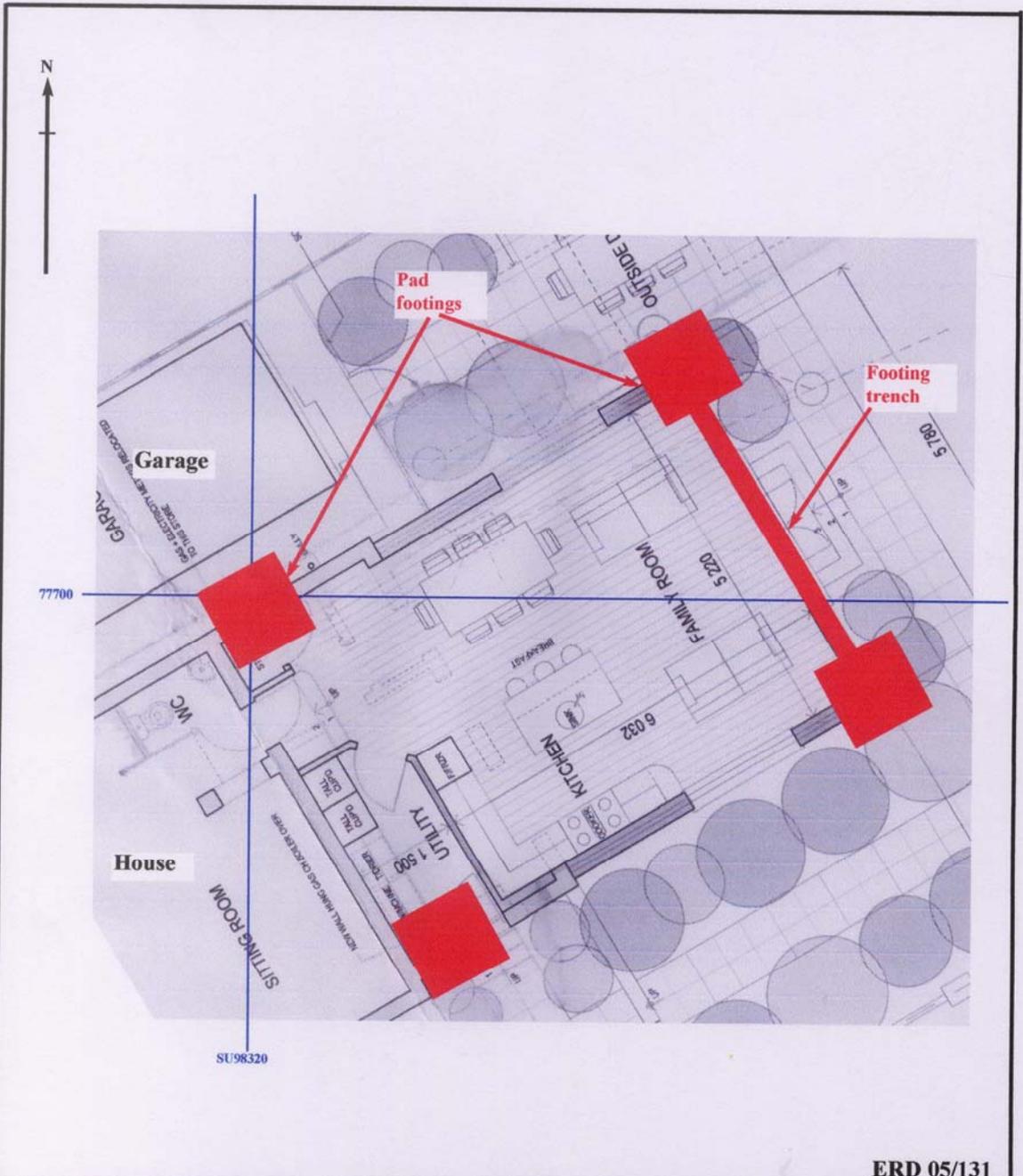
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Eton Road, Datchet.

Scale: 1250

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Figure 3. Detailed location of areas observed.

Scale: 1:80

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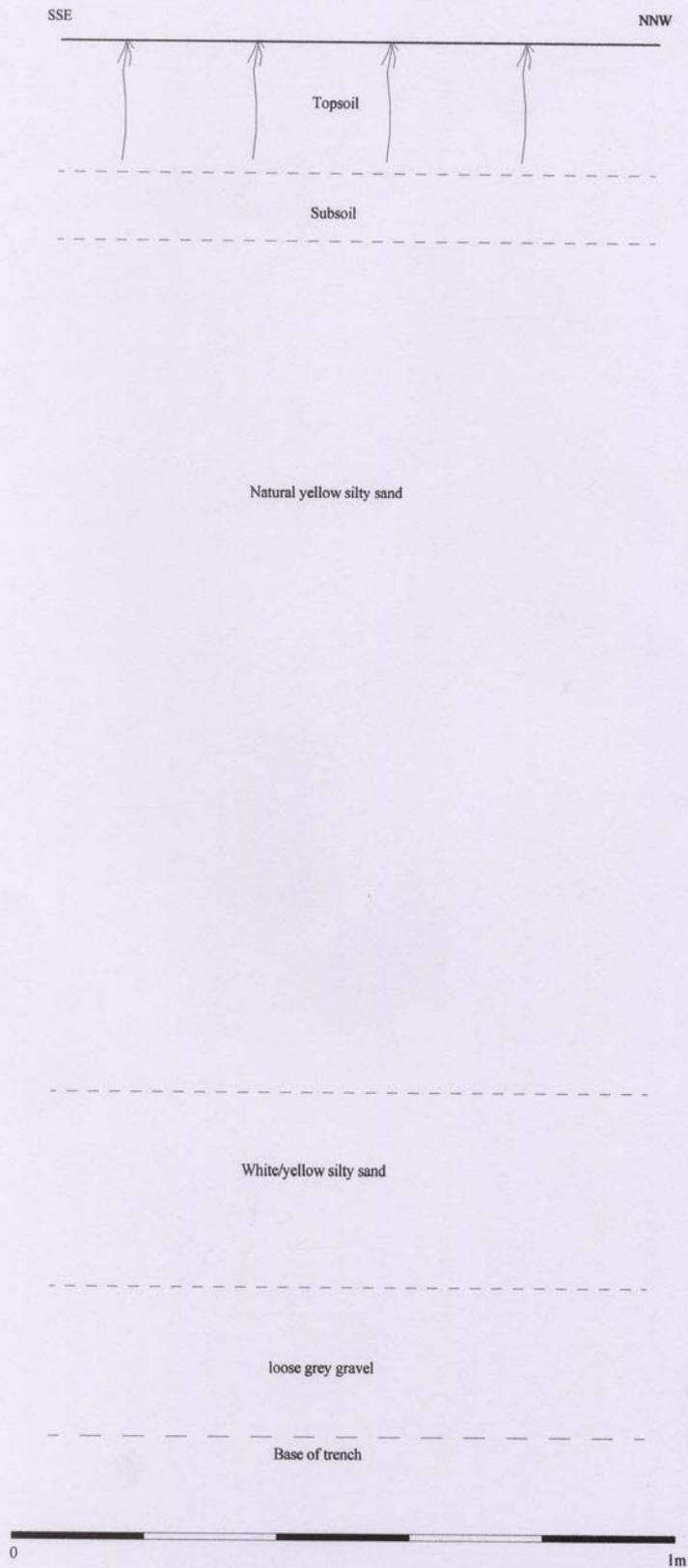


Figure 4. Representative section