



Sandhurst Sport Pitches Haig Road, Sandhurst

Archaeological Evaluation



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wessexarchaeology



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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Martin Ralph Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation located at Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst in the Royal Military Academy (RMA) Sandhurst. The evaluation areas were centred on NGR 485980 160562 (SU 85980 60562) and 486122 160633 (SU 86122 60633).

The proposed development is for the formation of new rugby and football pitches including floodlighting and the replacement of an existing spectator stand. A planning application (22/00557/FUL) was submitted to Bracknell Forest Council and is pending a decision. The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology was consulted and asked for a trial trench evaluation in order to understand how the development would impact the archaeological resource.

The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 16 trial trenches equating to a 5% sample of the proposed development area.

Only 3 of the 16 trenches exposed features of archaeological interest; with trenches 2 and 4 containing a substantial undated boundary ditch and trench 11 containing two shallow deposits of charcoal rich material within what were either truncated pits or shallow tree throws. Trenches 1 and 10 exposed the remains of modern red brick wall footings and a red brick surface. The remaining 11 trenches were void of archaeological features. Trenches 3 and 4 in the northern half of site demonstrated significant modern truncation of the archaeological horizon and subsequent building up and levelling off of the area.

The evaluation was undertaken between the 1 and 5 December 2022.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Martin Ralph Ltd. for commissioning the archaeological evaluation, in particular Stephen Golding. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful for the advice of Dr Edward Peveler, the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology, Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services who monitored the project for Bracknell Forest Council. Additional thanks is owed to Kallum Richardson of Vinci Construction, who supervised the works on behalf of the Principal Contractor and to Alex Cutter of Matthews (Sussex) Ltd. who operated the excavator utilised for the excavation of the evaluation trenches.



Sandhurst Sport Pitches Haig Road, Sandhurst

Archaeological Evaluation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Martin Ralph Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation located at Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst in the Royal Military Academy (RMA) Sandhurst. The evaluation areas were centred on NGR485980, 160562 (SU 85980 60562) and 486122, 160633 (SU 86122 60633) (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development comprises the formation of new rugby and football pitches including floodlighting and the replacement of existing spectator stand. The work will consist of initial enabling works to carry out trial pits for the drainage permeation testing, followed by a site strip of the pitch areas, car park and foundations for the floodlights/ goalposts fencing, and foundations/ raft slab for the seating area.
- 1.1.3 A planning application (22/00557/FUL) has been submitted to Bracknell Forest Council and is pending a decision. The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology was consulted and asked for a trial trench evaluation in order to understand how the development would impact the archaeological resource.
- 1.1.4 All works were undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed in order to undertake the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology approved the WSI, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The evaluation comprising 16 trial trenches (5 % sample) was undertaken between the 1 and 5 December 2022.

1.2 Scope of the report

- 1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the results of the evaluation, to interpret the results within a local, regional or wider archaeological context and assess whether the aims of the evaluation have been met.
- 1.2.2 The presented results will provide further information on the archaeological resource that may be impacted by the proposed development and facilitate an informed decision with regard to the requirement for, and methods of, any further archaeological mitigation.

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The evaluation area is located within the grounds of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst which straddles the counties of Berkshire and Surrey; the border marked by a small stream known as the Wish stream. The site is bordered by Haig Road to the North, Roberts Road to the south and unnamed road leading to Government House to the west, which lead to Governors Road.

- 1.3.2 The site is gently undulating with rising heathland to the north. The Wish stream, a tributary of the River Blackwell, follows the county border between Berkshire and Surrey and descends south west from Bracknell Forest where it passes through the grounds of RMA Sandhurst to the east of the site. The stream flows through two made lakes, the latter 'lower lake', is located some 500m south east from the site. Barrosa Common lies to the north east of the RMA and is also owned by the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Existing ground levels are recorded as 66 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology is mapped as Windlesham Formation - sand, silt and clay. sedimentary bedrock. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey 2022).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was considered in a desk based assessment (DBA; Arcadis 2021) also carried out for Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) as part of another project within RMA Sandhurst. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (BHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

- 2.2.1 The heathland landscape in the vicinity of the site is thought to derive from over-grazing during the Neolithic period. Evidence of Neolithic activity is known within the study area and in Bagshot to the north-east of the study area. Bronze Age occupation is evident from several round barrows identified in the Bracknell Forest area to the north of the study area and in West End to the east of Camberley. Occupation continued in the Iron Age and is represented by Caesar's Camp, an Iron Age hill fort located to the south of Bracknell, which was built around 800 BC.
- 2.2.2 During the Roman occupation of Britain, a Roman Road, known today as the Devil's Highway, was built from Staines to Silchester and is located north from the study area; the building of the road suggests that small Romano-British settlements may have been established nearby to the route.
- 2.2.3 Two Roman silver medals, one of Mark Antony, the other a consular medal of the Papia family, were dug up in Chapel Square, approximately 500 m to the north-west in the early 20th century. However, as is the case with most antiquarian finds, little is known about the archaeological context of the find, and its recorded location is likely to be approximate. The significance of the medals is derived from historical and evidential value, although this is limited by poor contextual information. It is possible they relate to a Roman settlement at Bagshot to the north-east of the RMA. Other finds in Camberley, to the South-east support this.
- 2.2.4 Evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation is also known at Bagshot. And by the Medieval period, the Domesday Survey of 1086 records that land within the vicinity of the site was part of an extensive estate belonging to Fremley Manor (now Frimley). Ownership of the Fremley estate changed several times between the 16th and 18th centuries but it was eventually divided up in the early 18th century. Part of this division (approximately 1500 acres) became the Tekel's Castle estate which included the heathland of Barossa Common and Bagshot Heath where the RMA is now located. A major highway route (c. 17th century), which linked

London to the South West, and crossed Bagshot Heath, the line of which is followed by the modern A30 London Road.

- 2.2.5 From the late 18th century, the surrounding heathland landscape was used for military manoeuvres and several army camps were held in the area. This led to the chosen location for a new Royal Military College (now RMA Sandhurst) in 1812, which at the time comprised of an isolated site near the River Blackwater. The College was a merger between two established military colleges located in High Wycombe and Marlow and provided training for infantry and cavalry officers for the British Army. As the Royal Military College expanded, a small community of shopkeepers and college servants grew around the College's entrance gates, resulting in the planned settlement of Yorktown in the early-19th century. The establishment of the Staff College in 1862 also led to urban expansion, forming the town of Camberley. The site of the former Staff College is today part of the RMA Staff College. The military acquired Barossa Common in the 1860s as additional training grounds for the new RMC and is still currently owned by the MOD.
- 2.2.6 To the west and north-west of the RMC, the Sandhurst suburb of College Town began to grow from the early 20th century. During the First World War, the training of prospective officers at the Royal Military College expanded considerably in order to cope with the greater numbers needed. Documentary accounts describe two instances of night bombing of the RMC during the Second World War; the first was in 1941, when a single bomb hit the end of C Block of the New College, the other was a dropped landmine towards the end of the war in the area of the Lake House. A gap in the wall between Old College and the Lake House is said to show where the landmine impacted. After the Second World War, RMA Sandhurst was established in 1947 from a merger of the RMA in Woolwich and the RMC (Sandhurst). Today, the RMA is the initial officer training centre for the British Army and Barossa Common continues to be owned by the MOD.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 General aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the evaluation, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in compliance with the *CIfA Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014a), were to:

- provide information about the archaeological potential of the site; and
- inform either the scope and nature of any further archaeological work that may be required; or the formation of a mitigation strategy (to offset the impact of the development on the archaeological resource); or a management strategy.

3.2 General objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives of the evaluation were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified area;
- establish, within the constraints of the evaluation, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and

- make available information about the archaeological resource within the site by reporting on the results of the evaluation.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in ClfA guidance (ClfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

- 4.2.1 The trench locations were set out using a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), in the approximate positions proposed in the WSI, although multiple trenches had to be slightly moved shortened to avoid the site boundary fence. (Figure 1).
- 4.2.2 16 trial trenches, each measuring up to 30 m in length and 2.1 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.
- 4.2.3 Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.
- 4.2.4 Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.
- 4.2.5 Trenches completed to the satisfaction of the client and the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology were backfilled using excavated materials in the order in which they were excavated, and left level on completion. No other reinstatement or surface treatment was undertaken.

Recording

- 4.2.6 All exposed archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system. A complete record of excavated features and deposits was made, including plans and sections drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans and 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.2.7 A Leica GNSS connected to Leica's SmartNet service surveyed the location of archaeological features. All survey data is recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.2.8 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 16 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

- 4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2022). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011), and ClfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting (Type 2: Appraisal)*.

4.4 Monitoring

- 4.4.1 The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology monitored the evaluation on behalf of the LPA. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, were agreed in advance with the client and the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Only 3 of the 16 trenches exposed features of archaeological interest; with trenches 2 and 4 containing a substantial undated boundary ditch and trench 11 containing two shallow deposits of charcoal rich material within that appeared to be natural features. Trenches 1 and 10 exposed the remains of modern red brick wall footings and a red brick surface. The remaining 11 trenches were void of archaeological features. Trenches 3 and 4 in the northern half of site demonstrated significant modern truncation of the archaeological horizon and subsequent building up and levelling off of the area.
- 5.1.2 Detailed descriptions of individual contexts are provided in the trench summary tables (Appendix 1). Figure 1 shows all archaeological features recorded within the trenches.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 5.2.1 The soil sequence across the evaluated areas was fairly consistent where modern disturbance hadn't caused an impact. The northern most part of site, trenches 1 to 6, contained deposits of modern made ground (Figure 2) and trenches 3 and 4 demonstrated that the archaeological horizon had been subject to significant modern truncation. Trench 10 also contained modern made ground owing to the red brick wall foundations found within this trench.
- 5.2.2 Areas that avoided the modern disturbance consisted of clearly defined topsoil, subsoil and natural geology. The topsoil consisted of an average of 0.3 m of mid brownish-grey sandy loam with rare flint gravel inclusions and light root disturbance from the overlying grass. The subsoil consisted of an average of 0.1 m of mid grey sandy silt with sparse flint gravel inclusions. The natural geology was identified at an average depth of 0.40 m and consisted of mid brownish yellow silty sand with occasional patches of orange sandstone and occasional flint gravels (Figure 3). The natural geology differed across southern end of site, namely trenches 11 to 15, consisting of mid yellowish brown silty sand with abundant flint gravel inclusions.

5.3 Archaeological results

Trenches 2 and 4

- 5.3.1 Trenches 2 and 4 exposed a single north–west to south–east ditch. The profile of the ditch varied between the two excavated slots, one in each trench. In trench 2 the ditch [204] measured 2.40 m wide and 0.70 m deep with edges that started out shallow and convex

before steepening towards the centre with a concave shaped base (Figure 4). There was significant evidence of root disturbance here, and the soft sandy natural had clearly been subject to increased levels of disturbance and erosion compared to the gravel natural of trench 4. It contained two distinct secondary deposits that had formed evenly across the profile of the ditch. The lower deposit (206) consisted of a 0.30 m thick dark grey sandy silt. This was sealed by a 0.39 m thick mid grey silty sand (205). Both deposits contained rare quantities of flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from the intervention.

- 5.3.2 In trench 4 the ditch [405] measured 2.08 m wide and 0.80 m deep with moderate concave sides and a narrow concave base (Figure 5). The edges of this intervention were notably more regular than those in trench 2. It contained three distinctive fills, one primary and two secondary. The primary fill (406) consisted of a 0.05 m thick dark greyish brown sandy silt with common flint gravel inclusions. The lower secondary fill (407) consisted of a 0.3 m thick dark grey sandy silt with moderate flint inclusions. This deposit was notably focused down the south-western edge of the ditch, slumping down from the surface of the feature. This was sealed by a 0.51 m thick mid grey silty sand (408) with sparse flint gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from this intervention, but a 40 L environmental sample was taken from (407).

Trench 11

- 5.3.3 Trench 11 contained two shallow, discrete features containing charcoal rich backfills. Both were fairly irregular in shape both in plan and in profile suggesting that they are natural features (tree throw/shrub bowl) rather than pits. Neither feature contained evidence of in-situ burning. Feature [1104] was irregular shaped in plan with shallow, irregular shaped sides; measuring 0.92 m by 0.72 m and 0.13 m deep (Figure 6). It contained a single backfill (1105) of dark grey silty sand with common charcoal flecking. 20 L of this material was collected for environmental sampling.
- 5.3.4 Feature [1106] was irregular shaped in plan with shallow, sloping edges; measuring 1.50 m by 1.10+ m and 0.15 m deep. The eastern edge of the feature was beyond the limits of the evaluation trench. It contained a single backfill (1107) of dark grey silty sand with common charcoal flecking. 20 L of this material was collected for environmental sampling.

Modern

- 5.3.5 Trenches 1 and 10 contained the remains of footings for modern buildings. These were in the form of 0.35 m wide red brick footings bonded with lime mortar. In addition trench 10 contained the remains of a red brick floor, flanked by the footings (Figure 7). Ordnance survey mapping from the last 200 years do not show these buildings, however being within a military base may mean that some details from these maps may have been omitted.

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No artefacts of archaeological significance were recovered during the evaluation, but small quantities of burnt flint gravel were extracted from the residues of soil samples taken from pits 1104 (38 g; sample 101) and 1106 (190 g; sample 102).
- 6.1.2 Burnt flint is an undatable material type and is therefore of limited archaeological significance. Its presence is often interpreted as indicative of prehistoric activity, but whether this material was generated as part of deliberate domestic (e.g. heating water for cooking) or industrial (for use as a tempering agent in pottery, for example) activities, or created accidentally while setting fires on natural ground surfaces is unclear, but it is a common find in all areas where flint occurs naturally, as it does here within the Windlesham Formation.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 Three bulk sediment samples were taken from pits (1104 and 1106) and a ditch (405) and were processed for the recovery and assessment of the environmental evidence. Charcoal and charred plant remains recovered from the samples have been assessed.

7.2 Aims and methods

7.2.1 The aim of this assessment is to determine the nature and significance of the environmental remains preserved at the site. This assessment has been undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidelines outlined in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation* (English Heritage 2011).

7.2.2 The size of the bulk sediment samples varied between 16 and 32 litres, with an average volume of approximately 21.7 litres. The samples were processed by standard flotation methods on a Siraf-type flotation tank. The flots were retained on a 0.25 mm mesh. The residues were retained on a 1 mm mesh and they were split into coarse (>4 mm) and fine (1–4 mm) residue fractions. The coarse residue fractions (>4 mm) were sorted by eye for artefactual and environmental remains. The environmental material extracted from the residues was added to the flots.

7.2.3 The fine residue fractions and the flots were scanned and sorted using a stereomicroscope at up to 40x magnification for uncharred and charred botanical remains, wood charcoal and wood remains, as well as other environmental and artefactual material (e.g., insects/invertebrates, molluscs, etc.). The presence of recent and/or intrusive material was noted in the samples including modern roots, modern seeds, mycorrhizal fungi, earthworm eggs and shells of the burrowing blind snails (*Ceciloides acicula*).

7.2.4 Plant macroremains were identified through comparison with modern reference material held by Wessex Archaeology and relevant literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006). Nomenclature follows Stace (1997) for wild taxa and Zohary *et al.* (2012) for cereal remains and other cultivated crops (using traditional names). Additional habitat information has been taken from Stroh *et al.* (2023). For simplicity, the term 'seed' is used to refer to different types of plant macroremain (e.g., achene, fruit etc.).

7.2.5 Remains were recorded semi-quantitatively on an abundance scale: C = <5 ('Trace'), B = 5–10 ('Rare'), A = 10–30 ('Occasional'), A* = 30–100 ('Frequent'), A** = 100–500 ('Common'), A*** = >500 ('Abundant').

7.3 Results

7.3.1 The results are presented in Appendix 2.

7.3.2 The flots from the bulk sediment samples were of variable volumes. Potential indicators of bioturbation are present, indicating the possibility of contamination from later intrusive material (e.g., abundant modern roots, *Cenococcum geophilum*).

7.3.3 The flot from ditch 405 did not produce environmental evidence. However, small quantities of coal and clinker/cinder were recovered.

7.3.4 Pits 1104 and 1106 produced large quantities of well-preserved wood charcoal. Charred plant remains are not present in either sample.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 Given the lack of environmental evidence from ditch 405, little can be said about the nature or chronology of the deposit.

7.4.2 In addition to the wood charcoal, pits 1104 and 1106 also produced burnt flint. Features containing both charcoal and burnt flint are not strongly diagnostic of any particular period, but they are often found on prehistoric sites.

7.4.3 This assessment indicates that other features on the site have the potential for the preservation of charred plant remains and charcoal.

7.4.4 Some of the samples could have potential for further analysis, this potential should be reconsidered once further sampling has been undertaken. The material should be retained as part of the archive until further sampling has been undertaken when recommendations for analysis and deposition will be.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was successful in achieving the stated aims and objectives from the WSI. Only one feature of archaeological significance was identified, this being the north–west to south–east ditch exposed within trenches 2 and 4. Unfortunately a lack of datable material means that we do not know the age of this feature and no evidence for it has been found within historic mapping. The two features containing burnt material are most likely natural features such as tree throws, that have been subsequently backfilled. Again no dating was recovered.

8.1.2 The rest of the site was demonstrated to be void of archaeological features with the exception of the modern building remains. Again, no record of these building could be found on historic mapping from the last 200 years but the building materials were typical of 19th century structures.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The site falls within an area where there is currently no collecting museum. Every effort will be made to identify a suitable repository for the archive resulting from the fieldwork, and if this is not possible, Wessex Archaeology will initiate discussions with the local planning authority in an attempt to resolve the issue. If no suitable repository is identified, Wessex Archaeology will continue to store the archive, but may institute a charge to the client for ongoing storage beyond a set period.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The complete physical archive, which may include paper records, graphics, artefacts, and ecofacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014c; SMA 1995). The archive will usually be deposited within one year of the completion of the project, with the agreement of the client.

9.2.2 All archive elements are marked with the site code **269910**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 01 cardboard boxes or airtight plastic boxes of artefacts and ecofacts, ordered by material type
- 01 file/document case of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, survey data, databases and spreadsheets, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

Finds

- Burnt flint (228 g): a commonly found, undatable material type of limited archaeological significance; do not retain.

Palaeoenvironmental material

9.3.5 The samples should be retained in the site archive until further sampling is undertaken, when recommendations for dispersal or retention in the site archive will be made.

9.3.6 The residues were discarded after sorting.

Documentary records

- 9.3.7 Paper records comprise site registers (other pro-forma site records are digital), drawings and reports (written scheme of investigation, client report). All will be retained and deposited with the project archive.

Digital data

- 9.3.8 The digital data comprise site records (tablet-recorded on site) in spreadsheet format; finds records in spreadsheet format; survey data; photographs; reports. All will be deposited, although site photographs will be subject to selection to eliminate poor quality and duplicated images, and any others not considered directly relevant to the archaeology of the site.

9.4 Security copy

- 9.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

9.5 OASIS

- 9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) has been initiated, with key fields completed (**Appendix 3**). A .pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

- 10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Trench summaries

OD heights taken at centre of each trench; depth bgl = below ground level

Trench No 1		Length 26.40 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.36 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
101		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0-0.27
102		Made ground	Sand. mix of colours including light grey, orange, mid brown and yellow. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 4cm.	0.27-0.42
103		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0.42+
104		Foundation	L-shaped foundation aligned E-W then N-S. Constructed from red brick and bonded with lime mortar.	

Trench No 2		Length 25 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.57 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
201		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0 - 0.34
202		Made Ground	Sand. mix of colours including light grey, orange, mid brown and yellow. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 4cm.	0.34 - 0.43
203		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0.43+
204	205, 206	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE with moderate, convex sides and a concave base.	
205	204	Secondary fill	Mid grey silty sand with sparse flint incl. s / a 6-60 mm	
206	204	Secondary fill	Dark grey sandy silt with moderate flint incl. s / a 2-60 mm	



Trench No 3		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.80 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
301		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 4cm.	0–0.25
302		Made ground	Sand. mid grey. loose compaction. contains patches of redeposited natural.	0.25–0.68
303		Made ground	Sand. dark grey that's darker than topsoil. loose compaction. common inclusions up to 5cm.	0.68–0.76
304		Natural	Sand. yellow brown. loose compaction. frequent inclusions up to 5cm.	0.76+

Trench No 4		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.75 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
401		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0–0.24
402		Made ground	Sand. yellow. loose compaction. infrequent inclusions up to 4cm.	0.24–0.39
403		Made ground	Sand. dark grey. rare inclusions up to 4cm.	0.39–0.67
404		Natural	Sand. predominantly dark grey brown. frequent inclusions up to 6cm.	0.67+
405	406, 407, 408	Ditch	Linear ditch aligned NW-SE with moderate, convex sides and a concave base. Width: 2.08 m. Depth: 0.80 m.	
406	405	Primary fill	Dark greyish brown sandy silt with common flint gravel incl. s / r 2-6 mm	
407	405	Secondary fill	Dark grey sandy silt with moderate flint incl. s / a 2-60 mm	
408	405	Secondary fill	Mid grey silty sand with sparse flint incl. s / a 6-60 mm	



Trench No 5		Length 30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.48 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
501		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 2cm.	0–0.27
502		Subsoil	Sand. dark grey with patches of yellow and brown. loose compaction. infrequent inclusions up to 2cm.	0.27–0.40
503		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0.40+

Trench No 6		Length 22 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.43 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
601		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0–0.23
602		Subsoil	Sand. mid of yellow and dark grey. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 4cm.	0.23–0.32
603		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0.32+

Trench No 7		Length 27.60 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.55 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
701		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0–0.29
702		Subsoil	Sand. mix of dark grey, red brown and yellow. loose compaction	0.29–0.42
703		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0.42+

Trench No 8		Length 21 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.34 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
801		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 2cm.	0–0.15
802		Subsoil	Silty sand. mid grey. loose compaction.	0.15–0.31
803		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. rare inclusions up to 2cm.	0.31+



Trench No 9		Length 16.30 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.66 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
901		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0 – 0.41
902		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.41 – 0.53
903		Natural	Mid brownish yellow silty sand. Contains patches of soft, orange sandstone.	0.53+

Trench No 10		Length 19.10 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.52 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1001		Topsoil	Sandy loam. dark grey brown. loose compaction. rare inclusions up to 3cm.	0–0.21
1002		Subsoil	Sand. mid yellow brown. loose compaction. common inclusions up to 4cm.	0.21–0.33
1003		Natural	Sand. predominantly yellow with orange mottling. loose compaction. frequent inclusions up to 7cm.	0.33+
1004		Foundation	L-shaped foundation aligned E-W and N-S with straight sides and a flat base. Constructed from red brick and bonded with lime mortar.	
1005		red brick floor layer	Red brick floor layer	

Trench No 11		Length 26.70 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.48 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1101		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0–0.32
1102		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.32–0.42
1103		Natural	Mid yellowish brown silty sand. Contains patches of soft, orange sandstone.	0.42+
1104	1105	Pit	Oval pit with steep, straight sides and a sloping base. Length: 0.97 m. Width: 0.72 m. Depth: 0.13 m.	
1105	1104	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey sand with rare stones up to 5cm. Common charcoal inclusions.	



1106	1107	Pit	Oval pit with shallow, straight sides and an irregular / undulating base. Length: 1.50 m. Width: >1.10 m. Depth: 0.15 m.	
1107	1106	Deliberate backfill	Dark grey sand with rare stones up to 7cm. Common charcoal inclusions.	

Trench No 12		Length 27.60 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.43 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1201		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0–0.30
1202		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.30–0.39
1203		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Abundant flint gravel, S / R 6-60 mm.	0.39+

Trench No 13		Length 19.20 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.44 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1301		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0 – 0.24
1302		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.24 – 0.40
1303		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Abundant flint gravel, S / R 6-60 mm.	0.40+

Trench No 14		Length 16.90 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.45 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1401		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0 – 0.24
1402		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.24–0.41
1403		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Abundant flint gravel, S / R 6-60 mm.	0.45+



Trench No 15		Length 21.90 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.43 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1501		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0–0.26
1502		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.26–0.39
1503		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Abundant flint gravel, S / R 6-60 mm.	0.39+

Trench No 16		Length 25.10 m	Width 2.10 m	Depth 0.36 m
Context Number	Fill Of/Filled With	Interpretative Category	Description	Depth BGL
1601		Topsoil	Mid brownish grey sandy loam. Loose compaction. Rare flint gravel incl. S / R 2.20 mm. Clear horizon. Light root disturbance.	0 – 0.27
1602		Subsoil	Mid grey sandy silt. Loose compaction. Sparse flint gravel incl. S / R 2-20 mm. Clear horizons.	0.27 – 0.32
1603		Natural	Mid yellowish brown sandy silt. Abundant flint gravel, S / R 6-60 mm.	0.32+



Appendix 2 Environmental evidence

Scale of abundance: C = <5, B = 5–10, A = 10–30, A* = 30–100, A** = 100–500, A*** = >500; Bioturbation proxies: Roots (%), Uncharred seeds (scale of abundance), F = mycorrhizal fungi sclerotia, E = earthworm eggs, I = insects; Sab/f/c = small animal/fish bones/charred faecal pellets, Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs, Moll-f = fresh-water molluscs, Moll-m = marine molluscs; Analysis: C = charcoal, P = plant, M = molluscs, C14 = radiocarbon

Area	Feature Type	Feature	Context	Sample Code	Sample vol. (l)	Flot vol. (ml)	Bioturbation proxies	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal >2mm (ml)	Other
Tr.11	Pit	1104	1105	269610_101	17	500	25% modern roots, F	-	-	-	-	-	300	
Tr.11	Pit	1106	1107	269610_102	16	600	10% modern roots, F	-	-	-	-	-	450	
Tr.4	Ditch	405	407	269610_103	32	25	40% modern roots and vegetation, F (A***)	-	-	-	-	-	-	Boal (B), clinker/cinder (C)

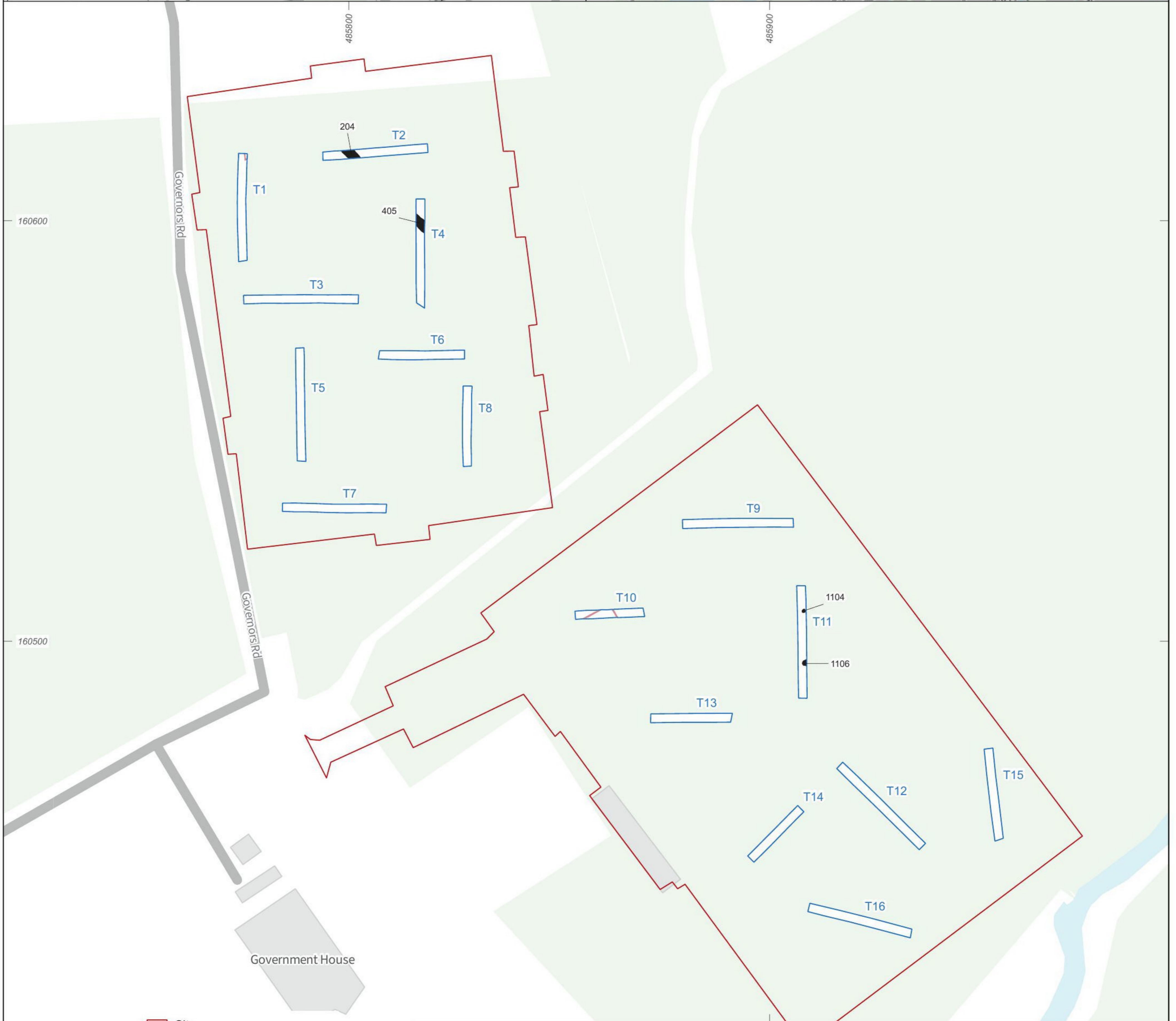
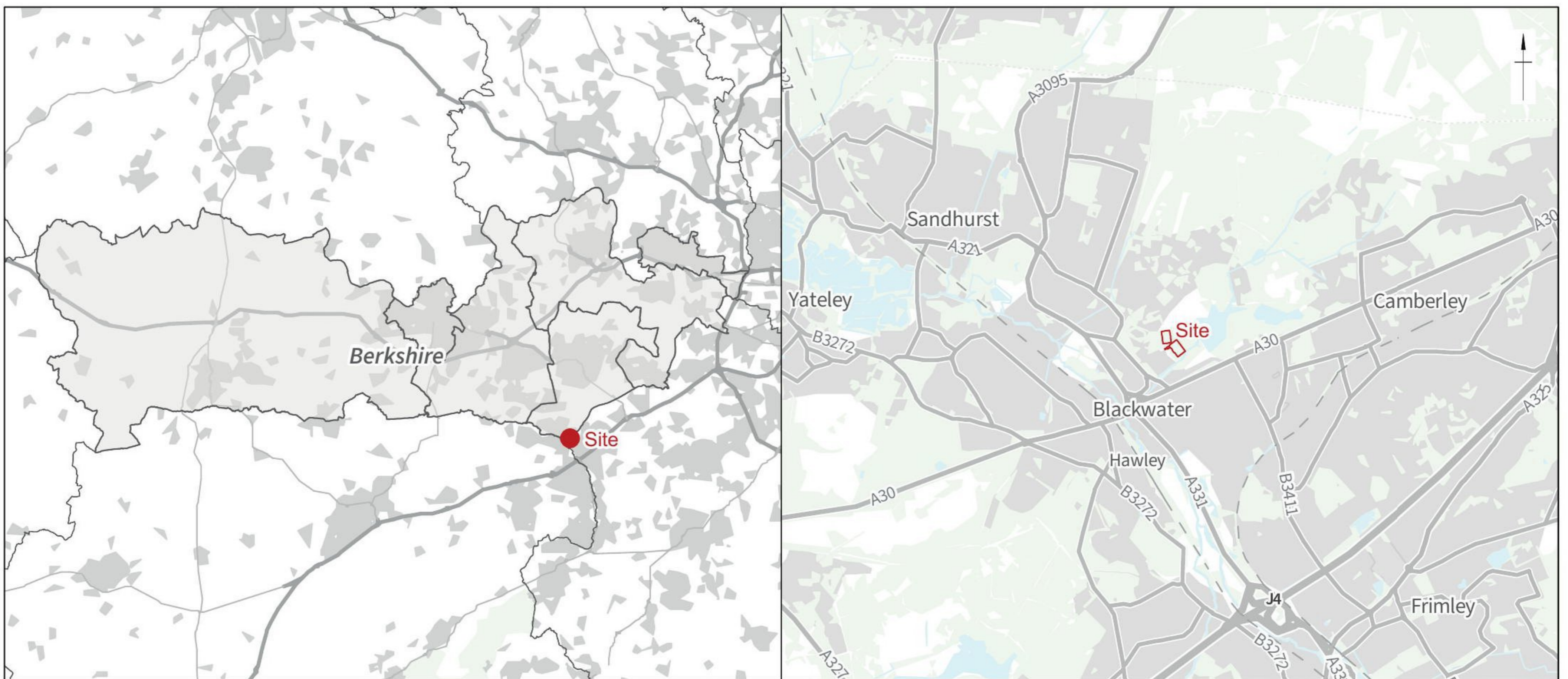


Appendix 3 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-523688
Project Name	Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst: Archaeological Evaluation
Sitename	Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst, Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst
Sitecode	269611
Activity type	Evaluation
Planning Id	22/00557/FUL
Reason For Investigation	Planning: Post determination
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	01-Dec-2023 - 05-Dec-2023
Location	<p>Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst NGR : SU 85980 60562 LL : 51.33765647804115, -0.767104325284328 12 Fig : 485980,160562</p> <p>Sandhurst Sport Pitches, Haig Road, Sandhurst NGR : SU 86122 60633 LL : 51.33827327660583, -0.765049210149412 12 Fig : 486122,160633</p>
Administrative Areas	<p>Country : England County/Local Authority : Bracknell Forest Local Authority District : Bracknell Forest Parish : Sandhurst</p>
Project Methodology	<p>16 trial trenches, each measuring up to 30 m in length and 2.1 m wide, were excavated in level spits using a 360° excavator equipped with a toothless bucket, under the constant supervision and instruction of the monitoring archaeologist. Machine excavation proceeded until either the archaeological horizon or the natural geology was exposed.</p> <p>Where necessary, the base of the trench/surface of archaeological deposits were cleaned by hand. A sample of archaeological features and deposits was hand-excavated, sufficient to address the aims of the evaluation.</p> <p>Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavated archaeological deposits was visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Artefacts were collected and bagged by context. All artefacts from excavated contexts were retained, although those from features of modern date (19th century or later) were recorded on site and not retained.</p>



Project Results	<p>The proposed development is for the formation of new rugby and football pitches including floodlighting and the replacement of an existing spectator stand. A planning application (22/00557/FUL) was submitted to Bracknell Forest Council and is pending a decision. The Archaeology Officer for Berkshire Archaeology was consulted and asked for a trial trench evaluation in order to understand how the development would impact the archaeological resource.</p> <p>The evaluation comprised the excavation, investigation and recording of 16 trial trenches equating to a 5% sample of the proposed development area.</p> <p>Only 3 of the 16 trenches exposed features of archaeological interest; with trenches 2 and 4 containing a substantial undated boundary ditch and trench 11 containing two shallow deposits of charcoal rich material within what were either truncated pits or shallow tree throws. Trenches 1 and 10 exposed the remains of modern red brick wall footings and a red brick surface. The remaining 11 trenches were void of archaeological features. Trenches 3 and 4 in the northern half of site demonstrated significant modern truncation of the archaeological horizon and subsequent building up and levelling off of the area.</p>
Keywords	<p>Boundary Ditch - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Pit - UNCERTAIN - FISH Thesaurus of Monument Types Burnt Flint - UNCERTAIN - FISH Archaeological Objects Thesaurus</p>
Funder	Private or public corporation Martin Ralph Ltd
HER	Berkshire Archaeology HER - unRev - STANDARD
Person Responsible for work	Martin Banikov
Archives	Documentary Archive, Digital Archive - to be deposited with Archives: no repository;



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Figure 1: Site location plan





Figure 2: South facing representative section, trench 6, 1.0 m scale



Figure 3: West facing representative section, trench 11, 1.0 m scale



Figure 4: South-west facing section of ditch 204, 2.0 m scale



Figure 5: North-west facing section of ditch 405, 1.0 m scale



Figure 6: South-west facing section of feature 1104, 1.0 m scale



Figure 7: Structure within trench 10, view from south, 2.0 m scale



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