

**1 Richmond Wood, Sunningdale,
Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For Sun Contractors Ltd**

by James Lewis and Andrew Mordin
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code RSW07/141

January 2008

Summary

Site name: 1 Richmond Wood, Sunningdale, Berkshire

Grid reference: SU 9585 6646

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 29th October 2007

Project manager: Joanna Pine

Site supervisor: Andrew Muddin

Site code: RSW 07/141

Summary of results: No archaeological finds or deposits were identified during the groundworks

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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1 Richmondwood, Sunningdale, Berkshire, 2007 An Archaeological Watching Brief

by James Lewis and Andrew Muddin

Report 07/141

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at 1 Richmond Wood, Sunningdale, Berkshire (SU 9585 6646, Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Neil Wilkinson of Sun Contractors Ltd, 258 Belsize Road, London, NW6 4BT.

The site comprises of an irregular parcel of land on the south side of Richmondwood, Sunningdale, Berkshire (SU 9585 6646). Planning permissions (06/02531, 06/02857 and 07/00417) have been granted by Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of new extensions to the existing house on the site. The consents are subject to a condition relating to archaeology which requires the site to be investigated during groundworks.

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 Ms Mary O'Donoghue of Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough in matters pertaining to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Muddin on 29th October 2007 and the site code is RSW07/141.

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 southern end of Sunningdale, on its boundary with Broomhall and close to the County boundary with Surrey. The site lies on the southern corner of the junction with Richmondwood and the Chobham Road, which bounds the site to the north-west and north-east. The existing dwelling is to be modified, not replaced, with an area of sloped turfed garden to the east and grassed area to the west. The underlying geology is Bracklesham Beds (BGS 1981), and the site lies roughly between 53m and 55m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the area stems from the presence of a number of finds and deposits in this area. To the north-west lies the Roman Road from Silchester to London or The Devil's Highway (Margary 1973). Several large Roman sites are known to be located close to the road such as at Wickham Bushes (Ford 1987; Roberts and Leese 1933; Corney and Gaffney 1983) and it is anticipated that other road-side sites will be found in the future. A medieval priory is recorded in the general area at Broomshill and several Bronze Age round barrows are present to the west. The site appears to lie at the northern end of an undated enclosure, which is noted in the Sites and Monuments Record as 'two sections of earthen banked enclosure in the form of a rough parallelogram'. It is located in Berkshire, but part of the south-east extent crosses into Surrey (Surrey SMR 1864). A number of potential dates have been suggested for the enclosure but no confirmation has been produced.

Several watching briefs have been recently carried out in Sunningdale, though few significant remains have been discovered. Roman brick was found during an evaluation on Charters Road, but no positively dated Roman feature were found (Wallis 2004). Other work on Charters Road (Oram 2005; Wallis and Cass 2006; Cass 2007a), Fireball Hill (Coles and Ford 2004; Taylor 2006) and elsewhere in Sunningdale (Ford 2006; Oram and Taylor 2006; Cass 2007b and Cass 2007c) have failed to locate any discoveries of archaeological interest.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the watching brief was to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the new construction work. This would involve the examination of areas affected by the new construction, in particular ground reduction, landscaping and the digging of foundation trenches and service runs. Spoilheaps which were transferred for leveling in the west were monitored for finds.

Results

The footing trenches on the western side of the site were typically 0.7m wide and 0.6m deep (Figs. 3 and 4). The stratigraphy revealed 0.2m of garden soil above 0.05m of light grey silty sand subsoil above the natural geology which comprised a grey/yellow sand.

The soil removed from the footing trenches on the western side was used to build up the existing sloped garden that dropped down from the house to the east. This spoil was a mix of natural topsoil, subsoil and natural geology and was compacted enough to dig the footings on this side with no need to be deep enough to expose

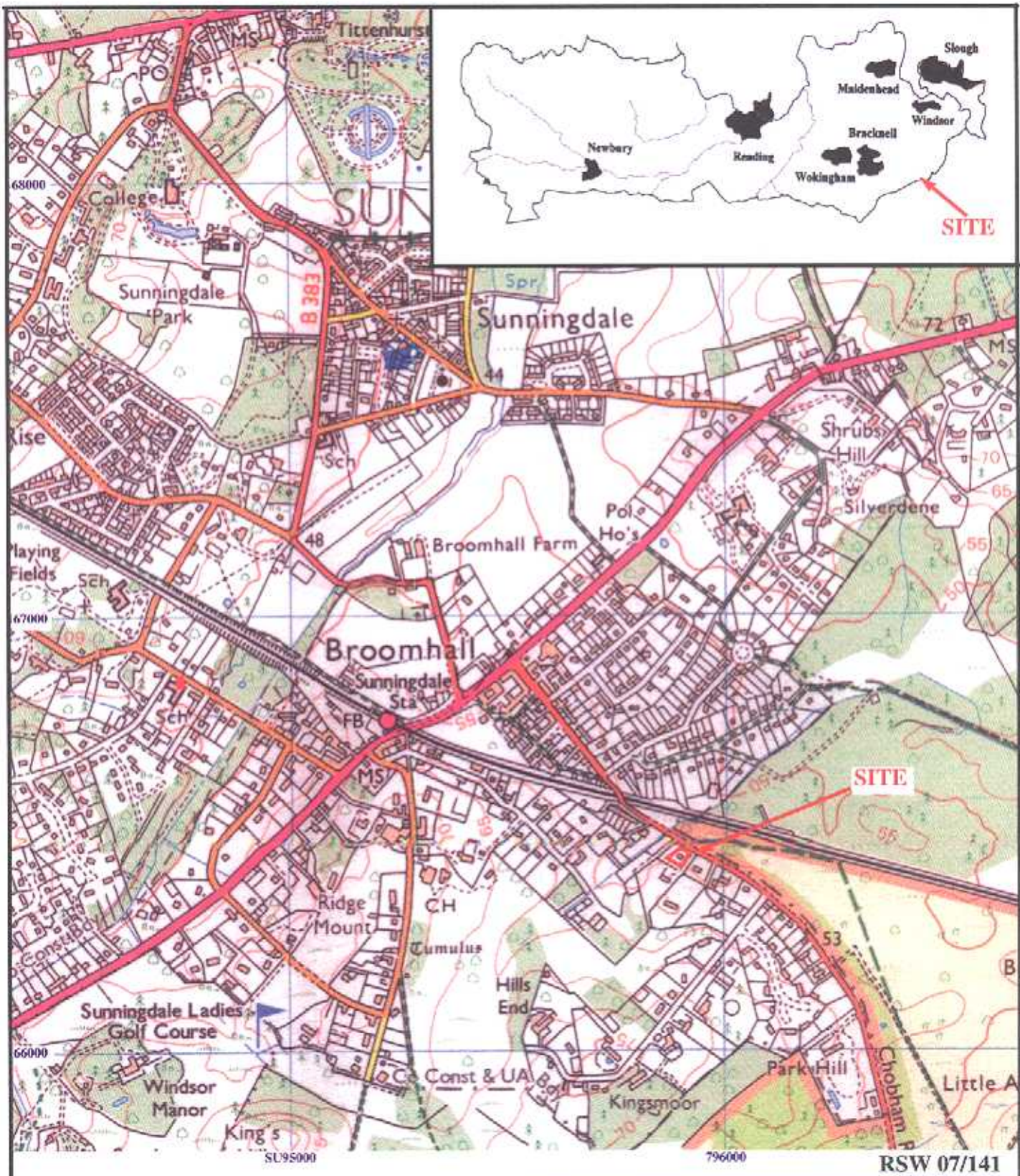
natural geology. The soil which had been removed was scanned for finds but none were recovered. No archaeological deposits were observed.

Conclusion

No archaeological finds or deposits were noted during groundworks and only a part of the groundworks for the extensions required trenches which were dug into the natural geology. No evidence was revealed as the date or function of the possible enclosure recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record.

References

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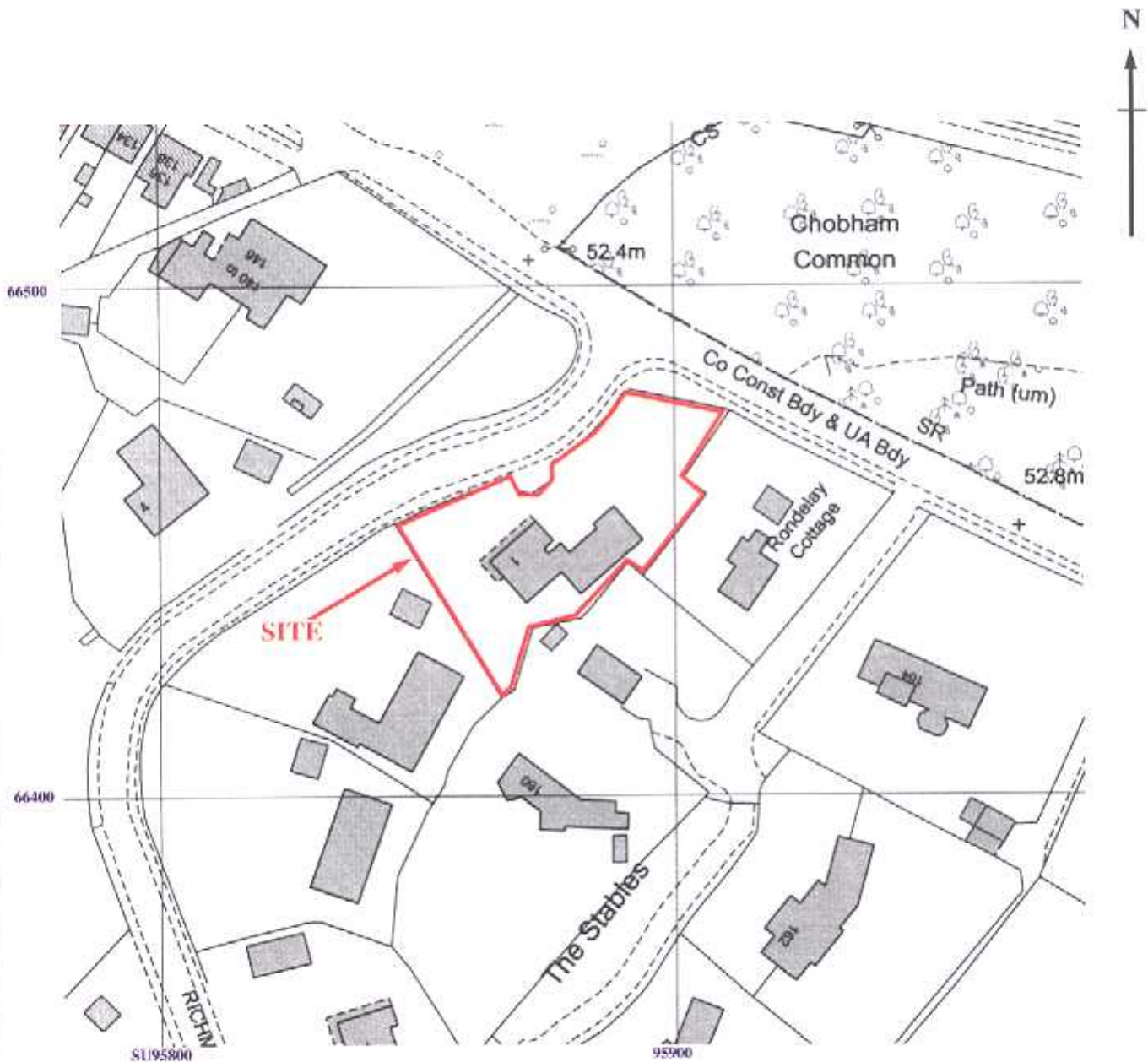


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Figure 1. Location of site within Sunningdale and Berkshire.

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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Richmondwood.

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Figure 3. Location of areas observed during watching brief.

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Figure 4 Representative Section