

**BUILDINGS 4-7,  
FOUNDATION PARK,  
ROXBOROUGH WAY, MAIDENHEAD,  
BERKSHIRE SL6 3PR**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING  
BRIEF DURING GEOTECHNICAL  
INVESTIGATIONS**

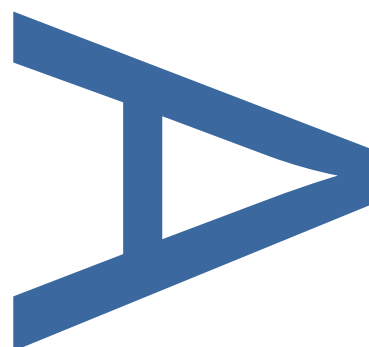
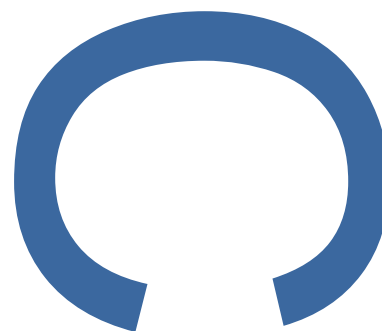
**REV 01**

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:  
14/02514**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND  
MAIDENHEAD**

**SITE CODE: BFPK16**

**JUNE 2016**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**



DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

BUILDINGS 4-7, FOUNDATION PARK,  
ROXBOROUGH WAY, MAIDENHEAD,  
BERKSHIRE SL6 3PR

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
DURING GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4561
Report Number	R12510

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Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved
01	24/06/16	C Mayo	C Mayo
Incorporates comments from Ramboll			

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**Buildings 4-7 Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire,  
SL6 3PR**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief during Geotechnical Investigations**

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**Site Code:** BFPK16

**Planning Application Number:** 14/02514

**Local Planning Authority:** The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

**Central National Grid Reference:** 485830, 179630

**Written and Researched by:** Natasha Billson, June 2016

**Project Manager:** Chris Mayo

**Commissioning Client:** Ramboll Environ

**On behalf of:** CBRE Ltd

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**June 2016**

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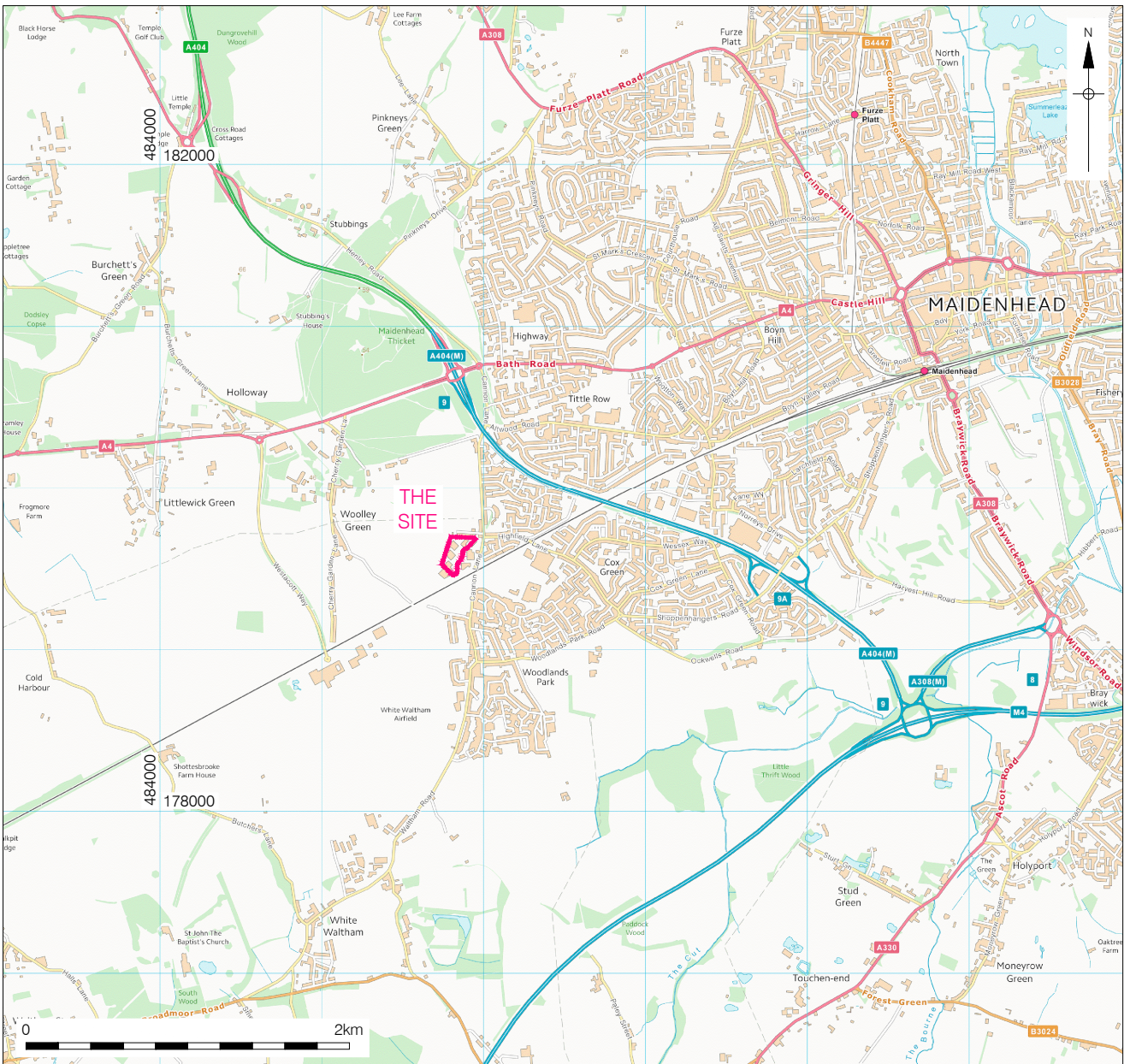
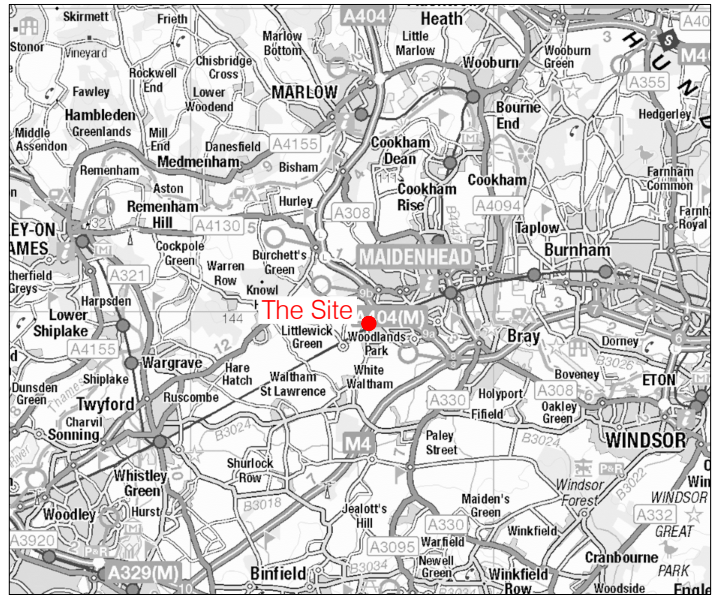


## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited between 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 during geotechnical investigations at Buildings 4-7, Foundation Park, Maidenhead (Figure 1). The watching brief was commissioned by Ramboll Environ on behalf of CBRE Ltd.
- 1.2 The watching brief involved the monitoring of six geotechnical test pits and four plate test pits (Figure 2).
- 1.3 Natural chalk deposits were seen in all interventions. It was overlain by modern made ground which was sealed by asphalt and modern bricks. No archaeological finds or features were observed.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), during geotechnical investigations (GI) at Buildings 4-7, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Berkshire, SL63PR (Figure 1) between 23rd and 25th May 2016.
- 2.2 The site forms part of a functional office park. The office park as a whole is bounded by Altwood Farm to the north, a residential area to the east, a railway track to the south and farmland to the west. The site consists of units 4 to 7 of the office park and their associated parking areas (NB. Add ref to figures as appropriate). Outline planning permission (with appearance and landscaping reserved) was granted for redevelopment of the site in November 2014 (Planning Application Ref. 14/02514) by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM). The approved development comprises:
1. Revised surface car parking for units 4 and 7;
  2. Demolition of units 5 and 6; and
  3. Erection of new B1 office building and decked car park.
- 2.3 Condition 12 of the outline planning permission stipulated that a programme of archaeological works on the site should be secured through agreement of a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prior to development. This watching brief on the GI forms an initial stage in archaeological works associated with the development and has been carried out to aid characterisation of deposits at the site and was carried out in accordance with a WSI was prepared for the work (Mayo 2016) and approved by Roland Smith, Archaeology Officer at Berkshire Archaeology who provide archaeological planning advice to on RBWM.
- 2.4 The watching brief was commissioned by Ramboll Environ on behalf of CBRE Ltd, the project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. by Chris Mayo and the supervising archaeologist was Natasha Billson. Mr Rowland Smith monitored the project on behalf of RBWM.
- 2.5 In advance of the project the site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based study (Bryant 2016).
- 2.6 The National Grid Reference of the site was 485830, 179630.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000; 250,000 & 40,000 at A4





485960/179740



485940/179440

— Planning Application Boundary

TP01 Machine Excavated Trial Pit

PBT1 Plate Bearing Test



Based on detail survey drawing (040516/det) supplied by Survey and Engineering Services Ltd, May 2016  
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24/06/16 HB

Figure 2  
Location of Monitored Interventions  
1:2,000 at A4

### **3 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The following is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (Bryant 2016).

- 3.1 The study area is situated within a commercial unit complex spanning c.5.20ha and the area of interest is c.2.20ha which is a relatively flat area situated approximately 38m above Ordnance Datum. The site is located c.1.7km north-west of a small stream; which is a tributary of the River Thames. The underlying geology is Chalk of the Seaford and Newhaven formation.
- 3.2 According to the British Geological Survey (BGS, 2016), the site is positioned in the White Chalk Subgroup. Such sedimentary bedrock was formed c.66-100 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. The area was previously dominated by warm chalk seas which consist of microscopic remnants of planktons.
- 3.3 Heights above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the site range between approximately 38.5m OD in the north and 36.50m OD in the south. Localised areas display heights higher or lower than this where modern landscaped features exist.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The following is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment (Bryant 2016).

- 4.1 The site is situated within an area where evidence for human activity is known from at least the late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age period onwards. The evidence for pits and postholes within the grounds of Holyport School to the immediate southeast of the site, albeit slight, is significant as it demonstrates the presence of settled populations within the landscape away from the river valleys.
- 4.2 Later, the development of local Romano-British settlement does appear to have been focused on the free draining slopes above the local rivers and tributaries of the Thames, as at Cox Green and Castle Hill. However, it does show that this was a settled landscape. The concentration of Roman finds in the Altwood area to the northeast of the site may be indicative of a further settlement focus. On balance, it is likely that the site would have been situated within the agricultural hinterland of the main Romano-British settlement foci of the area. In this context it would be reasonable to expect archaeological features such as linear ditches relating to field boundaries and possibly light industrial sites such as potteries or other workshops in this rural setting. The provenance of Maidenhead Thicket (the Frithe) is not known but it is possible that the area around the site may have been fairly wooded during this period, precluding its use for intensive settlement.
- 4.3 The local pattern of settlement was established within the area by the late Saxon period with the exception of later commoners' settlements taking land piecemeal out of the southern reaches of Maidenhead Thicket. It is certain that the site lay beyond any areas of settlement during this early historic period and that, once the southern reaches of the thicket had been claimed, the site was arable land until its development in the 1930s. On this basis there is considered to be little potential for any archaeological interest within the site post-dating the Roman period.
- 4.4 By the time of the 1954 Ordnance Survey map, the area was levelled for buildings and engineering work via cut and fill ground works. Thus ground level across the northern half of the area was reduced by up to c.2m and the southern half of the site brought up by the same amount.
- 4.5 During the 1960s the site was used as the manufactory centre for Black and Decker. Three large tanks were installed near the northern boundary of works.
- 4.6 By 1988 the site had been redeveloped as Foundation Park.

## 5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 In accordance with PCA's Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2016) all geotechnical excavations were archaeologically monitored.
- 5.2 All pits were excavated by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist from ground level at a safe distance. Test pits were not entered below a depth of 1.20m BGL but were then recorded from the side of the trench and the arisings examined.
- 5.3 Following excavation, each pit was cleaned by hand tools (where possible and safe to do so), evaluated, and recorded using section drawings, notes and photographs.
- 5.4 The interventions were located and planned using a GPS system by the site engineer working for Structural Soils.
- 5.5 The table below summarises the dimensions of the interventions:

Test Pit	N-S	E-W	Max Depth Below Ground Level
TP01	2.90m	1.30m	3.40m
TP02	3.10m	1.20m	3.10m
TP03	3.30m	1.00m	2.90m
TP04	2.80m	0.90m	3.00m
TP05	3.00m	0.80m	3.00m
TP06	2.90m	1.00m	3.00m
PBT01	1.90m	1.90m	0.80m
PBT02	1.70m	0.80m	0.40m
PBT03	1.50m	1.00m	0.53m
PBT04	1.50m	1.00m	0.63m

- 5.6 Site records were made using the unique site code BFPK16.
- 5.7 The recording systems adopted during the investigations were fully compatible with those widely used elsewhere in the area, which is those developed out of the Department of Urban Archaeology Site Manual and presented in PCA's *Operations Manual 1* (Taylor 2009). The site archive was organised to be compatible with the archaeological archives produced in the Local Authority area.
- 5.8 A full photographic record was made during the archaeological investigation, comprising digital photographs.
- 5.9 The complete archive produced during the watching brief, comprising written, drawn, photographic records and artefacts will be held by PCA.
- 5.10 Levels in this report have been calculated from a site topographic survey<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead: Detail Survey, dated 18/05/16, drawing no 040516/det, by Land, Architectural and Engineering Surveyors

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## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 6.1 Test Pit Results

6.1.1 The sequences recorded in each intervention are shown below.

Intervention	TP01	ground level (m OD):	37.27	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
brick surface	05	0.08	37.27	modern surface
made ground	02	0.32	37.19	modern levelling material
natural chalk	03	>2.9	36.87	natural bedrock

Intervention	TP02	ground level (m OD):	37.59	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
asphalt	01	0.10	37.59	modern surface
concrete	08	0.70	37.49	modern levelling material
natural chalk	03	>2.3	36.79	natural bedrock

Intervention	TP03	ground level (m OD):	37.39	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
asphalt	01	0.25	37.39	modern surface
concrete	08	0.28	37.14	modern levelling material
demo rubble	04	0.10	36.86	modern levelling material
natural chalk	03	>2.27	36.76	natural bedrock

Intervention	TP04	ground level (m OD):	37.50	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
asphalt	01	0.20	37.50	modern surface
concrete	08	0.33	37.30	modern levelling material
natural chalk	03	>2.47	36.97	natural bedrock

Intervention	TP05	ground level (m OD):	37.31	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
asphalt	01	0.05	37.31	modern surface
modern hoggin	09	0.25	37.26	modern levelling material, above terram
natural chalk	03	>2.7	37.01	natural bedrock

Intervention	TP06	ground level (m OD):	37.36	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments
asphalt	01	0.14	37.36	modern surface
modern hoggin	09	0.56	37.22	modern levelling material, above terram
clay fill	06	1.00	36.66	modern levelling material above horizontal cut [07]
landscaping cut	07	n/a	36.66	modern landscaping cut, filled by [06]

natural chalk	03	>2.8	35.66	natural bedrock
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Intervention	PBT01	ground level (m OD):		37.59	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments	
asphalt	01	0.10	37.59	modern surface	
concrete	08	0.70	37.49	modern levelling material	
natural chalk	03	unknown	36.79	natural bedrock	

Intervention	PBT02	ground level (m OD):		37.27	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments	
brick surface	05	0.08	37.27	modern surface	
concrete	08	0.32	37.19	modern levelling material	
natural chalk	03	unknown	36.87	natural bedrock	

Intervention	PBT03	ground level (m OD):		37.50	
Description	Context	Thickness	height (m OD)	comments	
asphalt	01	0.20	37.50	modern surface	
concrete	08	0.33	37.30	modern levelling material	
natural chalk	03	unknown	36.97	natural bedrock	

Intervention	PBT04	ground level (m OD):		37.39	
Description	Context	Thickness (m)	height (m OD)	comments	
asphalt	01	0.25	37.39	modern surface	
concrete	08	0.28	37.14	modern levelling material	
demo rubble	04	0.10	36.86	modern levelling material	
natural chalk	03	unknown	36.76	natural bedrock	

## 6.2 Phase 1: Natural Bedrock

6.2.1 Natural chalk bedrock was observed in all pits at heights ranging between 37.01m OD in TP05 and 35.66m OD in TP06.

6.2.2 These heights are entirely the product of modern landforming during the construction of the current business park. In TPs 05 and 06 the chalk was observed beneath a geotextile membrane (terram).

## 6.3 Phase 2: Modern

6.3.1 In all interventions the chalk was directly overlain by either concrete, hoggin material or modern made ground or, in the case of TP06, imported clay which was considered to represent dumped material deposited as ground raising and consistent with the description in the desk based assessment of the site having undergone 'cut-and-fill' after World War II (Bryant, 2016, 12).

The above material was sealed by modern surfaces comprising either brick paving or asphalt.

*Plate 1 Southeast facing section of Test Pit 1; showing modern surface bricks [5] made ground [2] and chalk [3].*



*Plate 2 Southeast facing view of Test Pit 2; showing the top of chalk [3] overlain by concrete [8] and sealed by tarmac [1].*





*Plate 3 Northwest facing view of Test Pit 6; showing chalk [3] cut by [7] with a reddish clay fill [6], overlain by made ground [9] and sealed by tarmac [1].*



*Plate 4 Northwest facing view of PBT02; showing the natural chalk [3] and made ground [2] overlain by modern bricks for the car park [5].*



## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 The watching brief recorded a consistent sequence of natural chalk bedrock beneath modern activity either in the form of concrete, fill-material (made ground or clay) or, in two locations, beneath modern geotextile membrane.
- 7.2 It seems clear from the excavations that if there has ever been archaeological activity at the site, it may only survive in a truncated fashion in the form of deep-cut features into the chalk. However, no such activity was seen during the watching brief.
- 7.3 No archaeological features or finds were recorded.

## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Melissa Conway of Ramboll Environ for commissioning the work and CBRE Ltd for funding it. We also thank Roland Smith of Berkshire Archaeology for monitoring the project, and the geotechnical team for their assistance on site
- 8.2 The author would like to thank Chris Mayo for his project management and editing.

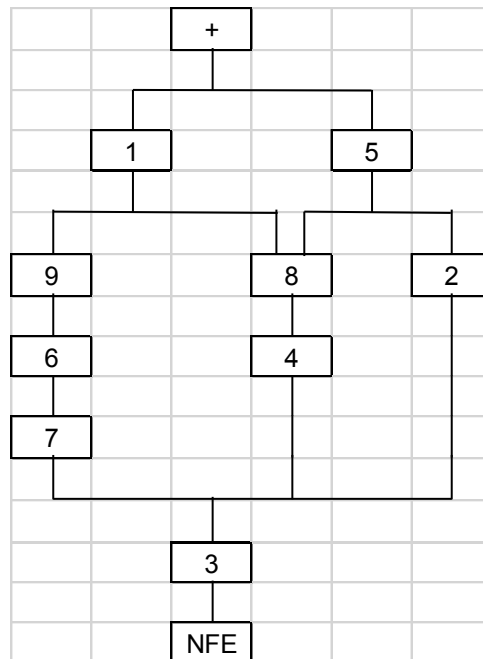
## **9 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Bryant, A. 2016. 'Buildings 4-7, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead. Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', Unpublished report for Baseline Heritage.
- Mayo, C. 2016. 'Buildings 4-7, Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3PR. Written Scheme for a Watching Brief during site investigations'. Unpublished report for Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.

## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context	Test Pit	Type	Description
1	TP02, TP03, TP04M TP05, TP06, PBT01, PBT03, PBT04	Layer	Asphalt
2	TP01	Layer	Made ground (mid. brown sand and gravel overlying natural).
3	TP01, TP02, TP03, TP04, TP05, TP06, PBT01, PBT02, PBT03, PBT04	Layer	Natural chalk
4	TP03, PBT04	Layer	Lower made ground with very frequent fragments of CBM and gravel
5	TP01, PBT02	Layer	Modern car park brick surface
6	TP06	Fill	Reddish clay, levelling fill of [7]
7	TP06	Cut	Horizontal cut from modern ground levelling
8	TP02, TP03, TP04, PBT01, PBT02, PBT03, PBT04	Layer	Concrete with gravel/ flint inclusions
9	TP05	Layer	Made ground (scalpings – reddish brown sand and gravel)

## APPENDIX 2 - STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



## APPENDIX 3 – OASIS REPORT FORM

### OASIS ID: preconst1-254043

#### Project details

Project name	Buildings 4-7 Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead: An Archaeological WB
Short description of the project	The watching brief involved the monitoring of six geotechnical test pits and four plate test pits. Natural chalk deposits were seen in all interventions. It was overlain by modern made ground which was sealed modern surfaces. No archaeological finds or features were observed.
Project dates	Start: 23-05-2016 End: 25-05-2016
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	BFPK16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	14/02514 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 2 - Offices
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Test-Pit Survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

#### Project location

Country	England
Site location	BERKSHIRE WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD MAIDENHEAD Buildings 4-7 Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead, Berkshire
Postcode	SL6 3PR
Study area	13000 Square metres
Site coordinates	SU 85830 79630 51.508587845896 -0.763110524694 51 30 30 N 000 45 47 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.66m Max: 37.01m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Consultant
Project design originator	Chris Mayo
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	Natasha Billson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	CBRE Ltd

#### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"Stratigraphic"

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Buildings 4-7 Foundation Park, Roxborough Way, Maidenhead: An Archaeological Watching Brief during Geotechnical Investigations
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Billson, N.
Other bibliographic details	PCA R12510
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 grey lit document with PCA covers

Entered by	Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)
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