

**Windermere, Priory Drive, Church Road,  
Old Windsor, Berkshire**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Mr J. Florey**

by Jo Pine and Pamela Jenkins

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code WOW 04/58

**September 2004**

## Summary

**Site name:** Windermere, Priory Drive, Old Windsor, Berkshire

**Grid reference:** SU 99010 74640

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 16th and 17th June 2004

**Project manager:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisor:** Jo Pine

**Site code:** WOW04/58

**Summary of results:** No archaeological deposits were observed and no finds were recovered

**Monuments identified:** None

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held by Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd, 47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading, RG1 5NR and will be deposited with Reading Museum in due course.

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# **Windermere, Priory Drive, Old Windsor, Berkshire An Archaeological Watching Brief**

By

Joanna Pine and Pamela Jenkins

**Report 04/58**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Windermere, Priory Drive, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire (SU 99010 74640) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr J Florey of Windermere, Priory Drive, Church Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire SL4 2JW.

A planning consent (03/84097) has been granted by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for the erection of a new roof and a single storey side extension for a garage at the property. The site lies on the southern side of Church Road and north side of Priory Drive within the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the 11th century palace of Edward the Confessor (SAM BK79). As a condition on the granting of planning permission and to obtain scheduled monument consent, a watching brief was requested as set out in the Ancient Monuments and Scheduled Areas Act 1979, and in accordance with Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990) and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Mr R Perrin, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, of English Heritage, archaeological advisers to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine and Pamela Jenkins on the 16th and 17th of June 2004. The site code is WOW 04/58.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located on the eastern margins of Old Windsor, on the western bank of the River Thames and to the west of the parish church (Figs 1 and 2). The underlying geology according to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1981) is flood plain gravel.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the area stems from the presence of the late Saxon royal palace of Edward the Confessor which was documented between AD1061 and 1107 (Astill 1978). Unpublished excavations carried out between 1953 and 1958 in an area to the south of the church revealed considerable information about the nature and development of the settlement (Wilson 1958). Many finds of Roman pottery and building materials

have been made in an area to the south-east of the church and within the churchyard itself (Wilson 1958) suggesting the presence of a Roman settlement in this area. Early Saxon deposits are also present, with occupation remains located to the south-west of the church and stray finds of Saxon pottery from within the graveyard (Ford 1993). Excavations at The Manor uncovered features of late Saxon/early medieval date together with 19th-century building remains (Hindmarch and Ford in prep).

A number of watching briefs have taken place in the vicinity of the development area at Chalet Bungalow (Hull 1999), Priory Gate (Pollinger 1997), Cell Farm (Hardy 2002) and Priory Lodge (Coles 2003) without revealing deposits of archaeological interest.

## **Objectives and methodology**

The aims of the project were to observe, excavate and record any archaeological deposits or finds affected by the new construction work. This involved the examination of three foundation holes for the brick piers for the new roof and foundation trenches for the garage. All spoilheaps were monitored for finds.

## **Results (Figs. 3 and 4)**

Three foundation holes 0.90m by 0.90m and 1.00m deep were excavated for brick piers for the new roof. Pier 1 showed 0.20m of grey brown silty clay topsoil onto a layer of darker grey brown silty clay which was 0.30m deep. This in turn overlay 0.30m of orange brown clay onto gravel.

Pier 2 showed 0.40m of grey brown silty clay topsoil. A service pipe was observed at between 0.38m–0.55m deep aligned approximately north-south but no cut for this service through the topsoil was apparent. Beneath the topsoil was a layer of darker grey brown silty clay which was 0.22m deep. This sealed 0.25m of orange brown clay onto gravel.

Pier 3 showed a turf line 0.08m onto a brick, stone and flint rubble layer 0.08m deep onto 0.20 of grey brown silty clay (a buried soil) onto a layer of darker grey brown silty clay which was 0.20m deep. This in turn overlay 0.25m of orange brown clay onto gravel.

The footings for the garage measured 0.35m wide and were dug to a depth of 0.90m. They revealed a thin layer of gravel chippings above 0.20m of hardcore and rubble make-up for the driveway. Below this was 0.45m of dark brown sandy clay containing modern brick and tile. Within this layer, at the northernmost end of the trench, a reinforced concrete slab was observed at 0.50m below ground level. No construction cut was present within the surrounding ground and it can therefore be assumed that the deposits observed are modern and

contemporary with the concrete slab, and probably related to the construction of the existing property. Below this layer 0.35m of natural dark orangey brown clay with rounded gravel was visible. The bottom of the trench was not visible due to the presence of excavation debris.

## **Finds**

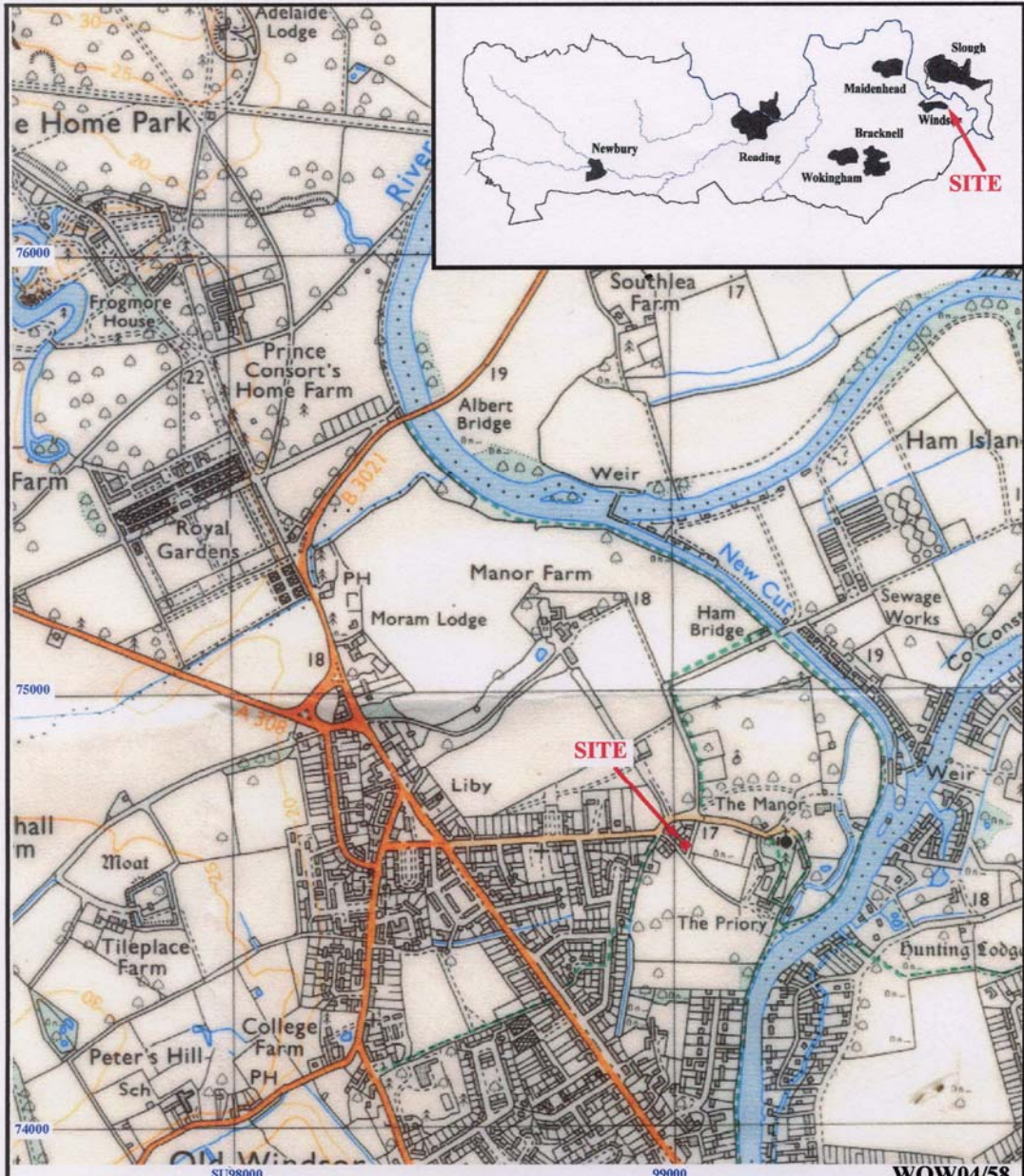
There were no archaeological finds recovered from the site.

## **Conclusion**

No archaeological deposits were observed nor finds retrieved during the groundworks. The stratigraphy in the pier foundation holes and the lack of a cut for the service suggests that this area could have been landscaped in the recent past, possibly when the house was constructed. The topsoil appears to be sealing a buried soil which is probably an old topsoil which sits above either a subsoil or a flood deposit which overlies the flood plain gravel.

## **References**

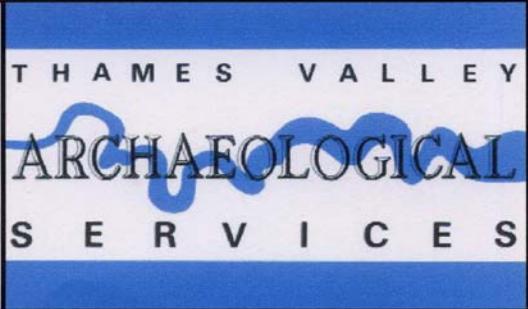
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Figure 1. Location of site within Old Windsor  
and Berkshire.

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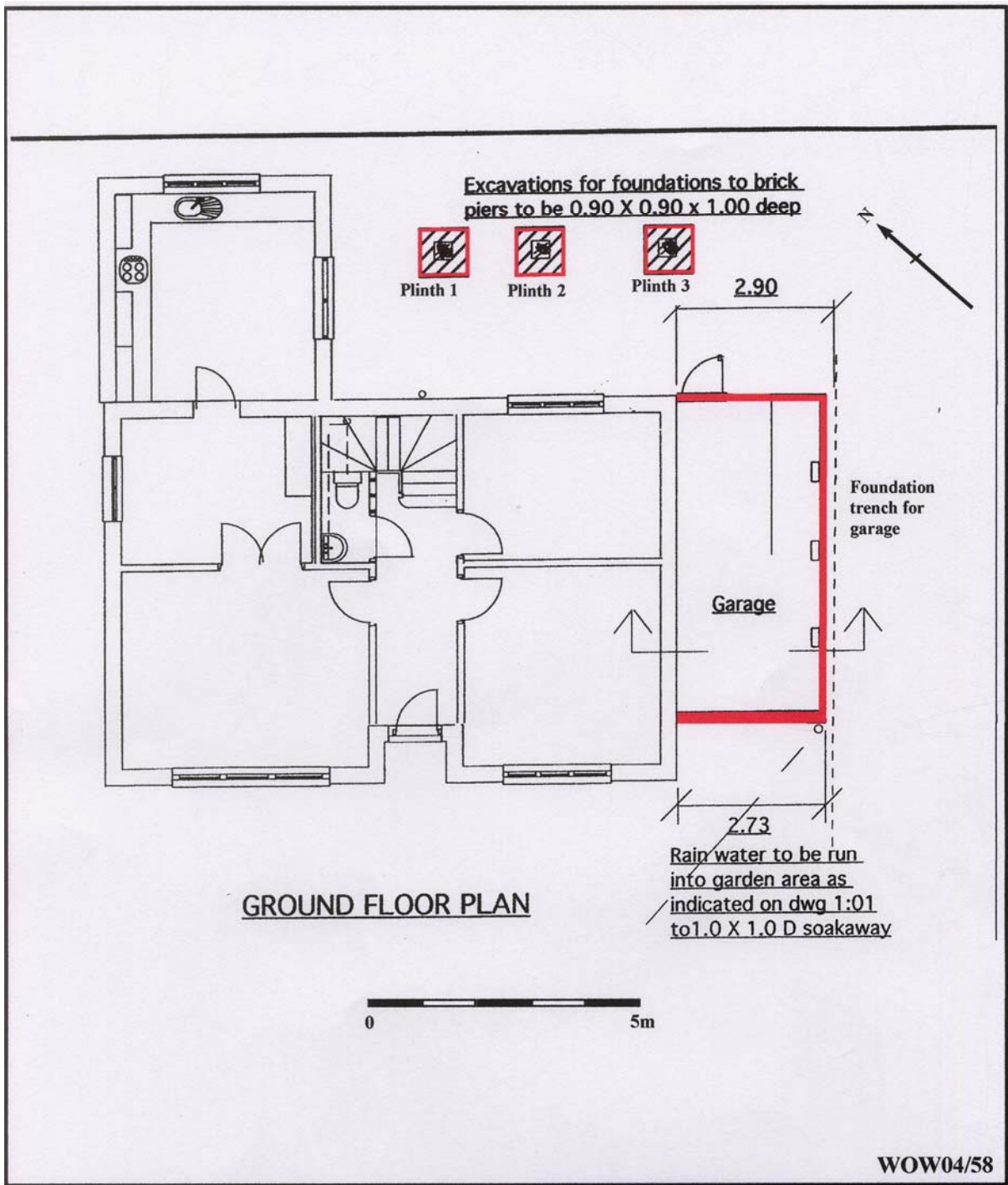


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Figure 2. Location of site within Old Windsor.

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Figure 3. Location of plinths and foundation for garage

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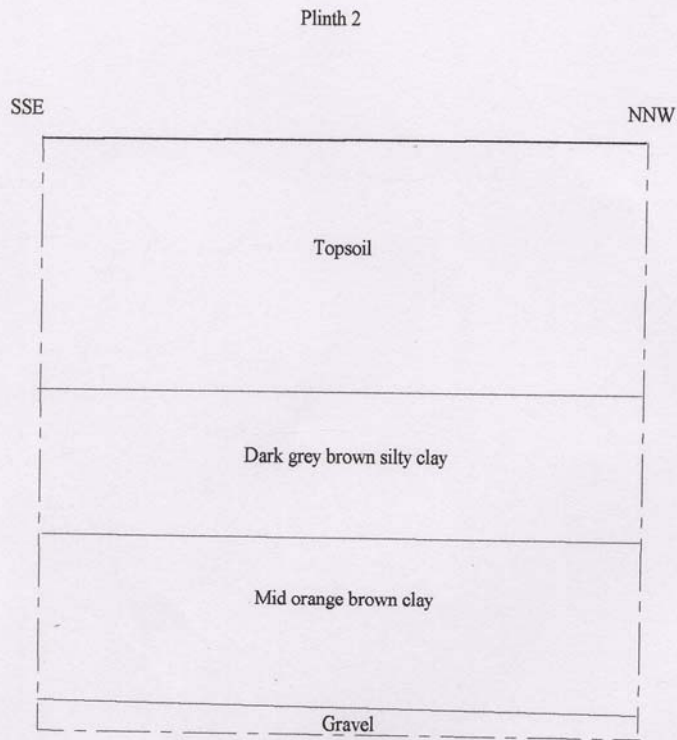


Figure 4. Representative section of stratigraphy on the site as present in the plinth 2 trench.

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