

Report on a site watching brief at 10 Monkshanger, Farnham (SU 85507 46888)

No 10 Monkshanger is sited above and close to the edge of a steep river bluff overlooking the north branch of the river Wey at a point where it turns south eastwards opposite High Mill. Permission was given (WA/06/2007) for the construction of a bungalow in the garden and the footings were inspected on 11th January 2008.

The footings took up nearly all the ground between the existing house and the top of the river bluff and the trenches were, on average, 1.5m deep and, in section, showed a depth of approximately 50cm of topsoil overlying lenses of fine gravel and orange sand - part of the Terrace A riverine deposits.

No archaeological material of any sort was recovered but a 60cm deep V- shaped possible ditch was noted cutting into the upper levels of the natural gravel/sand. The ditch was only visible in one footing trench and must either have been very short or have shallowed rapidly as it was not visible in any of the parallel trenches. The fill was indistinguishable from the topsoil and, as there were no finds, the cut is undatable, though it may well result from relatively recent gardening activities.

The only other feature of interest was an east/west aligned U-shaped cut, approximately 1.5m x 90cm, with a fill of clean redeposited gravel. This is almost certainly a periglacial run-off channel, of a type that occurs commonly on the Terrace A gravels.

David Graham

12 January 2008