

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Hambro Cottage, 145a Slough Road,  
Datchet, Berkshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by James McNicoll-Norbury**

**Site Code: SRD11/81**

**(SU 9824 7810)**

**Hambro Cottage, 145a Slough Road,  
Datchet, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Evaluation  
for Meade Developments Limited**

by James McNicoll-Norbury  
Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SRD 11/81

**May 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Hambro Cottage, 145a Slough Road, Datchet, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 9824 7810

**Site activity:** Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 28th April 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** James McNicoll-Norbury

**Site code:** SRD 11/81

**Area of site:** 1.25ha

**Summary of results:** A single undated gully was located in the south of the site but no other finds or deposits of archaeological interest were revealed. The site is considered to have low archaeological potential.

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

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford ✓ 09.05.14 Steve Preston ✓ 09.05.14
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# **Hambro Cottage, 145a Slough Road, Datchet An Archaeological Evaluation**

by James McNicoll-Norbury

**Report 11/81**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Hambro Cottage, 145a Slough Road, Datchet, Berkshire (SU 9824 7810) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Jas Gill of Meade Developments Limited, 145 Slough Road, Datchet, Berkshire, SL3 9AE.

Planning consent has been gained (10/02486) from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the construction of four new houses on the site following demolition of the existing structure. The consent is subject to a condition relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of investigation. It was determined that this should take the form, initially, of a field evaluation (trial trenching), based on the results of which further mitigation measures might be required.

This was in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement, *Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5 2010), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. It is acknowledged that the National Planning Policy Framework (PPF 2012) has since superseded PPS5. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Fiona MacDonald, Principal Archaeologist for Berkshire Archaeology, advisers to the Royal Borough on archaeological matters. The fieldwork was undertaken by James McNicoll-Norbury and Benedikt Tebbit on the 28th April 2014 and the site code is SRD11/81. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at an approved local museum in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the west side of Slough Road in an irregular parcel of land on the northern outskirts of Datchet (Fig. 1). The site is generally flat and is currently occupied by a house, which is due to be demolished, and garden (Fig. 2). The underlying geology is described as flood plain gravel (BGS 1981) which was observed on site and the site lies at 20.1 m above Ordnance Datum.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the area stems from its location within the archaeologically rich Thames Valley with a wealth of prehistoric and later archaeological finds recorded for the area during archaeological fieldwork, aerial photography, mineral extraction and dredging of the nearby river Thames (Ford 1987, Foreman *et al.* 2002; Gates 1975). Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman occupation has been recorded a little way to the south of the proposal site on Eton Road and Southlea Farm (Grassam 2008; Martin 2010), though watching briefs in the vicinity found nothing of interest (Oram 2006; Lowe 2008).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development.

The specific aims of the project were:

to determine if archaeologically relevant levels have survived on the site; and

to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present.

Five trenches were to be dug, 10m long and 1.6m wide, targeting areas of the site that are due to be developed, including the footprint of the new houses and a car parking area. The trenches were to be dug using a JCB type or 360° machine fitted with a ditching bucket and monitored by an archaeologist at all times. Where archaeological features are present these were to be further investigated with hand tools.

## **Results**

All five trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 10.0 to 12.1m and in depth from 0.50 to 1.00m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1 and a summary of excavated features forms Appendix 2

### Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned WSW - ENE and was 10.0m long and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.32m of dark brown topsoil with modern inclusions and 0.48m orange/brown silty clay subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

#### Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned SSW - NNE and was 10.5m long and 1.00m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.59m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

#### Trench 3 (Fig. 4; Pl. 1)

Trench 3 was aligned WNW - ESE and was 10.0m long and 0.85m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.58m subsoil overlying natural geology. A linear like feature ran along the length of the trench through which a slot was dug (2). It measured 1.10m wide and had a depth of 0.31 m and was filled with an dark orange/brown silty clay (53) (Pl. 3) which contained no finds, and is thought to be a natural formation.

#### Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned roughly W - E and was 10.0m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.21m subsoil overlying natural geology. No archaeological features were identified.

#### Trench 5 (Fig. 4; Pl. 2)

Trench 5 was aligned SW - NE and was 10.0m long and 0.72m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.48m subsoil overlying natural geology. A gully (1) was recorded which was 0.5m wide and 0.16m deep and filled with mid-brown/grey silty clay (52) (Pl. 4). No finds were recovered.

### **Finds**

No finds of archaeological interest were recovered.

### **Conclusion**

The evaluation has shown that the site is relatively undisturbed as shown by the large amount of topsoil and subsoil still present on much of the site. However despite this very little archaeological evidence was found except for a gully in trench 5 which was undated but sealed by the overlying subsoil. It is possible that this gully is the remains of an old boundary ditch: as such the archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low.

## References

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- Gates, T, 1975, *The Thames Valley; an archaeological survey of the River Gravels*, Berkshire Archaeol Comm Publ **1**, Reading
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- Martin, J, 2010, *Prehistoric settlement at Southlea Farm, Datchet*, Berkshire Archaeol J, **79**, Reading
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- PPS5, 2010, *Planning for the Historic Environment*, The Stationery Office, Norwich

## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at SW, W or S end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	10.0	1.6	0.80	0–0.32m dark brown loamy soil (topsoil); 0.32-0.80m orange brown silty clay (subsoil); 0.80m+ gravel natural geology.
2	10.5	1.6	1.00	0–0.28m topsoil; 0.28-0.87m subsoil; 0.87m+ gravel natural geology.
3	10.0	1.6	0.85	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.78m subsoil; 0.78m+ gravel natural geology. Spread 2 <b>[Pls 1 and 3]</b>
4	10.0	1.6	0.50	0–0.22m topsoil; 0.22-0.43m subsoil; 0.43m+ gravel natural geology.
5	10.0	1.6	0.72	0–0.20m topsoil; 0.20-0.68m subsoil; 0.68m+ gravel natural geology. Gully 1 <b>[Pls 2 and 4]</b>



**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	1	52	Gully	None	None
3	2	53	Spread	None	None

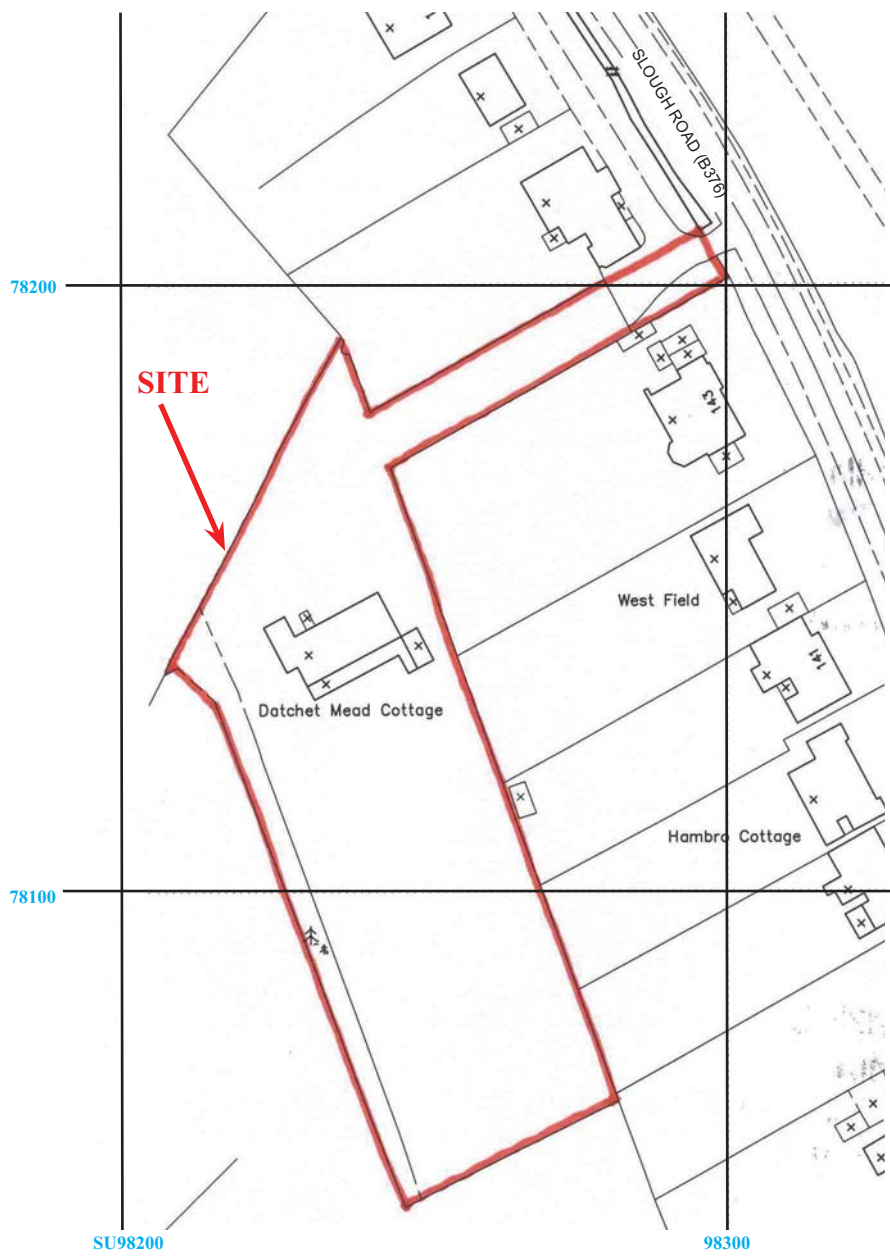


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Figure 1. Location of site within Datchet and Berkshire.

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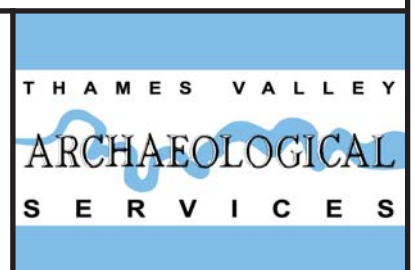


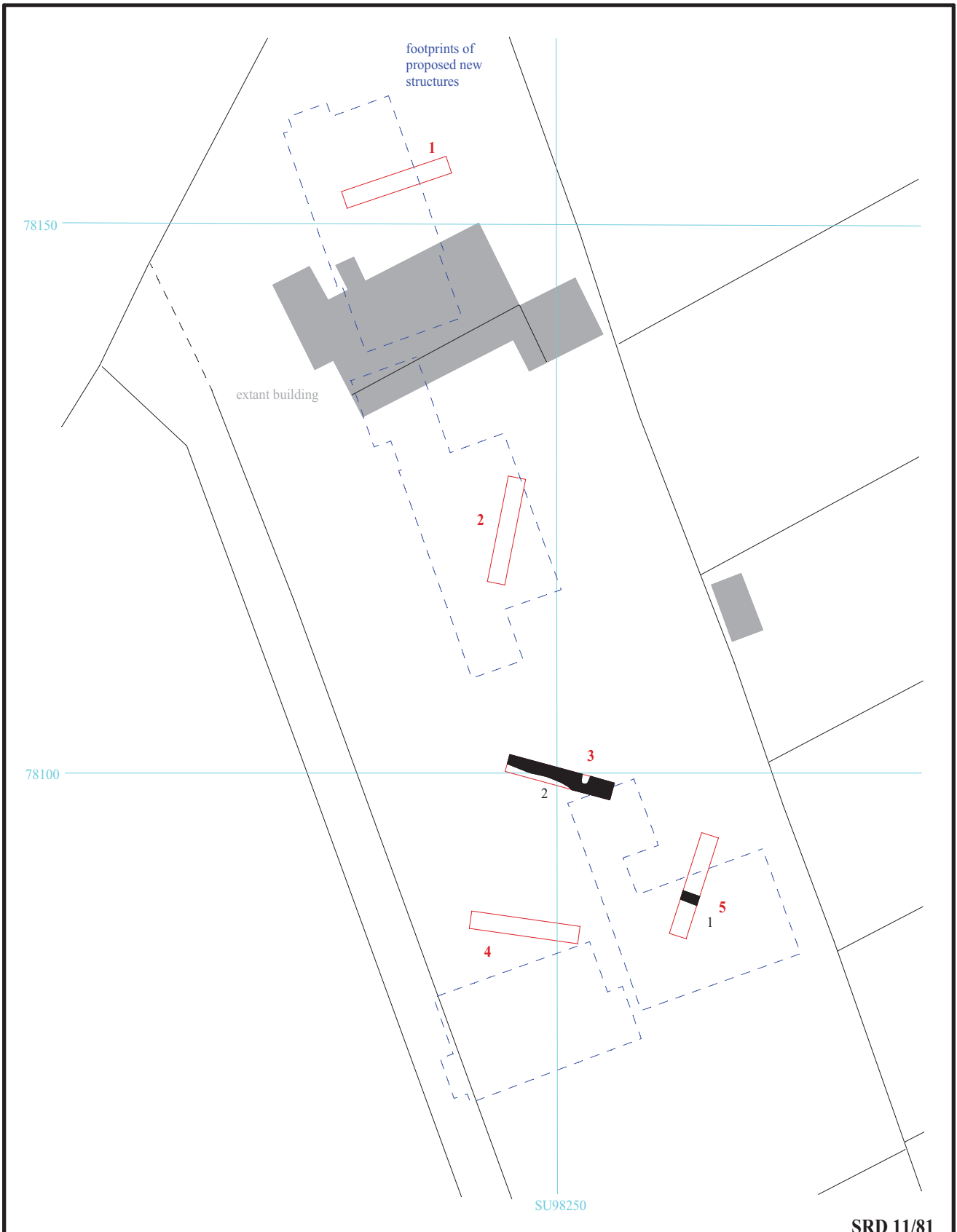
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Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

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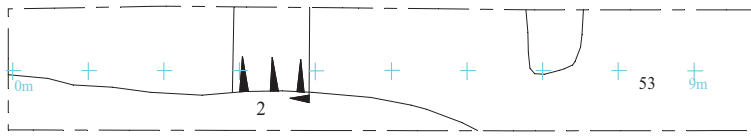
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.

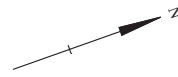
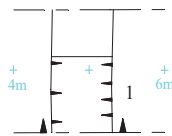


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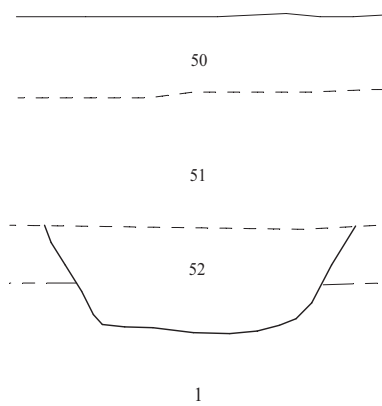
Trench 3



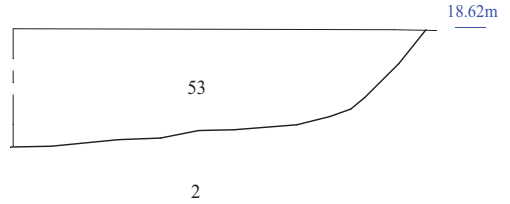
Trench 5



NE SW



NW SE 18.62m



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Figure 4. Detail of Trenches 3 and 5

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Plate 1. Trench 3, looking east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 5, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

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Plates 1 - 2.

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Plate 3. Trench 3, feature 2, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.1m.



Plate 4. Trench 5, ditch 1, looking east, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

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Plates 3 - 4.

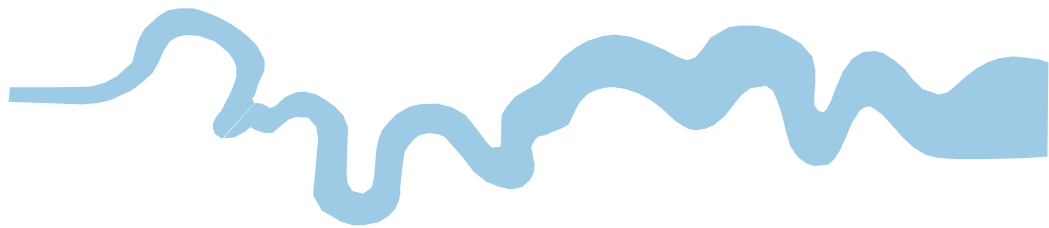
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## TIME CHART

	<b>Calendar Years</b>
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC







**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,  
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,  
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552  
Fax: 0118 9260553  
Email: [tvas@tvas.co.uk](mailto:tvas@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**