

**3 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt,
Maidenhead, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Ms Fay Truluck and Mr Clive Crocker**

by Steve Ford

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code LAM04-116

December 2004

Summary

Site name: 3 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 87740 82110

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 1st-2nd December 2004

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Sian Anthony

Site code: LAM 04/116

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the watching brief.

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 edited/checked by:	Sian Anthony ✓ 17.12.04
	Steve Preston ✓ 17.12.04

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Report 04/116

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 3 Linden Avenue, Furze Platt, Maidenhead, Berkshire (SU 87740 82110) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Fay Truluck and Mr Clive Crocker of 3 Linden Avenue, Maidenhead, SL6 6HD.

Planning permission (03/40327) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the demolition of the existing dwelling and a erection of a new detached house. The consent is subject to a condition which requires the implementation of an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during any invasive groundworks.

This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, *Archaeology and Planning* (PPG16 1990), and the District's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona Macdonald, Archaeological Officer with Berkshire Archaeology, archaeological advisers to the Borough Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Wallis and Sian Anthony on the 1st and 2nd of December 2004 and the site code is LAM04/116.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Reading Museum in due course, with accession code REDMG:2003.300.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located to the north-west of the centre of Maidenhead and to the south of Furze Platt (Figs 1 and 2). The site lies on level ground at a height of approximately of 50m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is gravel of the Boyn Hill Terrace (BGS 1974).

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site is mainly derived from its location within the Thames Valley. The Thames Valley generally is also known to be rich in archaeological deposits, the presence of which have been confirmed by field survey (Ford 1980) and from the air (Gates 1975). The environs of Furze Platt is also known to have prehistoric activity represented by Bronze Age occupation recorded during quarrying operations (Lobb 1987).

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to observe and record all archaeological deposits within areas of ground disturbance associated with the groundworks, and to excavate and record any deposits which will be damaged or disturbed during the groundworks. More specifically the aims were to:

- a) Produce where possible, relative and absolute dating, and phasing for the on site.
- b) Provide, if possible, information on the economy and the local environment of the site, and
- c) Establish the character of the deposits, in order to define functional areas of the site, such as industrial, domestic etc and produce a settlement history of the site.

Results (Figs 3 and 4)

The areas of ground disturbance monitored during this project comprised the areas of the footprint stripped of overburden, and excavation of the foundation trenches.

The area stripped of overburden was not sufficiently deep to cleanly expose the archaeologically relevant areas and the watching brief concentrated on the footing trenches.

The trenches were dug using a machine fitted with a toothed bucket. The trenches were typically 0.6m wide and 1m deep. The stratigraphy comprised 0.2m of topsoil above a 0.2m thickness of orange brown sandy silt with gravel pieces (subsoil), above sand and gravel natural. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered either from the trenches or the spoil.

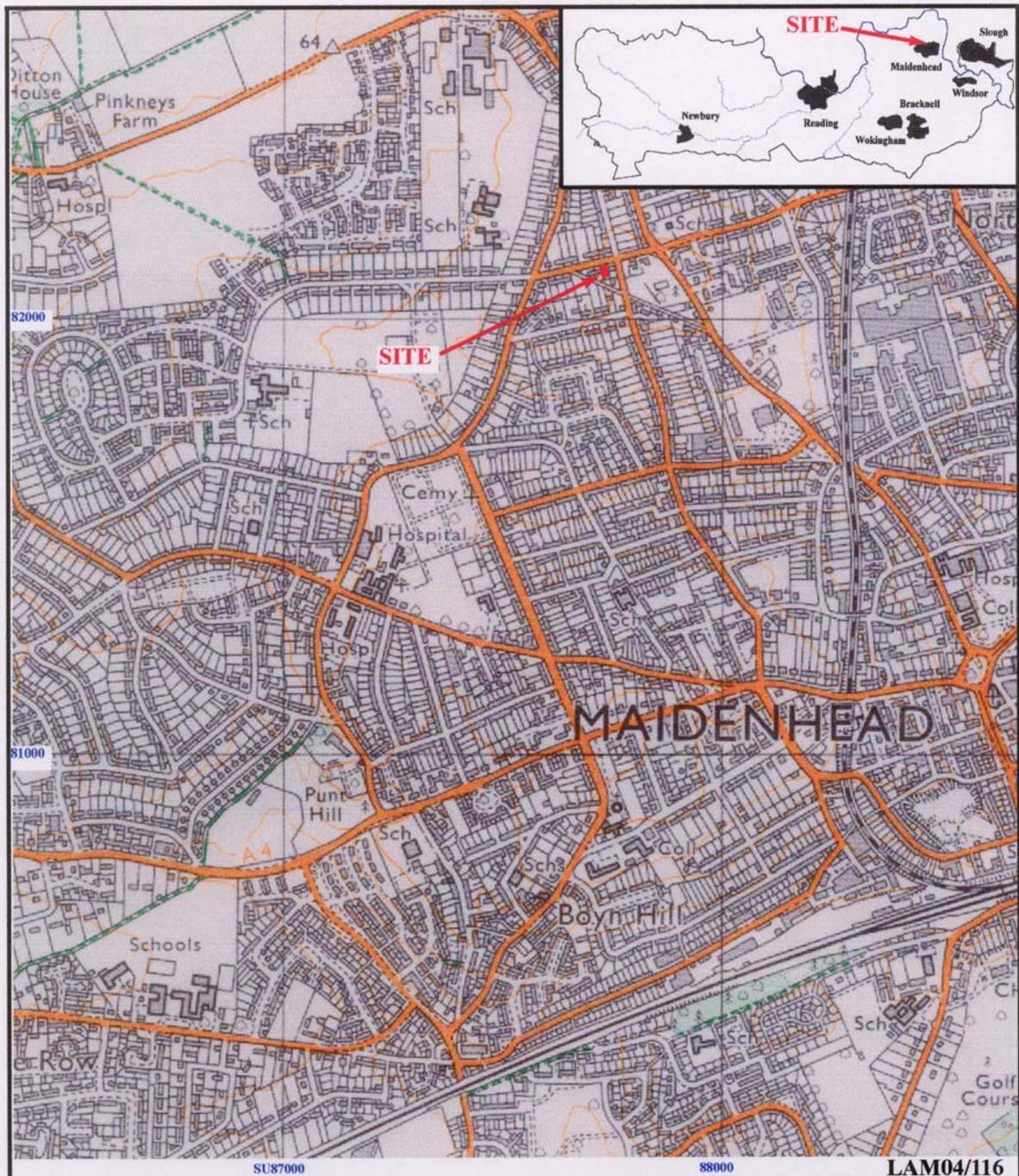
A geotechnical test pit, 0.8m x 1m and dug to a depth of 1m was also inspected and revealed a similar stratigraphy to the above. No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or deposits were recorded during this small watching brief.

References

- BGS, 1974, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 255, solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Gates, T, 1975, *The Middle Thames Valley: An archaeological survey of the river gravels*, Berkshire Archaeological committee publication 1, Reading
- Ford, S, 1987, *The East Berkshire Archaeological Survey*, Berkshire County Council Department of Highways and Planning, Occasional Paper 1, Reading
- Lobb, S J, 1980, 'The excavation of a late Bronze Age settlement at Furze Platt, Berkshire', *Berkshire Archaeol J* **70** (for 1977-80), 9-17
- PPG 16, 1990, *Archaeology and Planning*, Dept of the Environment Planning Policy Guidance 16, HMSO

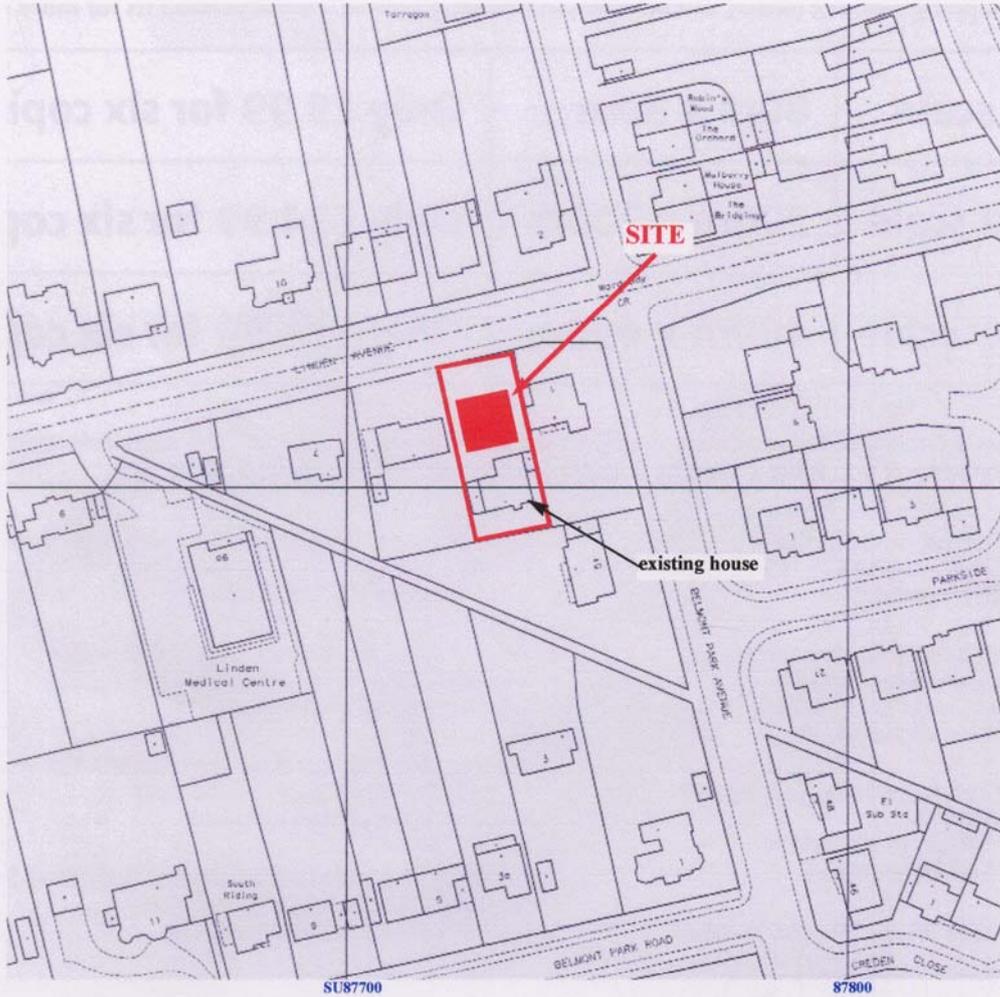


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Figure 1. Location of site within Maidenhead
and Berkshire.

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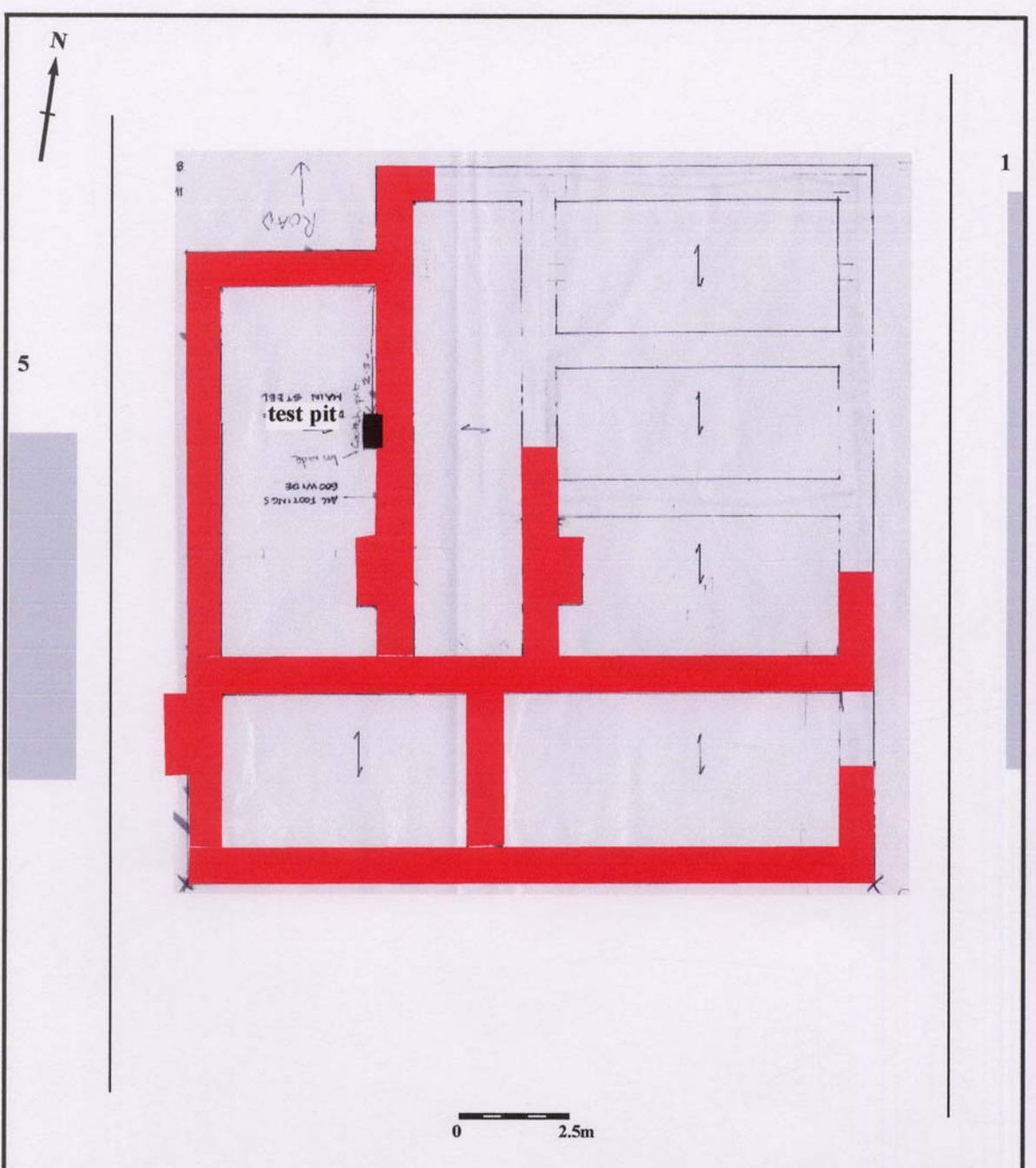
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site on Linden Avenue.

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Figure 3. Detailed location of footings observed.

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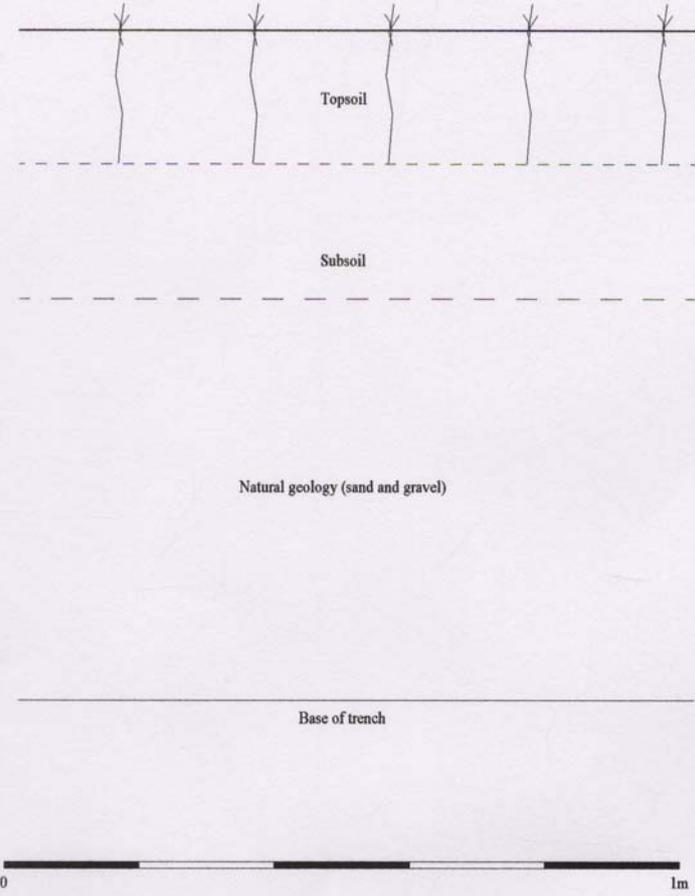


Figure 4. Representative section of footing trench.