

**68 Guildford Street,
Chertsey, Surrey**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Moorland Homes**

by Sarah Coles

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code GSC 05/109

March 2006

Summary

Site name: 68 Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey

Grid reference: TQ 0411 6672

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st to 15th March 2006

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sarah Coles

Site code: GSC05/109

Summary of results: A square pit of late post-medieval date was found cutting made ground. Despite extensive ground reduction, no deposits of archaeological interest were observed and the natural geology was not exposed.

Monuments identified: Late post-medieval pit

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

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 16.03.06
	Steve Preston✓ 20.03.06

68 Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey An Archaeological Watching Brief

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Report 05/109

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at land at 68 Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey (TQ 0411 6672) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Nick Jarvis of Moorland Homes, Florence House, High Street, Ripley, Surrey, GU23 6AU.

Planning consent (app no RU02/0653) has been granted by Runnymede Borough Council to construct new residential development following partial demolition towards the rear, and conversion of existing structures on the street frontage of a site on the east side of Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey. The consent 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 Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr Tony Howe Archaeological Officer at Surrey County Council, who advise the Borough on matters of archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sarah Coles on the 1st–3rd and 15th March 2006 and the site code is GSC05/109.

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

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on a rectangular plot of land which fronts the east side of Guildford Street and is situated in the centre of Chertsey (Fig. 2). At the time of the work, the site consisted of an existing building fronting the street and partial demolition at the rear. The site lies on flood-plain gravel (BGS 1981). No gravel was observed on site only made ground. The site was relatively level at 14m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential stems from the location of the site within the historic core of Chertsey (O'Connell 1977). Chertsey had an abbey which was founded in Saxon times (AD 666) by St Erkenwald and which, despite destruction by the Danes in late Saxon times, became prosperous in the medieval period. The town also

prospered and continued so after the Abbey was dissolved in 1537. The site lies on one of the main streets of Chertsey and cartographic sources (eg Rocque) show it was occupied by structures at least as early as the 1760s.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the project were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits which would be damaged or destroyed by the groundworks, involving excavation by machine of the house foundations. This was to involve examination of the foundation trenches and any service trenches dug to archaeologically relevant layers.

Results

In the event the foundations were piled and were inserted from ground level. Following this the entire site was reduced by 0.9m–0.95m, in phases and each area was observed over four site visits. The ground was then made up and all services were to be placed above these foundation level and below floorboards. The areas of ground reduced during this project are shown on Figure 3. The ground (made ground) was reduced across the entire site which revealed a further layer (52) of made ground (grey brown clayey silt with occasional sandy patches and frequent brick rubble and peg tile (not retained). At the north west end of the site 0.70m away from the current building was a pit (1) rectangular in plan 4.40m by 3.70m wide and 0.60m deep containing a single green/brown silty clay fill (50), which contained a couple of pieces of late post-medieval pottery, clinker and peg tile and is clearly of 19th or early 20th century date (Fig. 4). Pit (1) cut the lower made ground layer (52) and an underlying brown/yellow layer (51), possibly a subsoil. No other archaeological deposits were observed.

Finds

Apart from late post-medieval/modern artefacts, no finds of archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief. None of these finds were retained.

Conclusion

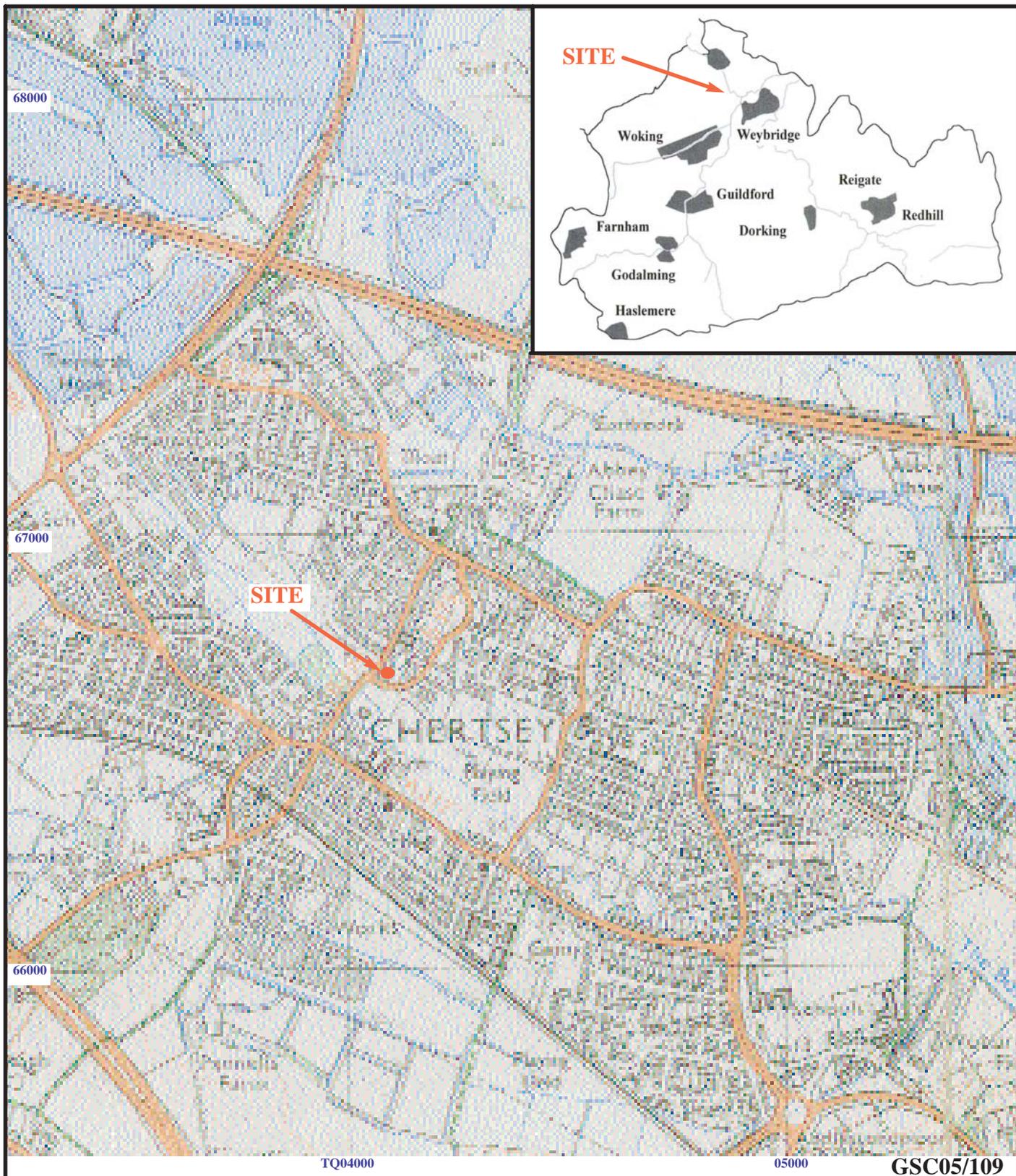
The observed ground works did not encounter any archaeological deposits or finds, despite the proximity of the site to the historic centre of Chertsey. The stratigraphy revealed a substantial thickness of made ground of late post-medieval and modern date and a single pit of the same age, but no earlier deposits of archaeological interest. The natural geology was not exposed and it is possible that deposits of archaeological interest are present on the site but largely undisturbed at depth.

References

BGS, 1981, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 269, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth

O'Connell, M, 1977, *Historic Towns in Surrey*, Surrey Archaeol Soc res vol **5**, Guildford

PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO



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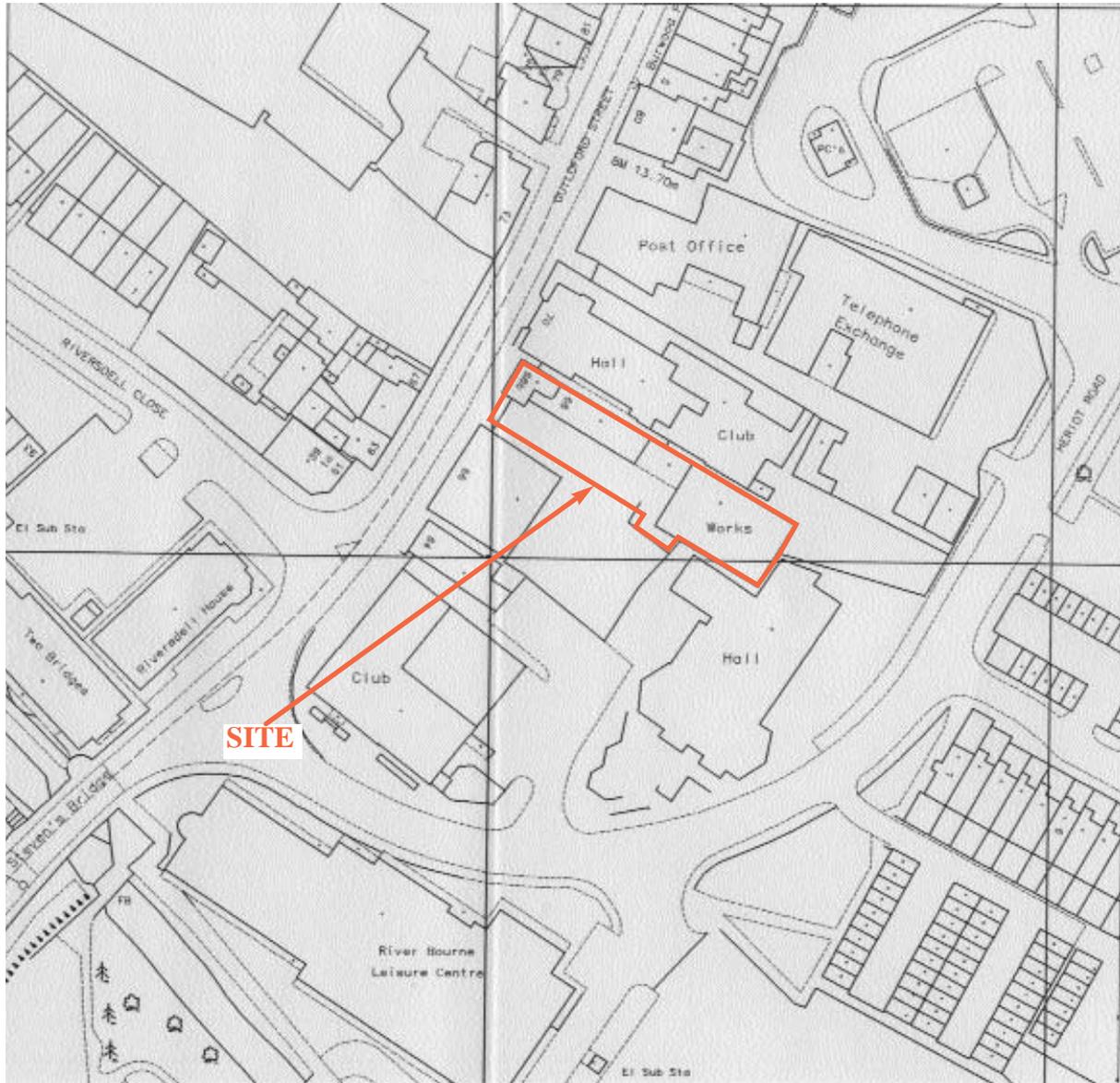
Figure 1. Location of site within Chertsey and Surrey.

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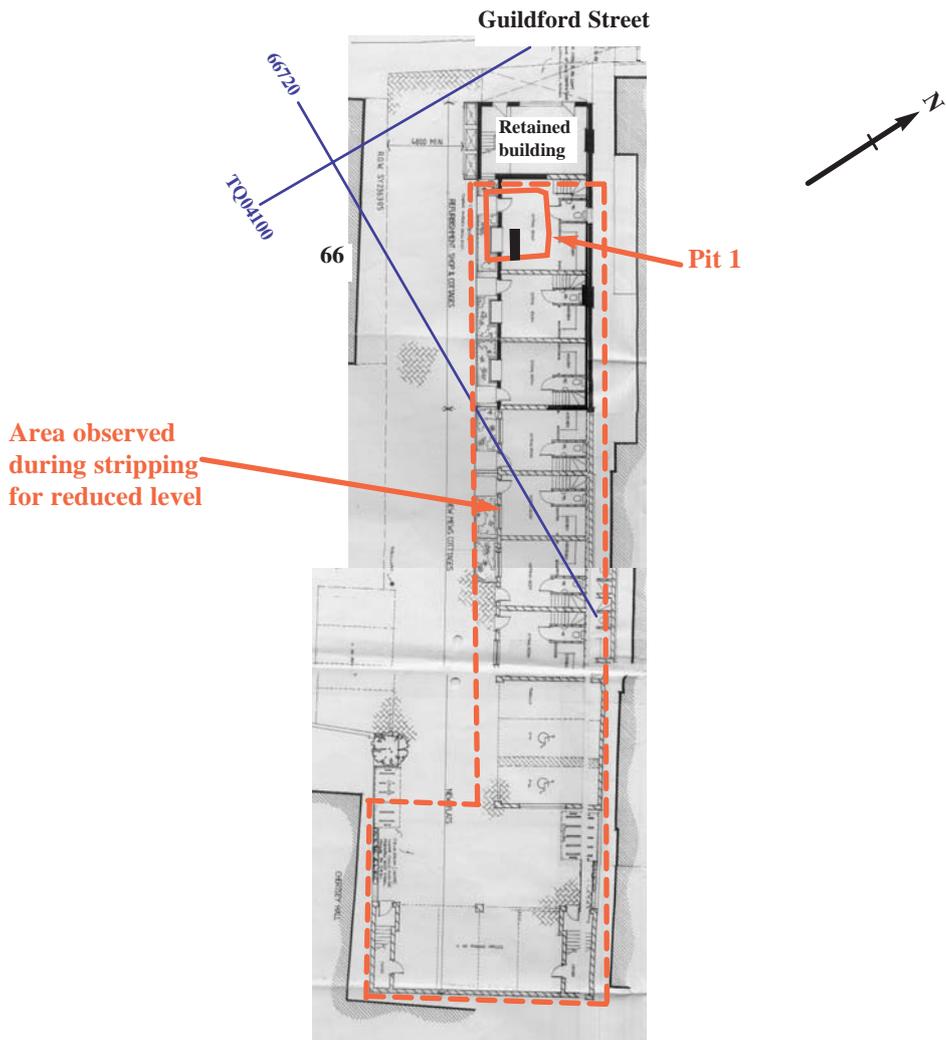
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Figure 2. Location of site on Guildford Street.

Scale: 1:1250

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Figure 3. Location of site on Guildford Street.

Scale: 1:480

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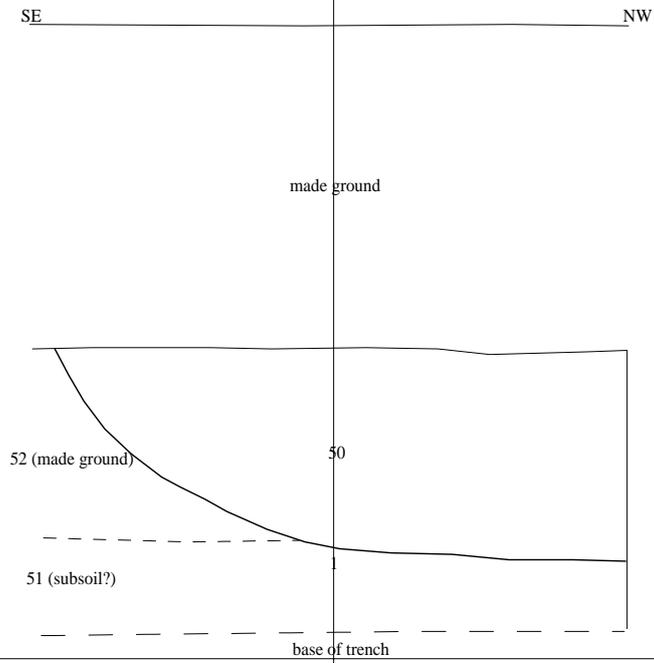


Figure 4. Section of pit 1.